



From the
Pastor's Desk

Dear parishioners,

Fr Luke invited me to introduce myself in the Pastor's Corner this week as your newest Dominican friar.

I was born in Northern Virginia, but grew up mostly in Maryland, just south of Annapolis. I am the oldest of six children. I started to consider a calling to the priesthood when I was in high school, and attended the Franciscan University of Steubenville, graduating in 1994. It was there that I bought my first book about St Dominic (in a Franciscan bookstore, no less) and met my first Dominican friar. I was accepted into the novitiate in 1994, and was ordained to the priesthood in 2001. My most recent assignment was as an assistant pastor at our parish at the University of Delaware, home of the "Fightin' Blue Hens," where I spent three and a half great years.

Appropriately enough, after definitively moving here on Friday, January 8, I happily "plunged into" (in Greek, *baptizo*) the parish life here at St Thomas Aquinas University Parish on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. I served here once before as a transitional deacon in the summer of 2000, and it was here that I officially witnessed my first marriage and celebrated my first baptisms. I was happy to meet again a family whose daughter was one of the first children I baptized. She is now 9.

I look forward to meeting you and serving you as we "plunge into" 2010!

Fr Stephen Alcott, OP

*You Are Invited
to Join Our Dominican Friars
in St Thomas Hall*

Saturday, January 30th at 6:15 pm

Sunday, January 31st at 10:15 am

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*Learn about the exciting new project that will have a great
and positive effect on the spiritual life of our parish and
the Charlottesville community.*

Refreshments provided

Babysitting available in the Nursery

Readings for the Week of January 17, 2010

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Monday: *St Margaret of Hungary, OP*
1 Sm 15:16-23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: *St Agnes*

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: *St Vincent*

1 Sm 24:3-21/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30 or
12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 16

8:30 AM Helen Medica †

5:15 PM Jim Hartmann †

Sunday, January 17

7:30 AM Helen Medica †

9:00 AM Dominic & Jennie Savino †

11:30 AM For the People

5:15 PM John Russell †

Monday, January 18

8:00 AM Margaret F Lavering †

5:15 PM Randy Miller †

Tuesday, January 19

8:00 AM Helen Medica †

5:15 PM Randy Miller †

Wednesday, January 20

8:00 AM Deacon Frank Veraart †

5:15 PM Mary Ann Ross

Thursday, January 21

8:00 AM Helen Medica †

5:15 PM Milton W Ross

Friday, January 22

8:00 AM Robert Lathan Murray †

5:15 PM Helen Medica †

Saturday, January 23

8:30 AM Helen Medica †

5:15 PM Ethel Carey †

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Clem DiBlasi, Vanessa Thoms Sprogis, Robert Sprogis, Mel Podwysocki, Lori Jimenez, Gilbert Maestas, Fr Thomas Seagrave, Lisa Miller, Rosemary Firer, Michael Mitchell, Consuelo Benson, Lauren Mara Miller, Victoria Amparo Villar, Matthew Grimes, Linda Weinhardt, Patrick Howell, 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.

Scout Sunday

Will be celebrated on Sun, Feb 14 at 11:30AM Mass. All parish Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, and Leaders are invited to wear their uniforms to this Mass. Scouts wishing to participate in the Mass (offertory collection, etc) need to be in the Link no later than 11AM. Scouts who have earned religious emblems may have them presented at this Mass. Please email: kdpoehailos@comcast.net by Feb 1.

PARISH FINANCES

January 10, 2010

Budgeted Weekly Expenses.....	\$18,879.78
Offertory.....	18,694.28
Parish Charities,.....	2,528.69
Other Income.....	717.28
Building Fund.....	5,607.14

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

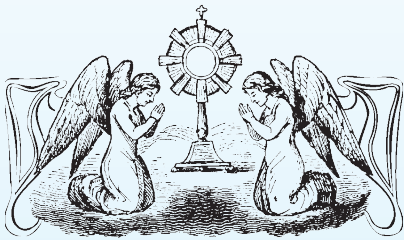
Marta Brannon • 293-8081 x18 • marta@stauva.org

Adoration Challenge

This Lent we would like to honor Our Lord by adoring Him each hour of each day; we would like, for this limited period, to extend our present Adoration from the current Wed, Thurs & Fri, to all day each day for the 40 plus days. To do this we need over a thousand parishioners to come to the chapel and adore for one hour.

Are we as a parish up to this challenge? Do we have a thousand plus people willing to give our Lord one hour during lent. Are you? We believe St Thomas Aquinas is up to the challenge. You can sign up for as little as one hour or perhaps one hour each week.

We plan to place a sign up board/schedule behind the stairs in the link. One way to sign up for your hour (or more) is to write your name on the sign up board/schedule. It is also possible to sign up by computer. Just e-mail your name, date and time you plan to come and pray to stachallenge@yahoo.com. The schedule can also be viewed on the web at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/stachallenge>.



Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration - Wednesdays from 8:30AM to 5:00PM Thursdays and **new additional hours** for Friday 8:30AM to 5:00PM. Contact Sylvia Lobo for more information, srmlobo@hotmail.com.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION

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

Natural Family Planning

The next series of SymptoThermal NFP classes will be Mondays, Feb 1 & 8 at 7PM. To register, contact chvillenfp@yahoo.com. For more information on all the NFP services offered at St Thomas, see our webpage: www.stauva.org/nfp

Women's Scripture Study

Join us for prayer, fellowship, and study with a faithful group of women who support one another on our spiritual journey. Our new 13-week session will start on Tues, Jan 19, 9-11AM in the Community Room. We will study St Paul's letters to the Galatians and Romans and learn how faith is fundamental to salvation and also the free gift of God's love. Come listen to St Paul's words of hope and joy to these communities and to us. Childcare is available on a limited basis for a small fee. Please contact Patty at gazewood@embarqmail.com or 973-6802.

Men's Prayer & Fellowship Group

Are you seeking to be a better Christian man? Trying to live Monday-Friday what you hear on Sunday? Start the New Year right and join us. We have a group of men that come together twice a month to share ideas. We are currently studying *Back to Virtue* by Peter Kreeft. All men are welcome to join our group. We next meet Jan 22 at 7AM in Room 2 next to the kitchen. There is time for prayer, study, and discussion. If you have any questions, please call or email Bill Wilson at cell phone 434-882-4178 or email at wdwilson@mindspring.com.

Catholicism 101 Foot Prints of God Series

This is a video presentation on Salvation History set in the actual Holy Land sites and filmed on location with Stephen Ray. Each presentation is a stand alone session. The group meets on select Saturdays at 10 AM in the Community Room. The next meeting is on Jan 23. Info: sackandpam@comcast.net

PARISH ACTIVITIES

St Thomas Aquinas Lecture Reception Jan 27

We are looking for a few kind people to bring hors d'oeuvres or dessert to the reception. If you are able to help, please sign up in the link next to the coordinator's table. Thank you.

The Annual March for Life

Fri, Jan 22. St Thomas will be sending a bus to Washington for those who want to march that day, provided we get enough people to fill the bus (36). We will leave from the parking lot at St Thomas at 8AM and plan to be back around 8PM that evening. If you want to come please sign up in the link, by the sacristy, or contact Robbie Gibson (434-963-7952 or robbie_oc_gibson@yahoo.com).

Knights of Columbus

We invite Students and Men of our Parish to join our college council. For further info please contact Bob Savino, Grand Knight (rmsavino@comcast.net), pick up a brochure in the Link, or see the Knights website (www.kofc.org). Our next meeting will be held in Classroom 12, Chapel side, on Wed, Feb 3, with the Rosary at 6:45PM and General Meeting at 7:00.



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 and EDGE

Start up again next Sunday, January 24th.

Annual Ski Trip 2010

This year we are ON THE SLOPES!!!!

Who: High School Youth (and 8th graders if we have room)

What: Annual St Thomas Youth Ministry Ski Trip!

When: March 4 - 7th, 2010

Why: Because we all need to play in the snow sometimes!

How: Details can be found at stauvaym.blogspot.com.

The base price for the trip which includes meals at the house (but not food on the trip out or way back), lodging, transportation and lift tickets is \$219 if you come out Friday night and \$239 if you come out Thursday night. Rentals are available at great group rates as follows: Skis are \$30 for 1.5 days and \$45 for 2.5 days. Snowboards are \$60 for 1.5 days and \$90 for 2.5 days. I am excited and hope to see you all on the slopes!

How to register: To register you will need to send me an email with the name, age, grade and the name on the check to michael@stauva.org and put down a \$125 deposit (refundable only if the trip is canceled). Please make checks out to St Thomas Aquinas Parish with Ski Trip in the Memo. They can be placed in the collection basket, dropped off in the office to Susan Phillips or given directly to me.

Chaperons: As always we are in need of chaperons, especially those who have large vehicles that can transport equipment and a large number of teenagers. If you would like to come, we will cover your lodging and food costs as gratitude for driving. Don't worry, even as a chaperon there will be plenty of time to get skiing in or just relax quietly at the house while the rest of us hit the slopes.

SCRIP Goes ONLINE

Support our Youth Ministry online at scrip.stauva.org and earn points on your Credit Card!

We have had such HUGE success with the re-launch of our SCRIP program this year that we have taken it online! You can now purchase Gift Cards for your favorite stores online by Credit Card, eCheck or Paypal and pickup the cards after each Sunday Mass. Before placing a new order, be sure to check the latest stock availability on the updates page. If you have any questions, please contact us at youth@stauva.org.

Special Notes: Orders placed by Friday 10AM can be picked up the following Sunday. There is 3% tax-deductible handling fee for online purchases. Please note, in the unfortunate event we don't have the card you ordered on hand, you may pick a different card of equal value or pick up your card the following week when we receive new stock.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

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

All UVA Students

The St Anselm Institute Doctors of the Church faculty-student lunches will continue in 2010! If you're interested in a (free!) lunch and discussion of St Bonaventure (the Seraphic Doctor) on Fri, Jan 29 (12:00-1:30), please visit the Institute website (www.stanselmminstitute.org) and email us at info@stanselmminstitute.org. No prior experience needed, but reservations are required due to space limitations.

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.

“Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. — Jn 2:10-11

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

PEACE AND JUSTICE

The Haitian Station

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

Sponsorship Opportunity: Many thanks to all who have sponsored a child or have renewed a sponsorship. You can still sponsor a child; there are 54 children who await a sponsor. To help with the funding of the current school year at St Michel School, sponsorship is \$10/month or \$120/year. To learn more, stop by the Haiti table downstairs or contact sponsorshipprogram@gmail.com. **Please pray for the people of Haiti:** Information is still coming in about the severe devastation caused by the 7.0 earthquake. While the catastrophe is centered in Port-au-Prince and we have word that the area around Hinche is relatively unscathed, the repercussions from this earthquake will be felt throughout the country even as far from the capital as Saltadère. Our brothers and sisters need our prayers. **Travel to Haiti:** Several other trips to visit our twin parish of St Michel are being planned in the coming months. If you are interested in traveling with a group, please contact Paul Harnois (see e-mail below). **Bi-Parish Haiti Committee:** The committee next meets here at 1:00PM on Jan 24. **Contact:** To learn more about the Bi-parish committee, e-mail Paul Harnois at lphmch@embarqmail.com.

**Winter Food Collection**

Thank you for your giving during Advent. A total of 150 bags of items were donated to the Emergency Food Bank! We are now collecting items for Holy Comforter's pantry. Needed: **Canned Fish, Vegetables, Fruits, Soups and Beans, Peanut Butter and Toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, toilet paper, etc).**

Faithful Citizenship Opportunity

The Virginia Catholic Conference's annual Catholic Advocacy Day will be held on Thurs, Jan 28 from 8:30AM until 1:30PM, at St Peter's Church (adjacent to Capitol Square in Richmond). The day begins with prayer and briefings on proposed state policies in the areas of respect life, social and economic justice, education, and family life. Briefings are followed by constituent visits at legislators' offices, lunch, "debriefing," and closing prayer. To obtain a registration form, visit www.vacatholic.org and click on "Catholic Advocacy Day Flyer," or call (804) 225-8565. The flyer contains information on bus transportation from northern Virginia and Tidewater. Arlington Bishop Paul S Loverde and Richmond Bishop Francis X DiLorenzo will offer welcoming remarks at this important advocacy event. Please register and plan to attend!

PACEM

We are partnering again this year with St Mark Lutheran as they host the women from Jan 30-Feb 13. Help is needed with meal preparation, serving and clean up on Jan 30 and Feb 11. Also breakfast items are needed Feb 8-13 and overnight folks are needed Jan 30, Feb 4, Feb 6 and Feb 8 -12. If you are interested in helping please contact Bridget Davis at slainte@embarqmail.com or 964-1127. Thank you! -

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Crozet Catholic Community

Is forming, for prayer, discussions and for socialization. Those interested, please call Dorothy D Miller at 434 823-4986.

The St Anselm Institute for Catholic Thought

Is a voluntary, faculty-led organization of individuals interested in promoting the richness of the Catholic tradition of thought and action. Founded in 2000, the Institute supports several activities, including a popular UVA public lecture series, a Lenten retreat for faculty and friends of the Institute (at St Thomas on Feb. 20), and a Doctors of the Church faculty-student lunch series. Please visit our website (www.stanselmstitute.org) for the 2010 calendar of events. Faculty, students, parents, and friends of the Institute, if you're not on our mailing list please use the website to sign up or write us at P.O. Box 6432, Charlottesville, VA 22906. We are looking forward to another very productive year.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing after Abortion

Jan 29-31 at The Well Retreat Center in Smithfield, VA sponsored by St Joan of Arc Church. Participation is strictly confidential. For registration info contact: Linda Riva at 757-887-3144; e-mail: lindajr2@yahoo.com. The cost is \$185. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available!!

Ch'ville Catholic School Accepting Applications

For the 2010-2011. Please visit our website for comprehensive info about CCS and our application process. Applications must be received by Feb 8, 2010 to be considered in the first round of enrollment contract offers (NOTE: This date is a change from the Feb 1st date originally posted on the CCS Website). If you would like to have a tour of our school, please call Ann Michel, Admissions Coordinator, at (434)964-0400. Limited seats are also available for the current school year.

Charlottesville Catholic School (CCS)

Invites parents of pre-school through middle school aged children to a CCS Informational Session on Sun, Jan 24, 10:15-11:00AM at St Thomas Aquinas in the community room. We encourage you to come and learn what CCS has to offer.

Employment Opportunities in the Diocese

Go to <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/human/> to get information about the following jobs: 1) Principal / Head of School – Roanoke Catholic School, Roanoke, 2) Director of Music & Liturgy, St Bede, Williamsburg, 3)IT Associate Director, Pastoral Center, Richmond

Ecumenical Affairs Officer - location flexible

Closing date Feb 19. This is a volunteer role which can be combined with another Diocesan position. http://www.richmonddiocese.org/human/pastoral/ecumenical_affairs_officer.htm

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

Apr 21–May 1, 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! We will also spend one day and night in beautiful Dubrovnik, the "Pearl of the Adriatic." Cost is \$1,784/person + airport taxes of about \$400. For info contact Julie Zackrisson at 296-4615 or julianne333@gmail.com. To register 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.



When the Saints go marching in, you want to be in that number



Come to the **2010** **Mardi Gras Party**

Saturday, February 13, 2010

6:30 – 10:00PM

St Thomas Hall

Mask contest

Hors d'oeuvres

**Dancing to the music of
our own DJ, Sam Metallo**

Dinner (by Susie)
Shrimp Creole over rice
Pork Tenderloin
Roasted Potatoes
Green Beans Almandine
Salad

Dessert
Cold Beverages*

\$20/person

(Tickets on sale in the Link after Mass on Jan. 23/24, 30/31 and February 6/7)

** Wine and beer will be available at a nominal charge. Your first drink is complimentary*