

## St. Thomas More

100 Stinson, Norman, OK 73072  
(405) 321-0990 • fax (405) 321-0964  
www.stm-ou.org

Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Lunch 12 pm—1 pm

### Pastoral Staff & Information

Reverend Ray K. Ackerman  
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RCIA Director & Deacon Dr. John Pigott  
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Deacon Tom Schott  
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Parish Secretary: Teresa Medford ext. 200  
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Website Editor: Richard Love  
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Volunteer Information: ivolunteer@stm-ou.org

St. Vincent de Paul: 329-5372

Prayer Line: 360-4147

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday @ 12 noon

#### 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.*

## Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30 am, 11 am & 5 pm

Monday Communion Service: 7:30 am

Daily Masses: Tues. & Thurs. 5:15 pm  
Wed. & Fri. 7:30 am

Rosary: Following daily Mass

## Sacramental Ministries

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays, 3-4:30 pm or by personal appointment.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Parents requesting infant baptism must be registered members of the Parish for at least six months and must contact the parish office for an appointment.

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Couples must be registered in the parish for at least six months, and need to contact Father Ackerman six months prior to the date of marriage.

### STM Journey of Faith Fall/Spring '09-10 "COME TO THE WATER, THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE"

If you are interested in learning about what being a Catholic is about, or if you are **RE**-thinking becoming a Catholic, or if you are a baptized adult Catholic who has not received the sacrament of Confirmation, or if you simply desire to discover the existential meaning of your life, then the STM **RCIA** program is for you! The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is a **Journey of Faith** which runs from August to May, with meetings at STM each Tuesday at 7 pm. By attending, you are not committing yourself to baptism or to being received into the Catholic Church, but simply exploring your journey with Christ. If you would like to find out more, please contact **Deacon Pigott**.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Parishioners facing surgery or struggling with serious illness may request this sacrament by calling the Parish office.

**Visit the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and Pray for...** the preservation of dignity and sanctity of all life: victims and survivors of violence; troubled marriages; vocations; peace; justice; our service men and women and their families; the hungry; the homeless; the abused; the unemployed; and our youth. †

## Parish Schedule

### Sun. December 6

- 8:30 am **Mass** †*Muoi Vo*  
*By the Pham Family*
- 11:00 am **Mass** *Kevin Loeffler*  
*Special Intention by*  
*Ruth Loeffler*
- 5:00 pm **Mass** †*Victoria Claravel*  
*By Tita Posa*
- 6:00 pm **College Sports and Snacks**

### Mon. December 7

- 7:30 am **Communion Service**
- 7:00 pm **Men of Honor/Women of Grace**

### Tues. December 8

- Office Closed**
- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 12:00 pm **Mass** *Intentions of the Parish Family*
- 7:00 pm **Mass**
- 7:00 pm **Journey of Faith (RCIA)**

### Wed. December 9

- 7:30 am **Mass** *Clara Roh*  
*Special Intention*
- 7:30 pm **College Night/Supper**
- 9:00 pm **Mass Student Led**

### Thurs. December 10

- 5:15 pm **Mass** *Special Intention*

### Fri. December 11

- 7:30 am **Mass** *Intentions of the Parish Family*

### Sat. December 12

- 3:00 pm **Confessions**
- 5:00 pm **Mass** †*Edward Sanabria*  
*By the Sanabria Family*

### Sun. December 13

- 8:30 am **Mass** †*Kim Kees*  
*By Helen & Al Patrick*
- 11:00 am **Mass** †*Paddy Dolan*  
*By Helen & Al Patrick*
- 5:00 pm **Mass** *Intentions of the Parish Family*

### Readings for the Week of Dec 6-13

- Sun: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11  
Lk 3:1-6 (6)
- Mon: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26 (181)
- Tues: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38 (689)
- Wed: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30 (183)
- Thurs: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15 (184)
- Fri: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19 (185)
- Sat: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a;12:1-6a, 10ab  
Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47 (690A)
- Sun: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18 (9)

## Ministry Schedule December 12 & December 13

### Altar Servers

#### Saturday

- 5:00pm Michael Scanlon, Hannah Grillot

#### Sunday

- 8:30am Gabriella Schreiner, Eamonn McElhaney, Risa Davis  
11:00am Kelsey Robb, John Robb, Elizabeth Buckelew  
5:00pm Sherritta Harris, Susan Murphy, Jonathan Kron

### Lectors

#### Saturday

- 5:00pm Robb Gragg, Sharon Peelor

#### Sunday

- 8:30am R. C. Davis-Undiano, Mick Hinton  
11:00am Laura Jones, Ruth Loeffler  
5:00pm No one

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

#### Saturday

- 5:00pm Valli Marti, Mary Bonner, Stephen Bonner,  
Louise Kay

#### Sunday

- 8:30am Ashleigh Arndt, Barbara Crane, Eleanor Barnes,  
Lisa Lancaster, Brigid Brink
- 11:00am Caridad Marchand, Rick Pendergraft, Terry O'Dea,  
Becky O'Dea, Jodie Edge, Doris Edge, Deanna Preble,  
Pat King
- 5:00pm Arn Henderson, Bea Henderson, Joseph Mecham,  
Susan Mecham, Bobby Meiners, Jose Santiago,  
Bill Hersey, Sims Beeler, Bill Huntington

### Ushers

#### Saturday

- 5:00pm Jane Wrede, Leila Kondo, Pat Urell, Carolyn Houser

#### Sunday

- 8:30am Russell Koch, Kelly McElhaney  
11:00am Tim Marquis, Jonathan Buckelew, Paul Buckelew,  
Matt Bahar  
5:00pm Corey Gill, Frank Anderson

### Hospitality Schedule

#### 8:30 Mass

#### 11:00 Mass

Dec. 13th Jones Family

O'Dea Family

Dec 20th Patrick Family

Jeanne Aiken  
Jean Winters

*Thank you to all our wonderful families!*

## St. Thomas More News and Announcements

### Prayer Blanket Ministry

Some dedicated ladies of our parish have been busy making Prayer shawls and throws to be given to those who are seriously ill. These are made with special prayers for healing and are blessed by Father Ray. If you know of anyone who needs the comforting thought of knowing prayers are being said for them, please contact Louise Kay at 364-8867. Also, volunteers would be welcomed to help with the crocheting.

### The Word Feeding Justice

December 6, 2009: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: 25

2nd Reading: 1st Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

We now see ten percent unemployment, species extinction, thousands of people homeless in our cities these winter nights, fifteen percent of our nation living with hunger. These issues are magnified on a global scale. We could go easily forth weeping with a robe of mourning and misery. But through our partnership with the Gospel message, we turn from negativity and inaction to pray always with joy. Discerning what is of value to make rough ways smooth, we confidently trust God for the peace of doing justice and know good works will continue to completion. This instills in us an enthusiastic passion to let us boldly proclaim social justice inequities by the seeds we sow.

Individual Reflection: Psalm 126

Around the world next Sunday, December 13th, there is a call to action in support of global climate change. Churches are asked to ring their bells to support the 350 ppm carbon footprint goal. To stand in solidarity with the world community, ask your church to participate or organize a group to gather with hand bells. (for more information go to: <http://www.350.org>)

### Food Pantry

The food pantry is being visited regularly and is providing a helping hand to many people every month. We would like to ask that the following items be donated:

Spaghetti sauce and noodles, canned fruits, vegetables and meat, cereal, macaroni & cheese, Lipton noodles, boxed meals, hamburger/tuna helper, peanut butter & jelly, spaghetti, boxed potatoes, rice, beans, ramen noodles, applesauce, pudding, juice, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and brushes, soap, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc.

By the request of our parishioners, we would like to have people whose **last name is A through L bring items on the first two Sundays of the month** and those whose **last name is M through Z the last two Sundays of the month**. This by no means will mean that any donation will not be received with much gratitude. With thanks to all the generous people in the parish.

### Notice to all Group Leaders and Parish Ministers:

Those in need of special access to the church. Door key applications are available in the office after Thanksgiving. Starting on **December 1st, a \$10.00 deposit will be required and all applications are contingent. Issuance requires application approval.**

**Parish Council minutes** can be found on the Parish website at: <http://www.stm-ou.org/parishcouncil>

**Remember the poor...** Please remember to drop a donation in the poor box as you exit the church. All proceeds go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society who assist the needy of Norman and Noble.

***Please call the office with Mass requests, funeral scheduling, sacramental ministries, questions, or if you are moving.***

**Catholic Radio may now be heard on FM 96.5 in the metro Oklahoma City area! Tune in and listen from 2 pm until dusk.**

## STM NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont'd)

### Birth Choice Crisis Pregnancy Center

#### **Located at 457 West Gray, Norman**

is in need of many items to help restock their reserves. The "wish list" includes:

Newborn Diapers up to size 5

Newborn Outfits up to size 2

Wash cloths and wipes

Baby shoes

New or Used Maternity clothes (tops and bottoms)

Baby wash and shampoo

Baby food in jars or boxes

Formula/Good Start

Receiving blankets

Cash donations are always welcome too and checks should be made out to BIRTHCHOICE at PO Box 94533 in Oklahoma City 73143.

Thank you for your support of our babies!

**Volunteers!!!** We need your time and talent. In return you will receive many blessings and meet a lot of wonderful people. **CALL 360-9555.**

### *Intercessions for Life*

*For young women in crisis pregnancies:*

*That you may receive loving support and guidance, and consolation from our Blessed Mother;*

*We pray to the Lord:*

### **Attention Primetimers and Primetimer Wannabes:**

Our next meeting will be in the STM atrium on Friday, December 11th at 6:30 pm. This is our BIG Christmas Season party/meeting and, as a "special treat", the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a "**CASINO EVENING**" for us. We will need dirty Santa gifts to be claimed by the amount of winnings. So bring a wrapped gift, your favorite libations (beverages) and your holiday favorite covered dish (with food in it) to share. You will find that we are quite a jolly group and all parishioners are welcome. This should be a fun, stress-free, let it all hang out meeting. You need not be retired to join in the fellowship and fun, after all, we are all young at heart. For more information, Contact Al Patrick at 360-4147.

### **Retirement Fund for Religious**

**Retirement Fund helps senior religious.** "As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the "Retirement Fund", notes a woman religious. Your tax-deductable donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously to next week's second collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious.

### **Adorers of the Blood of Christ**

**Sister Paulette**, dear friend of many here and Sister Ursula, went home to her Lord on November 29th. Please keep Sister Ursula in your prayers. God Bless. Janne O'Donnell

### **Mass Drivers Needed**

Would there be anyone in the Parish who would like to volunteer to drive someone, occasionally, to Mass because they are unable to do so? Please call the office at 321-0990 if you would like to help with this. Thank you.

## Religious Education News

### **Baptismal Seminars Schedule for 2009-2010**

All parents and godparents are required to attend a Baptismal seminar. St. Thomas More will offer Baptismal seminars on the following dates:

**December 20th 12:30 pm in Library**  
**(preferred Baptismal dates for the Christmas season are Dec. 27th and Jan. 10th)**

**February 21st 12:30 pm in Library**  
**(for any Baptism during the Easter season)**

**May 16th 12:30 pm in Library**  
**(for any summer Baptism)**

Registration is required for any seminar. Please call Chelle Breedlove at 321-0990 ext 202.

### **Next Children's Mass**

The next Children's Mass will be on **December 13th at 11 am**. The Third Sunday of Advent is **Gaudete Sunday**, the "pink candle" Sunday. This is when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. **Gaudete** is the plural form of the Latin verb, gaudete meaning "to rejoice".

### **Epiphany Pageant Practice**

**Sundays 12:30 pm until 1:30 pm**

**December 6th**

**December 13th (snacks for those who participate in the Children's Mass @ 11:00 am)**

**December 20th (hot chocolate and cookies after class - meet in Apt. 1528)**

**On January 3rd, there will be a "Dress Rehearsal" From 10:00am to 12:00 pm.**

**No RE classes on December 27th**

Our **fundraising cards** or cash were due by November 22nd. I can take payments on December 6th, but, after that the church will submit a charge for \$10.00. I hope you understand that I have to have some accountability on the cards.

**Many thanks** to all who donated to the **Thanksgiving Baskets**. There was enough food donated to make **7** baskets! The families who received them were overjoyed and very gracious. Thank you, again, for your kind hearts.

## All Saints Catholic School News

Construction continues on our brand new gymnasium! Logon to our school website at

[www.allsaintsnorman.org](http://www.allsaintsnorman.org)

The 12,000 square foot facility that includes a gymnasium and multi-purpose space, a commercial kitchen, concession stands, a lobby, storage and PE facilities is set to be completed in the Spring 2010. The school has raised all but \$135,000 of a \$1.2 million budget. Help us over the final hurdle! Make your pledge or donation at the website above. Thank you for all of your support.

The **All Saint's 4-H clubs** are working in conjunction with the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph's to collect coats for distribution at Food for Friends. Coats may be dropped off at All Saint's or St. Joseph's.

Support your parish school by saving designated coupons/ labels from Campbell Soup, General Mills, Tyson, and Coca Cola. Collection boxes are in the school atrium or you may drop them off at the office at STM. Attention Homeland shoppers-register your One Card so that the school receives credit for your purchases. Our school code is: **62052**.

Families wishing to enroll for Fall 2010 should make sure their names are on the wait list. Enrollment packets wukk be mailed out in early January. Wait list applications are on our school website.

### Advent Retreat at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish

Father Roberto Amoroso will lead an Advent Retreat at St. Mark's on **Saturday, December 12, 2009. The retreat will be held form 2:30 pm until 5:30 pm in the Lake Room.** There will also be an opportunity for Confession. Father Roberto is a member of the Priestly Fraternity of the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo. The retreat will follow the charism of Father Luigi Giussani, the founder of the Catholic Lay Movement Communion and Liberation. In his teachings and writings, Father Giussani stresses faith as a method of knowledge, a path to recognizing Christ's presence in our lives and experience.

## News in the Diocese

### Parents Helping Parents

The Norman Chapter of Parents Helping Parents will meet on **Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 pm** at the Education Center at Norman Regional Hospital, located at 901 N. Porter in Norman. Guest speaker will be Mary Jane Argentos, Ph.D., who will discuss her expertise in working with parents struggling with substance abuse/addiction in their children. Dr. Argentos is a licensed psychiatric hospital. She later became the clinical director of a sixty-bed residential treatment center whose program was designed to treat those struggling with both substance abuse and mental illness. For the past fifteen years, she has been in full-time private practice in Norman. For more information, call 278-1221

## Catholic Charities' Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program Need Your Help

There is no greater gift than to help a family in need for the holidays. The Adopt-a-Family program was created to assist families with their Christmas celebration. Without the benefit of an adoption, these families otherwise would not be able to celebrate due to their hardships. Last year, volunteers and sponsors allowed Catholic Charities to provide presents to 286 families. This year, the goal is to provide presents for 350 families.

Sponsors come in many shapes and sizes. They can be families, individuals, small businesses or large corporations. Many sponsors find the experience so fulfilling that they participate in the program year after year. With the help of generous sponsors and volunteers like you, Christmas blessings will be shared with families throughout Oklahoma City to make Christmas 2009 a celebration they will never forget.

Catholic Charities thanks all of our past Adopt-a-Family sponsors and volunteers for your generosity. Please call **Cassie Neahrng at 526-2308** to volunteer or the **Adopt-a-Family Program at 523-3026** to sponsor a family.

### Catholic School Leadership at Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana is currently accepting applications for its program in educational administration designed especially for preparing Catholic school principals. The Master of Arts (M.A.)

Degree is part of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program. All certified teachers interested in the principalship are encouraged to apply. For more information, call (574) 631-4449, or visit <http://ace.nd.edu>. The online application is now available on this site.

### Our Lady of Mercy Retreat Center

Two Advent opportunities for women are coming up! Located at: **Our Lady of Mercy Retreat Center  
2801 S. Shartel Avenue  
Oklahoma City, Ok 73109  
24 Hour Retreat  
December 11-12**

OR

**December 12th for a  
Women's Day Advent Retreat**

For information/ registration, call Sister Betty at (405) 634-1968.

### Artist Way Class

Would you like to get closer to God the Creator, in whose image we are made, by developing your own creativity? Come and join the facilitator, Katie Gordy, at **St. Monica Catholic Church at 2001 North Western Avenue in Edmond.** This will be a 10 week course based on the book, "Artist's Way", By Julia Cameron. Though costing as much as \$300.00 some places, this course runs on Thursdays from January 7th to March 11, 2010 from 9:30-11:00 am. Call Katie Gordy at 359-2700 to register.

## Need Help With Your Holiday Wrapping????

Volunteer elves will be available December 14, 15, 16, 21, & 22 from 9 am to 2 pm to wrap all of your holiday treasures. An array of paper, ribbon, bows & tags will be available to make your packages perfect. Please bring your own boxes for clothing, coats etc. Packages will be wrapped for \$2 each. If you have questions or would like to help the elves wrap, please contact the office.

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**Congratulations to the Sunday 8:30 Mass for winning the basket contest at the Gala!**

**As promised, Campus Ministry, will be preparing and serving Breakfast this Sunday, December 6th, after Mass. Everyone who attends this Mass will be treated to a delicious meal.**