October 10, 2025

Saint Thomas Aquinas Bulletin

St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Albert the Great, and Our Lady of the Rosary

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Sacraments, Direct Line of Relationship with God

Renewing Our Spiritual Lives Through God's Grace in the Sacraments

Dear Parishioners,

Our hearts and minds are often focused on how we can deepen our spiritual lives. Many of us turn to valuable resources, such as prayer apps, devotional books, talks, retreats, and community events to nurture our faith. While these tools are wonderful and necessary supplements to our spiritual growth, there is a direct and powerful connection to God's grace: the Sacraments. Instituted by Christ Himself, the Sacraments are the most effective channels through which God pours out His real presence and grace into our lives.

Among the Sacraments, the Eucharist stands as the pinnacle of God's presence—His very Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. A single moment in the presence of the Eucharist is worth more than hours spent in other practices. For this reason, we emphasize the vital importance of attending Sunday Mass, where we receive Christ in the Eucharist at least once a week to sustain and strengthen our spiritual lives. We also warmly invite you to participate in Daily Mass whenever possible to further nourish your soul. At Saint Albert the Great Church, we offer daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:00 AM Mass, as well as every Thursday from 6:45 PM to 7:30 PM. The Blessed Sacrament is also available for visits in the church vestibule from the end of morning Adoration until sunset.

Another essential Sacrament for our spiritual growth and healing is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Sacrament is offered bilingually every Saturday at 11:30 AM at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and at 4:30 PM at Saint Albert the Great Church. While it is true that God hears and forgives us wherever we are, He chooses to work through human instruments. In Reconciliation, we hear the voice of the priest, acting in Christ's name, assuring us of God's forgiveness. Through this Sacrament, we receive not only divine mercy but also guidance, support, and the grace to be reconciled with both God and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are truly united as a family in Him, and it is in Him that we find the strength we need to live out our faith. I would like to conclude with the heartfelt words of one of our parishioners who visits the Blessed Sacrament daily in the vestibule at Saint Albert the Great: "I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to adore the Eucharist in the lobby every day. Since this began during the pandemic, I have never felt closer to Christ in my life."

Let us continue to draw near to Christ in the Sacraments, where His grace transforms and sustains us.

With love and prayers,
Estanislao Mikalonis, Pastor

Announcements and Upcoming Events

We look forward to seeing you at these events as we grow together in Christ. For more details, contact the parish office.

13 OCT

Columbus day Mass Schedule

In observance of the Columbus Day federal holiday, Monday, October 13, Saint Albert the Great Church will offer a single Mass at 10:00 AM. Please join us as we celebrate this special liturgy.

14 OCT

Seniors Soup Lunch

All seniors are warmly invited to a delicious soup lunch on Tuesday, October 14, at 12:30 PM in Saint Albert the Great Parish Hall. Come enjoy fellowship and a warm meal with our community!

26 OCT

October Parish Lunch

Don't miss our October Parish Lunch on Sunday, October 26, following the 10:30 AM Mass at OLR Church. Hosted by our Faith Formation groups, the menu will feature ravioli pasta (or a similar dish).

1 NOV

All Souls Mass of Remembrance

Mark your calendars for our annual All Souls Mass of Remembrance on Saturday, November 1, at 5:00 PM at Saint Albert the Great Church. Join us as we pray for our departed loved ones in this sacred liturgy.

New Ministry Opportunity: Vocations Crucifix Program

We are introducing a new prayer ministry in our parish and are looking for volunteers to help pray for an increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood and the consecrated religious life.

Please contact Mary Lou Savage at: marylou.savage@dsj.org for details.

Memorial Garden at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church

The Memorial Garden is a place where families can memorialize their deceased loved ones by placing their names on plaques in a special garden located at St. Thomas Aquinas church on Waverley Street. For the living, it is a place for meditation and contemplation, honoring the spirit of their loved ones who have passed through to eternal life. The plaques are a reminder that, though no longer with us, family and friends still live close in our heartsand use the QR code for further information.

Youth Ministry

Thank You for Laser Fun and This Week in Youth Ministry

Thank you so much for your continued support of our youth ministry. Last week's Laser Tag outing was a blast! The kids had a great time bonding and building community.

This Friday, we'll be back at our regular meeting place for a formation night.

Middle Schoolers
Topic: "Sin, Hurt, and Forgiveness"
Speaker: Juan Pablo, one of our amazing young adult volunteers
When: Friday, 6:00–7:30 PM
Where: St. Albert the Great (1095 Channing Ave, Palo Alto)

High Schoolers
Topic: "The Fall and the Rescue Plan"
Speaker: Maryn Kunthara (young adult volunteer with our youth team)
When: Friday, 7:45–9:15 PM
Where: St. Albert the Great (1095 Channing Ave, Palo Alto)

Thank you again for all you do to make this ministry possible. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.
With gratitude,
Miguelangel Cardenas, miguelangel.cardenas@dsj.org

STA 2025 Youth Retreat

November 7-9, Mount Hermon in Felton, CA

8th to 12th grades are invited o the annual STA Youth Retreat in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains. This is a time set apart for prayer, reflection, and building deeper friendships rooted in Christ. Surrounded by God's creation, our middle and high schoolers will have the chance to grow in faith, encounter the Lord in a new way, and return renewed and strengthened. Questions? Contact Youth Ministry Coordinator Miguelangel Cardenas: miguelangel.cardenas@dsj.org

New Ministry Opportunity!
Sandwich Squad

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is introducing a new service ministry called the Sandwich Squad aiming to combat hunger in our community by collaborating with St. Vincent de Paul Society. Once a month, volunteers will assemble go-to lunch bags that include freshly made sandwiches, fresh fruit and healthy veg. Contact Mary Lou Savage at marylou.savage@dsj.org for more information.

Ministry name
Sandwich Squad

Mission
Provide fresh healthy sandwich lunches for our St. Vincent de Paul clients on the first Wednesday of the month.

What
Assemble approximately 40 bagged ready-to-meal consisting of:

- Freshly made sandwich (i.e. meat/cheese/lettuce/tomato)
- Fresh fruit (i.e. grapes, strawberries)
- Cookies
- Carrot/Celery sticks
- Note of encouragement (possibly engage St. Elizabeth Seton students to draw a picture and write short note such as “Jesus loves you” or “God is love”. SESS students may earn service hours (check with school principal)

When
9am on the first Wednesday of the month only.

Who
Volunteers sign up on SignUpGenius, set up by M. Savage, but event all done by volunteers. First person to sign up buys the supplies. Reimbursement to volunteer for supplies. Fingerprinting, VIRTUS and Safe Food Handling training to be followed.

Where
Kitchen in Pastoral Office
3290 Middlefield Rd.

Fr. Seth Kupo, Rest in Peace

10/9/2025

Fr. Seth Kupo died early Thursday morning at El Camino Hospital. Please remember him, his family, and communities he served in your prayers. Funeral details will be shared when available.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May his soul and souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Amen.

Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound

Sick and Homebound:
Yvette Bovee, Lillian Aragon, Bill Morrison, Lauro Quintanar, Enedelia Sandoval, Raul Badua, Winnie McGannon, Xochiti Quintanar, Joan Campbell, Mick Pellazzari, Mena Fu, Nicki Chun, Mary Martinson, Shui Wong, Dan Fillin, Bob Reklis

Recently Deceased:
Fr. Seth Kupo, Francis Yetso, Brian Dooney, Kathy Finnerty, John Christopher Kelly, Mark Delamater Flanagan, John Arnold, Leticia U Revilla, Eleanor Jane Kelly, Mary Valentine, Mary Frances Johnson, Perri Cebedo, Magdalena Mendez, Susan Adams, Maria Aquilar, Guillermina Garcia

To add a name to a list, you must obtain permission from the person or their family and contact:

Mary Fong
marytanfong@gmail.com

Join the CROP Hunger Walk

Our annual Mid-Peninsula CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, Oct 26 at St. Raymond's church in Menlo Park.

We will gather with others in our community to fight hunger locally and around the world. Walkers and Sponsors are needed for our St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Team.

Please see our posters in the church vestibules and use the QR code for further information.

Seton School Mass

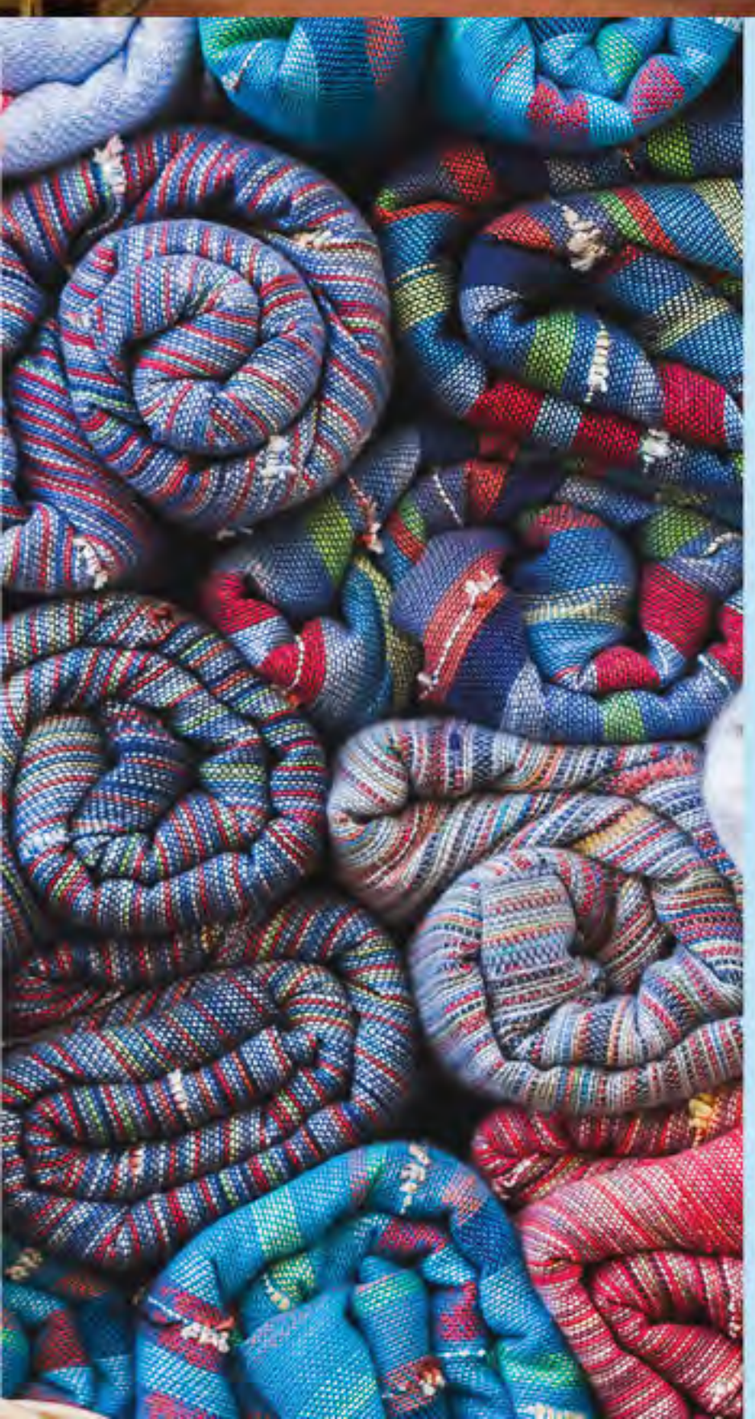
Bishop Cantu's Visit at Seton

Dear Bishop Oscar Cantú,

On behalf of Saint Elizabeth Seton School and Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your gracious pastoral visit on Wednesday, October 8, 2025. Your presence brought immense joy and inspiration to our community. We are deeply thankful for your celebration of the Holy Eucharist, through which you shared the love and presence of Christ with our students, fostering their spiritual growth.

Your generous time spent meeting with our pastor and school principal, as well as your warm engagement with our students in their classrooms, left a lasting impression on our school family. Your visit was a true blessing, and we eagerly look forward to welcoming you back soon!

With gratitude and prayers,
Saint Elizabeth Seton School & Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish



Parish Winter Drive for Our Unhoused Neighbors

There are now collection boxes in the church vestibules for your donations of clean sleeping bags, warm winter coats and blankets to comfort our unhoused neighbors during the cold, wet winter months. Please keep our less fortunate friends in mind and be generous.

You may place monetary donations into the manila envelopes attached to the posters in the vestibules or donate online via the parish website. In past years, your donations have been provided to Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto, The Catholic Worker House in Redwood City, St Vincent de Paul in our parish and St. Francis in EPA, the Heart and Home Collaborative women's winter shelter and many others.

For questions call Human Concerns Committee at 650-283-6343

Confession

St. Albert the Great
Saturday
4:30 PM

St Thomas Aquinas
Saturday
1:30 PM

Rosary

St. Albert the Great
After Daily Mass

Our Lady of the Rosary
Sundays
8:30 AM (Spanish)

Weekday Mass

St. Thomas Aquinas

Monday to Saturday
12:15 PM

St. Albert the Great

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 AM
Wednesday
8:15 (Seton School Mass)

Our Lady of the Rosary

Weekend Mass

St. Thomas Aquinas

Sunday
7:30 AM
9:00 AM (Thomas Merton Center Community)
11:00 AM (Gregorian Mass)

St. Albert the Great

Saturday
5:00 PM (Vigil)
Sunday
9:00 AM

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sunday
9:00 AM (Español)
10:30 AM (English)

Give Online!

Online giving is simple and easy to use! Scan the QR code for direct access.

Follow us on Instagram

Stay connected with parish life, see what's happening in our ministries, and be inspired by daily faith-filled moments @paloalto_catholic_sta

Get in Touch!

Have questions or need support? Our pastoral staff is here to walk with you in faith—please don't hesitate to reach out and connect with us.

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Estanislao Mikalonis, Pastor. ext. 1
estanislao.mikalonis@dsj.org

Rolando Santoianni, Parochial Vicar, ext. 2
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Tyler Ngo, Director of Faith Formation
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Miguelangel Cardenas, Youth Minister
miguelangel.cardenas@dsj.org

Mary Fong, Pastoral Home Ministry, ext. 6
marytanfong@gmail.com

Patricia Cruzet, Quinceaneras, Weddings, & Funerals Coordinator, ext. 7. Or (408) 849-0128
patricia.cruzet@dsj.org

"The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus" (Lk 16:19-31)

Homily of the Holy Father Leo XIV

The Gospel speaks of a poor man, with soars licked by dogs, that is dying of hunger and a rich man, in elegant clothes, gorging himself in front of him. The Lord knows the hearts of the people, and through His eyes, we too can recognize Lazarus, the man in need, and the rich man who is indifferent. The man who lives in abundance is nameless; his heart is full of possessions but empty of love. His possessions do not make him a good person.

Unfortunately, this story is very relevant today. At the doorsteps of today's great wealth stands the misery of entire peoples, ravaged by war and exploitation. Through the centuries, nothing seems to have changed: countless poor, like Lazarus, die before the greed that forgets justice, before profits that trample on charity, and before riches that are blind to the pain of the poor. Yet, the Gospel assures us that Lazarus' suffering will come to an end. His pains end just as the rich man's festivities end, and God does justice to both. "The poor man died and was carried by the Angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried" (v.22). The Church tirelessly proclaims these words of God, so they may convert our hearts. The saving work of God is the beginning of our mission; it invites us to give of ourselves for the good of others. This is the center by which everything revolves; it is the beating heart which gives life.

The rich man's plea to save his brothers becomes a call to action for us. Speaking with Abraham, the rich man exclaims: "If someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent" (Lk 16:30). Abraham replies: If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (v. 31). These words of the Scripture do not seek to disappoint or discourage us but to awaken our conscience. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. The Gospel announces to us that everyone's life can change because Christ rose from the dead. This event is the Truth that saves us, therefore it must be known and proclaimed. But that is not enough; it must be loved. It is love that leads us to understand the Gospel, for love transforms us by opening our hearts to the Word of God and to the face of our neighbor.

St. Peter's Square, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 28 September 2025
(Teresa Budzich, M.Div.)

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH OUR SETON SCHOOL LIBRARY!

With construction in the SAG Center this summer, we've had to move our library. We're looking for helping hands to get everything reorganized!

If you're interested in:

- Reorganizing books and materials
- Leading a small group of helpers
- Creating a welcoming space for our students
- (And in the future) Helping our students visit and enjoy the new library once it's complete

Please call the school office

Volunteer dates: October 20th-23rd

St. Elizabeth Seton School

EAGER TO LEARN

READY TO SERVE

EST. 1978

Sponsored by Daughters of Charity

St. Elizabeth Seton School

1095 Channing Ave

650-326-9004

www.setonpaloalto.org

St. Thomas Aquinas

Youth Retreat Nov 7-9 2025 @Mt. Herman

Register today!

Questions?
Contact Miguelangel Cardenas(youth Coordinator):
Miguelangel.cardenas@dsj.org

2025 *Silent* Ignatian Retreat

Oct 31, Nov 1 & 2
(Fri, Sat & Sun)

Father Ed Broom, OMV,

Renowned retreat master and expert in Ignatian Spirituality, author of 5 books, and guest on EWTN, Fr. Broom looks forward to his "first time ever" retreat in CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST - in the majestic SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS! As a pre-eminent expert on all things IGNATIAN, Fr. Broom looks forward to imparting the spiritual gems of St. Ignatius at beautiful St. Clare's Retreat.

St. Clare's Retreat
2381 Laurel Glen Road, Soquel, CA 95073
(831) 423-8093

Space is Limited
Reservations Are Required
Secure Your Spot Today
www.stclaresretreat.org

"Come Away and Rest Awhile"
Mark 6:30-34

Experience a peaceful weekend of silence, reflection, and deep spiritual renewal. Guided by the time-tested wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola. This retreat invites you to encounter God personally in the stillness - through Scripture, guided meditations, and the beauty of silence.

Whether your're spiritually seasonsed or simply seeking rest, you'll return home refreshed, grounded and more aware of God's presence in your daily life.

Weekend Retreat Rates:

Single Occupancy Room with private or shared bathroom	$320.00
Double Occupancy Room - per person	$300.00
Saturday Day Commuter (no lodging)	$125.00

Meals Included

St. Clare's Retreat is owned and operated by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

September 24th til November 2nd

HELP SAVE LIVES IN REDWOOD CITY!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over **25,000** saved babies
- More than **170** closed facilities
- More than **270** converted workers

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: On sidewalk outside of Planned Parenthood, 2907 El Camino Real, Redwood City

Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily

Local contact: Jessica, 650-918-9119, email: themunns@yahoo.com

Learn more … get involved … and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/redwoodcity

40 DÍAS POR LA VIDA®

24 de septiembre al 2 de noviembre

¡AYUDA A SALVAR VIDAS EN REDWOOD CITY!

Protege a madres y bebes uniéndote a la movilización pro-vida más grande de la historia. **40 Días por la Vida** ha logrado tener más de 1,000,000+ voluntarios en 63 países.

Con la ayuda de Dios, aquí están los resultados:

- Más de **25,000** bebés salvados del aborto
- Más de **270** trabajadoras del aborto convertidas
- Más de **170** centros de aborto cerrados

Contribuye a expandir este impacto y forma parte de la campaña de 40 Días por la Vida:

- **Ubicación de la vigilia:** Fuera del centro de abortos de Planned Parenthood ubicada en el 2907 El Camino Real (esquina calle Berkshire) en Redwood City
- **Horas de la vigilia:** 7 am – 7 pm a diario
- **Contacto local:**
  Elena, teléfono 650-278-9709
- **Aprende más y únete a nosotros:**

40daysforlife.com/redwoodcity

SENIOR SOUP

Join Us For Food & Fellowship

Time: 12:30pm - 2pm

Where St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center

When: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month

All seniors are invited to enjoy a delicious lunch handcrafted by our volunteer chefs. Birthdays are celebrated on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Spouse, friends and caregivers are welcome!

~

RSVP Mary Lou Savage: marylou.savage@dsj.org
or call 650.494-2496 ext. 0