

SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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Third Sunday of Advent
December 13th, 2009

“With joy you will draw water at the fountain of Salvation”

—Isaiah 12:3

Gospel Summary:

Immediately preceding this passage, Luke tells us that the word of God had come upon John the Baptist in the desert. John then began to proclaim the coming of the Lord: all flesh would at last see the salvation of God. John also proclaimed the necessity of turning from evil in repentance in order to prepare for the Lord's coming.

The crowds ask, "What should we do?" John replies that whoever has two cloaks or food should share with the person who has none. Tax collectors should not collect more than what is prescribed. Soldiers should not practice extortion or falsely accuse anyone, and they should be satisfied with their wages. The people are filled with expectation, wondering whether John might be the Messiah. John responds that one mightier than he will come, and will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John warns that when the Messiah comes, he will gather the wheat into his barn, and burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Life Implications:

We will celebrate with gratitude the Lord's coming among us in the past on Christmas. Advent, however, is a time to affirm our faith that the Lord's coming is also a present and future reality for which we must prepare. We too ask, "What should we do?" The ordinary-ness of John's reply to our question is surprising: share what you have with those who have nothing; do your job without cheating or telling lies; be satisfied with what you earn.

Someone asked Saint Philip Neri (who happened to be playing cards at the time) what he would do if he learned that his death was imminent. Philip Neri replied that he would continue playing cards. The best preparation for the Lord's coming at any moment is to be doing what we ought to be doing. In the words of the old Shaker hymn: "'Tis a gift to be simple, 'Tis a gift to be free, 'Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be."

There is also a surprising ordinary-ness about the Lord's coming -- the divine presence does not force itself upon us with bells and whistles. When Jesus did come as Messiah, most people did not recognize him because he did not meet their expectations. Would God allow the Messiah to be defeated and disgraced by dying on a cross like a criminal? Advent thus is also a season to ask for the grace to be freed from false expectations about the Lord's coming into our lives.

Perhaps the most ordinary and most surprising way of all that the Lord comes to us is in the reality of the Present Moment. Each moment becomes a sacrament of divine presence if we say in faith, "It is the Lord." It is thus possible to bless the Lord at all times because every moment without exception is a grace of divine, self-giving love to us. The Lord is with us even in those tragic moments beyond understanding that seem to be without meaning. Life either has no meaning at all, or has total meaning because the Lord is present in all its moments.

Saint Paul tells us the wonderful life-implications of trust in the Lord's presence at every moment in all the circumstance of our lives: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks...Have no anxiety at all...Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes 5:16-18 and Phil 4:6-7).

Campion P. Gavalier, OSB

Every aspect of priestly formation can be referred to Mary as to the human being who better than anyone has corresponded to the vocation of God; who has become the servant and disciple of the Word up until conceiving in her heart and in her flesh the Word made man in order to give him to humanity; who has been called to educate the unique and eternal Priest, docile and submissive to her motherly authority. With her example and through her intercession, the Blessed Virgin continues watching over the development of vocations and of the priestly life of the Church . Monsignor Norberto Rivera "The Blessed Virgin Mary in the Life and Ministry of the priest"

Staff

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This Week's Events

Tue. Dec. 15th

Christmas Novena, 7pm

Legion of Mary,

Scanlan Hall, 6:00 pm

Communion & Liberation,

Scanlan Hall, 8 pm

Wed. Dec. 16th

Christmas Novena, 7pm

Thurs. Dec. 17th

SBYAG X'mas Party

4pm-9pm in Scanlan Hall

Christmas Novena, 7pm

Friday Dec. 18th

Christmas Novena, 7pm

Prince of Peace,

8:30pm Scanlan Hall

Saturday, Dec 19th

RCIC Classes, 9am

in Flower Sacristy

Bible Study Group,

Alma Via, 7:00pm

Christmas Novena at 5pm Vigil Mass

SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian;

10:00 AM English

11:45 AM Arabic;

8:00 PM English

Weekdays:

8:30 AM

(Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.);

5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)

Holy Days:

8:30 AM & 8:00 PM

First Saturdays:

10:00 AM Burmese

First Fridays:

8:30 AM

7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Followed by Mass for healing at **8:00 PM**

Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Communion to the homebound and the ill: Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.

Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

For Children and Youth: 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

For Adults: 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) [Pls call the office for contact numbers.]

For Families: Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary; Communion & Liberation; Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adoration.

Queenofpeacefoundation.org, an independent Foundation created to serve the needy.

Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit

Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday

Regular Activities

Parish Council
Liturgy Committee
Legion of Mary

Communion & Liberation

Charismatic groups for different ethnics

To Be Announced

As Announced

Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Tuesday, 8:00 PM

See schedule

Bible Study & Prayer

AACC Youth Group

Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino

Prince of Peace

FLA Youth Group

Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via

Friday, 6:00 PM

Third Friday, 7 PM

Friday, 8:30 PM

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.



*Please take home our **Advent & Christmas schedule 2009** flyers and books that are in the vestibule & side entrances of the church. Don't miss the upcoming events our church has to offer this Christmas season!

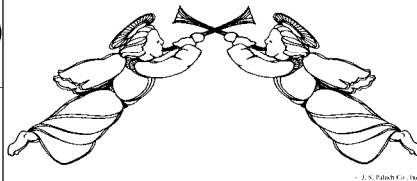
Christmas Flowers:

As we prepare and look forward to the joy of the birth of Christ we hope to express our joy by filling the church with a **bountiful display of Poinsettias**. If you would like to have 1 or more Poinsettias placed in the church in memory of loved ones, or to honor someone special, please use the specially marked envelopes found in the front/side entrances of the church. A donation of 10 dollars will be appreciated. Or you can buy the Poinsettias yourself and bring them to the church by December 21st.



***Cable Car Caroling:** Come join the fun this year singing carols by cable car to the sick & the homebound **Sun. Dec 20th** starting at 1:30pm. **Sign up by Dec 16th** & if you'd like the carolers to visit your home, contact Lourdes at Tel (650)273-2849 or Mariluz at (415) 678-0299. (Flyers in the vestibule).

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



***Children's Xmas Eve Mass:** Children wanting to participate in the Xmas Pageant on Dec 24th need to come to at least 2 practices, dates are: **Dec 14th, 17th, 18th** at 7pm in the church; **Dec 20th after the 10am Mass, & Dec 22 & 23 at 7pm in the church.** For info call Nadia Menjivar (650) 291-4063.

Ethnic Community News

***Thank you.** The beautiful celebration we had this past weekend: the 15th anniversary of the Burmese community in our church, the blessing of their mural, the first Tagalog Mass, and the celebration of the Filipino mural could not have happened without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. Thank you very much to all who made it happen.

***Our International Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi** starts on **Dec 15th** at 7PM & will be daily till Dec 23rd, ending with a pot luck dinner in Carroll Hall. All are invited!

***AACC Annual Christmas Party** will be **Sat. Dec 19th** at 7pm in the "Patio Español" For tickets and info please call the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 13th — Dec 19th, 2009

- 12/13 Sun 10:00am Bernice Fahey †
8:00pm People of STM
- 12/14 Mon 8:30am Victor Totah †
- 12/15 Tue 5:30am Sara & Collin F. Noguera (hlg)
- 12/16 Wed 8:30am Rica Paraiso (B'day)
- 12/17 Thu 5:30pm Crispina Tolosa †
- 12/18 Fri 8:30 am Sara & Collin F. Noguera (hlg)
- 12/19 Sat 8:30 am Florentina Rimban (hlg)
5:00 pm Jose Bocalbos †

Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.

All the sick people in our parish, to be read during Masses: especially Je-

Pray for ... sus 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 Apolonia Lee.

(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

Weekly Offering



Weekend of Dec 6th:
\$ 4,300.15

2nd Collection: Tithing
\$ 1,766

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