

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 16, 2005

*I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.....Isaiah
49:6b*

Week at a Glance

Sunday, January 16th

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Religious Ed., 9:15-10:15, school classrooms

Children's Liturgy, 10:30 Mass

RCIA Dismissal, 10:30 Mass

Coffee and donuts, Ladies Guild

Monday, January 17th

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday observed.

Parish Office Closed

St. Anthony, early founder of religious life, also called "patriarch of Monks".

RCIA Inquiry, 7pm, Rel. Ed. room

Monday night football, 6:30pm, small hall

Inviting Catholics Home, 1 and 7pm, Rel. Ed. room

Tuesday, January 18th

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins.

Non-smoking Class, 1 - 3 pm, small hall

Pastoral Council, 6:30pm, school library

Wednesday, January 19th

Sons of Italy, 6:30pm, large hall

Charismatic Prayer group, 7:30pm, small hall

Thursday, January 20th

Ss. Fabian, pope and martyr, and Sebastian, martyr.

Faith Formation Class, 7pm, school library

Friday, January 21st

St. Agnes, virgin and martyr, patroness of Christian virtue.

Saturday, January 22nd

Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Vincent, deacon of the church and patron of wine-producers.

Sunday, January 23rd

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Second Collection, Building Construction

Religious Ed., 9:15-10:15, school classrooms

Children's Liturgy, 10:30 Mass

RCIA Dismissal, 10:30 Mass

Coffee and donuts, Knights of Columbus

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25 - 8:6; Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Is 8:23 - 9:3; Ps 27; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17;
Mt 4:12-23 [12-17]

"Prayer: A Voice from the Heart"

Class this Thursday 7:00 PM

On Thursday, January 20th, we will continue our monthly faith formation class by turning to the topic of prayer. In his epistle to the Thessolonians, St. Paul admonishes us to "pray without ceasing", but in today's chaotic and demanding world, that can sometimes seem like an almost impossible task. Nonetheless, we are all called to holiness and an ever deeper relationship with God through love that is expressed in prayer. How then can I pray in my daily life? This session will include time for both reflection and discussion and will focus on the individual and communal call to prayer, the ways we pray, the stages of prayer life, and the times we struggle to pray. The session will begin at 7:00 PM in the school library and will be led by Kathy Pooler, a STM parishioner and a trained spiritual director.

Lenten soup and bread

During Lent, after the Stations of the Cross, we will be having the Soup and Bread dinner for the poor and Prayers around the Cross. We need leaders of Prayer for the service after the Stations. Scripts are provided for the service. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet provided in the vestibule.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading – Isaiah speaks of the servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7).

Psalm – The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29).

Second Reading – Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10:34-38).

Gospel – A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Matthew 3:13-17).

Saint Thomas More Goes to the Web!

Our web site is up and running! This week, our Information/Technology staffer, John Pooler, launched our site on the World Wide Web. While it is still expanding and the sections for the school and CDC are under construction, the Church portion is largely completed.

This web site has two purposes. It is an evangelical tool, so that others may come to know us and it is a management tool available to all staff, volunteers and parishioners.

We intend for all scheduling to be done via the web site. While we will continue to print schedules, they will come off of the schedule on the web. All ministers will be able to check their schedules on the web site and the site is to also communicate all special masses and events.

We ask that you begin exploring this site and if you see mistakes or have information on needed improvements, please contact the Webmaster through the links provided on the site. We will continue to expand and improve the site with your input. Check it out at:

<http://www.stmparadise.com>

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH— HERE COMES EVERYBODY

This popular way of describing the universality of our Church is a theme of today's readings. The prophet Isaiah tells of God's servant who will be the "light of the nations." It will not be enough for this servant only to bring back the survivors of Israel's dispersion and captivity. God's salvation must reach to the ends of the earth.

Saint Paul writes to a local church of mainly Gentiles and presumably former sinners of all kinds in Corinth. He greets them and tells them that they are to take their place with "saints everywhere" in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel reading from John tells of Jesus' commissioning by the Father in the Holy Spirit to bring salvation to all, to take away the sins of the world. This Chosen One has come to baptize the world in God's Spirit. Everybody!

As you hear these words, consider your own task to bring the good news of salvation to everyone you will meet in the coming days, weeks, years.

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From the Parish Health Ministry

This time of year most people are somewhat concerned about all the calories that they have consumed during the holidays. AA has a belief of "one day at a time" to get you through the difficult challenges when being tempted to drink. We can use this same belief to help us from breaking our plans for a healthy diet, quit smoking or commitment to an exercise plan. AA turns their challenges over to their higher power or to God. If we desire to start eating healthier, start an exercise program, or even stop drinking, we can be comforted with the AA belief that with God, all we need is to live our life one day at a time.

Martin Luther King Day Celebration

The Paradise Center for Tolerance and Nonviolence invites all parishioners to their 5th Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration this Monday, Jan. 17th. It is being held this year at the Methodist Church, 6722 Clark Rd. A candlelight/flashlight walk will start at the church beginning at 6:30 PM to be followed by a program at the church that will begin at 7 PM. The program of music, spoken word and dance will include a performance by the St. Thomas More Singers.

Teens Living Through Christ

On Super Bowl Sunday, the teens will be collecting \$1.00 contributions to benefit Care Net Pregnancy Center.

Dirk Wohlauf, Youth Ministry Coordinator

St. Thomas More School News

Sunday, January 16, 2005

St. Thomas More Catholic School:
Faith in Every Student!



Celebrate all the ways our school has faith, in every student! Two weeks from now, we begin our annual observance of Catholic Schools Week, honoring our parish, community, students, nation, volunteers, and staff. See next week's bulletin for the schedule. If you can help, please contact the school office at 877-5328 or by email at rick@stmparadise.com. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

*Yours in the Peace of Christ,
Richard Priest, Principal*



News from Religious Education

There were a few errors on last week's bulletin regarding upcoming special dates. The mandatory parent meeting for the parents of children receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Tuesday, February 1st, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in one of the school classrooms. I will let you know which classroom at a later date. The actual Sacrament of Reconciliation will be received on Thursday, February 24th, from 3 - 5 p.m., in the church. Sacramental calendars will be available on February 1st, at the parent meeting.

Parents/Guardians: Please keep practicing prayers with your child at home. Your child should have brought home a of list of prayers to learn. If they do not have this list, I will be happy to provide another one for you. They will also be available at the parent meeting. Before your son/daughter receives his/her Sacrament of Reconciliation, he/she must know how to say *The Sign of the Cross*, *The Our Father*, and *An Act of Contrition*. The prayer of sorrow, *An Act of Contrition*, is especially important in regard to The Sacrament of Reconciliation. Blessings to all!

Paula Priest, Religious Education Coordinator

Daily Mass Intentions

January 15 - 23, 2005

- SAT 5:00pm** Lyle Stephens† and Intentions of Francis Toms
- SUN 8:00am** Joseph Noeller †
- 10:30am** Jack Hockert †
- 5:00pm** People of STM
- MON 8:30am** Intentions of Sister Kathleen Dunne, RSM
- TUE 8:30am** Intentions of Nick and Ruth Wilds
- WED 8:30am** Deceased members of Wheelock and Cullinan Families
- THU 8:30am** Jeff DeSmet †
- FRI 8:30am** Bill Charpentier †
- SAT 5:00pm** Elise Schmits† and Intentions of Jerry and Elva Whatcott
- SUN 8:00am** Deceased members of Steff and Kelly Families
- 10:30am** Jack Hockert †
- 5:00pm** Intentions of Francis Toms

St. Thomas More parishioners have donated over \$7,000 towards the Tsunami Relief efforts. We continue to take donations for this cause. God bless you.!

Collections for January 8 and 9, 2005

Sunday collection	\$6,466.00
St. Vincent DePaul	\$ 110.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 207.00
Adopt a Student	\$ 312.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 741.00
Tsunami Relief Fund	\$ 734.00
Total Collections	\$ 9,570.00



Do you know anyone who is a smoker? Please encourage them to join our NO SMOKING CLASS at Saint Thomas More Church. This is a great way to begin the New Year! Class begins January 18th from 1-3 p.m. on each Tuesday for 8 sessions. This class is an American Lung Association class. Pre-registration is necessary. Call Linda Pirruccello, instructor, at 877-3608 to register and to answer any questions. Father Steven will be there. Join him in quitting!

Multi-Cultural Cursillo Mass And Grand Ultreya Celebrated by Bishop Richard Garcia

Come and share the celebration at Our Lady of Assumption, 2141 Walnut Ave., Carmichael, CA., Saturday, February 12, 2005, at 12 Noon. All Cursillistas in the Diocese of Sacramento are invited to this special mass to celebrate Cursillo in all of our Cultures. After Mass we will have a grand Ultreya with a potluck social. Please bring ethnic foods to share and more importantly come and share your faith.

Contact. Mike Raemaeker: (916) 972-1363 or
Cass Castaneda: (916) 415-1202

Please pray for: Tabitha Forcier, Jane Hazard, Helen Haug, Karen Mittag Cook, Anna Nicole Baker, Karen Squibb, Ethel Pettis, Mary Ellen Quinn, Frank Liska, Jr., Barbara Bohrer, Gail Norell, Cecilia Juhos, Theresa Browne, Raymond Arnold, William Posey, Derek O'Dell, Phil Stepp, Roy & Mary Hendricks, Ted Wilson, Mary Butler, John Hallett, Dottie Miley, Ernest Dejak, Nick & Ruth Wilds, Ed & Bev Lammerding, Lloyd & Jean Snyder, Mary Cole, Patsy King, Lance Utterback, Debra Graham, Billie Ward, Travis Campos, Joseph Kavanaugh, Brian Rainey, Lucy Innat, Rochelle Coccellato, Lisa Williams, Ken McKinnon, Louise Wilcox, Jim Phillips, Jennifer Wood, Mary Van Buskirk, Joe Lilliard, C.J. McGehee, Clara Tovani, Maria Thompson, Leonard Warych, Maria Massey, Colby Waters, Tom Durant, Mike Gonzales, Angel Sanchez, Fr. Steven Foppiano, Monica Semon, Bill Hayes, Kay March, Yolanda Hansen, Eleanor Uhlarik, Bill Smith, Rose Vera, Linda Boisse, Abbie Moriarty, Shirley Gasman, Emily McGlocklin, Michael Gilpatrick, Jim Partain, Sue Gallo, Doug Campos, Bill D'Orazi, Amelia Clow-LaMar, Lotte Blum, Jake Morfin, Ray Martinez, Darcy

Lawson, Jeremy Knox, Fred Stankoven, Bishop William K. Weigand, Barbara Brown, Dale Merrett, Jerry Perkinson, Lucy Sandoval, Richard Spiegel

Please pray for the deceased: John "Bobby" Riley, Bill Charpentier, Kenneth Stagg and Frances Atwater.

January 18, 2005 Pro-Life Mass

Bishop Garcia will be celebrating the annual Pro-Life Mass on Tuesday, January 18. Mass will be at 10:30 am at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 711 T Street in Sacramento. The pro-life rosary will be recited before mass at 10am. Come join us as we pray to promote a culture of life in our State and in our Nation! For more information contact the Respect Life Office at (916) 733-0140.

Care-Net

Care-Net Pregnancy Center is looking for men and women to serve on their Board of Directors, and/or as volunteers. Please call Donna at 876-1113, Mon.- Thurs., 12-5pm or email us at carenetparadise@nowusa.com

"Table of Plenty" Food Ministry

This week we are asking for something in addition to your food donations. We are looking for any "connections" that you might have to getting food donated to the Table of Plenty ministry. One resourceful parishioner thought to ask someone who worked for a bread company for donations. As a result, we ended up getting many boxes of tortillas and bread to give out to families in need of supplemental food. Donated food is always appreciated, because it frees up our resources to buy more perishable items, like eggs, milk, and chicken. If you know of a possible source of donations, please inquire with the company on our behalf or forward the information to Table of Plenty and we will be glad to contact them.

This week we are gathering items to provide a Mexican dinner to the families we serve. We have plenty of tortillas, but could use the following items: **refried beans, taco seasoning, salsa, and Mexican rice.** Your donations are always appreciated by the families who receive them. Thank you for helping St. Thomas More reach out to show the community God's love and compassion!

For information regarding the Table of Plenty ministry, call **Stephanie Gregorio at 876-0968.**

SELFLESSNESS REWARDED

Help another's boat across, and lo! thine own has reached the shore.

—Old Hindu proverb

St. Thomas More Men's Weekend Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center

First call for the men of St. Thomas More Parish to our annual retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center on the weekend of February 4-6, 2005. Don't miss out on this great experience of spiritual and physical renewal. Space is limited, so make your reservation early. Phone Patrick Murphy at 872-2343, Don Shelburne at 872-8209 to make a reservation, or call the Retreat Center at (916) 725-4720. Relatives and friends are welcome to come together.

Father Steven received the following "Thank You" on behalf of the Parish:

Words fail to express my gratitude for how the parish responded to the Christmas Giving Tree this year. The response was overwhelming. All the tags on the tree disappeared the first day it was put up. Gifts started coming in the next Sunday. With the gifts from the parish, we were able to give all our foster children three gifts as well as passes to the movies. The gifts helped make this Christmas one of the best we have had.

I also want to thank the parish for the generous response to our request for suitcases. Each foster child received at least one suitcase and some were able to take two. Having a suitcase means a lot to the children. They now have something to put their belongings in other than a cardboard box of a garbage bag.

Again thank you for the generous response to our request.

Sincerely yours

Gary Scott, MFT

Social Worker, Environmental Alternatives
Foster Family Agency

Please be Generous This Year

As Pastor, I ask each parishioner to be as generous as possible this year. We are a growing community with many needs and there is much to be done in the Kingdom of God on earth that is found in the Church. I myself pledge 10% of my earnings to God's work in St. Thomas More.

Father Steven Foppiano

TEENS LIVING THROUGH CHRIST

The up-coming World Youth Day event scheduled for August 2005 is rapidly approaching. Please mark your calendar if you are interested in helping as a chaperone or are planning on traveling along with the group. Currently we are planning on having 30 available slots open for teens and adults alike. On January 19 at 6:30 pm in the parish hall, we will have a potluck dinner for all those interested in attending. At that time we will discuss all the pertinent details.

Souper Bowl Sunday. On Super Bowl Sunday (February 6), Teens Living Through Christ (TLTC) will be hosting a soup dinner for the parish. After all the Masses, the teens will be asking you donate only \$1.00 per person to be given to a local charity of the teens' choosing. Last year the teens donated the Souper Bowl Sunday proceeds to the Care Net Pregnancy Center, a local pregnancy counseling center. Overall and nation-wide, this fundraiser collected over \$4 million for local charities throughout the nation through 12,700 organizations. Please support our youth and their endeavors.

Peace and Joy-- Dirk

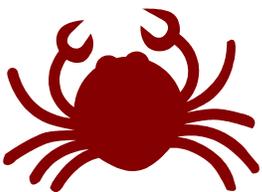
St. Thomas More School

All you can eat

Crab Feed and Dance

Saturday, February 5, 2005

Tickets - \$35.00 per person
Tri-tip option available
Both Crab and Tri-tip -
\$45.00 per person



Dance to the Music of Stillwater Savage

Social Hour 6pm (No Host Bar)
Dinner 7pm
Dancing 9pm – 12 midnight
No Outside Alcohol

STEWARDSHIP

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's responsorial psalm is the theme song of a good steward: 'Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.' May I, too, stand ready to offer myself and my gifts in the service of God.

See Psalm 40

Get Ready for Lent and Easter

Lent and Easter come very early this year. Mark these dates on your calendar. They are important as the seasons of the Church are designed to reflect the experience of God by humanity and to draw us closer to our Lord Jesus. Make the coming seasons of Lent and Easter events that make a real difference in your life.

- Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on February 9th.
- Lent lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays and ends at the Easter Vigil.
- The tradition of Holy Week marks the last week of Lent, beginning with Palm Sunday on March 20th.
- The Triduum begins with The Celebration of the Lord's Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday, March 24th, continues through Good Friday and ends with the Vigil. Services on these three days are considered one liturgy.
- The Easter vigil is Saturday night, March 26th. It begins just before Sundown and lasts a little over two hours as we welcome new members into the Church and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.
- The initial Easter celebration which begins with the March 26th Vigil and continues through Sunday, March 27th, is the greatest celebration of the Church.
- Easter is celebrated for 50 days until Pentecost on May 15th.

Lent

Lent is a time of cleansing. It is a time for us to come to terms with our human faults, our sinfulness and our brokenness. It is a season set aside for us to approach God and acknowledge our need for change, to understand the power of God to enable such change and to know the everlasting love of our

God who never abandons us and always stands ready to forgive us and embrace our return. It is a season best represented by the story of the Prodigal Son.

The Triduum

The *Triduum* is an overlay “mini season” that links the end of the season of Lent and the beginning of the season of Easter. It begins with the Celebration of the Lord’s (Last) Supper on Holy Thursday as Jesus links his ministry on earth to the climactic Crucifixion that awaits him and hints of the waiting Resurrection. It continues through Good Friday as we mourn our Lord’s death on the cross and comes to an end with the greatest celebration of the Church, the Resurrection of our Lord celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

The *Triduum* drives home the point that there is no Resurrection without the Crucifixion and that the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is part of God’s plan for our salvation. The ministry of Christ, the Last Supper, His Sacrifice on the Cross and the Resurrection are all linked and draw meaning from each other. All help to reveal a God who loves us enough to sacrifice His Son on our behalf.

The Triduum is a three-day event that all parishioners are invited to experience. If you have never been through the entire experience, this is the year. It is considered one celebration beginning with the Thursday service, continuing again Friday morning and ending with the Easter Vigil. The services are separated but there is no dismissal until after the Easter Vigil.

Lent is the season that prepares us for God’s great gift of victory over death. God has taken the initiative through an act of sacrifice and love found in Jesus Christ. Now we are called to respond with sacrifices of our own, taken on as penance for our sins as we seek purification in the forgiveness of the Father

All Catholics should schedule free time during Holy Week, the last week of Lent leading up to Easter. It is ideal if the entire family can be together during this week. This is a good time for a vacation week from work and school with emphasis on worship, thanksgiving and family unity.

Easter

Easter represents God’s final triumph over evil. In the Resurrection we gain victory over death because Jesus is resurrected not only in his divine form but in his human form as well. Through this we too receive a path into the heavenly Kingdom. Jesus who is God humbling himself to live as we do, now grants us the opportunity to share His Kingdom in the Heavens and to receive eternal life.

The Easter Vigil is the greatest celebration of the Church year. Here the Church, barren through Lent, comes alive with real plants, flowers, colors, song and glorious praise. New entrants are welcomed into the Church through Baptism and join others in becoming full members of the Church through the receiving of the additional Initiation Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.

The Easter Celebration is also the longest of the Church and lasts for fifty days. It comes to its climax on Pentecost, when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus, enabling our faith ancestors and ourselves to proclaim His Gospel throughout the world.

Father Steven strongly suggests that all families strive to attend the Easter Vigil. It begins with the pastoral fire outside as we listen to the stories of Creation. Then, all light our candles and process into the darkened Church, bringing with us the Light of Christ that will soon illuminate the world. Every year those attending for the first time are surprised and nearly overcome with the beauty and meaning of this celebration.

Easter Sunday is beautiful and fine but if you are seriously involved in the Church, you need to experience this life giving celebration found in the Easter Vigil. It is the first and greatest Easter celebration.

HEART OF LOVE

O Heart of Love, I put all my trust in thee.
For I fear all things from my own weakness,
but I hope for all things from Thy goodness.

—St. Margaret Mary