

## 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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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 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
- 6:00 pm **College Sports and Snacks**

### Mon. December 14

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

### Tues. December 15

- 5:15 pm **Mass** Intentions of the  
Parish Family
- 7:00 pm **Journey of Faith (RCIA)**

### Wed. December 16

- 7:30 am **Mass** Intentions of the  
Parish Family
- 7:30 pm **College Night/Supper**
- 9:00 pm **Mass Student Led**

### Thurs. December 17

- 5:15 pm **Mass** †Ron Libieram  
By Rufina Jordan

### Fri. December 18

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

### Sat. December 19

- 3:00 pm **Confessions**
- 5:00 pm **Mass** Intentions of the  
Parish Family

### Sun. December 20

- 8:30 am **Mass** Intentions of the  
Parish Family
- 11:00 am **Mass** †Special Intention  
For my children by  
Josephine Ouandji
- 5:00 pm **Mass** †Vere Charles Manion  
By Candida Manion

### Readings for the Week of Dec 13-20

- Sun: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil4:4-7  
Lk 3:10-18 (9)
- Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27  
(187)
- Tues: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32  
(188) -
- Wed: Is 45:6b-8, 18,21b-25  
Lk 7:18b-23 (189)
- Thurs: Gn 49:2,8-10/Mt 1:1-17 (193)
- Fri: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25 (194)
- Sat: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a  
Lk 1:5-25 (195)
- Sun: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10  
Lk 1:39-45 (12)

## Ministry Schedule December 19th & 20th

### Altar Servers

#### Saturday

5:00pm Michael Scanlon, Arianna Garcia

#### Sunday

8:30am Gabriella Schreiner, Rebecca Gunter, Valerie Pham  
11:00am Maya Hoffman, Tyler Keupen  
5:00pm Joseph Mecham, Janice Wilson, Risa Walters

### Lectors

#### Saturday

5:00pm Tom Burns, Cindy O'Brien

#### Sunday

8:30am Earl Whitman, Frank Freidhoff  
11:00am Maria Dawson, Diane Cotts  
5:00pm Bobby Meiners, Joe Walters

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

#### Saturday

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

#### Sunday

8:30am Barbara Foley, Charles Gill, Joe Lies, April Anderson,  
Carole Baldwin  
11:00am Terry O'Dea, Becky O'Dea, Jodie Edge, Doris Edge,  
Dan Lawrence, Rigo Gutierrez, Steve Edge,  
Veronica Edge, Kathy Heiple  
5:00pm Arn Henderson, Bea Henderson,  
Susan Mecham, Sims Beeler

### Ushers

#### Saturday

5:00pm Jane Wrede, Rae Quijano, Carolyn Houser

#### Sunday

8:30am Russell Koch, K. Denton. Jr., Mary Starcevich,  
John Starcevich  
11:00am Joe Sher, Jim Weller  
5:00pm Frank Anderson, Bill Huntington, Corey Gill

### Hospitality Schedule

	8:30 Mass	11:00 Mass
<b>Dec. 20th</b>	<b>Patrick Family</b>	<b>Jeanne Aiken Jean Winters</b>
<b>Dec. 27th</b>	<b>Sharon Poe Maggie Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Holter Family</b>

*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 , 13, 2009: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Catholic Social Teaching: Rights and Reponsibilities

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Psalm: Isaiah

2nd Reading: Phillippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-28

John the Baptist was a prophet and also a mentor. He shared his social philosophy of sharing abundant resources and extra food in the pantry. Denouncing extortion of the vulnerable that could be exploited and excessive compensation beyond one's needs, he prescribed ethical practices. John clearly preached, in many ways, to those in his midst with a humble heart, while sharing the goodness of the Messiah. This Advent season give the gift of being a mentor to someone newly involved in your social justice ministry and prayerfully prepare your heart to have no anxiety in sharing your social values. Let the person know your own joy and gladness comes from your strength and courage in the Lord— and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding reigns in our heart as you work to uphold those who are marginalized, victimized and exploited in your midst.

Individual Reflection: Luke 1:39-45

Take some quiet time to ponder how you have been blessed by believing in and promoting social justice.

### 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:*

### Retirement Fund for Religious

#### **Retirement face rising costs.**

Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement office reveal that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077 per person annually, with skilled care reaching nearly \$55,000. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today's second collection.

### A Christmas Gift for YOU!

December 16th through December 24, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ will pray a special Christmas Novena. With gratitude and love we will remember You and your intentions. May God's blessings of peace be yours.

"O Hasten to Adore Him"

Sister Ursula Schones

### 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 will be mailed out in early January. Wait list applications are on our school website.

## News in the Diocese

### Full Circle Senior Adult Day Center Opens New Facility

Full Circle Senior Adult Day Center is opening a new facility that will provide expanded services for its surrounding communities. Full Circle will celebrate this event by hosting an Open House on Sunday, December 13 in its new location at 130 E. Lindsey Plaza Drive, Norman, OK beginning at 4:00 pm. Entertainment will be provided by Not Just Country Line Dancers and a giving tree will be on hand for items needed for the new center. Wine and d'oeuvres will be served.

"The new facility will offer a more home-like setting, allowing us to double our services to the families of Norman as well as enhance our programming", said Tammy Vaughn, executive Director of Full Circle. "We could not be more excited about this new chapter in our history.

### The St. Joseph's Theatre Guild's First Annual New Year's Eve Bash

Join your party friends for St. Joseph's Theatre Guild's first Annual New Year's Eve Bash on Thursday December 31 at 9:00 pm. **(21 or older only)** There will be dancing with "The Music Man" David Rosko, door prizes and 50/50 raffle, Party Pics, drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and complimentary champagne toast at midnight followed by a breakfast buffet. **Tickets are \$20/person** and are limited. Contact the Parish office for tickets beginning Monday, December 14th.

## Tap Into Faith

Interesting Topics! Great Company! Lively Conversation about Our Catholic Faith!

Come out for dinner and drinks, hear an interesting talk on important issues, and meet other Catholic adults! Bring your friend! Single or married!

**We meet the third Thursday of every month**

8pm Happy 1/2 hour

8:30 pm Lecture

9:00 pm Q & A Stay afterwards for fellowship

The place is **Pepe's Mexican Restaurant** located at 1701 S. Broadway in Edmond. Come and join us!

## 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.

## 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.

## WE WANT YOU !!!!!

Attention all St. Thomas More Parishioners! We are looking for enthusiastic people to design, develop, and implement two much-needed committees: Hospitality and Stewardship

At this point, we are starting with a blank slate and would like these committees to take shape based on St. Thomas More's unique needs. We want to recruit new faces, untapped talent, and those with previous experience. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in the planning process. If you are interested in joining this design team, have questions or have information on how these Committees functioned in the past, please contact the office.

On Sunday, January 17th at 6:15 pm, we would like to have the first meeting in this planning process. Please let the office know if you plan to attend, as we will be serving dinner. Thank you in advance for your participation.