

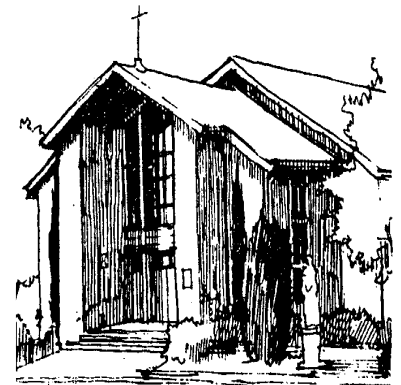
CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION **PARISH 510-352-1537**
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Fr. Vincent J. Scott, Pastor
Fr. Chris Berbena, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Dac Cao, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Harry Clyde, Permanent Deacon
Deacon George Peters, Permanent Deacon
Maureen Moran, Faith Formation
Mary Schirmer, Youth & Family Ministry
Toni Durden, RCIA Coordinator
Stacy Piontek, Director of Music Ministries
Karen Barbera, Music Associate
Rhina Ruggiero, Office Manager

CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST
Saturday: 8:00 AM, 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM and 12:00PM
Weekdays: 7:00 AM
Holy Days: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 7:30 PM

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturdays: 3:30 to 4:00 PM
Perpetual Help Devotions:
Tuesday mornings after 7:00 AM Liturgy
Rosary:
Recited every weekday morning before Mass.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Every Wednesday 7:30-8:30 AM

Office Hours:
8:30 AM-12:00 PM – 1:30 PM-5:00 PM
School Office 357-8772
School Office Hours: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM



**Second Sunday of Easter
(Divine Mercy Sunday)
May 1, 2011**

“Blessed are those who have not
seen and have believed.”

— *John 20:29b*



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The gospel story about doubting Thomas has to be one of the most misunderstood episodes in the New Testament.

If you're like me, for years we have been consoled by Thomas doubting that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Thomas' doubts were in Jesus, we have been led to believe. But let's read the story very carefully. It's not Jesus Thomas doubts, it's the disciples. In fact when Jesus appears to them seven days later, Thomas has the opportunity to share in the experience of the Risen Lord and like the others he immediately confesses Easter faith.

There are three elements in this story that should give us great comfort. The first is that Thomas doubts the early Church, and not just in regard to a minor issue of discipline or procedure. He doubts the central Christian message: that God raised Jesus from the dead. Some of us, too, at various times in our lives, can have doubts about all sorts of things in our faith. There are very few Catholics who get through life without asking some serious questions of God, about Jesus, the Spirit, and the Church. These questions are good in themselves. They are necessary for a mature, adult faith. What we need to ensure is that we sincerely want answers to the questions we ask and not just use them to justify our wandering away from our faith.

Thomas is the patron saint of all of us who sometimes struggle to believe what everyone

else in the church seems to accept. And he is also the patron saint of those of us who seek the courage and patience to wait for the answers.

The second consoling fact to this story concerns the earliest Church. Even though they were filled with the presence of the Risen Lord and though Thomas refuses to believe their witness, they remain faithful to him in his doubts. We know this because he is still with them a week later. They didn't expel him from the group or excommunicate him, they held on to him in the hope that he would experience the Lord for himself.

Sadly for us, today, there are some who argue that Catholics who struggle with their faith should "shape up or ship out." While every group has its boundaries and there are limits to what people can dissent from, we could take the earliest Church as our model and stay faithful to our doubters and help them come to see the transforming truth that has changed our lives.

The final element in this extraordinary story which can help us in our Easter faith concerns the significance of the time between the first and second appearances of Jesus. We're told it was seven days and the parallel to the story of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of John's Gospel. And even though the earliest disciples experience the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, they are still locked in their fears one week later. The creation of the early Church, the movement of its earliest leaders from timidity to boldness took time and having a doubter in their midst ends up a great blessing for them all, for Christ is present at every step of the Church's creation and re-creation as well.

This story was written for people like us who do not have access to the historical Jesus. The birth of the Church is an ongoing act of God's creation in every generation. It takes time, and people will be at different stages at different moments. Our faithfulness to one another on the long journey of faith is only surpassed by our Crucified God who does not give up on us, no matter how many questions we ask or how much we doubt.

It's **Easter Monday** as I write this, and I write with a great sense of gratitude to all who participated in our Holy Week and Easter Triduum Liturgies. I have some special thank yous: to our choir and musicians, under the direction of Stacy Piontek; our Liturgical Ministers (Altar Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and our Ushers and Greeters). Thanks also to our Environment Committee who had to make many changes during Holy Week and for decorating the church so beautifully. Thank you to Barbara Buckley and Susan Hupp for training the Lectors. And finally, I would like to thank Toni Durden, our RCIA Coordinator for the gift of sharing her faith with our newly baptized.

GET REAL!

Those of us who flatter ourselves that we have a "realistic" view of the world may listen to the first reading today and say, "Get real!" when we hear Luke's account of the early, Elysian days of the Christian movement. All seems to be rosy, lots of wonders are performed, everyone shares selflessly, they eat together in "exultation," and the Lord added to their numbers? Well, who wouldn't be attracted to a group like this? From the wind that swept through the upper room at Pentecost as the Spirit of God blew over the face of the waters in Genesis, and the fire that appeared over each disciple as the light appeared at the dawn of creation, Luke's intent in Acts is to show a new creation, a restoration of creation's original goodness through the working of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who continues to make us into the Body of Christ. We may occasionally, like Thomas in the Gospel, say, "Get real!" but our ultimate reality in the Spirit is to work continually to make our Christian community a new creation, one in which others will find God's joy and beauty.

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School News

Our students have been enjoying their Easter Break! We do have lots of activities coming up! Our 8th graders begin their journey to graduation on May 3rd with the annual May Crowning Mass. This is the beginning of the end of their time with us at Assumption School. In addition we have the Spring Concert coming up on May 5th at 6:30. We are truly grateful for all of the parish support during all of our activities. We are anxious for the faculty and students to return back from Easter Break and finish out the 2011 school year. We hope you all have a wonderful and blessed week.....

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL BOARD CATHOLIC IDENTITY COMMITTEE AND PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

Invite you to join us for our first Book Club. April's book choice is:

"Where the Hell is God?" by Richard Leonard, SJ

Join us for a small group discussion on this book Tuesday, May 24th 7:00 pm in the small hall: This book is available Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Borders.com

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD

You will be helping to ensure that blood is there when you or someone close to you may need it. Most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do. If all eligible donors would donate on a regular basis, four to six times a year, blood needs would be met and shortages could be a thing of the past. Our next drive is on **Saturday, May 14th** from 7 am to 1 pm. Please contact Jan.Kehoe@yahoo.com for an appointment.

Rosary Makers

Rosary Makers Session Tuesday May 3rd in the rectory from 9:30 to 11:30 am Any rosary makers that have any supplies that they are not using or do not make rosaries any more could you please drop the supplies off at the rectory.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!" **During Mass we turn to each other and say "Peace be with you!" As you make donations to St. Vincent de Paul you say "Peace be with you!" to those who are poor and hungry.** If you know of anyone that can use our help please have them call our **HELP-LINE at 352-6079.**

Goal.....	7300.00
April 10.....	5896.51
April 17.....	6249.50
Easter Goal.....	20000.00
Easter Sunday.....	18662.00



Thank you for your generosity!!

An Encounter with Jesus

Are you ready for a FAITH BOOSTER SHOT?

Do you ever get feedback that your PRIORITIES ARE CONFUSED?

Would you benefit from A WEEKEND AWAY from it all?

If you answered yes to any of the above, you are the perfect candidate for an Oakland Diocese sponsored Cursillo weekend.

The Oakland Diocese sponsors two Cursillo weekends each year. The upcoming Spring Cursillo for the men is May 12th-15th. The women's is the following weekend, May 19th-22nd. The retreats begin on Thursday evenings, and wrap up on Sunday afternoon.

You will encounter Christ in yourself and many others, and leave the weekend with a renewed focus on what's truly important.

Please call or email any of the following Assumption Parishioners for more information:

Martin Franco 510-614-5650 or martin-francoacevedo@yahoo.com
Jennie Gisslow 510-635-4143 or jennie@designsrc.com
Greg and Michelle Gomez 510-276-6330 or gomezgrp@pacbell.net

We hope you'll say YES and join us for the weekend that will change your life!

WEEK AT A GLANCE

May 1 – May 8

Sun	H	RCIA reception
	Gym	CYO
Mon	Gym	CYO
	YC	Haven 7:30
Tue	GYM	CYO
	CR	Rosary makers 10:00
	H	School Board 7pm
Wed	GYM	CYO
	H	Children Choir 3:30
	Ch	Adult Choir 7:30
Thu	GYM	CYO
Fri	Gym	CYO
	CR	Knitters 10am
Sat	GYM	CYO
	Gym	Banner Making 6
Sun	GYM	CYO

WE REMEMBER AT THE EUCHARIST

Weekly Mass Intentions

April 30- May 8



Saturday	5:00	Tim Scannell
Sunday	7:30	Pat Leal +
	9:00	Jose Pimenta +
	10:30	Soares Family +
	12:00	Luis Costa +
Monday	7:00	John & Margaret Galego +
Tuesday	7:00	Austin O'Toole +
Wednesday	7:00	Ben & Anna Leal +
Thursday	7:00	Minne Christensen (L)
Friday	7:00	Elmer Leal +
Saturday	8:00	Anne Rago +
	5:00	Jose Brum +
Sunday	7:30	Laura Moniz +
	9:00	Candelaria Bantay +
	10:30	Theresa & Simon Nisperos+
	12:00	Nitalia & Marcelino Herico +

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Head Lector: Barbara Buckley.....	352-9656
Altar Server Coord. Harry Clyde.....	352-1537
Head Communion Ministers:	
Joe and Mina Riccio	352-3506
Head Usher: Al Weinberger.....	895-9900
Head Greeter: Gloria Calegari	357-0943
Ministry Scheduler: Barbara Buckley.....	352-9656
Susan Hupp.....	352-1537
Teen Confirmation:	
Deacon Harry Clyde.....	352-1537
St. Vincent de Paul	
Joe Riccio.....	352-6079
Pastoral Council:	
Paul Carney	635-9473
School Board:	
Leila Towne.....	632-0594
Liturgy Committee	
Loretta Fernandes.....	352-1537
Finance Committee:	
Pat Durgin.....	632-4032
All Saints Skilled Nursing	
Merlie Macasieb.....	895-5162
Bishop's Appeal:.....	352-1537
Tuesdays with Larry:	
Larry Graves	352-4777
Rosary Makers:	
Irene Haines	483-7975
CYO:	
Don Ratto.....	614-2773
Communion to the Homebound:	
Mary Croak.....	352-1537
Communion to Kindred Hospital:	
Al Frates.....	351-2852
Prayer Chain:	
JoMarie Stavosky.....	483-3366
Knit/Crochet Group	
Mary Croak.....	357-7562
Linens:	
Anita De Marais.....	357-9172

Assumption Parish Mission Statement

Assumption Parish is a culturally diverse and vibrant Catholic community which strives to grow as followers of Jesus Christ. We do this by accepting the challenge to build a Christ-centered community that draws on the wisdom of our seniors and the energy of our youth. We are committed to Catholic education at various levels. We are nurtured by inspired Liturgy, active and enriching faith formation programs, and inclusive family ministry, all of which enable us to share our gifts of time, talent, treasure and vision with our parish family and surrounding communities.