

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2007

St. Veronica

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

353 E. NORWICH ST. • MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

***WELCOME TO THE
CATHOLIC FAITH
COMMUNITY OF
ST. VERONICA PARISH!***

If you are visiting St. Veronica from another parish or if you are new to the area, we are very pleased that you have chosen to worship with us in our faith community.

We welcome you to become a member of our parish family. Please call the parish office or visit our website www.saintveronica.org if you are interested in membership.

Parish Council Members 2007-2008

Pastor, Fr. Mark Payne

*Chairperson, Paul Klajbor,
405-2674*

*Vice-Chairperson, Nick Karabon,
481-9165*

*Agenda Secretary, Christina Mascitti
745-9013*

*Trustee Treasurer, Ken Widenski,
482-2417*

*Building & Grounds, Mike Zilinski,
482-4448*

*Christian Formation, Rodger Nelson,
571-0121*

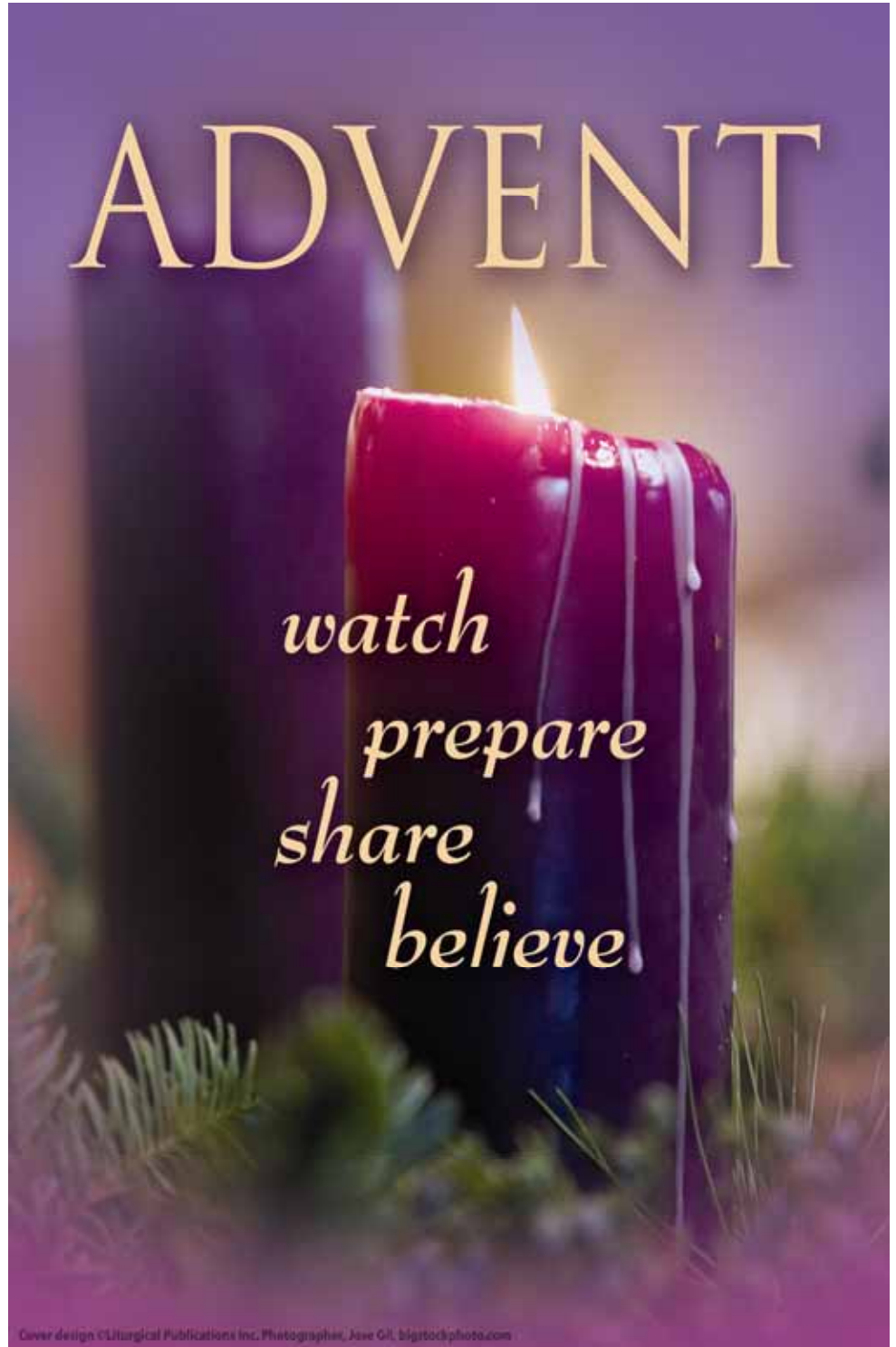
*Finance, Patti Jeffers,
427-4069*

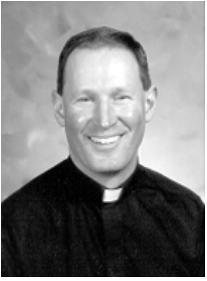
*Parish Life & APC, Monica Phillip,
744-1697*

*Prayer & Worship, Lynn Larson,
489-9148*

STAA Board, Judi Caruso, 744-1554

Stewardship, Robin Decker, 483-5485





Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday marks the beginning of the New Year! That’s right. A New Church Year begins with the season of Advent. This year we will focus our attention upon the Gospel of St. Matthew. The first Gospel traditionally was attributed to Matthew, the tax collector who became an apostle, but scholars do not know the actual author.

Most scholars label this gospel as the “teaching gospel,” because there are large sections in which Jesus is teaching the people. Between the birth of Jesus and his death the gospel is arranged into “five books,” perhaps imitating the five books of Moses. The arrangements have five teaching discourses directed toward the people.

In Matthew’s gospel, Jesus is exalted and carries a prophetic name, Emmanuel, “God with us.” He is a king from birth, who effortlessly conquers disease and evil “by the Word” which carries authority. This gospel takes into account Jewish history, tradition and themes and links them to the Christian perspectives by pointing them out through the Old Testament events, characters, laws, and prophetic visions. Fulfillment of what was told to the Jewish people long ago is manifested through Jesus and His teachings.

Unique among the Gospels, Matthew pays attention to the community of Jesus’ followers; this Gospel alone uses the word “church.” The apostles and especially Peter serve as models for the community even though they have their own shortcomings. In Matthew’s gospel, Peter embodies the paradox of the beloved stumbling disciple. Peter always seems to speak before he thinks, falls asleep when asked to stay awake and denies Jesus. Shortcomings and all, the Twelve are the foundation stones of the community.

So let us begin our journey into Advent with Matthew and all the wonderful insights that this Gospel will reveal to us during this season. This year like every year the message is loud and clear! Be awake and be alert for no one knows when God shall return! Our Gospel passage lets us know that people lived their lives eating and drinking up until the day of the great flood which took most people by surprise. Noah was the one who was in touch with God. He is our model of being aware and alert. So, we need to begin this Advent with our eyes open and our hearts alert. The author gives a great image to close the passage, “Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of the night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into(Matthew 24:44). Are we ready to make the proper preparations for this coming Christmas so our hearts and minds are ready to receive Christ our King? That is what Advent is about - waiting and preparing our lives to receive Jesus. Please be attentive to the Gospel call to be prepared and ready. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered during our journey along with opportunities to do some self reflection. *Blessings Fr. Mark*

Christmas Dinner Baskets

Boy Scout Troop 208 is collecting money to purchase food for Christmas Dinner Baskets to be distributed to people served by St. Veronica's Food Pantry. The Scouts are taking on this service project to continue the work begun last year by Zach LaPointe in his Eagle service project.

Your donation of \$25 would be used by the Scouts to purchase the food which they would assemble in baskets and distribute at the Food Pantry on December 15.

If you are unable to give your donation to the Scouts who will be collecting them after all masses this weekend please put it in an envelope marked "Troop 208 Pantry Christmas Baskets" and bring it to church next weekend or drop it at the Parish office or you may mail it to *Tim Ewert 3770 E. Plankinton Ave Cudahy, WI 53110* by December 10. Please make checks payable to *Boy Scout Troop 208*. If you have any questions please contact Tim Ewert at 581-1713. Your support is appreciated as Troop 208 carries on a service that was much appreciated by the Food Pantry clients last year and helped to make their Christmas a little brighter. God Bless You.

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Mt 24:42-44



Living Our Faith, an archdiocesan initiative that:

- Inspires people to *Meet Christ*
- Teaches people to *Know Christ*
- Helps people to *Live Christ*
- by serving Him and others.

Advent Materials Available

To help with your celebration of Advent, the parish is offering the Little Blue Books with daily reflections. The books are in racks on the communion rails. Also, check the kiosks at the entrances for a children’s Advent calendar.

Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday, Dec. 8, is the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. A Mass of Anticipation for this feast will be offered at St. Veronica on Friday, Dec 7 at 7 pm. This is the only Mass we shall have for this feast. Mass times at neighboring parishes are as follows:

- St. Paul: Friday 5:30 pm, Saturday 7 am*
- St Augustine: Saturday 10 am*
- Immaculate Conception: Friday 6 pm, Saturday 10:30 am*
- Nativity of the Lord: Friday 6 pm, Saturday 8 am*
- Sacred Heart of Jesus: Saturday 8:30 am*

Please note that our 4:30 Mass on Saturday evening is for the Second Sunday of Advent.

Parish Office Christmas Tree

Want to get into the spirit of Christmas? Come join us on Thursday, December 6 after the morning mass as we decorate the parish office tree. Enjoy holiday music, cookies and good cheer.





A very big THANK YOU to all who donated blood on Friday, November 23. St. Veronica was one of the few churches or agencies sponsoring a blood drive.

The Grief Support Group will be held on Saturday, December 1, from 10 am to 11 am at the Parish Office. Please encourage those who have lost loved ones to attend this support group, especially through the holidays, when the loss of a loved one is felt the most. For more information, contact Cathy Souhrada Fraunfelder, 747-8790.



STEM CELL/CLONING DID YOU KNOW.....

Adult stem cells are found virtually anywhere on a person's body. Adult stem cell research is universally supported because no one has to be killed to retrieve the cells.

Wisconsin Right to Life - www.WisconsinRightToLife.org

Dr. David Prentice, nationally-known stem cell expert to speak January 13, 2008 at Immaculate Conception Parish-Ryan Hall, Dr. Prentice will speak at 10:45 AM. Light fare will provided. Ryan Hall is located at 1023 E. Russell Avenue. Park in the parking lot near the east end of the school building. For more information, call JoAnn Gates at: 482-0823.

Reflection:

"The common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights...is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination." (Pope John Paul II, *Apostolic Exhortation*, 1988)

Prayer: In this season of Advent waiting, may we reach out to women who are struggling to bring their unborn children to birth, we pray.



St. V's Pantry Food of the Month

From time to time, the question is asked: "What food do you need in the food pantry?" The specific food item requested for the month of DECEMBER is *instant potatoes*. Donations may be dropped off in the Ushers room or brought to the parish office.

Human Concerns

Prayer Network

In November, there were more than 105 requests for our prayers called in to our Prayer Network or written in our parish Book of Intercessions. Intentions included:

Employment - Family guidance - Family healing - Healing from accidents, surgery, illness, depression etc. - Peace - Peace after death of a loved one - Peaceful death - Safe travel - Special intentions - Spiritual guidance - Success in job - Thanksgiving. Please remember all prayer requests in your prayers. Become a part of Pope Benedict XVI's prayer group. The general intention recommended by the Holy Father for DECEMBER is: (Those Suffering from AIDS) That society may care for those stricken with AIDS, especially women and children, and that the Church may help them feel the Lord's love. The mission intention is: (Asia) That the incarnation of the Son of God may help the peoples of Asia recognize Jesus as God's Envoy, the only Savior of the world. <http://apostleshishopofprayer.org> "As a society we are witnessing the fruits of the abortion mentality. Is it any wonder that we have created a culture of violence? We need to repudiate all forms of violence. Jesus offered the way — demanding but fruitful. Prayer does change hearts. The current culture of violence will yield only to that spiritual force that first touches and then changes individual hearts. Prayer does work and it must be our instrument of change." Homily of Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, Pro-Life Mass, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. January 22, 2007. www.usccb.org/prolife

TIME	CAPTAIN	PHONE
7-12 pm	Jeanette Kuechenmeister	481-6224
12 pm-3 pm	Lucille Devine	529-8570
3-5 pm	Cecilia Bonczkowski	744-9406
5-7 pm	Helen Rewolinski	744-4139

Intentions left on a Captain's answering machine will be taken care of



Presents for Pantry Kids

Thank you to everyone who signed up to sponsor a child this year. Remember if you cannot sponsor a child, but would still like to help, rolls of gift wrap and clear tape are greatly appreciated. We give the gift wrap along with the gifts when our pantry patrons pick up their gifts. Also, large two handled shopping bags that you cannot see through are great for our pantry parents to get the presents home without the kids getting a peek. If you have some small gifts around your house that you could donate, it helps when a gift needs just a little something to match a siblings gift. These could include Beanie Babies, Matchbox type cars or small Bath and Body products. Gift cards are also very useful.

There were some questions about the amount you could spend for the gifts you purchased. The reason that an amount is specified is that sometime the children within a family are divided amongst several parishioners. By setting a certain amount to spend we hope that the gifts will all be comparable. This year we ask that you spend between \$20-\$25. The amount is slightly higher this year because several gift buyers had trouble sticking to last years \$20 limit. Another question was about the gift suggestions in the sponsor letters. The list is just suggestions, you do not have to buy everything on the list.

Gifts must be returned on December 9 for distribution on Dec. 10-13. Please Do Not Wrap your gifts. Any questions, contact Cat LaPointe, 747-0709.

Open Door Free Health Clinic

The Open Door Free Clinic, for the uninsured and underinsured, will be open Wed, Dec 5, 12, 19 and 26. The clinic is located inside Unity Lutheran Church, 1025 E. Oklahoma Ave. Sign-in time is 5:30 pm and the medical staff will see patients from 6:00-8:30 pm.

Recycled Bags for Food Pantry

We could use your recyclable grocery-size plastic and paper bags. Please bring them to the parish office or leave them next to the "Feed the Hungry" stand in Church. Thank you!



This time of the year makes me reflect on all that I have to be thankful for; my family, my friends, my faith, the caring teachers and staff I work with, a warm and safe building to work in...the list goes on. When you think about all the good things in your life, how do you show your thanks?

We just finished our first service drive. We participated in UNICEF's Trick or Treat campaign. We collected over \$400! This money will be used to supply either warm blankets to 150 children or food kits for 500 children.

We are also finishing our first food drive. Because we are a school supported by six parishes, we plan service drives for the entire year in order to give to each parish. This Thanksgiving, we will give over 1,800 nonperishable food items to three of our St. Vincent DePaul Societies from three of our parishes. We will have another food drive and a personal needs drive at later dates to give to our three other parishes. Throughout the year, we also make small gifts and cards to give to each parish's homebound and nursing care parishioners. These are just some examples of how St. Thomas Aquinas Academy gives thanks to the parishes that support our school. *Blessings, Mary Stallmann*

Immaculate Conception

On December 8 the Church celebrates the Solemnity honoring the belief that Mary was free from the corruption of sin-even from the moment of her conception. This was believed and held by the early Christians and for centuries thereafter, however, it was not infallibly proclaimed a dogma of the Catholic Church until 1854, by Pope Pius IX. The Immaculate Conception is the patronal feast for the United States and is always observed as a holy day of obligation. Even if the Solemnity falls on a Saturday or Monday this day is celebrated in its fullness, with the Obligation to participate in the Eucharist. Often people confuse the meaning of this Solemnity as the virginal conception of Jesus. *Sourcebook 2008*

M.A.L.E.'s (Men As Learners & Elders)

Please join us for a M.A.L.E. Advent Journey called *Preparing for Christmas* with Fr. Richard Rohr, Dec 2, 9 and 16 in the Parish Meeting Room at 7-8:30 pm.

Our small band of men have been together since last April. We are interested in Learning about spirituality by following Jesus through the help of Fr. Richard Rohr. Our group hopes to grow into Leaders & Elders at St. Veronica. All men are welcome to our group. Please come join us and become a Learner of your Spirituality and an Elder to teach others of Male Spirituality. For more information contact, George Hanson 732-2430.



St. Paul Parish is having a Holiday Fair and Bake Sale on December 8 and 9. If you would be interested in renting a table for both days or one day the cost is \$10 a day. We are looking for any crafters or vendors, i.e. Tupperware, scrapbooking, etc. Please contact Sue Dolkiewicz at 481-8679 after 6pm any evening and on the weekend. The profits from this event will benefit St. Paul's Human Concerns Committee.
St. Paul Holiday Fair and Bake Sale
Saturday, Dec. 8 - 10am to 4pm
Sunday, Dec. 9 - 8am to 1pm

Parish Financial Stewardship for the Week Ending 11/18

Offertery	\$ 506.36
Stewardship	10,162.83
Feed & Shelter the Poor	623.00
Fr. Mark's Wish List	<u>828.00</u>
Total	\$ 12,120.19

Parish Financial Stewardship for the Week Ending 11/25

Offertery	\$ 724.99
Stewardship	7,728.77
Feed & Shelter the Poor	279.00
Fr. Mark's Wish List	<u>454.00</u>
Total	\$9,186.76



Open Adult Volley Ball

Every Tuesday from 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm. Cost: \$2.00. Skill Level: If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. For more information contact: Mike Ergen 489-9614.



Pack Your Own Packer Party December 16 School Library 12:00pm

We're doing it again! We had a great time at the November party, and decided to do it for a second time! Come watch the Green Bay Packers play the St-Louis Rams! Let's gather and get to know one another while we cheer on the Packers! New Parishioners, Long-time Parishioners, Visitors, we want to meet you! Bring your own snacks and beverages, and come join the fun. Sponsored by Welcoming Committee & Parish Life Please contact Christina Mascitti 795-7505 or christina_mascitti@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Lectionary Link

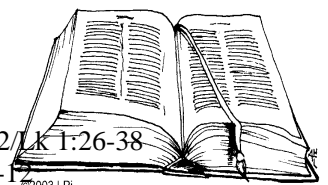
This week we have begun the season of Advent and Cycle A. During the season of Advent we prepare for the future coming of Jesus when the fulfillment of God's creation has occurred and we recognize the coming of Jesus into our lives right now. We must be constantly preparing ourselves for an encounter with Christ.

Adult: If you knew that the Second Coming of Jesus would occur this week, what would you change about your life today?

Child: How will you prepare for Jesus' coming during Advent?

Readings for the Week of December 2

Sunday:	Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday:	Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



~Mass Intentions~

Sunday, December 2 First Sunday of Advent

8:30 am † James Lipp (Friends & Family)
 † Robert Fritz (K. & C. Willms)
 † Eva Swenson (Weber Family)
 † Iris May Amend (N. Tarkowski)

10:30 am For Our Parishioners

Monday, December 3 St. Francis Xavier

8:15 am Communion Service

Tuesday, December 4

8:15 am Special Intentions
 6:30 pm † Elizabeth Huberty
 † Rupert Jonas (Family)

Wednesday, December 5

8:15 am † Edward Kaluzny

Thursday, December 6 St. Nicholas

8:15 am † Cornelia Wisniewski (D. Wisniewski)

Friday, December 7 St. Ambrose

8:15 am
 7 pm **Anticipation Mass for Immaculate Conception
 Of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 Special Intentions

Saturday, December 8

4:30 pm † Ed & Regina Ostrenga (A. Ostrenga)
 † Sharon Lemmer (J. Lemmer)
 † Betty Dereszynski (Family)

Sunday, December 9 Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am For Our Parishioners
 10:30 am † John Czuta (Family)
 † Cornelia Wisniewski (J. & N. Wietzychowski)
 † Eugene Stawicki (Family)
 † Lawrence Kulinski (Family)

Parish Meetings and Events

Sunday, December 2

8:30 am	RCIA	Assisi
9 am	SRE	School
7 pm	Women's Bible Study	Assisi
7:30 pm	Men's Bible Study	POMR

Monday, December 3

6 pm St. Veronica/St. Paul YM Library

Tuesday, December 4

5:15 pm	Bible Study	POMR
7 pm	Respect Life	POMR
7:30 pm	AA	Seton

Wednesday, December 5

11 am	AA	Seton
6 pm	Dartball	Johnson Hall
6 pm	St. Veronica/St. Paul YM	Library
7 pm	Prayer & Worship	POMR
7 pm	Respect Life	Hospitality

Thursday, December 6

9 am	Tree Decorating	POMR
7 pm	Adult Choir	Church
7 pm	Special Religion	Assisi Center

Friday, December 7

3-6 pm Poinsettia Pick-Up Johnson Hall

Saturday, December 8

8 am-10 am	Poinsettia Pick-UP	Johnson Hall
10 am	Grief Support	POMR

Offices:

St. Veronica Parish Office (414) 482-2920
 353 E. Norwich St. 53207 Hours: M-F 8 am-4:00 pm
 Fax: (414) 482-3025

Website: www.saintveronica.org
parishoffice@saintveronica.org

Johnson Hall 414-482-2920, ext. 132

Christian Formation Office (414) 481-0777

Very Rev. Mark Payne, Pastor (262) 370-1845 (cell)
 (414)482-2920, ext. 111 markpayne@saintveronica.org

Deacon Emeritus John Dziennik

John Albinger, Technology, 482-2920, ext. 114
johnalbinger@saintveronica.org

Karen Bushman, Director of Elementary Formation,
 481-0777, ext. 117 karenbushman@saintveronica.org

Jeffrey Montoya, UAC, Youth Minister,
 481-0777, ext. 135 jeffmontoya@saintveronica.org

Kate Sponholz, Director of Music, 482-2920, ext. 128
katesponholz@saintveronica.org

Tony Goodenough, Facilities Coordinator, 482-2920, ext 115
tonygoodenough@saintveronica.org

Mike Stahler, Maintenance, 482-2920, ext. 115
mikestahler@saintveronica.org

Gerry Cofta, Parish Secretary, 482-2920, ext. 110
gerrycofta@saintveronica.org

Carla Jager, Administrative Assist, 481-0777, ext. 140
carlajager@saintveronica.org

Char Zeller, Office Assistant, 482-2920, ext 110
charzeller@saintveronica.org

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy

Principal Mary Stallmann
 (414) 744-1214 341 E. Norwich St.
www.thomasaquinasacademy.com

Sacraments

Baptisms: The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month. Contact the parish office to pick up registration materials. Parents are required to attend one Baptismal preparation class.

Marriage: We celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage for only our registered parish members. Please phone the parish office one year in advance to schedule a meeting with the priest, before you book other arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick/Pastoral Visits: We are always willing to stop by your home or hospital. Please notify us when you or a family member is in need of a visit. The hospitals do not notify us. Anointing of the Sick will occur after every weekend Mass on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Reconciliation: 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3:30 pm before the 4:30 pm Mass and every 3rd Thursday following the 8:15 am Mass.

Adult Ministry

Rite of Christian Initiation Corner

This week the participants had an introduction to Advent and the Gospel of Matthew. Flowing from the readings, they also discussed the Second Coming of Christ. We thank the parishioners for their continued prayers for Ron, Shannon, and Francisco. At this Tuesday St. Thomas Aquinas Academy liturgy, we will celebrate a Rite of Acceptance for an elementary school child who is also preparing to receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil as a catechumen.

Any adult who has not been baptized, was baptized Roman Catholic but has not received Eucharist and Confirmation, or was baptized in another Christian denomination is encouraged to consider RCIA. The next class will begin in September of 2008 but we would like to get to know you at any time. Call or email Karen Bushman for more information.

Adult Confirmation

Is God calling you to complete the Sacraments of Initiation by receiving Confirmation? Are you interested in taking this next step in your faith life? Adults over 18 who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation are invited to participate in the spring adult Confirmation class. The first session will be January 10, 2008. Sessions are held twice per month on Thursday evenings at 7pm. This is a collaborative program among the parishes in this area. If you or someone you know would like more information please call Karen, 481-0777 or email karenbushman@saintveronica.org. We welcome your interest.

Caregiver Support Group

All caregivers are invited to join with others who share their experiences. Through listening and exchanging ideas, caregivers can glean new insights and feel supported by others who understand. *Shepherd House 3221 S. Lake Drive; First Wednesday of every month; 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.* Registration is NOT necessary for this group.

Pick N Save Number

Religious Education for St. Veronica/St. Paul has a charity number for Pick N Save grocery stores. If you would like your charitable donation to be credited to Religious Education please use code **#815830**. If you want to change your existing designated charity just mention our number at the service desk and they will update your card. Thank you.

Mammogram Website

Do you spend time on a computer? Take a few moments to help ensure that poor women can receive free mammograms. The website www.thebreastcancersite.com is sponsored by numerous businesses which will fund mammograms. All you need to do is visit the site and click. This is an easy way to help others, maybe even someone you know.

Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry and Confirmation. Students. There will be a required "Safe Environment Education" session "Can I Kiss You?" with Mike Domitrz for grades 9, 10 and 11 on Sunday, Dec. 2 at St. Alphonsus Church 6060 W. Loomis Rd, from 7 pm - 8:30 pm.



Catholic Kids Corner

First Reconciliation

The names of two students who received First Reconciliation on November 30 were inadvertently missing from the list printed in the bulletin last weekend. *Allyson Jean Caballero* and *Ivan E. Rojo* also celebrated the sacrament for the first time. Congratulations to all of the candidates.

God's Cozy Corner Parish Library

Don't forget that the parish library has books and videos which will help your family celebrate the Advent and Christmas season. Why not stop in the library before or after mass and check out a resource. The library is located across from the usher's room.

Fun Facts for Faithful Kids

December 3 is the feast of St. Francis Xavier. St. Francis was a great missionary. He met St. Ignatius Loyola in 1530 and became one of the first Jesuit priests. He is called the apostle to the Indies and Japan because he was the first to bring the Gospel of Jesus to those countries.



The Jewish feast of Hanukkah begins at sundown on Dec 4. This celebration recalls the miracle of the oil. The Israelites

worked to rebuild their Temple after it had been partly destroyed by the Syrians. However, there was only a one day supply of oil for the menorah lamp. It would take a week to purify more oil. But the oil burned for eight days, long enough to prepare a fresh supply. Jews continue to celebrate this eight day festival of lights on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of *Kislev*.



December 6 is the feast of St. Nicholas. Nicholas was the bishop of Myra which is near Turkey. He was kind and generous to all those in need. Once, a poor man could not afford weddings for his three daughters. When Nicholas heard about the family, he secretly went to the home and tossed bags of gold into the window so that the daughters could marry. Many families hang stockings on the eve of his feast.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is December 8. Mary belonged to God in a special way even at the very beginning of her life. She was to be the Mother of Jesus. The church celebrates that Mary was born without Original Sin on this feast. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will celebrate Mass on December 7. Why not come with your whole family?