

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

ADVENT MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE

St. Thomas Prayer Books are on sale for \$6 in the office. Reading materials are also available for various ages. Take the time now to pick up your families materials so that you can prepare for Christmas. Materials are available in the vestibule.

CDA POTLUCK

The Catholic Daughters will hold their December potluck meeting on Mon., Dec. 7. The potluck will begin at 6:30pm in the Fireside room, and our business meeting will follow at 7:30pm. If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Daughters, this would be a great meeting to attend. We want to make sure we have plenty of spaces and chairs available for guests, so please call Anne at 835-8220 if you'd like to attend.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On Tue., Dec. 8 Masses will be celebrated at 8:30am, 12:00pm & 7:00pm for this holy day of obligation.

IMAGINE SAVING A LIFE!

The Puget Sound Bloodmobile will be in our parking lot on Sat., Dec. 12, 9:00-3:00pm. (Closed from 11:30-12:30pm) If you haven't given blood in 8 weeks, this is your chance. One donation can save up to 3 lives at SW WA Medical Center. It is especially critical at this time of year as the need rises and colds and flu reduce the supply dramatically. In this season of "giving", please consider giving the most treasured gift which is priceless... that of life. Contact Patty Mingus to schedule an appointment, 335-1501. Walk-ins also welcomed.

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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE 2009

A Christmas tree with gift tags has been placed in the church vestibule. On each tag is written a gift wish or need for a member of one of the families, a 'family' gift, or a food item. Please take a tag from the tree and purchase the gift listed. It is important that you do not lose the gift tag, as that is how we identify the family who will receive the gift!

After you purchase the requested item, please wrap it and securely attach the gift tag to it.

Bring the gift to church and place it under the statue of St. Thomas Aquinas, on the right side of the altar. If you pick 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. All gift items must be brought to the church no later than 1:00pm on Sun., Dec. 20.

A Gift of Love



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

FAITH FORMATION

We have class this Wed., Dec. 9 & next Wed., Dec. 16. PLEASE remember to bring your books with you!

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP CLASS

This Thu, Dec. 10, 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](tel:834-0393) or pathwaystolearning@live.com

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 Girl's 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 next Sun., 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

December 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 26% of the parish and they have pledged 49% of our budget.

Think of what we could do if the remaining 74% 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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD DRIVE

Some of the most needed items are: canned chicken, fruit, tuna, vegetables, soups, yams; cranberries, gravy, Hamburger Helper, instant potatoes, jam & jelly, Jell-O, Macaroni & Cheese mix, noodles, oatmeal, pasta, peanut butter, rice, potato mixes, spaghetti sauce, stuffing mix. Please bring your donations of non-perishable food items to the church and place them in the SVdP barrel in the usher's room.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and please continue to keep all those in need within our community in your daily prayers.

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

Thank you to all of our students, staff, families, volunteers and supporters! Seton Catholic has enjoyed a great start to its first school year with the prayers and support of all of you. Recent highlights include:

- Annual Archbishop's dinner held on Nov. 8 raised \$300,000 for Seton Catholic High School.
- Michael Allen Harrison hosted a concert at St. John's on Nov. 15 that raised \$3,000 for our school.
- Our girls' volleyball team coached by Kelly Adams made it to district finals – in their 1st year!
- The boys' and girls' basketball teams are already practicing and will begin play in mid-December.
- We are entering the testing and application season for the 2010 school year:

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

JAN 19 ROE V. WADE OLYMPIA BUS TRIP

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS FEAST DINNER MARK

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. Cost for the evening is only \$39 per person. For additional information contact, 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 in Ariel, WA. Our retreat is hosted by the St. Elizabeth Apostolate and we welcome once again Mother Mary of the Angels, S.R. who will guide and facilitate our discussion of Apparitions of Mary. We are especially thankful for the opportunity to prepare our hearts for the Lenten season in this special way. Please join us as we find spiritual growth through fellowship, prayer, Mass, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration in a peaceful, wooded setting. Our retreat fills quickly, so please look for registration forms in the Atrium in the upcoming weeks and turn them in to secure your place in this memorable parish event. Parishioner rate is \$85 and non-parishioner rate is \$125. If you cannot spend the night, there is a \$50 day fee for Saturday to cover food and fees. Registration deadline: Feb. 19. Please forward questions or confidential requests for scholarship information to Karen Normandeau, 835-7307, gknormandeau@aol.com

PERPETUAL ADORATION— FIVE OPENINGS!

On Sundays, 9:00-10:00am, Mondays, Midnight-1:00am, 1:00-2:00am, 7:00-8:00am & 4:00-5:00pm on Tuesdays 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 11/29	\$9,925
Planned 11/29	\$12,400
Cumulative Difference (Actual vs. Planned) for 21 weeks	-\$17,501 -6.34%
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. 5 SATURDAY
5:00pm Vigil Mass for the soul of Lois Guard (Zefran)

Dec. 6 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Breakfast fundraiser sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
Liturgy of the Hours for week 2
Old Testament: Baruch 5:1-9
New Testament: 11 Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6



8:00am Mass *Pro Populo*
9:00am Special Needs class, Old Rectory
9:30am Mass for the soul of Sandra Connell (Mooney)
11:30am Mass for the intentions of Rachel Bauer (Bauer)
1:00pm Baptism Preparation, Fireside Room
7:00pm H.S. Youth Group

Dec. 7 MONDAY
8:30am Mind Mass for the soul of Jean Phimister
9:10am Rosary
6:00pm Scouts, Hall
6:30pm Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Fireside Room

Dec. 8 FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Old Testament: Genesis 3:9-15, 20
New Testament: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

8:30am Mass for the intentions of Mike Donnelly (Lounsbery)
9:10am Rosary
12:00pm Fr. Paul Mass for the soul of Gina Bernat (Bernat)
7:00pm Fr. Paul Mass *Pro Populo*
Circle of Love Prayer Group attending Mass

Dec. 9 WEDNESDAY
8:30am Mass for the soul of Sandy Connell (Lounsbery)
9:10am Rosary
6:00pm Faith Formation,
St. Thomas Schola, Church
7:00pm Dead Theologians Society, Youth Room
7:45pm

Dec. 10 THURSDAY
8:10am Rosary
8:30am Mass for the soul of Dorothy Hubbard (CDA)
6:30pm First Reconciliation, Hall
7:00pm Choir, Church
7:00pm RCIA, Fireside Room
7:00pm Outreach, Room 17

Dec. 11 FRIDAY
9:00am Church cleaners at work
12:00pm Mind Mass for the soul of Ivan Wurzer

Dec. 12 SATURDAY
9:00am Puget Sound Bloodmobile, Fireside Room
9:00am Mass for the soul of Dan Hogan (Lounsbery)
9:40am Rosary (Church)
10:00am Confessions
3:30pm Confessions
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)
6:30pm Boys' Club, Fireside Room
7:00pm Squires, Hall
7:00pm H.S. Youth Group

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 14 H.S. Confirmation Parent Mtg.
- Dec. 18 Simbang Gabi Mass, 6:30pm
- Dec. 21 Simbang Gabi Mass, 6:30pm
- Dec. 22 Advent Penance Service
- Dec. 24 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. 14 March for Life
- 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)

APPRECIATION EXPRESSED

Thank you to Lisa Hix for making the Advent wreath and to David Simms for providing most of the greenery. We appreciate your time in providing the beautiful Advent wreath.



Advertiser of the Week
Carulli Medical Clinic
See the ad on the back of this bulletin

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."