

The Ascension of the Lord

TODAY'S MESSAGE

MISSION STATEMENT

Today we celebrate Christ's ascension into heaven and his commissioning of the disciples to carry on his mission in the world. First we hear Luke's description of those events in the opening verses of the Acts of the Apostles. Next we hear words of encouragement and guidance from the Letter to the Ephesians. Finally we hear Mark's account of the Ascension, foretelling the mighty words and acts the Christian community would do in Jesus' name.

Together these scriptures give us a vision of the mission of the church of Jesus Christ—a mission statement of sorts. Like mission statements in our parishes and corporations, this mission statement can help us set priorities and focus our activities. It can guide and support us as we strive to continue Christ's messianic mission on earth.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul serves all who come to us for help. The service we give comes in many forms: rent help, help with utilities, food, clothing, referrals to other agencies. St. Vincent de Paul service is intended to be emergency service.

A disabled man who is paralyzed came to us for help with food. He lives in Palo Alto & receives assistance from SSI. This week he was running short. He was given a food voucher. A couple who live in one of the low cost hotels in Palo Alto needed help for one night's rent. They support themselves by panhandling, collecting cans, and other odd jobs. St. Vincent de Paul paid for the one night's rent. These two cases are examples of people who are managing their lives as well as they are able and most of the time they are self-sufficient. Occasionally they run short and St. Thomas Aquinas St. Vincent de Paul is there to assist them on these occasions.

The fifth Sunday of the month is St. Vincent de Paul Sunday. The proceeds from the second collection are dedicated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please come prepared to contribute your part for those among us who are less fortunate. Funds for the Society can also be brought in an envelope labeled "St. Vincent de Paul" to the Pastoral Center at 3290 Middlefield Road Palo Alto 94306.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 24:

7:30 am STA. . . . Charles Baracchi †
9:00 am SAG . . . Norman & Judy Swope
(special intention)

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20

Monday, May 25: St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi

7:15 am STA. . . . Jennifer Ester †
8:30 am OLR . . . Deceased & living members Camarillo Family

12:15 pm STA . . . Jack McGannon †
Readings: Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 26: St. Philip Neri

8:30 am OLR . . . Maria Nieves Pedron †
Readings: Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday, May 27: St. Augustine of Canterbury

8:30 am OLR . . . Holy Souls
12:15 pm STA . . . Judy Woods
(special intention)

Readings: Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday, May 28:

7:15 am STA. . . . Maria Cecilia & Francois Torregrosa †

12:15 pm STA . . . Clotilda Cesano †
Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday, May 29:

7:15 am STA. . . . Tony & Mary Louise (thanksgiving)

8:30 am OLR . . . Thanksgiving for healing Madaleina's Family

Readings: Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday, May 30:

12:15 pm STA . . . Avelino Hidalgo †
Readings: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday May 30 & 31, 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 Msgr. Boyle
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Aranha
Sun 12 noon Fr. Cwiekowski

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, Fr. Charlie Macedo, Mary Harvey, Rita McAlester, Carson Enghardt, John Martin, Joseph Seebach, Bill Belcher, Tony Artero, Jim Chinn, Bobby Kerrigan, Frankie Briggs, Theodore Strotman, Barbara Franceschi

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Lena DeFrenza, Fr. Charles Dougherty, Fr. Barry Freyne, Frances Kral, Kirk Martin, Elayne Doyle, Jack Morrisroe, Rowena Ramires, John Ruhm, Maria Nieves Pedron, Irene Placone

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
Jun 7 . . . **Thu** May 28 noon
Jun 14 . . . **Thu** Jun 4 noon



Our Weekly Offering

April 26 \$ 8,912.56
Home Missions \$ 2,843.11
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD . . \$ 527,953.66
Budget YTD . . \$ 550,551.42
Variance - 4.10 %

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, May 24: The Ascension of the Lord

Monday, May 25: Memorial Day; *Pastoral Center Closed*

7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)

Tuesday, May 26:

Wednesday, May 27:

11:30 am Seton School (SAGH)

Thursday, May 28: St. Augustine of Canterbury

11:00 am Env. & Art Meeting (PC)

7:00 pm First Communion (PC)

Friday, May 29:

7:00 pm Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, May 30: Vigil of Pentecost

Second Collection this weekend:

..... St. Elizabeth Seton School

Second Collection next weekend:

..... St. Vincent de Paul

LAYETTE DRIVE

The St. Thomas Aquinas 8th grade confirmation class is conducting the Layette Drive for our Parish's Layette Program through May 31st. Please see details and the Layette Package list on the cribs or basket at any of the STA sites. All donations are greatly appreciated!

TRAVELING ABROAD

In a world of questions and uncertainty, Jesus is still the answer. Please join Fr. George on another faith adventure as we visit the Best of Poland and Prague, and experience the Passion of our Lord in Oberammergau, Germany. Although many people have responded, there are still tickets available for this opportunity of a lifetime. Brochures can be found in the vestibule of each church, or at the pastoral center.

MEMORIAL DAY MASS & VETERAN'S TRIBUTE

Please join us to remember all those interred in our cemeteries, especially those who have died for the freedom of our country. Priests from various parishes, choirs, Knights of Columbus, American Legion and Scouts will participate to make this tribute a memorable experience.

On Monday, May 25, Most Reverend Bishop Patrick J. McGrath will celebrate at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 22555 Cristo Rey Dr., Los Altos, (650) 428-3730; and Monsignor Joseph Milani will celebrate at Calvary Cemetery, 2655 Madden Ave., San Jose, (408) 258-2940. Mass will take place at each cemetery at 11:00 a.m. and a Veteran's Tribute at each cemetery will take place at 10:40 a.m. Chairs and tent will be provided, held in an outdoor setting. Please allow time for parking. For information contact Frances Carrasco Leyerle at carrasco@dosj.org or (408) 258-2940 x208.

YOUNG ADULTS

Mark Your Calendars! Young Adult Mass with the Bishop, Tues, 5/26 7:30PM Intersection Teen Chapel, St. Nicholas School Young Adults(20's to 30's, single or married): Join up with your peers from the parishes of Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos to celebrate the Eucharist. Our special presider this month is the Bishop of our Diocese, the Most Reverend Patrick J. Mcgrath. Held at the St. Nicholas Teen Center at 12816 S. El Monte Ave., Los Altos Hills, Those interested in participating in the choir for the Bishop's Mass, please contact Adam atmoerschell@gmail.com We are in need of both singers and musicians. www.YoungAdultCircle.org

AGE OF AQUINAS EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2009, AND EVERY SATURDAY – 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! Email: Randy, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, or call 408.739.2881.

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2009 – MONTHLY SUMMER STAR PARTY The NEXT Peninsula Astronomical Society Star Party of the season is Saturday, May 30. Bring your telescope and/or binoculars (if you have them) and a picnic dinner. Time: 7:30 pm gathering at the Park'n'Ride till ~10:30 pm. Please note: New admittance policy in 2009: The Park entrance will close at 8:00 pm, so don't be late or you won't get in! FREE!! Meet at the Park'n'Ride at I-280 and Page Mill Rd west of Palo Alto at 7:30 pm. We will be joining the Peninsula Astronomical Society, <http://www.foothill.fhda.edu/ast/pas.htm>, for this month's summer star party. www.paloaltocatholic.org/AofA.html or contact Randy Jones, 408.739.2881, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, or Carrie Karnos, ckarnos@yahoo.com.

SOARING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WORLD PEACE

A talk on the risks of these weapons and a way to reduce them. Prof. Emeritus Dr. Martin Hellman of Stanford Univ. 7:00 p.m., Los Alto Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Co-sponsored by Los Altos Public Library, Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, AAUW, Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice and 4 other local peace groups. No charge. – *Human Concerns Committee*

May 24, 2009

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Gospel Summary : Read Sunday's gospel, John 17:11b-19. As Jesus prepares to return to God, he is in the midst of a long prayer for his disciples. It is a prayer for unity even though Judas is no longer among the disciples. Jesus asks his Father to seal and strengthen the disciples as they will now be the ones to carry out the work begun by Jesus. He especially asks that they not be influenced by the evil one.

Reflection for Families : It is likely that John is making a connection between Jesus asking God to commission the disciples and the fact that the Church is being passed on from the first generation to the second. As parents (and probably as every generation of parents) we know how unsettling that can be! We worry about things like the next generation not working hard enough, not saving enough money, not valuing important things, and in general, they just don't think like we do! But isn't it amazing how life goes on and pretty well at that. We need to be clear to our children that we believe in them and have faith in God. Try for one week (or even one day) to consider each statement you make to your children or in their presence. Will they have the feeling that you are really hopeful for the future their generation will bring?

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family : Designate a special cup as a 'blessing cup' in your home. At a meal when the family is gathered, pour wine or grape juice into the cup. Have one adult begin by stating one thing about his/her faith that is important to pass on to the children. The adult may then take a sip of wine and pass the cup to the next person. Children may decide if they want to share something important that has been passed on to them or something they hope some day to pass on to their own children. When the cup has returned to the person starting, s/he may say these or similar words: 'Let this cup be a reminder to us of all that has been passed down through the years'. Amen.

Remember to register for next year's classes today! It is cost effective to order books early!

Mark Your Calendars:

May 24th No Classes ~ Memorial Day

May 31st Last Day of Class

For information on any of the items listed, please contact Susan Clingingsmith, Dir. of Rel. Ed. at youth@paloaltocatholic.org or 650-494-2496 x25.