

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

MOM'S GROUP

Mom's Group will be meeting on Wed. from 9:30-11:30am in the Fireside Room. Childcare is provided. We will be discussing the upcoming Gospel reading. We welcome all women of the parish to come and join our discussions. Mom's, Grandmas and Aunts are a great addition to our group. You can drop in at anytime. You don't need to commit to every meeting. Bring a snack to share and see you there.

RETIRED POTLUCK

Retired people of St. Thomas are going to start having a monthly potluck in the Fireside Room on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Noon. We can talk about whatever you want, laugh and have a good time. (we can always use a good laugh) If you have any questions, call 835-3601.

FAITH FORMATION, WED., SEP. 23

Preschool through Adults, just not High School, meet 6:00-7:15pm beginning in the Church for an opening prayer. Adults will learn something of Caritas in vertiate (Pope Benedict XVI's latest encyclical) this week.

RCIA

Has anyone asked you about becoming Catholic or just been interested in finding out more about Catholicism? Invite them to come with you to our RCIA inquiry sessions beginning at 7:00pm on Thu., Sep. 24 in the Fireside Room. We will meet every Thursday after that where we will search and explore the truths of the Catholic Faith and experience the fellowship of our Church family. Questions? Contact Drew, ext. 212.

RECEPTION PLANNED FOR POLISH DELEGATION

Several Polish delegates from the Sister City Program of the City of Camas will bless our parish by attending Mass at 9:30am on Sep. 27. A reception will follow and the committee has planned a very nice event to greet our visitors. The menu will include several Polish delicacies to sample. Please note also that one of the visitors is a parish priest, Father Marek Mrugala, who has graciously agreed to celebrate Mass at noon on Fri., Oct. 2 and perhaps other masses, so watch for further announcements.

MANY THANKS!

On behalf of the Aquinas Guild, thank you, St. Thomas parishioners. You came through for us again. Thank you for your generous donations for our Rummage Sale last week. Our tables were piled high. When the sale ended, leftover items were packed and delivered to Value Village, for the benefit of ARC (Assoc. for Retired Citizens). Thank you, workers, for the long yours you spent standing on your feet, sorting and straightening. Always, we had a few good laughs to make the work lighter. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and our custodians for doing the heavy work. Thanks to the kitchen staff for delicious lunches. Finally, thanks to all for your cooperation that made our Rummage Sale a real success. Our net profit was even better than last year (and most items were 25 cents!), but best of all, our customers left with real bargains and smiles on their faces. Thanks to you.

Fran Hewitt, Guild President

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

FAITH FORMATION

We begin in the church at 6:00pm sharp to pray a decade of the rosary together, classes are dismissed with catechists to classrooms in the Aquinas Center with adult session in the parish hall. Classes end at 7:15pm. Parents, please pick up your children in the classrooms, introduce yourself to the catechist and sign up for a parent helper/healthy snack time. Childcare is provided in Room 8.

SPECIAL NEEDS CLASS

There will be 2 classes on Sunday mornings beginning Sep. 20. One will be for children who have celebrated First Sacraments and one will be for children preparing to celebrate First Sacraments. If you think your child would benefit from this setting, please contact Kellie Hagen, 834-0393 for more information.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN

This class will begin Thu., Sep. 24, 7:00-8:00pm in Room 11. This is for older children who need preparation for baptism and First Holy Communion to be received into the church at the Easter Vigil. Please contact Kim Steinke, ext. 207 for more information.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

A letter will be sent home soon with information regarding preparation for children in second grade. Please note that second grade children must be attending our Wednesday evening faith formation in preparation for celebrating these sacraments. Contact Kim Steinke for more information.

OLDER CHILDREN

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Children must be enrolled in our Wednesday evening faith formation classes in their regular grade. These children will be "pulled out" for the last 20 minutes of class each week to be prepared to celebrate these sacraments with the grade 2 class. Contact Kim Steinke, ext. 207 for more information.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL FALL RETREAT

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE 9/21!

REGISTRATION FORMS

Forms are in the Church vestibule and Parish Office. There is a \$15 fee to help cover materials this year.

Jr. High sessions are Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15pm.

High School sessions begin today Sun., Sep. 20, 7:00pm.

DTS meets Wednesdays, 7:45pm

SOUTHERN DEANERY HIGH SCHOOL FALL RETREAT

Sep. 25-27 with special guest Chris Stefanick

Registration forms due: Mon., Sep. 21, forms are in the parish office.

SAT., OCT. 3 ROSARY BOWL NW

Oregon State Fairgrounds, Pavilion Building.

Join the St. Thomas Carpool.

Call Thad at 834-2126 ext 215 if you are interested.

**STEWARDSHIP IS ASKING FOR GOD'S HELP
WHEN WE MAKE DECISIONS**

Do I bring God into my decision making process? In my large decisions? In my small decisions? How does my faith affect the decisions I make in my work environment? Have I considered spiritual direction or counseling to help discern how God is leading my actions? Was there a moment today when God was challenging me to do something? Is there a significant decision I am being called to make in my life now? What part of my life do I try to keep God out of? How does this affect my decisions?

NOTICES / OUTREACH / ADS

JOIN THE SQUIRES

Looking to enhance your spiritual, leadership, civic, and social development? Then the Squires may be for you! If you are a Catholic male between the ages of 12 and 18, you are invited to attend the Annual Squires Fall BBQ with current and prospective Squires. This year it will be located at the Zeponi property at 2903 SE 282nd Ct in Camas, just minutes from the church, on Sun, Oct 11, at 1:30pm. Please RSVP to Scott Powell, ref.scott@gmail.com

A HELPFUL WEBSITE

www.catholicscomehome.org meant to help evangelize fallen away Catholics.

DYNAMIC MARRIAGE COURSE

What makes couples fall in love? What makes them stay in love? How can you keep the two of you from falling out of love? Find out with Dynamic Marriage, an intensive 9-week course offered in four Camas-Vancouver area parishes this fall and winter. Contact the facilitators to register, but don't put it off! Class size is limited to 12 couples. Flyers in vestibule.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE, SEPT. 23 - NOV. 1

It is a special time of community prayer, fasting and offering of pro-life alternatives to abortion-minded women and girls going to the Planned Parenthood Abortion Clinic just north of SR 500 and west of Gher Rd. Let us witness to the truth with love. Website at <http://www.40daysforlife.com/vancouver/>

UNITED FOR LIFE CONFERENCE SAT., OCT. 17

An ecumenical event with national and local pro-life speakers from 9:00-7:30pm at St. John Catholic Church, 8701 NE 119th St., Vancouver. Pre-registration by Oct. 10: \$10/person or \$25/family. Lunch/dinner extra. More information at www.unitedforlife2009.com or call (360) 574-1569.

ST. JOSEPH'S, KALAMA CENTENNIAL

Join on Sat., Oct. 10, 1:00-10:00 St. Joseph Catholic Church Centennial Celebration. Archbishop Alex Burnett will celebrate Mass at 5:00. Guided tours, historical display, refreshments and "Dance through the Decades." More info contact Maxine Neiman, 360 673-4479.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Tables are available at CDA Court St. Johns annual Holiday Bazaar. The date is Nov. 14, 9:00-3:00pm at St. John's Church, 8701 NE 119th St., Vancouver. For info, Dolores Ertler, 573-4003 or Laura Jackson, 314-2424.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

Jeff Cavins has an 8-week introductory CD to the Bible Timeline that will be used for this Tuesday, 4:30-5:30pm meeting beginning Sep. 29 in the Fireside Room. Discussion and prayer will follow. Questions, contact Jeanne Donnelly, 834-2125 ext. 0.

RECEPTION FOR POLISH DELEGATION PLANNED

The Sister City program of the City of Camas will host a delegation from Poland this fall and a number of delegates from this Catholic country will attend the 9:30am Mass on Sep. 27. Plans include a reception to follow Mass and we are looking for parishioners to assist in what should be a fun and interesting event. If you want to help or need more information, please contact Shawn MacPherson, 834-6314.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is Oct. 7 and our parish novena will begin Mon., Sep. 28 and end Tue., Oct. 6. The novena will be prayed before each Mass and is found on page 136 in the *St. Thomas Book of Prayers*. The intentions for this novena will be for the protection of the sacrament of marriage and deepening love of husband and wife, and a change of heart for those who have worked to destroy the unity of the family.

RESCHEDULED SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

All new parish volunteers whose volunteer work will involve working with children and vulnerable adults are required to attend course entitled *Called to Protect for Ministries*, which will be offered on Tue., Sep. 29, 6:00-9:00pm in the hall. If you have attended this course in the past, you may update your training on-line. To register for the course or to update your certification: <http://www.seattlearch.org/sep/index.html> or contact the parish office for assistance.

SOFTENING OUR HARD PEWS

Recognizing that our wooden pews can seem especially hard to those whose health is poor, the Aquinas Guild is providing individual cushions for the use of those who sit in the front rows at weekend Masses. After Mass please return them to storage space.

BEATIFUL.WOMEN.INSPIRED.

Please join us for a special fundraising event to benefit Pacific Crest Academy and Habitat for Humanity Women Build. Sat., Oct. 17, 11:00am at the Fairgate Inn Camas. Keynote speaker Julianne Crane, co-founder of Women Build and co-author of the Vision will be speaking about inspiring women to greatness through goals-setting in personal and professional relationships & discovering a sense of purpose and fulfillment in everyday life. Cost \$60. Tickets can be purchased until Oct. 1 at PCA 834-9913 & www.pacificcrestacademy.org

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

Actual Collection 9/13	\$14,911
Planned 9/13	\$16,000
Cumulative Difference (Actual vs. Planned) for 11 weeks	-\$5,643 -4.1%
Annual Catholic Appeal—total pledged	\$91,091
Amount under goal	-\$17,110

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Sep. 19 SATURDAY

5:00pm Vigil Mass for the soul of Norrie Gibney (McWilliams)

Sep. 20 SUNDAY—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Coffee Hour is sponsored by CDA
Liturgy of the Hours—week 1
Old Testament: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
New Testament: James 3:16-4:3
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

8:00am Mass *Pro Populo*
9:30am Mass the intentions of the Duffy Family (Baenen) w/childcare
Special Needs class
11:30am Mass for the intentions of Lilly Monaghan (Bauer) w/ childcare
7:00pm H.S. Faith Formation, Youth Room

Sep. 21 MONDAY (Fr. Sherrer's Birthday)

8:00am Liturgy of the Hours, Church
9:10am Rosary
11:00am Funeral Mass for Joe Tipton
6:00pm Scouts, Hall

Sep. 22 TUESDAY

8:00am Liturgy of the Hours, Church
8:30am Mass for the intentions of Dirk Steenint (Lounsbury)
9:10am Rosary
6:30pm Circle of Love Prayer Group, Fireside Room

Sep. 23 WEDNESDAY

8:00am Liturgy of the Hours, Church
NO Mass
9:10am Rosary
9:30am Moms' Group, Fireside Room
12:00pm Retired Potluck, Fireside Room
6:00pm Faith Formation, Church
7:00pm St. Thomas Schola, Church
7:00pm Pastoral Council, Fireside Room
7:45pm Dead Theologians Society, Youth Room

Sep. 24 THURSDAY

8:00am Liturgy of the Hours, Church
8:10am Rosary
8:30am Mass for the soul of Pat Sanks (Smedley) followed by Coffee in
Fireside Room
5:30pm Vox Clara, Room 15
7:00pm Choir practice, Church
7:00pm RCIA, Fireside Room
7:00pm RCIC, Room 11

Sep. 25 FRIDAY

9:00am Church cleaners at work
12:00pm Mass for the soul of Frankie Meixner (Mooney)
Fall Retreat Send off

Sep. 26 SATURDAY

9:00am Mass for the intentions of Courtney Estrada (Wilmott)
9:40am Rosary (Church)
10:00am Confessions
3:30pm Confessions
5:00pm Vigil Mass for the soul of John Carroll (Sellers)

Sep. 27 SUNDAY—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Coffee Hour is sponsored by Boys' Club

Liturgy of the Hours—week 2

Old Testament: Numbers 11:25-29

New Testament: James 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

8:00am Fr. Gordon Mass *Pro Populo*
9:30am Fr. Gordon Mass followed by reception for those visiting
from Poland
11:30am Fr. Gordon Mass
7:00pm H.S. Faith Formation, Youth Room

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 4 Eucharistic Minister Training
- Oct. 5 Girl's Club Kick-off
- Oct. 19 Red Cross Blood Drive
- Oct. 20 Summa articles due
- Oct. 31 Trunk or Treat

LITURGY HIGHLIGHTS

Please do not leave Mass right after Communion. Mass is not yet over! One would never accept a dinner invitation only to jump up after the main course and exit through the front door without so much as a thank you to the host/hostess. Our Lord wants to stay with Him until the end, praying in thanksgiving for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. 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. God bless you!

RESPECT LIFE

The logic of the modern age dictates, "Let us declare that God is dead, then we ourselves will be God. At last we no longer belong to anyone else; rather we are simply the owners of our selves and of the world. At last we can do what we please." These words of Pope Benedict XVI clearly highlight the thinking behind acceptance of abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research. Pope Benedict IXI, *Jesus of Nazareth*, 257

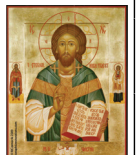
BIRTHRIGHT

BRINGS COMFORT, KNOWLEDGE AND HOPE.

We are here for her. Practical help and caring pregnancy support. Learn about volunteering, speak with fellow parishioner, Jeanette Gaug 834-2622 or call 694-8156.

CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST IN 2009/10

Here's what you can do for September:
Resolve to show all priests a supernaturally motivated respect and reverence. Reclaim the beautiful Catholic custom of asking for a priest's blessing whenever you encounter him.



Advertiser of the Week
Joan Badertscher—CPA
See the ad on the back of this bulletin