

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

One would think in life that we would learn from experience. I have learned in life whenever I say never I will eventually end up doing whatever I said I would never do. The old line "never say never" holds true for me.

I said that I would never start up Bingo, no matter what the cost, no matter what the benefit. Well, I am now eating my words. St. Thomas More will be starting up Bingo. We will be having Bingo on Wednesday nights starting in April.

You may be asking yourselves why? Well, both St. Stephen and Blessed Sacrament Churches ran a Wednesday night Bingo and both have stopped it. With Blessed Sacrament closing, Fr. Ischay, from Blessed Sacrament, has very generously donated all the Bingo equipment to St. Thomas More plus their staff has offered to help us run it. It was an offer too hard to refuse.

With the economy being what it is, I am sure you have noticed the drop in the weekly collection. With the drop in collections and our need to raise money for the past assessments, this was the only way that the parish could make some extra money without bleeding our own parishioners dry.

I am going to need your help if Bingo is truly going to get off the ground. If you are interested in helping, please call Jim Higgins at the Rectory. Any little bit that you can give will be a lifesaver. Again, I want to thank everyone for your continual support.

Just as a side note, this past Tuesday was the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is on this feast day that we bless candles. Anyone interested in purchasing these blessed candles can find them in the priest's sacristy at a cost of \$2. Feel free to stop by and pick some up. And while you are at it, don't forget to pick up your Mardi Gras tickets!

Peace and Goodness,

Fr. Bill

SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND OPEN HOUSE

If you are interested in enrolling your child(ren) at St. Thomas More School (Grades PreK-8), would like a tour of the school or have questions, please contact Jennifer Francis at 216-749-1660 x224. Registration for new and returning families is now taking place.

STM WOMEN'S GUILD

The STM Women's Guild will have a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9th at 1pm. Our guest speaker will be Lillian Kastelic from Social Justice.

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, February 9th at 7pm.

BINGO NIGHT & MARDI GRAS

We will have a Bingo Night on Friday, February 12th from 6-10pm as part of our Mardi Gras celebration. Doors open at 6:45pm and admission is \$5 and includes your first sheet. Our Mardi Gras party will be on Saturday, February 13th from 5:30pm-Midnight and tickets are \$30 and available after Masses or in the Rectory. \$10 tickets are also being sold and do NOT include dinner. Admission with these tickets will only be granted after 8pm.

MARDI GRAS PRIZES

Prizes continue to arrive for the parish's annual Mardi Gras. To see a list of those who have donated go to the parish website (www.stmparish.net). If you, your family, parish organization or company would like to donate a prize or basket, please contact Jeff at the Rectory. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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 need to be made. Any questions, call Peggy at 216-402-2773.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

We will have a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9th at 7pm in Utopia Hall. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. All men are welcome.

SOCIAL JUSTICE- HAITI AND CHOCOLATE

With 300 workers already in Haiti, Catholic Relief Services had a head start in providing aid after the horrendous earthquake. Thank you for your support in raising \$6,135.97 to help with the efforts. Also, after Masses next weekend we will be selling chocolate, tea and coffee. Give a chocolate bar to your Valentine!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL APPEAL

Next weekend, an in-pew commitment process will take place. All who have not receive the mailing, or have not had a chance to respond to it, will be asked to consider making a generous pledge to support the ministries and services provided by Catholic Charities.

HSYM OVERNIGHT RETREAT

The annual HSYM Overnight Retreat, Time Out XX: Hanging By a Moment will be held on March 6 & 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 or picked up at the parish Rectory.

YOUTH MINISTRY- CAVS TICKETS

St. Thomas More Youth Ministry has a block of tickets reserved for Tuesday, April 6th as the Cavs take on the Raptors at the Q. Tickets are \$22 and any parishioner is welcome to purchase tickets by February 26th. More details and order forms are available on the youth ministry website.

JOB SEARCH SUPPORT GROUP

St. Thomas More is interested in starting a job support group in order to help people find job leads, learn more about proper job hunting techniques and provide an opportunity for networking. The free group would meet once a month and will be lead by someone who is also frustrated with the job search and the lack of opportunities. If you are interested in this group, please contact the Rectory at 216-749-0414.

TEARS OF HOPE: BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The STM "Tears of Hope" Support Group will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at 2pm. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, February 28th at 2pm in the Rectory. Our support group will offer a safe place for people to mourn the loss of a loved one. Our beginning topic will be "Telling Our Story." Please come and share and /or listen as together we strive to help one another on our Faith Journey. Please call the Rectory and leave your name and number and someone will contact you.

MEMORIAL CANDLES

Additional inserts are available from the Rectory for \$2 each. Please stop in during our normal business hours to make your purchases

Cluster Corner

CORPUS CHRISTI

Memorabilia- The parish is collecting memorabilia to be displayed in the back of the church until April 18th, 2010. If you have any pictures, mementos, T-shirts, bulletins, etc, please contact Rose 216-351-6073.

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 24th through July 5th. Please call 440-884-3030 for more information or to sign up.

ST. LEO THE GREAT

Senior Trip- On February 22nd, St. Leo's will be traveling to Wheeling Isle in West Virginia. The group will meet at 7:30am and leave at 8am. The cost is \$25 but you get back \$30. Please call Joanne at 440-526-3505 for more information.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS: SOS WEEKEND

During the month of February, STM is collecting new or gently used suits and other items appropriate for job interviews. Every year, Dress for Success issues an S.O.S. to all women nationwide: Donate one new or nearly-new business suit to help another woman enter the workforce! Items that have been worn must be clean. A donation box will be at the main doors of the Church until February 28th.

HSYM BASKETBALL & EVENING PRAYER

The HSYM will hold an evening of Basketball and Evening Prayer on Sunday, February 28th from 7-9pm in the parish gym. This event is free and open to any high school student. This is also a great time to hand in your permission slip for Time Out XX.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We recently registered the following people at St. Thomas More during the month of **January**— Michael Chapinka, Steven Coyle, Jeffrey Gentile, Janine Jablonski, Jerry & Pat Kaszar, Rachel Kundrat, Matthew & Lilian Longley and Family, Stacy McNall, Marlene Poloncarz, Hector and Solmarie Rosa, Michael & Denise Rydzewski and Family, Angela Sbroglia, Ronald Stack, Donald and Patricia Stopa, Brian Torino, and Brian Vanza. Welcome to all of you!