



Saint Thomas Aquinas Bulletin

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

Youth Ministry Retreat

A Weekend of Faith, Fun, and Fellowship

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the entire parish community for your prayers and generous support for our Youth Ministry Retreat, held from Friday, November 7, to Sunday, November 9, at Mount Hermon. This transformative weekend brought together 44 teenagers, guided by seven dedicated young adult leaders, for an unforgettable experience of faith, community, and growth.



The group departed from St. Anthony of Guadalupe (SAG) Church at 4:05 p.m. on Friday, filled with anticipation for a weekend of spiritual renewal and fun. Icebreaker activities quickly fostered camaraderie, allowing our youth to connect and build lasting bonds. Free time and engaging activities further strengthened their sense of community, while inspiring talks led by our young adult leaders sparked deep conversations and faith-sharing in small groups.

Saturday's prayer services and Mass opened the door to God's grace, with many youths seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation—a powerful testament to their desire to grow closer to Christ. The retreat concluded on Sunday with a warm welcome from parents at SAG Church, followed by a beautiful Thanksgiving Mass that celebrated the weekend's blessings.



This retreat has set a vibrant tone for our Youth Ministry's year ahead. With over 50 teens attending our weekly Friday gatherings, our youth group continues to flourish as a beacon of faith and fellowship. Your prayers and financial contributions, combined with registration fees, covered the \$14,000 cost of this incredible opportunity, ensuring every teen could participate.

Special congratulations to Miguelangel and our young adult leaders for their tireless dedication in planning and leading this retreat with love and commitment. Together, we are nurturing a generation of faithful disciples. The Friday Youth Ministry it's an open group, and all youth are always welcome to join at any time!



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.

**24-28
NOV**

*Thanksgiving Week,
Office is Closed.*

**27-28
NOV**

*Thanksgiving,
Only one daily Mass, 10 am St. Albert
the Great Church.*

* Please note that our Seniors Soup Gathering will not take place in November. We look forward to resuming this cherished community event in December.

Jess and Mani Shine at 'Saint in the City' Diocesan Event

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.' (1 Timothy 4:12)

On November 6, 2025, Jess and Mani proudly represented our Youth Ministry at the Diocese of San Jose's annual 'Saint in the City' event. This special gathering celebrates youth from parishes across the diocese who demonstrate exceptional commitment to their faith, leadership, and growth within their ministries.

Our Palo Alto Youth Ministry is a vibrant tapestry, drawing teens from diverse middle and high schools, including Palo Alto High, Gunn, and others. Through their involvement in our youth group, these young people forge deep bonds that carry into their school lives, united by a shared culture of faith that transcends backgrounds and languages. Events like 'Saint in the City' inspire our teens to grow as leaders and strengthen our parish's vision of a unified Youth Ministry.

We extend heartfelt thanks to Jess, Mani, and their families for representing our parish with grace and dedication at this meaningful event, supported by Bishops Cantú and Ligot. Their example inspires us all to live our faith boldly.





Vocations Crucifix Program

Parishioners are encouraged to host the Vocations Crucifix for one week and pray for the men and women discerning the vocation of priesthood or religious life.

Presented at the end of the Mass, families, individuals, or even groups of friends can pray together for an increase of vocations.

To participate in this important prayer ministry,

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

SVdP Annual Food Drive

Help Us Help Others

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is hosting its Annual Food Drive to support those in greatest need within our community. As you leave church this weekend, please pick up a grocery bag with instructions and return it filled in the coming weeks.

St Vincent de Paul will continue to provide bags of food for the homeless and to work with the South Palo Alto Family Food Closet to provide food for families. Our St Vincent de Paul conference has been working with the poor since 1965.



Human Concerns Committee Winter Drive

The beautiful winter coats, blankets, comforters and clothing that you are donating are already being distributed. So far, winter items have been given to our parish St Vincent de Paul, Ecumenical Hunger Program in EPA and The Catholic Worker House in Redwood City. Collection boxes remain available at each parish church.



Did You Know? Stand Up Sunday Recognizes Those Who Have Completed VIRTUS® Training (11/15 & 16)

This weekend, in solidarity with those who have been harmed, and as a visible demonstration of our ongoing commitment to the prevention of child abuse, parishes throughout the Diocese of San

Jose – and across the state - are dedicating a Mass and offering prayers in support of the United Nations World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Exploitation, Abuse and Violence.

We would like to recognize and give thanks for all in our parish communities who have completed the VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children from Maltreatment training and requisite background checks and fingerprinting, now standard for those working or volunteering in the church.

Each of you is a blessing to our parishes and greater communities and is a living representation of the Church's efforts to protect the most vulnerable among us. If you would like to learn more about VIRTUS® or sign up for a training session please visit, <https://www.dsj.org/protecting-gods-children/>.



Prayer for Healing of Victims of Abuse

*Holy Spirt, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*

Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound

Sick and Homebound:

Katherine Dobbs, Gina Craig, 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:

Doris Passalacque, Patricia Morrissey, Maurice McCaffrey, Amalia Pina, Fr. Seth Kupo, Francis Yetso, Brian Dooney, Kathy Finnerty, John Christopher Kelly, Mark Delamater Flanagan, 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 at marytanfong@gmail.com



Commemoration Of All The Faithful Departed

Homily of the Holy Father Leo XIV

We celebrate the Commemoration of all the faithful departed, and our own loved ones, with a particular affection. Although they left us, we continue to carry them in our hearts and their memories remain alive within us. The memories of Christians are more than a recollection of the past but also, and above all, are hope for the future. Christian faith allows us to look forward towards the goal of our earthly journey, towards the safe harbor that God has promised us, towards the unending feast that awaits us. There, around the Risen Lord and our loved ones, we hope to savor the joy of the eternal banquet. As the Prophet Isaiah teaches: "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food... He will swallow up death forever" (25: 6,8).

This hope for the eternal future brings to life the remembrance of our loved ones and our prayers. This is not an illusion for soothing the pain of our separation, nor is it mere human optimism. It is the hope founded on the Resurrection of Jesus who has conquered death and opened for us the path to the fullness of life. As I said in a recent catechesis, "the Lord is the destination of our journey. Without His love, the voyage of life would become a wandering without a goal, a tragic mistake with a missed destination. The Risen Lord guarantees our arrival, is leading us home, where we are awaited, loved, and saved" (Audience, 15 October 2025).

This destination, this banquet around which the Lord will gather us, will be an encounter of love. For it was out of love that God created us and through the love of His Son that He saved us from death. In the joy of that same love, He desires that we live forever with Him and with our loved ones. For this reason, whenever we dwell in love and show charity to others then we journey towards our goal, and anticipate it through an unbreakable bond with those who have gone before us. Jesus encourages us in these words: "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me" (Mt 25:35-36).

Love conquers death. In love, God gathers us together with our loved ones. And, if we journey together in charity, our lives become a prayer rising to God, uniting us with the departed and drawing us closer to them as we await to meet them again in the joy of eternal life. Let us entrust ourselves to the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5). Let us fix our gaze upon the Risen Christ and think of our departed loved ones as enfolded in His light. Let us allow the Lord's promise of eternal life to resound in our hearts. He will destroy death forever. Indeed, He has already conquered it, opening for us the way to eternal life by passing through the valley of death during His Paschal Mystery. Thus, united to Him, we too may enter and pass through the valley of death.

*Verano Cemetery, Rome, Sunday, 2 November 2025
(Teresa Budzich, M.Div.)*

Confession

St. Albert the Great

Saturday
4:30 PM

St Thomas Aquinas

Saturday
11:30 AM

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

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

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

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

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Global Wheelchair Mission

Our Lady of Peace Council 10180, Santa Clara, CA.

Serving our community with compassion and dignity

Council 10180 provides new, free wheelchairs.

Do you or a family member need a wheelchair?



Mobility Brings Hope, Dignity, and Independence

To receive a free wheelchair, contact an officer of the
Knights of Columbus at the donut shop or call:

Loreto Pascua (408-592-1401), Vincent Burkhart (408-307-2051) or
Roland Deptuch (650-996-3090)