

January 1, 2012
Mary, The Holy Mother of God



St. Thomas Aquinas

Roman Catholic Church



MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend

Saturday at 5:30pm
Sunday at 7:30, 9:30,
11:30am and 5:00pm

Weekday

Mon - Fri 9:00am
and 12:15pm
Wed 7:00pm
Sat 9:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

Every Friday
beginning after the
12:15pm Mass until
8:30pm in the chapel.



Served by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Roman Catholic family of St. Thomas Aquinas, formed by Word and Sacrament, are a welcoming, Eucharist-centered, culturally diverse faith community. Together, we answer our baptismal calling to worship God, grow in holiness and share our faith in Christ by loving and serving others.

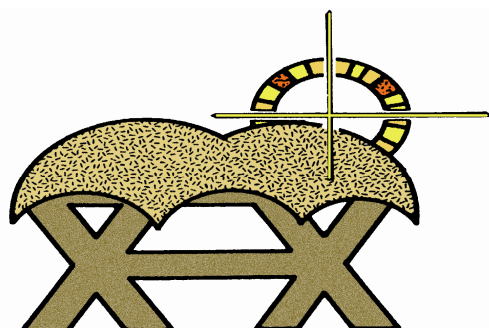
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

On this feast, we can see how devotion to Mary has been a beacon of hope to the sick throughout history. In the new cathedral of Los Angeles, the faithful enter through a single door topped by a striking sculpture of Mary with arms stretched down in compassion. Sculpted into the massive bronze doors are the titles of Mary most treasured by various cultures. Many of them speak of how the sick are consoled by a sense of Mary's presence.

Dorothy Day once recalled St. Bonaventure's remark that after the Lord's long forty days of fasting in the desert, when he was diminished and weak from his struggle, the angels who ministered to him went first to the Blessed Mother's house. There they saw the soup that was on her stove, and took some to the Lord so that he would delight in it even more since his mother had prepared it. "Of course," said Dorothy Day matter-of-factly.

In praying the rosary and savoring the stories of Mary's steadfast love in the face of all suffering, the sick are strengthened by one of our tradition's most shining treasures, and the whole Church is enriched.

--James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.



PARISH STAFF

Capuchin Franciscan Friars:

Fr. Remo DiSalvatore, OFM Cap.,
Pastor

Fr. Stephen Hoyt, OFM Cap.,
Parochial Vicar

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Mark Nash
Rev. Mr. James Witulski

Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena:

Sr. Gloria Camitan, O.P.

Director of Music

Dr. Valentino Piran

Cheryl Eckert.....*Finance Administrator*
Dina Wilson.....*Pastoral Admin. Assistant*
Marie Cordero.....*Administrative Assistant*
Marie Aymar.....*Bulletin Editor*
Mary Jackson.....*Secretary*
Michelle Hollis.....*Director of Religious Ed*
Katie Herzing.....*MS/HS Youth Director*
Valerie Gebhardt.....*FF Secretary*
Debra Nelson.....*Director of CEP*
Thomas Sims.....*Facilities Manager*
Jose Melgar.....*Facilities Assistant*

PARISH OFFICES

1400 Suther Road
Charlotte, NC 28213

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00am - 4:00pm
Phone: 704-549-1607
Fax: 704-549-1614

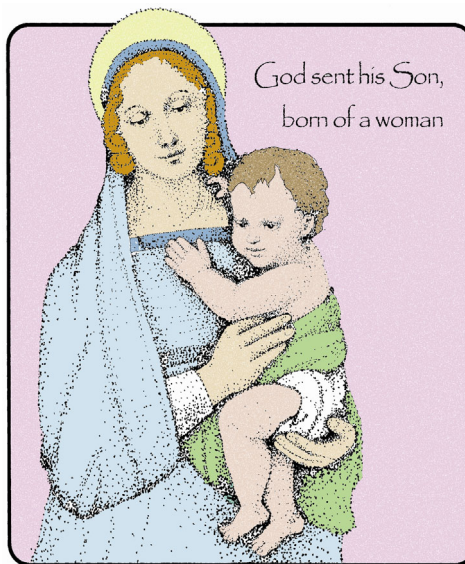
Visit Our Website:

<http://www.stacharlotte.com>

FAITH FORMATION

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9:00am - 5:00pm
Phone: 704-549-0199



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Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

-- Luke 2:19

Quick
A Journey
Through the Bible

New Bible Study for 2012

Do You Want to Read the Bible, But Don't Know How to Begin?

If you have ever wanted to read the Bible, but did not know where or how to begin, join us for our new study program: *A Quick Journey Through The Bible*.

A Quick Journey Through The Bible makes reading the Bible not only easy, but exciting. In just eight weeks you will learn the major people, places, events and themes of the Bible—getting the “big picture” of salvation history. Perhaps for the first time in your life, you will understand the overview of the Bible story. This then makes your Bible reading and even the Sunday Mass readings come alive like never before.

A Quick Journey Through The Bible program runs for eight weeks in Aquinas Hall, and we will offer both an evening and a morning session: **7:00pm on Mondays beginning January 30th** and **10:00am on Tuesdays beginning January 31st**.

Sign-ups will take place in the narthex the weekends of January 7th-8th and 15th-16th. Cost for the book and materials is \$20.00, payable at the first class. Visit the program's website www.biblestudyforcatholics.com or call the parish office for more information.

RENEE



Renee Trinity Ramkissoo was a sweet and beautiful six-year-old St. Thomas Aquinas parishioner who went home to be with Jesus this past week. Our parish family would like to extend our prayers and condolences to her parents, Dirk and Allana-Rae, and to her sisters, Alexa-Rae and Dani.

The Jackson Laskowski **Keep HOPE Alive Fund** will sponsor a dinner for adults and raffle at **7:00pm on Saturday, January 21st in Aquinas Hall**. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold after all Masses next weekend, January 7th/8th and the weekend of January 14th/15th. Funds collected will assist the Ramkissoo family with their medical expenses. Thank you for your prayers and support for this special family.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends grief support group will begin a new series of sessions on **January 26th at 7pm** in the Office Conference Room. Anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one is welcome to come and begin or continue the healing process. It does not matter how long ago your loss occurred. Please join us in a warm, confidential and relaxed atmosphere among friends. For more information, contact Robyn Magyar at rmagyar42@aol.com or 704-707-5070.

COMBINED SECOND COLLECTION

As part of the diocesan combined collections program, the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Church in Africa, Catholic Home Missions, and the United States Mission Collection have been combined into one second collection. That collection will be taken up at all Masses on the weekend of **January 14th/15th**. Next week you should receive a letter from our Chancellor and Vicar General, Msgr. Mauricio West with an informative brochure. Please take the time to read through the brochure and become more familiar with the good work done by each of these organizations. The envelope for this collection is part of your parish envelope packet.

WELCOME

If you are new to our parish, we encourage you to register as soon as possible. Registration is required for enrollment in Faith Formation, for MACS vouchers, for sacramental preparation, and for sponsorship certificates. Registration forms are available in the church narthex, parish office and on our website.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Parish membership, attendance at the Baptismal Preparation Class and various documentation are required to schedule a Baptism for an infant/child. Contact the parish office at least 3 months in advance of your desired Baptismal date to make the proper arrangements.

Baptisms are held most Sundays at 2:00pm. The Preparation Class is held one Sunday each month at 12:45pm.

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4:00-5:00pm
or by appointment

MARRIAGE

Registered parishioners are required by Diocesan Policy to contact one of the priests or deacons 6 months prior to the date of marriage.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING/VISITING SICK

If anyone needs a visit from one of the friars, please call the office.

Please do not wait until an emergency to call one of the friars.



Please consider spending some time in prayer before the **Blessed Sacrament** every Friday, from 1:00pm to 8:30pm, when we have Eucharistic Adoration in our chapel.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



LET US REMEMBER
THOSE WHO NEED
OUR PRAYERS:

Brad White, Christopher Scott, Ella Hems, David Collins, Bill Suhy, Ramkissoon Family, William and Susana Borrego, Marge Bullock, Jimenez Family, Acker-Hollaway Family, Carmen Diaz, Paula O'Neill, Dillon Rogers, Liz Dietz, David Suhy, James Baily, Kim Jordan, Christopher Scott, Izrael Negron, Tim Myers, Regina Poole, Ray Kijowski, Chris Ziolo, Mary Hamelin, Rich Rubenstein, Vickie Chatburn, Earl LaFlamme, Chris Casper, Loretta Rembold, Kevin Peterson, Glenda Davis, Bob Holloway, Marica Bacic, Richard Canavaciol, Anthony Rojo, Alice Agostini, Garrett Toenjes, David and Mariellen Krajcik, Susanna Thornton, Thomas Porter, Scott Simono, Maria Crum, Charlotte Brown, Frank and Joan Buckshon, Baby Ryan Elizabeth Colins, Melba Borrego, Randy Martin, Marleny Buitrago, Scottie Thomas, Sandra Wasielak, Michele Smith, Katie Jackson, Lovie Flowers, Dan Kirchner, Katie Blackmar, Hannah Baily, Carmen and Cameron Reitano, Billy Collins, Noah and Spencer Smith, Hubert Sweeney, Rita Freedman, Woolridge Family, Marguerite Sgro, Philo Family, Bill Brown, Betty Kunze, Molly Van Havere, James Nelson.

Please notify the parish office to have yourself or a loved one placed on the Prayer List. Names will appear for one month. If needed, we will gladly continue in one month increments as often as you request.



Catholic Social Services: 704-370-3262
 Birthright: 1-800-550-4900
 Pregnancy Hotline: 1-800-848-LOVE
 Post Abortion: 1-800-5-WE CARE

MASS INTENTIONS

Daily Masses held in the chapel

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
Monday January 2	9:00AM	†Betty Zuty	Parish Family
	12:15PM	Betty Ann Kincaid (Birthday Blessings).....	Tom and Cindy Kincaid
Tuesday January 3	9:00AM	Mary Malone (Healing).	Denise Hickey
	12:15PM	Chad Johnson (Birthday Blessings).....	Uncle Tom and Aunt Cindy
Wednesday January 4	9:00AM	†Bonnie Schulte	Parish Family
	12:15PM	Marie Aymar (Birthday Blessings).....	Her Family
	7:00PM	Respect Life	
Thursday January 5	9:00AM	†Ronnie L. Jerkins.....	Joe and Carol Diaz
	12:15PM	†Fr. John Sorce.....	Jane Hanna
Epiphany First Friday January 6	9:00AM	†Kevin Canavan.....	Mom and Dad
	12:15PM	Special Intention.....	Ray and Barbara Ingraham
First Saturday January 7	9:00AM	Deacon James	Immaculata Prayer Group
	5:30PM	†Thresiamma Kuran.....	George Family
Sunday January 8	7:30AM	†Maria Nguyen T. Thuy	The Family Bui Pham
	9:30AM	†Barbara Ann Diskin	The Gruno Family
	11:30AM	†Urbano Diwa	The Yoshisaki Family
	5:00PM	†Ellen Mitchell	Linda and Bob Brill

**Evangelization Ministry
Volunteer Opportunity**


The Evangelization Ministry needs a volunteer with **Marketing and Communication Skills** to assist on a project to develop a parish-wide evangelization strategy and to promote the various ministries and activities offered at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Ginny Lieto, Evangelization Ministry Chair, at 704-454-7561, or e-mail her at ginnyandnick@msn.com.

THIS COMING WEEK

AH = Aquinas Hall **FLC = Family Life Center**
BLR = Brother Leo Rm **K = Kitchen in AH**
CH = Church **N = Nursery in AH**
chp = Chapel **OCR = Office Conference Rm**

Monday January 2	No scheduled activities
Tuesday January 3	7:00PM Boy/Cub Scouts (FLC Rm. 18) 7:00PM Education & Formation Comm. (BLR) 7:00PM Spanish Rosary (chp) 7:30PM Journey (AH)
Wednesday January 4	6:30PM Respect Life Rosary (CH) 7:00PM Contemporary Choir Practice (AH) 7:00PM Middle School Youth Ministry (Gym) 7:30PM Charismatic Prayer Group (Cry Room)
Thursday January 5	5:00PM Children's Choir Practice (AH) 7:00PM Traditional Choir Practice (CH) 7:30PM RCIA (AH)
Epiphany First Friday January 6	12:45PM Adoration (chp) 8:30PM Benediction (chp)
First Saturday January 7	4:00PM Reconciliation/Confession 7:00PM SFO Epiphany Party (AH)
Sunday January 8	12:45PM Baptism Preparation Class (chp) 2:00PM Vietnamese Cursillo (BLR) 6:00PM Respect Life (BLR) 7:00PM Knights of Columbus (AH)



Through water and the Holy Spirit the following children were baptized in the parish recently: Camille Jayden Haberstroh, child of Arthur and Stephanie Haberstroh and Quinn Monica Gill, child of Kevin and Ashley Gill. **Congratulations!**

ALTAR CARE

THE BREAD AND WINE MEMORIAL for this weekend has been donated by:
 Tom and Kathy Story in honor of their 25th Wedding Anniversary on January 3rd.

MILITARY PRAYER LIST



Please pray for:

PFC Stephen Sergeant, CW2 Andrew D. Harrison, PFC Alex Jerome, Sgt. Joseph Cline, SPC Patrick M. James, MG William Garrett, Lt. Jeffery Platoon, SPC Benjamin DeVries, SS C. Newman, Col. Pat Frank, E-3 Jason Kline, PFC Medic Patrick Wyllie and Daniel Frazier, US Army; SSgt. Benjamin M. Pake, Army National Guard; Capt. Jeffrey P. Sparrow, and PFC Ryan Cameron Keistler, US Marine Corps; AFC Alonda West, AFC Sean Scheuerman, AFC Joshua Runfola, A1C Christopher Robert Smith, MSgt. Ronald Ryckman, 1st Lt. William Joseph Hinchey, Sr. Airman Jordan Godbout, and Sr. Airman Charles Broadway, US Air Force; Major Matthew Holloway, Air Force National Guard; Lt. Matthew H. Keidel, Capt. Gregory N. Harris, and Justin Wirth, U. S. Navy. SS C. Newman.

If you have a loved one who you would like to add to the Military Prayer List, or news of anyone who has returned home, please call the parish office with the name, rank and military branch so we may update the information. Thank You!


READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
Tuesday: 1 John 2:29 — 3:6; John 1:29-34
Wednesday: 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
Thursday: 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
Friday: 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
Saturday: 1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-11

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
 Matthew 2:1-12



**FOR OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
(FORMERLY STORYTIME)**

This special children's liturgy is the actual liturgical celebration of the Word as presented each Sunday at Mass. CLOW is available to children ages 3 – 8 years old at the 9:30am and 11:30am Sunday Masses. Please check the bulletin or the Faith Formation Website: faith.stacharlotte.com, for occasional changes. Please do not forget that the third Sunday of each month is the special children's Mass. Please call Elizabeth Hutchins if you have any questions at 704-455-7965 or email her at khutchins3@ctc.net.

NURSERY

(Located in Aquinas Hall)
Youngsters 6 mos. - 3 years of age
Sundays: 9:30 & 11:30am Masses

PLAYGROUP

It's playtime on **Wednesday mornings, 9:30am to 11:00am**. Come on by for an informal gathering of moms, dads and kids ages 0 through 5 years and let's have some fun. Any questions, please contact Ulla at u_hinchey@yahoo.com or 704-494-8790.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Katie Herzing, Youth Minister
Kherzing@stacharlotte.com or
704-549-0199, Ext. 305

Middle School Youth 4 Christ
6th - 8th Graders /Meet Wed. 7-8:30pm
MSYG is time for fellowship, fun, and faith.

Jan. 4th - Bible Study.
Jan. 11th - MSYM (Gym).

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
LIVE 4:12 9th-12th Graders**

Meeting time: Sundays 6:15pm-8:00pm
Each Sunday we gather to have fun, share our faith and serve our community. After the 5pm Mass we meet in the courtyard in front of the Church to meet in Aquinas Hall. New teens are always welcome to join. For the most up-to-date calendar, find us on Face Book or go to hsyouth.stacharlotte.com.

Jan. 1st - NO HSYM - Happy New Year.
Jan. 8th - 4:00pm Winter Jam 2012.
Jan. 15th - NO HSYM.

Children's Enrichment Preschool

Registration is open to all students for the 2011/2012 school year. All God's children are welcome!

Welcome to our school year. Our students range in ages 2 to 5 years old and our program runs from September through May. Registration forms are available in the church narthex, the parish office and the Family Life Center.

Please feel free to stop by the Faith Formation Office, Monday through Thursday from 9am until 1:00pm and speak with our Preschool Director, Debra Nelson. You can call Debra at 704-549-0199, ext. 303 or email her at dnelson@stacharlotte.com.

Christmas Break thru January 1st.

We wish all our preschool families a Happy New Year!!

January 12th - Thursday - Purple Spirit Day! Don't forget to wear purple.

January 16th - Monday - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day.

January 25th and 26th - Wednesday and Thursday - 2 yr. olds Train Parade.

WELCOME

We welcome our newly registered parishioners to the St. Thomas Aquinas parish family. We encourage all new parishioners to become involved in our many parish ministries.

Mrs. Edna Allen Ms. Sarah Fitzgerald
Mr. & Mrs. Declan Hilaire Ms. Abigael Rodriguez
Mr. Zachary Zidek

If you have not registered yet, please contact the parish office to find out how to do so.

ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL TEENS

CATHLETES: New Teen Athletic Ministry



All High School teens are invited to join us for CATHLETES on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month** in the gym from 7:00-8:30pm starting **January 10th, 2012**. Each week a new sport; basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, ultimate frisbee, dodge ball, flag football, and more! Please contact Katie for more information at kherzing@stacharlotte.com.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Family Life Center Building

Phone: 704-549-0199 Fax: 704-503-5160
Director of Religious Education - Michelle Hollis
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9:00am-5:00pm

Grades 1 - 6 meet once a week: Tuesdays at 5:00-6:15pm, Wednesdays at 4:30-5:45pm or 6:15-7:30pm or Sundays at 8:00-9:15am or 10:00-11:15am.

Grades 7 and 8 (Confirmation I and II) meet on Sundays, at 8:00-9:15am, 10:00-11:15am or 6:30-7:45pm.

Christmas Break thru Jan. 7th - NO CLASSES.

Have a Happy New Year.

2012

Jan. 1st - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day of Obligation.

Jan. 8th - All Faith Formation Classes resume.

Jan. 8th-14th - National Vocation Awareness Week.

If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Gebhardt in the Faith Formation office, at 704-549-0199, ext. 302, or email her at ffsecretary@stacharlotte.com.



Catechists Needed: Our Faith Formation program is in need of two adults to help with Children's Liturgy of the Word (formerly storytime) at the 11:30am Mass. Also, a Catechist for 1st grade at 5:00pm and a 6th grade Catechist on Wednesday at 4:30pm. Anyone interested in helping our youth grow in their faith, please contact the Faith Formation office at 704-549-0199 or email ffsecretary@stacharlotte.com.

REFLECTION FOR FF PARENTS

Faith Formation Parents: Do you really know the beauty of your faith? **Come join us!** We will be available during all Faith Formation class sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays in the Family Life Center for **Coffee and Reflection**. Relax and enjoy discussing the wonders of our faith! If you have any questions, please contact the faith formation office at ffsecretary@stacharlotte.com or 704-549-0199. **We will resume on January 8th after the Christmas break.**

INSPIRATIONAL CD'S



Do you want to know more about the Catholic faith? Do you want to increase your own spirituality or share it with others? Take advantage of the inspirational CD's we have for sale in the Narthex. They make a wonderful gift for any occasion. Why not spend \$4.00 and be inspired or inspire others through the Holy Spirit.

Catholic Campus Ministry CCM HOUSE 9408 Sandburg Road Attention: All College Students

The CCM House will be closed for the College Recess and reopen on January 9th, 2012. We wish all of the Priests, Staff and Parishioners a fruitful Advent and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

TUESDAY FAITH-SHARING

Every Tuesday at 6:30pm we gather in the Lower Level of Moore Hall (UNCC Campus Dorm) to prepare the Scripture Readings for the upcoming Sunday. We share our thoughts, as well as questions, about how we can put the lessons of the Scriptures into our day to day life.

WEDNESDAY DINNERS

ALL College Students in the area are welcome to participate in Catholic Campus Ministry. Our outreach is **NOT LIMITED** to UNCC students and we hope you realize that we provide numerous opportunities to share faith, fellowship and food. Our Wednesday dinner begins at 6:30pm at the CCM House.

For information, please contact Sister Eileen Spanier at ccmuncc@gmail.com or 704-717-7104.



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

On the **3rd Friday of every month** we are sponsoring a Youth and Young Adult Holy Hour. We will meet at 7:30pm for a time of praise, worship, meditation, reflection, and silence in Eucharistic Adoration. All high school youth, college students, and young adults are invited to join us in the chapel. If you are interested in helping to lead, or have more questions, please contact Katie Herzing, Youth Minister at 704-549-0199 ext. 305 or kherzing@stacharlotte.com.

Friday, January 20th at 7:30-8:30pm. All high school teens, college students, and young adults are encouraged to join us for an hour of prayer followed by Benediction. Pizza and sports in the gym to follow until 10:00pm!

JOURNEY

Please join us on the **first and third Tuesday nights** of the month, from 7:30pm - 9:00pm in Aquinas Hall where we discuss a wide variety of topics. **We look forward to seeing you.**

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Charismatic Prayer Group is held in the Cry Room of the Church on **Wednesday evenings following the 7:00pm Mass.** Continue your "Resurrection Celebration" by joining us for the Eucharistic Liturgy, followed by praise and worship. *Please join us.*

PRAY THE ROSARY

Rosary for Priests and Vocations to Religious Life

Come join us **Saturday evenings at 5:00pm** in the Chapel. We will pray a Rosary for an increase in Priests and Vocations to Religious Life, followed by Mass celebrated at 5:30pm in the church.

IMMACULATA PRAYER MINISTRY

Eucharistic Adoration specifically designated for prayers and Rosary for our Priests' intentions is held on the last Friday of every month, beginning after the 12:15pm Mass and ending with Benediction. If you would like to become a member of this important ministry, and to **sign up for a prayer time to pray each Friday** in the presence of our Lord, please email Pray4Priests@aol.com.

SPANISH ROSARY

Please join us in praying the Rosary in Spanish on the **first and third Tuesdays** of the month at 7:00pm in the chapel. All are welcome! The Nursery will be available for childcare.

Ven y reza con nosotros el Santo Rosario en Español el **primer y el tercer martes** de cada mes a las 7pm en la capilla. Todos son Bienvenidos! Guarderia disponible.

YOUNG AT HEART

Our YAH dinner will be on **January 14th**, and it will be potluck. Roast beef, chicken, pork meat of any kind and all the sides and desserts to go with it. Come one, come all. Also, please join us at the 5:30pm Mass on **February 11th** in memory of Jack Hanel.

RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM

There is hope, healing and forgiveness following an abortion. Rachel's Vineyard is a week-end retreat, for men and women, to begin their healing journey. The next retreat is **February 3rd-5th, 2012**, in Charlotte. For further information, please visit www.rachelsvineyard.org, or call 704-370-3229, Respect Life Program, Catholic Social Services.

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS ULTRA RUN

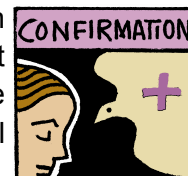
St. Thomas Aquinas Knights of Columbus Council #10505 will be holding a charitable 50K race, called the Charlotte Ultra Run, along with a 10K race on **February 4th, 2012** at the Mallard Creek Greenway. Race sponsorships are also available. For further information on these events, please go to www.charlotteultrarun.org.

RETRouvaille PROGRAM

Retrouvaille is a program for troubled marriages. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue...or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking only make it worse? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty. For confidential information or to register for the next program beginning with a weekend on **March 9th-11th, 2012**, please call 800-470-2230 or 434-793-0242 or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

The Adult Confirmation sessions will begin on Sunday, **January 15th**, from 10:45am to 12:00pm in the Office Conference Room. If you have not yet been confirmed, plan to join us to prepare for this Sacrament of Confirmation. Call Deacon Mark for details at 704-549-1607 ext. 203 or Kathy Johnson at 704-455-6688.



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GROWING IN FAITH AND THEOLOGY

Give a Christmas gift that won't fade or wear out! The **GIFT** of time spent learning about our faith.

Tuesdays in February: Plan to join your fellow parishioners and others across the diocese for the 4 Tuesdays in February as **GIFT** (Growing in Faith and Theology) comes to our own Aquinas Hall with one of the premier speakers in the diocese, Fr. Frank Cancro, on **February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.**

Fr. Cancro, a canon lawyer and pastor of Queen of the Apostles parish in Belmont, will speak with us about *Gettin' the Word on the WORD (made Flesh, that is)*. Who is Jesus? Who is Jesus Christ for you? Who is Jesus for us as Catholic believers. In this course, we will study the development and the diversity of our understanding of Jesus as a person of history and as the Anointed One. This survey course in Christology will guide us through the life and ministry of Jesus, his miracles and teachings and the church's unfolding history and faith which contributed to the understanding of and belief in Jesus the Lord.

Registration information and brochures are available in the narthex of the church and on the website, www.stacharlotte.com. Course fee is \$30.00.

ADULT RELIGIOUS ED PROGRAM



Growing in Faith and Theology -Winter Semester

The planning committee for **GIFT** is pleased to announce the courses to be offered in the Winter Semester. Eight Adult Religious Education courses will be offered in February 2012. **GIFT** is a collaborative Adult Religious Education program sponsored by the following churches.

- A) **Stories Jesus Knew**, Susan Brady, MA - 10-11:30am at St. Matthew Church, New Life Center - Tuesdays, February 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th.
- B) **Spirituality of Technology: Finding God in the World of Social Media**, Mark Barcholet, MA - 7-8:30pm at St. Peter's Church - Thursdays, February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.
- C) **"St. Benedict and Life According to His Rule"**, Abbot Placid Solari - 7-9:00pm at Belmont Abbey College, Grace Auditorium, St. Leo Hall - Tuesdays, February 7th, 21st and 28th.
- D) **Tending God's Garden: Spirituality and Practice for an Ecozoic Age**, Sr. Jane Russell, OSF, Ph.D. - 7-8:30pm - St. Matthew Church - Thursdays, February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.
- E) **Retreat Day *Beholding the Face of God**, sponsored by GIFT and the Institute for Christian Spirituality of Seton Hall University, 8:30am-4:00pm - St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center - Saturday, March 24th.
- F) **Gettin' the Word on the WORD (made Flesh, that is...)**, Fr. Frank Cancro - 7-8:30pm at St Thomas Aquinas Church, Aquinas Hall - Tuesdays, February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.
- G) **Curso En Espanol - Fortaleciendo La Fe De Los Catolicos Ante El Proselitismo De Los Nuevos Grupos Religiosos**, Padre Gabriel Carvajal-Salazar - Our Lady of Assumption Church, Lunes 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th de Febrero a las 7:00pm.
- 8) **What Makes Catholics Catholic?**, Mary Hugh Mauldin, RSM, - 7-8:30pm - St. John Neumann Church - Thursdays, February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.

To register: Each course fee is \$30.00. Send a completed registration form with a check made payable to **GIFT** c/o St. Matthew Church in an envelope marked **GIFT** to our parish office. Any questions, please contact Kathy Johnson at kjohnson@stacharlotte.com or 704-455-6688.

STEWARDSHIP

The Blessed Virgin Mary was the model steward with her unqualified, "yes" and complete trust in God's will. When I put God first in my life, everything else falls into place.

PLANNED GIVING

Make passing on your Catholic heritage the first resolution of the New Year. Your planned gift to our parish makes you an eternal steward of the Church. Follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and place your trust in God's will. For more information on the St. Thomas Aquinas Ron Goettl Endowment, please call Cheryl Eckert in the Parish Office.

RESPECT LIFE

Come join us **Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm** in the Church. We pray the Rosary for Life followed by Mass celebrated at 7:00pm. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Paul Deer at pdorthodox@hotmail.com or 704-948-0628. On the 2nd Saturday of every month, we stand in prayer vigil outside the Latrobe abortuary. We car pool after the 9:00am Mass. **Please join us!**

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

A special **THANK YOU** to all who donated Angel Tree gifts this year. We delivered over 330 gifts to Holy Angels in Belmont, NC and helped 14 families (served by Catholic Social Services or here in our parish), with a combined total of over 90 gifts.

MEN OF VERITAS

The Men of Veritas would like to invite all men of the parish to join us as we grow in our faith and enjoy the fellowship of our Brothers in Christ. Our group meets after the 9:00am Saturday Mass every other week. Our next topic is **Prejudice ~ Some of my Best Friends Are...**

VOCATIONS AWARENESS MINISTRY

"COME FOLLOW ME"

VOCATIONS BLESSING CUP

If you have not already hosted the Vocations Blessing Cup, please check your calendars to schedule a week in the upcoming year. We hope that all of our parishioners will participate in this necessary ministry to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Upcoming host families for the Vocations Blessing Cup:

Jan. 8th ~ Paul and Gayle Fitzgerald Mass Time: 9:30am
Jan. 15th ~ Mark & AnneMarie Smith Mass Time: 11:30am

Please sign-up to host the Vocations Blessing Cup, using the sign-up board in the Narthex, or you may contact Marie Aymar at 704-549-1607 or MAymar@stacharlotte.com. If you prefer to receive the Vocations Blessings Cup in private instead of at Mass, simply call Marie in the Parish Office to make arrangements.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND

If there is anyone you know who is seriously ill or unable to come to church, please contact our parish office so we can visit and pray with them.

A GET TOGETHER

All single male and female members or friends of St. Thomas Aquinas, 50+ are invited to meet at FANZ on Harris Blvd. on Sunday, **January 22nd**, at 3:00pm for dinner and friendship.

If you plan on attending, please contact Barbara Sands at 704-720-0727, or bsands444@aol.com, or Joey Hinson at 704-549-1411.

MARCH FOR LIFE/CHARLOTTE

January 13, 2012 will be the 6th annual March for Life in Charlotte! The day will begin with a Mass for the Unborn at 9:00am at St. Peter's Catholic Church in uptown Charlotte. At 11:00am, we will start to gather at the Catholic Diocese at 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC. At 12:00pm, we will march to Trade and Tryon and then to the court house at 401 W. Trade Street, where we will pray a Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Please join others to march and pray for an end to abortion and save babies' lives. For additional information and schedule details please go to www.marchforlifecharlotte.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

***Upcoming Spirituality Classes** - St. John Neumann will be hosting the following classes: **January 11th** - Fr. Pat Earl, SJ will present a night on St. Ignatius. **January 18th** - Sr. Gertrude Gillette, Ph. D., STL will present a night on St. Benedict. **January 25th** - Fr. Steve Hoyt, O.F.M, Cap. will present a night on St. Francis. Each class can be attended individually, but we would love to have you join us for all three! There is no charge and will be held in Room 7 of the Education Wing from 7:30-8:30pm each night.

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Bulletin Deadline: Must be to the office in writing by 9:00am two Mondays prior to the weekend of publication.

Email: MAymar@stacharlotte.com

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E-NEWSLETTER

Would you like to know a little more about your faith and your parish than you can find in the weekly bulletin? Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter on our website www.stacharlotte.com. There you will find seasonal articles about the Catholic faith, book reviews and recommendations, details about the events in the parish, seasonal recipes, articles of interest, and stories of faith journeys. Every month you will find "**News from St. Thomas Aquinas**" in your email inbox.