

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1;20-22, 24-28

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Presider Schedule

December 24th-25th

5:00pm (Christmas Eve)	Fr. Ward
8:00pm (Christmas Eve)	Fr. Maurice
10:30pm (Christmas Eve)	Fr. Maurice
10:00am (Christmas Day)	Fr. Ward

December 26th-27th

5:00pm (Sat.)	Fr. Ward
8:00am	Fr. Maurice
9:30am	Fr. Maurice
11:30am	Fr. Maurice
5:00pm (LifeTeen)	Fr. Ward

Ushers for December

5:00pm (Sat.)	8:00am
Pat Portolese, Capt.	Joe Schwartz, Capt.
Darwin Rieck	Vern Gestson
Arnold Wheeler	Glen Holberg
Dave McWayne	Ed Dos Remedios
	Niniva Tupua
9:30am	11:30am
Dick Ptacek, Capt.	Manny Juzon, Capt.
Adam Weyant	Victor Valle
Eddie DeGuzman	Ann Duncombe
Tom Cooney	Felicisimo Reyes
Jack Geisler	
Hieu Bui	

Altar Servers

December 26th-27th

5:00pm (Sat.)	8:00am
Book: Abigail A.	Book: Elianna L.
Bell: Brendon M.	Bell: Nick M.
Cross: Madison C.	
9:30am	11:30am
Book: McKenna W.	Bell: Jacob J.
Bell: Katey M.	Book: Leanna T.
Cross: Tim M.	Cross: Shea M.
5:00pm	
Book: Joshua M.	
Bell: Peter H.	



THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS MORE

Sunday—December 20th—4th Sunday of Advent-Masses

Faith Formation Classes-CLOW

1:00pm-One Voice-Church

1:00pm-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal-Music Room

5:00pm-LifeTeen Mass followed by LifeNight

Monday—December 21st

10:00am-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal-Church

6:30pm-Mission Choir-Music Room

Tuesday—December 22nd

Wednesday—December 23rd

6:30pm-No Faith Formation Classes

6:00pm-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal-Church/Adult Ed.

7:00pm-9:30am Choir Practice-Chapel

7:00pm-Multicultural Choir Practice-Music Room

Thursday—December 24th-Christmas Eve

5:00pm-Children's Mass-Church

8:00pm-Evening Mass-Church

10:30pm-Midnight Mass-Church

Friday—December 25th-Christmas

10:00am-Christmas Mass-Church

Saturday—December 26th-Mass

Sunday—December 27th-Feast of the Holy Family

No Faith Formation Classes

5:00pm-LifeTeen Mass no LifeNight

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve:

Children's Mass—5:00pm

Evening Mass—8:00pm

Midnight Mass—10:30pm

Christmas Day Mass—10:00am

New Years Day Mass—10:00am

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Luke 1:41-45

Parish News

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

(Information stated below is based on Fiscal Year July 2009-June 2010)

In gratitude to God for the gifts we have received, parishioners and visitors made this return to the Lord.

Sunday collection for the weekend of Dec. 12th-Dec. 13th
 Received: \$20,988.22
 Needed: \$20,922.44
 Year-to-date: \$377,164.47
 Year-to-date Over/(Under): \$11,176.24

Thank you for your faithful Stewardship of St. Thomas More Parish. May God bless you!

Parish Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to those parishioners who have returned their commitment cards for our annual Parish Stewardship Campaign. The totals are:

Number of Commitment Cards returned to Date: 650
 Registered Parish Households: 1,859
 % of Registered Households Returning Cards: 35%
 Returned Commitment card goal for this year: 1,100
 % of Goal Achieved: 59%

If you haven't returned your commitment card, please return it so we can meet our parish participation goal! It is our hope that all Parish families complete a commitment card and bring it to Mass next weekend or mail it to the parish office. Thank you for your support of the parish!

Blood Drive

There will be a Blood Drive on Monday, January 4th in the Renggli Room from 1pm-7pm. There will be sign-up sheets available after all Masses this weekend. You can also contact Dan Wood at (425) 774-1409 for an appointment. As always, walk-ins are welcome.

St. Thomas More Parish School

Our Catholic School's Week Open House is Sunday, January 31, 2010 from 10:40 until 11:50. All are welcome to come and meet school administrators, teachers and staff. Tour the school campus and see the classrooms, the computer lab, music room and library. There will also be a Book Fair going on in the library.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

You are invited to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday and Saturday, Jan 8th-9th. Adoration begins at 10am on Friday morning and ends with a Mass at 8:30am on Saturday morning. You can now sign-up for Adoration on the Parish website at stmp.org. If you don't have internet access, please call John Alexy at (425) 742-0239. This is your opportunity to spend some quiet time with God, so don't miss out.



Last weekend we heard how Catholic Community Services serves our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters on behalf of our local Church in Western Washington. This year, requests for food and shelter have tripled. Your generosity directly supports the programs and services in our area. Please do all you can to help. CCS Week envelopes are still in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider making a donation if you have not already done so. Envelopes may be returned in the collection basket, mailed in or you can also make a gift on-line. To learn more about CCS, visit www.ccsww.org and watch their wonderful four minute *Changing Lives* video. Thank you for your generosity.

RCIA Celebration

This weekend we celebrate the Reception into the Catholic Church with Raylene Mullene and Daniel Hendricksen. Raylene and Daniel, both baptized in other Christian traditions, have been exploring the Catholic Faith for many months, learning, praying, and engaging in Christian service. Today they will make a Profession of Faith, be Confirmed and celebrate the Eucharist with us for the first time. Welcome Raylene and Dan.

Catholicism 101

Are you a Catholic with a good Catholic school or CCD background who feels like you didn't learn everything you need to know about our Faith? Do you wish you knew more about the Bible or the Sacraments or the Mass? Are you Catholic but never Confirmed, and would like to be? Are you married or engaged to a Catholic and wish you knew more about the Church, but don't want to make a commitment to becoming a Catholic? This class is for you!!!! We will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning January 19, 7:00, in the Community Center Library. Materials fee \$30. Registration forms are in the narthex, the Faith Formation Office and the Parish Office. For more information call Luciann at 743-2929, ext. 111. We look forward to you joining us.

December 20, 2009

Parish News (cont.)

Cold Weather Shelter

St. Thomas More staffs the South Snohomish Cold Weather Shelter on Thursday nights when the temperatures drop below 34 degrees. The purpose of the Cold Weather Shelter is to provide warmth, safety, shelter, and food to the homeless and under housed. Team Leader, Cari and Assistant, Doreen have been blessed this year with 67 STM volunteers and list keeps growing. They served 15-20 guests each of the last 2 Thursdays. Some have jobs, some are students, many are veterans, some have addictions, but ALL are very, very grateful. A typical evening runs like this:

- A meal is cooked at STM on Thursday night.
- Guests are transported to Good Shepherd Baptist Church where they spend the night.
- The volunteers sit, eat and talk with the guests to make them feel comfortable.
- There are volunteers that spend the entire night to address any needs.
- Some volunteers return at 6:00am on Friday to make breakfast and a sack lunch.
- The area is then cleaned up after use.

An STM Girl Scout Troop also learned how to knit and spent many hours making beautiful scarves for the guests. A big **Thank You** to all the volunteers.



Youth News

You are invited!

This Sunday December 20th we are having our Annual Youth Christmas Party and White Elephant gift exchange!

All youth from 6-12th grade are invited! We will gather in the Youth room from 6pm to 8pm directly following the Life Teen Mass.

Be sure to bring a White Elephant (silly gift under \$10) to exchange and an appetizer dish to share!

Can't wait to see you!

Thank You!

Please thank and support the bulletin advertisers, whose generosity provides this bulletin free to the Parish.

Advertiser of the Week:

Farmers Insurance



Ongoing Opportunities

United States Catholic Catechism

Sessions on the study of the United States Catholic Catechism will be held on Mondays from 7pm-9pm in the Renggli Room. There are also sessions Tuesday mornings from 9:30am-12noon in the Youth Room. Sessions are on break until Monday, Jan. 4th. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Olson at (425) 787-2490 or email her at debieolson@comcat.net.

Marriage Encounter

Are you still looking for that special gift? A Marriage Encounter Weekend is for any couple who wants to strengthen and enrich their marriage. A Marriage Encounter Weekend is a gift that will continue to give for many, many years. The next weekend is Feb. 26th-28, 2010. To register, or for additional information, please call, Bruce and Judy at (425) 771-9003 or Rory and Dawn at (206) 772-2344

COUNSELING AVAILABLE

If you need assistance with individual or relational issues, leave a message on the confidential line for our parish counselor, Connie Brousseau, MA LMHC at 425-742-6752. Insurance, sliding scale and parish assistance available.

Stephen Ministry

Christmas is soon upon us. So many people in a hurry with lists in hand. Why don't you feel any of that spirit? Is it because of a loss of a dream, a relationship or that special Someone will not be with you this year? Or could it be due to illness, job loss or reduced work hours. Stephen Ministers are compassionate listeners who hold your stories in CONFIDENCE. For questions, contact Karen Biermanski at (206) 920-0174.

Light Weigh

Would you like to eat your favorite foods while you learn how to lose weight? Consider giving God a chance to touch your heart, your life and your eating. The meetings will be held on Thursdays from 10am-12(noon). Please call Debbie Olson at (425) 787-2490 for more information on joining the Light Weigh Bible Study.

Eucharistic Benediction and Rosary

There will be no Eucharistic Benediction on Wednesday evenings from Dec. 23rd-Jan. 27th due to Father Maurice's absence. It will resume on Wed. Feb. 3rd. All are welcome to come and say the Rosary during this time.

4th Sunday Of Advent

December 20, 2009

Faith Formation For The Parish

Catholic parents promise at Baptism to bring up their child to know God and follow His Commandments. Catholic parishes provide both Catholic schools and Faith Formation programs so that the development of the Faith is available to all.

Faith Formation classes are available to children of our parish from age 4 through 5th grade, when they then enroll in the Edge for Jr High faith development. Many of our Sunday morning classes are full, but there is still room in the Wed. evening class.

Sacraments

Baptisms for babies and young children will be the weekends of Jan. 10th and Feb. 14th. Parents and godparents must take two classes to prepare for raising children in the Catholic Faith. At least one godparent must be a practicing Catholic who has been Confirmed.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are celebrated when children are in 2nd grade or higher. **(They must be in their second year of religious education, at the parish school or in Faith Formation classes.)** They prepare for the sacraments in a family setting.

Parent Meetings for First Communion will be Thursday, March 11th or Sunday, March 14th at 7pm in the Renggli Room. Retreats are on April 24th, and the celebration is the weekend of May 16th.

Becoming Catholic

Those who would like to explore becoming Catholic are invited to join the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, which meets on Wed. evenings at 7:00 in the Renggli Rm.

For more information on any of the programs, please contact Luciann at ext 111 or email luciannm@stmp.org or Sharon at ext 114 or email sharong@stmp.org.

Sacraments

Sacrament of Baptism: Held during Mass six times a year. Call the Faith Formation office for more information.

Sacrament of Marriage: Notification of intent to marry must be given to the Pastoral Associate at least six months before the date you wish to be married.

Sacrament of the Sick: This Sacrament is celebrated with those who are seriously ill, injured, or preparing for surgery. **Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick** are available to bring the Eucharist to those who are unable to attend Mass. Please call the Pastoral Associate to arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick or for a Eucharistic Minister to the Sick.

Funeral Masses are celebrated on Mon., Tues., Wed., or Fri. at 11am. To schedule, call the Parish Office.

Our Catholic Cemetery is: Holyrood Cemetery
205 NE 205th St. Seattle Phone (206) 363-8404.

This Week at STM School

Congratulations to STMPs students for a beautiful Christmas Concert.

Staff and Students are on Christmas vacation.
School resumes Monday, January 4th.

Merry Christmas
From
St. Thomas More School
Students & Staff



Ongoing Opportunities (cont.)

Retrouvaille of Seattle

Is your marriage tearing you apart? Or boring you to death? Retrouvaille, a Catholic Program, can help. Learn more at www.helpourmarriage.com. Please call (206) 706-2608 for more information and to register.

Powerful Tools For Caregivers Classes

There will be 6 Tuesday afternoon classes designed for caregivers to teach them tools they need to take care of themselves while caring for loved ones. The classes run from Feb. 2nd-March 9th from 1pm-3:30pm at the Lynnwood Senior Center-5800 198th St SW. To register, or for more information, please call (425) 670-5050.

Healing The Culture

Healing the Culture is looking for a part-time volunteer to come in one day a week to help with office administration and office support. If being an integral part of a great pro-life mission, partnering with a loving Christian team, working in a peaceful and comfortable environment, and having your choice of days to volunteer is appealing to you, please call (425) 481-6583. The office is located in Kenmore.

Holy Names Academy Winter Open House

Holy Names Academy Winter Open House is on Tuesday, January 5th from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Meet teachers, students and parents. Register for the Scholarship/Placement Make-Up Exam. There will also be fun workshops for students, informative sessions for parents and a special student life assembly with great entertainment.

4th Sunday Of Advent