

*"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people".*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The coming of a new baby into a family is usually greeted with great joy. In many cases, the new baby would bring families and friends together, helping them mend their relationships and look to the future with a renewed hope. With the newly arrived baby, the old gives way to the new as new responsibilities emerge and new demands are placed upon the family. It is a new day, a new life.

At Christmas, we celebrate that new day and that new life when God broke into the ordinariness of our lives, and chose to become one of us so we can become like him. And so, we rejoice! We rejoice because through the newborn of Bethlehem, the bridge between God and mankind has been rebuilt, and the gift of eternal life made available to all. We rejoice because our destiny is no longer determined by Adam's fault, but by our faith in Jesus of Nazareth.

I pray that we will heed the voice of the angel, take courage, let go of our old self and welcome the newborn of Bethlehem so he can dwell in our hearts and transform our lives. May the joyful message of his birth reach every inch of our world and bind us all together as we learn to love more, to respect and protect life, and to work for peace and justice in our homes, in our communities and in our troubled world.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2010.

Father Maurice Mamba,  
Priest Administrator

## Living the Real Presence of Christ

—at—

### St. Thomas More Parish School

6511 – 176<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Lynnwood WA 98037 425-743-4242 [www.stms.org](http://www.stms.org)



Do you have a child who will be starting Preschool or Kindergarten next year? If so, please consider St. Thomas More Parish School! We are a caring Catholic community that inspires academic excellence and spiritual growth for Preschool through 8th grade students. STMPS is NCEA Accredited until 2012.

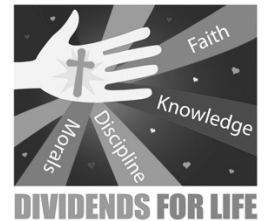
**You are cordially invited to our Catholic Schools Week Open House Sunday,  
January 31, 2010  
10:40 a.m. until 11:50 a.m.**

During the Catholic Schools Week Open House, you are invited to meet school administrators, teachers and staff. Tour the school campus and see the classrooms, the computer lab, music room and library. There will be a Book Fair going on in the library. If you have further questions or are unable to attend the Open House, please contact the school office at (425) 743-4242 to arrange a tour or get your questions answered. You can also visit our website at [www.stms.org](http://www.stms.org). I hope to see you there!

*Teresa Fewel*, Principal

*St. Thomas More Parish School, developing a child's spiritual growth, academic excellence and personal confidence.*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



## CHRISTMAS STARTS TODAY!!

The Church is in full rejoicing mode today at the birth of Our Savior. We continue that rejoicing throughout the Octave of Christmas--to the Feast of the Epiphany, Sun., Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year why not use all these Days of Christmas to explore the fullness of the Christmas story? Continue your family tradition of lighting the Advent Wreath by adding the scripture readings for these days:

**Sat, Dec 26<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Stephen., Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59.**

At first, it seems odd to encounter this story the day after Christmas. Most likely the early Church was celebrating this event even before the date for Christmas was fixed. How appropriate, however, that this first “visitor” to the newborn King is a martyr.

**Sun, Dec 27<sup>th</sup> – Feast of the Holy Family,**

**Luke:41-52.** We fast-forward to when Jesus is 12 and encounter the Holy Family dealing with the stress of a lost child and the mystery of Jesus’ self-awareness. We consider how our own families grow, change and deal with changes.

**Mon, Dec 28<sup>th</sup> - Feast of the Holy Innocents,**

**Matthew 2:13-18.** The dark story in Matthew’s Gospel of how Herod killed the boy children of Bethlehem and the Holy Family fled into Egypt. Read—or simply retell the story using a Christmas card with a picture of the Flight to Egypt if you have young children. (an “R” rated story).

**Tues. Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, Luke**

**2:22-35** – Read the delightful story of Joseph & Mary bringing the Christ Child to the temple where Simeon blesses Him.

**Wed, Dec 30<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, Luke**

**2:36-40** The story continues in as the prophetess Anna receives the Child Jesus

**Thurs, Dec 31 – 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, John**

**1:1-18.** Read aloud and enjoy the poetry and majesty of the opening lines of John’s Gospel where the coming of Jesus is the center of history. Consider how Jesus is at the center of history on this New Year’s Eve, 2009.

**Fri, Jan 1 – Feast of Mary, Mother of God,**

**Luke 2:16-21.** We celebrate Mary’s greatest title, Mother of God. Luke tenderly recalls how Mary cherished all the events surrounding the birth of her Son.

**Sat & Sun, Jan 2 & 3 – Epiphany, Matthew 2:1-**

**12.** Today the Wise Men arrive on the scene; we celebrate Jesus’ being made known to the whole world. Come to church to receive your house blessing kit today to mark your home as one that welcomes the Magi.

## St. Thomas More Parish School Alumni & Parents

**Alumni News** – School Development Office is working on updating addresses and looking for news to place in the upcoming alumni newsletter. We would love to hear from you and find out what our alumni are doing! Information can be sent directly to the school, called into the school at 425-743-4242, e-mailed to [jalpers@stms.org](mailto:jalpers@stms.org), linked thru our website [www.stms.org](http://www.stms.org) or dropped in the collection basket marked “Development”.

## Youth News!

No Confirmation, Youth Group or Edge until the first week in January.

**Please Join us as we re-gather for Youth Group on Jan. 3rd at 6pm and for the Edge Middle school youth group at 6:30 Jan. 4th.**

Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

## 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.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Please say a prayer for the men and women of the Armed Forces who proudly serve in the military stateside and in harm’s way in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other parts of the world, especially during this holiday season. We thank them and their families for their sacrifices. The following service members have family/relatives in our Parish:

Andrew Rieck, USA,  
Brian Shimek, USAF,  
Sean Miles, USN,  
Jeffrey Carlock, USN,  
Aaron McKenney, USA,  
Dan Leidheiser, USA,  
Rick Drew, USA, and

Brad Shimek, USN,  
Marcus Martin, USCG,  
Robert Espejo, USAF,  
Alex McKenney, USA,  
Jeremiah Lewis, USAF,  
Thomas VeCera, USA,  
Patrick Henrichs, USA