



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Lent is now in full swing and there are many opportunities the parish is offering to assist you in your preparation for Easter. We have a soup supper offered by the Knights of Columbus on Fridays after the 5:15 Mass. Stations of the Cross are held at 7:30 pm on Fridays as well. In addition to our two daily Masses at Church, Mass is being offered at the Chapel on Grounds at noon Monday through Friday. Our adoration challenge is on. Please check the charts for available times. Rice bowls are located at the table in the link, please take one home to make contributions for this worthy cause.

Lent is a time of prayer, penance and almsgiving. These practices bring about renewal in our lives. It's a time to get back to the basics and fine tune our love of God and neighbor. Be open to the graces of this season and cooperate with our Almighty God who seeks to do wonderful things in your lives.

God Bless,
Fr Luke, OP

Operation Rice Bowl

Catholic Relief Services' annual Lenten program addresses hunger & poverty through fasting, almsgiving & prayer. Seventy-five percent of your donations will be used to fund projects in 40 countries and the remaining 25% stays in the US diocese to support food pantries and soup kitchens. Rice bowls will be given out to the students in the RE program and will be available in the link this weekend. To help make this process easier we ask that you convert all of your rice bowl change into cash (bills) or a check and place your donations in the baskets the weekend of March 27th/28th. Thank You!

Community Visits

Help us reach out to our community. If you or someone you know would like to receive a friendly phone call, a visit at home or a nursing home, please let us know. You can contact Gerri at 977-3747 or the parish office.

Readings for the Week of February 21, 2010

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday: *The Chair of St Peter*
1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday: *St Polycarp*
Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17---4:1 or 3:20---4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 20

8:30am Sophia Butler
5:15pm George Kessler †

Sunday, February 21

7:30am For the People
9:00am Angelo & Mary Gioia †
11:30am Jerry Selinger †
5:15pm Krystyna Tolczyk & Henryk Zochowski †

Monday, February 22

8:00am Joan Butler †
5:15pm Sarah Louise Miller †

Tuesday, February 23

8:00am William Alois "Bill" Wieler †
5:15pm Martha Cassell

Ash Wednesday, February 24

8:00am Kevin LaVaca †
5:15pm Hedwig Esterbauer †

Thursday, February 25

8:00am Mary D'Arcangelo †
5:15pm George Kessler †

Friday, February 26

8:00am Lincoln F Broyhill †
5:15pm George Kessler †

Saturday, February 27

8:30am Louise Rucinski
5:15pm Deacon Frank Veraart †

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Steve Ohmer, Martin Ojeda, Judith Underhill's great-granddaughter, Tabitha M Warner, Clem DiBlasi, Vanessa Thoms Sprogis, Robert Sprogis, Mel Podwysocki, Lori Jimenez, Gilbert Maestas, Fr Thomas Seagrave, Rosemary Firer, Michael Mitchell, Consuelo Benson, Victoria Amparo Villar, Matthew Grimes, 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.

Baptisms

We welcome John Joseph Baltz, David Patrick Goins, Callum Hamilton, Claire Lucia Queheillalt, and Riley Isabella Tullo who through Baptism were received into our faith community.

Haiti Donations

A new law allows you to claim donations for Haitian relief on your 2009 tax return. To be eligible for a deduction on your 2009 tax return, donations must be made after Jan 11, 2010 and before March 1, 2010. You have the option of deducting these contributions on either your 2009 or 2010 tax return, but not both. Federal law requires that you keep a record of any deductible donations you make. Be sure to keep a bank record, such as a cancelled check or a receipt from the charity. Contact the parish office if you need a special contribution letter for your Haitian relief donations.

PARISH FINANCES

February 7 & 14, 2010 combined

Budgeted Weekly Expenses.....	\$18,879.78
Offertory.....	28,939.84
Parish Charities,.....	4,931.10
Other Income.....	905.24

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.

There is 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>. **It is important to include your contact information when you sign up.**



The devil said to him, "All this will be yours, if you worship me."

Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written:

You shall worship the Lord, your God,
and him alone shall you serve."

— Lk 4:6a, 7-8

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

ADULT EDUCATION

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

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 Catholicism 101 study group meets on select Saturdays at 10am in the Community Room. The next meeting is Feb 27. For more information contact sackandpam@comcast.net.

Natural Family Planning

SymptoThermal Method classes will be held on Mar 10 & 24 at 7pm. To register, contact chvillenfp@yahoo.com. For info on all our NFP classes at St Thomas, check the webpage www.stauva.org/nfp.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Lenten Soup Supper

The Knights of Columbus will be serving a light supper of home made meatless soup, bread and ice water in St Thomas Hall every Friday throughout Lent after the 5:15 Mass. All parishioners are welcome.



Knights of Columbus

We invite Students and Men of our Parish to join our college council. For further information 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, Mar 3, with the Rosary at 6:45 pm and General Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Haiti Benefit Dinner

Sponsored by Catholic Student Ministry. Sat, Feb 27, 6:15pm, St Thomas Hall. Come enjoy a delicious catered buffet dinner, and support our brothers and sisters in Saltadère, Haiti! Now more than ever, our support is needed. Tickets are available in the Link following all Masses this weekend, Feb 20-21, and are on a donation basis (various suggested donation levels will be available). Tickets will also be available in the Parish Offices and at the door on 2/27 as space permits. Donations are tax deductible, and all proceeds will go 100% to the community in Haiti.

Bookstore at St Thomas Aquinas Coming Soon

Please watch for the opening of Tertia Pars Bookstore, located downstairs near the main entrance. Lenten reading material, rosaries, and many other books and religious articles will be available for purchase. Hours will be Sunday from 10 until 11:30am. Additional hours available upon request by calling 293-8081x18. Proceeds will benefit the Dominican Priory building project.



RELIGIOUS ED / YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Confirmation

This week in Confirmation, Father Scordo joined us and spoke to us about what the Trinity is and what it means to be three persons in one God (that the three Persons are co-equal in power, majesty and wisdom and are all eternal with no beginning and no end). We also discussed how the Church, made up of Her many and diverse peoples, serves as the "Temple of the Holy Spirit" where the Spirit dwells.

EDGE

Car Talk: Our church year is divided into seasons. Ash Wednesday, February 17, was the start of our Lenten Season. Lent commemorates the 40 days that Jesus spent praying in the desert before his public ministry. It is a season in which we do penance and prepare ourselves for the wonder of Easter. We pray more. We make a greater effort to financially help those in need (almsgiving). We make special efforts to make amends for our sinfulness (penance) and we curb our physical desires by restricting our intake of food. On Ash Wednesday we fast and abstain. To fast means eating only one full meal and two smaller ones with no snacking in between. All between the age of 18 – 59 fast. Abstinence means we don't eat meat (including poultry) or meat byproducts. This is required of all Catholics over the age of 14, unless a they suffer from a medical condition, are ill or pregnant.

Challenge: Plan some Lenten activities to do as a family. Remember: pray, give and sacrifice. Discuss with your family things they can do or give up during Lent as a way to make a small sacrifice to bring us closer to Christ and honor his great sacrifice for us. Perhaps you can start a money jar and give up a coffee, soda, movie, or allowance and give that money to a worthy cause. Pray as a family. Read with the youth their daily devotional, or sign up on line to receive a daily devotional or do a Lenten online retreat. A good site is Loyolapress.com.

LifeTeen

This week we talked about the Holy Spirit and how He works in our daily lives, even in the smallest events. We also learned about the things we can do to open our hearts more so that we can better realize and appreciate the Holy Spirit's role in our lives.

Challenge: In John 16:5-11 Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit is coming to help us recognize our sin, our need for redemption, and to receive salvation through a righteous and faithful life. This week, especially those about to receive the fullness of what the Spirit has to offer, be open to the Spirit in all you do. Let Him humble you and guide you in this Lenten season to live a righteous and faithful life.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

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

Adopt-a-Student

Interested in connecting with the undergraduates at UVA? CSM and St Thomas have recently started a student adoption program to bring families and students together for the duration of the student's undergraduate years. Please contact Christine Gallagher with questions and interest at cmgllghr@gmail.com

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 (YAM)

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

Young Adult Retreat

Sponsored by the Office for Black Catholics. June 4-5 at Shalom House, Montpelier, VA, for Young Adults Aged 18-40. Retreat Leaders: Ansel Augustine and Brian Greenfield. Cost: \$30 (3 easy payments of \$10 beginning in March. Final payment due May 24. Please contact Pam Harris for more information, pharris@richmonddiocese.org or (804) 622-5104.

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

First Fridays and Third Sundays are back! Starting in Feb, join us at the 5:15pm Mass the first Friday of the month, followed by dinner out. Meet in the Link to join us for brunch on the third Sunday of every month after the 11:30 Mass. For info, contact Erin, ejg7h@virginia.edu, or Will, wbk2e@virginia.edu. Rosary Group meets downstairs in the Youth (green/blue) room every Wednesday at 7:30pm. Weekly Bible study on Thursdays at 7:30pm, meet in the link.

SENIOR MINISTRY

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

Lenten Day of Recollection

Thurs, Feb 25, 9am-1:30pm. Fr John Corbett OP, from the Dominican House of Studies in DC, will be presenting "The Healing Power of the Sacrament of Penance." The day will open with a Mass that will be offered for the departed spouses and family of members of the Senior Ministry. After the presentation a box lunch (\$11) will be available. Reservations for the lunch and day must be made by contacting the parish office by Mon, Feb 22. Pay for the lunch when you make your reservation or bring your check the day of the lunch. Please make a reservation even if you bring your own lunch so that we can set-up the needed number of tables and chairs.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

The Haitian Station

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

Earthquake Update: Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Several parishioners will be visiting Saltadère this week. Please keep them in your prayers as well. Watch for updates and recent pictures at the Haiti table when they return. Updates on relief efforts are being posted on the Saltadère website, www.saltadere.org. **Sponsorship Opportunity:** Many thanks to all who have sponsored a child or have renewed a sponsorship. There are still 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, contact sponsorshipprogram@gmail.com or stop by the Haiti table downstairs. **Water Pump-Irrigation Project:** The parishes of St Michel, St Thomas Aquinas and Holy Comforter have been awarded a \$5000 Battaglia Fund grant for an irrigation project for the school garden at Saltadère. This is a matching grant through the Diocese of Richmond and due to the generosity of several donors we are already close to our original goal. However, due to the earthquake the project budget has increased to account for inflation in material prices. Fr Blot has reemphasized the urgent need for the project. Information on the project and on how to donate is available at the Haiti Table on the lower level or at www.saltadere.org. **Bi-Parish Haiti Committee:** Next meeting time to be announced. **Contact:** To learn more about the Bi-parish committee, e-mail Paul Harnois at lphmch@embarqmail.com.

**Lenten Food Collection**

We will be collecting for the Emergency Food Bank, an all volunteer organization that provides 3 days of food to individuals and families. Needed items: **Pasta/Sauce, Canned Fruits, Fish, Vegetables, Soups, & Beans, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Baby Food, Diapers, Toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc).**

PACEM

Thank you to the 18 St Thomas Aquinas folks, including YAM, CSM and parishioners, who provided breakfast items, meals, overnight stays and their time to the guests when St Mark hosted this year! There will be opportunities to help again next season.

IMPACT Update

Join us on **Feb 25 at the Church of the Incarnation at 6:30pm for the annual Rally**. You will hear the results of the research on the issues of PreK Education and Interpretative Services and about the exciting upcoming Nehemiah Action!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Center for Christian Study

Free lecture on Wed, Feb 24, 7pm: "What the Academy Award Nominees for Best Picture Tell Us About Ourselves" with Drew Trotter. Registration is appreciated but not required. More info at www.studycenter.net or call 434-817-1050.

Adoption Orientation

Commonwealth Catholic Charities will host a free orientation regarding domestic infant and international adoption, Tues, Feb 23, 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm at the CCC Richmond office, 1512 Willow Lawn Drive. To register for the orientation, call Barbara Smith at 804-285-5900 or e-mail Barbara.Smith@cccova.org.

Cursillo Ultreya

Fri, Feb 26 from 7:30-9:15pm, at Incarnation Parish in the Stone Chapel. Ultreya means "moving forward" in faith and is a gathering that consists of prayer, songs, a short talk on a spiritual topic by a lay speaker and a priest, and a time for sharing and fellowship. It's a great way to dive into Lent. All adults from all parishes are welcome, regardless of whether you've ever attended a Cursillo retreat. Hope to see you there!

The Annual Diocesan Haiti Gathering

Sat, Mar 20 here at St Thomas Aquinas from 8:45 am – 4:00 pm. All those involved in Haiti Twinning or interested in Haiti are welcome to join in a day of celebration, education & networking. This year's focus is "Haiti Solidarity – After the Earthquake, Our Stories, Our Struggles, and Our Search for Solutions". The registration fee of \$20 includes continental breakfast, lunch and handouts. To register call Patrice (804)-545 -5974 or email patrice.schwermer@cccova.org.

Charlottesville Catholic School (CCS)

Applications: CCS is accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Applications may be downloaded from our website at cvillecatholic.org. If you have questions, would like to schedule a tour or have an admissions packet mailed to you, please contact Ann Michel, Admissions Coordinator, at (434) 964-0400 or a.michel@cvillecatholic.org.

14th Annual Gala Auction "Celebrate the Journey": Mark your calendars for Sat, Mar 13. We have an exciting evening at Boars Head in store, including hors d'œuvres, cocktail hour, silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing. Registration information will be available soon. Watch for raffle ticket sales after various Masses in the coming weeks.

Day Retreat for Women—Lenten Day of Reflection

Presented by Fr Greg Salomone, OP. March 2, 9:30am-3:30pm in McLean. For info call Dominican Retreat at 703-356-4243 or check www.dominicanretreat.org.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Fr Luke

Apr 21–May 1. 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 julieanne333@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.

