

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

## March 26, 2006

*God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.--*

*John 3:17*



### Upcoming Parish Events

**Mon. Mar 27 —**  
Bible Study & Prayer Group, Chapel, 7:30 pm

**Tues., Mar 28 —**  
**Parish Council Mtg,**  
7:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

**Thurs. Mar 30—**  
Girl Scouts, 7:00 pm  
Scanlan Hall

**Fri. Mar 31 —**  
**Abstinence**  
AACC Youth Group  
Group, Chapel,  
6:30 pm

**Stations of the Cross,** 7:00 p.m.,  
Church, **Soup Supper** to follow; **Movie** after the supper will be *The Passion of Christ*.

**Sat. Apr 1 —**  
**First Saturday**  
Burmese mass,  
10am, Church

### Is it too early to go back home? Angelo Zawaydeh dies, he is 19 years old By Fr. Labib Kobti

With the death of one of our St. Thomas More church member, Army Private First Class Angelo Akram Zawaydeh (19 years old) who was killed in Iraq, we ask why Angelo died so young? Why did he die when he was planning to come home for his 20th birthday in May?

Angelo is the first STM parishioner war casualty. He is an Arab-American from Jordan, born in the US. He is the second person known by STM. Peter J. Navarro, a Filipino-American, 20 years old was killed on December 13, 2005. His girl friend is a member of our STM Church.

Angelo was killed March 15 when his traffic control point came under mortar attack during combat operations in Baghdad. He saved the lives of his friends. He laid his life down his life for them. No greater love is there than to lay down one's life for one's friends. It was the ultimate sacrifice. I know everyone would have wanted him to come back safe and sound, but he really is home safe and sound with our Lord now.

You may be for the war, or you may be absolutely against it. What matters now for all of us at St. Thomas More is that one of us has shown us how brave he was in doing the ultimate sacrifice. That is why we see in him a hero, a person who represents to us, as we prepare ourselves for Easter, the ultimate sacrifice of Christ to save the world. After all, this is what we will celebrate in Easter, the ultimate sacrifice of the love of Christ; his passion and resurrection.

Our children sometimes without knowing it, give us great lessons that stay for ever in our lives and mind. In their words and actions many times God speaks to us in a special way. The Lord tells us through the sacrifice of Angelo that it is never too early or too young to go back home. Our home real home is not on earth, it is in heaven. In today's liturgy of the Mass we read "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" Jn 3, 15. The gift of Jesus' life is for us to get to heaven, to go back to our real home.

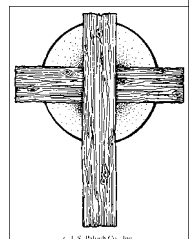
St. Paul says: "Indeed, we know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling made in heaven, not made by hands but to last forever" (2 Cor. 5.1). And in fact, he says also "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Cor. 2.9.

We acknowledge the deep pain that the dear parents, family and friends feel at Angelo's loss. It is incomprehensible that a young man should have his life cut short (violently). We don't understand. Our faith is really and truly tested, and yet it is our faith that sustains us. As Christians, we don't believe that death is the end.

As Catholics we have the Communion of Saints. We don't simply bury our dead; we remain in communion with them, in communion with the angels and saints. Angelo, appropriately named at his baptism, (Angelo in Italian means angel) is now with this cloud of witnesses in heaven. At every Mass, not just those that are offered for him, but at EVERY Mass EVERYWHERE in our catholic [small "c"], that is, universal Church, he is with us and is always prayed for.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK, SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday: Mar 26—**2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21;  
Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: **Abstinence**; Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
Saturday: **First Saturday**; Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53  
**Sunday: Apr 2—**Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33



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**Full Plate Program:** Thank you for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations of canned foods and dry goods & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 box of cereal, 1 can of stew or chili, 1 can of tuna or chicken, 1 container of 100% juice. No glass items. Thanks.

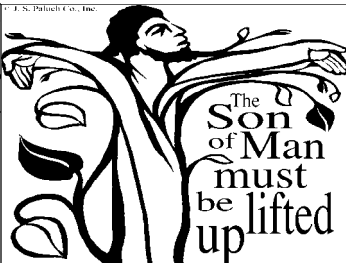
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Please pray for the members of our parish who went to Rome & represent STM at the Elevation of our then Archbishop William Levada. Let us pray for their safe return, even as we congratulate and pray for Cardinal Levada, as well as the other newly elevated Cardinals.

\*Some families like to have the **Old Easter Candle at home.** It has been lighted in the church for two years during Easter time and for every Baptism and Funeral. In an effort to help us raise funds, as do many churches, we would like to offer the current Easter Candle (**which will be replaced by a new one at the Easter Vigil**) to the person/family who would like to give to the church a bit of a generous offering for it. Please call the office if you are interested. This Candle (with no stand) will be given on Good Friday to the person/family who would give the best offering to the church. Thanks for your support.

\*Thank you for your generous **donation for Hand of Help last weekend.** We had to use envelopes which had no names on them. If you remember the amount of your donation, and would like it registered for tax deduction purposes, please drop a little note in the collection basket with your name and the amount, and the words Hand of Help. We will make sure that particular offering also gets credited to your name.

\*We thank everyone who come to **the Stations of the Cross** and bring the Lenten **soup for** after the devotion. One more great occasion where many people of different ethnicities come together as one family at STM!



\*Our **Annual Golf Tournament** will be on **May 1, 2006 at Crystal Springs Golf Course** in Burlingame. Prices will be: \$195/player, \$550 for a twosome with sponsorship, \$1,000 for a foursome with sponsorship. Please call the office for more details.

### STM ARCHDIOCESAN SCHOOL

\*Have fun, raise money and join St. Thomas More School at a fundraising event at **Chevy's at 3251 Stonestown Galleria Thursday March 30th from 11am-10pm.** Invite all your friends and family to dine with us & Chevy's will donate 20% of proceeds to our fundraising partner!

### CAMPUS MINISTRY

\*Weekly meetings to share experiences and faith! Every **Monday from 6:15pm-7pm** Rosa Parks F at the Student Center, SFSU. For more information contact Sr. Sibelle, at 650-994-6919.

### OTHERS

\*Check out & support the semi-annual garage sale of **Little Sisters of the Poor** on 300 Lake Street (at 4th Ave.) on Saturday, April 1 from 9 am—3 pm. Lots of interesting items. Pls call (415) 751-6510 for more info.

\***Novena for World Peace** from April 5-13 at the Immaculate Conception Church, 2355 Folsom St. Come at the hours you can. Masses are at 7am, 12pm, 7pm (healing Mass) with speakers and prayers in between. Each day ends at 9:30 PM.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 26 — April 1, 2006

03/26 Sun	10:00 am	People of STM
	8:00 pm	Ricky Guarin
03/27 Mon	8:30 am	Mary Woods†
03/28 Tue	5:30 pm	Eusebio Gutierrez†
03/29 Wed	8:30 am	Vincent Duc Luu†
03/30 Thur	5:30 pm	Marina, Mary & Benjamin Felizardo†
03/31 Fri	8:30 am	Seamus Hayes†
04/01 Sat	8:30 am	
	5:00 pm	John & Samiere Family

Please call the office to schedule. Participating in the mass you offer is preferred.



**All the sick people in our parish** especially Romy Fernandez, George Crawford, Restituto de Guzman, Michael Karney, Majida Totah, & Dino Rulloda. Let

us also pray for those who are terminally ill as well as for those who are victims of addiction and those with mental illness. We also pray for **all the deceased members** of our parish especially Eusebio Gutierrez, Angelo Zawaydeh & Marieta Pili.

*Pls. give us names of the sick in your family, and your beloved departed; names will be changed as needed.*

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**Thank you for your contributions. Please remember us in your prayers.**

Your offerings on the weekend of 3/19/06 **\$4,456**  
Mission Co-op Offertory **\$1,649.00**



Actual Construction Money in Bank **\$114,404**

*Please continue to support our Construction fund. We need to repair the Skylight, upgrade the lights in the church and upgrade Carroll Hall.*  
**Thank you!**

**FAST & ABSTINENCE LAW:** Everyone 14 years and older must **abstain from meat** on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent & Good Friday. On Ash Wednesday & Good Friday, everyone 18 yrs old to age sixty is also bound to **fast** (only one full meal); drinking liquids is permitted.