

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

TODAY'S MESSAGE

FAMILY IN CRISIS

Today's Gospel gives us the only real glimpse we have into the life of the Holy Family during the childhood of Jesus. Here we see a family in crisis. A son is lost and frantic parents search and search until they finally find him. We hear these words from the mother of Jesus: "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety" (Luke 2:48). We can only imagine the distress felt by Mary and Joseph. Their love for their son brought them to their wits' end. Let us take the opportunity this day to ask the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph to intercede for us in times when our families experience anxiety and fear.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 27:

10:30 am OLR .. Ignacio Manzano †
Readings: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128 or Ps 84; Col 3:12-20 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Monday, December 28: The Holy Innocents

8:30 am OLR Holy Souls in Purgatory
 12:15 pm STA ... Gerolomo Cesano †
Readings: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday, December 29: St. Thomas Becket

Readings: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday, December 30:

Readings: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Thursday, December 31: St. Sylvester I

Readings: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Friday, January 1: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Readings: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Saturday, January 2: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Readings: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

To find a Mass while you're traveling, call 1-800-Mass-Times (1-800-627-7846) or www.Masstimes.org

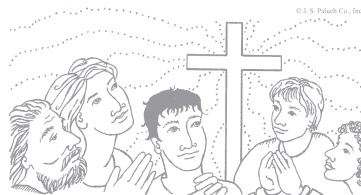
NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,

Thursday, December 31st is NOT a holy day of obligation.

7:00 pm Our Lady of the Rosary (Spanish)

Mary, Mother of God



New Year's Day, Friday, January 1st is NOT a holy day of obligation. Regular daily Mass schedule in effect.
 7:15 am St. Thomas Aquinas
 8:30 am Our Lady of the Rosary
 12:00 pm St. Thomas Aquinas (Gregorian)

Epiphany, Saturday and Sunday, January 2nd and 3rd
 Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday January 2 & 3, 2009

St. Albert the Great
 Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Geris
 Sun 9:00 am Msgr. Boyle

St. Thomas Aquinas
 Sun 7:30 am Fr. Hester
 Sun 8:45 am TBA
 Sun 10:30 am Msgr. Boyle
 Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary
 Sun 9:00 am Fr. Geris
 Sun 10:30 am Fr. Geris



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, Nancy Crawford

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Geraldine Thalmann, Isabel Mulcahy, Alija Jayne Schemel, Harriett Biggs, Fr. Charles Macedo, Vivencio Ila, Betty Streep, Raoul Geewicks, Jane Bahr, John Hemdon, Margaret Dutton, Bernie Hoffacker, Clare Mynderse

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

Please note our email address: bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org

BULLETIN ARTICLE DUE
 Jan 10....**Thu** Dec 31 noon
 Jan 17.....**Thu** Jan 7 noon



Our Weekly Offering

December 13..... \$ 9,108.03
 Religious Retirement ... \$ 4,662.00
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD .. \$ 229,465.29
 Budget YTD.. \$ 239,752.64
 Variance - 4.29%

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 27: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Monday, December 28:

7:30 pm Human Concerns (PC)

7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)

Tuesday, December 29:

7:00 pm Hispanic Prayer (OLR)

Wednesday, December 30:

Thursday, December 31: New Year's Eve

Friday, January 1: Octave of Christmas; New Year's Day; World Day of Prayer for Peace; First Friday

Saturday, January 2: First Saturday

MEMORIAL GARDEN PLAQUES

Additional plaques will be placed in Memorial Garden in early February. If you would like to purchase a plaque in memory of a deceased family member or friend, obtain an order form from the Parish Office. Submit by January 18 so that it can be engraved and mounted in February. For additional information, please contact Joan Campbell, 326-4278 or Pat Tighe, 323-4383.

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.

GREEN TEAM PRESENTS FREE MOVIE

Join the newly assembled STA Green Team on Jan. 19, 2010, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at OLR Hall for a viewing of the 15 min. film, *The Awakening Universe*, followed by a discussion. Based on the book, "The Universe Story" by cultural historian Father Thomas Berry and Cosmologist Brian Swimme, this beautiful and inspiring film takes you on the ultimate journey, from the very birth of the Universe, through the arising of Galaxies, the formation of the Earth, the emergence of life, and finally to the development of human consciousness.

The film shows how science, spirit and ancient indigenous wisdom are now all converging to reveal that we stand in the very heart of that which created us. We will discuss some of the questions raised by the film, especially our place in this universe and how the actions of humans now are affecting the earth. For more information contact Laura Chiu <lauraleechiu@gmail.com> or tel. 650-283-6343.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE KIRITI ORPHANAGE

Marci Ariagno and her grandchildren Luke and Jenna Christen collected almost \$800 for the Kiriti Orphanage in the recent effort to assist Fr. Daniel Kiriti in his work in Africa.

That means each of the 32 children will receive a gift this Christmas, and there will be something besides ungalali (porridge) and kale on the table for Christmas dinner. Thank you to all those who were able to contribute.

JANUARY 1: WORLD DAY OF PEACE

On December 15, Pope Benedict XVI released the text of his annual message for the World Day of Peace on January 1, 2010. The Holy Father's theme was at once simple and profound, "If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation." In this moving message, Pope Benedict seamlessly weaves together concerns for peace, poverty and care for creation.

Pope Benedict teaches that "integral human development is closely linked to the obligations which flow from man's relationship with the natural environment. The environment must be seen as God's gift to all people, and the use we make of it entails a shared responsibility for all humanity, especially the poor and future generations."

25 AND 50+ SILVER AND GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bishop Patrick J. McGrath of the Diocese of San Jose would like to invite all couples celebrating their 25th, 40th and 50th (or more) Wedding Anniversaries in 2010 to participate in the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph in downtown San Jose on January 30 at 2:00 p.m. The couples will be invited to renew their wedding vows and will receive a blessing from Bishop Patrick McGrath who will preside over the celebration. Each couple will also receive a certificate signed by the Bishop. A short reception will follow after.

Please call Sylvia Blanch (blanch@dsj.org) at (408) 983-0128, or visit <http://bit.ly/anniversary2010> for more information and to register.

December 27, 2009

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 16, 2010: Parish Retreat: Year of the Priest. St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium at St. Albert the Great Church, Saturday January 16. 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. All parishioners invited. More details to follow.

TRANSITIONS

Wed., January 6, 7:30 pm: Transitions Support Group - Palo Alto Transitions is a drop-in support group for those who are undergoing the transition from couple-hood to single-hood. You don't need a reservation, and there are no age boundaries. St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center, 3290 Middlefield Rd. If it's nice, we may meet in the Garden around in back of the building. Email: Randy, transitions@paloaltocatholic.org, or call 408.739.2881.

YEAR OF THE PRIEST: FR. MICHAEL MARINI

“I was born and raised in Santa Cruz and my last official position for the ten years before I retired in 2001 was as pastor of the church where I was baptized, made my first confession, received my first holy communion, was confirmed and ordained to the priesthood. St. Thomas Aquinas—the saint, not the parish—became a major influence in my life when I spent four years as a student in the Dominican Order. Palo Alto entered my life when, after I left the Dominicans, I attended Stanford University. When I again felt called to the priesthood, I did my theological studies at Mt. Angel Abbey near Portland, Oregon. I was ordained for the diocese of Monterey at the tender age of 41 on June 6, 1972, by Bishop Harry Cinch.

The vision of the Church forged at Vatican II has been the dynamic at the heart of my priesthood. At the same time as I recognize the great spiritual treasure which the Church has passed on from one generation to another, I am convince of the duty of the Church to make that treasure available to all in ways that make its relevance understandable.

As I live out the later part of my life I am increasingly impressed with the truth that the Spirit in which we do things is at least equally important to what it is that we do.”

– October, 2009

[Fr. Marini presides at the 8:45 Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas, at the invitation of the Thoms Merton Center]

