

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT AND THANK OUR SPONSORS

THOSE WHO ADVERTISE ON THE BACK OF OUR BULLETIN MAKE THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE. PLEASE REMEMBER TO THANK THEM.

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

SENIOR SINGLES POTLUCK

At 11:30am on Wed., Dec. 16 in the Fireside Room all those 50+ (widows, widowers, divorced & not married) are welcome to gather socially for a potluck lunch. Remember to bring your pennies for Pokino and any ideas you may have for another activity. Questions or need a ride call Jean, 835-3601.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

On Wed., Dec. 16, beginning after the 6:00pm rosary decade we will be discussing Angels and their roles in our lives and the Heavenly Kingdom in the hall.

SIMBANG GABI MASSES

We are blessed this Advent Season to be celebrating two of the novena of Masses that are celebrated annually for the Filipino community. This Fri., Dec. 18 at 6:30pm is the first opportunity that you have to come and join our guests. A potluck follows in the parish hall, and you are invited to come share the flavors of traditional cooking.

DYNAMIC MARRIAGE COURSE REGISTRATION

Find out as you fall in love with your spouse all over again in Dynamic Marriage, an in-depth, interactive course offered at two Vancouver area parishes this winter. Class is open to all married couples, Catholic and non, newlyweds to golden anniversary veterans. Flyers are in the vestibule or Michel DeGroat, 954-5194 for more info. Registration is needed by Dec. 23.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE 2009

Please return your wrapped gifts with the Giving Tree tag attached to it no later than 1:00pm on Sun., Dec. 20.

A Gift of Love



There's only one more week for the St. Vincent de Paul Giving Tree program. If you haven't taken a tag from the tree yet, please take one today. After you purchase the requested item, please wrap it and securely attach the gift tag to it. (This is how we identify the family to receive the gift.) Bring the gift to church and place it under the statue of St. Thomas Aquinas, on the right side of the altar.

If you picked a tag for a perishable food item, such as a ham or turkey, please bring it on the weekend of Dec. 19 & 20 to the kitchen in the church hall and leave it in the refrigerator. It is not necessary for you to wrap the ham or turkey. But, please make sure that the tag you took off the Giving Tree is attached to the item. If you have any questions about the Giving Tree, contact 834-2126 ext. 251.

Christmas Food Drive Along with our Giving Tree this year we are conducting a food drive to be able to provide our Giving Tree families with a full Christmas meal, and as much food as possible for the week after Christmas. Please bring your donations of non-perishable food items to the church and place them in the SVdP barrel in the usher's room.

Please consider this late Giving Tree gift request: support the Archdiocesan Hospital and Criminal Justice Ministry who are always in need of financial donations for Bibles, catechetical and prayer materials. Please make your check out to: Arch. Of Seattle, Pastoral Services/Office of the Vicar for Clergy/Thomas C. Wagner, Asst. Dir. Pastoral Care/ 710 9th Ave/ Seattle WA 98104.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

FAITH FORMATION

We have class this Wed., Dec. 16. PLEASE remember to bring your books with you! And dress warm!!

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP CLASS

This Thu, Dec. 17, 6:30pm in the parish hall. Parents are asked to attend with their children. Childcare is available.

BLESSED MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA APOSTOLATE

Meetings are on Sunday mornings before and during 9:30am Mass. This is a faith formation class designed for children who need a non-traditional classroom setting. Contact Kellie Hagen: 834-0393 or pathwaystolearning@live.com

ST. THOMAS PRAYER BOOKS

St. Thomas Prayer Books are on sale for \$6 in the office.

GIRLS' CLUB

The St. Thomas Girls' Challenge Club is selling delicious and nutritious granola TODAY, St. Nicholas Day, after all the Masses at the Knights of Columbus breakfast in the Hall. Special orders can be made by calling Ellen, 834-3658. The Girls' next meeting is Dec. 14, 6:30pm in the Youth Room.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE AND PARENT MEETING



All youth who are at least juniors in high school or 16 years old are eligible for Confirmation. Our first informational meeting for candidates and parents will be TODAY Dec. 13 at 5:30pm in the Hall.

H.S. ADVENT RETREAT

Plan to attend our retreat on Mon., Dec. 21 at Mt. Angel. Registration forms in the Office.

H.S. SNOW RETREAT

Dec. 28-29. Registration forms in the Office.

M.S. SNOW RETREAT

Will be in January. More information soon.



STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL UPDATE

To date we have received pledges from 35% of the parish and they have pledged 71% of our budget.

Think of what we could do if the remaining 65% of the parish returned their stewardship pledge commitment.

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER YOUR SUPPORT TO THE PARISH AND RETURN YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD TO THE PARISH OFFICE.

NOTICES / OUTREACH / ADS

'IN MEMORY OF'

Would you like to remember a loved one this Christmas by contributing a red poinsettia plant to decorate the church during this Christmas season. All poinsettias should be delivered to The Belisle Library before or after the weekend Masses on Dec. 19 & 20. At that time please leave the information requested on the "In Memory Of" sheet.



CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING

Would you like to help decorate the Church on Wed., Dec. 23? Please call Mary Talbitzer, 834-5470.

PRAYER CHAIN

Have you found a beloved friend or family member who weighed heavily on your heart, so much so that you worried for them and found yourself praying for him or her; then began to wish you had something more powerful than just your own prayers? Well, how about multiplying your prayers by others praying with you! Here it is call the prayer hot line 835-1644 to get your prayers going through to several parish members praying with you or for you! Your confidentiality is a major consideration of the prayer group when you call, simply give the name of the person you wish the group to pray for and what you're asking the Lord to do for this person. Fr. Belisle once said, when you pray, be specific and persistent. If you would like to pray for others and become a member of the prayer chain, just contact Vie, 335-1644 or vie ross@evross.

SETON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

Admissions testing will be held at Seton Catholic High School on Saturday Dec. 12, 8:00-noon. This test is good for all Catholic high schools in the region so please consider taking it with us. Applications for admission are due by Jan. 15. For more information and to sign up for testing, log on to www.setonhigh.org or contact Vice Principal, Andy Nichols 360 258-1932 ext. 224. We are grateful to you all for your prayers and support. May God bless you!

BIRTHRIGHT...

provides *loving alternatives to abortion* and support to each pregnant woman for as long as she wishes. Learn about volunteering. Speak with fellow parishioner, Jeanette Gaug 834-2622.

ADAPTED MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

Please join us at Holy Redeemer Church, 17010 NE 9TH St, on Sat., Dec. 19, 10:30am, to celebrate an adapted liturgy with Fr. Richard Berg, c.s.c. presiding. There is ample opportunity for spiritual and emotional support during hospitality time following the Mass. For further information, contact Mary Sutter, 892-0951 or sutt4@aol.com.

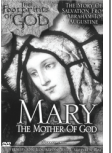
UPCOMING EVENTS

CDA COFFEE HOUR

On Sun., Dec. 20, is the Catholic Daughters Coffee Hour. Please come down to meet 'n greet a new person and spend some time with your fellow parishioners. We'll have some special items available for sale/donations just in time for Christmas. We are also going to have a drawing for one adult ticket to the St. Thomas Aquinas Feast Dinner on Jan. 30. The drawing will be held at the end of the 11:30am coffee hour. The winner's name will appear in the following week's bulletin.

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIDEO AND HOLY HOUR

Beginning at 9:00pm in the Fireside Room on Thu., Dec. 31 will be the video: *Mary, the Mother of God* filmed on location, featuring Steve Ray, a popular Catholic author, speaker and apologist. If you like; bring a snack to share. A Holy Hour follows, 11:00-midnight in Church, with the Rosary for a grace filled New Year using Pope Benedict's World Day of Peace Meditations and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Hosted by BNA.



GIRL'S AND YOUNG WOMEN'S VOCATION DINNER

On Sat. Jan. 9 following the Vigil Mass will be the annual dinner sponsored by the Boys' Club for all girls and young women, aged 7-19, and their mothers. This is a parish sponsored dinner so there is no charge for parishioners, but we do need to have your reservation by Jan. 4; call 834-2126 ext. 0 to register.

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS FEAST DINNER

Save the date for our STA Feast **Crab and Prime Rib** Dinner on Sat. Jan. 30, 2010. Transformed, the hall is beautifully decorated; the food is always five star, and the service professional. There is a great selection of wines, clever games, DJ music, dancing and a broad selection of Theme Dinners to sign up for. The cost is only \$39 per person. For more information call, Bud Brown, 834-7863 or Laurie Midles, 833-1098.

6TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

The St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Retreat will be held Friday evening through Sun., Feb. 26 - 28, 2010, at the Anderson Lodge retreat center

PERPETUAL ADORATION— FOUR OPENINGS!

On Sundays, 9:00-10:00am, Mondays, Midnight-1:00am, 1:00-2:00am & 4:00-5:00pm, we need people to take an hour with our Lord. If you can commit to an hour you will be welcomed. Call the office if you can fill a position, 834-2126 ext. 0.

OUR STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE-SUNDAY OFFERTORY

(WEEKEND MASS COLLECTIONS, CREDIT CARDS & BANK TRANSFERS, MAIL)
OUR FISCAL YEAR RUNS FROM 7/1/2009 THROUGH 6/30/2010

Thanks to the more than 60 parish families who donate to the parish regularly through "Electronic Giving". They donate weekly or monthly by using an automatic transfer from their checking account or a credit card transaction. If you are interested please contact the parish office 834-2126, ext 208.

Actual Collection 12/6	\$19,255
Planned 12/6	\$18,900
Cumulative Difference (Actual vs. Planned) for 23 weeks	-\$17,145 -5.8%
This is the time of year we ask you to renew your Stewardship pledge.	Please send your pledge cards to the office.

Important Announcement

Over the last few weeks, our parish has been focusing on Parish Stewardship – including our understanding of and response to the many gifts and blessings that God has given to each one of us.

Our parish is below our target for the number of families returning Parish Stewardship Commitment Cards. The yearly Parish Stewardship Commitment Renewal effort is quickly coming to an end, so the parish needs to receive a commitment card from each of our parish households, including you.

If you have not yet made a commitment for 2010 you can use the form below. Please consider ‘taking a step’ toward your personal giving goal. It is important for parish planning that we receive a commitment from all parishioners. Those who give consistently know the joy that comes from putting their faith into practice.

WHY WE TALK ABOUT PARISH STEWARDSHIP EVERY YEAR

Stewardship is fundamental to Christian life. It is the outward response of thanksgiving we make for the gifts we have received through Christ. We regularly plan and evaluate how we budget & spend for personal needs and wants. It is appropriate likewise to consider and plan our giving on a regular basis.

PLEDGE AMOUNT: \$_____per week or \$_____per month

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Please return this form in the Sunday collection or bring it/mail it to the office.

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Dec. 12 SATURDAY

5:00pm Vigil Mass for the soul of Ray Campbell (Piche)

Dec. 13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Hour with Crafts & Bake Sale sponsored by the Aquinas Guild
Liturgy of the Hours for week 3
Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
New Testament: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18



8:00am Mass for the soul of Mary MacKay (Talbitzer)
 9:00am Special Needs class, Old Rectory
 9:30am Mass *Pro Populo*
 11:30am Mass for the soul of Joan May (Myer)
 5:30pm High School Parents' Meeting, Youth Room
 6:30pm Boys' Club, Fireside Room
 7:00pm Squires, Hall
 7:00pm H.S. Youth Group, Youth Room

Dec. 14 MONDAY

8:30am Mass for the Don MacKay (Talbitzer)
 9:10am Rosary
 6:00pm Scouts, Hall
 6:30pm Girls' Club, Youth Room
 7:00pm Pinochle, Fireside Room

Dec. 15 TUESDAY

8:30am Mass for the intentions of Patty Ryrowski (Mooney)
 9:10am Rosary
 6:50pm Circle of Love, Fireside Room

Dec. 16 WEDNESDAY

7:00am Finance Council, Room 17
 8:30am Mass for the intentions of the Rivera family (Baenen)
 9:10am Rosary
 11:30am Senior Singles, Fireside Room
 6:00pm Faith Formation,
 7:00pm St. Thomas Schola, Church
 7:30pm Fourth Degree KC's, Fireside Room
 7:45pm Dead Theologians Society, Youth Room

Dec. 17 THURSDAY

8:10am Rosary
 8:30am Mass for the intentions of Bridget Estrada (Wilmott)
 11:30am Highland Terrace Mass
 6:30pm First Reconciliation class, Hall
 7:00pm Choir, Church
 7:00pm RCIA, Fireside Room
 7:00pm RCIC, Upper Room

Dec. 18 FRIDAY

9:00am Church cleaners at work
 9:00am Familia, Fireside Room
 12:00pm Mass for the soul of Lois Guard (Zefran)
 6:30pm Simbang Gabi Mass with Fr. Paul presiding

Dec. 19 SATURDAY

9:00am Mass for the soul of Sharon Marquardt (Wavra)
 9:40am Rosary (Church)
 10:00am Confessions
 3:30pm Confessions
 5:00pm Vigil Mass for the soul Joan May (Guard)

Dec. 20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Hour sponsored by the Boys' Club
Liturgy of the Hours for week 4
Old Testament: Micah 5:1-4a
New Testament: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45



8:00am Mass for the soul of Gladys Drov Dahl (Lounsbury)
 9:30am Mass *Pro Populo*
 11:30am Mass for the intentions of Dylan Monaghan (Bauer)
 St. Vincent de Paul distribution of Christmas Gifts
 No H.S. Youth Group

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 21 Simbang Gabi Mass, 6:30pm
- Dec. 22 Advent Penance Service, 7:00pm
- Dec. 24 Christmas Vigil Mass, 5:00pm
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day Masses: Midnight, 9:30am & 11:30am
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Video and Holy Hour
- Jan. 9 Dynamic Marriage Course begins
- Jan. 19 March for Life, Olympia
- Jan. 30 St. Thomas Aquinas Feast Dinner
- Feb. 12 Healing Mass with Fr. Justus
- Feb. 26-28 6th Annual Women's Retreat

LITURGY HIGHLIGHTS

When the Church celebrates *the liturgy of Advent* each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 524)

EPIPHANY CONCERT

Our annual Epiphany concert will be held on Sun., Jan. 3 at 3:00pm in the church. The choir/schola will be performing pieces from throughout Advent and Christmas, including special pieces never before heard. We will also include vocal and instrumental solos from our choir members. They put in a lot of effort and extra rehearsal time to prepare for this event. It is our special way of trying to make Christmas more of a season instead of just one day. Epiphany is the day we celebrate the Wise Men arriving to pay homage to Jesus in the manger. Make your Christmas season last by joining us for our concert. Don't forget our sing-a-long at the end. This is truly *your* concert, too! A short reception will follow.

Advertiser of the Week

Brown's Funeral Home

A special "Thank You" for the 2010 Catholic calendars that were donated for parishioners.

CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST IN 2009/10



For the month of December, you can offer all your sufferings -- physical, emotional, and spiritual -- for the sanctification of all priests."