



Community Connection

December Issue



Listen to **Sacred Heart Radio**
740 AM 89.5 FM 910 AM

Tuesday, December 12th
6am-6pm

Featuring Special Guests from:

St. Thomas More School

St. Thomas More Faith Formation Commission Event



*Dedicated
Disciples
Winter Social*



MARK THE DATE!!!!

DATE: January 11, 2018

TIME: 6:30 pm

PLACE: Parish Dining Hall

- ◆ Calling all Dedicated Disciples Groups!
- ◆ Please join us on Thursday, January 11, for a potluck social.
- ◆ Bring your favorite dish to share.
- ◆ Meet with others in your Formed.org group!
- ◆ If you haven't yet joined a Fall group study, please come, enjoy our Social and consider joining one of our Winter studies.



Thursday evening, December 21st at 6:00 pm, we will be decorating the Church for Christmas. All are invited to come and help. If you have questions please contact Deacon Michael at 513-753-2549 or mthomas@sttm.org.

As I See It

*Deacon Michael Thomas,
Pastoral Associate*



As the song goes, "it's the most wonderful time of the year." All of us are busy getting things ready. We need to be making to do lists so that we don't forget to buy that special gift or forget to get that special Christmas treat we always bring to our favorite Christmas Party. All of this is part of the holiday season. It should be a great opportunity to make many lasting family memories.

I wonder though, in all of this hustle and bustle, do we take the time to do what Advent calls us to do? Advent is very different from the busy world around us. Advent calls us to be still, to be patient, to wait for the coming of the Savior. It may not be like Bethlehem, but He will come. He may come in the person we choose to buy something off our Giving Tree. He may come in the person we forgive after many years. He may come to us with the gift of His love and comfort as we try to get through Christmas day without the presence of a loved one who has died. Advent goes by very fast it is so easy to miss these wonderful opportunities. Nonetheless we are called to prepare the way of the Lord.

One of the most important ways to prepare for the great feast of our Lord's Birth is to plan now what Mass your family will attend on Christmas. Remember the Christmas Masses begin at 3:00 pm on December 24. That weekend we are obligated to attend **two Masses**, one for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and one for Christmas. Coming together each week for Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist, is the most important act we do as a parish family. Plan now what Mass your family will attend. Due to the number of Masses, we will need lots of extra help, just like at home as we get ready to enjoy Christmas dinner. All the Christmas sign-up sheets have been posted. Now it is up to us to make sure all the needed positions are filled. Together our parish family prepares the way of the Lord.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS CHRISTMAS SIGN UP SHEETS

Sign-up Sheets for the Christmas Masses have been posted in the usual locations. Please take a moment to sign up this weekend if you have not already done so, to ensure we have enough ministers for all the Christmas Masses. Altar servers will be contacted by email this coming week. Thank you!





ARE YOU PREPARED???

If you want something in life, or if you want to be good at something, you have to prepare. Whether it's a career, a hobby, or a sport, you have to put in the time to train, to practice, and to get better. Or if you're interviewing for a new job, or getting ready for a test, you have to study and prepare. You have to know your stuff.

Why don't we do this with our faith? Why don't we prepare our souls for the inevitable, so that when we are subjected to that final test – we pass?

We don't know when that hour will come when we will be here on this earth, living life and the next moment we're gone. We've all experienced this with those we know and love. We pray for their salvation and their eternal life in Heaven, but when you think of the people whom you know who abruptly die, the question that always comes into mind is – were they prepared?

Our Dedicated Disciples Study Groups are the perfect answer to helping you prepare. We have completed our Fall Studies and now are preparing to continue our Winter Studies in January. If you have not yet joined, please consider doing so in January.

It is so easy! The studies will be listed on our webpage at www.sttm.org. Click on the study (or studies) of your choice and someone will get back in touch with you. Or mark your calendar for Thursday, January 11. Join us in the Parish Dining Hall for a potluck dinner with all the Dedicated Disciple Facilitators and sign up right there in person!

Think about it! You can learn in the comfort of your own home with an online study at Formed.org. Schedule your learning time when it is convenient for you: morning, lunch time or evening! Use your email to reply back and forth with your group and your facilitator! Easy....peezy!!

Or if you prefer learning in person with a group, we have a couple studies that meet in homes.

Whatever you do, think about preparing your soul for its next destination. Jesus has prepared a beautiful place for us after our death! He wants us to be with Him. He gave his life for us to receive this treasured gift! Don't risk losing it! Take steps now to prepare your soul!

~ Submitted by Becky Ready, DRE

Greetings Parents,

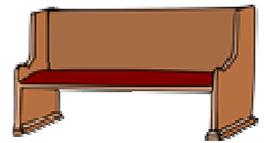
Do you wish there was an easy and enjoyable way to learn the major stories of the Bible? Our family found one! The Action Bible, by David C. Cook, was a gift to my son. He enjoyed this "comic" version so much, he read it over and over and over.... OK, full disclosure must include that it was the only thing in his room when he was in time-out or grounded. Still, he chose to read it beyond confinement and even chose it as a birthday present for peers. The end result? Before junior high, he knew the overall "action" of most Bible stories and the basics of most Biblical people! One caveat, the pictures have the "dark comic" look and some battle scenes are presented –so preview it for your child! My boys enjoyed this from second grade through junior high, but it's a great overview for anyone – including myself! Hug those little and big readers tight and may your Advent be spiritually rewarding and your Christmas blessed in great measure!

-- Linda Bader, CRE

THE DEACON'S BENCH

Submitted by Deacon Bob Brazier

TAKING HOLY EUCHARIST TO THE HOMEBOUND



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) who take Communion to the sick and homebound have a role in sharing the Church's total ministry to the sick after the manner of Jesus. In bringing Communion to the sick and homebound, the EMHC represents Christ and manifests faith and charity on behalf of the whole community toward those who cannot be present at Sunday Mass. This ministry is a sign of support and concern shown by the community for its members.

The EMHC becomes a vital link between the parish community and the member who is sick or homebound. It is beneficial for visits to the sick and homebound to occur after Sunday Mass so that the link between the parish liturgical celebration and the parishioner is maintained. Taking a parish bulletin also helps maintain that link. The parish may also have a special blessing and dismissal for EMHCs after Communion; the assembly is sending them forth to do their ministry on the behalf of the whole parish community.

According to the document, Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass, "The Eucharist for Communion outside of church is to be carried in a pyx or other covered vessel; the vesture of the minister and the manner of carrying the Eucharist should be appropriate and in accord with local circumstances". Consecrated hosts are usually obtained from the EMHC's home parish, following the procedures of that parish.

When you need to receive a consecrated host for those you are taking communion to, please either bring your pyx to the sanctuary and place it on the tray before Mass or wait until after Mass and see the deacon or sacristan to receive the Holy Eucharist to take to your people. We should only be receiving one host when coming through the receiving line for Communion. So if you need a consecrated host, please refrain from getting it while in the communion procession line, and come to the sacristy to ask for it. Also, we need to know the people that you are taking the Holy Eucharist to, so please sign the Book of the Homebound, located in the sacristy, with the name of the person you are taking communion to. The reason for this is, it lets us know to pray for healing of these people and it makes the parish aware that they are homebound and unable to attend Mass.



NEW PARISHIONERS

Paul, Shauna & Blake Bellonby

Michael & Tracy Gilkerson

Fred, Lynn & Brigitte Sowar

Courtney, Katherine & Parker Wurtz

Denis & Regina Schmitt

Christopher & Amanda Ross, Kylee

Dearduff & Quinn Ross

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Ivan Jude, son of Paul & Nicole Sheehy

Jacob Alan, son Paul & Lisa Fox

Caitlyn Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher & Amy Thomas

Hunter James, son Adam & Laura Wellen

Gryffin Kenneth son of Andrew & Taylor Lasley

Dominic Augustus, son Michael & Gina Siano