



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Last weekend, after one of the Masses, a parishioner came up to me and shared with me that her husband is in the Reserves and has been called up to report to active duty in July where he will spend one year in Afghanistan. It was heartbreaking to hear his daughter say that she was going to miss her daddy.

This got me thinking about all the service men and women who put their lives on the line everyday for our protection and freedom. These men and women leave their homes, go off to a distant country and are gone for one, two, even three years from family and friends. Their family and friends worry about them, and I am sure are praying constantly for them. I cannot even imagine what it would be like if someone from my family was sent to the Middle East.

This is what got me thinking that we need to do something for these brave men and women and their families. After talking with the Parish Council, we thought it would be nice if we set up an area in the Church where we could honor our service men and women. If you have a spouse, son or daughter, or grandson or granddaughter who is currently serving in a branch of the Armed Forces and have a picture of them in their uniform, we would like to honor them by creating a display. This will remind each one of us to keep them in our daily prayer while we also pray for them in our community.

These are not easy or peaceful times. I ask you to please keep all of our service men and women and their families in your prayers. It is hard enough to be separated from family and friends. The worry of their safety must be just overbearing. Let us ask God to protect them while they are gone and to bring them home safely to their families. If you are submitting a photo, please fill out the form below.

Peace and Goodness,

*Fr. Bill*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Armed Forces: \_\_\_\_\_

Stationed: \_\_\_\_\_

Person submitting the photo: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (not to be displayed): \_\_\_\_\_

## HOLY HOUR

There is a Holy Hour at St. Thomas More every Wednesday evening in the Marian Chapel from 6-7pm. Don't forget to bring your Bible and rosary!

## PARISH PRAYER FOR PEACE

Please pray for our troops, our country, and world peace. "For where two or more come together in my name, I am there with them." (Matthew 18:20). All are welcome to gather in the Marian Chapel to pray the rosary for peace on Tuesday, January 19th at 7pm.

## MARDI GRAS PRIZES

Prizes continue to arrive for the parish's annual Mardi Gras. To see a full list of those who have donated go to the parish website [www.stmparish.net](http://www.stmparish.net). If you, your family, parish organization or company would like to donate a prize or basket, please contact Jeff Stutzman at the Rectory. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Plan on attending the annual Mardi Gras festivities on February 12th and 13th to see all of the prizes!

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

We will meet on January 26th at 7:30pm to come together to pray, to share our faith and for fellowship. Men 18 and older are welcome. The scheduled topics for discussion are The Flesh is Weak (Moral Decision Making) and Lead Us Not into Temptation (Temptation). Please consider joining us.

## TAX CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you would like a tax contribution statement for your 2009 donations, please contact the Rectory at 216-749-0414. You will be notified when your statement is ready to be picked up. Or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Rectory to Eileen's attention.

## A TIME FOR CHANGE- BULLETIN CONTEST

Sharpen your pencils and put on your thinking caps. We are looking to redesign our cover for the Church bulletin. Flyers will be posted soon with all of the requirements (margin sizes, etc). Look over the current cover and see what changes you think we need to make. Look for the posters and additional announcements in future bulletins. Any questions, call Peggy at 216-402-2773.

## MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR. CLEM METZGER

A Memorial Mass for Fr. Clem Metzger will be held at St. Anthony of Padua Church on Sunday, January 24th at 3pm.

## SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND OPEN HOUSE

Anyone interested in enrolling his or her child(ren) at St. Thomas More School (Grades PreK-8) is encouraged to join us on Sunday, January 31st at our Open House from 1-3pm. If you would like a personal tour of the school or for more information, please contact Mrs. Jennifer Francis, Principal at 216-749-1660 X224. Registration for new and returning families is now taking place. This also includes are Full and Part Time Preschool Programs, which fill up quickly, so please register early. If you would like information mailed to you, please call the school and we will be happy to send it.

## YOUTH MINISTRY SNOW TUBING

Members of the JHYG and HSYM are invited to an evening of Snow Tubing at Brandywine Ski Resort this Sunday, January 17th from 5-9:45pm. The cost of the trip is \$25 and includes bus transportation. A permission slip and tubing release is required and can be downloaded from the youth ministry website ([www.stmparish.net/ym](http://www.stmparish.net/ym)).

## HSYM OVERNIGHT RETREAT

The annual HSYM Overnight Retreat, Time Out XX: Hanging By a Moment will be held on Saturday, March 6th and Sunday, March 7th at the St. Leonard Youth Retreat Center in Avon. This retreat is open to ANY high school student. The cost of the weekend is \$20 if you sign up before February 21st. A permission slip and more information can be downloaded from the Youth Ministry website ([www.stmparish.net/ym](http://www.stmparish.net/ym)) or picked up at the parish Rectory.

## TEARS OF HOPE: BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

St. Thomas More Ministry of Consolation is planning a Support Group with the hopes of reaching out to bereaved persons through God's Word and Deed. This support group will offer comfort and understanding where the heart hurts most. Meetings will be led by members of the Ministry of Consolation based on personal experiences and faith. We will provide an opportunity for bereaved persons to share in confidence their own personal experiences with the grieving process, with the hopes of gaining strength from one another. If you feel you would like to be a part of this group, please call the Rectory.

## HEARING AID FOUND

A hearing aid was found in the Church. Please contact the Rectory at 216-749-0414 if it is yours. Thanks!

# Cluster Corner

## CORPUS CHRISTI

**Memorabilia-** The parish is collecting memorabilia to be displayed in the back of the church until April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. If you have any pictures, mementos, T-shirts, bulletins, etc, please contact Rose 216-351-6073 or Loretta 216-661-7370. All items will be returned after the display is taken down.

## OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

**Parish Bingo-** Bingo is located in the Parish Center every Friday at 7pm. Doors open at 5:30pm (Early Bird). Food and snacks available. Police security inside and outside. Come give Bingo a try!

## ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO

**Ireland-** Fr. Carlin is leading a trip to Ireland from June 24<sup>th</sup> through July 5<sup>th</sup>. Please call 440-884-3030 for more information or to sign up.

## ST. LEO THE GREAT

**Apples of Gold-** Apples of Gold is open to married and engaged women of all ages. The program consists of six Bible Study sessions on marriage and family based on the Bible verse Titus 2:3-5. The program is free. To sign up, call Phyllis at 216-661-6302.

## MEMORIAL CANDLES

Please remember to pick up the candle you purchased at the Rectory. There are still a few unclaimed. Finally, if you purchased a candle and would like to purchase additional inserts, they are available from the Rectory for \$2 each. Please stop in during our normal business hours to make your purchases. Again, thank you for your overwhelming support of this project.

## JHYG DANCE

The next JHYG Dance is Friday, February 5th (note this is the 1st Friday of the month due to Mardi Gras) from 7:30-10pm. A valid dance ID and \$5 is required for admission. Chaperone Team B is assigned.

## MASS FOR LIFE

Bethesda the House of Mercy announces a Solemn Mass for Life at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist (East 9th Street and Superior Avenue) on Friday, January 22nd at 7pm. Come to this special evening of remembrance and repentance on the 37th anniversary of Roe v. Wade and pray for healing and for full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Bishop of Cleveland, Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon, will be the celebrant and homilist.