

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 & NEXT AT ST. THOMAS

NOVENA TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

The feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas is Jan. 28. Our parish novena will start Mon., Jan. 19 and end Tue., Jan. 27. The novena will be prayed before each Mass and can be found on pages 121 – 122 in the *St. Thomas Book of Prayers*. The intention for the novena will be for all students to use their knowledge for the Glory of God.

THE WASHINGTON STATE 2009 MARCH FOR LIFE

NOON Tuesday, January 20, 2009

at the Washington State Capitol in OLYMPIA

Buses will depart from St Thomas Church at 7:15am, Tue., Jan. 20 and return at approx. 5:00pm. Call in your bus reservation or questions, 834-2126 ext. 260. 10:00am PRO-LIFE MASS at Saint Michael's Parish Olympia. Walking procession from Church to Capitol will follow the Mass (CARRY A RED ROSE FOR LIFE) After the March for Life an ecumenical complimentary lunch by the St Michael's Knights of Columbus will served at St Michael's Catholic Church.

<http://washingtonmarchforlife.org/>

SENIOR SINGLES POTLUCK

At 11:30am on Wed., 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 Jan. 21 at 6:00pm the topic: *Legacy: the 10 Greatest Achievements of Pope John Paul II* with papal biographer and author George Wiegler; a DVD presentation.

ROE V. WADE MEMORIAL RALLY TODAY!

On Sun., Jan. 18, 2:00-3:00pm in Portland Oregon Right to Life is sponsoring the largest pro-life rally in Oregon history in Pioneer Courthouse Square. It has been down in Salem, but this year it has been moved to Portland, which maybe much more effective.

ADORATION HELP NEEDED.

Immediate Openings— Sundays, 3:00am; Mondays, 2:00-4:00am, Fridays, 7:00pm & Saturdays 1:00pm & 3:00pm we need some people to take an hour with our Lord and we have several times when just one person is signed up, if you can commit to an hour you will be welcomed. Call the office if you can fill a position, 834-2126 ext. 0. Copies of the adoration schedule are available in the chapel on the bulletin board and in the vestibule.

INTERESTED IN ANOTHER BIBLE STUDY??

After such a great response to the Thursday morning Bible Study, and the request by many to provide another time slot, I am exploring the possibility of adding another Bible Study group to Sunday mornings, 9:30-11:00am. I need to know if there are people who would be interested in coming. This time slot would allow people from the 8:00am or 11:30am Mass to come to the Study Group and childcare is already provided during this time. Please let me know: Justin Nickelsen, Assistant for Religious Education, 907-9648, nouvelletheologie@hotmail.com

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

FAITH FORMATION

Here is the schedule for the rest of the year:

Jan. 21 & 28; Feb. 4, 11 & 18; Mar. 4, 11, 18, & 25; Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 (Last class.) All classes begin at 6:00pm in the church and end at 7:30pm in the classrooms. **NO Class on Feb. 25** as this is Ash Wednesday. There will be a Mardi Gras traditional pancake feed on Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 5:00-7:00pm to kick off the Lenten season.

RCIC

This is an 8-week session for children who desire to be received into the church at the Easter Vigil or for older children who desire to celebrate Holy Communion & Reconciliation. Classes begin Thursday, Feb. 5 from 7:00-8:00pm in the Old Rectory Dining Room. Please contact Kim Steinke for more info.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Children have been preparing all year to celebrate this second sacrament of initiation which will be celebrated at the Masses on May 2 & 3. Children are required to attend all classes on Wednesdays, a morning retreat & provide a baptismal certificate. (Please let us know if your child was baptized at St. Thomas.) Please contact Kim Steinke if your **child can not attend class** on Wednesday. A letter will be sent home with details soon.

SHROVE TUESDAY, MARDI GRAS!

PANCAKE DINNER

FEBRUARY 24, 5:00-7:00 PM

\$5 PERSON-\$25 PER FAMILY

PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. THOMAS YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

PARENT-CANDIDATE MEETING,
THU., FEB. 12, 7:00PM IN THE HALL



SNOW TRIP

SAT., JAN. 24, 9:00-9:00PM
Cost: Free!

SETON HIGH SCHOOL

ANDY NICHOLS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF SETON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, WILL BE HERE ON WEDNESDAY TO TALK WITH OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND INTERESTED PARENTS. Q&A BEGINS AT 6:15 PM IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm
DEAD THEOLOGIANS SOCIETY (DTS) Wednesday 7:45-9:00pm
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP Sunday 1:30-3:00pm

NOTICES / OUTREACH / ADS

CEMETERY BOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Parish Finance Council is seeking a few volunteers who would be interested in serving on the Cemetery Board. If you would be interested in helping please contact Dr. Peter Phillips (Finance Council chair) at 694-1118.

RETROUVAILLE

Sociologists have identified 4 stages of marriage. They are: 1) Romance, 2) Disillusionment 3) Misery, and 4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th stage of awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th stage of awakening.

If your marriage suffers from disillusionment or misery, please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i). For confidential information, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on Feb. 13-15 call 503 285-2342 or visit www.helpormarriage.org. Couples of all faiths are welcome and no one is turned away due to financial difficulties.

BIRTHRIGHT

Share your hope for life with pregnant women in need. Don't hesitate. Learn about volunteering at BIRTHRIGHT. Call 694-8156 or speak with fellow parishioner, Jeanette Gaug, 834-2622.

JOHN PAUL II CENTER ACTIVITIES

Large sized men's and women's coats are needed, please donate these to the center. 834-2625

- Jan. 20: 9:30am Mad Hatters & 8:00pm AA Meeting
- Jan. 22: 7:30pm Theology of the Body Study Group – Open to all
- Jan. 27: 9:30am Mad Hatters, 1:00-3:00pm Free Blood Pressure Check, 8:00pm AA Meeting
- Jan. 29: 6:30pm Society of Christ's Love

RACHEL'S VINEYARD WEEKEND FOR HEALING AFTER ABORTION

If you are a woman or man suffering from an abortion in your life, experience God's forgiveness and compassion on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat March 6-8 in Medford or April 24-26 in Portland. Participation is strictly confidential. For more information contact: Lori Eckstine, Project Rachel Coordinator at 1-800-249-8074 or E-mail: E2Lori@aol.com. The cost is \$150.00 for meals, room, and all retreat materials. Financial assistance is available! The national website is: www.rachelsvineyard.org

There were many empty seats in the Church during December because of the weather. During December we collected 43% less than the year before. If you missed giving your weekly donation to the church, please consider "making up" the missed donation. The box to the right shows our offertory collections are \$36,920 under budget. This does not mean we are \$36,000 "in the hole" because we adjusted our spending months ago as the economy impacted the offertory collection. But we rely on your generous support to continue our programs and ministries. **Did you complete a Stewardship Pledge card?** If not contact the office. Your pledge will help us build our budget for 2008-2009.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS DINNER AND AUCTION



Our annual Parish Dinner and Auction has been scheduled for Jan. 31 and will honor our patron, Saint Thomas Aquinas. This is our Parish, "branded" event with our Crab and Prime Rib Dinner, the hall beautifully decorated, and auction tables full of wonderful items for silent bid. It is a special evening where we all have a great time and let our hair down a little with our Catholic friends. This will be our 6th annual year for

the dinner, and as in years past, proceeds will go to support family programs. Please save the date for this special night. Tickets \$35. For additional info please call Laurie Midles, 833-1098 or Bud Brown, 834-7863.

DEACON HAROLD BURKE-SIVERS COMING FEB. 4

Well known Catholic speaker, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers will be coming to St. Thomas on Wed., Feb. 4 to discuss "Male and Female He Created Them: God's Plan for Marriage and Family Life". Free Childcare provided. For the married and unmarried alike. For more information, please contact Justin, 907-9648 or nouvelletheologie@hotmail.com

MARRIAGE CELEBRATION

All married couples! Mark your calendars for Sat., Feb. 14 to plan to celebrate Valentine's here at St. Thomas! Details coming soon.

PRE-LENTEN MISSION, "GROWTH IN PRAYER"

On Feb. 15-19, Fr. Brian Thomas Becket Mullady, currently a mission preacher and retreat master for the Western Dominican Province, will help us to begin preparing for Lent.

5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday evening through Sun., Feb. 20-22, at the beautiful 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 Saint Faustina and the Divine Mercy. Please join us as we find spiritual growth through fellowship, prayer, Mass, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration in a peaceful, wooded setting. Your registration is needed to secure your place and we do fill up quickly. Forms are in the vestibule & parish office.

MEN'S RETREAT: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Men's Retreat will be Fri., Apr. 24 -26 at Mount Angel Abbey in Mt. Angel OR. The theme for the retreat is "Man of God", There will be ample time for silence and prayer, as long as fellowship and conversation. Registration form, will be coming soon!

OUR STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE-SUNDAY OFFERTORY

WE REPORT THIS ACCORDING TO THE FISCAL YEAR WHICH RUNS FROM
7/1/2008 THROUGH 6/30/2009

Actual Collection - Jan 8 - 12	\$12,302
Cumulative Actual July 1 - Jan 12	\$382,757
Cumulative Budget July 1 - Jan 12	\$419,677
Difference (Actual vs. Budget) (Please read box at left)	-\$36,920 -8.8%

Liturgy Update from the Liturgy Commission

ISN'T MASS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE ONE HOUR LONG?

No. There is no liturgical norm that says Mass should be a certain length. Because we are blessed to have a church full of people at Mass on Sundays, Offertory and Communion can take a little longer. Our good and faithful priest, Fr. Gillette, will tell you that he became a priest to preach the Gospel. We are very fortunate to have such a good homilist. The Church and the Ten Commandments require us to spend this special time with our Lord on Sundays. The amount of time we spend in Mass is very small in comparison with the amount of time we spend on everything else in our lives. Put your watch in your pocket, turn off your cell phone and settle in for a very special *few* minutes to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. Allow Him to speak directly to your heart. We come to Mass to encounter the Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist and to listen to His Word. Is 75 minutes once a week really too long?

HOLY MASS ETIQUETTE

How we act at Mass should help us pray, listen and worship as well as help our neighbors do the same.

We should remember:

that Mass is holy.

to dress appropriately.

to be on time. It is distracting when people arrive late to Mass. If you are delayed or late, be thoughtful of others and sit in the back so as not to disturb those already into prayer of the Mass.

to turn cell phones and pagers off.

to genuflect toward the tabernacle before sitting down. Genuflecting is bending the right knee to the floor and rising up again. If one is physically incapable of genuflecting, they should instead make a profound bow. The purpose of this is to show respect to our King and to acknowledge His Presence in the tabernacle.

to sit quietly. Once we've found a seat, we should sit or kneel quietly to pray or meditate. This isn't the time to socialize with our friends. If we must talk quietly, we should make it brief. The purpose of this is again to show respect of the Blessed Sacrament, and to show that WE BELIEVE HE IS TRULY PRESENT—Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity! If we do not believe this, we need to be considerate of those who do and use the quiet time to contemplate this Truth.

to respect boundaries. At the Our Father, for instance, we should be sensitive of our neighbors' needs to, perhaps, deeply speak to "Our Father", which can be interfered with another's need to hold hands.

to stay until the end of Mass. Judas was the first one to leave Mass early at the Last Supper. Let's not follow in his footsteps. Mass ends when Father says: "The Mass is ended, go in peace" and we say: "Thanks be to God." It is most polite to stay in our pews until the end of the recessional hymn. Emergencies will arise from time to time; in such cases, we should be as discreet as possible so as not to disrupt the Mass that has not yet ended.

to reverently, gently, & silently leave the church. Again, this is to show respect of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There is a custom where some stay several minutes after in thanksgiving for the Eucharist they have just received; the church should also be quiet out of respect for this deep union taking place. We can talk all we want once we've reached the vestibule, and we are encouraged to really yack it up at the coffee hours that follow many Masses!

CONFLICT IN THE HOLY LAND

Please pray for peace in the Holy Land! The current war to Gaza and Israel has already claimed over 500 lives, and many more are threatened by lack of food and water. Catholic Relief Services, our humanitarian agency of the U. S. Catholics community, has been present in Gaza serving its people for years, especially the most vulnerable. On our behalf, their work in Gaza with children, the elderly, and the disabled cannot continue a cease-fire. Read more at www.crs.org.

Please consider two ways to help:

1. Pray for peace.

2. Please sign a petition from the US Catholic Bishops to Present-Elect Obama urging him to make peace in the Holy Land a priority.

Visit actioncenter.crs.org

"MUSIC NOTES"

The faithful who gather together to await the Lord's coming are instructed by the Apostle Paul to sing together psalms, hymns, and inspired liturgical songs (see Colossians 3:16). Liturgical song is the sign of the heart's joy (see Acts 2:46). Thus Saint Augustine says rightly: "To sing belongs to lovers." There is also the ancient proverb: "One who sings well prays twice." We are welcoming new members to our music program. Send me a note! kristinyoshimura@gmail.com

This Week at St. Thomas Aquinas

January 17 SATURDAY

5:00pm Vigil Mass for the intentions of Hans Solomon Davis (Davis)
6:00pm Craft Night, Fireside Room

January 18 SUNDAY

Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Liturgy of the Hours—week 2
Old Testament: Samuel 3:3b-10; 19
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Gospel: John 1:35-42

8:00am Mass for the soul of John Kirschner
9:30am Mass *Pro Populo*
9:30am Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Apostolate, Upper Room
10:30am Good Shepherd, Room 11
11:30am Mass for the soul of Terrance Mulligan (Estrada)
1:30pm High School Faith Formation

January 19 MONDAY (Staff Day off)

8:00am Liturgy of the Hours, Church
8:30am Mass for the soul Helen Dietzman (CDA)
9:00am Boys' & Girl's Clubs Sledding Trips leave parking lot
9:10am Rosary
6:00pm Scouts, Hall
No Girls' Club

January 20 TUESDAY

7:15am Bus leave for March for Life, Olympia
8:00am Liturgy of the Hours, Church
8:30am Mass for all those in positions of authority, especially those newly elected, that they will uphold the sanctity of life and marriage. (Stig)
9:10am Rosary
6:30pm Circle of Love Prayer Group, Fireside Room

January 21 WEDNESDAY

7:00am Finance Council, Room 17
8:00am Liturgy of the Hours, Church
8:30am Mass for the intentions of Harley & Linda Powell (DeBoever)
9:10am Rosary
11:30am Senior Singles, Fireside Room
6:00pm Faith Formation, Church
7:00pm St. Thomas Schola, Church
7:30pm DTS, Youth Room
7:30pm KC's 4th Degree, Fireside Room

January 22 THURSDAY

8:00am Liturgy of the Hours, Church
8:30am Mass for the soul of Christine Hanses (Carruthers)
9:10am Rosary
9:15am Bible Study, Fireside Room
3:15pm Vox Clara, Room 16
7:00pm RCIA (Church Tour), Church
7:00pm Choir practice, Room 16

January 23 FRIDAY

8:00am Liturgy of the Hours, Church
9:00am Church cleaners at work
12:00pm Mass for the intentions of Alexander Baja (Baja)

January 24 SATURDAY

9:00am Mass for the intentions of Therese Froehle (Hood)
9:00am Youth Snow Trip
10:00am Confessions

3:30pm Confessions
5:00pm Vigil Mass for the soul of Lawrence Elnor (Perreira)

January 25 SUNDAY

Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Aquinas Guild
Liturgy of the Hours—week 3
Old Testament: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

8:00am Fr. Belinsky Mass
9:30am Fr. Belinsky Mass
9:30am Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Apostolate, Upper Room
10:30am Good Shepherd, Room 11
11:30am Fr. Belinsky Mass
1:30pm High School Faith Formation

CALENDAR OF EVENT

- Jan. 26 Lenten Summa articles due
- Jan. 31 St. Thomas Dinner & Auction
- Feb. 4 Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, speaker
- Feb. 14 Marriage Celebration Dinner
- Feb. 15-19 Pre-Lenten Mission
- Feb. 20-22 Women's Retreat
- Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday, Masses 8:30am, noon & 7:00pm

SETON CATHOLIC H.S.

ADMISSIONS DEADLINE EXTENDED

Freshman and sophomore student applications to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton College Preparatory High School will continue to be accepted through spring and summer. The new regional Catholic high school will open its doors in September 2009. Information and admissions procedures may be found at www.setonhigh.org or you may call Seton High School at 360 254-1800.

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Ecce Veritas Academy, in its fourth year of providing a classical education in the Catholic tradition to students in grades 7-12, invites prospective students and parents on Thu., Feb. 5, 1:00-6:00pm, at its location at 300 NE Multnomah, near Holy Rosary Parish in Portland. Observe classes, visit with teachers, students and parents, and find out what a classical education in the Catholic tradition can mean for you and your grade 7-12 student. For more info, phone Ecce Veritas at 503 233-4996 or visit the website - ecceveritas.org.

Pacific Crest Academy 834-9913, a private Catholic school of academic excellence, spiritual and character formation, invites you to attend an OPEN HOUSE. Come learn about our curriculum, mission and philosophy. Date: Fri., Jan. 30, 5:00-8:00pm.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Vancouver Open House on Tue., Jan. 27, 6:30-8:30pm. Questions 696.2301, ext. 202

St. Joseph Catholic School is hosting an Open House on Sun., Jan. 25, 10:00-2:00pm. Please come visit with teachers, see classrooms and get more information about a Catholic education for your children. Visit www.stjoevanschool.org for information, or 696-2586.

Advertiser of the Week

Cyndy Rohm

See the ad on the back of this bulletin