

Jesus cured many
who were sick



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Meeting Christ in the Liturgy

SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 8, 2009**

[The LORD] tells the number of the stars
and calls them by name.

—Psalm 147:4

"And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him followed him, and they found him and said to him, 'Every one is searching for you.'" (Mark 1:35-37)

All of mankind is searching for Christ. Our destiny from the beginning of time is God our Creator, and we do find him if, like Simon Peter and those who were with him, we stand ready to abandon our comforts, our plans and dreams, to follow him. The great witness of Peter and the other Apostles, the first priests of Jesus Christ, is that they followed the Lord heroically, going even with him into the "lonely place" of celibate life, and abandoning mother and father, sisters and brothers, wife and children, to follow the vocation to which Christ called them. Sacrificing the human companionship of marriage and family life is not a cold and empty place if there is found in it a marriage to Christ's beautiful and radiant bride, the Church. Celibacy in Christ is a sign and a motive of charity, a powerful witness of the command to "seek ye first the kingdom of God". For two millennia men have followed Christ in the heroic life of the ministerial priesthood, not to reject the joys and consolations of human marriage, but to marry the Church and to be fathers, raising up sons and daughters who will live forever in the true marriage feast of the Lamb in heaven. The Faith has been preached to the remotest corners of the earth, from the Apostles to the missionaries of today, because of joyful and confident acceptance on the part of men and women religious, as well as priests, to share in Christ's all-consuming mission to die to self in accomplishing the Father's will.

The unchaste cannot comprehend or appreciate the jewel of celibacy, which radiates within the Church of Christ. For countless souls it is a magnificent source of attraction to Christ and his Gospel. Celibacy is holy because by the example of the God-Man, and a gift which the Church preserves and protects as a grace which gives fruitfulness to the Bride of Christ in raising up new members. The gift of celibacy is an irreplaceable sign of God's love, for by it the priest is freed to be radically available and open to every man and woman in generous service. The man or woman religious is prepared each day to follow Christ wholeheartedly, instruments of God's compassion through free service of mankind. "All the ordained ministers of the Latin Church, with the exception of permanent deacons, are normally chosen from among men of faith who live a celibate life and who intend to remain celibate 'for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.'" (Mt 19:12) Called to consecrate themselves with undivided heart to the Lord and to 'the affairs of the Lord,' (1 Cor 7:32) they give themselves entirely to God and to men. Celibacy is a sign of this new life to the service of which the Church's minister is consecrated; accepted with a joyous heart celibacy radiantly proclaims the Reign of God." (CCC 1579) In accepting the gift of celibacy the priest is better equipped to act in persona Christi, for by it he is freed, as was Christ, to dedicate himself more generously to the preaching of the Gospel, the forgiveness of sins and the worthy celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

The celibate priest, and any man or woman who foregoes the earthly joys of marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven, disregards himself for a more perfect love of God. He is a help to men as he walks the paths of this earth in solidarity with every child of God, married or single, religious or lay, young or old. His celibacy is not sterile but rather most fruitful. The priest is ordained to give the grace of the sacraments, but his celibacy plays a role as well. Radically available to everyone who calls upon him, the priest is an effective and credible witness who shows by his life that the aching for love in every restless human heart is satisfied when the heart rests in God.

- Father Cusick, c/o jspaluch co., inc.

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

In Praise of St. Paul -- John Chrysostom

"The most important thing of all to him (St. Paul), however, was that he knew himself to be loved by Christ. Enjoying this love, he considered himself happier than anyone else; were he without it, it would be no satisfaction to be the friend of principalities and powers. He preferred to be thus loved and be the least of all, or even to be among the damned, than to be without that love and be among the great and honored. To be separated from that love was, in his eyes, the greatest and most extraordinary of torments; the pain of that loss would alone have been hell, and endless, unbearable torture. So too, in being loved by Christ he thought of himself as possessing life, the world, the angels, present and future, the kingdom, the promise and countless blessings. Apart from that love nothing saddened or delighted him; for nothing earthly did he regard as bitter or sweet."

Staff

Pastor: Church & School

Msgr: Labib Kobti

Parochial Vicar:

Fr Andrew Johnson

Priest Brazilian Community

Fr. Sergio da Silva, (415) 454-8141

Deacon:

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RCIA & Music:

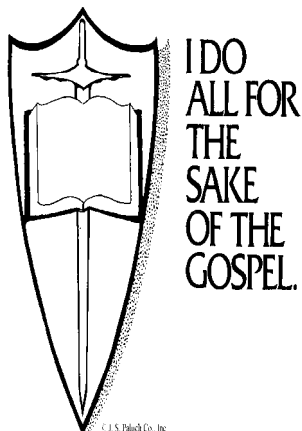
Suzanne Hockel

(415) 826-6834

STM School:

Principal, Joe Elsbernd

(415) 337-0100



This Week's Parish

Events

Tue., Feb 10th

Legion of Mary,

Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

Communion & Liberation,

Scanlan Hall, 8 pm

Wed., Feb. 11th —

Brazilian Choir Practice, Church 7pm

Litruy Committee Mtg,

Scanlan Hall, 7 pm

Fri. Feb. 13th —

AACC Youth Group

Scanlan Hall, 6-8:30pm

Sat., Feb. 14th

RCIC Classes, Flower Sacristy, 9 am

Teen Confirmation Classes,

Flower Sacristy, 10:30 am

Young Adults Meeting

Chapel, 2—5 pm

Bible Study & Prayer Group

Alma Via, 7 pm.

Campus Ministry,

check schedule on church board at the entrance.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time;

World Day for Consecrated Life; World

Marriage Day; Boy Scout Sunday;

Tuesday: St. Scholastica

Wednesday: Our Lady of Lourdes;

World Day of the Sick

Thursday: Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

Saturday: St. Cyril and St. Methodius;

Valentine's Day

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian;

10:00 AM English

11:45 AM Arabic;

8:00 PM English

Weekdays:

8:30 AM

(Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.);

5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)

Holy Days:

8:30 AM & 8:00 PM

First Saturdays:

10:00 AM Burmese

First Fridays:

8:30 AM

7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Followed by Mass for healing at 8:00 PM

Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Communion to the homebound and the ill: Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time on request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform parish office regarding a visit for anointing.

Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

Regular Activities

Parish Council
Liturgy Committee
Legion of Mary
Communion & Liberation

To Be Announced
As Announced
Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Bible Study & Prayer
AACC Youth Group
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino
Prince of Peace
FLA Youth Group

Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
Friday, 6:00 PM
Last Friday, 7 PM
Friday, 8:30 PM
1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30pm

Enrich your faith, tune in to 24-hour 1260 AM, Immaculate Heart Radio

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 can of cereal, 1 can of tuna or chicken, 1 bag of pasta, 1 container of 100% juice. No glass items, please. Thanks.



*Today is **World Marriage Day** as well as the **World Day for Consecrated Life** as well as **Boy Scout Sunday**. In our own individual vocations, hopefully 'we do all for the sake of the Gospel'.

***Volunteers needed.** Our parish will participate in a nationwide postcard campaign to educate the public about the most radical and divisive pro-abortion bill ever, the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). Please call the rectory if you can help with this very urgent & important issue on upholding the sanctity of human life.

*Wednesday, February 11 is **World Day of the Sick**, and the **Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes**. All especially the ill and their caregivers are invited to Mass on this special day, which is at 8:30 AM on that day.

***Training schedule** for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and New Lectors is now available. Please check with your respective Mass coordinators.

*Starting this Sunday, the **year-book** from our last International Food Festival will be available after the Mass for a donation of \$5.00. This donation will be applied to our 2008 AAA.



***Thank you** to the members of our **Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Committee, the Parish Advisory Board, the Liturgy Committee and other ministries** for starting this new year with fresh energies, new ideas and for more specific plans to meet our obligations this year. Thank you for your hard work so early in the year, we are confident this enthusiasm will be infectious and will multiply many times over.

***Couples for Christ.** Family ministries will be start a Christian Life Program on February 21, 2009 here at STM. Program will open with the 5:00 PM Mass and will meet every Saturday thereafter. For more information, take a flyer from the vestibule.



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MASS INTENTIONS
February 8th —14th, 2009

02/08 Sun 10:00am People of STM
8:00 pm Sotito Family (Thanksgiving)
02/09 Mon 8:30am Kathleen Savaget†
02/10 Tue 5:30 pm Special Intention
02/11 Wed 8:30 am Remedios Librojo†
02/12 Thu 5:30pm Joan Carew†
02/13 Fri 8:30 am Agnes Grace Simon (hlg)
02/14 Sat 8:30 am Celedonia Cheong†
5:00 pm Ruth Samiere† & living family members

Please call the office to schedule your Mass. Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.

Pray for ... **All the sick people in our parish**, especially Linda Biagini, Patricia Colburn, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Collin & Sara Fernando-Noguera, Catherine Moynihan, Mac Nuqui, Marie Paynor-Cia, John Schulz, Lourdes Tam, Filemon Trinidad, Alejandro Villavicencio, Ruby Jimenez, Gordon Lu, Rosauero Tan, Jean Lu, Bridget Sazon, Rhona Palencia and for all in our parish who are ill and homebound.

All the deceased from our parish.

Weekly Offering



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**Your weekly offerings:
Weekend of 02/01 /09:
\$5,193.10**

School Collection: \$1,001.58

Tithing: \$708.00

**Thank you
for your generosity!**



If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.

I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (s) _____

Email: _____ I want to receive the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.

Yes, please _____ No, thanks. _____ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com