



# Saint Thomas Aquinas Bulletin

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



## Faith, Fellowship, and Flapjacks

*A STA Breakfast to Remember!*

A warm thank you to everyone who joined us for our parish pancake breakfast to welcome our new Faith Formation Director, Tyler Ngo! We are especially grateful to the many volunteers who gave their time, energy, and smiles to make the morning such a joyful success. Your generosity and service truly nourished both body and spirit!







## Inicio de la Formación de Fe en Español

We are excited to begin a new season of Spanish Faith Formation! This kickoff marks a wonderful opportunity for families and individuals to grow deeper in faith, community, and discipleship together.

With hearts full of hope, we look forward to a year filled with faith, fellowship, and many blessings for all who participate.



## Registrations for Parish Programs are Now Open!

The Faith Formation, Youth Ministries, Young Adults, Youth retreat and other parish ministries are now open for registration.

Don't miss the chance to grow in faith and community. Opportunities available for all ages and stages.

Registration is available on our website.





## Youth Ministry Kickoff 2025–2026!

Mark your calendars! On Thursday, September 12 from 6–9 PM at St. Albert the Great, we're kicking off an exciting new year of Youth Ministry. This night is for everyone to come meet our amazing youth volunteers, connect with friends, and celebrate the start of the 2025–26 ministry year together.

We'll have BBQ, games, and you'll also get a sneak peek at the awesome events planned for both middle schoolers and high schoolers throughout the year. Don't miss this chance to grow in faith and be part of something great. See you there!



## Middle School and High School Program Calendars Are Now Available

The Middle school and high school youth ministry calendars for the 2025-2026 school year are now available.

Please see our website for the full calendar.

## Join Us for Our Annual Parish Picnic – A Day of Faith, Food, and Fun!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 28th**, as we come together for our vibrant Annual Parish Picnic! This special day kicks off our Pastoral Year, bringing our community closer through shared prayer, delicious food, and joyful activities for all ages.

To celebrate as one family, we'll combine the 9:00 AM OLR, 9:00 AM SAG, and 10:30 AM OLR Masses into a single, uplifting 10:00 AM Unity Mass at the OLR site. (All other Masses will remain as scheduled.) After Mass, the festivities begin, offering a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends old and new across our three parish sites.



### Join us to:

- Strengthen our community through shared worship and fellowship.
- Enjoy delicious food and exciting activities for kids, families, and adults.
- Kick off the Pastoral Year with enthusiasm and new opportunities to grow in faith.

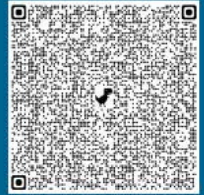
Don't miss this chance to celebrate our parish family and start the year with joy! Bring your energy, your smiles, and your appetite – we can't wait to see you there!





## Multifaith Peace Picnic and Prayer

*To Honor the Victims of 9/11*



Today, join us this Thursday, September 11, 2025, 5:30 pm at King Plaza in Downtown Palo Alto. Complementary dinners provided. Please register soon so we can plan our catering. This event is **free** and **open to all**.

## World Peace Day Sing Along

Join us for a community wide and worldwide SING to celebrate the International Day of Peace on Sunday, Sept 21, 2 pm at Mitchell Park Multipurpose Area Sunken Bowl. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!**

Be part of a worldwide musical movement for unity, peace and community – Sing for Unity. On the UN International Day of Peace 2025, voices from every corner of the planet will sing to send a powerful message: We are one world, one people and we stand together in unity and community.

Sing for the kids ~ Sing for the world ~ Sing for love ~ Sing for unity!

Our MVPJ World Peace Sing-along will be in memory of Chris Lundin, a dear friend and member of our steering committee who led music and singing for our multifaith peace and justice events for years.

More information coming soon.

## Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound

### ***Sick and Homebound:***

Lillian Aragon, Bill Morrison, Lauro Quintanar, Enedelia Sandoval, Raul Badua, Winnie McGannon, Xochiti Quintanar, Joan Campbell, Mick Pellazzari, Mena Fu, Nicki Chun, Mary Martinson, Vicky Sullivan, Shui Wong, Dan Fillin, Bob Reklis

### ***Recently Deceased:***

Brian Dooney, Kathy Finnerty, John Christopher Kelly, Mark Delamater Flanagan, Michael Toomey, Maria Luisa Marquez, Mabel G Teresi, 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](mailto:marytanfong@gmail.com)



# PRAY. LEARN. CONNECT.



## Join The Young Adults

All young adults are invited to join us every Thursday evening at the SAG site for a time of prayer, reflection, and community. We begin with Adoration at 6:45pm, followed by Bible Study at 7:30pm, and end the evening with fellowship and social time at the Parish Rectory at 8:30pm. Come grow in faith, build friendships, and share in the joy of walking with Christ together.

## Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton

*Becoming Who You Already Are*

Building on the Merton Center's Lent/Holy Week Bridges program, we will continue to explore the spirituality and writings of Thomas Merton and other authors.

Facilitated by Fr. John Auther, SJ, retreat director at the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos, this eight-week series invites participants into a deeper journey of contemplative living and prayer.

Sessions will be held via Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m., September 10–October 1, 2025, and January 14–February 4, 2026. Registration is required at [thomasmerton.org/bridges](http://thomasmerton.org/bridges), where the Zoom link will be available.

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## Women's Silent Retreat

Join us for St. Clare's Women's Silent Retreat September 19-21 on The Last Discourse of Jesus, directed by Fr. Serge Propst, OP & Fr. Augustine Hilander, OP.

The retreat will focus on the Gospel of John and how to live the Divine Life. The cost is \$320 for a single occupancy room, \$300 per person for a double occupancy room, or \$125 for a Saturday day commuter (no lodging).

Register on our website or by phone. Registration closes one week before the retreat. Contact for registration and questions: 831-423-8093 or [info@stclaresretreat.org](mailto:info@stclaresretreat.org)



## 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

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

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

**Rolando Santoianni**, Parochial Vicar, ext. 2  
rolando.santoianni@dsj.org

**Deacon Daniel Hernandez**  
daniel.hernandez@dsj.org

**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

**Mary Lou Savage**, Office Administrator, ext. 0  
marylou.savage@dsj.org





## **“The Parable of the Sower” (Mt 13:1-17)**

*Catechesis of the Holy Father Leo XIV*

Every parable tells a story of everyday life, yet always refers to a deeper meaning, and invites us not to stop at appearances. It allows us to ask: where am I in this story? How does this story refer to my life? The parable of the Sower speaks about the dynamic of the Word of God and the effects it produces. Every word of the Gospel is like a seed that is thrown on the ground of our life. Jesus uses many times the image of the seed and of the terrain: the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed, the treasure hidden in the field. What, then, is the soil? It is our heart, but it is also the world, the community, the Church. The Word of God provokes every reality and makes it fruitful.

At the beginning of the parable, we see Jesus who leaves the house and gathers a great crowd around Him (Mt 13:1). His Word fascinates, intrigues, and is directed to everyone, but works in each person in a different way. Jesus is an unusual Sower. He goes out to sow, but does not care where the seed falls. He throws the seeds even where it is unlikely they will bear fruit: on the path, on the rocks, among the thorns. The way in which this “wasteful” Sower throws the seed is an image of the way God loves us. The destiny of the seed depends on the way in which the earth welcomes it.

Jesus tells us in this parable that God throws the Seed of His Word on all kinds of soil, that is, in any situation of our life: at times we are more superficial and distracted, at times we let ourselves get carried away by enthusiasm, sometimes we are burdened by life’s worries, but there are also times when we are willing and welcoming. God is confident that sooner or later His Seed will blossom. This is how God loves us: He does not wait for us to become the best soil, but always generously gives us His Word. Perhaps, by realizing that God trusts us, the desire to be better soil will enkindle in us. This is hope, founded on the rock of God’s generosity and mercy.

Jesus is the Word; He is the Seed. In telling the way in which the seed bears fruit, Jesus is also talking about his own life. And the seed, to bear fruit, must die. Thus, this parable tells us that God is ready to “waste away” for us and that Jesus is willing to die to transform our life. Dear brothers and sisters, in what situation of your life today is the Word of God reaching you? Let us ask the Lord for the grace to always welcome this Seed that is His Word. And if we realize that we are not a fruitful soil, let us not be discouraged, but let us ask our Lord to work on us more, to make us become a better terrain.

*St. Peter’s Square, Wednesday, 21 May 2025  
(Teresa Budzich, M.Div.)*



Please join

St. Thomas Aquinas Youth

# Kick Off BBQ



**CELEBRATE THE START OF  
OUR 2025-2026 YOUTH  
MINISTRY YEAR!**

**WHETHER YOU'RE NEW OR RETURNING, THIS IS THE NIGHT TO COME  
MEET THE YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS, GRAB SOME DELICIOUS BBQ,  
PLAY SOME GAMES, AND FIND OUT ABOUT ALL THE AWESOME EVENTS  
COMING UP FOR BOTH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AND HIGH SCHOOLERS.**

**12 SEPTEMBER  
2025**



Starting at  
6 PM - 9 PM  
Where? St.  
Albert the  
Great 1095  
Channing Ave,  
Palo Alto, CA  
94301

Questions, Comments, or Concerns?  
Contact: [Miguelangel.cardenas@dsj.org](mailto: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](http://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 you’re spiritually seasoned 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





# PARISH PICNIC 2025

## WHEN

Sunday, September 28  
Outdoor 10am Unity Mass

## WHERE

Our Lady of the Rosary

**BBQ PICNIC TO FOLLOW**

**All are welcome to enjoy food, games and entertainment!**

**Potluck: Last names**  
**A-Q Appetizers/Side Dish**  
**R-Z Dessert**


**VOLUNTEER  
SIGN UP  
HERE**



**Bring your surplus  
garden fruit or veg  
to share with the  
community! 🍎**

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH**





SAINT THOMAS  
AQUINAS  
PARISH

# DREAMS

SEPTEMBER 21  
DOORS OPEN 3:45PM  
FREE ADMISSION

## *Classical Chamber Concert*

In collaboration with the Music for Food project,  
100% of free will donations will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society  
to provide support to those facing food insecurity in the Bay Area

751 Waverley St, Palo Alto, CA 94301 | [merjanianmusic.com/dreams](https://merjanianmusic.com/dreams)







*Iglesia Nuestra Sra. del Rosario*



**Programa de  
Catequesis para niños,  
jovenes y adultos.  
2025 - 2026**



**Nuestro Programa de Catequesis  
ofrece:**

- Programa regular de Domingo
  - Pre-Kinder a 7 Grado
- Programa de Sacramentos:
  - Primera Comunión
  - Pre-Confirmación (1 año)
  - Confirmación (2° año)
  - RICA (Sacramento de adultos)
- Clase de biblia para Adultos

**Registraziones:**

- En persona.
  - Habran registraciones en persona los Domingos Agosto 17 y 24, a las 10:15 (despues de la misa)
- En linea.
  - Las registraciones estan abiertas en linea en este enlace: <https://paloaltocatholic.net/>



Retiro de Jovenes



Catecismo



**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](mailto: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](http://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 bebés** 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](http://40daysforlife.com/redwoodcity)**



St. Thomas Aquinas

# Youth Retreat Nov 7-9 2025 @Mt. Hermon



*Register today!*



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





# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Spouse, friends and caregivers are welcome!



**RSVP Mary Lou Savage: [marylou.savage@dsj.org](mailto:marylou.savage@dsj.org)  
or call 650.494-2496 ext. 0**