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## SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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[www.stmchurch.com](http://www.stmchurch.com)

### STM Mission Statement

*"We are a diverse Eucharistic family united in Jesus Christ and His Church. We accomplish our mission to spread the message of God's love through the gifts of the Holy Spirit who guides and inspires us and with the prayers of our Blessed Mother, Mary."*

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21st, 2010

Last week we had "Laetare Sunday." Laetare is the Latin word for "rejoice." And if you listen carefully, you will notice that "laetare" has the same root as the name "Leticia," which means simply "joy." The theme of rejoicing continues this Sunday. For example, our Psalm says, "The Lord has done great things for us. We are filled with joy."

Where does all this talk about joy come from? We tend to think of Lent as a solemn time: with prescribed days of fasting and abstinence, examination of conscience and confession of sin, station of the cross and meditation on the passion. All of that is part and parcel of Lent, Yet the goal of this is not to make us unhappy. Just the opposite - the goal is joy. St. Thomas Aquinas said, "No man can live without joy." No one can live without joy. If you and I do not experience joy in God - in spiritual things - we will start looking somewhere else: food, sex, vacations, mind-changing drugs, alcohol, gambling, you name it. Those things are not bad in themselves, but they do not bring a joy that lasts.

In today's Gospel, we see a woman who sought joy in a desperate way. She wanted joy so much that she was willing to jeopardize her marriage, her family, her good name and her life. But she did not receive joy. She got caught in adultery. She could not have been more isolated - or more miserable. The woman had hit bottom. When that happens, a person faces a choice. They can sink into bitterness and despair - or they can look up and reach out. The woman looked up. She saw a man tracing some letters on the ground: Perhaps a message for her accusers. Perhaps also a message for her. In short time, she was alone with the man, a very different man than she had ever met.

St. Augustine said that in the end only two remained: - misery and mercy. The woman represents human misery. Jesus is the mercy of God. Jesus asks, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" With a shyness she had never experienced, she whispered, "No one, sir." Then Jesus spoke those beautiful words: "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." Jesus transformed her misery into pure joy. He wants to do that for you and me. He wants to give us joy now. Not when everything is going well. Not when we finally get a break. No, now. Jesus wants to give us joy at this very moment.

Joy comes when we accept God's mercy - and resolve to sin no more. The woman in today's Gospel shows that joy is possible, no matter what circumstance we find ourselves in. The Gospel does not tell us what happened to the woman. We cannot imagine that everything went smoothly for her. We live in a society where people are "caught in the act," then exposed to public shame. They can never return to their old life. The woman caught in adultery probably found herself in a similar position. After such notoriety, how can one go home?

Early Christian tradition indicates that she wound up at the foot of the cross, next to the mother of Jesus. Whatever took place, this woman teaches us something important. No matter the circumstances of your life, no matter how much disappointment and guilt you bear, it is still possible to find joy. Look to Jesus. As we enter Holy Week, a good person to walk with is the woman rescued by Jesus. She joined her own pain to the suffering of Jesus. And she, perhaps more than most others, knew the great joy of forgiveness. Jesus transformed her misery into pure joy. He wants to do that for you and me. He wants to give us joy now. With her we can pray the beautiful words of today's Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

- Father Phil Bloom

## **Prayer for Priests**

Lord Jesus, present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and living perpetually among us through Your Priests, grant that the words of Your Priests may be only Your words, that their gestures be only Your gestures, and that their lives be a true reflection of Your life. Grant that they may be men who speak to God on behalf of His people, and speak to His people of God. Grant that they be courageous in service, serving the Church as she asks to be served. Grant that they may be men who witness to eternity in our time, traveling on the paths of history in Your steps, and doing good for all. Grant that they may be faithful to their commitments, zealous in their vocation and mission, clear mirrors of their own identity, and living the joy of the gift they have received. We pray that Your Holy Mother, Mary, present throughout your life, may be ever present in the life of Your Priests.

**Amen .**

### **Staff**

**Pastor: Church & School**

Msgr: Labib Kobti

**Parochial Vicar:**

Fr Andrew Johnson

**Deacon:**

Khaled Abu Shaer

**Admin Assistant:**

Elvira Garcia

**Receptionist:**

Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF

**Campus Ministry:**

Verbum Dei Sisters

Sr. Su Fern Khoo, VDMF

(415) 573-9062

**RCIC:**

**Kathy Sanford**

(650) 738-0646

**RCIA & Music:**

**Suzanne Hockel**

(415) 826-6834

**STM School:**

(415) 337-0100

### **This Week's Events**

**Mon. March 22nd**

**Prayer Group: Brazilian Community**

Scanlan Hall 7PM-9PM

**Tue. March 23th**

**Legion of Mary,**

Scanlan Hall, 6:00 pm

**Communion & Liberation,**

Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm

**Wed. March 24th**

**RCIA classes at**

7pm Scanlan Hall

**Friday. March 26th**

**Stations of the Cross**

**Mass at 8:30 AM & 8 PM**

**AACC Youth Group 6:30pm Scanlan Hall**

**Prince of Peace 8:30pm Scanlan Hall**

**Sat. March 27th**

**RCIC Classes , 9:00am**

in Flower Sacristy

**Bible Study Group at**

Alma Via 7:00pm

### **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 should be registered in the parish. 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:** Registered couples contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

**Communion to the homebound and the ill:** Anyone who is ill and would like to receive Communion call the office to schedule a visit.

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

**Funeral arrangements:** Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

**For Children and Youth:** Under 2 years old, STM offers a "Crying Room" where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, we have the "Children's Liturgy", RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps

**For Adults:** English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM; St. Benedict's Group (18-late 20's) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM; Arabic Youth Group, Fridays 6:30 PM; Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM; Burmese Youth Group, Sundays 2:00 PM; SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus) [Pls call the office for contact numbers.]

**For Families:** Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary; Communion & Liberation; Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adoration, Knights of Columbus, Holy Land Institute.org

**Queenofpeacefoundation.org**, An independent Foundation created to serve the needy.

**Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit**

**Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday**

### **Regular Activities**

Parish Council  
Liturgy Committee  
Legion of Mary  
Communion & Liberation  
Charismatic groups for different ethnics

To Be Announced  
As Announced  
Tuesday, 6:30 PM  
Tuesday, 8:00 PM  
See schedule

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  
Third Friday, 7 PM  
Friday, 8:30 PM  
1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30PM

**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 pack of pasta, 1 can of beef or chicken, 1 can of tomato sauce, 1 can of fruit or fruit juice. Pls., no glass items. Thanks.

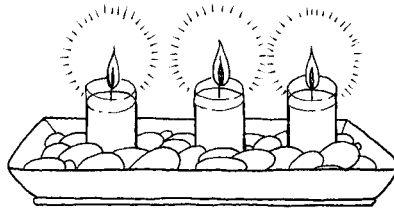
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \* Thursday, ANNUNCIATION

March 25, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. It may not be a holy day of obligation, but what better way to celebrate it than with coming to Mass? We are following our regular schedule (5:30 PM Mass) but adding another Mass at 8 PM. Come and join us. There will also be a Mass on Campus (SFSU) at 12:15, Rosa Parks F.

\*Remember, **Fridays** of Lent are meat-less days for those 14 and over but less than 60. Remember too, our live stations of the Cross on March 26.

\***Easter Flowers:** We express our joy in the Resurrection of Our Lord by filling our church with flowers on Easter Sunday. Remember your deceased loved ones or honor a dear friend or family member with a flower donation, that they too may share in the joy of Easter. Please use your **envelope for Easter Flowers**, remember to write the name of the person for whom you honor your donation. If you somehow misplaced your envelope, please take one from the entrances of the church and drop it off



\*Take a dove from the bin in front of the cross in the vestibule. Help someone with a \$10 gift certificate from a grocery store, or a fast food restaurant. Donate your Lenten 'sacrifice money' to the poor: it could mean an infant's warm blanket, or a hungry child's breakfast cereal. These will be given thru SVDP or St. Anthony's in the city.

\*Share a thought, a feeling. Jot down a little prayer, an intention on one of the green leaves in the bin in front of our wooden cross in the vestibule.

\*Volunteers are needed for the "Living Stations of the Cross" on Good Friday Apr. 2nd at 12 noon. (Thank you to the few who have volunteered.) However, we still need men, women, children, musicians, choral readers, production crew, extra hands, etc. Rehearsal/workshops are scheduled for March 26th, & April 1 at 8pm. For signing up please call the parish office at (415) 452-9634.

\*The Annual Chrism Mass will be celebrated on March 30th at St Mary's Cathedral at 5:30pm. All are encouraged to attend, especially those who will be receiving the sacraments in which these holy oils will be used in the coming year, as well as their catechists & family members.

## MASS INTENTIONS

March 14h— Mar 19th , 2010

- 3/21 Sun 10:00am People of STM
- 8:00pm Jordan Apolonio
- 3/22 Mon 8:30am Catalina Varas de Valdes †
- 3/23 Tue 5:30am Matt Pontar †
- 3/24 Wed 8:30am Kobti Family
- 3/25 Thu 5:30pm Josephine Ryan †
- 8:00 pm Souls in Purgatory †
- 3/26 Fri 8:30am Mirinella Tommasi
- 3/27 Sat 8:30 am Kobti Family
- 5:00 pm

Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.



## All the sick people in our parish, to be read during Masses:

especially, James Roach, Wilfredo Fernando, Rhona Palencia Jesus Uchi, Anthony Angeles, Tina Bish, Anita Soliz, Cecilia Reyes, Brigit Suazon, Christian Yousef, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Gordon Lu, Ann, Iluminada Sotto and for all who are ill in our parish.

We also pray for all the deceased in our parish. Peter Diaz (Please call the office for names of people we should pray for. To facilitate this process, names will need to be taken off after 3 weeks, call the office for names to be put back in. Thanks.)

## Weekly Offering



Sunday Collection

Weekend of:

March 14, 2010

\$4,011.40

**Thank you for your Generosity!**

## REGISTRATION SLIP FOR ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH



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](mailto:stmchurch@aol.com)