



From the Desk of Father Maurice

Before leaving for the Congo, Fr. Maurice met with the Pastoral Council to discuss the following and wrote this letter for our parish community.

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas More,

The cold weather has hit us hard this year and with that comes freezing overnight temperatures. By the time December was over, the temperature had dropped to below 33 degrees, 21 days out of 31.

Churches of South Snohomish County have worked together to form a network to provide a warm bed and meals for those who do not have a warm place to sleep in the extreme cold. Members of St. Thomas More helped to start this program last winter and this year, 60 volunteers from our parish community have been working to provide warmth, conversation, and safety at Good Shepherd Baptist Church one night a week when the temperature drops below 33 degrees.

With the growing number of people who are in need, there is a concern that space at Good Shepherd will be inadequate some nights. Space is needed for any overflow should more people arrive at the shelter than there is room for. We have been asked to provide overflow space on those occasions.

We are the hands and feet of Christ and this is truly one way St. Thomas More is living the real presence of Christ. Our facility will be opened with parishioners on site from 9:30pm to 6:30am on those weeknights when the temperature is expected to drop below 33 degrees. The folks being served will be transported by volunteers from Good Shepherd to St. Thomas More after they have been served dinner at Good Shepherd. They will spend the night in the Renggli Room and will leave at 6:30am in the morning to be transported back to Good Shepherd to join the others for breakfast there. A group of St. Thomas More volunteers will then clean up the Renggli Room and bathrooms prior to leaving the facility.

I am confident that our community can provide a safe place for our brothers and sisters in need as well as for all of our parish community. Please support this important ministry.

Fraternally Yours In Christ,

Fr. Maurice Mamba

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:16, 21-22

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Baptism Of The Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS MORE

Sunday—January 10th-Baptism Of The Lord

Baptisms-Church

Faith Formation Classes-CLOW

3:00pm-World Youth Day Meeting-Adult Ed. Room

5:00pm-LifeTeen Mass with LifeNight following

Monday—January 11th

6:30pm-Edge-Dalton Hall

6:30pm-Mission Choir-Music Room

6:30pm-Youth Trip to D.C. meeting-Renggli Room

7:00pm-USCCA-Library

7:00pm-Maintenance Commission-Parish Office

7:00pm-Faith Formation Comm.-Comm. Cntr Meeting RM

Tuesday—January 12th

9:30am-Bible Study-Renggli Room

6:00pm-CDA-Adult Ed. Room

7:00pm-Stephen Ministry-Parish Office

7:00pm-Bible Study-Renggli Room

7:00pm-St. Vincent de Paul-Library

Wednesday—January 13th

1:00pm-Consoling Grace Meeting-Parish Office

6:30pm-Faith Formation Classes-Library

6:30pm-Confirmation Classes-Youth Room

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

7:00pm-Multicultural Choir Practice-Music Room

7:00pm-RCIA-Comm. Cntr Meeting Room/Renggli Room

Thursday—January 14th

6:00pm-Hospitality Committee-Parish Office

7:00pm-Stewardship Commission-Parish Office

7:00pm-Lux Mundi-Youth Room/Comm. Cntr Meeting Room

Friday—January 15th

7:00pm-Vietnamese Choir Practice-Music Room

Saturday—January 16th-Mass

3:00pm-Vietnamese Choir Practice-Music Room

Sunday—January 17th-Masses

No Faith Formation Classes-CLOW

5:00pm-LifeTeen Mass, no LifeNight following Mass

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 Jan. 2nd-Jan. 3rd

Received: \$20,419.43

Needed: \$25,107.73

Year-to-date: \$397,168.69

Year-to-date Over/(Under): \$7,093.13

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: 700

Registered Parish Households: 1,859

% of Registered Households Returning Cards: 38%

Returned Commitment card goal for this year: 1,100

% of Goal Achieved: 64%

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!

Women's Bible Study

The women's bible study, Sisters In Scripture, is starting up again this Tuesday, Jan. 12th. The sessions will be on the women of the New Testament. If you've been meaning to come (a New Year's resolution, perhaps?) this would be the perfect time to join. The morning session is from 9:30am-11:30am and the evening sessions is from 7:00pm-9:00pm, both in the Renggli Room. All are welcome to attend.

BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome with great joy seven children into our Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism. To be baptized at the Saturday evening Mass are Logan Derek, child of Melissa and Derek Sandhoefner; Amaya David, child of Zarinna David and Chien Chang; Davina Francisca and Nadya Regina, children of Ervina Willie and Dhany Loekito; and Ethan Gones, child of Imelda and Emerson Buenaventura.

On Sunday at the 9:30am Mass we welcome Jordan Edward, child of Michael and Joy Hequibal and Dyson Daniel, child of Lacosta and Daniel Lykowski will be baptized at the 11:30am Mass.

New American Saint

On Sunday, October 11th, Pope Benedict XVI canonized Bl. Damien of Molokai, giving us another American Saint. Damien was born in 1840 and raised in Belgium. When his brother, August became too ill to accept an assignment to Hawaii to evangelize the people there, Damien took his place. Shortly after arriving he was ordained a priest. After 9 years serving the people he asked for an unusual assignment. The coming of Europeans to the islands meant that many diseases also came, and the people had no immunity. Within a hundred years the native population diminished by more than two-thirds. Among the worst of the illnesses was leprosy. The disease was so feared, and rightly so, that lepers were taken to an isolated beach on the island of Molokai and thrown from the boat, made to wade ashore if they were able. Nothing was provided for their well being and they lived in caves and huts, waiting to die. Aware of this situation, Fr. Damien asked to be assigned to the lepers of Molokai. He did this knowing that he would be isolated there forever, never able to leave or have any contact with the outside world. And knowing that he would certainly protract the disease, suffering grave disfigurement and loss of fingers, toes, and nose. Shortly after arriving at Molokai he began to create a true community with houses, a church, and best of all, a true cemetery. Father Damien's goal was to teach the lepers that they were indeed precious in God's sight, full of human dignity. To do that he could not flinch from contact with them. When he preached he did not address them as brothers and sisters, but rather as my fellow lepers. Father Damien died of leprosy on April 15, 1889, just a few months after the U.S. annexed the Hawaiian Islands.

Lux Mundi in 2010

The young adult community, Lux Mundi, combines faith, service and socials into one awesome and vibrant group. We meet on Thursdays from 7-8:30pm in the Youth Room (the basement of the parish office building). This month we will be talking and learning about a controversial topic: Mary! Our Holy Mother is a dividing factor among Christians and we want to know about and be able to explain just why she is so special. We will talk about church doctrines like the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption as well as Marian apparitions. Check out our website www.stmp.org/lux-mundi or email luxmundi@stmp.org to be added to our email list.

January 10, 2010

Parish News (cont.)



March For Life

At 10am, Tuesday, Jan. 19th, a Pro-Life Mass will be celebrated at Saint Michael Church, 1055 Boundary St. SE, Olympia, followed by a procession from the Church to the State Capitol to participate in the Washington State March for Life, which begins at noon. All are invited back to the Church for a complimentary lunch served by the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please contact, St. Michael Church at (360) 480-9329 or visit their website at www.SaintMichaelParish.org. St. Thomas More will be taking two buses, chartered by the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters that morning, leaving at 9:15am and returning at 3:30pm. Please see the flyer for more details.

Thank You!

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

Advertiser of the Week:

St. Vincent de Paul



Youth News!

Join us for Life Teen Mass at 5 p.m.!

We are back in full swing for the New Year! Youth group tonight at 6pm and the Edge Monday at 6:30 in Dalton Hall!

Confirmation this week!

Summer Mission Trip

Did you miss out on getting information about the summer mission trip to Yakima? Well, we are meeting this Sunday the 10th at 3 pm in the Adult Ed room to give final details and confirm who is going.

WORLD YOUTH DAY MEETING SUNDAY JAN. 10th at 3:30 in the Adult Ed room. If you are between the ages of 16-35 and would like to attend WYD 2011 in Madrid Spain, join us.

Contact Angela if you have questions about anything above or just general questions at 743-2929 x106 or at angelac@stmp.org

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. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Olson at (425) 787-2490 or email her at debieolson@comcat.net.

Marriage Encounter

Attention Married Couples, is "listening" an area of your relationship where you'd like to develop better skills? Would you like to experience a deeper level of being listened to by your spouse? A Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the opportunity to explore your listening behaviors. 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

Stephen Ministry is a place to tell your story in **confidence**. The New Year is upon us, but some may not be feeling as hopeful as they'd like. Last year was a struggle for many. Losses of all kinds-of a loved one, a job, health changes due to a diagnosed illness, and others. Stephen Ministers are here to listen to your story which will be held in confidence. For questions, contact Karen Biermanski at (206) 920-0174.

Archbishop Murphy High School

Archbishop Murphy High School is now accepting applications for all grades for Fall 2010. Applications are due January 14th. Current 8th graders can still schedule a day visit by calling Mary Thompson (registrar) at (425) 379-6363 ext. 223 or email mthompson@am-hs.org. For more information about AMHS, visit their website at www.am-hs.org or call the school at (425) 379-6363.

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.

Baptism Of The Lord

January 10, 2010

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 Feb. 14th and May 9th. 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

We hope you all had a wonderful, safe, and refreshing Christmas vacation with your friends and families. Welcome back!



- Snow Dragons begin their season this Friday, January 8th.
- There is no school on Monday, January 18th in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Monday, January 25th is a half day for students.



Presider Schedule January 16th-17th

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

Ushers for January

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 5:00pm (Sat.) | 8:00am |
| Pat Portolese, Capt. | Dave Kowalski, Capt. |
| Patrick Wessels | Rob Balen |
| Vincent Nguyen | Dan Wood |
| David McWayne | Niniva Tupua |
| | John Balch |
| 9:30am | 11:30am |
| Jonas Mitchell, Capt. | Rick Jorgensen, Capt. |
| Dick Ptacek | Robert Wongkaren |
| John Alexy | Andra Amador |
| Donna Alexy | |
| John Abate | |
| Hieu Bui | |

Altar Servers January 16th-17th

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|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 5:00pm (Sat.) | 8:00am | 9:30am |
| Book: Casey D. | Book: Victoria S. | Book: Anna L. |
| Bell: Riley D. | Bell: Bernie M. | Bell: David L. |
| Cross: Charmaine L. | Cross: Melanie M. | Cross: Tracy B. |
| 11:30am | 5:00pm | |
| Book: Nicole G. | Book: Colan L. | |
| Bell: Mimi B. | Bell: Amanda C. | |
| Cross: Mari M. | Cross: Peter H. | |