

Third Sunday of Lent

TODAY'S MESSAGE

KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH There's no better way to deepen our Lenten practice than to review the Ten Commandments (not the movie, the book). The first three, having to do with our right relationship to God, get the most ink. The one we busy people probably have the most problem with is keeping holy the Sabbath.

If we take this commandment literally, babies will go undiapered and dishes will stay on the table, or perhaps meals will not be served. The sick will go unattended and nothing that has anything to do with physical labor will be done. Is mental labor really work? How about changing that dirty diaper (poor baby!)?

We need to depend on God to discern how to observe real Sabbath time in our lives. The point of this commandment is that God has given us a great gift: one whole day per week when we are free to rest, worship God, sing, feast, love, and rejoice. As Psalm 19 proclaims: "The law of the LORD is perfect, / refreshing the soul" (19:8). Our Sabbath rest is a great gift, to be received from God with joy, not with nitpicking.

OBERAMMERGAU "ANSWERED PRAYERS; A CONTINUING VOW"

You are invited to attend a very special Burning Bush session with Deacon Carl Bunje. He will present the history of the world famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany from a very personal perspective. He has many behind the scenes experiences to relate, plus the powerful experience of the play itself. Other Lenten reflections will also be presented. As always, there will be wonderful company, wine, cheese and additional treats. If you have already been to the play, please come and share your memories and photos, if any, with us. See you at the St. Albert Hospitality Center on Sunday afternoon, March 22 from 3pm until 5pm.

2009 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



By following Christ faithfully in our lives, we "Grow in Faith Together." We have each been blessed with many gifts and are called to reach out in faith to share those blessings with one another. Please be as generous as you can in contributing to the 2009 ADA. To date, 185 families have made pledges and gifts of over \$72,597. We are 62.4% of the way to reaching our goal of \$116,250. Consider making your pledge today - see our ADA Tables after Mass for more information.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 15:

9:00 am SAG Vince Giovannotto †
 10:30 am OLR . . . Nancy Balough (health)
*Readings: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19;
 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25*

Monday, March 16:

8:30 am Frankie Briggs †,
 Robert Kerrigan Jr. (health)
 12:15 pm James W. Roddy †
Readings: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday, March 17: St. Patrick

8:30 am Rita Kramer
 12:15 pm Marc & Blanca Reyes
Readings: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt. 18:21-35

Wednesday, March 18: St. Cyril of Jerusalem

12:15 pm Vince Giovannotto †
Readings: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday, March 19: St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Friday, March 20:

8:30 am Special Intention
 12:15 pm Thomas Joseph Power †
Readings: Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday, March 27:

Readings: Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday March 21 & 22, 2009

St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Gutiérrez
 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 Fr. Nahoe

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, Sherry Kruep, Carson Enghardt, John Martin, Joseph Seebach

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — 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, Fr. Charles Dougherty, Fr. Barry Freyne, Frances Kral, Kirk Martin, Elayne Doyle

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 29 . . . **Thu** Mar 19 noon
 Apr 5 . . . **Thu** Mar 26 noon



Our Weekly Offering

March 1 \$ 12,273.13
 Churches in E. Europe . . \$ 2,503.00
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD . . . \$ 415,081.30
 Budget YTD . . . \$ 437,039.39
 Variance - 5.02%

March 15, 2009

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, March 15: Third Sunday of Lent;
First Scrutiny

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

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

Monday, March 16:

7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)

7:30 pm RCIA (PC)

Tuesday, March 17:

7:00 pm Centering Prayer (PC)

Wednesday, March 18:

6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)

7:00 pm STA Committee (SAGH)

7:30 pm Transition (PC)

Thursday, March 19:

7:00 pm First Communion (PC)

Friday, March 20: Spring begins;
Abstinence

7:00 pm Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, March 21:

Second Collection this weekend:

..... St. Elizabeth Seton School

HOTEL DE ZINK

Our parish will be taking the food to the homeless folks who will be staying at the Church of Christ on Middlefield Road during the month of April. Our dates will be from April 1st thru April 15th. I will be signing people up during the month of March. If you miss signing up, you may call me at 856-6350.

WHY IS THE ROTATING SHELTER CALLED HOTEL DE ZINK?

During the depression of the 1930's, the Chief of Police of Palo Alto, Howard Zink, gave shelter to folks as they passed through town. This place was called "Hotel de Zink." When the Urban Ministry started the rotating church shelter, they decided to take on this name.

— Ruth Chippendale

UPCOMING PARISH & DIOCESE EVENTS

MANY THANKS FOR "STRONG WORK" AT ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENT

Another St. Patrick's Day event is upon us this weekend. Many thanks to each of the almost 300 parishioners who through their lively participation ensured that this was another successful celebration of the Irish traditions of the parish in a welcoming, family setting. Special thanks from the Organizing Committee to the dozens of loyal volunteers young and old (and in-between) who contributed their time and attention before, during, and after the event – decorations, set-up, beverages, kitchen, Pot 'o Gold, clean up! Have a worthy rest and get ready for next year!

SATURDAY MARCH 21ST – LADIES NIGHT OUT Blue Pheasant Restaurant - Cupertino (Men, please disregard!) Let's do a Ladies Night Out March 21st! We will be hosting an evening of fun and dancing at The Blue Pheasant Restaurant in Cupertino. Please RSVP to Betty if you would like to come and she will coordinate meeting time and place. Time: around 7:30. Cost: No cover charge, drinks, etc are pay as you go. Blue Pheasant Restaurant: 22100 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014. Contact Betty by email betmeme1@juno.com or phone 408.244.1739, or visit www.paloaltocatholic.org/AofA.html.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RITE FOR ALREADY-BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS LAST SUNDAY

Last Sunday at Our Lady of the Rosary, our RCIA adult Candidates celebrated the Penitential Rite for the Already Baptized. These adults are either seeking to be Received into the Roman Catholic Church or seeking to finish their Initiation sacraments by being Confirmed. The thirteen are: Monique Castell, Molly Christianson, Justin Christianson, Pru Delamater, Kathryn Lowe, Steve McGrady, Brigitte Sequeiros, Evie Marquez, Ashley Morgan, Adrian Pena, Laura Ronda, Brandon Smith, and Jeanese Snyder.

FIRST RITE OF SCRUTINY FOR OUR SIX ELECT (SEEKING BAPTISM)

Today at the 9:00am Mass at St. Albert the Great, the six in the RCIA process that are being baptized at the Easter Vigil celebrate the First Rite of Scrutiny. This is the first of three rites which always occur on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. Cycle A readings are at this Mass only for these 3 Sundays. The theme of this week's penitential rite is "The Living Water." The whole assembly participates in the scrutiny, examining their own lives and addressing what they thirst for in their own spiritual journeys. The six Elect are: Natalie Snyder, Brenda LeBlanc, Christopher Hutcheson, James Harris, and Amber Tucker.

THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

In the RCIA process, Lent is called The Period of Purification and Enlightenment. Catechesis of the candidates and elect is de-emphasized and spiritual preparation becomes the focus. This consists more in interior reflection than in instruction and teaching. Members of the Core RCIA Team prepare the candidates for a soul-filled prayerful way of life, and a life of sacrifice. The goal is to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of those seeking Initiation sacraments. And then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. This, of course, with the help of The Holy Spirit and the prayers and support of our parish community.

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

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

LORD'S PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

The reflections which follow these words of the Our Father were written by Fr. Rolheiser. (He writes a column for the Valley Catholic.) During the weeks of Lent we will present it in segments and then, as Lent winds down, the complete prayer in a bulletin insert.

Mary, Mirror of Justice, pray for us!

Hallowed be thy name . . . may we always acknowledge your holiness, respecting that your ways are not our ways, your standards are not our standards. May the reverence we give your name pull us out of the selfishness that prevents us from seeing the pain of our neighbor.

Your kingdom come . . . help us to create a world where, beyond our own needs and hurts, we will do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you and each other.

Your will be done . . . open our freedom to let you in so that the complete mutuality that characterizes your life might flow through our veins and thus the life that we help generate may radiate your equal love for all and your special love for the poor.

– Submitted by Walt Lundin

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

READ SUNDAY'S GOSPEL, JOHN 4:5-42. **Gospel Summary** : Jesus approached a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well and asked her for a drink of water. This surprised the woman for several reasons. In the first place, it was unlikely that a man would ask a woman for anything and even more unbelievable that Jesus, a Jew, would ask something of a Samaritan, a great enemy of the Jewish people. Jesus explained to her that our thirst would return if we drank water from the well; but if we drank the water Jesus offered us, we would never thirst again. After Jesus told her many things about herself, she came to believe that he was the Son of God and called others to him.

Reflection for Families : Jesus offers us living water just as he did the woman at the well. It is the water of salvation so when we stumble, we know that Jesus refreshes us with forgiveness. This is helpful to remember on days when we are disappointed by our anger, impatience, and discouragement.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family : When you go to mass this weekend, be sure to invite the whole family to bless themselves at the baptismal font. On the way home, share your ideas about living water and the how the holy water of the font is living water for each person. Invite every member of the family to offer a way in which they can refresh someone at school, at work, or in the neighborhood by being living water for that person.

Children's Catechumenate: Let us all keep the following children in our hearts and prayers and they prepare for their initiation into our Catholic Community this Easter season. Natalie Snyder is our Catechumen seeking full initiation through Baptism, Communion, Confirmation; Peter and Patricia Valbuena, Emma Villarreal and Noah Marriott seeking to complete their initiation through Communion and Confirmation. March 15th Reg. Classes

March 22nd & 29th No Classes ~ Spring Break

For information on any of the items listed, please contact Susan Clingingsmith, Dir. of Rel. Ed. at

FAIR TRADE EASTER GIFT SALE

READY, SET, GO!

In just one more week and you can buy chocolates from Ghana, coffee from Columbia, organic tea from India, handicrafts from Vietnam, as well as cocoa mix from the Dominican Republic. The Human Concerns Committee is sponsoring this Easter Gift Sale on the weekends of Mar 21/22 and 28/29. Tables will be set up at all three sites after all Mass times. With each purchase, you help the farmers and artisans maintain steady work and a sustainable income so they can provide for their families. For more information, please contact Laura Chiu @ 650-283-6343 or lauraleechiu@gmail.com.



COMING SECOND COLLECTION

Catholic Relief Service's annual collection will be next weekend.. CRS is the overseas arm of the Church's care for the needy in poor countries, sometimes for those needing, almost literally, life support. Zimbabwe: terrible governance, cholera epidemic, needing food, medicine and potable water. Haiti: terrible governance, chronic food shortages, economy in the pits. Brazil: drought in the north needing skills for water economy. Egypt: simple improvements in sanitation to save lives. CRS finds a need and fills it. We can be part of the solution. More info at crs.org.

– Human Concerns Committee