

# The Baptism of the Lord

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

### GOD'S BELOVED

Only one week has passed since we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany. No longer are we focused on the images of the child Jesus surrounded by his parents and the magi at the manger in Bethlehem. Today, it's as if the Church has pushed the "fast forward" button in the life of Jesus. Today we celebrate his baptism in the Jordan. When the Lord Jesus rises from the waters of baptism, the heavens open and a voice announces, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). This event sets the stage for the unfolding of Jesus Christ's life and work, which will become our focus for the rest of the year as we tune our ears to Saint Matthew's Gospel. As we prepare ourselves for this work, let us be reminded that we, too, were counted among God's beloved at the moment of our own baptism.

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Last year a rather eccentric quirk of the calendar hid this great feast on a Monday, but now it's here for our delight on a Sunday, as it should be. In the old calendar, it was the octave day of Epiphany, exactly as it is this year. It is the absolute end of the Christmas season, and tomorrow we enter Ordinary Time.

As we conclude the Christmas season, there is one more treasure from our tradition worth mentioning. Everyone knows the "Twelve Days of Christmas." British Catholics invented it to teach the catechism to their children at the time of the Reformation. The partridge in a pear tree is, of course, Jesus in the tree of the Garden of Eden. Each number is a clue to help children remember aspects of our faith: two testaments in the Bible; three Persons in the Trinity (or the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity); the four evangelists; and the five golden rings, the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. Then we have the six days of creation, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the eight beatitudes, the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, the ten commandments, the eleven faithful apostles, and the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed. For persecuted Catholics, the beloved carol helped the faithful to stay under the radar and have some fun passing on the tradition to their children.

—Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, January 13:

10:30 am OLR . . . William Hiegel †  
*Readings: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17*

### Monday, January 14:

7:15 am . . . . . James † & Edith Dubbs †  
 8:30 am . . . . . William Hiegel †  
 12:15 pm . . . . . Escolastico † & Geronima Luz †  
*Readings: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20*

### Tuesday, January 15:

7:15 am . . . . .  
 8:30 am . . . . . Cummins Family  
 12:15 pm . . . . . All Holy Souls  
*Readings: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28*

### Wednesday, January 16:

7:15 am . . . . . Maresa Poggesi †  
 8:30 am . . . . .  
 12:15 pm . . . . .  
*Readings: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29*

### Thursday, January 17: St. Anthony

7:15 am . . . . .  
 8:30 am . . . . .  
 12:15 pm . . . . . Bertha Gretz †  
*Readings: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45*

### Friday, January 18:

7:15 am . . . . .  
 8:30 am . . . . . William Hiegel †  
 12:15 pm . . . . .  
*Readings: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12*

### Saturday, January 19: Blessed Virgin Mary

12:15 pm . . . . . Blanca Martinez Reyez (Birthday)  
 5:00 pm SAG . . . Crystal Lee (Thanksgiving)  
*Readings: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17*

## PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday January 19 & 20, 2007

### St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm . . . . . Fr. Medina  
 Sun 9:00 am . . . . . Fr. Aranha

### St. Thomas Aquinas

Sun 7:30 am . . . . . Fr. Hester  
 Sun 8:45 am . . . . . TBA  
 Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Medina  
 Sun 12 noon . . . . . TBA

### Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 9:00 am (español) . . Fr. Medina  
 Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Aranha



## PLEASE PRAY

**FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** — Sophie Bandur, Sue Clingingsmith, Hong Chang Liu, Raelene Garrido, Nancy Condon, James Dalton, Nicholas Humy, Mary Hansen, Jack Youngs, Joel Roberts, Jerry Martinson, Carole Smith, Danny Schandler, John Patrick Kullman, Robert Gaspich, Chet Maksim, Devin Wakefield, John Christensen, Marian Partelov



**FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED** — Jean Pounders, John Rooney, Rick Chau, Edward Vierra, Paul Piskaty, Stewart Greene, Kathleen Gogarty, Alvin Fischer, Tom Jaworowski, Tom Drewek, Josephine Kerver

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](mailto:fongmt@hotmail.com)

Please note our email address:  
[bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org)

BULLETIN . . . . . ARTICLE DUE  
 Jan 27 . . . **Thur** Jan 17 noon  
 Feb 3 . . . **Thur** Jan 24 noon



## Our Weekly Offering

December 23 . . . . . \$ 10,962.83  
 Christmas Day . . . . . \$ 47,889.44  
*thank you for your continued generosity*

## Year To Date

Actual YTD . . . \$ 250,507.99  
 Budget YTD . . \$ 252,910.39  
 Variance . . . . . - 0.95%

# January 13, 2008

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 13: The Baptism of the Lord; National Vocation Awareness Week  
9:00 am ..... Rite of Welcoming of Adult Candidates for Initiation Sacraments (SAG)  
9:15 am ..... Parents Meet Rel Ed (OLRH)  
9:15 am ..... Religious Ed (ISP)  
10:15 am ..... Parents Meet Rel Ed (SESS)  
10:15 am ..... Religious Ed (SESS/H)  
7:00-8:30 pm ... STAY High School (DC/OLRH)

Monday, January 14:

Tuesday, January 15:  
10:00 am ..... Facilities Ministry (PC)  
7:00 pm ..... Centering Prayer (PC)

Wednesday, January 16:  
6:00 pm ..... SOUP (OLRH)  
7:30 pm ..... RCIA (PC)  
7:30 pm ..... Transitions (PC)

Thursday, January 17:  
10:00 am ..... Scripture Study Group (SAGC)  
12:00 pm ..... Seton Development (SAGO)

Friday, January 18: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins  
7:00 pm ..... Spanish Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, January 19: Orthodox Theophany (Epiphany)  
9:30 am ..... Centering Prayer Workshop (SAGC)  
8:00 pm ..... Age of Aquinas Dance (SAGC)

*Second Collection this weekend:*  
..... ADA Sunday  
*Second Collection next weekend:*  
..... St. Elizabeth Seton School

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks to all the generous parishioners who supported the Christmas giving in East Palo Alto. The giving of your time and energy packing and delivering food and toys was so helpful. The generous donations of money and wonderful toys made such a difference for so many families and brought them much Christmas joy. Thanks a million! –Ruth & George Chippendale

## UPCOMING PARISH & DIOCESE EVENTS

**SATURDAY JANUARY 19TH – AGE OF AQUINAS 4TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE** 8:00-11:00 pm Come join the festivities celebrating Age of Aquinas's fourth year! Dance to the tunes of Songs by Dave -- a new DJ for us, but one who has been around the Bay Area a long time. Cost: Still only \$10.00! Snacks and beverages will be provided. Time: Doors open 8:00 pm, the music will start around 8:30 pm. Location: St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center, 1095 Channing Ave, Palo Alto. More information: Email [age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org), or contact Tom De Bartolo, 408.298.2064.

## STAYOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

**YOUTH [middle school (6–8), high school (9–12), confirmation (8–high school)]**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Youth (STAY) [www.paloaltocatholic.org/STAY/](http://www.paloaltocatholic.org/STAY/)

Happy New Year! Our next STAY sessions for both levels will be January 6, 2008, the feast of Epiphany and the close of the Christmas season!

**Youth Mass...**Jan. 13 at 7pm OLR. HS planning liturgy. MS planning after-mass social. Our teen Youth Leadership Team will be recognized and commissioned during Mass. We look forward to a great turnout from the entire parish community to worship with us.

**Matt Maher's band to Holy Family Parish for ADORE 2007 Worship Tour** on Tuesday, January 15th at 7pm! Matt Maher is the Nation's leading Catholic Worship Leader for **youth & young adults**. He has played at Steubenville San Diego, NCYC, and other events ( [www.spiritandsong.com/artists/mattmaher](http://www.spiritandsong.com/artists/mattmaher) ). *There is limited seating for this event but we want you to be a part of it.* \$17.00 per person. RSVP to Andrew Brown ASAP to reserve tix. 408-265-8650.

**YOUNG ADULTS [college-age, 20s, 30s, early 40s – single/married; w/, w/o children]**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Young Adults [www.paloaltocatholic.org/STAY/](http://www.paloaltocatholic.org/STAY/)

**Diocesan Young Adult Retreat, "Unlocking Your Inner Spirit"** - Jan. 4-6, sponsored by SpiritSite, our Catholic Spirituality Center, conducted by Fr. Kevin Joyce, PhD., along with Nancy Le, Alex Vo, & Robert Victor Miole. [www.spiritsite.org](http://www.spiritsite.org). Retreat at Villa Maria del Mar, 2-1918 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz. ([www.villamariadelmar.org](http://www.villamariadelmar.org))

**Matt Maher's band to Holy Family Parish for ADORE 2007 Worship Tour** – please see above for event details.

**STAY Young Adults** – Thurs., Jan. 24 – 7:00pm social; 7:30 session. St. Albert the Great Center, 1095 Channing Ave., PA, 94301. This month we will begin the brand new book about the young adult demographic called "Googling God" by Mike Hayes of NCYAMA, our national Catholic young adult association.

**Theology On Tap returns...**Sun., Jan. 27 – "Learning Forgiveness", featuring Sr. Rebecca Shinas from St. Simon. 6pm at MacArthur Park, 27 University Ave., Palo Alto.

**Monthly YA Mass** – Tues, Jan. 29 – Teaching Mass w/ Fr. Nathan from the Catholic Community at Stanford. 7:30pm, St. Nicholas School. Join us for a more intimate liturgy with introductions, music ministry, dialogue homily, and fellowship after mass. See the young adult page of our STAY web site for a map link.

**DEANERY 2 YOUNG ADULTS** [www.YoungAdultCircle.org](http://www.YoungAdultCircle.org) Young Adults from our local parishes gather regularly for social, spiritual, service, and sports. Register online for our weekly e-newsletter for the latest and greatest info.

*Rob Manfrey, Youth & Young Adult Coordinator, 650-494-2496 ext. 21, [STAYouth@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:STAYouth@paloaltocatholic.org)*

# St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PRE-K – 5TH GRADE

**Let The Children Come To Me:** In the gospel today we hear God say, “This is My Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matt 3:17) We are all God’s children. We reflect His love in our actions, words, thoughts. What will you do this week to make God say of you, “This is My son or daughter, My Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

**Mark Your Calendars** for Jan.: 01/13th – Reg. classes for the children and Parent Sac. Prep. Mtg. // 01/20th – F.I.G. // 01/27th – reg. classes

**Children’s Cat. Classes (R.C.I.C.):** These classes are for those children 3rd grade through high school who are in need of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Grades 3rd through 6th meet Weds. eves. at the Dermody Center from 5pm – 6pm and those 7th grade and older meet Weds. eves. at Dermody Center from 6:30pm – 7:30pm.

*Susan Clingingsmith, Director of Religious Education, 650-494-2496 ext. 25, youth@palaltocatholic.org*

## BAPTISM

Many of us have experienced the Sacrament of Baptism celebrated with families when their infants are baptized during Sunday worship. Others have witnessed baptism as part of the initiation process during the Easter Vigil for those over the age of reason. Yet, we have all been touched by this sacrament.

Baptism is a gift from God filled with His love and grace. It is a gift the church does not want us to take lightly. We need to reverence and respect our role in every baptism. Baptism is not the ‘celebration of the day’, the pretty gown, candle or oil, or the party that follows, it is the beginning of a new way of life through Jesus Christ. It is a life journey that we all travel together, helping one another as daughters and sons of God.

Hence, the church asks that we prepare properly before accepting this sacrament and understand the significance of it. When parents ask for baptism for their child they are usually interviewed and then asked to attend a class of instruction. This class covers many areas including the parents own spirituality and practices; the roles of godparents and the community at large, the sacrament itself, etc. The church also assumes that if the parents are asking for the child to be baptized into the community of believers that they are active participants and will therefore see to it that the child will be brought up in the faith and will continually be catechized through proper instruction and family practices.

When someone is over the age of reason or 7 years of age, the process of instruction takes on a very different form. We call it the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (when appropriate, adapted for children). This is a process that can include all of the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The level of study is longer and includes several steps because the church wants to ensure that the individual has had the proper time to reflect, understand and accept the sacraments they are about to receive. It is a time of study, faith sharing, and self-growth in the understanding of God’s love and the calling He has made on the individual’s heart. When it is time for the sacraments to be received, the individual can say for themselves, ‘Yes, I am ready to become a part of the Christian community.’ Even the child participating in the process of initiation will be ready and well-prepared at his or her level of understanding to make that commitment.

As we reflect on the Baptism of Jesus today, or remember our own baptism as we bless ourselves with holy water when entering and existing a church, let us also remember our role as the Body of Christ to walk the journey of the living baptized together and to love, support and encourage one another, especially those in their preparation stages. Jesus tells us in Matt. 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

*Susan Clingingsmith, Director of Religious Ed.*

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION RECEPTION

In appreciation for all that parish volunteers do throughout the year, Fr. George, Fr. Tony and the parish staff invite all volunteers and their guests to a reception on Saturday, February 16, 2008, at SESS auditorium following the 5:00 Mass. Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be provided.

Volunteers are asked to sign up for the event by calling the office of the volunteer coordinator, 650-494-2496 Ext. 15, and leaving on voice mail their name and the number of people in their party who will be attending. This phone registration will continue until Saturday, January 19.

## CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY JANUARY 19** at St. Albert the Great Center. 9:30 am – 12:30pm Free. Following the teachings of Fr. Thomas Keating, former Trappist monk and author of “Open Mind, Open Heart.”

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Spiritual Care Service at Stanford Hospital is seeking volunteers to visit and pray with patients and families. Volunteers must be willing to commit two hours a week for a year. A training program will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary on five Monday evenings: March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2008, 7-9 pm.

If you’re – a compassionate listener; a creative thinker able to follow rules and procedures; sensitive to the needs of others; a selfless giver (hopefully two hours of your time each week); empathetic and encouraging; open-minded, yet grounded within your own faith practice; teachable – you may be just the person.

Please RSVP by calling the Spiritual Care Service office at 650 723 5101 or email [ghollingsworth@stanfordmed.org](mailto:ghollingsworth@stanfordmed.org) and leave your name, phone number.