

Welcome to the Faith Community of
ST. THOMAS MORE

ROMAN CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY PARISH & STUDENT CENTER
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. (CANCELED DURING OU HOME FOOTBALL GAMES)
SUNDAY MASSES	8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.
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. (STUDENT-LED MASS)
ROSARY	FOLLOWING DAILY MASS
VESPERS	THURSDAYS, 8:30 P.M.
NURSERY	SUNDAY, 8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.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 • mollerorgan@yahoo.com • 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-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 31, 2008

When Peter tries to deny the Lord his passion—"God forbid that such a thing ever happen to you!" - he, in effect, is denying the possibility of happiness itself. "It is only by freeing himself, that he finds his truth, his joy, his happiness." Therefore, we eagerly offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. For, no matter how much our sharing in Christ's cross may make us an object of the world's laughter and mockery, we know that our need to live our relationship with the Lord will become like fire burning in our heart. **"The cross forces us to look upon the fact that we are loved by God. The cross becomes a new center of gravity for the bringing together of what is divided"** (Pope Benedict XVI).

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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 home football 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).

JOURNEY OF FAITH / 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 are held **Tuesday evenings 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

SUNDAY † AUGUST 31 † 22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

FIFTH SUNDAY: Weekly 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)

MONDAY † SEPTEMBER 1 † LABOR DAY: OFFICE CLOSED

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

TUESDAY † SEPTEMBER 2 † WEEKDAY

- 5:15 p.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 p.m. Journey of Faith [R.C.I.A.] (Overflow)

WEDNESDAY † SEPTEMBER 3 † WEEKDAY *(Gregory the Great, pope, doctor)*

- 7:30 a.m. **NO MASS**
- 8:20 a.m. **All Saints Catholic School MASS** (St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Norman)
- 9:00 a.m. English as a Second Language (Overflow)
- 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus (Knight's White House: 1511 Jenkins Ave.)
- 7:30 p.m. College Night (Overflow)
- 9:00 p.m. **STUDENT-LED MASS** (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY † SEPTEMBER 4 † WEEKDAY

- 5:15 p.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society (Library)
- 7:00 p.m. Parish Council (Library)
- 8:30 p.m. **VESPERS** (Sanctuary)
- 9:00 p.m. Fourth Day (Library)

FIRST FRIDAY † SEPTEMBER 5 † WEEKDAY *(Blessed Teresa of Calcutta)*

- 7:30 a.m. **MASS** Special Intentions (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 a.m. Catechists' Work Day / Calendar Review (Classrooms)

FIRST SATURDAY † SEPTEMBER 6 † WEEKDAY *(Blessed Virgin Mary)*

- 3:00 p.m. **NO CONFESSIONS:** Home Football Game [OU vs. Cincinnati]
- 5:00 p.m. **NO VIGIL MASS:** Home Football Game [OU vs. Cincinnati]

SUNDAY † SEPTEMBER 7 † 23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY!

FIRST SUNDAY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Collections

- 8:30 a.m. **MASS** Intentions of the PARISH FAMILY (Sanctuary)
- 9:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes [Grades K-12] (STM Classrooms & Sixplex Apts.)
- 11:00 a.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 1:15 p.m. Secular Franciscans (Library)
- 5:00 p.m. **STUDENT-LED MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. College Supper (Knight's White House: 1511 Jenkins Avenue)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: AUGUST 23 & 24, 2008

WEEKLY AMOUNT	\$9,728.10	YTD AMOUNT	\$93,039.35
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$11,058.00	YTD BUDGET	\$88,464.00
DEFICIT	<\$1,329.90>	SURPLUS	\$4,575.35

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish Vision and Mission!

HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Steve & Carolyn Jones
- 11:00 a.m. Marissa Cassidy & Jay Coleman

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

ALTAR SERVERS

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. **NO MASS:** Home Game [OU vs. Cincinnati]
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. Samantha B., Will Banowsky, Brandon M.
- 11:00 a.m. Elizabeth B., Andrés K., Maya Hoffman
- 5:00 p.m. Risa W., Sherrita H., Nathan R.

LECTORS

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. **NO MASS:** Home Game [OU vs. Cincinnati]
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. John Murray, Mick Hinton
- 11:00 a.m. Bill & Dolores Kuriger
- 5:00 p.m. Bobby Meiners, Harold Castano

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. **NO MASS:** Home Game [OU vs. Cincinnati]
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. Barbara Foley, Lisa Lancaster, Brigid Brink, Salva Gabert, Barbara Crane
- 11:00 a.m. Steve & Veronica Edge, Susan Schott, Doris & Jodie Edge, Becky O'Dea, Dan Lawrence, Peter Keupen, Deanna Preble
- 5:00 p.m. Bill Hersey, Michael DuPont, Rick Lane, Matthew Rom, Jennifer Grover, Linda & Jim Fields, Ben Ballard, Bea Henderson

USHERS

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. **NO MASS:** Home Game [OU vs. Cincinnati]
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. Becky Fleming, Leroy Montano, Kathleen & Drew Kershen
- 11:00 a.m. Jonathan B., Paul Buckelew, Mike Tobin, Steve Patrick
- 5:00 p.m. Bill Huntington, Noel Brown, Daivd Allbritton, Corey Gill

LABOR DAY: *May our work be fruitful for God's Kingdom.*

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

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

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
PRISON MINISTRY	Liz Gilmore	447-3549

Q. What lessons do this Sunday's first reading from Jeremiah and the Responsorial Psalm teach us about fidelity in times of struggle?

A. This Sunday's first reading from Jeremiah 20:7-9 finds Jeremiah struggling because of opposition to his message. He was proclaiming doom and destruction for the people because they had not been faithful to their covenant. The rejection and opposition that Jeremiah experiences is powerful, and he finds it difficult to handle. Jeremiah turns on God, accusing God of tricking him into the vocation of a prophet, along with blaming God for the painful message he has to impart.

The prophetic task is so challenging that Jeremiah is ready to give it up. Yet every time he tries to quit, it builds up within him *"like fire burning in [his] heart."* He cannot endure to keep the message and vocation hidden. He feels compelled to proclaim it once again, no matter what the consequences. Why?

The refrain from Responsorial Psalm 63 describes Jeremiah's dilemma. *"My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God,"* is the clue to Jeremiah's inability to give up on his ministry and vocation, no matter what the obstacles. **Jeremiah's call, as well as ours, is to enter into a deep and loving relationship with God, continually thirsting for the Lord. That relationship will sometimes cause misunderstanding, opposition and rejection. Yet that does not deter the faithful follower from following through on what that relationship demands.**

How do you remain faithful to the Lord despite misunderstanding, opposition and rejection?

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ENGAGING SPIRITUALITY INFORMATION MEETING will be held on **Tuesday, September 2, at 5:30 p.m. at Catholic Charities (1501 North Classen Blvd.)**. This new JustFaith program is a small-group process that invites Christian adults to explore the intersection between contemplative living and social action in their lives. Prior participation in JustFaith is not required.

In today's Gospel, Jesus said to his disciples, *"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."* We are called to follow Christ and love one another. Catholic Charities needs your support as it strives to continue Christ's work in this next year throughout the Archdiocese. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as the agency prepares for its **2008 ANNUAL APPEAL IN SEPTEMBER**.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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.

CENTERING PRAYER, PART 1, A SIX-WEEK SERIES, WEDNESDAYS SEPTEMBER 17—OCTOBER 22, 7:00-9:00 P.M., *Sister Marie Ballmann, OSB.* 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.

RELIGIOUS VOCATION RETREATS

ATTENTION PRAYERFUL SINGLE WOMEN! There is a great retreat for those considering the convent as a nun or sister coming up at the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth **September 26-28**, in Williamsport, PA. Get clarity for your vocation and meet a lot of new friends in Jesus! Please join us. **NO CHARGE.** Food and room are free! If you wish to take a bus or plane to Williamsport, PA, we will even pick you up at no charge. Call 1.800.221.1807 for more information.

ATTENTION PRAYERFUL SINGLE MEN! There is a great retreat for men for those considering the monastery as a monk coming up **October 3-10 or October 10-17** at the famous Gethsemani Trappist Abbey. (*You can attend just the weekend portion at those times if that suits your schedule better.*) Get clarity for your vocation and meet a lot of new friends in Jesus! Please join us. **NO CHARGE.** Food and room are free! If you wish to take a bus or plane to Louisville, KY, the monks will even pick you up at no charge. Call 1.800.221.1807 for more information.

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 Saturday, 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.

CLEVELAND COUNTY CROP WALK TO STOP HUNGER

2 P.M. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2008
FOOD & SHELTER FOR FRIENDS, 104 W. COMANCHE
Proceeds benefit Food & Shelter for Friends and Relief & Development projects of the Church World Service in over 80 countries.
CONTACT: Brenda at 405.620.1305 or brendawheelock@cox.net

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & SCHOOL NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION. Registration packets are in the Atrium. Due to space constraints, registration deadline is **Sunday, 31 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):

18 NURSERY AIDES needed to allow fair rotation between the 8:30, 11:00 and 5:00 p.m. Masses. 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 "qualified" help* (i.e. Background Check & Safe Environment Trained).

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!)

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
Sat., 27 Sep 08: CATECHETICAL CONGRESS, Pastoral Center, OKC, 7:45 a.m.-12 noon (For all Catechists)
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
Sunday, 28 Sep 08: Crop Walk
(Food & Shelter for Friends: 104 W. Comanche), 2:00 p.m.
Community Service Choice for Confirmation candidates 1ST and 2ND year students

ATTENTION 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

PARENT'S CORNER

ATTENTION PARENTS OF ALL CHILDREN/YOUTH (AGES 5-17) IN GRADES K-12 REGISTERED FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Classes will begin on Sunday, 7 September, at 09:45 a.m. Kindergarten, 2nd grade (Holy Communion), 7th grade, 8th grade, 9th grade (1st year Confirmation), 10th-11th grade (2nd year Confirmation) and 12th grade will meet in classroom or spaces in the main Church. 1st grade, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and RCIC students will meet in the classrooms and spaces prepared in the apartments adjacent to the Red House.

Once classes begin, please make sure you are on time. No food will be allowed in the classrooms (*except on special class occasions*). We will meet in the church on our first day. 6th graders and older will be expected to act responsibly and set a good example at ALL times. This year you will be assigned a "prayer buddy" and will be helping the younger children learn their prayers. Hopefully you have not forgotten *your* prayers!

Dismissal children (ages 3-5), leave after the opening prayer during the 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. Mass and will be in the same room as last year (room closest to the Nursery). They return to Mass near the Offertory. Their first class begins on Sunday, 7 Sep 2008 as well.

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!

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for the **ASCS Grandparent's Day** on **September 15.** The program will be held at the school. More information to come!

A few **openings remain in Kindergarten, Grades 3 and 4 and in junior high.** Contact the school office at 447.4600 for more information.

Thanks to everyone who donated television sets for our classrooms. **DVD players** are still **needed.**

Final call to **purchase personalized pavers** for the new gymnasium! Pavers may be purchased to honor or in memory of a loved one. Corporate pavers are welcomed too! Contact Carolyn Schmidt or the school office at 447.4600 for more information.

Our new gym is within reach! We've topped \$765,000 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 or 12 months. It's easy!

MOUNT SAINT MARY HIGH SCHOOL

Mount St. Mary High School will host the *Annual Alumni Tailgate* prior to the Rockets home football game on **Friday, September 12th, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** in the northeast parking lot (next to the baseball field). All MSM alumni and their families are invited to join us for fun, fellowship and food. The Rockets take on Little Axe at 7:30 p.m.

PARISH NEWS, NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 **1:15 p.m.** in the **Parish library**. **Social** follows at **3:00 p.m.** in the **Parish kitchen**.

KNIGHTLY NEWS

Welcome to our **newest Council Brothers: Matthew Adams and Ben Ballard**. Glad to have you on board. They were at the August 20 Exemplification - Why weren't you?

Congratulations to **August Knight of the Month, Bro. John Hallren** and to **SK Joe & Carolyn Sher, August Knight Family of the Month**.

Our **next** regularly scheduled meeting is this **Wednesday, September 3rd**. **Rosary at 7 PM - Meeting at 7:30 PM**. Light repast following.

Football parking volunteers unite and be ready for the next week's home game, **Sept 6th**. Game time is **6 PM**. 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 just as important to this fundraising project as game day parking. Call SK Sher, 360.0007, for Friday roping details and SK McElhane, 360.1768, for cleanup details. Speaking of sports... Council 8523's fearless(?) softball team took **fourth place** in the **Knights of Columbus State tournament of August 16th**. We'll get'em next year!

ATTENTION PRIMETIMERS & PRIMETIMER WANNABES!

Our September meeting will be at our old stomping grounds in the atrium (or, maybe the overflow area). If you didn't attend our last meeting, you missed a winner with Dr. John Fagan's presentation. Anyway, for our next meeting, we will meet on **Friday, September 12, at 8:30 pm, in the Parish Atrium**. The hosts promise that this will be a (*pleasant*) surprise meeting. Come join us, bring your favorite covered or uncovered dish to share, and maybe your favorite beverages (maybe to share). 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 Barbara Foley, at 447.0657.

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. Purchase your Gala and Raffle tickets after Mass today!

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

During the housing boom a couple of years ago, the airwaves were filled with commercials by mortgage lenders telling us that buying a house was the most important investment we could ever make in our lives. Unfortunately, some people lost everything in trying to buy more than they could afford when their payments increased down the road. Was this an investment, or merely a gamble?

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." This is not as daunting a request as it sounds on the surface. Jesus is asking us to understand that while we are given many gifts during this earthly life such as wealth and property, we must always remind ourselves that it could all disappear in an instant. With faith, we are willing to accept whatever happens to us.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that although we may suffer some sacrifices in our lives, we need only to remember the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As he took up his cross, we are joined to him in taking up ours (CCC 618). He accepted his coming sacrifice; are we willing today to accept whatever sacrifices may be asked of us? Today in prayer, offer first your thanks for all that you have been given, and then offer it all back freely if it is asked of you.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 31, 2008

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9 / Rom 12:1-2 / Mt 16:21-27
Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5 / Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16 / Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9 / Lk 4:38-44
Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23 / Lk 5:1-11
Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5 / Lk 5:33-39
Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15 / Lk 6:1-5
Next Sunday: Ez 33:7-9 / Rom 13:8-10 / Mt 18:15-20

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, Okvist and Weimer families; **THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF...** Mary Lee Farnan, the Okvist twins, and Victoria Jean Weimer.

FOLLOWING CHRIST

Why is Christ faithful? Whatever your forgetfulness and whatever your betrayal, they make you rediscover always, take you always back to the fact that you cannot take away what has happened, that you are this call. So you can forget yourself, betray yourself, but you always find the fact that Christ has called you. You can no longer shake this off. Like Moses, who in the third and fourth chapters of Exodus tried to rid himself of his call; those two chapters in the dialogue between God and Moses are a metaphor of life. In the end, God's call is stronger than all the incoherence of my weakness because Christ is Risen.

We understand then that the most powerful thing in life is the memory of Christ, in other words, the begging for Christ. The memory of Christ implies first and foremost the consciousness of His Presence in me ("in me" means that he has taken me, he has taken hold of me) and then requires begging, the entreaty to Christ that the consciousness of him be permanent.

The deepest aspect is wonder and gratitude, because his mercy is greater than my weakness. But his mercy means the permanence of my belonging to him, the permanence of the fact that I am his property. Like Israel: "Mine are all the peoples of the earth, but Israel is my own heritage, my own possession." Now Israel betrayed, and denied; was weak, fearful, timid, but what remained for ever was that Israel was God's property.

The Risen Christ is stronger than all our mistakes, not in the sense of a covering over of our misery with his mercy, on an eschatological level, that does not touch the instant, but in this continual recovery of memory, in this continuous surrender to his victory. Thus life changes.

-MONSIGNOR LUIGI GIUSSANI
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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.

WHICH CREED TO PRAY?

Q. I often get confused about when to pray the Apostle's Creed and when to pray the Nicene Creed. I prefer one over the other, and since they're so similar, does it really make a difference which I pray? Are they interchangeable? - D.D., Savannah, Ga.

A. Like all Catholic creeds, the Apostles' and the Nicene provide something of a summary of the faith that we profess. Nevertheless, no brief creed can include every single fundamental Christian belief, and specific historical circumstances shaped which of the fundamentals were included or emphasized in each creed. The result is some variation in content, though of course not in doctrine.

Here's an example of a fundamental tenet of faith that is not expressly stated in either creed: The Nicene notes that Christ "rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures," and that the Holy Spirit "has spoken through the prophets." But it doesn't contain, nor does the Apostles' Creed, an explicit statement of the divine inspiration of Scripture.

Why not? Largely because, in the period when these creeds were developed, there was no serious challenge being raised by heretical factions to the truth that Scripture is divinely inspired (*though there were of course heretical challenges to the Church's choice of books to be included in the canon — the official list of texts recognized as inspired Scripture*).

On the other hand, the Nicene Creed had its origins in the Church's response to an ancient heretical movement (Arianism), which taught that God the Son was a creature made by God the Father, and thus was not fully equal with Him. That's why this creed emphasizes and elaborates the full divinity of Jesus Christ: He is "the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father; God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God; begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father; through Him [that is, through God the Son] all things were made."

The Apostles' Creed, having developed under different historical circumstances, speaks of Him simply as "Jesus Christ, His [God the Father's] only Son, our Lord."

So which creed, you ask, is best to pray? It depends on the circumstances. The Nicene is normally designated (*though not always*) as the creed to be recited during Mass, and of course during Mass we should be praying together whichever words the Church has carefully chosen for the liturgy.

When we pray the rosary, on the other hand, the Apostles' Creed is traditionally the one we pray at the beginning. You could of course use the Nicene instead if you're praying alone, but if you're praying the rosary with others, it's better to be praying in unison.

The Apostles' Creed is also the one typically taught to younger children, since it's shorter and thus easier to learn. But we should never underestimate the power of little ones to memorize!

As for your personal devotions, I would encourage you to vary which creed you use. Since each one has distinctive features, each one has something distinctive to profess and to ponder.

What does it mean, for example, when the Nicene Creed says that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from the Father and the Son"? And what does it mean when the Apostles' Creed says that Christ "descended into hell"? That alone is enough to meditate upon for a long time.

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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*

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, 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. 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 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: **mariadejpruiz@ou.edu** or **iruiz4@att.net**.