

Fourth Sunday of Lent

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

My dear Parish Family,

This weekend we continue with the 2nd Scrutiny. In what areas of my life am I blind? Today, I continue to offer you some more simple ways to embrace and respect Creation:

3. Reduce: Pledge to consume and throw away less. During the past 35 years, the amount of waste each person creates has almost doubled from 2.7 to 4.4 pounds per day. The most effective way to stop this trend is by preventing waste in the first place! Waste is not just created when we throw items away. Throughout the life cycle of a product, from extraction of raw materials to transportation of the raw materials to manufacture and use - waste is generated all along the way. Making items with less material and reusing items decrease waste dramatically, lessening the amount needing to be recycled or sent to landfills and waste combustion facilities.

So be conscious of what you buy and how much you buy. Purchase durable, long lasting goods. Notice the quantity of packaging used and pledge to only purchase products that use appropriate packaging.

4. Reuse: If you have to buy it, reuse it. Refill those water bottles. Reuse the packing paper from shipments for kids' art projects and use the art as wrapping paper...and then recycle the wrapping paper. Reuse empty egg cartons as a paint tray, each "dish" works perfectly to hold a color and keeps colors from running into each other.

5. Recycle: If you have to buy something, recycle or freecycle when you are done with it. You know the old saying: one person's trash is another person's treasure! Freecycle is a grassroots movement of people who are giving and getting stuff for free. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills: www.freecycle.org

6. Goody bags be gone! For your next birthday party, forget the goody bags filled with junk (of the plastic or sugar variety) and spend the \$50 on a donation to the Arbor Foundation where 50 trees will be planted in a Yellowstone forest.

More to come next Sunday!

Fr. George

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 2:

10:30 am OLR... Elsidia Perez †

10:30 am STA... George Li †

Readings: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23;

Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Monday, March 3: St. Katharine Drexel

Readings: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 4: St. Casimir

12:15 pm Celia & Seraphin

Corchado (sp. int.)

Readings: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 5:

7:15 am Mary Lee Hagen (birthday)

12:15 pm Angelo Baracchi †

Readings: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday, March 6:

7:15 am Elaine Donald †

12:15 pm James & Edith Dubbs †

Readings: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday, March 7: Ss. Perpetua and Felicity

Readings: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 8: St. John of God

Readings: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

THE "BURNING BUSH"

Sunday, March 9, 3-5pm Our Lady of the Rosary. "Catholicism's Myths, Confusions, and Trivia" Come and participate in the "True or False?" Quiz Faith Discussion Q & A with Fr. George and Fr. Tony. Wine and cheese refreshments

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday March 8 & 9, 2008

St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm TBA

Sun 9:00 am TBA

St. Thomas Aquinas

Sun 7:30 am TBA

Sun 8:45 am TBA

Sun 10:30 am TBA

Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 9:00 am (español) .. TBA

Sun 10:30 am TBA

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, Carole Smith, Danny Chandler, John Patrick Kullman, Robert Gaspich, Chet Maksim, Devin Wakefield, John Christensen, Marian Partelow, Andrea Binger, Daniel Slevin, Jennifer Matthew, Jim Matthew, Mary Imbornone

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Paul Piskaty, Stewart Greene, Kathleen Gogarty, Alvin Fischer, William Hiegel, Tom Jaworowski, Tom Drewiek, Josephine Kerber, George Li, John Hartmann, Elaine Donald, Stephanie Ziegler

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
Mar 16 . **Thur** Mar 6 noon
Mar 23 . **Wed** Mar 12 noon



Our Weekly Offering

February 17 \$ 8,066.27
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD... \$ 422,852.71
Budget YTD .. \$ 422,716.39
Variance + 0.03%

March 2, 2008

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, March 2: Fourth Sunday of Lent; Laetare Sunday; Second Scrutiny

9:15 am Parent Meeting,
Religious Ed (ISP)
10:15 am Parent Meeting,
Religious Ed (SESS/H)
7:00-8:30 pm ... STAY HS (DC/OLRH)

Monday, March 3:

7:00 pm Stanford Hosp. Vol. (OLRH)

Tuesday, March 4:

7:00 pm Centering Prayer (PC)

Wednesday, March 5:

5:00, 6:30 pm ... Childrens Cath. (DC)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)
7:00 pm Lector Training (STA)
7:30 pm RCIA (PC)
7:30 pm Transitions (PC)

Thursday, March 6:

11:00 am Seton Dev. Board (SAGC)
6:00 pm Widow/Widowers (SAGC)
7:00 pm Catech. Support Grp (PC)

Friday, March 7: First Friday; World Day of Prayer; Abstinence

12:30 pm STAYouth (PC)
6:30 pm "Way of the Cross" (OLR)

Saturday, March 8: International Women's Day

9:30 am RCIA Retreat (SAGC)

Second Collection next weekend:

..... *Catholic Relief Services*

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Next Sunday there will be a special collection at all masses for Catholic Relief Services. The parish human concerns committee hopes you will be generous in donating to the important work of this agency. "What return will I make to the Lord for all He has given me?" Well, you could start with a donation to help the least of our human family, the most disadvantaged, those whose own governments lack the resources to help.

CRS is the official international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community. Last year, more than 94% of all contributions went directly to fund programs overseas; less than 6% went to fundraising, awareness and administration.

ADA UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS! And THANK YOU! We have reached our goal! More than **299 parishioners have pledged \$131,732.00.**

Some parishioners have not yet taken the opportunity to SECURE the VISION. We are each called by the love of God to accept the responsibility for the work of the parish, the Diocese and Bishop McGrath. If you contribute now, your dollars will come back to the parish for our own programs. Check in the back of the church for pledge forms or call the parish office (650.494.2496x24) - or just write a check to the Annual Diocesan Appeal and we'll do the rest of the paperwork for you.

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS MEETING

Members and newcomers welcome to our meetings which occur the first Thursday of the month at 7pm at St. Albert's Hall, dessert served. Our guest speaker will be Bob Supp, CPA, discussing "Tax Matters". On March 15th the Widow / Widowers will be attending the annual St. Patricks Day Dinner held at St. Elizabeth Seton School, 1093 Channing Ave, from 6-8pm.

Suggested future activities include a movie / dinner night, car pooling to Half Moon Bay to see a play, a 3 - 4 day Elderhostel tour to Hearst Castle, a trip to Oregon via the Starlight Express. For further info contact Carmen, 650-851-8844 or Jean, 650-858-1832.

THE SECOND PENITENTIAL RITE (SCRUTINY)

This Sunday at the 10:30am Mass at OLR we celebrate Scrutiny #2 with our three Elect-- *Dominik, Andrew, and Hee-jung*. We The Faithful and the Elect will together focus on conversion and scrutinize our own lives in Light of the Gospel.

The theme of the second scrutiny is "the Healing Light of Christ." As in the gospel about the man born blind being led to the Kingdom of Light through the gift of faith, we will pray that the God of Mercy frees the Elect from false values that may surround them and blind them. We ask God to unseal their eyes so they may come to see Him face to face and be firmly in truth-- Children of the Light forever.

The Third Scrutiny will be celebrated next Sunday, March 9, at OLR at 10:30am. As a congregation, and hopefully throughout the whole parish, we continue to inspire in them a desire for purification and redemption by Christ. The scrutinies help us in this endeavor. We pray that The Rite Scrutiny #3, which is based on the Gospel of Lazarus will fill their spirit with Christ the Redeemer who is the resurrection and the life.

THOMAS MERTON CENTER

God's Mechanics: *How Scientists and Engineers Make Sense of Religion*, A talk by Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J. Sun, March 2, 2008, 4:00 pm, The Women's Club of Palo Alto, 475 Homer Avenue. Open to the public. Free will donations gratefully accepted.

Guy Consolmagno is an astronomer, lecturer and curator of one of the world's largest meteorite collections. A highly regarded planetary scientist, his studies also include asteroids and dwarf planets. He is the author of several popular books, including *Brother Astronomer: Adventures of a Vatican Scientist*, and a popular telescope guide, *Turn Left at Orion*. He is likely the only Jesuit brother with an asteroid named in his honor (4597 Consolmagno), affectionately known as "Little Guy." A scientist and a person of faith, Brother Guy is uniquely able to discuss the issues, tensions and relationships surrounding scientists and religion.

HOTEL DE ZINK

During the month of April, about 15 homeless folks will be staying at the Church of Christ on Middlefield Road. St. Thomas parishioners will be bringing the food during the first two weeks of the month. I will be asking people to sign up to bring food after the Masses during the month of March. If you miss signing up, please call me at 856-6350. Thank you. - Ruth Chippendale

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

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/

Sunday Night Youth Mass – March 2, 7pm OLR. This Mass is open to the entire parish. Come see, celebrate, and pray for & with all this spring's middle school and high school confirmation candidates. Post-mass reception to follow. Mark your calendars and join us!

Preview for March 9...Middle School - Stations of the Cross, OLR Church. High School - guest speaker Victor Lecha III (from last year's HS confirmation retreat).

Service Opportunities...March 14 set-up for St. Patrick's Party at Seton School auditorium (after SAG recon. service); March 15 help at St. Patrick's Party (6-9pm); March 17 set-up (5:00pm) and clean-up at parish Seder Meal 6:30pm OLR Hall.

Communal Reconciliation Services...March 14, 7pm SAG & March 17, 7pm OLR (bilingual). Important sacrament of healing for parents, youth, & confirmation candidates.

Tahoe Retreat (8th grade thru HS)– June 16-20. All forms at www.dsj.org/tahoe/ \$300 total cost; \$100 deposit. Deadline for monies/forms to Rob is March 31, 2008 Diocesan

YOUNG ADULTS [college-age, 20s, 30s, early 40s – single/married; w/, w/o children]

St. Thomas Aquinas Young Adults www.paloaltocatholic.org/STAY/

Lenten YA Hike – Sun., Mar 9 – 11:15 Mass, St. Mary's Los Gatos, lunch downtown LG, hike from LG to Lexington Dam (1:45–4pm). Contact Chris Miller at Camillerlg@aol.com or 408-395-7949.

Lenten Faith Sharing / Googling God – Thurs, Mar 13 – 7:00pm social; 7:30pm book discussion / Lenten faith sharing. St. Albert the Great Center. Mike Hayes of "BustedHalo.com" has written a new book on our demographic. ISBN 0-8091-4487-5 Get your copy and join us. Rob's article on the Googling God book has been published in this month's issue of our diocesan newspaper, The Valley Catholic. www.dsj.org/dsj/valleyissue.asp?id=44&story=2209

Annual Seder Meal – Tues, Mar. 18 – 6:30pm, Our Lady of the Rosary Hall. Come join other YA and fellow parishioners during Holy Week for this annual tradition that symbolizes our ties with our Jewish forerunners in faith. Please RSVP to Rob Manfrey to reserve a seat.

DEANERY 2 YOUNG ADULTS 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

UPDATE FROM KENYA MARCH 16

An opportunity to hear from Catherine and Joseph Wanjohi, visitors from Naivasha, Kenya, is planned for Sunday, March 16, from 4:00 p.m. till 5:30 p.m. at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center. The Wanjohis will bring us up to date on the conditions in Naivasha following the weeks of tribal violence which erupted after national elections on December 27, 2007. In addition, Catherine will talk about her work with Life Bloom Services International, and Joseph will answer questions about Panda Flowers and its fair trade status.

Catherine Wanjohi has extensive training in teaching and counseling, having earned the equivalent of our B.A. degree and teaching credential at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya and her M.A. degree in Counseling/Psychology at the University of Durham in the UK. After six years of teaching and seven years as a school principal, she responded to the need she saw in Naivasha, Kenya, for counseling and support for abused women and for women in the commercial sex trade.

Following the talk, the Thomas Merton Center Board will provide a simple lasagne and salad supper. Please RSVP to Kay Williams at (650) 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net, if you intend to stay on for supper. If you can bring an appetizer to share, it will be welcomed by all.

THANK YOU

At the February 10 Mass at SAG, Fr. George was pleased to recognize several members of the committee that initiated and saw to completion the construction of SAG's Hospitality Hall. Some of the names of the Renovation Committee members were inadvertently omitted at the event, so a complete list of members follows: *Frances Adams, Ted Baer, Harry Browne, Joan Campbell, Mary Carlstead (chair), Kenneth Copenhagen (deceased), Marguerite Purcell, Rich Sholz, Patricia Tighe*

DON'T BE "IRISH MISSED"

St. Patrick's Day Event: Ticket sales begin this weekend for the annual St. Patrick's Day legacy celebration of Irish music, Celtic dancing, sing-along, and the best corned beef this side of The Emerald Isle! The evening convenes at St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium, 1095 Channing Ave., from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Ticket Prices: Adults - \$15.00, Children (under 12) - \$5.00. Always a sellout, so get your tickets now – after all Masses this weekend (and next) or at the Pastoral Center during the week – while they last! Volunteers for service are always welcome, including providing rides for home-bound seniors. Call Joe Kinsella: 364-3705.

AGE OF AQUINAS

Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture, Foothill College. *Sponsored by Foothill College Astronomy Program, NASA-Ames, SETI, and Astronomy Society of the Pacific.* Meet at 5:45 for a light dinner at Pasta Market, San Antonio Rd & El Camino Real, in Los Altos. Then carpool at 6:30 to Foothill College. The Lecture begins at 7 and is usually packed. Visitors must purchase a campus parking permit for \$2 (eight quarters). Parking lots 1, 3, 5 and 6 provide access to the theater. The college is located on El Monte Rd at I-280.

Cost: Whatever you spend for dinner, plus your share of the \$2 parking fee. The Lecture is FREE! Locations: Dinner & Carpool: The Pasta Market, 4546 El Camino Real Suite A7 Los Altos, CA 94022 Lecture: Foothill College, Smithwick Theater, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 More info: Contact Carrie Karnos, ckarnos@yahoo.com, or call 408.739.2881.