

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Table with 3 columns: Date, Time, Intention. Rows include Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday with various times and intentions like '6th Anniversary - Marion H. Dole' and 'Pro Populo'.

St. Veronica Chapel

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MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Each Saturday at 7:30 A.M. in the Parish Hall, Men's Prayer Group meets to reflect on Sunday scriptures. All men are welcome.

PRAY THE ROSARY

The rosary is prayed each weekday after the 9:00AM Mass at St Thomas More and for the special intention of peace in the world on Saturday mornings at 8:30AM before Mass. Please join us whenever you are able to attend.

SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection next weekend is for the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. This annual collection underwrites scholarships to help financially deserving students complete their education. Students receive an excellent liberal arts education. Your continued support is appreciated.

OUR LADY'S GUILD

The next meeting is this Tuesday, January 10th, following the 9:00AM Mass. A presentation on The Shroud of Turin will be given by Jim Gillcrisp, who is a parishioner and has studied The Shroud extensively for many years. All are welcome.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next meeting is this Monday, January 9th at 7:30PM at St. Thomas More, Parish Hall. Any questions, please call Bill Munroe at 295-0171.

NEW SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS

After many requests, we are happy to offer larger spiritual bouquet cards with images of the Sacred Heart or Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. These hardbound cards are now available at the parish office.

PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that our Parish has a Prayer Chain Ministry? If anyone would like some extra needed prayers, you may call 295-1241 and express your request. If you would like to become part of the prayer chain ministry, call 295-1241.

Religious Education Schedule  
January 2012

- SUN. AM:** JAN. 8<sup>TH</sup>, 22<sup>ND</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup>  
**GR. 1-4** 10:05-10:55AM @ ST. V
- MON. PM:** JAN. 9<sup>TH</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup>  
**GR. 1-4** 4:10-5:00PM @ STM
- GR. 5 & 6:** WED., JAN. 11<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>  
4:10-5:00PM @ ST. V.
- GR. 7 & 8:** WED., JAN. 11<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>  
7:00-8:00PM @ ST. V.
- CONF. I:** SUN., JAN. 22<sup>ND</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> - CLASS  
7:00 – 8:15PM @ ST. V.
- CONF. II:** SUN., JAN. 22<sup>ND</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> - CLASS  
7:00 – 8:15PM @ ST. V.



**DISCERNMENT RETREAT**

There will be a weekend retreat for men 18-35 who are discerning a call to the priesthood on January 13-14 from 7:00PM Friday-6:00PM on Saturday at the Seminary of our Lady of Providence. Do you know someone who might be interested? Even if they are away at college, consider sending in their name. Anyone interested should call Fr. Carl Fisette, Assistant Vocation Director at 831-8011 or contact Fr. Taillon.

**RESPECT LIFE MASS**

**“An Invitation to Pray for All Human Life”:** The Office of Life and Family Ministry will sponsor the “Annual Respect Life Mass” on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at St. Paul Church in Cranston. Bishop Thomas J. Tobin will be the main celebrant and homilist at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Prior to the Mass, there will be a procession with the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Broad Street Women’s Clinic for a peaceful and prayerful vigil at 8:00 a.m. The Image will remain on the altar during Mass and will be available for veneration at the reception that will immediately follow the Mass. For more information, directions and to RSVP contact: Carol Owens, Office of Life Family Ministry at 421-7833 x 218.

**REFLECTION –DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
ORPHANAGE TRIP**

**A Mission Trip Memory by Emily K.**

Evidently there are so many situations, things said, and events that have changed a lot of the way I view life and works of God. But in the event that I would choose one memory, it would be Sunday, November twentieth. This was the day we took nine orphans to the cathedral; this particular day changed my life. Seeing as we were only allowed to take nine orphans along with us many were left behind and one girl in particular took this to heart. As we were all walking out this one girl caught my eye; she was kneeling on the floor, looking at a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary with her hands clasped together as she sobbed. She sobbed for the simple fact of not being able to go to the cathedral; not being able to be in the holy presence of our Lord; not because she was left out. I used to overlook how blessed I actually was, for every Sunday morning I found myself sitting in the pew, yawning, wishing I were still in my bed but I never once thought of those who are not fortunate enough to find themselves in the presence of our Lord every Sunday morning, if at all. Thus I began to recollect my actions, how I took advantage of the privilege that I and so many others do have and I began to realize what some people would give solely for that one Sunday morning. All those times my mom would tell me that the least I could do was give God one hour of my life when He gave His only son to save me finally sunk in; except this time it wasn’t only the hour I were giving Him, it was my entire life. All the orphans, the workers and even the people of the Dominican Republic and the Hogar Emmanuel Orphanage live by God, praise Him, do His works, and show His love for others through their own love for everyone. Upon entering into the orphanage one can solely feel the overabundance of love, joy, and openness to God’s plan. I was one of those people who thought they had control over their own life but only a few minutes with the orphans and staff changed that and in that moment; seeing that girl kneeling on the floor, I realized that God’s work and love goes far beyond this world. Every time I step foot in a church, I say a little prayer for that one girl and throughout the duration of the mass I thank God for that experience, the privilege of being in His presence and a special prayer for my new orphan goddaughter and all the other children and unfortunate people who cannot be with God that Sunday morning. As a closing thought, those children we call “orphans” are not orphans at all; they will forever have God as their father and as much as we may not realize it, they know and live that to the fullest. **The real orphans are the people who do not realize how great God is and how adequate His presence is in our lives.**



JANUARY 8, 2012

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## *The Next Mission Impossible...*

You may remember him from a past column or have met Bishop Robert Gruss of Rapid City, South Dakota who has been a frequent visitor to our parish over the last several years. Ordained last July he shepherds a vast diocese covering a great swatch of South Dakota including large and very poor Indian reservations.

Bishop Gruss will be making pilgrimage to St. Thomas More to confirm our candidates this coming May 20<sup>th</sup>. We are blessed that during school vacation week we will be taking ten of our young people accompanied by seven adults to minister on the Standing Rock Reservation. The reservation is the second poorest in the US and among their number are many Catholics. We will attempt to offer retreat programs to the high school kids who are there and reach out with food, talks and support to the children and their families.

We have begun our fundraising efforts already with our Christmas wreath sale and will make some approaches for support in the winter and spring.

The Native Americans that live there have a very different kind of poverty from the special needs orphans we have helped in the Dominican Republic, but it is a real and deep poverty. We will be flying to Bismarck, North Dakota (which is cheaper and closer to Standing Rock) and staying in McGlouglin, SD while helping at the small Catholic chapels on the expansive reservation (formally called the Lakota Ministries). We will also be doing maintenance projects and whatever needs that they have under the guidance of their staff and Fr. Gary, the Pastor. Most will be members of the Sioux nation and the Dakotas.

We will keep you posted about this new challenge and ask that you begin to pray for us and for those that we will serve in your name.

Wishing you blessings in the New Year! Thanks for all your support and prayers!

*Fr. Taillon*