

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)

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. (STUDENT-LED MASS)
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-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

When Saint Paul says that we are to owe nothing to anyone except to love one another, he is not referring to something sentimental. The love that the Apostle enjoins on us is summed up by the Prophet Ezekiel: "If you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, I will hold you responsible for his death." Our love is to extend to those attitudes and actions that would prevent our neighbors from truly loving themselves and their own destiny. "If your brother listens to you, you have won him over" because Jesus himself is in the midst of such love.

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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 † SEPTEMBER 7 † 23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

- 8:30 a.m. **MASS** Intentions of the PARISH FAMILY (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 a.m. **MASS** † PATRICK Walsh by *Margo MacRobert* (Sanctuary)
- 9:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes [Grades K-12] (STM Classrooms & Sixplex Apts.)
- 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)

MONDAY † SEPTEMBER 8 † NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- 7:30 a.m. **COMMUNION SERVICE** (Sanctuary)
- 9:00 a.m. English as a Second Language (Overflow)
- 7:00 p.m. Men of Honor / Women of Grace (Red House)

TUESDAY † SEPTEMBER 9 † WEEKDAY (*Peter Claver, priest*)

- 5:15 p.m. **MASS** Intentions of KEVIN LESLIE by *Ruth Loeffler* (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 p.m. Journey of Faith [R.C.I.A.] (Overflow)
- 7:00 p.m. Just Matters (Red House)

WEDNESDAY † SEPTEMBER 10 † WEEKDAY

- 7:30 a.m. **MASS** Special Intentions by *Anonymous Parishioner* (Sanctuary)
- 9:00 a.m. English as a Second Language (Overflow)
- 7:00 p.m. College Night (Red House)
- 9:00 p.m. STUDENT-LED **MASS** (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY † SEPTEMBER 11 † WEEKDAY

- 12:30 p.m. Martha & Mary Guild [Luncheon & Craft Session] (Overflow)
- 5:15 p.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society (Library)
- 7:00 p.m. ONE Team Information Meeting (Red House)
- 7:30 p.m. Mission Trip Information Meeting (Red House)
- 8:30 p.m. **VESPERS** (Blessed Sacrament Chapel)
- 9:00 p.m. Fourth Day (Library)

FRIDAY † SEPTEMBER 12 † WEEKDAY (*Holy Name of Mary*)

- 7:30 a.m. **MASS** Special Intentions of CLARA ROH by *Anonymous Parishioner* (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. Prime Timers Social & Potluck Supper (Atrium)

SATURDAY † SEPTEMBER 13 † WEEKDAY (*Jahn Chrysostom, bishop, doctor*)

- 3:00 p.m. **CONFESSIONS** (Reconciliation Room)
- 5:00 p.m. **VIGIL MASS** (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY † SEPTEMBER 14 † EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

- 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)
- 5:00 p.m. STUDENT-LED **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. College Supper (Knight's White House: 1511 Jenkins Avenue)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2008

WEEKLY AMOUNT	\$7,265.27	YTD AMOUNT	\$100,304.62
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$11,058.00	YTD BUDGET	\$99,522.00
DEFICIT	<\$3,792.73>	SURPLUS	\$782.62

HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Sharon Poe, Maggie Fitzgerald
- 11:00 a.m. Mary & John Holter

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 13 & 14, 2008

ALTAR SERVERS

- 5:00 p.m. David Pickens, Arianna G., Matthew M.
- 8:30 a.m. Valeria P., Eammon M., TBA
- 11:00 a.m. Tyler K., Stephen O., Kelly B.
- 5:00 p.m. Susan Murphy, Morgan B., Madison B.

LECTORS

- 5:00 p.m. Bob Rivera, Jane Sarber
- 8:30 a.m. Bill & Terry McNichols
- 11:00 a.m. Peter Caudle, Jean Quinnett
- 5:00 p.m. Pat Hyland, Justine Summers

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- 5:00 p.m. Louise Kay, Mary & Stephen Bonner, Cheri Remington, Paula Graham
- 8:30 a.m. Gerry Whitman, Stacy Schrank, Joe Lies, Carole Baldwin, Eleanor Barnes
- 11:00 a.m. Jodie & Doris Edge, Veronica & Steve Edge, Gail & Eric Anderson, Caridad Marchand, Rick Pendergraft, Rigo Gutierrez
- 5:00 p.m. Lindsay Hemingway, Austin Ross, Maria McKee, Ashleigh Arndt, David Banowsky, Phillip Smith, Emily Scales, Jos  Santiago, Rolando Chapa

USHERS

- 5:00 p.m. **Volunteers Needed!**
- 8:30 a.m. Becky Fleming, Russell Koch
- 11:00 a.m. Susy & Steve Calonkey, James Robb, Jesus Avila
- 5:00 p.m. Corey Gill, Bill Huntington, Frank Anderson

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).

REMEMBER THE POOR. Please drop a donation in the **POOR BOX** as you exit. All proceeds go to the *Saint Vincent de Paul Society* who assist the needy of Norman and Noble with utilities and rent. Thank you!

SATURDAY MASS

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY MASS

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY MASS

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY MASS

SUNDAY MASSES

In today's reading from the Letter of Saint Paul, we are told "to owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." We have many neighbors in our community that need our help. Catholic Charities asks for your help and support in meeting the needs of the poor, hungry, and oppressed. Please pray for [Catholic Charities](#) as it strives to meet its goal of \$2.4 million in the **2008 ANNUAL APPEAL**, which will be held the third weekend of September. God bless you for your support.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

CENTERING PRAYER, PART I, A SIX-WEEK SERIES, WEDNESDAY'S 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.

AN INVITATION TO KEEP YOUR FAITH ALIVE!!! A new season of **THE CORNERSTONE CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE STUDY** begins in September. Join us on a sacred journey as we study the book of Exodus. Meeting time and place are: *Room 102, located off the Lake Room; St. Marks Evangelist Catholic Church, Norman; Wednesday's @ 9:45 am. Visitors Day is Wednesday, September 17 at 9:45 a.m.* All are welcome. For more information, please call Ann at 405.579.0964 (home)/250.4285 (cell) or Donna at 405.831.7711. Visit our website at www.thecornerstonescripturestudy.org

HEALING FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE: MARY'S HOPE WORKSHOPS (www.maryshope.org) is coming to Miami, OK (Sacred Heart Catholic Church) on **September 20**, and McAlester, OK (St. John Catholic Church) on **September 27**, to present their "Spiritual Healing and Recovery" introductory workshop. This workshop is intended for adult survivors of childhood abuse and trauma, and anyone who cares about survivors: clergy, therapists, spiritual directors, social workers, friends, family. Come and learn how to help survivors heal their spiritual woundedness. Cost: \$50.00. CEUs available. Pre-registration required. Call 303.377.0293 or email us at maryshope@qwestoffice.net.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE. *This is a ministry to help cope with the traumatic experiences of losing a loved one through separation, divorce, or death.* Beginning Experience is carried out by a trained team of volunteers done at special weekend gatherings, which encourage participants to share their need and deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. The next Beginning Experience Weekend is scheduled for **October 17-19** at the Catholic Pastoral Center (7501 NW Expressway, OKC). For further information &/or to register, please contact the Office of Family Life at 721.5651 Ext. 108.

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 Dan or Jean Fergie at 405.760.0390.

STRUGGLING AFTER ABORTION? Experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat. *This retreat is also appropriate for those who have had a pregnancy loss from infertility treatments, RU486, morning after pill or contraception.* The retreat offers an opportunity to deeply enter into the grieving process and identify the ways your abortion may have affected you. Discussions, spiritual exercises, prayer and reflection are combined with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service honoring your child and a Mass of Resurrection. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and tender compassion. Both men and women are invited to experience this therapy for the soul. The program is an apostolate of the Catholic Church, but those from other faith backgrounds are welcome to attend. **Next retreat: Friday, October 31, 6:00 p.m. to Sunday, November 2 at 4:00 p.m.** Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$75 for materials, lodging and meals. Financial assistance is available. Space is limited. Registration must be finalized by October 24. To register or for more information, call Paulette at 405.623.3844 or email okcrachel@yahoo.com or check out www.rachelsvineyard.org.

☞ **Tell me more about St. John Chrysostom. I heard someone say he was anti-Jewish, and isn't a saint to emulate?**

☞ All humans, no matter how much they try, have their own blind spots and prejudices. This obvious statement often startles Catholics when they hear complimentary things about saints. After all, saints are held up as models for us to imitate.

John Chrysostom, among many others, is one example of a saint with prejudices. This most prolific writer of the fourth century is a doctor of the church and patron saint of preachers. His stirring preaching earned him the title of Chrysostom, the one possessing a "golden mouth." His austerity, his church reform agenda, along with his attacks on the imperial households for their extravagant lifestyles and abuse of power, all got him into trouble. Yet he refused to back down.

However, as bishop of Antioch, he became furious when he observed that Christians were fraternizing with Jews, and attending synagogues for prayer and study. Using his preaching skills, he delivered six sermons against the Jews which today rank among the strongest anti-Jewish statements ever made.

While saints are presented as models to be imitated, we should not be scandalized to learn that they were thoroughly human, with some of the blind spots and prejudices of their time. Just because saints were not perfect, should not prevent us from using them as models.

Ask God to make you aware of your blind spots and work on minimizing them.

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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 Gethsemane 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.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

ANYONE 18-39, SINGLE OR MARRIED

YOUNG ADULT MASS AND COOKOUT WITH ARCHBISHOP BELTRAN, Sunday, September 28, 2008 from 2:30 to 7:00 PM **THEME—"Faithful Citizenship"** Held at the Catholic Pastoral Center (7501 NW Expressway, OKC) in Conference room 3. For more information, call the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office at 405.721.9220.

SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENTS

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

NURSERY OPEN TODAY for all Masses (8:30, 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.). Any parents wishing to drop their children off in the nursery, must have a consent form filled out and on file in the Nursery. Forms are available outside the nursery on the wall. Our volunteers can not toilet train but will change diapers for emergency situations. Please note, that this free service is on a "first-come-first served" basis, and if the room is full a note will be placed on the Nursery window. The R.E. Coordinator will always accept applications for more Nursery Volunteers to allow fair rotation of the Volunteer schedule.

DISMISSAL CLASS FOR 8:30 & 11:00 MASS STARTS TODAY. Registered children ages 3-5 will leave Mass for about 25 minutes and return at the Offertory. Dismissal class is located in Room I next to the Nursery. Registration for Dismissal class is still open.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN TODAY: Registered children ages 5 (Kindergarten) through 17 (12th grade) will meet in the church no later than 09:45 a.m. The students will meet their teachers (Catechists). Father Ackerman will meet with us, and then Catechists will walk their students to their classrooms. Parents should meet and pick-up their children at their perspective classrooms no later than 10:55 a.m. This will allow catechists and students to attend the 11:00 a.m. Mass if needed.

R.E. CLASS LOCATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Kindergarten: Nursery

1st grade: Main room of Apt 1526 (follow sidewalk through the Red House breeze-way, look for the signs on the Apartment windows/doors)

2nd grade: Room I (next to Nursery)

3rd grade: North room (Apt 1528)

4th grade: South room (Apt 1526)

5th Grade: North room (Apt 1526)

6th grade: South room (Apt 1528)

7th- 8th grade: Room 2 in Church (one closest to the street)

9th/10th grade (1st year Confirmation): Red House (tentative)

10th/11th grade (2nd Year Confirmation): Library

Seniors: Red House (tentative)

RCIC: R. E. Coordinator's Office

Kindergarten and 3rd grade classes are closed (full due to space). Registration can be accepted for those parents still wishing to enroll their children but will be placed on a waiting list.

October 1st is the absolute deadline for those that wishing their children to be enrolled in 2nd grade, 9th/10th grade (1st year Confirmation) and 10th/11th grade (2nd year Confirmation) and for those who still owe for registration.

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!)

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, 2:00 p.m.

(Food & Shelter for Friends: 104 W. Comanche),

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

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!

REGION 10 CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

"Be Bold, Be Proud, Be Catholic"

November 21-23, 2008

Amarillo, Texas for YOUTH 9th -12th GRADE

Cost of the trip is \$210 which includes registration, lodging, transportation by bus, t-shirt, insurance, solidarity fee and most meals. **A deposit of \$110 is due on Wednesday, September 10th.** The balance of \$100 and the Archdiocesan Consent Form is due on **Monday, October 6th.** Keynote Speakers include Steve Angrisano and Mike Patin. For more information call the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office at 405.721.9220.

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.

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.

NORMAN PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

During the 08-09 school year, NORMAN PARENTS HELPING PARENTS (www.parentshelpingparents.info) will host a SIX-PART SPEAKER SERIES entitled *"Choices and Challenges of Early High School and Beyond"*, focusing on the substance abuse problem among our youth. The topic of the upcoming session (first in the abuse) will be *"The Extent of the Substance Abuse Problem within Schools, Families, and Communities."* Panelists include Randy Roller and Maribeth Govin from the Norman Public School Student Assistance Program, Longfellow Middle School principal Darien Moore, city councilman and retired Norman Public Schools high school principal Dan Quinn, University of Oklahoma staff psychologist Scott Miller, Norman Police Department's Jennifer Newell who serves as Public Information Officer, and Norman United Way's Emily Furney who serves as Vice President of Community Outreach. This session will take place on **Thursday, September 11th from 7:00 to 8:00 PM at the Norman Public Schools Administration's Curriculum Building at 131 S. Flood, Norman.** Call 278.1221 or e-mail PHPNorman@yahoo.com for more information.

PARISH NEWS, NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION

PRIMETIMERS & PRIMETIMER WANNABES!

Our September meeting will be at our old stomping grounds in the atrium. 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 6:30 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.

KNIGHTLY NEWS

Family Outing for September. Next **Sunday Sept 14th ** BOWLING ** 2 PM** at **Sooner Lanes** on 24th Ave NW. Call SK Sher for more information. Do you have suggestions for other outings? Families, their protection and welfare, are why we were formed; let's do things **TOGETHER** to strengthen those bonds.

September Brain Twister. Our Deputy Grand Knight gave our Grand Knight as many dollars as the Grand Knight started out with; the Grand Knight then gave the Deputy Grand Knight back as much as the Deputy Grand Knight had left. The Deputy Grand Knight then gave the Grand Knight back as many dollars as the Grand Knight had left, which left the Deputy Grand Knight broke and gave the Grand Knight a total of \$80.00 (that's why he is the Grand Knight). How much did the Grand Knight and the Deputy Grand Knight each have at the beginning of their exchange? Submit your name and answer to Gloria in the Church office. The winner will be drawn from the correct responses during our October Business meeting.

Football parking volunteers unite and be ready for the next home game. 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.

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS. Don't forget to mark your calendars for **October 24, 2008**, when 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. 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. Campus Ministry is also 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! For further information, contact Debbie at 405.321.0990 Ext 206. If you can't attend, would you please consider making a donation to Campus Ministry?

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, Patricia Murray, Ignacio & Maria Ruiz, Lisseth Schwartz, Dar Vickers, Sallie Wallace, and Luisa Whitman; **THOSE IN MOURNING...** The Farnan, Johnson, Okvist, Walsh, and Weimer families; **THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF...** Mary Lee Farnan, the Okvist twins, Patrick Walsh, and Victoria J. Weimer.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

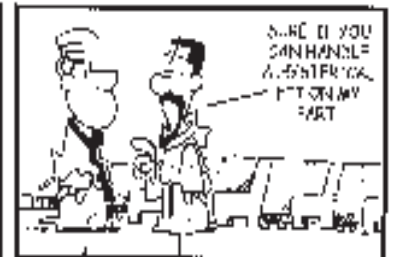
A man had a very self-righteous brother-in-law who often chastised him for not reading the Bible from cover to cover. They hardly spoke except through e-mail. "It's amazing to me," the brother-in-law wrote to him, "just how many people like you call themselves Christians who haven't read the entire word of God." The man wrote back to his brother-in-law saying, "It's amazing to me how many people have not read the complete assembly and repair manuals for a Boeing 747, and yet they call themselves pilots." The brother-in-law never again bragged about his extensive reading abilities, and the two were able to save their relationship.

Jesus' lesson in today's Gospel reading from Matthew speaks of reconciliation. Very simply, if we feel we have been wronged by someone, whether it be by words or actions, our first step is to speak to the person directly and in private. If the person does not see the wrong he or she has done, it is okay to bring a few others with you to help make your point. This is not to mean you gang up on the offender; rather, think of it more as an intervention, where friends gather to help someone overcome a sinful, hurtful lifestyle.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we are reminded that beginning with the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus preached a conversion of the heart. Before we can ever offer ourselves to God, we must first go and make peace with the person or persons in our lives with whom we are angry (CCC 2608). If there are those in your life with whom you've grown distant, you absolutely cannot give up on them. If you've only spoken to them, take the next step and go see them. And if even then they will not offer forgiveness, you offer yours-and pray.

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23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

Sunday: Ez 33:7-9 / Rom 13:8-10 / Mt 18:15-20
Monday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30 / Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11 / Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31 / Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13 / Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27 / Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22 / Lk 6:43-49
Next Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9 / Phil 2:6-11 / Jn 3:13-17

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.**

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).

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 9, in the Parish Overflow room.**

THIRSTY? Visit our parish website at <http://www.stm-ou.org> and find information regarding upcoming parish events and spiritually insightful links to quench your thirst for God. Share your thoughts with us via the **Suggestion Box** in the atrium.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION is held in the St. Charles Borromeo Chapel at St. Joseph's Parish Center, Norman. **ADORERS ARE NEEDED AT ALL HOURS.** Visitors are always welcome, but committed adorers are needed for each hour. Safety precautions are in place for anyone concerned about being alone. Our goal is to have at least two adorers for each hour. This is beneficial for all who participate, as well as their particular parishes. We are a truly Catholic mission and have seen many prayers answered in all who join in this special ministry. Come and pray, do silent rosaries, pray the stations, listen, or meditate. All that is required is to show up for 60 minutes. Contact Denise Bowman at 329.4918 or Maria Patlan at 872.1718 for information.

DID JESUS DENOUNCE CONFESSION?

☞ I was confronted by a Baptist person saying that I don't have to confess to a priest my sins and that Jesus denounced it in the Bible. If this is true, then why do we go to a priest? This happened at a Bible study in a predominately Baptist setting. I like to listen to the Word no matter what denomination. *N.N., via email*

☒ Here's a reply from TCA columnist Fr. Ray Ryland, Ph.D., J.D.:

Your inquiry raises three issues.

First, the Baptist claim that Jesus denounced confession. Not only did Jesus not denounce it; He commanded it. Ask your Baptist friend to read again Matthew 16:19, which records Jesus' bestowing on Peter the powers of binding and loosing (sins), which include the power of absolution. Then turn to Matthew 18:18, where similar authority is given to the apostles. Finally, look at John 20:22-23, the record of another bestowal of powers of absolution on the apostles, to "forgive" or "retain" sins.

Jesus never dealt with options. He bestowed this power with the intention that it be used.

Now, why did Jesus institute confession (the Sacrament of Reconciliation)?

Think about the nature of sin. Sin first of all is an offense against God. We can and should confess our sins privately to God. But what assurance do we have that we have been forgiven?

Apart from the Sacrament of Penance, our only assurance is our interpretation of words in Scripture. Foreseeing the human need for objective assurance, Jesus authorized His apostles, their successors the bishops, and bishops' aids — priests — to give that assurance in His name.

But there's more. Sin is not only an offense against God. It also harms those around us. Even what we think of as purely private sins deeply affects us and therefore inevitably affects the fabric of our relationships with others.

Imagine yourself standing beside a quiet pond. You throw a good-sized rock out into the water. You watch those concentric circles go out and out from the point of impact. You can't see where all those circles go.

Sin is like that. We can never know who are all the persons affected adversely by our sin. We can never know how all have been harmed. We can never ask forgiveness of all those persons.

Nevertheless, we need that forgiveness. That is why Jesus authorized certain persons to speak in behalf of the community we have harmed by our sin, giving us their forgiveness.

The third point is this. You say that you like to listen to God's Word in any denominational setting. You must remember, however, that every non-Catholic denomination interprets Scripture differently from, and in many instances in opposition to, Catholic teaching.

In any non-Catholic setting you are bound to hear a good bit of error. Are you prepared to sift out all that error, so as not to become confused about your Catholic faith?

☉ The Catholic Answer

THE BIRTH OF MARY

The eternal Word, Eternal Wisdom, having decided in the grand council of the Blessed Trinity to become man in order to restore fallen humanity, it is possible he made it known to Adam, and Scripture tells us he promised the patriarchs of the old Law that he would become man in order to redeem the world.

This explains why, during the four thousand years since the creation of the world, all the holy people of the old Law pleaded earnestly in their prayers for the coming of the Messiah. They groaned, they wept and cried out, "Clouds, rain forth the Savior!" "O Wisdom, who proceeded from the mouth of the Most High, come bring us deliverance."

But their cries, their prayers, and their sacrifices had not the power to draw the Son of God, Wisdom Eternal, from the bosom of his Father. They reached out toward heaven but their arms were not long enough to reach the throne of the Most High. They offered the sacrifice of their hearts unceasingly to God but they were not worthy enough to obtain the greatest of all graces.

At last, when the time appointed for the redemption of mankind had come, eternal Wisdom built himself a house worthy to be his dwelling-place. He created the most holy Virgin, forming her in the womb of Saint Anne with even greater delight than he had derived from creating the universe. It is impossible on the one hand to put into words the gifts with which the Blessed Trinity endowed this most fair creature, or on the other hand to describe the faithful care with which she corresponded to the graces of her creator.

SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT

Saint Louis de Montfort (+ 1716) was a great French missionary preacher especially renowned for fostering devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.