

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. (STUDENT-LED)
COMMUNION SERVICE	MONDAY, 7:30 A.M.
DAILY MASSES	TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 5:15 P.M. WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, 9:00 P.M. (DURING OU FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS)
ROSARY	FOLLOWING DAILY MASS
NURSERY	SUNDAY, 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

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 (CONSULT BULLETIN)
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 deadline is August 30, 2008. 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 • jpigott@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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 24, 2008

Peter can declare with certainty that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of the Living God, because of the way that his own life had changed since the first day that he met Jesus. The evidence for Peter's bold claim—his creed—is the fact that association with this man had brought about a transformation of everything in his life, especially those things most resistant to change—the ordinary circumstances of life. Only God, with his “unsearchable ways,” could effect such a newness. The fact that Christ wants to use Peter as an instrument by which the Lord will open heaven to the world is surprising but not shocking. Just as Peter has come to recognize God through the humanity of the man Jesus, God's method of self-communication will continue through the humanity of the apostle Peter.

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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. (*Canceled during OU Football Home Games*)

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 jpigott@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

HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY † AUGUST 24 † 21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 31, 2008

FOURTH SUNDAY: Collection

- 8:30 a.m. **MASS** Intentions of the PARISH FAMILY (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. Installation of Knights of Columbus Officers (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 a.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 p.m. STUDENT-LED **MASS** † VERE CHARLES MANION by *Candida Manion* (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. Welcome Back College Student Cookout (STM Property)

MONDAY † AUGUST 25 † WEEKDAY (*St. Louis of France*)

- 7:30 a.m. **COMMUNION SERVICE** (Sanctuary)
- 9:00 a.m. English as a Second Language (Overflow)
- 6:00 p.m. Associate Adorer's of the Blood of Christ **FORMATION** (Overflow)
- 6:30 p.m. Associate Adorer's of the Blood of Christ Regular Meeting (Overflow)

TUESDAY † AUGUST 26 † WEEKDAY

- 6:30 a.m. Primary Runoff Election for Cleveland County (Atrium)
- 5:15 p.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 p.m. Journey of Faith: R.C.I.A. (Overflow)

WEDNESDAY † AUGUST 27 † WEEKDAY (*Monica*)

- 7:30 a.m. **MASS** Special Intentions by a *Parishioner* (Sanctuary)
- 9:00 a.m. English as a Second Language (Overflow)
- 9:00 a.m. Food for Friends (104 W. Comanche)
- 7:30 p.m. Campus Ministry Cantina / Casino Night (OU Union Ballroom)
- 9:00 p.m. COLLEGE STUDENT **MASS** (OU Union Ballroom)

THURSDAY † AUGUST 28 † WEEKDAY (*Augustine, bishop, doctor of the Church*)

- 5:15 p.m. **NO MASS** [Fr. Ackerman's Vacation: *28 August - 30 August*]
- 6:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society (Library)
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Council (Library)

FRIDAY † AUGUST 29 † WEEKDAY (*Martyrdom of John the Baptist*)

- 7:30 a.m. **NO MASS**

SATURDAY † AUGUST 30 † WEEKDAY (*Blessed Virgin Mary*)

FIFTH SUNDAY: Collection

- 3:00 p.m. **NO CONFESSIONS** [Home Game at 6 PM: *OU vs. Chattanooga*]
- 5:00 p.m. **NO VIGIL MASS** [Home Game at 6 PM: *OU vs. Chattanooga*]

SUNDAY † AUGUST 31 † 22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

FIFTH SUNDAY: Collection

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: AUGUST 16 & 17, 2008

WEEKLY AMOUNT	\$8,938.63	YTD AMOUNT	\$64,775.80
PARISH PAY 7/1-8/15/08	\$9,256.36		\$18,536.25
SUBTOTAL	\$18,194.99		\$83,311.25
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$11,058.00	YTD BUDGET	\$77,406.00
SURPLUS	\$7,136.44	SURPLUS	\$5,905.25

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

The St. Thomas More **ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT** for **July 1, 2007 to June 2008** is now available for viewing in the reception area of the Parish Office (8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.).

PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED for Labor Day, **Monday, September 1, 2008** and will re-open **Tuesday, September 2, 2008**.

- 8:30 a.m. Helen & Al Patrick
- 11:00 a.m. Jean Winters, Jeanne Aiken

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2008

ALTAR SERVERS

- 5:00 p.m. **NO MASS:** First OU Home Game
- 8:30 a.m. Rebecca G., Patrick S., Lauren S.
- 11:00 a.m. Miranda J., Cynthia O., Risa W.
- 5:00 p.m. Susan Murphy, Janice Wilson, Jonathan K.

LECTORS

- 5:00 p.m. **NO MASS:** First OU Home Game
- 8:30 a.m. Frank Freidhoff, Earl Whitman
- 11:00 a.m. Harold Heiple, Dane Wilson
- 5:00 p.m. R.C. Davis-Undiano, Joe Walters

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- 5:00 p.m. **NO MASS:** First OU Home Game
- 8:30 a.m. Charles & Pat Gill, Jeanne Cullen, Janis Hereford, Amy McElhany
- 11:00 a.m. Caridad Marchand, Susan Schott, Margaret Vennoch, Kathy Heiple, Eric & Gail Anderson, Rick Pendergraft, Veronica & Steve Edge
- 5:00 p.m. Bill Huntington, Bobby Meiners, Susan & Joseph Mecham, Charito Hersey, Sims Beeler, Arn Henderson, Kaitlyn Willit, Justin Linck

USHERS

- 5:00 p.m. **NO MASS:** First OU Home Game
- 8:30 a.m. Becky Fleming, Russell Koch, K. Denton, Jr.
- 11:00 a.m. Chris Dalton, Jim Weller, Junsik Sim, Tim Marquis
- 5:00 p.m. Cody Moorse, Frank Anderson

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CHRIST

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	NUMBER
ALTAR SERVER	Joe Mecham	573-4979
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION	Dan Lawrence	872-8010
LECTOR	Ruth Loeffler	329-5358
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
VISITATION OF THE SICK <i>(i.e. homebound, hospital, nursing home)</i>	Kathy Heiple	321-7863
PRAYER WARRIOR <i>(Parish prayer line)</i>	Virginia Dembinski	447-7055
LIBRARIAN	Christy Meiser	321-0990 Ext. 212

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. The purpose of the information sharing is to raise awareness and increase involvement in social issues. If you are interested in being on the Action Alert email list, contact Richard at rklinge@catholiccharitiesok.org or call 405.523.3000.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2008, 9:30 A.M.—3:30 P.M., Joanne Yankaukis, *DSB*. **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.

CENTERING PRAYER, PART I, A SIX-WEEK SERIES, WEDNESDAY'S SEPTEMBER 17—OCTOBER 22, 2008, 7-9 P.M., Sister Marie Ballmann, *DSB*. Centering Prayer is an important step in the process of interior transformation, a friendship initiated by God, leading to contemplative prayer and divine union. Learn and practice this prayer form, a gift of the ancient Church. **Place:** *Library of Red Plains Monastery, SW of Piedmont.* **CALL** 405.373.0804 to register. **FEE:** \$100 plus \$25 deposit. Bring a sack lunch.

EN THEOS

Q. Who are St. Monica and St. Augustine, whose feasts we celebrate on August 27 and 28, respectively?

A. Monica and Augustine are that rare combination of mother and son saints. Monica was a Christian living in northern Africa, married to a non-Christian husband who converted to Christianity on his deathbed. She had three sons. Her most notorious, as well as most renowned, child was Augustine.

Augustine was born in 354 in Tagaste, North Africa (present day Algiers). Raised as a Christian, he was enrolled in the catechumenate. At that time baptism did not occur until adulthood. Augustine grew to be brilliant yet very independent.

Monica was determined that her son, who searched for meaning in life by various non-Christian paths, would eventually be baptized. While Monica arranged a marriage with a good family, Augustine took a mistress and had a child by her. He traveled to Italy seeking a teaching position. Monica followed him, constantly praying and hoping that Augustine would return to Christianity. After a number of years, Augustine was influenced by the powerful preaching of Ambrose, bishop of Milan. At long last, in the year 387, Ambrose baptized Augustine at the Easter Vigil.

Monica's prayers had been answered. On their trip back to Africa, Monica fell sick and died in Ostia. Augustine went on to become the most distinguished Christian theologian, pastor and spiritual writer the world has ever known. Monica's prayers were answered beyond her wildest expectations.

Read Augustine's *Confessions* as a way of entering into the heart of one of Christianity's greatest spiritual writers.

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THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? Is your marriage or that of a friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or, do you feel helpless? **RETROUVAILLE** (pronounced retro-vi with a long I) is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. 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.

LET US KNOW...

Please notify the parish office when a family member is in the hospital or home-bound. Too often we find out about illnesses, crises, and hospitalizations long after they occur. This is a missed opportunity for the telephone calls, pastoral visits, bringing the Holy Eucharist, and praying for them at Mass that we would like to share. Please contact the Parish office if there is a concern in your family or another parish family (with their permission).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION. Registration packets are in the Atrium. **Registration deadline** is **30 August**. **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 needed positions available (see below):

1 CATECHIST

22 NURSERY AIDES (at least 22 adult volunteers will allow fair rotation between the 8:30, 11:00 and 5:00 p.m. Mass. This will also allow nursery aides 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. *We cannot open the Nursery until we have the help required.*)

PLEASE NOTE: Any volunteer catechist or nursery aide *must* attend a *Safe Environment Seminar* and fill out the required application. **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. to 7:30 p.m.** The next one will be held **Tuesday, September 16**. 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.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

- Friday, 29 Aug 08:** **Catechist Work Day**
(Clean & Prep Classrooms / Yard Work), **10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
- Monday, 1 Sep 08:** **No School: Labor Day**
- Friday, 5 Sep 08:** **Catechist Work Day/Calendar Review, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
- Sunday, 7 Sep 08:** **First Day of Religious Education Classes**
(ALL Grades K-12), **9:45-10:45 a.m.**
- Sunday, 21 Sep 08:** **Blessing of Catechists, 8:30 a.m. Mass**
- Saturday, 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
CATECHETICAL CONGRESS, Pastoral Center, OKC,
7:45 a.m.-12 noon
- Sunday, 28 Sep 08:** **Crop Walk** (Food and Shelter for Friends), **2:00 p.m.**
Community Service Choice for Confirmation candidates 1ST and 2ND year students

ATTENTION 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.

CHELLE BREEDLOVE
Religious Education Coordinator
cbreedlove@stm-ou.org • Ext. 202

CATECHIST'S 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, September 27, 2008 at 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Catholic Pastoral Center**. Sign-up with Chelle no later than **Sept. 14**. We can carpool and go together!

KID'S CORNER

Sharing the Gospel (Grades 2-3)

God had sent great prophets to his people. Jeremiah, Elijah, and John the Baptist were faithful to God. They told God's people to love each other. But God's people would not listen. That is why God sent his Son Jesus to be your Savior. With Jesus' help, you can turn back to God. Because of Jesus, you can love others. Because of Jesus, you can look forward to heaven.

Prayer

God, I thank you for sending your Son, Jesus to be my Savior.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus in heaven, holding out his hand to you.

Mission for the Week

Tell God you are sorry for your sins. Ask God to help you follow Jesus' example.

ST. JOSEPH'S EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thursday, September 4, At 10:00 a.m.

Early Childhood Development Center Playground
425 E. Tonhawa, Norman, OK

Join us in celebrating our 10 year partnership with St. Joseph's Parish to serve and nurture Norman's families and children!

For more information, Contact Maureen Dolan at 405.447.8608

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

Our new gym is within reach! We've topped ***\$760,000*** for our capital campaign. Help us by making your pledge today. Make your capital campaign pledge by credit or debit card by logging on to our school website at www.allsaintsnorman.org and click on the "donate" tab in the upper right corner. Payments can be made over 1, 12 or 24 months. It's easy!

PARISH NEWS, NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSOCIATE ADORERS OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

The **Formation** meeting is scheduled for **Monday, August 25, at 6:00 p.m.**, followed by their regularly scheduled meeting at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Overflow room**. For further information, contact Sister Ursula Schones, facilitator, at schonesu@adorers.org.

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

In prayer, and service, and joy, St. Francis of Assisi followed Christ. Members of the Secular Franciscan Order strive to carry on Francis' ideals in the modern world. All are welcome to attend their meeting **Sunday, September 7, at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish library. Social follows at 3:00 p.m. in the Parish kitchen.**

KNIGHTLY NEWS

A big **THANK YOU** to those who helped out during our two Work Days. A lot was accomplished, particularly on the inside of the house. The piano is finally gone and we can drink the water again. Now if we just had a weekly maid!

A **Casino Event** for Campus Ministry will be at the Student Union Ballroom on **Wednesday, August 27, from 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.** *Volunteers are needed to man the tables.* Call SK Huntington, 360.7473 for details.

Football parking volunteers unite and be ready for the first game of 2008. **Game time is 6 PM on the 30th.** Our Council is fortunate to have such a fundraising opportunity. Let's make the most of it! *Come and help.* Can't help on game day; how about an hour on the Friday evening before; or, on the Sunday morning before the 8:30 Mass? Neither requires a lot of time, but are just as important to this fundraising project as game day parking. Call SK Sher, 360.0007, for Friday roping details and SK McElhaney, 360.1768, for cleanup details.

GALA NEWS

Catholic Education doesn't end when your child graduates high school. Neither does our responsibility to our Catholic college students. St. Thomas More Catholic Student Center in Norman takes over the job parents have started in nurturing, feeding and sustaining Catholic students from all over Oklahoma. We need your support to continue this vital campus ministry.

We also want to have some fun so on **October 24, 2008, we will dance with the stars.** **"Some Enchanted Evening; Dancing with the Stars"**, is the theme of our 2008 gala, benefiting campus ministry at the University of Oklahoma. This year's black tie optional /costume ball promises to be the best ever, with dinner, dancing, singers, dancers and live and silent auctions.

The profits from the event will support on-going campus ministry programs such as Christian fellowship, community service, retreats and more. Something new on the agenda this year is a student trip to the Ukraine to help teach English to students at the Ukrainian Catholic University. The purpose of the trip is to help rebuild the Church in Eastern Europe after the Communist oppression of previous years.

Will you help? Tickets to the gala are **\$65 per person or \$125 per couple.** If you buy your ticket *before* Oct. 1, you will receive 2 hours of ballroom dancing lessons to make you a true dancing star. Contact St. Thomas More University Parish, 100 E Stinson, Norman, OK 73072 or by calling 405.321.0990. If you can't attend, would you please consider making a donation to Campus Ministry? After all, it takes all Oklahoma parishes to raise an Oklahoma Catholic student.

We also wish to announce that for the first time, Campus Ministry is having a **RAFFLE** as a part of it's gala. For only **\$10 a ticket**, you can purchase the opportunity to win a Sony 32 inch flat screen HDTV along with a 42" wood console to put it in.

Your odds at winning the Powerball are 3,478,761 to one. The odds of OU having an undefeated season this year is 952 to one. But **your odds of winning the Sony HDTV along with the console is 500 to one** because we are limiting ticket sales to 500. **The odds are better the more tickets you buy.** Purchase your tickets after Mass today!

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Within the private chapel of the Pope at the Vatican, an icon referred to as the Mandylion of Edessa sits behind a gold frame. It purports to show the face of Christ on a cloth; legend has it that Jesus himself sent it to King Abgar of Edessa, having pressed his face into it to create the image. Like the Shroud of Turin, people look at this icon and wonder if it is truly an image of the Son of God.

How do you recognize Jesus? Jesus asks his disciples who the people think that he is; remember that the people had been awaiting a kingly savior, so this very common, ordinary man was thought to be Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. They had not seen him or met him, and even then might not have been convinced. But Peter, speaking from the heart, recognized him as "the Christ, the Son of the living God."

The physical characteristics of the Son of Man should have little or no matter in our lives today; what is important is to remember that we are taught that Jesus Christ is the light of all humanity, a light that shines so brightly for all the world to see that we have no trouble distinguishing it as anything else (CCC 748). Like Peter, look to your heart for the loving light, and boldly share it with the world to the best of your abilities.

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FRIENDS OF IRMA BURR MAY NOW CONTACT HER AT...

Mrs. Irma Burr, c/o Sara and Joe Renville, 5410 Dahlia Court, Middleton, WI 53562; Phone: 608.828.9521; Email: burren@tds.net

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 24, 2008

Sunday: Is 22:19-23 / Rom 11:33-36 / Mt 16:13-20
Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12 / Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 / Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 / Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9 / Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25 / Mk 6:17-29
Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31 / Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday: Jer 20:7-9 / Rom 12:1-2 / Mt 16:21-27

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

It is our responsibility in the Lord to remember the sick who are especially close to the Redeemer in their suffering. Listed below are people who have requested our prayerful intercession. *Call our Prayer Line to add or delete someone from the prayer list at 405.447.7055.* If there is an **EMERGENCY**, and you need to reach a priest, please dial 405.321.0990 Ext. 208.

VISIT THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL AND PRAY FOR... The preservation of the dignity and sanctity of all life; victims and survivors of violence; troubled marriages; vocations (*Mariana Schwartz*); peace; justice; our service men, women and their families (*Colleen Dennison, Matthew Ghigliotti, Luke T. Landis, Michael Scanlon and Clint Wilson*); the hungry; the homeless; the abused; the unemployed; and our youth; **THE SICK...** Marge Earley, Harold Heiple, Joan Ivester, Susan Lepak, Sharon Poe, Ignacio & Maria Ruiz, Dar Vickers, Sallie Wallace, and Luisa Whitman; **THOSE IN MOURNING...** The Farnan, Johnson, Kuku, Okvist and Weimer families; **THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF...** Mary Lee Farnan, George M. Kuku, the Okvist twins, and Victoria Jean Weimer.

VIGIL CANDLES in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel burn for your special intentions. *Donations are appreciated.*

MASS STIPENDS are payable to Reverend Ray K. Ackerman in the amount of \$10.00, *if you can afford it.*

DAY BY DAY

"Who do you say that I am?"

It is as our Savior that Christ enters into partnership with us. In fact, it is by that very partnership that he saves us. He comes to us full of perfect knowledge and unlimited love. He knows exactly what we are, and he knows exactly what our life will be. He knows all our defects and weaknesses, those that are natural to us, those that are the result of circumstances and those that are the result of our own sins. He knows all that has happened or will happen to us. He knows all that might have been done for us or by us, but which has been neglected. He knows all our mistakes and all our sins; he knows all our misfortunes and all our miseries. He knows all these things in advance, but being the perfect lover, he comes with the power of God to heal all these ills. He is perfectly prepared to repair our life completely if we do not prevent him. And God is able to make all grace abound in you; that you always, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. Our sufficiency is from God. He is our perfect supplement.

Just as the two torn pieces of a sheet of paper fit perfectly together, so Christ fits perfectly into our life, and fills it completely. It does not matter how small is the part of the page which represents our life—or if you prefer it, our lack of life—he can and will supply all the rest of the page. He is our full complement; he is our perfect supplement... In one Holy Communion we can receive the perfect complement of all our wasted past and our damaged self. Of his fullness we have all received, says Saint John. Our Lord himself tells us: I am come that they may have life and have it more abundantly. And Saint Paul, filled with this vision of the Body of Christ, writes to the Corinthians giving thanks for the grace that is given you in Christ Jesus, that in all things you are made rich in him... That nothing is wanting to you in any grace.

DOM M. EUGENE BOYLAN, O.C.S.O.

Dom Boylan (+1963) was a monk of the Cistercian Abbey of Mount Saint Joseph, Roscrea, Ireland.

The © Magnificat 2008

On behalf of **ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH** we would like to thank all participants of the 2007-2008 Hispanic Cultural Institute (HCI). It was a great success!

We now wish to invite you to the **Opening Ceremony** of the **2008-2009 Hispanic Cultural Institute**, **September 16, 2008** at **7:00 p.m. at the Gym of the Parish Center** (421 East Acres Street). It is not necessary to be a member of the Institute in order to attend. We look forward to seeing you! Likewise, we invite you to participate in the **Classes of Spanish Language and Cultural Studies** that will be offered **every Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 7:50 p.m.**, with the **Cultural Presentation** by participant scholars (predominantly OU professors) from **8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** **Enrollment** is currently underway and will continue until **September 26, 2008**. Pick up a Brochure of the HCI and/or a Registration form at the Parish Center. Please include with the application form a check of \$25, made payable to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, for the enrollment fee per semester. Questions? Please contact the Parish office (321.8080), and/or e-mail: **mariadejp-ruiz@ou.edu** or **iruiz4@att.net**.

PLEASE HELP! An older parishioner will be in need of a ride from her apartment to our Parish and return during the period of September 14 through 19 October. She lives at Westwood Park apartments on west Robinson and prefers the 8:30 a.m. Mass. If you are willing to help, please contact Al Patrick at 360.4147 for more information.

QUESTION OF THE DAY

Prayer for the Damned?

Q. If you continue to pray for a departed soul, yet the soul may be in hell, what good are the prayers? Can the sufferings of souls in hell be lessened by our prayers, even though they are eternally damned? This eats away at me. Thank you for your kind response. *J.K., via e-mail*

A. Here's a reply from The Catholic Answer columnist Father Ray Ryland, Ph.D., J.D.:

Prayers for souls in hell would have no effect on them. Yet you and I cannot know whether any given person is in hell. Even though it may appear to us that a person died while cut off completely from God by his own choices, we should not assume he is in hell. Rather, we should continue to pray for him and trust God to use our prayers as He intends.

The only creatures of God whom we assuredly know to be, or will be, in hell are Satan and his angels. **The Catechism teaches us that Satan and his angels, using their free will, "radically and irrevocably rejected God and His reign" (no. 392).** They cannot be saved because their rejection of God is final.

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"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! Our next meeting is **Tuesday evening, September 2, in the Parish Overflow room.**

-Yours in Christ, Deacon John Pigott