



Lent – Year of Grace, 2016

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish – Palo Alto, California

Pope Francis' Lenten Message 2016

“In the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I asked that the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy. By calling for an attentive listening to the word of God...I sought to stress the primacy of prayerful listening to...his prophetic word. The mercy of God is a proclamation made to the world, a proclamation which each Christian is called to experience firsthand.”

Ash Wednesday, February 10 is the Church’s annual wake-up call. Our celebrations of the Eucharist on Ash Wednesday, which include the blessing and distribution of ashes, will be at **7:15AM, 12:15PM, 6 PM & 8PM (Gregorian)** at St. Thomas Aquinas Church; **8:30AM & 7:30PM (Spanish)** at Our Lady of the Rosary Church; **10AM (School) & 7PM** at St. Albert the Great Church.

THE LAWS OF FAST & ABSTINENCE Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from all meat (beast or fowl). Except for a serious reason, all persons fourteen years old and above are bound by this law. **Ash Wednesday (February 10) & Good Friday (March 25) are also days of fast.** All persons between the ages of eighteen, until the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound by this law. On these two days, one full meatless meal may be eaten. Two other meatless meals may also be taken sufficient to maintain strength, but together they should not equal a full meal. Liquids, including milk and fruit juices may be taken between meals.

DAILY CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST & ADORATION Attendance at daily Mass and reception of Holy Communion is strongly encouraged of the faithful during the season of Lent. Mass is celebrated **Monday through Friday at 7:15AM & 12:15PM** at St. Thomas Aquinas Church; **Saturday at 12:15PM** at St. Thomas Aquinas Church; and **Monday through Friday at 8:30AM** at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. **The Stations of the Cross will be offered every Friday after the 8:30AM & 12:15PM Mass.** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is provided every Wednesday after the **12:15PM Mass** and Wednesdays from **6PM – 8PM** at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU - SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

In Lent 2015, over 20,000 people in the Diocese of San Jose received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and 5,000 on Wednesdays during *The Light is On for You* initiative. Based on the success of last year and given Pope Francis' instructions for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Bishop McGrath has decided to continue *The Light is On for You* Lenten initiative again this year. At St. Thomas Aquinas Church, our parish will offer the opportunity for the private confessions from **6PM – 8PM**: February 17, February 24, March 2, 9, 16 & 23. Additional times for confessions are Saturday from **11:30AM – 12PM** at St. Thomas Aquinas Church & **4:15PM – 4:45PM** at St. Albert the Great Church. We will have two Lenten Penance Liturgies: **Monday, March 21 at 7:00PM** at Our Lady of the Rosary, and on **Wednesday, March 23 at 7PM** at St. Albert the Great.

TAIZÉ PRAYER is a time for connecting with the Spirit in joy and gratitude, and nurturing the presence of God within. Candles, melodic chants and inspirational readings will call you to a deeper awareness and appreciation of the beauty of God’s presence. Join us on **Thursday evenings during Lent: February 18 & 25; March 3 & 10 at 7:00 PM** at Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

S.O.U.P (SHARING OURSELVES WITH UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE) is held in the **Our Lady of the Rosary Hall** on the following **Wednesdays during Lent at 6PM: February 17, 24, March 2, 9, & 16.** There will be no S.O.U.P on Wednesday during Holy Week. Donations will be accepted for Fr. Jack Donald’s South American Ministry along with other worthy charitable causes.

PRAISE BE! A CALL TO LIVE MERCY IN OUR COMMON HOME A day of reflection on Social Justice on Saturday, **February 20** at St. Albert the Great from **9AM – 1PM**. Fumi Tosu, M.Div, Director of Casa de Clara in San Jose, will be our keynote speaker. Six workshops will be offered focusing on different aspects of the Social Justice teachings of the Church including: environment, peace and justice, and dignity of life. Cost for the day is \$15 for registration in advance (\$20 at the door).

ALMSGIVING (*Works of Mercy on behalf of the Poor*). The Human Concerns Committee is sponsoring **Have a Heart Sunday** on **February 21**. At each Mass, we will be collecting new, unopened underwear and warm socks for people who receive services at the Opportunity Center in Palo Alto. Cash donations are also gratefully accepted. **Operation Rice Bowl** is a way to experience Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving, while providing assistance to people in need through the work of **Catholic Relief Services**. Bring your rice bowl to Mass on Palm Sunday. On **Holy Thursday**, March 24 at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, a collection will be taken up for the work of our local **St. Vincent de Paul Conference**.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS As our brothers and sisters make their final approach toward the Sacraments of Initiation, we celebrate a number of special rites with them during the period of Purification and Enlightenment. On the First Sunday of Lent, **February 14**, during the **10:30AM** Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary, all of our catechumens will be sent forth to the Bishop for their Rite of Election at St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica. On the Second Sunday of Lent, **February 21**, during the **9AM Mass** at Saint Albert the Great, the adults and youth seeking Confirmation, Eucharist, and/or Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church, will celebrate a Penitential Rite. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, The Rite of Continuing Conversion will be celebrated with our youth preparing for Confirmation at the **5PM** Mass at St. Albert the Great on **March 5**. On the **Third, Fourth, and Fifth** Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies will be celebrated with the elect (formerly catechumens) during the **10:30AM Mass** at Our Lady of the Rosary.

MEANINGFUL MOVIES A series of films focused on the theme of "*Care for Our Common Home*," the subject of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. The film sessions begin at **5PM** in the Thomas House basement theater next door to St. Thomas Aquinas Church. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share, and participate in the brief discussion after each movie. Sunday, **February 14**: we will show "[March of the Penguins](#)," a documentary chronicling the journey of courting emperor penguins marching across the ice of Antarctica. Sunday, **February 28**: attend a showing of "[The Constant Gardener](#)," a political action thriller with a social conscience, set in Kenya. At the conclusion of each film, we will discuss its moral and political implications.

LIVING THE YEAR OF MERCY Attend one or more of our diocesan-sponsored lectures on various topics that highlight the Jubilee Year of Mercy: **The Father's Mercy**, February 18 – Fr. Sergio Ovando; **We are Called to be Merciful**, March 3 – Fr. Sergio Ovando; **Mercy in the Liturgy**, April 7 – Diana Macalintal; **The Spiritual Works of Mercy**, April 28 – Fr. Gerardo Menchaca; **The Corporal Works of Mercy**, May 16 – Deacon Rubén Solorio. Each session is from **7PM – 8:30PM** at the Diocese of San Jose Chancery, 1150 North First Street, Suite 100 in San Jose.

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAY ASSEMBLIES Deepen your faith through the following adult faith formation sessions: **February 16**: Eastern Meditation and Western Contemplation; how do they compare? With Father Kevin Joyce; **February 23**: An Important Woman of the Old Testament: The Book of Judith; with Father Jose Rubio; **March 1**: The Acts of the Apostles (a video series) with Fr. Matt; **March 8**: "Forgiveness"; with guest speaker: Deacon Peloso; **Wednesday, March 15**: A Way of the Cross: Journey of Decision, the Passion as seen through the eyes of Pilate, Mary, Veronica and others: St. Albert the Great Church, **7PM**. All other sessions begin at **7PM** at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center.

PARISH SEDER MEAL Enjoy a traditional Seder lamb dinner, Scripture readings and an explanation of the Passover Feast, **Tuesday, March 22 at 6:30PM, in Our Lady of the Rosary Hall**. The requested dinner donation is \$10. All proceeds will be sent to Father Jack Donald. He grew up in our parish and is a missionary in Honduras. Reserve your place at the table by contacting Anne Morrison: 650-493-2998 or email: ahbert55@aol.com

HOLY WEEK Plan ahead to join us in the celebration of Holy Week, beginning with the traditional **Solemn Procession of Palms on Passion Sunday, March 20**, continuing into the Easter Triduum: **Holy Thursday's Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**, March 24 at 7:30PM at Our Lady of the Rosary Church and 8PM at St. Thomas Aquinas Church (Gregorian); **Good Friday's Celebration of the Lord's Passion** at 12PM at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and 7:30PM at Our Lady of the Rosary Church (Spanish); Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary, with readings and reflection, and 4PM at St. Albert the Great Church he "Living Stations of the Cross." **The "Night of all Nights," the Easter Vigil is on March 26 at 8:30PM at St. Albert the Great Church**. Having entered into the Lord's Passion and Death, we will celebrate the new life of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. We invite every parishioner to celebrate with us this *holiest* of weeks at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.