

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 11, 2007

My steps have been steadfast in your paths, my feet have not faltered. I call upon you,
for you will answer me, O God.

-Psalm 17:5-6a

Life Everlasting

The second book of Maccabees tells a powerful story, and a rather gruesome one at that. But central to it, beyond the horrible deaths inflicted upon the brothers and their mother, is their belief in the promise of resurrection and life everlasting in God.

Paul asks the Thessalonians to pray for him as he spreads Christ's message of love, so that he might be delivered from other non-believers anxious to do him harm. The apostle is confident in such prayer, just as he is confident in the everlasting support of Jesus and God the Father.

And there's that "everlasting" word again. The Sadducees, not buying the idea, ask Jesus an interesting—albeit meaningless—question about the status of married life at the Resurrection. He tells the non-believers that marriage isn't an issue for the risen children of God. More importantly, he assures them that their ancestors do live on in God, even as evidenced by the Father's words to Moses.

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God is God of the living

Readings for the Week

Monday: Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6
Tuesday: Wis 2:23 — 3:9; Lk 17:7-10
Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19
Thursday: Wis 7:22b — 8:1; Lk 17:20-25
Friday: Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37
Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8
Sunday: Mal 3:19-20a; Ps 98; 2 Thes 3:7-12;
Lk 21:5-19

Second Collection this week:

**'Table of Plenty' Food Ministry
Thanksgiving Baskets**



BULLETIN NOTICE:

The deadline for bulletin article submissions on Thanksgiving week is Monday November 19th at 4pm.

Dinner with the Doctor

This month's Dinner with the Doctor topic discussion is "Honey, Our Diet is Killing Us", Dr. Kretschmar will be at St. Thomas More for the first time on Wednesday November 14th from 6:00-8:30pm.

Come for the dinner and two-part lecture for \$15.00 (\$7.00 for the lecture alone). Call 876.7154 for reservations.

Veterans Day on Monday!

To celebrate Veterans Day, on Monday, November 12, the Church office will be closed.

Mass will be held at the regular time, at 8:30 a.m.



Veterans are encouraged to wear their uniforms and at the Mass we will honor all who have served in this country's military. The flag will be presented during the entrance and placed to the side of the altar.

Missal reading for November 11th is located on page 84.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 11

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Second Collection: Thanksgiving Baskets, Table of Plenty
Thanksgiving basket applications accepted after morning mass
Coffee and Donuts, Knights of Columbus
Sunday BBQ after 5pm Mass

Monday, November 12

Veteran's Day ~ Parish Office Closed

5:30pm K.O.C. Monday Night Football, main hall
7:00pm Midnight Mass Choir, Church

Tuesday, November 13

Thanksgiving basket applications accepted all day
1:00pm Basic Computer Class, Computer Lab
1:00pm Ladies Guild Meeting, main hall
1:00pm Psalms Spiritual meeting, small conf. room
6:30pm Parish Advisory Board & Finance Board Meeting, small hall
7:00pm KOC Business Meeting, main hall

Wednesday, November 14

Thanksgiving basket applications accepted all day
9:30am Mothers and Others meeting, small conf. room
Noon Hot Meal Program, main hall
1:00pm 49+ Singles, main hall
1:00pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, small conf. room
2:00pm Shawl Ministry, small conf. room
6:00pm Dinner with the Doctor, main hall
7pm Joyful Noise music practice
7pm Breath of the Spirit Prayer Group, library

Thursday, November 15

Thanksgiving Basket Applications Accepted all day
9:15am Legion of Mary, small conf. room
9:15am Bible Study, small hall
7:00pm Bible Study, small hall
7:00pm RCIA Inquiry, small conf. room

Friday, November 16

Thanksgiving Basket Applications Accepted all day
9:30am Intercessory Prayer, small conf. room
10:30am -Noon Food Distribution, Garage

Saturday, November 17

Second Collection: Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.
10:00am Altar Server Practice, Church

Sunday, November 18

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Second Collection: Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.
Coffee and Donuts: Hot Lunch Group
Sunday BBQ after 5pm Mass

Dear Parishioners:

With the leadership of Bishop Weigand, the diocese and our parish have been moving towards Whole Parish Catechesis. This means that we are attempting to coordinate and organize our teachings so that they are based on the scripture of the Sunday Mass and offered for all, children, teens, and adults alike.

This is an acknowledgement that there is a great need for religious education in our Church. It is not just for those preparing for Sacraments but for all of us as we live out our daily lives. Christianity is not an event but a life long quest of self improvement to imitate the life of Christ. We need to study the gift of faith we have received and to ponder how these teachings affect our lives. We make choices everyday and need to make those choices fully informed and prayerfully aware of God's desires for us. Part of this process is the "Question of the Week" which allows us individually, as a family, or as a group, to discuss the readings and teachings of our faith and how they affect our lives. Such discussions can help to open communication between family and friends and will build our faith as we share how God is working in our lives and the challenges we face. We will also be providing some teachings on the Church as they relate to the scripture of the week.

Please take the time each week to read the scripture listed, usually one you have heard at the Mass, and to think about what it means or reveals to you. Talk it over with someone else and have a discussion. It should not be a debate but simply a telling of our feelings and thoughts, sharing with each other so that Jesus may work through us to reach those around us and work through those around us to reach us.



Also, read any Church teachings offered as they relate to that scripture and try to understand the reasoning for that Church teaching. Remember, Church teachings are not arbitrary attempts to control lives. The teachings seek to implement the scripture teachings in our modern lives. They are the teachings of Christ interpreted for society today.

We encourage this activity as a family, a couple, or as a gathering of friends and acquaintances. Remember that where two or more are gathered in His name, there too is Jesus! Some rooms may be available for small meetings if some larger groups wish to meet here or you may wish to meet in each other's homes. However you are able; please to try to make these questions and teachings a part of your life.

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As we enter into these discussions we will slowly reveal and learn more about ourselves and those with whom we study. With this understanding we will become more relaxed and we may find that friendships are made as we learn to love and support one another. Families will grow closer, friends more supportive and strangers will become trusted associates, as we allow God to work in our lives and build community in our faith.

We all have many activities in our lives but none is more important than our faith. All things we struggle with every day are transitory. They will not last and soon pass into our history. The exception is all things relating to God. As we learn of our faith and allow God to work within us to make changes, we build a treasure for a future that will last forever. These things do not pass away but grow and stay with us. Our faith is all that we take with us when our time here ends.

Question of the Week

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Week of November 11, 2007
 Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's 2nd Reading:

[2 Thes 2:16-3:5](#)

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you hear Paul's words of comfort to the Thessalonians, what part of this reading was most welcome for you to hear? Which of Paul's words most affected you?

Theme:

God strengthens us and we live with him forever.

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children:

God always stays with you, no matter what. What signs can you see to help you believe that?

Question for Youth:

Growing up is full of challenges and choices, but St. Paul today offers you hope that God is with you in all of it! "May the Lord rule your hearts," Paul says. How do you experience this powerful divine assistance as you face the choices in your own life?

Question for Adults:

Having faith in difficult times is hard! What makes you believe in the promise that God will be your strength, as Paul says?

Thank You from Father Steven

I want to thank all who cooperated and did so much during my recent long vacation. I was able to relax and get some much needed rest thanks to the trust I was able to place in so many of you. To all the ministers who carried on and especially to the staff who never missed a beat, thank you for your competence and good work.

Father Joshy wants me to thank all the parishioners who were so kind to him. He really enjoyed his time here and will miss you all. As pastor, I thank you for your hospitality. You were all very open to him and inviting. He saw many parishioners' homes and did not want for food. His experience was very positive. You are truly a wonderful parish and that word is spreading. It should help us develop a welcoming reputation.

Now I am back, rested and ready for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons which will be closely followed by an early Lent. We are entering a very busy time of the year but let us enter it fully committed to living our Christianity and responding to God's love with a love for God and for each other. God bless you all! *Father Steven Foppiano*

Please remember the following in your prayers:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Michelle Degmetich | Wendy Semon | Margaret Vandergrift |
| Nancy Barnes | Dolores Donell | Barbara Richmond |
| Agnes Lynch | Belen O'Dell | Pam Gestner |
| Ray Hutter | Bob Nute | David J. Brown |
| Robert Battaglia | Kay De Prima | Terry Roy |
| Barbara Richmond | Bob Hess | Mary Sparks |
| Harry 'Tom' Thomas | William Henshaw | |

**Daily Mass Intentions
 November 10-18, 2007**

- | | | |
|-------|---------|---|
| Sat. | 8:30am | Holy Souls |
| | 5:00pm | Guy Saiani † |
| Sun. | 8:00am | People of St. Thomas More |
| | 10:30am | Nickie Jackson † |
| | 5:00pm | Living and deceased members of Ladies Guild |
| Mon. | 8:30am | Jack Hockert † |
| Tue. | 8:30am | Intentions of Braeu Family |
| Wed. | 8:30am | Ginger Gonzales † |
| Thur. | 8:30am | Holy Souls |
| Fri. | 8:30am | Michael Hutter † |
| Sat. | 8:30am | Holy Souls |
| | 5:00pm | People of St. Thomas More |
| Sun. | 8:00am | Holy Souls |
| | 10:30am | Don Shelburne † |
| | 5:00pm | Holy Souls |

† Denotes deceased †

Learning to Use Your Bible

Listed below are the books of the bible in the order they appear (**follow the columns down**), and with the common abbreviations which are used to refer to them. We encourage you to look up readings in the bible and to get used to how it is organized and how to find text when you want it. When readings are listed in the bulletin or elsewhere, they are usually shown in their abbreviated form.

If a book is followed by numbers, they usually refer to the chapter and verse. Gen 2:4 would refer to Genesis chapter two, verse four. All lines of the bible have been numbered so that scholars and readers alike can enjoy a common reference point system.

Old Testament Abbreviations			New Testament Abbreviations		
Genesis - Gen	Tobit - Tob	Lamentations - Lam	Matthew - Mt	Ephesians - Eph	Hebrews - Heb
Exodus - Ex	Judith - Jdt	Baruch - Bar	Mark - Mk	Philippians - Phil	James - Jas
Leviticus - Lev	Esther - Esth 1	Ezekial - Ezek	Luke - Lk	Colossians - Col	1 Peter - 1 Pet
Numbers - Num	Maccabees - 1 Macc	Daniel - Dan	John - Jn	1 Thessalonians - 1 Thess	2 Peter - 2 Pet
Deuteronomy - Deut	2 Maccabees - 2 Macc	Hosea - Hos	Acts of the Apostles - Acts	2 Thessalonians - 2 Thess	1 John - 1 Jn
Joshua - Josh	Job - Job	Joel - Joel	Romans - Rom	1 Timothy - 1 Tim	2 John - 2 Jn
Judges - Judg	Psalms - Ps	Amos - Am	1 Corinthians - 1 Cor	2 Timothy - 2 Tim	3 John - 3 Jn
Ruth - Ruth	Proverbs - Prov	Jonah - Jon	2 Corinthians - 2 Cor	Titus - Titus	Jude - Jude
1 Samuel - 1 Sam	Ecclesiastes - Ecc1	Micah - Mic	Galatians - Gal	Philemon - Philemon	Revelation - Rev
2 Samuel - 2 Sam	Song of Solomon - Song	Nahum - Nah			Apocalypse - Apoc
1 Kings - 1 Kings	Canticles - Cant	Habakkuk - Hab			
2 Kings - 2 Kings	Wisdom - Wis	Zephaniah - Zeph			
1 Chronicles - 1 Chr	Sirach - Sir	Haggai - Hag			
2 Chronicles - 2 Chr	Isaiah - Isa	Zechariah - Zech			
Ezra - Ezra	Jeremiah - Jer	Malachi - Mal			

Old-time Christmas Concert

*Saturday, December 1st
7:30-9:00pm being held in our church.*

Performed by Fret-Not Gospel.

*This is a benefit for the
Table of Plenty Food Ministry.*

*Please come show
your support.*

Free Admission



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

This year our parish will be giving out up to 150 food "baskets" to Ridge families for Thanksgiving. These bags will contain all the trimmings needed for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Each family will also receive their choice of a turkey *or* a ham.

A second collection will be taken at all masses this weekend to fund this project. Your donations will allow us to purchase turkeys, hams, and all the trimmings for a complete Thanksgiving dinner.

If you prefer to donate actual food items, we could use **stuffing, olives, canned corn and green beans, cranberry sauce, gravy packets, frosting, and cake mixes.**

Applications for the Thanksgiving food baskets are available in the church office lobby. If you or someone you know could use help with a Thanksgiving dinner, please stop in and fill out an application. **Please note** the application deadline is Friday, November 16th.

Annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale

The Ladies of STM Guild will hold their annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale on Saturday, December 1 from 8am until 6:30pm and on Sunday, December 2 from 8am until 1pm in the Church Hall.

There will be a variety of baked goods, candies, jams, and gift items offered for sale.

Raffle tickets for some great prizes will also be available.



Special Christmas Choir

All with the desire to serve the Lord with your voice are invited to join our Christmas choir for the 2007 Midnight Mass. Our first practice will be held Nov. 12 at 7pm in the church.

Please call Dorothy Byers at 873-1759 or Mike Degmetich at 873-4913. If you play an instrument, we invite you to bring it along. This event is a joyful experience. Please give it your prayerful consideration.



Peace & Justice Committee Thanks You

The Peace & Justice Committee wishes to thank all parishioners who signed the petition supporting the Jubilee Act to eliminate the debt obligations for developing nations. Following similar nationwide action the bill now has 20 additional sponsors in the House and the Financial Services Committee has agreed to hold hearings on the bill (HR2634) this fall. In addition, a Senate version of the act (S2166) has now been introduced. More information regarding the act can be found at www.jubilee.org.

"Table of Plenty" Food Ministry

The last food distribution cleared our shelves and used up all our reserves. Therefore, Table of Plenty is now in need of **all types of non-perishable food**. We can use anything and everything that you'd like to leave in the baskets in the vestibule. Thank you for your generosity

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me."

Matthew 25:35,40



We Need Your Picture!

If you have not yet signed up for an appointment with Olan Mills, please do so today.

There is absolutely no cost to you. Each participant will receive a free 8" x 10' portrait. We have found Olan Mills to be very professional and very courteous. You will also receive a free directory and your participation gives us more space to use for parish activities.

Portraits will be taken in the small hall on the following schedule.

Friday, December 7th 3:00 pm – 9:30 pm

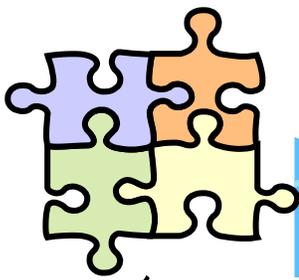
Saturday, December 8th 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Please call the office or sign up at the table outside to schedule an appointment. 877-4501

Sacrificial Donations November 3-4, 2007

Sunday Collections	\$	5,294.00
All Saints	\$	931.00
Table of Plenty	\$	442.00
Youth Group	\$	504.00
Building and Maintenance	\$	1,518.00
	\$	8,689.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Between the ROCK...and a Good Space

Volume III!

Issue 2

"He is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

ROCK At-A-Glance

Sunday, 11 November
 Veterans' Day
HAPPY BIRTHDAY RACHEL!!!
 10:30am — Children's Liturgy
 2:30pm — The ROCK
 Grades 9-12
 5pm — ROCK...the Liturgy!

Monday, 12 November
 6:30pm — The ROCK
 Grades 7-12

Tuesday, 13 November
 7-8pm RCIC
 Church Conference Room

Wednesday, 14 November
 3:30-4:45pm
FAITH FORMATION

Thursday, 15 November
 6:30pm — The ROCK
 Grades 6-8

Friday, 16 November
 3:44pm — **MAGIS**

Saturday, 17 November
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESSE!!!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARY!!!

Sunday, 18 November
 10:30am — Children's Liturgy
 2:30pm — The ROCK
 Grades 9-12
 5pm — ROCK...the Liturgy!

Monday, 19 November
 6:30pm — The ROCK
 Grades 7-12

Tuesday, 20 November
 9am — Thanksgiving Basket
 Team Reports to Basement
 7-8pm RCIC
 Church Conference Room

Got questions about Youth
 Ministry at St. Thomas More?
 Contact Colleen at 877.4554
colleen@stmparadise.com



NOVEMBER ALTAR OF REMEMBRANCE... Thanks to everyone who has already brought in pictures for the Altar of Remembrance! We will continue to collect pictures of your departed family members, friends, and loved ones throughout the month of November! Anyone may add a picture to the prayer space or a name to the Book of Remembrance at any time! We are a Catholic Christian community who are called to become part of the communion of saints — ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives!!!

SECRET ANGELS FOUND!!! Thanks again to our special family who came forward to sponsor Faith Formation's purchase of a "Felt People" collection for use with our children and young people!! We are very grateful to these and to all of our "secret angels" who have donated their time, energy, and effort to the ongoing conversion and formation of our community!!! Thanks also to our special "tablecloth angel," who handmade the white tablecloths being draped over the Altar of Remembrance!!!



REMEMBER THE IMPACT!!! (next on the secret angel list: Polaroid film for Christmas Carnival on 12/9!!!)

Random Thoughts...from Catholic News Service: Loreto, Italy — Pope Benedict XVI urged a mega-gathering of Italian young people to embrace Christ and "go against the current" of a culture marked by violence, arrogance and selfishness. The pope also struck a strong ecological theme, saying young people need to press for courageous changes to save the planet "before it's too late." An estimated 500,000 youths applauded the pope's words...on a hillside next to the Marian shrine of Loreto. "The (Christian) message is this: Do not follow the way of pride but the way of humility," the pope said at the Mass. "Go against the current: Don't listen to the persuasive and self-seeking voices that today promote lifestyles marked by arrogance and violence, by self-importance and success at any cost, by appearances and possession to the detriment of being," he said. He asked young people not to be passive recipients of the countless messages that arrive through the mass media. "Be vigilant! Be critical! Don't be dragged along by the wave produced by this powerful movement of persuasion," he said. Instead, the pope held out an "alternative path" marked by sharing, purity, commitment to study and work, and a deep interest in the common good...The pope told the young people that the key to finding the right path was in a personal encounter with Christ. He said it was also essential that they participate in the life of the church. "One cannot call oneself a disciple of Jesus if one doesn't love and follow his church. The church is our family," he said. At the prayer vigil the day before, the pope hugged young representatives after listening to them tell of their personal spiritual trials. In a talk, he raised the theme of environmental protection in the Christian context. Following Christ means being aware that the created world belongs to all and must be protected, he said. "To the new generations is entrusted the future of the planet, where it is clear that development has not always been able to protect the delicate balance of nature," the pope said. He said the ecological situation today calls for courageous choices. "There should be a decisive 'yes' to the protection of the created world and a strong commitment to reverse those tendencies that could lead to situations of irreparable degradation," he said...Organizers of the Loreto gathering sought to minimize its environmental impact by using biodegradable and recyclable materials. *These are some strong words from our Pope! How are we doing — and more importantly — what are we doing to live this out?!*

WE ARE STILL SEEKING PRAYER SPONSORS for our 10 children and young people preparing for sacraments this year! Please contact Colleen at 877-4554 to be assigned someone to pray for!

WEDNESDAY FAITH FORMATION STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

We are still seeking more Faith Formation team members - remember - we're a flock! We continue to pray that those still discerning their call will continue to come forward. Our community honors our personal Baptismal promises as well as those of the families and children in our community when we do more than contribute - when we really commit - to developing our faith community by being heralds of the Gospel! Please contact Colleen to find out more about being part of a fun, diverse, dedicated, and hardworking ministry! 877-4454! Thx!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: 11 NOVEMBER

Theme: God strengthens us and we live with him forever

Adults: Having faith in difficult times is hard! What makes you believe in the promise that God will be your strength, as Paul says?

Young People: Growing up is full of challenges and choices, but St. Paul today offers you hope that God is with you in all of it! "May the Lord rule your hearts," Paul says. How do you experience God as you face the choices in your own life?

Children: God always stays with you, no matter what. What signs can you see to help you believe that?

