

4 February 2018
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



Rembrandt, Healing of Peter's Mother in Law, 1660

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MASSES: SAT: 5:00 PM; SUN: 8:00, 10:00 AM, 12:00, 4:00 PM; DAILY: 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS: Mon. - Sat. 8:30AM; Sat. 4:00-4:45 PM

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SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

This time of year, we celebrate the feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas, one of the most brilliant philosophers and theologians the Church has seen across the centuries. The Benedictine monks at the Abbey of Monte Cassino, where he was educated, considered him “a witty child” who had a “good soul.” Because of a change in the political climate, he returned to Naples when he was thirteen where he became associated with the University of Naples.

The following year, unbeknownst to his family, Thomas secretly entered the Dominicans. When his family found out, they felt betrayed and kidnapped him, holding him captive for a year in the fortress of San Giovanni at Rocca Secca, during which his family tried to deprogram him of his beliefs and vocation. As soon as he was released in 1245, he returned to the Dominican order and continued his studies in Naples, Paris and Cologne, Germany where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1250. Under the direction of Saint Albert the Great, Saint Thomas was able to obtain his doctorate at the University of Paris. Referring to his nickname, Saint Albert was said to have proclaimed, “We call this young man a dumb ox but his bellowing in doctrine will one day resound throughout the world.”

Saint Thomas devoted his life to traveling, teaching, writing, public speaking and preaching. The burning question at the time was how to reconcile the relationship between theology (faith) and philosophy (reason.) The common belief was that these two forms of knowledge were at odds with one another. How can people reconcile what they know from revelation with what they can observe using their minds and their senses? Thomas tried to show that, not only were they compatible, faith and reason could collaborate. Revelation could guide reason and prevent it from making mistakes while reason could clarify and demystify matters of faith. His central concern was always “What is God?” He tried to work out what roles faith and reason had in perceiving and proving the existence of God. During his lifetime, he wrote over 60 different books. His most influential book was the Summa Theologica which took him nine years to compose. Up until after



Vatican II, the Summa was the go-to book for theologians in the Church; whatever the question, the answer was found in the Summa. It still has much to offer a thinking Christian. The difficulty with it for modern people is that it is based on a metaphysics which does not reflect the more complicated way we understand the world and its interrelationships. For a person of faith in the middle ages, an age before our understanding of evolution and so many other scientific discoveries, creation reflected clearly the Creator. Our view of creation is more complicated and more nuanced.

In June 1272, Thomas Aquinas went to Naples to start a theological studies program for the Dominicans near the university. He was still writing prolifically but something was missing. He'd lost his edge. The following year, on the feast of Saint Nicholas, he had a mystical experience during the celebration of Mass. He heard a voice coming from the crucifix that said, “You have written well of me, Thomas; what reward will you have?” He answered, “None other than yourself, Lord.” His confessor urged him to keep writing but Thomas answered, “I can do no more. Such secrets have been revealed to me that all I have written now appears like straw.” The theologian had become the mystic. The following year, on his way by foot to the Second Council in Lyon, France, Thomas fell ill and died at the Cistercian monastery at Fossanova in Italy on March 7th.

Would that the Lord would raise up a new Aquinas who can help us understand God and creation in a manner in synch with our scientific times. Our heavens are filled with astronauts and satellites; we know that the universe is billions of light years across. We have nuclear weapons which can destroy life as we know it but also nuclear medicine which can heal many. We live in a time of transplants and computers that run on microchips, of global warming and ecological decline. On his feast, let us pray to Saint Thomas Aquinas for help.

Msgr. Mike

Around our Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP

All interested Catholic men are invited to attend our Council meetings. We typically meet the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5th. For additional information, please contact J. Jones at 562-936-0164 or Bob Hannan at 562-594-4762.



"Help Us Help Those In Need"

WOMEN'S GUILD

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Spend an evening with the Women's Guild on February 26th when Fran Ragland will share her journey on the Camino with parishioners at this special presentation as we journey together during Lent.

MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP



General meetings are usually the 4th Monday of each month with hospitality beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. To support our ministries and speakers as a member, please contact Kathy Stoddard at 707-477-0104.

LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE

The Life, Peace and Justice Ministry are sponsoring a toiletry drive for the homeless during the month of February. Items especially needed include liquid and dry shampoo, deodorant, hand wipes, small soaps, travel size Kleenex, mouthwash, and disposable razors. There is a bin by the side door of the church to collect your donations. If anyone has small bags that we can use to assemble our toiletries in care packages, they would be appreciated. Thanks you for your generosity in reaching out to those in need.

SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN

The Diocese of Orange implements strict policies and procedures which provide a safe environment for all children attending faith formation, parish events and liturgies. *Circle of Grace* is the program used for children in grades K-8. The goal of the program is to educate and empower them to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others. All children enrolled in Faith Formation at St. Anne began Circle of Grace classes last week. Because this holistic concept includes all senses it allows children to identify uncomfortable situations long before inappropriate behavior may occur. It teaches them to seek help from a trusted adult, reinforcing God's presence in their real life struggles. It educates and informs children about the value of positive/healthy relationships with God and others.



OUR MISSION:

Saint Anne Church exists to help us become disciples of Jesus Christ who connect with God, grow in faith, and serve in love.

PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

Have you taken a moment to reflect on God's goodness in your life and considered the sacrifice you are able to make to help others? PSA is your opportunity to share what God has entrusted to your care to carry out his will. A pledge to PSA in any amount will help St. Anne fulfill their goals for this year's PSA campaign. Pledge envelopes are available in the vestibule and by the side door entrance to the church.

2018	As of 1/30/18	
	Registered Families	750
	Family Pledge Goal	200
	Families Pledged	30
PSA	Amount Pledged Goal	\$120,000
	Amount Pledged	\$28,400
	Thank you to all who have prayerfully and generously made a pledge in support of our Church!	

BEYOND FIRST COMMUNION

We pray for our children to be healthy, kept safe from harm, do well in school, have good friends... We teach them to have sound moral judgement and to go forth into the world and do good for others. One way we accomplish this is to send them to faith formation classes and reinforce those lessons at home. Faith formation classes don't end with the sacrament of First Communion. Children will find spiritual enrichment and character building in our parish from Kindergarten through Grade 12, learning how to make good choices, establish a relationship with God, learn about theology and their Church. Their spiritual formation is extremely important right now, as well as to lay the foundation for them as adults. This could also be a chance for you to know more about our faith by taking this journey with your child. Our staff and catechists want to partner with the parents of those enrolled in our programs for a meaningful journey for all. Registration for next year's faith formation classes will begin in a few months.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Sunday Offertory—1/21/18	\$7,338
Sunday Offertory—1/28/18	\$7,599
St. Anne School —1/28/18	\$7,405



Around Our Diocese

ST. ANNE SILENT RETREAT

Just a reminder that now is the time to reserve and pay for your retreat on the weekend of April 13-15 at the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra. All parishioners are invited for a weekend of Mass, Adoration, quiet moments in the chapel or beautiful outdoor gardens, and conferences given by



an experienced retreat master. The weekend begins with dinner on Friday evening and concludes after Mass on Sunday. The total cost of attending (room, 5 meals, conference) is \$180 to \$285 depending on your choice of accommodations. Day commuters can attend on Saturday for \$75. If you have not registered and still wish to do so please contact Maureen at 562-596-4141.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT



Men interested in Diocesan Priesthood are invited to attend the next Priesthood Discernment evening on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m. The purpose is to familiarize interested men with the life, prayer, and possible call to Priesthood in the Diocese of Orange. There is no commitment. Questions? Call Rev. John Money penny at 714-282-3036.

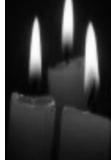
ODCCW

“Yesterday to Today” is the theme for the Annual ODCCW Fashion show to be held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Fountain Valley on Tuesday, February 20th. The donation is \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Step back in fashion time and then be amazed at today’s trends. There will be lunch, opportunity drawings and much more to enjoy. Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. with adjournment by 1:30 p.m. For reservations, email Pat at jimandpatmartin@gmail.com or call 714-892-5219.



9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

2/5	Jean Bowles
2/6	✠Edward Myatt
2/7	Jean Bowles
2/8	✠John Bowles
2/9	✠Lynda Medcalf
2/10	✠Burke and Keating families (✠ Rest in God's love and peace)



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Msgr. MacCarthy, Fr. Bob Vidal, Katia Bergstrom, Juanita Kho, Brenda Malloy, Kathleen Kastner, Kathy Purcell, Aurora Lavadia, Mike Pendleton, Jerome Gendron, Julia Poirier, Jim & Julie Ferguson, Mary Maskell, Mike Maloney, Merrill Butler, Steven Lang, Kay Lang, Linda Bolt, Bob Wagner, Greg Rousselo, Sylvia Bartolomucci, Bob Rattray, Joel Rivera

SACRAMENTS

In order to celebrate the following Sacraments at St. Anne, it is vital to be an active member of our Faith Community.

Baptism: Contact the Parish Office to arrange for baptism. Baptisms are usually celebrated the first Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

PreK-8 Faith Formation: Grades 6-8 have classes on Mondays from 4:00—5:15 p.m., Grades 1-5 have classes on Tuesdays from 3:00—4:15 p.m., Pre-K and K have classes on Sundays from 10:00—11:00 a.m. Applications for enrollment in our faith formation programs will be available in April. Please call the Faith Formation office at 562-431-0721 x16 for more information.

Confirmation: Students typically begin the Confirmation process as a freshman in high school and complete the process at the end of their sophomore year. Confirmation classes take place on select Sunday and Wednesday evenings, in addition to retreats and service projects. Registration forms will be available at the end of April.

Marriage: Contact the Parish Office for information about being married in our Church. An appointment with one of our priests to begin marriage preparation must be made at least 6 months before the wedding celebration.

Funeral: Contact the parish office to arrange funerals.

Pastoral Care: If you, or someone you know, wishes to have their name placed on our prayer net, or a visit and/or Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office.

Sacrament of the Sick: In case of serious illness, contact the parish office. Do not wait until death is imminent.

- ⇒ If you wish to become a member of our parish family, please stop by the Parish Office.
- ⇒ If you want information about any of our many active Ministries, please pick up a brochure from the vestibule.