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## SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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### First Sunday of Advent November 29th, 2009

Today the season of Advent begins, a journey of spiritual renewal in preparation for Christmas. The liturgy rings out with the voices of the prophets, who proclaim the Messiah, asking for conversion of heart and for prayer.

John the Baptist, the last and greatest of them, cries out: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" (*Gospel*), because he "will come to visit his people in peace." Preparing for his birth means reawakening the hope of peace in us. This peace corresponds not just to our desire for temporal tranquility and security, but also to the deepest longings of the human heart: intimate friendship with God and a sure path to reach him. The essence of this friendship is love.

Christ's coming into the world of man – into our world and our lives – must be more than an isolated memory or a momentary celebration. The worthy celebration of Christmas requires purification and growth in the theological virtues of faith hope and love. These virtues provide the framework for Christian life and find their origin in the mystery of Christ, especially his Incarnation and birth.

Our faith, hope and love are challenged and nurtured in the most profound of ways throughout the year when we let the full force of the Christmas mystery impact us deeply and touch every aspect of life. Christ's coming at Christmas is more than an event of the distant past. The Church speaks traditionally of three comings that refer, in a certain sense, to each dimension of our temporality and to each of the theological virtues: his coming in the past, especially through the Paschal Mystery, is the very content of our faith; his coming in the present, made real through the life of grace, is the source of love in us; and his coming in the future, at the hour of our death and ultimately at final judgment, is the object of our hope.

Only when faith, hope and love are purified and deepened is a person made truly secure in God and before God. Only then does a person possess peace and project it in human society. The Gospel powerfully illustrates this point. We are presented with a contrasting spectacle: those who "die of fright" because the final tribulations signal the destruction of everything on which they had based their security, and those who "stand erect" with raised heads because this apparent catastrophe is actually the sign of their redemption and vindication. Both types of people live and suffer the same tribulations, but they face them in different ways and derive different outcomes.

Since our Christian vocation flows from the mystery of the Incarnation, Advent is the perfect season to explore its greatness and transcendence. Out of love, God decides to save man by becoming one of us. Going even further, he commits himself to serving man. "Being God, he emptied himself, becoming a slave like us in all things except sin." What madness of love! That was the only way he could suffer, offer himself in sacrifice and redeem man: "Father, you have given me a body made for sacrifice; here it is, I have come to do your will."

Contemplating this, who is not going to fall in love with Christ, who will not passionately give him/herself to Christ, spending his/her own life, just as Christ did, in the hard but sublime task of Redemption, each according to their own state and situation? And the path for doing so is the same, no matter how we are called to serve: to sacrifice yourself by depending totally and absolutely on God's will. Like Christ, we must always be ready and willing to do God's will.

To achieve this, we must develop the ability to reflect deeply on Christ's life and serenely contemplate it. We also need an authentic interior life to keep us in communication with our Lord. Advent is a privileged time to develop the spiritual life, but there are also many pitfalls to be overcome. The penitential aspect of Advent is almost completely lost in today's post-Christian, consumer-driven society. The thought of Advent often brings to mind a whirlwind of Christmas parties, decorations and getting ready for "Santa." And in the midst of all this we often forget the very reason for these externals: Christ the Lord is coming! If we do not prepare ourselves spiritually for his arrival, we could make the same mistake as the people in Bethlehem who not only missed his coming, but actually rejected him.

What a wonderful thing it would be if Catholics today, through their example, were to bring back to Advent its original meaning as a time of prayer, purification, joyful expectation and wonder. How much we have to learn from those ancient traditions of restraint with regard to the external manifestations of the season until shortly before Christmas, with the bulk of the celebrations occurring in the eight-day period afterwards, the octave! We would reclaim the spiritual meaning of this season and not let it be manipulated or emptied of its true meaning by those who see Christmas only as an opportunity to sell things nobody really needs.

[www.sacerdos.org](http://www.sacerdos.org)

## Prayer for "Laborers for the Harvest" (Pope John Paul II)

Jesus, Good Shepherd, raise up in all parish communities, priest and deacons, religious, consecrated lay people and missionaries according to the needs of the whole world, which You love and want to save. We entrust to You in a particular way our parish community; create in it the spiritual atmosphere of the first Christians in order that it may be a cenacle of prayer where we lovingly receive the Holy Spirit and His gifts. Assist our pastors and all consecrated souls. Guide the steps of those who have generously welcomed Your call and prepared themselves for Holy Orders or the Profession of the Evangelical Counsels. Direct Your loving gaze to the many well-disposed young people and invite them to follow You. Help them to understand that only in You they can achieve their fulfillment. We entrust these great desires of Your Heart to the powerful intercession of Mary, Mother and model of all vocations, and beg You to sustain our faith in the certainty that the Father will listen to what You Yourself have instructed us to ask for.

**Amen.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Staff</b></p> <p><b>Pastor: Church &amp; School</b> Msgr: Labib Kobti <b>Parochial Vicar:</b> Fr Andrew Johnson <b>Deacon:</b> Khaled Abu Shaer <b>Admin Assistant:</b> Elvira Garcia <b>Receptionist:</b> Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF <b>Campus Ministry:</b> Verbum Dei Sisters Sr. Su Fern Khoo, VDMF (415) 573-9062 <b>RCIC:</b> <b>Kathy Sanford</b> 650) 738-0646 <b>RCIA &amp; Music:</b> <b>Suzanne Hockel</b> (415) 826-6834</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STM School:</b> <b>Principal, Joe Elsbernd</b> (415) 337-0100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>This Week's Parish Events</i></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tue. Dec. 1st</b> <b>Legion of Mary,</b> Scanlan Hall, 6:00 pm <b>Communion &amp; Liberation,</b> Scanlan Hall, 8 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wed. Dec 2nd</b> Baptism Preparation Class 6:30pm in rectory</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday, Dec 5th</b> <b>Burmese 15th Anniversary Mass</b> <b>10am &amp; reception</b> <b>RCIC Classes</b> 9am in Flower Sacristy <b>Bible Study Group,</b> Alma Via, 7:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, Dec. 6th</b> <b>Tagalog Mass &amp; blessing of Shrine, 4 pm</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian; 10:00 AM English 11:45 AM Arabic; 8:00 PM English</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weekdays:</b> 8:30 AM (Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.); 5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Holy Days:</b> 8:30 AM &amp; 8:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Saturdays:</b> 10:00 AM Burmese</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Fridays:</b> 8:30 AM <b>7:00 PM</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Followed by Mass for healing at <b>8:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Sacrament of Baptism (infants):</b> Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.</p> <p><b>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</b> Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.</p> <p><b>Sacrament of Matrimony:</b> Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.</p> <p><b>Communion to the homebound and the ill:</b> Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.</p> <p><b>Anointing of the Sick:</b> Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.</p> <p><b>Funeral arrangements:</b> Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.</p>
<p><b>For Children and Youth:</b> Under 6 years old, STM offers a "Crying Room" where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, we have the "Children's Liturgy", RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps</p> <p><b>For Adults:</b> English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM: St. Benedict's Group (18-late 20's) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM; Arabic Youth Group, Fridays 6:30 PM; Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM; Burmese Youth Group, Sundays 2:00 PM; SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus) <u>[Pls call the office for contact numbers.]</u></p> <p><b>For Families:</b> Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary; Communion &amp; Liberation; Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adoration.</p> <p><b>Queenofpeacefoundation.org</b>, an independent Foundation created to serve the needy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Holy Land Museum &amp; Shroud of Turin Exhibit</i></u> <u><i>Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday</i></u></p>		

### **Regular Activities**

Parish Council	To Be Announced	Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
Liturgy Committee	As Announced	Friday, 6:00 PM
Legion of Mary	Tuesday, 6:30 PM	Third Friday, 7 PM
Communion & Liberation	Tuesday, 8:00 PM	Friday, 8:30 PM
Charismatic groups for different ethnics	See schedule	1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30PM

**Full Plate Program:** Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 pack of pasta, 1 can of beef or chicken, 1 can of tomato sauce, 1 can of fruit or fruit juice. Pls., no glass items. Thanks.



*\*This week's second collection* will be for the **poor of our parish**. Please be generous especially during this time as we begin this Advent season.

\*We now have our **new calendar for 2010**, we encourage everyone to book **Mass Intentions** early to ensure dates are still available. Please call the office anytime on Monday thru Friday, during regular office hours.

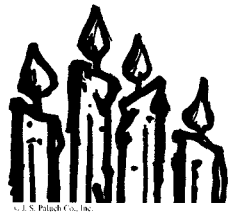
**Ethnic Community News**

\*Come join our **Burmese Catholic Community** as they celebrate their 15th Anniversary with Bishop Bill Justice with Mass and a reception on **Saturday Dec 5th at 10am**. Everyone is welcome!

\***The St. Thomas More Filipino American Catholic Community** will celebrate the first Tagalog Mass & have blessing of the shrine on **Sunday Dec 6th** at 4pm. (Future Tagalog Masses will be on the 1st Sunday of the month.)

**School News:**

\*The **St. Thomas More School Winter Faire** will be held on Sunday, **December 6th**. This year, for the first time there will also be a special preview on Saturday night, Dec 5th. Tables are available to vendors for \$30 but space is limited. For more information, please contact Linda Shah at 415-218-0401 or [lp1114@aol.com](mailto:lp1114@aol.com)



**I Will Fulfill My Promise**

**Temporary Liturgical Modifications During Flu Season (from the Archbishop):**

\*Distribution of Holy Communion from the Cup is suspended.

\*Receive Holy Communion by the hand. [No change for those who take Communion by the tongue.]

\*Shaking hands is not recommended during the Sign of Peace, a nod, a smile, saying Peace be with you would suffice at this time of the flu season.

\*Refrain from holding hands during the Lord's Prayer.

\*Extraordinary ministers are to cleanse their hands with an alcohol-based, anti-bacterial gel before and after administering the Sacrament.

\*Non-communicants in the Communion procession may be blessed, but not touched.

\*Priests, other ministers are to cleanse their hands after greeting people arriving for worship, before the Entrance Procession.

[All are encouraged to use the cleanser in the holy water fount before & after blessing themselves.]

\*Holy water fountains at the entrances are cleaned & refreshed weekly, esp. before weekend Masses.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Nov 29th — Dec 5th, 2009**

- 11/29 Sun 10:00am People of STM  
8:00pm Sixto Nudo †
  - 11/30 Mon 8:30am Vincent Cruz (B'day)
  - 12/01 Tue 5:30pm Sara & Collin F. Noguera (hlg)
  - 12/02 Wed 10:00am Lorraine V. Sullivan †
  - 12/03 Thu 5:30pm Jane Manzano †
  - 12/04 Fri 8:30 am Laura & Mario Biagini †  
8:00pm Helen Racelis †
  - 12/05 Sat 8:30 am Sara & Collin F. Noguera (hlg)  
5:00 pm Jose de la Pena, Sr. †
- Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.*



**All the sick people in our parish, to be read during masses:**

especially Jesus Uchi, Anthony Angeles, Tina Bish, Jeff Semelka, Anita Soliz, Cecilia Reyes, Brigit Suazon, Christian Yousef, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Gordon Lu, Ann, and for all who are ill in our parish.

Let us also pray for all the deceased in our parish especially Manuel Tolentino, Sr.

*(Please call the office for names of people we should pray for. To facilitate this process, names will also need to be taken off after 3 weeks, pls. call the office for names to be put back in. Thanks.)*

**Weekly Offering**



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**Weekend of Nov 22nd**

*( Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, this bulletin is transmitted early. The total for Nov 22nd will appear in next week's bulletin)*

**Thank you for your Generosity!**



**REGISTRATION SLIP FOR ST. THOMAS MORE**

*If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.*  
I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ I want to receive the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.  
 Yes, please \_\_\_\_\_ No, thanks. \_\_\_\_\_ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: [stmchurch@aol.com](mailto:stmchurch@aol.com)