

# Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 17, 2010

Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory.

~Isaiah 62:2

## Surprises

Life is full of surprises, some pleasant, some not. The scriptures are filled with stories of God's surprises cropping up when they are least expected: younger children obtaining the inheritance; the lowliest being seated highest up; an itinerant preacher, killed like a criminal, exalted to eternal, heavenly glory.

Anybody who has planned a wedding or similar event knows that they are filled with opportunities for surprises. For the bridegroom in today's Gospel story, who has no direct contact with Jesus, the pleasant surprise came because somebody else paid attention and had faith in Jesus.

We may think that the point of today's familiar story of the wedding at Cana is that when we have faith in Jesus, our lives will be pleasantly changed. A Christian, however, needs to have a broader perspective and realize that to have faith in Christ means that somebody's life—not necessarily our own—will be surprised for the better.



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## We are His Hands

*Submitted by Greg De Cristofaro*

We are called as Jesus commanded, "go forth and serve one another as I have served you" with our God given gifts of time, talents and treasures. Each week one or more parish ministries will host the coffee and donuts after the 8 am and 10:30 am masses. This would be an opportunity for you to investigate if that particular ministry is a way for you to serve our parish community with your God given gifts.



Next week, January 24<sup>th</sup>, the **Hospitality Ministry** will be hosting coffee and donuts.

The mission of St. Thomas More **Hospitality Ministry** is to invite all parishioners, new and old, to meet fellow parishioners and feel a part of our church family through hosting and serving Sunday donuts. This ministry hopes to achieve this by assigning each parish ministry, committee, affiliate and group the opportunity to provide Sunday donuts and coffee as a means to highlight its service and gain new members.

If you are interested in learning more about the **Hospitality Ministry** and feel called to serve in this ministry, please contact Rosalie Losada at 872-3572.

## Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22  
Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28  
Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mk 3:1-6  
Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12  
Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19, Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mk 3:20-21  
Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19; 1 Cor 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

## Table Reserved

**New and returning Catholics have a table reserved in the Main Hall for coffee and donuts after the 8am and 10:30am Masses each Sunday.**

**There will be information provided for the upcoming series of Catholics Come Home and answers for any questions you might have.**



**Missal reading for January 17th is located on page 64.**

# Weekly Calendar

## Sunday, January 17

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Coffee & Donuts: K.O.C.

## Monday, January 18—Parish Office Closed

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Office Closed  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Noon Hot Lunch Provided by Methodist Church, main hall

6:30pm Parish Council Board Meeting, small hall

7:00pm RCIA Inquiry, church conf. room



## Tuesday, January 19

9:15am Legion of Mary, church conf. room

## Wednesday, January 20

St. Fabian  
St. Sebastian

9:30am Mothers and Others, small hall

Noon Wednesday Hot Lunch, main hall

1:00pm 50+ Singles, main hall

6:30pm Inquiry for Secular Franciscans, church conf. room

7:00pm Breath of the Spirit Prayer Group, church conf. room

## Thursday, January 21

St. Agnes

7:00pm Adult Faith Formation, small hall

## Friday, January 22

St. Vincent

Day of Penance for Violations to the Dignity of the Human Person

9:00am Building/Finance Committee, church conf. room

10:30am Table of Plenty Food Distribution, garage

6:30pm Parish Prayer Service for Day of Penance, church

*Respect Life*



## Saturday, January 23

Blessed Virgin Mary

3:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation, church

5:00pm Vigil Mass

6:00pm Liturgy Team Meeting/Potluck, main hall

## Sunday, January 24

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Coffee & Donuts: Hospitality Ministry

Noon Living Rosary, church

# The Breath of the Seasons

As we enter Ordinary Time, this is a good chance to review the Church's liturgical seasons and how they affect our faith.

### Advent:

Unlike the calendar year, the Church year begins with Advent, Four Weeks before Christmas. Advent anticipates the coming of Christ, at His birth as promised by the prophets. It also anticipates His return at the end of time as is also predicted in the New Testament. In this way it allows us to join with the first faithful in anticipating the coming of the Christ and reminds us that we are again awaiting His coming at the end of time or at the end of our time in the world.

### Christmas:

The season of Christmas we just completed celebrates the birth of the Christ Child. God has come into the world as one of His own creations, so that we may be saved by God but also by one like us. In Christ God comes to us in a way we can understand and in a manner that we can more easily learn to love.

### Ordinary Time:

We have now entered into the first period of Ordinary Time when we again witness Jesus forming His ministry, drawing in His apostles and disciples, and bringing the Gospel, the Good News of our salvation to the world. He is revealing God's love and is helping the people and us to experience God's intervention in the affairs of human kind. Humanity has fallen from Grace due to our selfishness and self aggrandizement but God has humbled Himself to live as one of us to return us to Grace and allow us eternal life.

### Lent:

In six weeks we will enter into Lent, the time when the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is entered into by our savior. For 40 days plus Sundays we will enter that time with Him, again experiencing His determination in the face of opposition, His unyielding expression of love in His life and His final sacrifice when God makes good our loss. He dies to pay the price for our sin and to win us everlasting life. In doing so He brings about our transformation from God's creation to Children of God.

### Easter:

Easter follows Lent and this is the greatest celebration of the Church. For 50 days we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. This is the proof that Jesus is the Christ, our God who has come to live among us. This is proof that our sins are paid for and that salvation is now possible because the One we have sinned against has paid the price for our evil. He has looked beyond our sinfulness and has uplifted the

goodness that He created in us.

### **Ordinary Time:**

After Easter we will return to Ordinary Time and to the ministry of our Lord Jesus. This is the longest season of the year as we learn from our Master and witness God's saving Grace. It is ordinary in name only as we witness the extraordinary love of God in action.

### **Giving Life to Faith:**

The seasons are provided to give life to our faith. Each year we live out the anticipation, coming, ministry, death and resurrection of our Lord. During these seasons we experience again what the world has experienced in history, God's creative hand, His forgiving nature, His saving Grace and His fidelity to us despite our obstinacy in sin. We experience just how loved we are.

Our job is to not just hear and experience this miracle in the Mass but to carry it forth in our lives. This is how we cooperate with God for our own salvation. We are not just spectators to God's work. He desires, invites and requires us to become involved. We must live out our faith, experience it in our daily lives, allow it to become part of who we are. That is how salvation is gained. We don't just say, "we believe." We invite God into our lives and live out our faith. In this way we allow God to transform us into something greater.

### **Giving Life to Ourselves:**

We call ourselves the Body of Christ because we are the People of God, the chosen ones who have chosen ourselves to say yes to God. We must choose to allow God to work within us. Without that choice to cooperate in God's plan, we have not allowed our salvation to occur. It can only happen with God's Grace but He will not work without our choosing Him as He has chosen us.

### **How We Live Out Our Gift of Life:**

Are we living out our faith? Are we living what we proclaim? Are we compassionate towards others? Are we generous so that others may also know the same love God has shared with us? Do we allow God to lead us?

There is the old story of a man on a two seated bicycle who has Jesus peddling behind him. He struggles up hills, through large holes, bumps into trees and continually falls down. Finally Jesus taps him on the shoulder and says, "You know I don't mind helping with the peddling but how about you let me steer for awhile?" Of course, when the man does change seats the trip is suddenly smooth and enjoyable.

Perhaps it is time for us to allow God to steer in our lives.

We keep getting ourselves into trouble and then expect God to help us find our way out. A better way is to allow God to steer us free of trouble in the first place. Humility is the key to salvation. In our humility we can allow God to work and make changes within us. Without that willingness to let the will of God into our lives nothing changes except the circumstances of our despair.

God has done His part. We must do ours. Free will means that we must choose to allow God into our lives. This is more than visiting the Church from time to time or even every Sunday. It means participating in the Mass in a way that we take it with us when we leave the Church and live it in our lives. Then God comes alive in us and we come alive in God. We then become living, breathing witnesses to God's salvation.

*Father Steven Foppiano*

## **Past Marriage a Problem?**

If you are unable to participate in receiving the Eucharist because of previous marriages, please call and make an appointment with Father Steven. He regularly works in a confidential manner to obtain annulments for parishioners. Annulments are very possible in our Church and you are encouraged to look into this possibility.

Jesus Christ specifically condemned divorce. For that reason we have no choice but to be obedient to His Word for Jesus is the true head of the Catholic Church. We do then look to see how perhaps a marriage was not sacramental, not something God had put together but a mistake by two people who meant well. This gives us an opportunity to be true to the word of Jesus and return the person to full participation in the Church.

Annulments are not easy but are not overly complicated either. They simply take some persistence and effort. The Church is very much willing to do what it can to help in this situation.

## **Current Marriage Issues?**

The Church also helps couples to overcome relationship problems. We have a variety of programs to help couples grow together and strengthen their bond and a special program called Retrouville which is designed for couples who feel they have reached the end of the rope but want to try to make it work. Father Steven has information on these programs and is willing to help in any way possible.

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Deacon Gary is now beginning to help with marriage and annulment issues. He will be more involved in the future.

## “Table of Plenty” Food Ministry

As this ministry expands and serves more of our brothers and sisters in need of food, we continue to rely on suggestions, prayers, and donations from so many generous parishioners. Table of Plenty is currently serving over 180 families. This week we ask that you pray for all the families we are serving, that they may feel God’s love and compassion through the help our parish provides.

Since the cold winter weather is settling in; Table of Plenty is in need of **soup, stew, chili, hot cereal, pasta and sauce.** We can use anything and everything that you’d like to leave in the baskets in the vestibule. Please consider bringing a donation with you to Mass next week.



Thank you, parishioners, for your generous support! You are doing much more than providing food for those in need. You are sharing the love of Christ in a very practical way.

*“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 brothers, you did it for me.”*

Matthew 25:35, 40

## Mass Intentions

~January 16-24, 2010 ~

Sat.	8:30am	Intentions of Dan Harvey
	5:00pm	Intentions of Elva and Earl Whatcott
Sun.	8:00am	People of STM
	10:30am	Tom Durant †
	5:00pm	Bob Wagner †
Mon.	8:30am	Marian Kirstine †
Tue.	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
Wed.	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
Thur.	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
Fri.	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
Sat.	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
	5:00pm	Guy Saiani †
Sun.	8:00am	Intentions of Jean Pergande
	10:30am	Bob Wagner†
	5:00pm	Mario A. Vasquez†

† Denotes deceased

## CATHOLICS COME HOME

~An invitation to ALL Catholics~  
Practicing and Non-Practicing

Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to church anymore?

Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the church ?

Would you like to know more about the Catholic church as it is today ?

Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic church again ?

No matter how long you have been away and no matter the reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic church.

Please join us for informational listening sessions and an update of the Catholic faith.

These sessions are held at Saint Thomas Moore Catholic Church, starting Wednesday evening February 3rd, 2010 at 7pm and continues for 6 weeks.

For more information please call 530-877-4501, leave your name and phone number and a parish coordinator will return your call.



## More Calendars On The Way!

We ran out of calendars early this year but Chapel of the Pines has ordered 200 more calendars for us. As soon as they arrive we will put them out in the vestibule. We thank them for their generosity.

## Weekly Sacrificial Donations

For the week of January 9-10, 2009

*Our Regular Collection Weekly Goal is \$6,000.00*

Regular Collection	\$	4,773.60
Table of Plenty	\$	255.00
Christmas Offering	\$	267.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	30.00

**Total Collections**                      \$    **5,325.00**

**Thank You for your generosity!**

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



**First Reading:** Isaiah 62: 1-5  
**Second Reading:** Corinthians 12: 4-11  
**Gospel:** John 2: 1-11

**Theme:** Grace is God's free gift to us.

**Question for Children:** What is one special gift that God has given to you to share with your friends or classmates?

**Question for Young People:** Jesus got his start in ministry through the urging of his mother. Who urges you to pray, go to Church, and do good works?

**Question for Adults:** God fills each of us with grace (miracles) and gifts, what is one grace (miracle) or gift that you have shared with your family?

**Adult Faith Formation takes place each Thursday at 7pm in the small hall.**

## Please offer your prayers for our brothers & sisters in Christ

David J. Brown	Fran Nunes
Ruth Collins	Grace & Bob Nute
Joell Curcura	Betty Pompermayer
Dee Farina	Peter Schrader
Mark Ferguson	Chuck Schuster
Mark & Dena Finn	Bill Smith
Ritta & Matt Gerspacher	Mary Sparks
Lou Gervis	Marguerite Speegle
Ernie & Elane Guerrero	Jeff Sullivan
Priscilla Hein	Bonnie Thibault
Judith Hicks	Gertrude Valentine
Cindy Hogman	Marilyn Van Niel
Isabella Huckins	Margaret Vandergrift
Helen Huddleston	Sarah Watson
Debbie Miley	Taylor Watson
Rose Mittag	Satrina Wohlauf
Kaleb Newhoff	Quiroz Family

**Please pray for the recently deceased: Evelyn Sailors**

## Men's Weekend Retreat

Come rest and experience the graces of a weekend retreat at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center. The beautiful grounds will help you experience peace and tranquility as you leave your worries behind to truly encounter the Lord. There is a place for you on February 5-7, 2010. Call Al Pen-na at 872.0460 or Frank Salas at 877.7162.

You may also visit the Center at :  
[www.Passionist.org/retreat/christtheKing](http://www.Passionist.org/retreat/christtheKing)

## NEW DATES FOR BAPTISM MINISTRY!!!

We learned last week from Jesus in his own baptism that this is where he received his vocation! We can identify Baptism as the most important Sacrament of our Catholic faith — because it opens the door to all the other sacraments and binds us together as a Catholic community. It is certainly a cleansing of original sin — but more than that — it begins the process of lifelong initiation to our faith. It is the first sacrament — but it is NOT the LAST one! It is not simply a sacrament for the child — but for the family — AND for the whole community! THAT WOULD BE US! We are reminded that each of us is baptized priest — prophet — and king! We are called by our baptism to serve, to preach, and to lead! Our infant baptism ministry is for children who are newborn up to pre-Kindergarten. Children who have reached Kindergarten enter a Faith Formation community for sacraments.

### 2010 Baptism Retreat Dates (RSVP for ONE):

Saturday, 13 March from 12pm-6pm

Saturday, 26 June from 12pm-6pm

### 2010 Baptism Dates:

Sunday, 23 May (Feast of the Ascension)

Sunday, 12 September (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

(Sunday, January 9 will be the first 2011 date for baptisms)

Please contact Elaine Helmick at 872-7341 to start preparing for the most important thing you can do for your child, your family, and our community! We are excited about meeting our new priests, prophets, and kings! The three steps are:

- 1.) Contact Elaine Helmick to schedule a brief 1:1 introduction where you will receive further information and some items to start thinking and praying about.
- 2.) Attend ONE of the above Baptism Retreats together with other parents and godparents from our own parish — as well as sometimes from other parishes! This is YOUR community! Your child will be receiving other sacraments and continuing in Faith Formation with these families! You're about to be connected for LIFE!
- 3.) Schedule your child's baptism during Mass at one of the above dates as scheduled with Elaine Helmick after you have attended your retreat.

If you're not sure where your child or young person belongs in terms of the sacrament of baptism...here's the cheat sheet for children who need to be BAPTIZED:

Newborn to pre-Kindergarten = Elaine Helmick @ 872-7341  
Kindergarten through 5th Grade = RCIA Adapted for Children (514-3892)  
6th-12th Grade = RCIA Adapted for Young People (Colleen @ 514-3892)  
High School Grads and older = RCIA (Greg @ 228-6163)

RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. All of St. Thomas More Faith Formation programs are based upon this structure of the earliest conversions to our faith community...all the way back to the time of Jesus and the 12 disciples! **HOW COOL IS THAT?!!!**

## UPDATE ON RELIEF FOR HAITI:

**This weekend our special collection is for the relief of the Haiti earthquake victims. Checks should be payable to *Catholic Relief Services*. We will also be part of a very special fundraiser on Super Bowl Sunday (7 February). Funds will go to *Catholic Relief Services* for Haiti.**

