

Welcome to the Faith Community of
ST. THOMAS MORE

ROMAN CATHOLIC
STUDENT CENTER & UNIVERSITY PARISH
100 East Stinson Street, Norman OK 73072
(SOUTH OF OU STADIUM ON THE CORNER OF JENKINS AVENUE & STINSON STREET)

WE HOPE THAT YOU FEEL WELCOME AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE MANY ACTIVITIES HERE,
WHETHER YOU ARE A REGULAR PARISHIONER, A SEASONAL RESIDENT, OR JUST VISITING.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

VIGIL MASS	SATURDAY, 5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY MASSES	8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.
NURSERY	SUNDAY, 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
COMMUNION SERVICE	MONDAY, 7:30 A.M.
DAILY MASSES	TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 5:15 P.M. WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M.
ROSARY	FOLLOWING DAILY MASS

OFFICE INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS (Monday-Friday)	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
LUNCH HOUR	12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
OFFICE CLOSED	HOLY DAYS
PHONE	(405) 321-0990
FAX	(405) 321-0964
WEB SITE	http://www.stm-ou.org
PRAYER LINE	(405) 447-7055
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHARITIES	(405) 329-5372
BULLETIN DEADLINE	TUESDAY, 12:00 Noon

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES. Classes are available for pre-school through high school youth. Registration has begun! Forms are in the Atrium.

MASS REQUESTS. To schedule a Mass intention, contact the Parish office.

FUNERALS. Please contact the Parish office to make arrangements with Father Ackerman.

NEWCOMERS. Welcome to St. Thomas More! Please complete a registration form located on the table opposite the Parish office in the Atrium.

MOVING. Please contact the Parish office with your new address.

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Ray K. Ackerman • oklarka@yahoo.com • Ext. 204

R.C.I.A. Director & Deacon: Dr. John D. Pigott • jjigott@ou.edu • Ext. 250

Deacon: Tom Schott • tom.schott@gmail.com • Ext. 300

Religious Education Coordinator: Chelle Breedlove • cbreedlove@stm-ou.org • Ext. 202

Campus Minister: Erin Cleto • ecleto@stm-ou.org • Ext. 205

Music Director: Jan Roberts • dachs.mirabilis@cox.net • Ext. 203

Development Director: Debbie Kahls • dkahls@stm-ou.org • Ext. 206

Business Manager: Christy Meiser • crmeiser@yahoo.com • Ext. 212

Secretary & Bulletin Editor: Gloria Olivero • glory@stm-ou.org • Ext. 200

Website Editor: Richard Love • pchelp@normanmusicscene.com

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 19, 2008

Pope Benedict XVI makes the point that the essence of faith is that something meets us that is greater than anything we can think of for ourselves. That is literally what happens to the disciples as they see Jesus walking on the water. Jesus summons them to faith – a way of approaching reality that entails leaving behind our old way of measuring things and seeing all according to this Something Greater that meets us. We should not be surprised that Christ often will come in ways that we least expect, as Elijah found out in that tiny whispering sound. And when such faith takes hold of us, we want everyone we know to share in it, as Saint Paul testifies today.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of St. Thomas More University Parish is to serve the spiritual, educational, and social needs of the Parish and to evangelize the larger community as expressed by our Catholic tradition.

VISION STATEMENT

The desire of our hearts is to be a vibrant sacramental Catholic community that prays, learns, cares, and shares in ways that compel us to witness to the power of the presence of God and to build God's kingdom.

SACRAMENTAL MINISTRIES

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (PENANCE). Saturdays, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., or by personal appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM. Parents requesting infant baptism must be *active* registered members of the Parish for at least six months and must contact the Parish office to schedule an appointment.

DEFINITION OF ACTIVE PARISHIONER. Must be registered and active in volunteering time, talent, and treasure towards helping to build up God's Kingdom (the Catholic Church suggests that half of the 10% tithe recommended in Sacred Scripture should go toward the workings of the Universal Church, which includes: Parish support, Catholic Charities, Archdiocesan Development Fund, St. Vincent De Paul, Peter's Pence and other special collections).

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK. Parishioners facing surgery or struggling with serious illness may request this sacrament by calling the Parish office. Contact Deacon Tom Schott at tom.schott@gmail.com or our Parish Nurse, Kathy Heiple, at (405) 321-7863, to arrange for visits and/or reception of Holy Communion.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY. Couples must be *active* members registered in the parish for at least six months, and must contact Reverend Ray Ackerman six months prior to the proposed wedding date. All engaged couples are urged to contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 to register for the *required* Marriage Preparation Course (Pre-Cana or Engagement Encounter).

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is the formation process for educating and initiating adults who either would like to become Catholic, or desire to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches. RCIA sessions will begin Tuesday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m. in the Overflow room. For further information, please contact Deacon John Pigott at jjigott@ou.edu.

VOCATIONS TO HOLY ORDERS AND CONSECRATED LIFE. Those who feel called to this life are invited to contact the Archdiocesan Office of Vocations at (405) 721-9351; or Reverend Ray K. Ackerman at the Parish office.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

SUNDAY † AUGUST 10 † 19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SECOND SUNDAY & ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUND: Weekly Collection

- 8:30 a.m. **MASS** † SHAUNNA M. WAHR by *Janis Hereford* (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 a.m. **MASS** Intentions of REVEREND RAY K. ACKERMAN (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 p.m. **MASS** Intentions of the PARISH FAMILY (Sanctuary)

MONDAY † AUGUST 11 † WEEKDAY

Clare, virgin

- 7:30 a.m. **COMMUNION SERVICE** (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY † AUGUST 12 † WEEKDAY

Jewish observance: Tisha B'Av

- 5:15 p.m. **MASS** † SPECIAL INTENTIONS (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 p.m. Summer Book Club (Lounge)

WEDNESDAY † AUGUST 13 † WEEKDAY

Pontian, pope, martyr and Hippolytus, priest, martyr

- 7:30 a.m. **MASS** † SPECIAL INTENTIONS (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus (Knights' White House)

THURSDAY † AUGUST 14 † WEEKDAY

Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest, martyr

- 4:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society (Library)
- 7:00 p.m. **VIGIL MASS: ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** (Sanctuary)
Rosary & Veneration of Our Lady of Fátima led by Knights of Columbus

FRIDAY † AUGUST 15 † SOLEMNITY (HOLY DAY)

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: Parish Office Closed

- 7:30 a.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Prime Timers Social & Dinner (Atrium)

SATURDAY † AUGUST 16 † WEEKDAY

Stephen of Hungary

THIRD SUNDAY & CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY: Collections

- 3:00 p.m. **CONFESSIONS** (Confessional)
- 5:00 p.m. **VIGIL MASS** † IRENE & GEORGE TOMASZEWSKI by *Friends* (Sanctuary)
- 2:00 p.m. **WEDDING:** DERRICK HARVEY AND TAY GAVIN

SUNDAY † AUGUST 17 † 20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

THIRD SUNDAY & CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY: Collections

- 8:30 a.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 a.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 p.m. **MASS** Intentions of the PARISH FAMILY (Sanctuary)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

AUGUST 2 & 3, 2008

WEEKLY AMOUNT	\$12,603.29	YTD AMOUNT	\$547,665.83
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$10,300.00	YTD BUDGET	\$587,800.00
DEFICIT	-\$1,041.44	DEFICIT	-\$40,134.17
PARISH PAY	July 15, 2008	TOTAL	\$9,628.23

HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

AUGUST 17, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Rudy & Jeri Cachero
- 11:00 a.m. Jay & Marie Johnson

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

AUGUST 16 & 17, 2008

ALTAR SERVERS

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. Arianna G., Michael M., Jack M.
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. Will Banowsky, Samantha B., Valerie P.
- 11:00 a.m. Stephen D., Bella C., Christianna C.
- 5:00 p.m. Joseph Mecham, Jonathan K., Janice Wilson

LECTORS

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. Jane Sarber, Bob Rivera
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. Terry & Bill McNichols
- 11:00 a.m. Con O'Shea-Creal, Charles Kenney
- 5:00 p.m. Harold Castano, R.C. Davis-Undiano

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. Cheri Remington, Valli Marti, D'neen Barbour, Paula Graham
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. Brigid Brink, April Anderson, Carole Baldwin, Lisa Lancaster, Barbara Foley
- 11:00 a.m. Peter Keupen, Deanna Preble, Rick Pendergraft, Dan Lawrence, Caridad Marchand, Susan Schott, Margaret Vennoch, Gail & Eric Anderson
- 5:00 p.m. Rick Lane, Matthew Rom, Bea & Arn Henderson, Bill Huntington, Bobby Meiners, Sims Beeler, Charito Hersey, Susan Mecham

USHERS

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. *Volunteers Needed!*
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. K. Denton, Jr., Mary & John Starcevich
- 11:00 a.m. Jim Weller, Junsik Sim, Steve & Susy Caloney
- 5:00 p.m. Frank Anderson, Cody Moore

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary one Sunday a year, now is your opportunity! You may purchase the flowers (**Design 2000 Flowers & Gifts, 405.321.6736**) and have them delivered to the Sanctuary on Saturday afternoon before the Sunday you choose. If you would like them to be in memory or honor of someone, please let Gloria Olivero know by the Tuesday before that Sunday (405.321.0990 Ext. 200). Your donation would thereupon be acknowledged in the bulletin.

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	NUMBER
LECTOR	Ruth Loeffler	329-5358
ALTAR SERVER	Joe Mecham	573-4979
USHER <i>(Sat 5 p.m. Mass in dire need of ushers)</i>	Steve Patrick	360-7827
CHOIR / MUSICIAN	Jon Roberts	850-5252
ALTAR SOCIETY <i>(i.e. linen care, metal polishing)</i>	Jo Ann Oberst	329-7029
HOSPITALITY -CHURCH EVENTS <i>(i.e. missions, retreats, anniversaries)</i>	Brigid Brink	321-6824
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	Jim Mattek	872-5054
CATECHIST / NURSERY AIDE	Chelle Breedlove	321-0990 Ext. 202
BEREAVEMENT HOSPITALITY <i>(i.e. funeral lunch /dinner)</i>	Ellen Huntington	321-5541
FEED THE HUNGRY <i>(i.e. Food & Shelter for Friends)</i>	Gerry Whitman	360-1174
LIBRARIAN	Christy Meiser	321-0990 Ext. 212
VISITATION OF THE SICK <i>(i.e. homebound, hospital, nursing home)</i>	Kathy Heiple	321-7863

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ADVOCACY ALERTS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES. Richard Klinge, Associate Director of Advocacy, Outreach and Legal Services for Catholic Charities, periodically distributes Action Alert emails covering legislative and related issues which are impacted by Catholic Social Teaching. Hopefully, this information sharing will cause others to raise their voices on these issues as our political processes struggle to find solutions which will both reflect justice and serve the common good. For example, Action Alerts in July 2008 address the USCCB Statement on stem-cell research, poverty issues to be dealt with at the G8 meeting in Japan, economic trends in Oklahoma and health insurance issues to be dealt with by a Healthcare Task Force appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House. Some of you may already receive these Action Alerts; but if you don't and would like to receive them, please email me at rklinge@catholiccharitiesok.org and give me your name and email address and I will add you to my Action Alerts Distribution List. If you have any questions, call Richard at 405.523.3000.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DISASTER RELIEF: TRAINING PLANNED. Did you know that Catholic Charities serves as a disaster relief agency for natural and man-made disasters that affect our Archdiocese? Over the last several years, Catholic Charities has served communities who have had tornadoes, floods, ice storms, and resettled hurricane victims. Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers to assist parishes and communities affected by disaster.

For those interested in volunteering, the first **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION AND DISASTER TRAINING** program will be held on **Thursday, August 21, at 7 PM** at Catholic Charities, 1501 N. Classen Blvd. Volunteers will be required to attend training and participate in the Safe Environment Training.

Anyone interested in volunteering and attending the training should contact Catholic Charities' Parish Outreach Office at 405.523.3009.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION RETREAT, Saturday, August 16, 2008, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Debra Luther, LPC and Spiritual Director. A half-day retreat for practicing being present in the moment, deepening your ability to be in stillness, and relaxing into being here now. Enjoy a time of non-doing, letting go of busyness, and being in silence. Learn and practice methods of mindfulness meditation which will lead to living a more spiritual, peaceful and stress-free life. **Place:** *Monastery Library of Red Plains Monastery, SW of Piedmont.* **CALL** 405.373.0804 to register. **FEE:** \$60 plus \$15 deposit. Bring a sack lunch.

CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING, Saturday, September 6, 2008, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Joanne Yankaukis, OSB. BUILDING BRIDGES TO CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING WITH THOMAS MERTON, BOOK 4 –DISCOVERING THE HIDDEN GROUND OF LOVE. "Be attentive, by learning to listen, we can find ourselves engulfed in such happiness that it cannot be explained; the happiness of being at one with everything in that hidden ground of love for which there can be no explanation." -Thomas Merton. **Place:** *Monastery Library of Red Plains Monastery, SW of Piedmont.* **CALL** 405.373.0804 to register. **FEE:** Send in your \$40 to reserve a place. Bring a sack lunch.

Q. What are our Jewish brothers and sisters ritualizing as they remember Tisha B'Av?

A. Tisha B'Av literally means the ninth day of the month of Av, which usually occurs during August. It is a day of mourning focused on the destruction of the first and second temples.

The first temple built by Solomon around 950 BC was destroyed in 586 BC by the Babylonians, who exiled the Hebrew people to Babylonia. In 536, upon their return, the people rebuilt the temple, which was later expanded and beautified by Herod the Great. That second temple, the one in which Jesus taught, was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

Along with mourning the destruction of the temple, Jews also mourn other tragedies that legend claims to have coincidentally taken place on the ninth of Av. One great tragedy concerns the persecution and expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492.

Tisha B'Av, like Yom Kippur, is a twenty-four-hour period of fasting with a variety of restrictions typically associated with mourning, such as no laughter, no activities that give pleasure and enjoyment, no washing or bathing, no sexual relations, and not even reading Torah. The synagogue service includes readings from the book of Lamentations and prayers of mourning.

How does ritualizing grief and mourning help us deal with the tragedies of life in a healthier and more faith-filled manner? What Christian rituals of mourning have been most beneficial to you?

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THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

4 STAGES OF MARRIAGE—The 4 stages of marriage are (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4TH Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4TH Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from disillusionment or misery, please contact Retrouvaile (pronounced retro-vi with a long I). For confidential information about or to register for the Fall program beginning with a weekend on **September 5-7, 2008**, call 918.695.7010 or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." Jesus asks us to love Him and one another. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is **October 24-26**. Early registration is recommended to ensure your spot for the weekend. For further information, visit www.meoklahoma.org or call 405.760.0390.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION. Registration packets are in the Atrium. We need to order books and purchase supplies for the coming year. **Registration fees** are **\$45 for 1, \$65 for 2, \$95 for 3, and \$100 for 4 or more children** enrolled in the program. Drop your registration forms, with payment, in the Parish office when you attend Mass, or during office hours – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday).

PLEASE GIVE PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION TO BECOMING A CATECHIST. A warm special thank you to those catechists that have recently volunteered or remained on the team to facilitate religious education to our youth! Thank you for sharing our faith! There are still a few very needed positions available (see below):

2 CATECHISTS for 8:30 a.m. Mass Dismissal

2 CATECHISTS for 11:00 a.m. Mass Dismissal

2 CATECHISTS for 1st grade R.E.

1 CATECHIST to assist with 3rd grade R. E.

16 ADULT VOLUNTEERS for Nursery (*at least 16 adults will allow fair rotation between the 8:30 and 11:00 Mass. This will also allow the volunteers to be scheduled once a month! We are hoping for parents that use the nursery on a regular basis to volunteer, but welcome college students and others that have lots of patience and a heart of gold!*)

PLEASE NOTE: Any volunteer catechist or nursery aide must attend a Safe Environment Seminar and fill out the required application. R.E. Coordinator will personally assist with the application process to ensure all the requirements for the archdiocese are met and completed in a timely fashion.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT SEMINAR. The Archdiocese of OKC requires anyone in the Parish who has regular contact with youth (*under the age of 18*) to undergo the Safe Environment program before being allowed to help with our young people. **SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING SEMINARS** are held at Saint Thomas More in the Parish library on the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.** The next one will be held **Tuesday, August 19.** (*If you are unable to attend the Saint Thomas More Safe Environment Seminar, you may attend the seminar at St. Mark's in Norman on the 1st Sunday of each month at 10:15 a.m.*) The seminar lasts approximately 45 minutes. To sign up for this workshop, contact Chelle Breedlove at 405.321.0990 Ext. 202.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS: Please pick-up your child's First Holy Communion **photo disc** located on the south wall of the Parish atrium.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

20 Aug 08: **First Day of School** Norman Public Schools

23 Aug 08: **Catechists Brunch** (Meet and Greet), 10:30 a.m. in Overflow room (RSVP required. Call/email Chelle to sign-up.)

1 Sep 08: **No School**

7 Sep 08: **First Day of Religious Education Classes** (ALL Grades K-12), 9:45-10:45 a.m.

21 Sep 08: **Blessing of Catechists**, 8:30 a.m.

27 Sep 08: St Vincent De Paul's **Walk for the Poor**

Process from All Saints Catholic School, 8:30 a.m.

Community Service Choice for Confirmation candidates 1st and 2nd year students

28 Sep 08: **Crop Walk** (Food For Shelter/Friends)

Community Service Choice for Confirmation candidates 1st and 2nd year students

NOTE for anticipating 9th graders (1st year Confirmation Candidates) and 10-11th graders (2nd year Confirmation Candidates): This R.E. year 2008-2009, two Community Services are to be completed by all Confirmation students. One service in the fall and one in the Spring. Students will have a choice of what to do or what to attend. The Walk for the Poor and Crop Walk are great ideas for the fall.

TBA EVENTS (*events to be announced at a later date, but keep thinking about and planning for*):

† Catechist workday/classroom preparation

† Catechist In-Service Day

CATECHIST CORNER

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is actively involved in overseeing that those who work with youth are formally trained, continue to give updated training, and are provided with means of deepening their own faith. The revised Code of Canon Law states:

"Lay persons who devote themselves to special service in the church are obligated to acquire appropriate formation that is required to fulfill their function properly and to carry it conscientiously, zealously and diligently" (CN 776).

Please contact Chelle Breedlove to review the options that are available for catechetical certification. One of the options are a series of five Youth Faith Formation workshops, held on Saturdays throughout the year from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Consider attending the **2008 CATECHETICAL CONGRESS** on **Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008** at the **Catholic Pastoral Center**. Sign-up with Chelle no later than Sept. 14. We can try to carpool and all go together!

PARENT / GUARDIAN CORNER

AT LEAST A SCZILLION WAYS TO SAY "I LOVE YOU"

In these times when parents are stretched with one job, two jobs, three jobs, and a myriad of other responsibilities, take the time to invest in the lives of your kids. The effect could just be multi-generational, even eternal.

THIS IS JUST A PARTIAL LIST OF WAYS TO TELL YOUR KIDS YOU LOVE THEM:

Actually say it.

Praise their character to your friends.

Believe in them.

Value their friends. Invite them over and get to know them.

Pray for them daily.

Love them enough to just listen.

Ban the words "I told you so" and "When will you ever learn?" from your vocabulary.

Forgive them their trespasses...

And the list goes on turn! Be on the lookout for clues as to what makes your child tick. Set aside your List of Disappointments, and grab a pencil, because this child is fearfully and wonderfully made!

- Laraine Hemrick Horney

6/26/2008 Parenting

Laraine Hemrick Horney is a freelance writer in Southern California, former home-schooling mom of one son and one daughter. Her passion is to encourage others in parenting and life. Contact her at healthykh@yahoo.com for more information.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Please mark your calendars for **BACK-TO-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**:

August 11- Class Rosters Posted

August 11- Back-to-School Night- 5-7 p.m.

August 13- First Day of School

August 20- First All-School Mass at St. Mark's- 8:20 a.m.

If you have televisions (25" and larger) that you are replacing because of the new digital changeover in February, consider donating them to All Saints. Our goal is to place a television with a DVD player in each classroom. DVD players in good working order are also needed. Contact the school office for more information.

All Saints is seeking substitute teachers for the 2008-09 school year. Please contact Cathy Snodgrass in the school office for more information.

A few **openings still exist for the 2008-09 school year.** An **admission packet** can be downloaded from our school website at www.allsaintsnorman.org <<http://www.allsaintsnorman.org>> (click on administration). The school office will be open throughout the summer to answer questions and for admission interviews.

PARISH NEWS, NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

KNIGHTLY NEWS

Work Day Scheduled – The second of two workdays to improve the appearance of the Knights' House and assist in the upgrading of RE and Campus Ministry facilities is scheduled for 8:30 to 1 on Aug 23rd. The results of the hard work by those who attended last Saturday's workday are greatly appreciated. Please **lend a hand** one more time.

This Thursday, Aug 14th, Our Council and St. Thomas More parish will host the adoration of the Virgin of Fatima as her statue travels across our nation. It is significant that this icon will be present on the eve of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother. Our celebration will include an evening mass followed by the Knights leading rosaries and an ALL NIGHT veneration. Friday, August 15th, the Assumption, is a HOLY DAY and your participation in the vigil mass will satisfy your Holy Day obligation. Knight Volunteers from our Council as well as St. Mark's and St. Joseph's are being asked to attend. A 4th Degree Honor Guard has been requested. If you are a 4th Degree and have your regalia please contact SK Dan Lawrence. (If you are not a 4th Degree

Saturday, Aug 16th is the State Tournament in Mustang; the finale of our 2008 Softball season. It was a great season with no serious injuries.

Our next Exemplification is scheduled for Wed., Aug. 20th. Don't delay; there is still time to invite a qualified man to join the First Degree and participate in this ceremony. Recruit a new member – Both of you will glad you did. **KNIGHTHOOD** and its **SERVICE** is an **HONOR**.

Our next casino event will be for Campus Ministry at the Student Union on Aug 27th from 7-8:30. Volunteers are needed to man the tables. Call SK Huntington for details.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, August 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish lounge. Book Selection: **EXILES** by Ron Hansen, a Jesuit Deacon. In his novel Hansen weaves the historical events of the doomed transatlantic voyage of five German nuns on their way to the United States with the life of the seminarian Gerald Manley Hopkins who would later become a Jesuit Priest and poet. His elegy "The Wreck of the Deutschland" was inspired by the fate of the nuns and would become one of his best known works. "In Ron Hansen's new novel, *Exiles*, there isn't a single protagonist-there are six. For most writers, that would be an unwieldy number, but Hansen's narrative gifts are strong enough to pull it off triumphantly." (Gregory Wolfe, Editor of *Image*). - SPONSORED BY COMMUNION AND LIBERATION

ATTENTION PRIMETIMERS AND PRIMETIMER WANNABES

Our August meeting will be special, indeed. In case you hadn't noticed, the price of gasoline has recently gotten dramatically higher. Would you like to have a car that you could drive all day, run as many errands as you like and pay only about one dollar for fuel (energy)? You want to know how? Come and find out when our friend and fellow parishioner, Dr. John Fagan, tells us about the future of the American automobile and shows us what the future holds for those of us who drive. We will meet on **Friday, August 15, at 6:30 pm, in the STM Atrium**. Come join us, bring your favorite covered or uncovered dish to share, and maybe your favorite beverages. You will find that we are quite a jolly group and all parishioners are welcome. You need not be retired to join in the fellowship and fun. For more information, contact Al Patrick, 405.360.4147.

FOOD FOR FRIENDS

Tuesday, August 26, is St. Thomas More's turn to prepare and serve the needy in Norman. Cooking will start at **9:00 a.m. in the Food for Friends Kitchen** (104 W. Comanche). We will serve from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. **We do need your help!** If you can bring a dessert or help with the preparing and serving, please sign up in the Atrium in the coming week. Thank you!

WALK FOR THE POOR.

St. Vincent de Paul is proud to announce the first **"WALK FOR THE POOR."** This event will take place at **All Saint's Catholic School on September 27 at 8:30 a.m.** Registration forms will be provided on the table in the Parish atrium after Mass. If you have any questions please call our "Walk for the Poor" Parish representative, Joe Walters, at 405.812.7634.

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



A couple of years ago, the American Psychological Association conducted a study on impulsiveness. From a group of 700 students, they selected thirty who drank at least four cups of coffee every day, and thirty who did not. Based on the research, it was found that the caffeine-dependent students were much more prone to acting impulsively than the others. Could this explain Peter's behavior at times? Probably not, but he was impulsive!

What is the significance of today's reading from Matthew? The disciples venture out into a boat, far away from Jesus. As a storm threatens, Jesus appears to calm them. But Peter, often speaking before he thinks, asks Jesus to prove that he is real. Peter's initial doubt causes him to sink before his faith saves him. When we find ourselves further from Jesus than we should be, does doubt cloud our faith?

PETER WAS PRONE TO ACTS OF IMPULSIVENESS SUCH AS THIS. BUT THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES US THAT FAITH, INDEED, IS CERTAIN "BECAUSE IT IS FOUNDED ON THE VERY WORD OF GOD WHO CANNOT LIE" (CCC 157). When times become very tough for you, and you may feel further from your faith than ever, it is precisely at this time when you should reach out for Jesus, just as Peter did, and you will find that he is closer to you than ever.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 10, 2008

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a / Rom 9:1-5 / Mt 14:22-33
Monday: Ez 1:2-5, 24-28c / Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday: Ez 2:8-3:4 / Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7, 10:18-22 / Mt 18:15-20
Thursday: Ez 12:1-12 / Mt 18:21-19:1
Friday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2 / 1 Cor 15:54b-57 / Lk 11:27-28
 Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab / 1 Cor 15:20-27 / Lk 1:39-56
Saturday: Ez 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32 / Mt 19:13-15
Next Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7 / Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 / Mt 15:21-28

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES BRINGS AID TO PHILIPPINE TYPHOON VICTIMS

Thousands of families in the Philippines were left homeless when Typhoon Frank ripped through the Pacific island nation in mid-June, causing widespread flood damage. More than 3.5 million people across forty-nine provinces were affected in some way by the storm, and reports indicated that 540 people lost their lives.

In the Philippine city of Jaro, where nearly eighty percent of villages were flooded, the local cathedral quickly turned into a refugee camp. With four neighboring municipalities under six feet of water, members at the cathedral were struggling to meet the needs of families who had been displaced.

The areas hardest hit by the storm were Visayas, of central Philippines, and Mindanao, in the southern Philippines. Massive floods and winds from the Category 3 storm destroyed over 300,000 homes, along with cropland and livestock.

Catholic Relief Services and its partner, the National Secretariat for Social Action-Justice and Peace, responded with emergency relief for 50,000 people in six provinces across Western Visayas and Mindanao.

CRS has been working in the Philippines since 1945 when relief and reconstruction efforts were launched for victims of World War II. CRS continues to provide relief to victims of natural and man-made emergencies, but has also evolved into a premier development agency, supporting ongoing programs in HIV, health, agriculture, education, microfinance and peacebuilding.



DAY BY DAY

TRUST ON THE WATER

I Caterina, servant and slave of the servants of Jesus Christ, encourage you in the precious blood of God's Son. I long to see you transformed in God's will, in perfect harmony with it. You know his will is a sweet holy yoke that turns all bitterness into sweetness. Every heavy burden grows light under this most holy yoke of God's sweet will. Without it you could not be pleasing to God; you would, in fact, experience a foretaste of hell. Take heart, take heart, dearest brother, and don't falter under God's discipline. Trust that when human aid fails, divine help is at hand. God will provide for you. Recall how Job lost his possessions, his children, his health; only his wife was left him, and she was a constant torment! But after God had tested his patience he returned everything doubly, and in the end gave him eternal life. Patient Job was never confounded. No, always exercising the virtue of holy patience, he would say, "God gave it to me and God has taken it away from me. Blessed be God's name!" I want you to do the same, dearest brother. Be a lover of virtue, with holy patience and frequent confession to help you bear your sufferings. I tell you, God will show his kindness and mercy, and will repay you for every burden you have borne for his love. Keep living in God's holy and tender love. Gentle Jesus! Jesus love!

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Saint Catherine of Siena (+1380), Doctor of the Church, was a Dominican, stigmatist, and papal counselor.

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THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Q. *What are we celebrating on the feast of the Assumption of Mary?*

A. The Assumption, along with the Immaculate Conception, are two Marian dogmas that have been infallibly defined by the church. The Assumption proclaims the reality that Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven. This was God's special gift to her in response to her total giving of self to God's plan and will.

The church believes that Mary was immaculately conceived, that is, conceived without original sin. This led the church to believe that she did not suffer one of the key consequences of original sin, death and corruption. The Orthodox Church celebrates the Dormition of Mary, the belief that Mary did not die but rather fell asleep and was thus assumed into heaven.

What significance does this feast have for our lives as Christians today? This feast is above all an assurance and hope of our continued life with God. Modeling ourselves on Jesus and living the Christian life molded by Jesus' values, is certainly the sure path to God. As a result, God will not leave us orphaned or alone to suffer the emptiness of death. Rather we believe that death is merely a transformation of our present state into an even more glorious and eternal relationship with God.

This is the hope and assurance that Mary's Assumption celebrates. It is a celebration of our assumption as well. She is one of us, providing a model of what God has in store for all who love and give of themselves to God.

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ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY HOLY DAY

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

VIGIL MASS: THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 7 P.M.



- † Talk by Custodian of Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fátima
- † Four full Rosaries led by the Knights of Columbus
- † Private Prayers (the faithful may come before the statue, individually, until closing Friday, August 15, 7:30 a.m.)
- † All Night Vigil of the **VIRGIN OF FÁTIMA** led by the Knights of Columbus

MASS: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 7:30 A.M.

"COME TO THE WATER, THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE." ST. THOMAS MORE JOURNEY OF FAITH FALL-SPRING 2008-09

As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. (Psalms 42:2). And Jesus said: "Let anyone who thirsts, come to me and drink..." (John 7:37).

If you are interested in learning more about what being a Catholic is all about, or if you are a baptized adult Catholic who has not received the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation, or if you simply desire to investigate the existential meaning of your life, then the St. Thomas More RCIA program is for you!

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a **JOURNEY OF FAITH** which runs from August 26, 2008 to April 12, 2009 (Easter Vigil) with meetings each Tuesday evening from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** By attending RCIA, you are not committing yourself to baptism or to being received into the Catholic Church, but simply to exploring further your journey with Christ.

If you would like to find out more, please contact me, or better yet, just show up! [The first meeting is Tuesday evening, August 26, in the Parish Overflow room.](#)

—Yours in Christ, Deacon John Pigott