

Third Sunday of Advent



TODAY'S MESSAGE

REJOICE!

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is traditionally referred to as Gaudete Sunday. This is the Advent Sunday of joy. Today's first reading, responsorial psalm, and second reading call us to express joy in three ways. We are summoned to "shout for joy" (Zephaniah 3:14), to "cry out with joy" (Isaiah 12:6), and to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). Expressing Christian joy is quite distinct from the kind of joy we express, for instance, when our favorite sports team wins an important game. That kind of joy is fleeting. Christian joy is an inner peace and spiritual happiness that is developed throughout our lives and sustains us even when we struggle. It is the kind of joy that is infectious. Others can tell that there is simply something different about us. Let us rejoice this day, for to us shall come Emmanuel.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 13:

7:30 am STA . . . Isabel Mulcahy †

8:45 am STA . . . Tom Jaworowski †

Readings: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;

Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Monday, December 14: St. John of the Cross

Readings: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27



Tuesday, December 15:

Readings: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16:

8:30 am OLR . . . James Kozy †

12:15 am STA . . . Joe Sequeira †

Readings: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 17:

Readings: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Friday, December 18:

8:30 am OLR . . . Roy Gonsalves †

12:15 am STA . . . Vince Giovannotto †

Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday, December 19:

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAYS ASSEMBLY

"A Call to Holiness"

On December 15 the Tuesday Spirituality focus is on prayer and Fr. Thierry Geris will preside at "The Liturgy of the Hours" at 7:00pm in St. Albert's Church.

Included is his catechesis on this holy liturgy: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will also be celebrated. Refreshments to follow.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE – Thanks to all of the parishioners who donated non-perishable food to this year's food drive. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. A special thanks to all those who helped sort and store food at Our Lady of the Rosary on December 6th.



Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Nicholas Humy, Devin Wakefield, Mary Harvey, Rita McAlester, Carson Enghardt, Frankie Briggs, Barbara Franceschi, Norman Swope, Milo Gwosden, Bobby Kerrigan, Elizabeth Hofstetter, Evaldo Nascirueito, Fausto Araujo, Joan Copenhagen, Ann Bisacca, Karen LeMoine, Sally Sullivan, Harry Browne, Damian Dykema, Jennifer Lamb, John Herndon, Nancy Crawford

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Geraldine Thalmann, Isabel Mulcahy, Alija Jayne Schemel, Harriett Biggs, Fr. Charles Macedo, Vivencio Ilaa, Betty Streep, Raoul Geerickx, Jane Bahr

Pray For Lists guidelines: • Have permission from the person to be listed. • Go through the Pastoral Home Ministry to list the names. • Names will be on the list for 3 months and then be removed. • Can request names to be continued after 3 months. Contact the Pastoral Home Ministry 650-494-2496 x22 or fongmt@hotmail.com

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday December 19 & 20, 2009

St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Geris

Sun 9:00 am Fr. Allen

St. Thomas Aquinas

Sun 7:30 am Fr. Hester

Sun 8:45 am Fr. Aranha

Sun 10:30 am Fr. Braverman

Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 9:00 am Fr. Geris

Sun 10:30 am Fr. Geris

Please note our email address:
bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org

BULLETIN ARTICLE DUE
Dec 27 . . . **Thu** Dec 17 noon
Jan 3 **Thu** Dec 24 noon



Our Weekly Offering

November 29 \$ 8,392.14
St. Vincent de Paul \$ 4,910.00
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD . . \$ 209,268.86
Budget YTD . . \$ 219,009.00
Variance - 4.45%

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 13: Third Sunday of Advent

9:15, 10:15 am ... Religious Education (OLR/SAG)

4:00 pm Youth (OLRH/DC)

Monday, December 14:

2:00 pm Memorial Mass (STA)

7:30 pm Communal Reconciliation Service (SAG)

7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)

8:15 pm RCIA Christmas Party (SAGH)

Tuesday, December 15:

7:00 pm Hispanic Prayer (OLR)

7:00 pm Spirituality Tuesdays (SAGH)

7:00 pm YA Circle (OLR/KC)

7:30 pm JustFaith (PC)

Wednesday, December 16:

6:00, 7:30 pm ... RCIC (DC)

6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)

7:00 pm STA Site Comm. (SAGH)

7:30 pm Transitions (PC)

Thursday, December 17:

7:00 pm ASDC (SAGH)

Friday, December 18:

7:00 pm YAG (OLRH)

Saturday, December 19:

8:00 am Environ. Comm. (OLRH)

HELP WANTED

The hospitality group at OLR is looking for someone to host the coffee social hour after the 10:30am mass one Sunday a month. This is an ideal opportunity for any family looking for a way to serve our parish where parents and children can work together. You will be providing a friendly environment for your fellow parishioners to socialize after mass. Training and detailed instructions provided. Please contact Laura Chiu at 650-283-6343 or email her at lauraleechiu@gmail.com.

THE GREEN CORNER

In October we had the signing of the St. Francis Pledge. It called for prayer, for reflection and for advocacy to policymakers about slowing climate change. Our Catholic Coalition on Climate Change applies our faith's principles and priorities with a particular concern for how the poor and vulnerable are affected. One of the principles is prudence ["...intelligence applied to our actions... a thoughtful, deliberate, and reasoned basis for taking or avoiding action to achieve a moral good." U.S. Bishops] Thus, as stewards of creation we must identify wise, careful actions that will reverse climate change and avoid a dangerous impact on nature and on human life.

The poor are hit hardest and can cope least with climate-related events - worse storms, longer droughts and heat waves. They need public and private support policies because they have flimsy houses, no insurance and little cash to cushion the damage.

We are interdependent and the common good makes us all responsible for our future. The richer nations and those who create the most greenhouse gasses must keep the whole human family in mind and not just their own interests. [The above paraphrases material from www.catholicsandclimatechange.org] – *Parish Green Committee*

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks to all of you who helped make Thanksgiving an abundant day of grace for neighbors in need. Through the efforts of East Palo Alto Saint Vincent de Paul, over two hundred and fifty families received boxes overflowing with non perishable food, fresh vegetables, eggs, bread and a turkey. The boxes were delivered to their homes. Thank you, thank you for your support...financial, spiritual and volunteering.

In this season of Advent, blessed with abundance, we again ask your assistance in creating a joy-filled Christmas for families who need our assistance. East Palo Alto Saint Vincent de Paul provides an opportunity for us to make sure all of these families enjoy Christmas Dinner as well and gifts for their children. Boxes of food which includes a ham, fresh vegetables and other provisions will be delivered to over 250 families the weekend before Christmas.

Toys: The Giving Tree in the back of each of the Churches has tags suggesting gifts appropriate for children of all ages. Please help us provide gifts for these families. Place your purchase UNWRAPPED under the tree. Gifts will be accepted until Sunday, December 20th. Financial assistance, such as gift certificates are welcomed by the teenagers.

Save the Dates: Food will be packed, December 19th starting at 6:00 p.m., continuing Saturday morning at 9 a.m. Food will be delivered to homes on Saturday, beginning 11:30. People are needed to set up on Friday during the day, as well as to pack boxes on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Drivers are also needed. Please call Melody McLaughlin 415-816-3067 for more information.

Toys will be sorted and distributed beginning Monday, December 21st, 2-6 p.m. and continuing Tuesday and Wednesday, 2 p.m. Toys will be distributed as they are packed.

Financial Assistance: If you would like to help pay for the food or toys, checks can be sent to Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303. For further information, call George Chippendale 856-6350 or Ann Idzik 493-7350

December 13, 2009

STAYOUTH

The season of giving is upon us all, and no one knows this better than our middle school youth who have been studying Social Justice for the past 3 months. We are now wrapping up this theme with several opportunities to participate in service and giving to others. On Dec 19, all MS youth and their families are encouraged to help box Christmas food in East Palo Alto at St. Francis church. Of course, hard work need to be rewarded. MS youth: don't miss out on our Pink Candle Party and STAY Store night on Dec 13, our last session before the holiday. Merry Christmas!

On December 13, the high school students will be exploring the tests and images of Christmas Scriptures.

The STAY COOL program has several opportunities for students to get involved:

Saturday 12/19 9:00 am: Package Christmas dinners at St. Francis Church, 1425 Bay Rd., East Palo Alto. A parish favorite! All are welcome.

Sunday 12/20 11:30 am: Help decorate Our Lady of the Rosary for the Christmas holiday.

Sunday 12/20-12/23: Package gifts from the Giving Tree. You get to play "Santa" by choosing and packaging gifts for needy families in East Palo Alto. St. Francis Church, 1425 Bay Rd., East Palo Alto. Time TBD.

*Chris Miller, Director of Youth Ministry
and Kristy Rozynoyi, coordinator, middle school program*

AGE OF AQUINAS

Sunday, December 13, 2009 @ 3:00 pm: Sunnyvale Singers Winter Concert - Sunnyvale. The concert is titled "Season of Dreams" and features classical, traditional, and contemporary seasonal choral music. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors, students, and children. The concert will be presented at the Sunnyvale Center for the Performing Arts, 550 E Remington Dr, Sunnyvale. The last concert in the spring of 2009 sold out, so don't dilly-dally! Email: Randy, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, 408.739.2881. For details visit www.sunnyvalesingers.com

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

HARK!! Please join us for the annual Stanford Hospital Christmas Celebration on Wednesday Dec. 16 at 4:30 in the atrium of the Stanford Hospital. Join staff, patients and their families as we sing carols to celebrate the Christmas season. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome! Questions? Call Gina Craig, 724-1616.