



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

We have an action packed week ahead at St Thomas. Today, during all the Masses we will take the survey, *We Walk by Faith*. This survey is from the diocese and assists us in assessing the strengths and weakness of our parish. On Monday, we have our annual Advent Penance Service starting at 7:30PM. Tuesday is the feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a holy day of obligation. Wednesday, the college students will celebrate their annual advent program Joy and Light at 8:00PM. Friday, Charlottesville Catholic School will have a concert in the Church at 7:30PM. And Saturday, the children will be receiving their first reconciliation.

As you can see there are ample opportunities to enter into the Church's preparation for Christmas. Through the sacrament of reconciliation especially, one can make room for the Lord who is coming. Take advantage of this time to prepare and resist the temptation of jumping directly into Christmas.

God Bless,
Fr Luke

PLEASE NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE
The Advent Penance Service has been changed to Monday, December 7, 7:30PM

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
MASS SCHEDULE
Monday, December 7, 5:15 PM Vigil
Tuesday, December 8, 8AM, 12:10PM, & 5:15PM

Baptism

We welcome Ana Jolie Raible who through Baptism was received into our faith community.

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2009

- Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
- Monday: *St Ambrose*
Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: *The Immaculate Conception*
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47
- Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 5

- 8:30 AM Respect Life
- 5:15 PM Dr Jim Knight †

Sunday, December 6

- 7:30 AM Mary Jane Irelan †
- 9:00 AM For the People
- 11:30 AM Una Wills †
- 5:15 PM John Rodge †

Monday, December 7

- 8:00 AM Nick Mercurio †
- 5:15 PM Joseph Orr †

Tuesday, December 8

- 8:00 AM Ernest A Flynn
- 12:10 PM Intentions of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 5:15 PM For the People

Wednesday, December 9

- 8:00 AM Dylan Andrada
- 5:15 PM Marlene Orr

Thursday, December 10

- 8:00 AM Dylan Andrada
- 5:15 AM Dorothy R Eckenrode †

Friday, December 11

- 8:00 AM Dylan Andrada
- 5:15 PM George Kessler †

Saturday, December 12

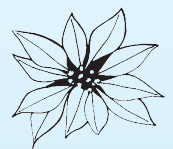
- 8:30 AM Deceased of the Dominican Laity
- 5:15 PM Felix Santos †

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Joanne Hayden, James Burke, Ashley Sheets, Lisa Miller, Libby Firer, Duncan Campbell, Dave Watters, Ted Oakey, Brad Gentry, Michael Mitchell, Consuelo Benson, Lauren Mara Miller, Victoria Amparo Villar, Matthew Grimes, Linda Weinhardt, Patrick Howell, Vincent Burins, LTC Mike Devine, and Anna Mills' granddaughter Wanda Clements — If you or someone you know is ill and would like the prayers of our parish family please call the office. To keep the list current, names will be periodically removed.

Christmas Poinsettias

There is a sign up sheet and collection box at a table in the link for monetary donations for our Christmas poinsettias. Memorial, honorary, and general gifts are welcome.



PARISH FINANCES

November 29, 2009

Budgeted Weekly Expenses.....	\$18,879.78
Offertory.....	13,115.77
Parish Charities.....	1,144.97
Other Income.....	825.98
Building Fund.....	330.00

PARISH CENTER DEBT ELIMINATION

As of November 20, 2009

Previous Mortgage Balance.....	\$249,614.00
Mortgage Reduction.....	9,990.00
Outstanding Debt to be Eliminated.....	239,624.00

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Marta Brannon • 293-8081 x18 • marta@stauva.org

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Families, individuals, or groups of friends are invited to light the candles of our Advent Wreath each week during Advent. A sign up sheet for each of the Masses is available in the link.

Advent Penance Service – New Time

Monday, December 7, at 7:30PM at St Thomas with additional visiting Dominican priests.

Eucharistic Adoration

Is held every week, Wed 8:30AM—Thurs 5:00PM. Have you thought about spending just one hour with the Lord? Please consider it. Call 244-5619 or e-mail srmlobo@hotmail.com for more information. **We will not have Adoration on December 23/24 or December 30/31.**

New Eucharistic Adoration Times!

Additional hours for Eucharistic Adoration will include Fridays from 9AM to 5 PM! We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and commit to an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The new times will begin when at least 2 people sign up for each Friday hour. Please sign up in the Link.

Sunday 11:30AM Folk Choir

Please consider coming to our rehearsals at 10:45AM Sundays in the Church and see if you would like to be part of our music ministry. Stop by after Mass for more information.

Sunday 9AM Choir

Everyone is welcome. In addition to Sunday Mass and Holy Days, we participate in the Holy Week combined choir. Attend rehearsals in the music room (directly across from the parish office) on Thursday 6-8PM or Sundays, 1-3PM.

Gregorian Chant Mass: Sunday, 7:30 AM

The Schola, directed by John Harvey, is open to anyone interested in singing Gregorian Chant. Rehearsals are on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30PM in the church. Contact John at utre@comcast.net.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. — Lk 3:3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

ADULT EDUCATION

Chris Gilbert • 293-8081 x15 • dre@stauva.org

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Would you like to learn more about *what* Catholics believe and *why*? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) takes place on Wednesdays at 7:30PM in St Thomas Hall. Info: dre@stauva.org or 293-8081.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Advent Giving Tree

Please consider picking a tag from the Advent Giving Tree in St Thomas Hall on Dec 5/6. Tags will identify much-needed gifts for individuals seeking assistance at the Pregnancy Center of Central VA, Region 10 Community Center, Arc of the Piedmont, or the Sisters of Linden. Gifts should be returned wrapped, except those for the Pregnancy Center. **All gifts and gift cards will be due back to St Thomas Hall by 5PM on Sun, Dec 13 with the original gift tag firmly attached!** Questions? Contact Lisa (lmcolosi@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Joy and Light 2009

Catholic Student Ministry would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to come to its annual Joy and Light celebration, a night based on Bible passages and songs that help us prepare for the coming of our Savior. At the end of the program, we will sing everyone's favorite Christmas carols! Come prepare for and celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons with us Wed, Dec 9, at 8:00PM in the main sanctuary.



Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast with Santa



On Sun, Dec 13, the Knights of Columbus will hold a Pancake Breakfast with Santa after the 9:00AM Mass. Santa will give out surprises for the kids! We will serve Pancakes, Sausage, Fresh Fruit, Coffee, Tea and Juice. All parishioners are welcome. Families \$12, Singles \$5.

Knights of Columbus Silent Auction

Many thanks to all for their support. Our event was a great success and goes a long way to helping those in need. We will man the K of C table (Dec. 5 & 6) after each Mass in order to distribute all prizes.

"What is the Dominican Laity?"

To find out please consider joining us for breakfast and our meeting on Sat, Dec 12, immediately following the 8:30AM Mass. We will begin with the recitation of the Rosary and Morning Prayer. Please RSVP - to ensure that we have enough food to share - Marta Brannon at 293-8081 or marta@stauva.org.



RELIGIOUS ED / YOUTH MINISTRY

PreK-5 • Chris Gilbert 293-8081 x15 • dre@stauva.org
Gr 6-12 • Michael Balazs 293 8081x16 • michael@stauva.org

LifeTeen, Session 8: Honor Thy Father & Mother

This night will focus on the family. We will learn how the church lays the foundation for the relationship between parents and children and discuss how we can mirror our relations after those of the Holy Family. **Challenge:** This week make a special effort to do at least one thing together as a family to remember Advent ... it could be lighting an Advent wreath at dinner, marking the days 'til Christmas with an Advent calendar, or simply saying a special Advent prayer together as a family.

EDGE Challenge

A martyr is an individual who decides to suffer pain or experience death rather than forsake or abandon his or her faith or principles. As Catholics we are called to follow the example of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, and remain steadfast in our commitment to Jesus Christ, no matter the cost. Good can come from suffering, because when we are tested we can draw our strength from God. Like Job we need to ask for God's guidance in all aspects of our lives. And yet, we are called to help others carry their crosses and to ease their burdens in life. What can you do as a family to help others this coming Advent season? Even though our economy has hurt many families how can we still reach out and help others?

Antioch 2010

All high school students are invited to our very popular annual ANTIOCH Retreat, Fri, Jan 15 - Sun, Jan 17. Hear other youth share about their faith, participate in high energy activities, and take some time to strengthen your relationship with God. It is sure to be a blast! Registration forms are available at stauvaym.blogspot.com. Contact youth@stauva.org with questions.

Christmas Hoedown!

Howdy! Like funnel cake? Never done a bungee run before? Enjoy ring toss and other fun carnival games? Want to hang out with your friends? If you answered yes to any of these questions you should come to the Christmas Hoedown. Wear your cowboy or cowgirl boots & hat. See you at the Catholic School for a lot of fun!

Who: St Thomas, Incarnation & Ch'ville Catholic School

When: Friday, December 18, 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Where: Ch'ville Catholic School - 1205 Pen Park Rd

Why: Seriously? Why not?

SCRIP

This past weekend the kickoff of our new SCRIP program was a huge success, we sold over \$27,000 towards our goal of selling \$100k+ over the next 12 months. What is SCRIP? SCRIP is a quick and easy way to support our programs and those of the Charlottesville Catholic School with NO out of pocket cost to you. You simply purchase gift and grocery cards from us at 100% of the their value and we receive a portion of the proceeds.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Michael Horsey • mlh6r@virginia.edu
John Hopke • johnhopke@stauva.org

Are You in Need of a Babysitter?

Catholic Student Ministry will provide a responsible student. For more information contact Kristina Wolf at kmw8z@virginia.edu.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

For parishioners aged 21-35
Stephanie Zilora • smz5c@virginia.edu

Attention Grad Students and Young Adults

YAM is a ministry at St Thomas Aquinas geared toward all people ages 21-35. Our goal is to offer young adult Catholics a community of faith and friendship devoted to spirituality, society, service, and study. If you are interested in being more involved with YAM or if you would like to be added to the e-mail list, contact Stephanie Zilora at smz5c@virginia.edu.

Ongoing Events

Please meet in the Link to join us for brunch on the third Sunday of every month after the 11:30AM Mass. (First Friday dinner has been postponed until next semester.) Rosary Group meets in the link every Wed at 7:30PM.

Save the Date -- Christmas Party

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 10.

SENIOR MINISTRY

For parishioners aged 60 and older
Barbara Brodie • bb9w@virginia.edu

Senior Coffee

Please note: There will be no Senior Coffee Break in December. We'll begin the Coffee Breaks again in 2010 – first meeting on Wednesday, January 13, at 10AM.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

The Haitian Station

*St Thomas Parish – Twinned with
St Michel Parish, Saltadère*

Christmas Cards/Sketches of

Saltadère: The "Sketches of Saltadère" note cards, especially formatted for Christmas Greetings, are available for purchase at the Haiti Table on the lower level. These unique and beautiful cards



were created by students from the upper grades at St Michel School. They are available in packs of 5 for \$10 or packs of 10 for \$18. As well, Donation Cards for \$20 can be purchased to support the food program at the school. With these cards you can, with the same purchase, provide a gift to a loved one and to St Michel School.

Only Two Weeks Remain: The committee is raffling a beautiful quilted wall hanging from Haiti and five other prizes on Dec 13. Purchase tickets from committee members or you can view a photo collage of the prizes on the Haiti table downstairs. Please fill out the raffle coupons there and place your completed forms and a check (checks only) in the envelopes provided for that purpose and drop in the "HAITI MAIL BOX" on that table. All proceeds benefit St Michel School, and we thank you for your support. **Travel to Haiti:** Several trips to visit our twin parish of St Michel are being planned in the coming months. If you are interested in traveling with one of these groups, please contact Paul Harnois (email below). **Bi-Parish Haiti Committee** next meets here on Sun, Dec 13, at 1PM. To learn more about the bi-parish committee, e-mail Paul Harnois at lphmch@embarqmail.com.

Advent Food Collection

We are collecting for the Emergency Food Bank, an all volunteer organization that provides a 3-day supply of food to those in need. Needed items: **pasta & sauce, cereal, baby food, diapers, peanut butter, toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper), canned vegetables, soups, beans, fruits and fish.** Please place your donations in the baskets upstairs or downstairs.

IMPACT

Research has begun for Preschool Education and Interpretive (Translation) Services. Updates will follow.

PACEM

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped the Church of the Incarnation host PACEM from Nov 14-28. There will be another opportunity to volunteer when St Thomas partners with St Mark Jan 30-Feb 13 when they host the women of PACEM.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Church of the Incarnation

Festival Choir presents An Evening of Music for Advent and Christmas on Thurs, Dec 17. The evening begins at 7:00PM with sung Advent Evening Prayer in the Worship Center. Please join us for this special musical event. Childcare will be available that evening.

"The Song of Mark" Auditions

This musical, written by Marty Haugen, is a compelling portrayal with captivating melodies and inspiring drama of the public ministry of Jesus Christ, based on Mark's Gospel. Performances will be at the Four County Players Theater in Barboursville, Mar 25-27, 2010. Director Tricia Belan is looking for a talented cast of all ages, 7 and up. Auditions: Mon, Dec 7, 7PM. Info: fourcp.org or email songofmark@firstva.com

Salvation Army— Volunteers Needed

To sort, pack, and distribute Christmas gifts. Bell Ringers also needed. Contact Lisa Chapman, 295-4058 x 118.

Charlottesville Catholic School (CCS)

"The Christmas Story" will be presented by the CCS Music Program at 7:30PM on Fri, Dec 11, here at St Thomas Aquinas Church. A student art show and reception will follow in the Hall. The art show will remain on display through Dec 13. **Seeking donations (tax deductible) for the CCS Gala Auction:** frequent flyer miles for 2 domestic flights to be used before 6/30/10. If you are an organizer, decorator, builder, or gardener, or have a business that can donate a service, please contact Keri-Ann Byrne at development@cvillecatholic.org. **Admissions:** We are currently accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Contact Ann Michel, Admissions Coordinator to schedule a tour. Limited seats are also available for the current school year. Please visit our website for info. CCS phone:434-964-0400

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Pilgrimages

For info contact Julie Zackrisson at 296-4615 or julianne333@gmail.com. To register for either pilgrimage send an application & \$400 deposit made out to "206 Tours" to Julie at 2616 Cardinal Ridge Road, Ch'ville, VA 22901. Info/registration forms are in the Link.

The Holy Land: March 10-20, 2010, with Fr Luke Clark, OP. Come walk in the footsteps of the Lord and share in this life-changing experience! You will come away being able to visualize Scripture as you hear it and your heart will be forever touched! The cost is \$2,849 plus airport taxes.

Medjugorje: Apr 21–May 1, 2010, with Fr Luke Clark, OP. Join us as we journey to a place where "Heaven Touches the Earth"! Medjugorje is a gift to our time and is filled with so many Graces! Cost is \$1,784/person + airport taxes of about \$400. We will also spend one day and night in beautiful Dubrovnik, the "Pearl of the Adriatic."

**St Thomas Aquinas University Parish
401 Alderman Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903**

GIFTS FROM YOUR IRA

Persons age 70 or older can support St. Thomas Aquinas Parish by making a tax-free gift donation directly from their IRA. If you have wished to make a charitable contribution from your IRA, changes in the tax law now permit you to do so within certain guidelines.

If you are 70 or older, you may make a contribution directly from your IRA to St. Thomas Aquinas during the calendar year 2009. The maximum gift is limited to \$100,000 but the gift may be made in cash or appreciated property. Even though Minimum Required Distributions have been suspended for 2009, a charitable gift directly from your IRA to St. Thomas Aquinas will not be considered taxable income to you and therefore will not increase your tax bracket. You will not be able to deduct the gift as a charitable contribution on your 2009 income tax return. However, because these gifts do not fall under normal deduction rules, you can make gifts in excess of 50% of Adjusted Gross Income limitation for cash gifts.

Confer with your tax advisor and consult your IRA custodian concerning the details of making an IRA gift to the Parish.