

The Baptism of the Lord

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

My dear Parish Family,

Even as you read my message today, I am in Cuernavaca, Mexico, for a three week Spanish course. I'll be back Jan 24th. The diocese of San Jose encourages the clergy to study Spanish. I am self-taught in the Spanish language, but that is not sufficient to do ministry in our church today in the U.S. I don't expect any miracles from a three week course, but, from past experience, an immersion program is the best for ease and fluency in any language.

As you may be aware, every ten years the town's people of Oberammergau, Germany, perform a Passion Play. The next one will be in the year 2010. The villagers of Oberammergau made a pledge and a promise 377 years ago to present a Passion Play, depicting the last week of the life of Jesus. The play's presentation can be traced to 1633 when the Black Plague swept Europe. The people of Oberammergau took a solemn oath: if God spared them, they would present a day-long play depicting the passion and resurrection of Christ. To this day, the citizens of Oberammergau have kept their promise and they perform their passion play with the same love and devotion they have shown for over 370 years. Today the play takes place on an open-air stage with a covered auditorium seating 4700, against a beautiful backdrop of towering Alpine mountains.

I invite you and your friends to join me and fellow parishioners on a trip from September 8th to the 18th, 2010, that will take us to Warsaw, Krakow, Prague, Munich and eventually to an unforgettable experience of the Passion Play of Oberammergau.

Tickets are limited. So, if are interested, please call the Pastoral Center at (650) 494-2496 ext 27, for a brochure and a registration form, as soon as possible.

May you continue to have a happy and hope-filled New Year.

Fr. George

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 11:

10:30 am OLR... Joseph Ho †

Readings: *Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29 or Is 12:2-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11*

Monday, January 12:

7:15 am Ed Tomczak †

8:30 am Elizabeth & Mark Jr, Leon Guerrero (special int)

12:15 pm Jim Early †

Readings: *Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20*

Tuesday, January 13: St. Hilary

7:15 am Margaret Gross †

8:30 am

12:15 pm

Readings: *Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28*

Wednesday, January 14:

7:15 am

8:30 am Escolastico & Geronima Luz †

12:15 pm

Readings: *Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39*

Thursday, January 15:

7:15 am Mel Gross †

8:30 am For all Magdalena and Joseph's ancestors

12:15 pm

Readings: *Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45*

Friday, January 16:

7:15 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm

Readings: *Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12*

Saturday, January 17: St. Anthony

12:15 pm Martina Reyes †

5:00 pm Bertha Gretz †

Readings: *Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17*

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday January 17 & 18, 2009

St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Gutiérrez

Sun 9:00 am TBA

St. Thomas Aquinas

Sun 7:30 am Fr. Hester

Sun 8:45 am Msgr. Boyle

Sun 10:30 am TBA

Sun 12 noon Fr. Nahoe

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 9:00 am (español) .. Fr. Gutiérrez

Sun 10:30 am Fr. Gutiérrez



Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Nancy Condon, Nicholas Humy, Chet Maksim, Devin Wakefield, Cypress Winters, Sophie Bandur, Fr. Charlie Macedo, Carole Stuart, Mary Harvey, Michael Fong, Brian Dooney, Rita McAlester, Frances Kral, Sherry Kruep, Carson Enghardt



FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Mary McNulty, Leona McGann, Mary Gaffney, Elaine Bollier Doyle, Beatrice Espicha, Sarah Ann Washburn, Mary Hansen, Mary Imbornone, Donald Ewart, Susa Langdon, Marian Partelow, Jerry Chu, Rita Kramer, Brian Franklin, Alan McPherson

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 25.... **Thu** Jan 15 noon
Feb 1.... **Thu** Jan 22 noon



Our Weekly Offering

December 21..... \$ n/a

Year To Date

Actual YTD..... \$

Budget YTD \$

Variance + %

January 11, 2009

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 11: The Baptism of the Lord; National Vocation Awareness Week
9:15 am Religious Ed: All Parents
Mtg, Sac Prep (OLR)
10:15 am Religious Ed: All Parents
Mtg, Sac Prep (SAG)

Monday, January 12: First Week in Ordinary
Time begins
7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)

Tuesday, January 13:
6:00 pm Baptism Class (PC)
6:00 pm School Info Night (OLRH)

Wednesday, January 14:

Thursday, January 15:
7:00 pm First Communion (PC)

Friday, January 16:
7:00 pm Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, January 17:

CHRISTMAS HELPERS

Many, many thanks to all the generous parishioners who donated wonderful toys for the children in East Palo Alto. Thanks to those folks who came and helped pack and deliver food boxes and bags of toys for the very appreciative families in East Palo Alto. The St. Thomas Youth Group was a great help in all the Christmas giving. Muchas Gracias!

ST. ALBERT CHRISTMAS

Thank you to the following individuals who helped to decorate St. Albert the Great during the busy days before Christmas: Donna Pellizzari and her husband Mick, William and Jonathan Glazier and our custodians Godofredo and Santiago. Also thanks to Chris Lundin for finding another beautiful tree this year. Your time and talent is appreciated and the church environment was absolutely beautiful. THANK YOU!!!!
Katherine Glazier – Art and Environment SAG

UPCOMING PARISH & DIOCESE EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 – AGE OF AQUINAS 5TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE
Come join the festivities celebrating Age of Aquinas's FIFTH year! The nights have started getting shorter, but they're still long enough to dance to the tunes of The Sharp Nines, back by popular demand! Warm up those cold winter nights with their repertoire of music that will stir your soul and get your feet moving! Time: Doors open 8:00 pm, the music will start around 8:30 pm and go till about 11. Cost: Still only \$10.00! Snacks and beverages will be provided. Location: St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center, 1095 Channing Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301 More information: Contact Mabel by email: m-ngo@sbcglobal.net, or Tom by phone: 408.298.2064, or visit <http://paloaltocatholic.org/AofA.html>.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20 – TRANSITIONS SUPPORT GROUP 7:30 pm
at the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center. Transitions is a drop-in support group for those who are undergoing the transition from couple-hood to single-hood. If you or someone you know has suffered the breakup of a marriage or significant relationship, this group may be helpful. The meetings are informal and unstructured, confidential and safe. More info: www.paloaltocatholic.org/AofA.html or contact Randy Jones, 408-739-2881, transitions@paloaltocatholic.org

POPE'S HOMILY ON POVERTY

The Pope's message for the feast of Mary, Mother of God and World Peace Day focused on combating poverty as a means to achieving peace. Some excerpts: Poverty: "that God doesn't want" ... and must be fought ... Poverty: "That impedes people and families from living according to their dignity, a poverty that offends justice and equality and, as such, threatens peaceful coexistence" ... The same race: "unacceptable" ... "against human rights."

Pope Benedict cited pandemic illness, the food crisis and the poverty of children as requiring not just a short-term emergency fix, but a systematic long-term correction. "Misery cannot be efficaciously fought if there is no attempt to make equality, reducing the unevenness between those who waste the superfluous and those who don't even have the necessary."

Human Concern Committee. submitted by Walt Lundin

YOUNG ADULTS

Deanery 2 Young Adults [www.YoungAdultCircle.org] Young Adults from our local parishes gather regularly for social, spiritual, service, and sports.

The Deanery 2 Young Adult Mass this month is Tues. 1/27, 7:30PM. Held at the St. Nicholas Teen Center (aka the Intersection) at 12816 S. El Monte Ave., Los Altos Hills, (West of Foothill Expwy, just before I-280) This month, we have a special presider, Fr. Brendan Mcguire, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, San Jose and Vicar General of our Diocese. Come join young adults of the parishes of Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos for our monthly celebration of the Eucharist and fun fellowship afterwards. Please park in the parking lot of St. Nicholas School and walk over to the Intersection Center. A map is posted on the front page of our website, www.YoungAdultCircle.org

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

BISHOPS APPROVE BLESSING SERVICE FOR CHILDREN IN THE WOMB

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- *To fill a gap in existing prayer books, the U.S. bishops Nov. 11 overwhelmingly approved a liturgical service in English and Spanish for blessing children in the womb.*

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., praised the new blessing as “a tangible way to witness pastorally and sacramentally to the life of the unborn child” and said it could also serve as an opportunity for parishes to bring together expectant couples for mutual support. Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer of San Angelo, Texas, said the document could present “a great catechetical moment for all of us.” He said he hoped it might lead the bishops to declare an annual day of prayer for the unborn in the future.

The document required the approval of two-thirds of the Latin-rite members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and must be sent to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for “recognitio,” or confirmation. The English-language version was approved 223-1 and the Spanish-language version 224-0.

The blessing was prepared to support the parents awaiting the birth of their child, to encourage in the parish prayers for and recognition of the precious gift of the child in the womb, and to foster respect for human life within society. The blessing can be used in the context of a Mass or outside a Mass, and for an individual mother, a couple or a group of expectant parents.

The blessing includes intercessions “for our government and civic leaders that they may perform their duties with justice and compassion while respecting the gift of human life” and “for a safe and healthy pregnancy for all expectant mothers and for a safe delivery for their children.” It also expresses concern “for children who are unwanted, unloved, abandoned or abused, that the Lord will inspire his people to protect and care for them.”

If used as a blessing outside Mass, the service includes introductory prayers, Scripture readings, intercessions, the actual blessing of the mother and child, and a concluding rite.

“May almighty God, who has created new life, now bless the child in your womb,” the blessing says. “The Lord has brought you the joy of motherhood: May he bless you with a safe and healthy pregnancy. You thank the Lord today for the gift of your child: May he bring you and your child one day to share in the unending joys of heaven.”

There are also optional prayers for fathers, for families and for the parish community. Once approved by the Vatican, the blessing will be included in future editions of the Book of Blessings when that liturgical text is revised.



TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

We still have a few openings for a memorable trip to the HOLY LAND in the Spring of 2009 (March 9-18) with Fr George and fellow parishioners. There are brochures with registration forms in the vestibules of our churches. If none can be found, please call Sandra at the Pastoral Center for a brochure, at (650)494-2496 ext 27.

PRIESTS VS. SEMINARIANS

3rd Annual Priests vs. Seminarians Basketball Challenge: Back by popular demand, our annual Priests-Seminarians Basketball Game will be held on February 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Because of the growing number of people attending this event, the upcoming game will be at Leavey Center on the campus of Santa Clara University. Tickets can be purchased after Masses during the weekend of January 10/11 or on-line at <http://www.dsj.org/bballtix>. Price: \$10 per adults and \$5 for students. The Bishop has described this as “one of the most fun things he gets to do as bishop.” You’ll see your priests and future priests in a whole new light. And, yes, they play better than you think! Get your tickets early. All proceeds go to support our 22 seminarians.

SHORELINE PARK HIKE

Meet at Lakeside Café in Mountain View’s Shoreline Park near the breezeway between the café and the Aquatic Center at 9 am. This is a hike on mostly level, mostly paved paths. Afterwards gather at the café around 10:00 for coffee or brunch. We always hike, rain or shine! Email: randy.age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, or call 408.739.2881.