

# First Sunday of Advent

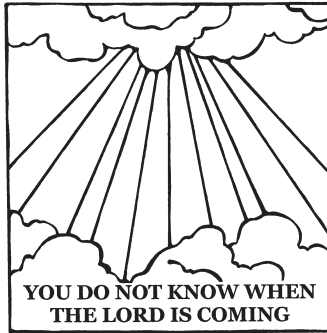


## TODAY'S MESSAGE

### GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.



## THANKS FOR THANKSGIVING

Many thanks to all of you in the Parish who helped provide over 300 meals for families in East Palo Alto. Your hard work packing the boxes and delivering them, as well as your financial and spiritual support was most appreciated. Families were so grateful for the food, delivered with love.



## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES TIL NOV. 30TH

Donations of non-perishable food items such as soups, peanut butter, cereal, tuna, etc., are needed at all three church sites. Be sure to return your brown paper bags to the church foyer. The STAYouth group thanks you for your generous donations!

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 30:

10:30 am OLR ... Redmond Walsh †  
 10:30 am STA ... Mary Gaffney †  
*Readings: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37*

Monday, December 1:

7:15 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm  
*Readings: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11*

Tuesday, December 2:

7:15 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm  
*Readings: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24*

Wednesday, December 3: St. Francis Xavier

7:15 am .....  
 8:30 am ..... Josephine Palomo  
 (special intention)  
 12:15 pm ..... Bolich & Carney  
 Families †  
*Readings: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37*

Thursday, December 4: St. John of Damascus

7:15 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm  
*Readings: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27*

Friday, December 5:

7:15 am .....  
 8:30 am ..... Agnes Valentine †  
 12:15 pm ..... Bolich & Carney  
 Families †  
*Readings: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31*

Saturday, December 6: St. Nicholas

12:15 pm .....  
 5:00 pm ..... Pablo Garces (special  
 intention)  
*Readings: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8*

## PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday December 6 & 7, 2008

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 ..... Msgr. Boyle  
 Sun 10:30 am ..... Fr. Aranha  
 Sun 12 noon ..... Fr. Nahoe

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** — Sue Clingingsmith, Nancy Condon, Nicholas Humy, Chet Maksim, Devin Wakefield, Marian Partelow, Virginia Kreutzer, Chet DiLauro, Cypress Winters, Sophie Bandur, Fr. Charlie Maceda, Carole Stuart, Mary Harvey, Michael Fong, Brian Dooney, Rita McAlester, Susa Langdon, Frances Kral

**FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED** — Joseph Kehret, Pat Slevin, Jack Youngs, Carmen Lamb, Ruth Arnold, Mary McNulty, Leona McGann, Mary Gaffney, Elayne Bollier Doyle, Beatrice Espicha, Sarah Ann Washburn, Mary Hansen, Mary Imbornone

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  
 Dec 14 .. **Thu** Nov 4 noon  
 Dec 21 . **Thu** Nov 11 noon



### Our Weekly Offering

November 2 ..... \$ 11,610.00  
 All Saints Day ..... \$ 1,564.00  
*thank you for your continued generosity*

### Year To Date

Actual YTD... \$ 175,192.63  
 Budget YTD .. \$ 173,778.23  
 Variance ..... + 0.81%

# November 30, 2008

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, November 30: First Sunday of Advent

9:15 am ..... Religious Ed. (OLRH)

10:15 am ..... Religious Ed. (SAG)

6:00 pm ..... STAYouth (OLRH)

Monday, December 1:

7:30 pm ..... RCIA (PC)

7:30 pm ..... Medjugorje Group (KC)

Tuesday, December 2:

8:00 am ..... Awards Ceremony (SAGC)

7:00 pm ..... Centering Prayer (PC)

7:00 pm ..... JustFaith (PC)

Wednesday, December 3:

11:45 am ..... STAYouth (PC)

6:00 pm ..... SOUP (OLRH)

7:30 pm ..... Transitions (PC)

Thursday, December 4:

7:00 pm ..... First Communion (PC)

7:00 pm ..... Widows & Widowers (SAGC)

Friday, December 5: First Friday

7:00 pm ..... Spanish Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, December 6: First Saturday

8:00 am ..... Advent Morning Reflection (OLRH)

8:30 am ..... Liturgy Board (SAGC)

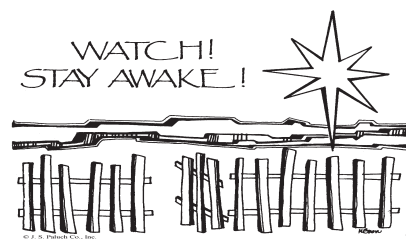
6:00 pm ..... YA Circle Holiday Party (SAGC)

Second Collection this weekend:

..... St. Vincent De Paul

Second Collection next weekend:

..... Immaculate Conception



## MANY THANKS

Many thanks to all who made the Parish Retreat Day on November 15 so memorable. – Mary Agnes Early

## UPCOMING PARISH & DIOCESE EVENTS

### DECEMBER 6TH – ADVENT RETREAT WITH NANCY MCGARAGHAN

Get into the spirit of Advent by attending a morning of Advent reflection with Nancy McGaraghan, spirituality teacher, retreat leader, and hospital minister, on Saturday, December 6, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto. Sponsored by the THomas Merton Center, Nancy's reflections will draw us into the mystery of God's presence in our lives. Donations invited, all welcome (regardless of ability to donate). For more information, Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

## THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, and the Rite of Welcoming Baptized Adults who are preparing for Confirmation or for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church will be celebrated next Sunday Dec. 7 at the 9:00am Mass at St. Albert the Great. Sixteen adults (we call "candidates") for the various Initiation Sacraments will make a public declaration of their intentions to receive those sacraments at the Easter Vigil in April, 2009. Fr. George will preside over this moving Rite, which includes the Signing of the Senses.



They have all completed months of inquiring and catechesis. As a parish we pray for them, that they may continue to cooperate with God's grace. And we thank their sponsors for walking with them along their faith journey.

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

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to those parishioners who generously responded to our request for more workers for the Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. We have now enlarged our circle of Vincentians to a healthy number. We meet the second Sunday of the month after the 10:30 OLR Mass. Those who would like to come and visit our meetings, and possibly join us, are most welcome. We can always use more workers. Please call Roberta Uebbing at 650-494-2450 or e-mail uebbing665@sbcglobal.net – Roberta Uebbing

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

A 55 year old woman came to St Vincent de Paul asking for one night's lodging. All she wanted was a good night's sleep in a comfortable place. She had spent most of her nights in the shelter & wanted a break from the very unpleasant & oppressive atmosphere there. A serious accident had damaged the discs in her back & now she is unable to work up until the time of the accident she had her own place to live and was gainfully employed. Medical expenses used up all her savings. She is waiting for her SSDI to be activated so she can find appropriate housing. This unfortunate situation is typical of many of the people we help here in our parish SVDP conference. When the collection basket comes around, try to imagine the struggle this woman has just to survive & give generously to our parish St. Thomas Aquinas St. Vincent de Paul Conference.

# St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mark Your Calendars:

Nov. 30th – No regular Sunday morning classes; enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend!

Dec. 7th – Reg. Sunday morning classes resume. ALSO the Parents Mtg. will be held in the respective halls while the children are in class. There will be faith sharing and classroom needs etc. discussed. These meetings are important for ALL PARENTS of all grades.

Children's Catechumenate: Is your child/ren are over the age of 7 and in need of Baptism and/or First Communion? Then come join us in the Children's Catechumenate process. We meet on Weds. from 6pm – 7pm in Dermody Center. Call or e-mail (listed below) for more information.

*Susan Clingingsmith, Dir. of Rel. Ed. at [youth@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:youth@paloaltocatholic.org), 650-494-2496 ext. 25*

## GIVING TREE

The season of Advent offers us an opportunity to assist families in East Palo Alto. Our partnership with Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Vincent de Paul, allows the greater Catholic community to make sure all families can enjoy a Christmas dinner as well as provide gifts for their children. There is a Giving Tree in the back of each church which has tags suggesting gifts appropriate for children of all ages. Purchases should be placed under the tree, unwrapped until December 14th. Financial assistance for this program is also welcomed as teenagers appreciate gift certificates. Checks can be sent to Saint Vincent de Paul, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, 94303.



## 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/)

- The STAY COOL parish wide food drive is continuing all during November. Bags are available in the vestibules of all the churches, as well as the STAY sessions.
- No Stay sessions on Sunday, November 30th. Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

**YOUNG ADULTS [college-age, 20s, 30s]** [www.paloaltocatholic.org/STAY/](http://www.paloaltocatholic.org/STAY/)

Sat, 12/6 Annual Deanery 2 Young Adult Circle Holiday Party & Early Holiday Liturgy at Stanford. Join us at St. Albert the Great hospitality center at 7:30pm for food and fun, then proceed to Memorial Church at Stanford for 11:00pm mass with carols, led by Stanford musicians & choir.

**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 to receive 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)*

## WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

A few unredeemed gift cards, perhaps? Last year, the Consumer Reports did a survey and found that nearly \$8 Billion in gift cards went unredeemed. For the 2006 holiday season, 56% of the survey's respondents received gift cards and nearly a year later, 27% of gift card recipients have not used one or more of these cards. If you are one of those recipients, would you consider donating these gift cards to the Human Concerns Committee? Every Christmas, the St. Vincent de Paul Society in East Palo Alto receives generous donations of new toys for younger children but has difficulty finding suitable presents for teenagers. Your unredeemed or partially redeemed gift cards from local department stores will be perfect for them. Between now and December 21st, please consider gathering all such gift cards and putting them in the collection baskets with your weekly donations. Our volunteers will be responsible for bringing them to the various department stores for validation and then presenting them to the SVdP for their Christmas Toy Drive. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Chiu at 650-283-6343.

## ISLAM AND VIOLENCE

All are invited to attend a conversation with Dr. AbdulMawgoud Dardery on the American perception of Islam as a religion that condones violence, to be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 7:00 p.m., at San Jose State University, Martin Luther King Library, Schiro Room (Room 550), Fifth Floor, and sponsored by the Global Studies Program under the direction of Dr. Michael Conniff. The King Library is located at 150 E. San Fernando St. (cross street is 4th Avenue), San José, CA 95112, (408) 808-2000. For more information, Kay Williams, 650-328-2781 in the evening.