

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

TODAY'S MESSAGE

TRUE PROPHETS

In Deuteronomy today we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice, the Holy One of God. There are, no doubt, both false and true prophets around us today. The whole history of our church is filled with both. Some false prophets were extremely popular and quite well-versed in scripture, and even held positions of church authority. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. Elsewhere, we also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. Today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths.



Jesus taught them as one having authority

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, February 1:
 9:00 am SAG Hal Meyn †
 10:30 am OLR . . . Aloise Raymann †
Readings: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

Monday, February 2:
 7:15 am
 8:30 am Cesar Bautista †
 12:15 pm Tom & Mary Gaffney †
Readings: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Tuesday, February 3: St. Blaise; St. Ansgar
 7:15 am
 8:30 am Teresa Ledesma †
 12:15 pm
Readings: Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday, February 4:
 7:15 am
 8:30 am Thanksgiving for
 Magdalena family
 12:15 pm
Readings: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday, February 5: St. Agatha
 7:15 am
 8:30 am Jane Banzhaf †
 12:15 pm
Readings: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Mk 6:7-13

Friday, February 6: St. Paul Miki and his companions
 7:15 am
 8:30 am
 12:15 pm
Readings: Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday, February 7: Blessed Virgin Mary
 12:15 pm
 5:00 pm SAG
Readings: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34

2009 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



Appeal Weekend is here. Today is the day that Bishop McGrath and your parish ask for your support for the ministries and services of the Diocese through the Annual Diocesan Appeal. This is your once-a-year opportunity to share your gifts with our local Church and help our parish meet its goal. Please be as generous as you can.

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday February 7 & 8, 2009

St. Albert the Great
 Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Aranha
 Sun 9:00 am Fr. Aranha

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

Our Lady of the Rosary
 Sun 9:00 am (español) . . Fr. Gutiérrez
 Sun 10:30 am Fr. Aranha



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, Lena DeFrenza

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
 Feb 15 **Thu** Feb 5 noon
 Feb 22 **Thu** Feb 12 noon



Our Weekly Offering

January 18 \$ 9,331.75
 Christmas Actual \$ 59,703.00
 Budget . . . \$ 83,751.00 Variance -29%

Year To Date

Actual YTD . . . \$ 289,139.06
 Budget YTD . . . \$ 288,249.51
 Variance +.50%

February 1, 2009

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, February 1: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:15 am Rel. Ed. Sac. Prep. (OLR)

10:15 am Rel. Ed. Sac. Prep. (SAG)

Monday, February 2: The Presentation of the Lord; Blessing of Candles;

Groundhog Day

7:00 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)

Tuesday, February 3: Blessing of Throats

7:00 pm Centering Prayer (PC)

Wednesday, February 4:

6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)

7:00 pm Community Life (PC)

7:30 pm Transitions (PC)

Thursday, February 5:

7:00 pm First Communion (PC)

7:00 pm Youth Group (DC)

Friday, February 6: First Friday

7:00 pm Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, February 7: First Saturday

6:00 pm Volunteer Appreciation Party (SESA)

Second Collection next weekend:

..... *St. Vincent de Paul*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers Needed In The Spiritual Care Program, Stanford University Hospital:

The Spiritual Care Service at Stanford Hospital is seeking Catholic volunteers to visit, pray and offer the Eucharist to 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 Hall, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto on Monday evenings: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering, please respond by calling the Spiritual Care Service office at 650-723-5101 or email ghollingsworth@stanfordmed.org and listing your name and phone number. Interviews begin in February.

UPCOMING PARISH & DIOCESE EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – WIDOW AND WIDOWERS FEBRUARY

DINNER MEETING No host cocktails at 5:00 p.m., Dinner at 5:30. The price is \$17.00 including tax and Tip. The Crown Plaza Cabana Hotel, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Between Charleston and San Antonio Road. Parking in Front and Rear of Hotel. Confirm with Joan Meyn at 494-3467 before Feb 2.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY To show our love and appreciation for our many volunteers, the clergy and staff of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Party on Saturday February 7, 6:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium. We would not have such a vibrant and welcoming community if it were not for the hundreds of volunteers who devote time each week to supporting the activities of our parish.

This is an event where staff does all the work and the volunteers get to relax. Dinner will be served, soft drinks, water, coffee, tea, wine and beer will be available. If you volunteer in any way in the parish, please plan to attend this special event! The parish clergy and staff look forward to thanking you personally for all you do for our parish! Please RSVP at the Pastoral Center (494-2496) or by sending email to admin@paloaltocatholic.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY GREEN BRIGADE

You've circled the date - Saturday, March 14 - now roll up your sleeves! There is always room for more help at the annual St. Patrick's Day evening at the St. Elizabeth Seton School auditorium - ticket sales, hospitality, kitchen crew and food service, bar tenders, event raffle ticket sales, and of course set-up and clean-up. Become part of the legacy! Adults and adolescents welcome to contribute to the process and the fun. Interested? Contact Joe Kinsella: 650-364-3705.

RCIA – THE DISMISSALS

Our 5 adults seeking Baptism at the Easter Vigil are now in the Period of the Catechumenate.

During Sunday Mass we celebrate the Dismissals for Opening up of The Word. This occurs after the proclamation of the scripture and homily and before the intercessory prayers of the faithful. The ritual goes back to the early years of the Catholic church. Since the catchumens do not yet share in the priestly ministry of baptism, they do not yet participate in the priestly functions of the assembly: intercessions and prayers of thanksgiving.

The presider invites the catchumens forward along with their catechist (discussion leader), and asks those gathered to pray for them.

The catechist receives The Lectionary, and holds it up as appropriate in any liturgical procession, and leads the group out as an acclamation is sung by the assembly.

This year the dismissals are at the 9:00am Mass at St. Albert the Great on Sundays.

Jean Ramacciotti, Director of the Catechumenate (RCIA), 650 494-2496 ext. 34, pajeann@yahoo.com

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

AGE OF AQUINAS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 – 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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – SHORELINE PARK HIKE AND COFFEE 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! Randy, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, or 408.739.2881.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – EDGEWOOD PARK HIKE AND BRUNCH Meet at the INNER parking lot inside the entrance to Edgewood Park at 9 am. Email: Josephine.josephine.dorval@oracle.com, 650.619.4024.

BISHOPS WELCOME PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER BANNING TORTURE

WASHINGTON—An executive order banning torture signed by President Barack Obama was welcomed by Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

“Based upon the teachings of the Catholic Church, our Conference of Bishops welcomes the executive order,” Bishop Hubbard said. “Together with other religious leaders, we had pressed for this step to protect human dignity and help restore the moral and legal standing of the United States in the world.” He added: “A ban on torture says much about us – who we are, what we believe about human life and dignity, and how we act as a nation.”

Our parish joined the national effort last August with letters and the display of banners “Torture is wrong.” Thanks to parishioners who wrote to our country's leaders urging for this action. We will, with gratitude, put away our banners. *Human Concerns Committee, submitted by Walt Lundin*

WORLD FAMOUS PASSION PLAY

Join Father George, and a bus full of happy Catholics, for the experience of a lifetime: The opportunity to see the famous passion play in Oberammergau, Germany, depicting the last week and passion of our Lord. Every 10 years this tiny hamlet performs the play in keeping with their 377 year old promise to God. It is literally performed with a cast of hundreds. People will be coming from all over the world to see it. We will also visit the “Best of Poland and Prague”. The trip is 11 days: Sept. 8th – 18th, 2010.

You may say, “Wow, 2010 is a long time from now.” The demand for tickets will FAR exceed the supply plus we will limit our group to just one bus. Don't delay; Act now! Brochures are available at the Pastoral Center or if that is difficult for you, email me and I will get one to you- ndwade@pacbell.net. Deposits are already being accepted. You don't want to miss this!

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD AND THE BLESSING OF CANDLES All parishioners attending our daily masses on Monday, February 2, are encouraged to bring candles with them to mass that day to have them blessed for personal and family use. This is in recognition of the presentation of the Lord.

At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany (January 6), the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honor of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later—February 15. The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas. This feast emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification.

At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.

In Luke's account, Jesus was welcomed in the temple by two elderly people, Simeon and the widow Anna. They embody Israel in their patient expectation; they acknowledge the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Early references to the Roman feast dub it the feast of St. Simeon, the old man who burst into a song of joy which the Church still sings at day's end. Excerpted from www.americancatholic.org