

Lead by the Spirit into the Desert

Lent 2010 at St. Thomas More



Ash Wednesday Masses

February 17th at 6:00am, 9:00am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm



Mondays—Mass at 9:00am—**Church**
Tuesdays—Mass at 9:00am—**Church**
Wednesday—Mass at 6:00am in the **Chapel** and 5:30pm—**Church**
Thursday—Mass at 9:00am—**Church**
Friday—Mass at 9:00am—**Church**



Operation Rice Bowl

This coming Ash Wednesday and again next weekend, "rice bowls" will be handed out as you leave Mass. Our parish has participated in Operation Rice Bowl for years. Why? Donations collected in your Rice Bowl go to poor countries around the world to fund development projects-agriculture, water, education, microfinance-that help communities break free of hunger. Operation Rice Bowl collects money for Catholic Relief Services, the official aid agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, who then distributes the money to local Catholic charities and other small community agencies who make a big difference in their communities. What goes into the bowl is your help to people around the world who face hunger and rising food prices. What comes out of the bowl is a way to walk through Lent in deeper solidarity with the whole human family. We will collect the money weekly at the Offertory.

Fast and Abstinence

The penitential observances for Lent include fasting and abstaining from meat. Catholics age 14 throughout their lifetime are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Catholics from the day after their 18th birthday to the day after their 59th birthday also are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In the Catholic tradition, fasting is loosely interpreted. The law allows one full meal only, but does not prohibit the taking of small amounts of food at the other meal times; however, the combined quantity of food taken at the two lighter meals should not exceed the amount at the full meal. Illness releases a person from these rules.

The Little Black Book

The Little Black Book, new edition, is back to make your Lenten experience deeper and more engaging. Also back is The Little Purple Book, to help our 6 to 12 year olds experience Lent more fully. Both are available in the Narthex for \$1 donation.

Parish Activities

Communal Penance Services with opportunity for individual confessions

Monday, March 15th at 1:00pm & 7:30pm, also...

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturdays (except Holy Saturday) from 3:50pm to 4:50 pm, or by appointment.

2nd-5th Grade Faith Formation children and their families are invited to a Communal Penance Service on Sat., Feb. 27th at 10am in the Church.

Please pray for our Elect as they prepare for Baptism, Confirmation & 1st Eucharist at the Easter Vigil — Sarom Kloth, Stacy Atkinson, Tracy Holeman and Jason Bjorgen.

Stone Soup

February 19th—Justice & Peace Commission

February 26th—Youth Commission

March 5th—Knights of Columbus

March 12th—School Staff

March 19th—Fil-Am Community

March 26th—RCIA

All are invited to our traditional Stone Soup on Fridays during Lent in Dalton Hall at 6:00pm. All donations go to Operation Rice Bowl. Starting this year there will also be games and activities for the children of the parish during Stone Soup.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will follow Stone Soup (around 7:00pm) in the Church or outdoors lead by the following groups:

Feb. 19th—Fr. Maurice

Feb. 26th—Fr. Maurice

March 5th—Knights of Columbus

March 12th—Youth

March 19th—Fil-Am Community

March 26th—Outdoor stations

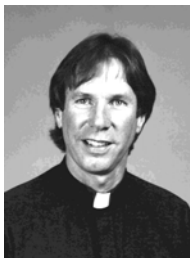
Welcome Back

Have you been away from the Church? If so, we would like to heal any hurts we may have caused you and invite you to be an active part of us again. Our Welcome Back program is a safe place to tell your story, catch up on church teaching, and discern about becoming active. To register, call Luciann at 743-2929 ext. 111.

A good resource for Lent is the Creighton University website. There are parish resources, recipes for meals in solidarity with the poor, and many prayers and meditations: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>

St. Thomas More Parish Lenten Revival Mission

All are invited and encouraged to attend the Parish Lenten Revival Mission led by Fr. Paul Boudreau starting Monday, Feb. 22nd-Thurs, Feb. 25th from 7pm-8:30pm in the Church. The topics of the Mission are:



- Salvation-What does it mean to be saved?
- Reconciliation-Are all my sins really forgiven?
- God's will be done-Why does God allow so many bad things to happen in the world?
- The End of the World-Will I be left behind?
- Morality-How do I know when I'm doing the right thing?
- Parenting-How can I get my kids to come back to church?
- Family-What can I do to bring peace to my family relationships?

Father Boudreau is a pastor, teacher, author and lecturer. His entertaining articles appear in *U.S. Catholic* and *Catholic Digest*, and he is a regular columnist for *Today's Parish Minister*. His book *The Forgiveness Book* will be available at the mission. Prior to being ordained a priest, Fr. Paul was a professional motorcycle racer and editor of *Motocross Action* magazine.



Specifically For Our Youth During Lent

Youth Group (9th-12th)

We gather every Sunday following the Life Teen Mass (6:00pm to 8:15pm).

Edge (6th-8th)

We meet Monday evening from 6:30pm until 7:45pm in Dalton Hall

Reconciliation

All senior high youth will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sunday March 7th following the Life Teen Mass.

All junior high students will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, February 27th at 10:00am.

Youth Passion Drama

This is a youth lead, youth directed reenactment of the Passion of the Lord. Come join us on Friday March 12th at 7:00pm in the church.

Lent at St. Thomas More School

Ash Wednesday

Our 7th graders are preparing the Mass for Ash Wednesday. Please join us at 9:00am in the church.

Heifer International

In the spirit of Service to others and upholding Catholic Social Teaching (caring for the poor and marginalized), STM students will raise money during Lent for Heifer International. Heifer is a Non-profit Organization that works to alleviate world hunger by providing livestock (food and income-producing) to impoverished families around the world.

Stone Soup

The St. Thomas More school staff is excited to be hosting the March 12th Stone Soup meal in Dalton Hall at 6:00pm. Parishioners and School families are invited to join us for a delicious bowl of soup and rolls before attending the Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm.

Reconciliation

The students in grades 2nd-8th will participate in a Reconciliation Service during Lent with Fr. Maurice and Fr. Ward. Students will examine their conscience and pledge to follow through on what they need to do as faithful Catholics.

Student's Stone Soup

STM students will be participating in a Stone Soup activity on Monday, March 29th. Each student brings something to contribute to the meal and is asked to contribute \$1 to "Operation Rice Bowl".

Stations of the Cross

Father will lead weekly Stations of the Cross in the church .Feb.19 at 2:10; Feb.26 at 12:50; Mar 5 at 1:15; Mar 12 at 2:10; Mar 26 at 12:50.

Once again our eighth grade students will be presenting the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 2nd. All are invited. The performance will begin at 12:00pm sharp. In order to preserve the solemnity of the event please be seated promptly. Late arrivals will not be admitted.

Students will be dismissed for Easter Break following the Stations of the Cross at noon on April 2nd.

Lenten Food Drive

As in years past, our Faith Formation Students will again be collecting items for St. Vincent de Paul and Angelorum during Lent. Anything is welcome, but in order to get a variety, please consider the following items:

- Feb 21st—Canned fruit and vegetables
- Feb. 28th—Canned tuna, salmon, chicken
- Mar 7th—Canned soup and chili
- Mar 14th—Paper Products
- Mar 21st—pasta, spaghetti sauce, rice
- Mar 28th—diapers and wipes

Items may be brought to the donation bin by the Faith Formation office on Sundays.