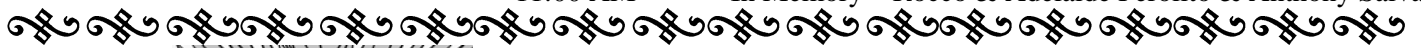


MASS
INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 28 th , Sunday, March 29 th ,	5:00 PM 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 4:00 PM	In Memory – Members of the Piscione Family Special Intention – Members of the Military In Memory – Michael Alba, Jr. Solemn Vespers
Tuesday, March 31 st ,	9:00 AM	In Memory – Members of the Andersen & Wojciechowski Families
Wednesday, April 1 st , Friday, April 3 rd , Saturday, April 4 th ,	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Pro Populo In Memory – Michael Alba, Jr. Birthday Remembrance – Judy Buchanan 10 th Anniversary – Armand Michaud
Sunday, April 5 th ,	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Anniversary – James Reynolds Anniversary – Sadie Jacobik

St. Veronica Chapel

Saturday, March 28 th , Sunday, March 29 th ,	4:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	In Memory – Lyle Wolf Birthday Remembrance – Antonetta Pasquazzi 1 st Anniversary – Patricia Campbell RCIA Welcome
Saturday, April 4 th , Sunday, April 5 th ,	4:00 PM 9:00 AM	In Memory – Frank J. Surprenant In Memory – Members of the DiRienzo, Rizera Families & Christopher Mowry
	11:00 AM	In Memory – Rocco & Adelaide Ferolito & Anthony Salvato



Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” – Jn 12:23-24

RCIA

The next meeting of the RCIA program will be this Tuesday, March 31st, at 7:30PM. Pray for our 15 candidates and their sponsors.

HOLY HOUR FOR PRO-LIFE

The next Holy Hour prayer for pro-life will be this **Friday, April 3rd**, beginning at 9:30AM. Everyone is welcome.



MASS FOR HOMEBOUND & ANOINTING

On behalf of the St. Thomas More Parish Community, we would like to invite you to our annual Mass for the Homebound and anointing of the sick, followed by a sit-down luncheon in the Parish Center, on **Saturday, April 25th at 11:00AM at St. Thomas More**. A communal anointing of the sick will be included in the Mass for anyone who is elderly or health is fragile due to sickness. We extend our invitation to any family members and especially Eucharist Ministers who would like to accompany you. Please call us at 789-7682, if you are interested in attending.

PLAY – MERCHANT OF VENICE

Social Activities Committee is planning an activity to attend the play “*The Merchant of Venice*” by William Shakespeare on Sunday, April 19th at 3PM, URI Theatre. The cost is \$14.00 - General Admission & \$10.00 for Seniors. For more information or to reserve tickets, please call Pauline – 782-9969 by Friday, April 10th.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Religious Education Schedule March/April 2009

MON. PM:	MAR. 30 th
GR. 1-4:	APRIL 6 TH – LAST CLASS
FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE DATES:	
	TUES., APRIL 21 ST
	WED., APRIL 22 ND
	TUES., APRIL 28 TH
	3:45-5:00PM @ STM
TUE. PM:	MAR. 31 st
GR. 1-4:	APRIL 7 TH – LAST CLASS
FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE DATES:	
	TUES., APRIL 21 ST
	WED., APRIL 22 ND
	TUES., APRIL 28 TH
	3:45-5:00PM @ STM
GR. 5 & 6:	WED., APRIL 1 ST & 8 TH
	LAST CLASS
	3:45-5:00PM @ ST. VERONICA
GR. 7 & 8:	GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10 TH
	STATIONS IN THE STREETS -11:45AM
	WED., APRIL 22 ND – LAST CLASS
	7:00-8:00PM @ ST. VERONICA
CONF. I:	GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10 TH
	STATIONS IN THE STREETS -11:45AM
	MON., APRIL 20 TH – LAST CLASS
	7-8:15PM – STM
CONF. II:	GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10 TH
	STATIONS IN THE STREETS -11:45AM
	MON., APRIL 20 TH – LAST CLASS
	7-8:15PM – STM
	RETREAT AT ENDER'S ISLAND
	WED., APRIL 29 TH - MEET @ STM-7:30AM

FOOD COLLECTION

Next weekend is our monthly Food Collection. We are now donating to the Jonnycake Food Pantry Program. Items needed are: juice boxes, cans of juice, cereal, cookies, crackers, hot chocolate, jelly and packages of cheese slices, coffee, pasta, pasta sauce, spaghetti, baked beans, soups, canned fruit and canned meats. We are also in need of gift certificates to local markets.

Did you know that our Parish has a Prayer Chain Ministry? If anyone would like some extra needed prayers, you may call 295-1241 and express your request.



Stations of the Cross – This Friday at 7:00PM

Daily Mass is at 9:00AM

Regional Penance Services

The following are the dates and times for each Penance Service. There are six priests available for each one. Please try to participate on one of the following dates:

Wed., April 1st @ 7:00PM – St. Veronica Chapel
Mon., April 6th @ 12Noon–St. Mary Star of the Sea
Tues., April 7th @ 7:00PM – St. Francis of Assisi
Wed., April 8th @ 7:30PM – Christ the King

The second collection next weekend is for Operation Rice Bowl. (Please Note: Catholic Relief Services collection has been dropped.) This Lenten program provides us with the opportunity to take part in concrete actions that make a tangible difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters who suffer from hunger and poverty. Please change coins into dollars and make checks payable to St. Thomas More. Please put your budget number on your envelope.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ORPHANAGE

MISSION TRIP

Our parish missionaries will be taking off to the Immanuel Orphanage in the Dominican Republic the day after Easter. The orphanage relies on the generosity of the missionaries and their “families” to keep them supplied with the day-to-day necessities that keep their children healthy and nourished. Our parish “family” can help this Lenten season by filling the Mission Bins located at the Church entrances with some much-needed goods from the Orphanage “Wish List”. **The deadline for donations is Palm Sunday, April 5th.**

PARISH FEAST MEETING DATES!!

There is a Feast Chairpersons Meeting this Monday, March 30th at 6:30PM at St. Thomas More. A Feast Volunteer meeting, for anyone willing to help, will be on Sunday, April 26th at 6:00PM at St. Thomas More.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the Tony Melendez Concert such a blessed success! We look forward to our Sunday Vespers with Msgr. Halloran this weekend where we will turn to the Lord together for the prayer of the Church. There is no more fitting way to thank God than to pray together as God's family.

WHO IS THAT WOMAN IN THE WINDOW?

Recently I took an unofficial poll to determine if people knew who was featured in the large blue stained glass window on the left at St. Thomas More Church. No one in the two surveys knew who she was so I thought I would share some insights into her name, life and story.

St. Philomena (for whom our parish was named until it was changed in the 1970's to St. Thomas More) is depicted in the window art. Very little is known of her except that she lived in the early years of the Church and she was martyred for her faith at about the age of 14. In 1802, the remains of a young woman were found in the catacombs of Rome on the Via Salaria with symbols carved on stones revealing that she was a martyr and had the name Philomena. In 1805, other relics were discovered in the Vatican Treasury of Relics and were enshrined in Magnano. Many miracles were attributed to her intercession. Devotion spread throughout the Church in the latter part of the 19th century. St John Vianney (one of my favorite saints) had a deep devotion to her and had a prominent shrine to her in his parish Church at Ars. Her feast day is August 11th. She is patron saint of infants, infertility and desperate causes. I cannot help but notice that the artist who designed the window was sure to include both the *anchor* (the symbol of hope in light of her patronage for desperate cases) and the *green palms* (the symbol of someone who was a martyr). After the Vatican Council, saints about whom the Church did not have authenticated biographical information were de-emphasized in veneration, hence the renaming of our parish ensued. St. Philomena remains a beautiful example of faith to the point of shedding her blood. Perhaps next time you are in the Church in the daylight you might invoke her name over your life and over our parish.

Prayer to Saint Philomena:

St Philomena, most pure virgin, God in his eternal power has revealed to the world in these most unhappy days your life in order to revive the faith, sustain the hope and enkindle the charity of Christian souls. Behold I prostrate my life at your feet full of goodness and kindness. Increase my love for Jesus Christ which even the most fateful torments could not separate you from. May I be faithful as you so that I too may have the crown in heaven that you have received.

Amen.