



Saint Thomas Aquinas Bulletin

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



A Thanksgiving Message to Our Beloved Parish Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving, the Church invites us to lift our hearts in a special way and give thanks—not only for the gifts we can see, but above all for the Giver of every good gift.

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that gratitude is the most perfect response of a creature to its Creator. In his words: ***“Gratitude (gratitudo) is the virtue by which we render thanks to our benefactors, and the greatest Benefactor is God.”***

He reminds us that every blessing—our faith, our families, our very breath—comes from the loving hand of the Father. When we give thanks, we complete the circle of love: God gives freely, and in our gratitude we return love for Love.

The Scriptures echo this truth again and again:

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His merciful love endures forever!” (Ps 136:1)

“In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thess 5:18)

This year, my heart overflows with gratitude for each of you. Thank you for the countless ways you live the Gospel:

- for the parents who bring their children to faith formation,
 - for the volunteers who serve with joy,
 - for the generous souls who support our ministries,
 - for the quiet prayers offered in the stillness of the church,
- for every smile, every helping hand, every act of kindness that makes our parish a true family.

Together, we are the Body of Christ—imperfect, yes, but beautifully alive with His love. As you gather with your loved ones this Thanksgiving, may your homes be filled with laughter, warmth, and the peace that only Christ can give.

May every bite of turkey and slice of pie be a reminder that ***“every good and perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17)***. And as the last notes of Thanksgiving fade, may our grateful hearts carry us gently into the holy season of Advent—ready once again to watch, to wait, and to welcome the Savior who comes to make all things new.

With deep affection and endless thanks, Happy Thanksgiving and blessed Advent beginnings!

In the love of Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Stasys, 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.

**23
NOV**

Last Sunday of the Ordinary Time
Christ the King

**24-28
NOV**

Thanksgiving Week
Office is Closed

**27-28
NOV**

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

**30
NOV**

Advent Begins
First Sunday of Advent

**** There will be no newsletter on 11/27/2025, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.***

A Joyful Year-End Invitation: Double Your Gift, Double the Blessing!

Company Matching

Dear Parish Family,

As 2025 draws to a close, we pause to give thanks for the countless ways God has blessed our parish this year—through your presence, your prayers, your volunteer hours, and your generous support. Together we have celebrated baptisms, weddings, and funerals; walked with our children and youth as they grow in faith; reached out to the poor; and kept the doors of our church open as a beacon of hope.

Now, as we prepare our hearts for Christmas and the new year, we invite you to consider a special year-end gift to our parish—and to let your generosity go even further through employer gift-matching programs.

Your gift comes directly to our parish and will be used immediately for our day-to-day mission: faith formation, liturgy, outreach, utilities, and care for our sacred spaces. If your company offers a matching gift (many double or even triple the amount!), we will gratefully apply the matching funds toward our 2026 Diocesan Capital Campaign, “Sowing the Seeds, Securing the Future.”

Even if you’re not sure whether your employer participates, it only takes a minute to check—popular matching companies include Apple, Google, Nvidia,



Intel, Cisco, Salesforce, Adobe, and hundreds more.

Every dollar—whether \$25 or \$25,000—makes a difference, and every matched dollar doubles the impact.

Thank you for your steadfast love and generosity throughout the year. Because of you, our parish continues to be a place where faith is alive, hope is shared, and love is made visible.

With deepest gratitude
Fr. Stasys, Pastor.

P.S. The deadline for 2025 tax-deductible gifts is December 31. Questions about matching gifts? Just reach out to the parish office—we’re happy to help!

Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound

Sick and Homebound:

Katherine Dobbs, Gina Craig, Yvette Bovee, Lillian Aragon, Bill Morrison, Lauro Quintanar, Enedelia Sandoval, Winnie McGannon, Xochiti Quintanar, Mick Pellazzari, Mena Fu, Nicki Chun, Mary Martinson, Shui Wong, Dan Fillin

Recently Deceased:

Bob Reklis, 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

Thank You for Supporting the SVdP Food Closet

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.



Noble Fir Wreaths for Sale

Support Hunter and Boy Scout Troop 14

One of our altar servers, Hunter Laflamme, is selling Christmas wreaths to support Boy Scout Troop 14 of Palo Alto. These beautiful 22-inch noble fir wreaths will be delivered in early December. Please visit Hunter in the hall after Mass to place your order.

Advent Little Books Available Soon

Advent Little Books will be available at the back of all three churches beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30. Please take one to guide your prayer and reflection throughout the season.

The Little Blue Book
Advent and Christmas Seasons
2025–2026



Little Books
of the Diocese of Saginaw, Inc.



“Love One Another As I Have Loved” (Jn 15:12)

Catechesis of the Holy Father Leo XIV

To believe in the Death and Resurrection of Christ permeates life with hope and encourages us to invest in goodness. It helps us to love and nurture fraternity, which is one of the great challenges for contemporary humanity. Fraternity stems from something deeply human. Without relationships, which support and enrich us, we would not be able to survive, grow, and learn. Our humanity is best fulfilled when we succeed in experiencing authentic bonds with the people around us. If we turn-in on ourselves, we risk falling ill with loneliness and narcissism, which is concerned with others only out of self-interest. The other is then reduced to someone from whom we can take, without ever being truly willing to give.

Fraternity is not the impossible dream and it is not the desire of a deluded few. The many wars, social tensions, and feelings of hatred would seem to prove the opposite. To overcome the shadows of threatened fraternity, we need to draw light and strength from Jesus. He alone frees us from the poison of enmity. Often, we think that the role of a brother or sister refers to being part of the same family, but division and hatred can devastate even relationships between relatives. We are to recognize our common destiny of dignity. The essential feature of Christianity is expressed in the universal fraternity and the proclamation of the Good News to all. Ever since the beginning, the proclamation of the Good News has been destined for the salvation of all and never in an exclusive or private form.

The Commandment of Love is the base of universal fraternity. Jesus gave Himself for us out of love. In turn, we can love one another and offer our lives for others as true brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus loves us up to the very end, says the Gospel of John (13:1). As the Passion draws near, Jesus experiences the most terrible torment and abandonment. His Resurrection is the beginning of a new life for us. We become fully brothers and sisters when we recognize Him as the Risen Lord, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and become witnesses to Him. Christians do not turn their backs on those who are in need. Jesus commanded us: “Love one another as I have loved you” (cf. Jn 15:12). This fraternity given by Christ frees us from the negative logic of selfishness, division, arrogance, and restores to us our original vocation, in the name of love. The Risen Lord has shown us the way to journey with Him and to be “brothers and sisters.”

*St Peter's Square, Wednesday, 12 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)**