



# The Barrister

*"Prefer nothing to the love of Christ."*

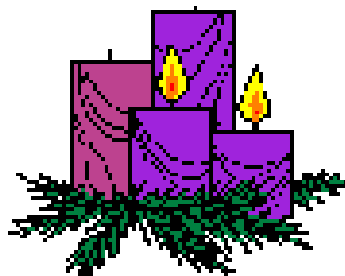
December 11, 2008

St. Damasus I



*Our Patron Saint*

*St. Benedict and St. Scholastica*



You came, gentle Jesus, to a world of broken people. Come again to us and transform us as you did those who first experienced your touch and grace. Fulfill the hope seen in John the Baptist that your mercy might break forth upon us.

We pray for our world: confused, in constant strife, filled with passion and rage and uncertainty. Hold this world in your compassionate embrace. Enable us as a global people to care for one another and to love and care for one another.

Amen

ADVENT 2008



The Feast of St. Lucy is celebrated on Saturday, December 13th. However ... since we are not in school on Saturday, St. Lucy will visit the children at St. Thomas More School tomorrow, Friday, December 12th.



*Thank You!*

A very special THANK YOU to the Student Council of STMS for the terrific job of hosting "Pizza with Santa" last Friday evening.

A VERY SPECIAL thanks to Santa, too!



## School Advent Confessions ... Parish Communal Penance Service ...

Children in Grades 4 –8 will be receiving the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) on **Monday, December 15, 2008.** Please keep the children in your prayers that each will make a good Confession in preparation for Christmas.

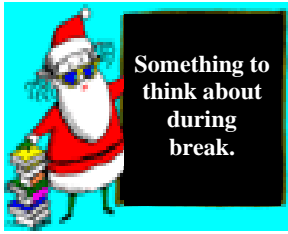
The St. Thomas More Parish Communal Penance Service will be **Monday, December 15, 2008** at 7:00 PM in St. Thomas More Church.

### PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

## T.R.I.P. sold after HOLY MASSES:

Mrs. Amy Lee (Director of In-School T.R.I.P.) will be selling T.R.I.P. on Thursday Morning and after all Masses this weekend, December 13 and 14.

## STOCK UP NOW for CHRISTMAS!!!



Something to think about during break.

### 7th & 8th Grade Students and Parents...

Just a “gentle” reminder that Semester Final Examinations are just around the corner! **ALL** of the teachers will have given the students a study sheet by dismissal on December 19th. Please encourage your student to study hard. The examination grade will count for **10%** of the semester grade in each of the following subject areas.

- Religion Examinations - Wednesday, January 14, 2009
- History Examinations - Wednesday, January 14, 2009
- English Examinations - Tuesday, January 13, 2009
- Math Examinations - Monday, January 12, 2009
- Science Examinations - Thursday, January 15, 2009

**THE SEMESTER GRADE IS THE ONE USED TO DETERMINE HONOR ROLL STATUS DURING THE SECOND QUARTER FOR GRADES 7 & 8.**

# STUDY, STUDY, STUDY, STUDY



**Student Council “Candy Cane Sale” will be December 16, 17 and 18th at 50¢ each. “Yum, Yum!!!”**

**Remember to check EDLINE frequently. This will avoid any “unpleasant” surprises.**



Mrs. Wieczorek’s class received a flag, flown in Iraq, by Matthew Alanza. Her class is very grateful.

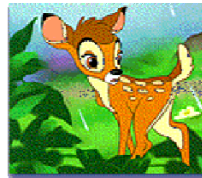
Please remember Mr. Alanza and all of our service men and women in your prayers.



We still have several days before Christmas vacation. We are asking parents to “help you” to remember that you **MUST** do your homework every night.



Prayers are requested for the father of Coach Joe Noworyta, who was in a serious car accident. Please keep the Noworyta family in your prayers.



**“ROSIE” the Reindeer visited STMS!!!**

Santa sent one of the North Pole's reindeer to St. Thomas More School last week for "show and tell"! “Rosie the Reindeer” came with her owner, Mr. Bill Shofroth. Mr. Shofroth acquired the reindeer six years ago and since then she has been keeping him company on his farm in unincorporated St. John Township. Rosie and Mr. Shofroth make several appearances this time of year to schools all over the region so students can meet a real, live reindeer. Mr. Shofroth gives a brief presentation with reindeer facts and general information about how he cares for Rosie. For example, did you know that reindeers shed their antlers each year and that females are one of the very few female animals to have antlers?

## Christmas Band Concert



**Thursday, December 11th,  
7:30 PM STMS Gym  
and  
Friday, December 12th,  
9:30 AM STMS Gym**



# Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest



We have received official word from His Excellency, Bishop Melczek, that he will be in our parish to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our 8th grade students on...



**Saturday, April 4, 2009**  
**at 10:30 AM**  
**in St. Thomas More Church.**



**Please mark your calendar.**

## Our Lady of Guadalupe December 11

The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the sixteenth century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story.



A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning, December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

He was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared and within it a young Native American maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan Diego to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan Diego's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Diego to try to avoid the lady. The lady found Diego, nevertheless, assured him that his uncle would recover and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.



When Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground and the bishop sank to his knees. On Juan Diego's tilma appeared an image of Mary as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac. It was December 12, 1531.

*Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
pray for us.*

# SAVE THE DATE



**ATTENTION  
FATHERS &  
DAUGHTERS  
OF GRADES  
4 - 8 ...**

Be sure to reserve **FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009** for the **SECOND ANNUAL Father-Daughter Dance: "SNOWFLAKE SHUFFLE"**  
Detailed information will come home following the holidays.

# Box Tops & Tyson Labels Contest Update



Congratulations to **Mrs. Barkey's class** for winning the November Collection contest with 524 labels! Mrs. Barkey's class will receive a treat from HSA.

So far we have collected over 5000 labels which means we have added over \$500 to HSA's fundraising efforts. But keep those labels coming! Our goal is to collect over \$2000 for HSA.

The class that collects the most labels during December also receives a treat from HSA. Keep collecting your labels during the holiday break! In January, the class that collects the most labels for all 3 months combined, wins a Pizza Party!

If you have any questions, contact Julie Joyce, Box Tops Coordinator, 708-903-0692.



Gracious God, thank You for the gift of Catholic education.



Day after day, week after week, You give us many opportunities to know Your great love, peace, and forgiveness.



Help us respond to Your Good News and the



*good news of Catholic education.*  
Amen.



Gingerbread display at the Contemporary Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

Sent to us from Father Mike while on his vacation.

## Mix-It-Up At Lunch Day



Have an idea for fundraisers for next year? Join us at the HSA meeting on **January 21st**. Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this opportunity to voice your opinions.





**DID YOU HAPPEN TO REMEMBER ...**  
**Only ONE (1) more week is left to order T.R.I.P. before Christmas...**

Orders In

Orders Available\*\*

(December orders may arrive as late as Thursday)

Mon., 12/15

Wed., 12/17

**T.R.I.P. (select merchants on a first-come first-served basis) will also be sold at the Raven's Roost (next to the principal's office) from 8 am to 9 am on Thursday, December 11 and 18 and after masses on the weekends of December 13/14 and 20/21.**

T.R.I.P. resumes Monday, January 5, 2009. Remember to stock up on enough gas and grocery TRIP on Monday, 12/15 to get you through Christmas break!

### **Record Number of Holiday Bonus Discounts!!!!**

The following merchant discount increases will not be available after Christmas. Order these TRIP merchants by **Monday 12/15** to receive the higher amount (discounts apply to all denominations): **Eddie Bauer** (increased from 9% to 15%), **BedandBreakfast.com** (\$50; 10% to 15%; write in on blank spaces\*\* on the back of the form to order), **Total Access** phone card (15%-17%), **Kmart & Sears** (4%-10%), **Shutterfly** (9%-15%), **Land's End** (17%-19%), **Shell** (1.5%-2.5%), **Barnes&Noble** (9%-10%), **AutoZone** (5%-6%), **Finish Line** (10%-11%), **Borders** (9%-11%), **Max&Erma's** (13%-16%), **Steak N Shake** (6%-7%), **Old Chicago** (now open in Merrillville; 6%-8%), **Amazon** (4%-6%), **Sports Authority** (8%-11%).

## **St. Vincent DePaul Toy Drive ...**



St. Vincent DePaul toy drive will end on Friday, December 19th. You have been so generous lately with all of the collections that have been going on.



We have done this particular toy collection for years and you can be sure these toys are given to those in need in our area. Remember what Mother Teresa said...



*"We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love."*



### *An ADVENT Fact ...*

During the Middle Ages, Advent became associated with preparation for the Second Coming. In early days Advent lasted from November 11, the feast of St. Martin, until Christmas Day. Advent was considered a pre-Christmas season of Lent when Christians devoted themselves to prayer and fasting. The Orthodox Eastern Church observes a similar Lenten season, from November 15 until Christmas, rather than Advent.

# Fit Bits

Looking for a fun, inexpensive stocking stuffer for you and your family? How about a pedometer? A pedometer senses your body motion and counts your footsteps. This count is converted into distance by knowing the length of your usual stride. Wearing a pedometer and recording your daily steps and distance is a great motivating tool and can keep your family stay active during the winter months ahead. Having a family 'pedometer' competition is a great, way to get everyone involved in fitness fun. Make a simple 'walking' chart and have children use their math skills to add up daily steps. You can even build incentives into the fun by rewarding the entire family (i.e. go to the movies), when certain goals are met (i.e. all family members logged 6,000 steps or more for an entire week).

# Food Bits

'Tis the season of sweets and treats....from Christmas cookies to Gingerbread Houses, and Sugarplums dancing in your head....This holiday season, try to balance the sugar intake around healthy, nutritious meals for your family. This fun "Pinwheel" recipe makes a great lunch or mid-day snack.

1/2 cup light garden vegetable or plain cream cheese (recommended: Philadelphia)  
4 wrap-size flour tortillas  
2 cups lettuce shredded  
1 (8-ounce) package turkey breast slices (chicken breast slices would work as well)  
1/2 cup shredded carrots



Spread 2 teaspoons veggie/plain cream cheese over entire surface of each tortilla. (Use green spinach and red sun-dried tomato tortillas to add holiday color). Top cream cheese with 1/4 cup lettuce. Place 2 slices of turkey/chicken on 1/2 on each tortilla. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon shredded carrots on top of the turkey slices.

Roll the tortillas starting at the edge where you placed the turkey.

Use a serrated knife to cut roll into 1-inch slices. Arrange on a plate to serve.

+ JMJ *Preparation for the Third Week of Advent*

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The entire liturgy of Christmas Eve is consecrated to the anticipation of the certain and sure arrival of the Savior: **"Today you shall know that the Lord shall come and tomorrow you shall see His glory"** Throughout Advent we have seen how the preparation for Jesus' coming became more and more precise. Isaiah, John the Baptist and the Virgin Mother appeared throughout the season announcing and foretelling the coming of the King. We learn that Christ, according to His human nature, is born at Bethlehem of the House of David of the Virgin Mary, and that according to His divine nature He is conceived of the Spirit of holiness, the Son of God and the Second Person of the Trinity. The certitude of His coming is made clear in two images. The first is that of the closed gate of paradise. Since our first parents were cast forth from the earthly paradise the gate has been closed and a cherubim stands guard with flaming sword. The Redeemer alone is able to open this door and enter in. On Christmas Eve we stand before the gate of paradise, and it is for this reason that psalm 23 is the theme of the vigil:

**"Lift up your gates, O princes, Open wide, eternal gates, That the King of Glory may enter in...."**



*Chad Roudyke*

**Have a GREAT week! Feel the excitement!!!**

# S.T.M. LUNCH MENU – WEEK OF DECEMBER 15, 2008

**Daily Ala Cartes: Salads – Large \$2.20, Small \$1.75; Yogurt - \$0.65; Milk - \$0.40**

## Monday, December 15

Chicken Patty  
Whipped Potatoes/Gravy  
California Mixed Veggies  
Bread  
Peaches  
Milk

## Monday Volunteers

Eileen Hinojosa  
Diane Perez  
Pauline Brett

## Tuesday, December 16

Corn Dog  
French Fries  
Green Beans  
Pears  
Brownie  
Milk

*Ala Carte: Corn Dog \$1.10*

## Tuesday Volunteers

Chris O'Brien  
Sue Doherty  
Kathy Davidson

## Wednesday, December 17

Chicken Fryz  
Buttered Noodles  
Corn  
Fresh Fruit  
Milk

## Wednesday Volunteers

Amy Wiess  
Amy Osmulski  
Melissa Reardon

## Thursday, December 18

Ham  
Parslied Potatoes  
Bagel & Cream Cheese  
Broccoli  
Applecisp or Fruit  
Milk

*Ala Carte: Bagel & CC \$1.10*

## Thursday Volunteers

Amy Lee  
Lori Whelan  
Cathy Lyons

## Friday, December 19

Cheese Pizza  
Salad  
Mixed Fruit  
Cookie  
Milk

**Regular 3:00 PM Dismissal**

*Ala Carte: Pizza \$1.40*

## Friday Volunteers

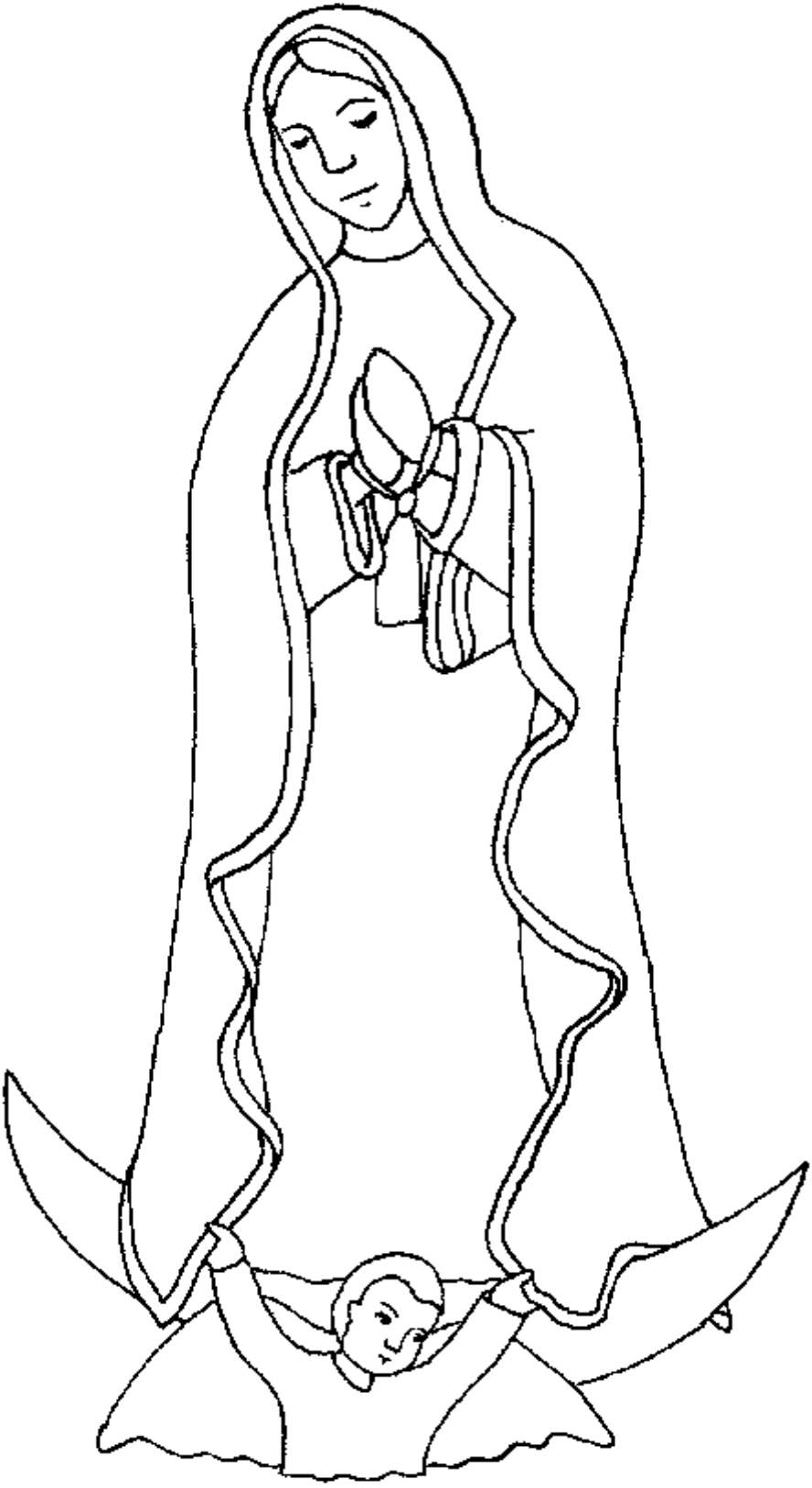
Laura Jo Prucha  
Jane Surd  
Mary Purcell



## St. Thomas More School Lunch Program 2008-2009

1. Menu subject to change.
2. Hot Lunch Prices: Student - \$1.80/day 5 days = \$9.00 20 days = \$36.00  
Adult - \$2.45/day
3. Cash or checks made payable to STM are accepted. NSF checks will be charged a \$25 fee.
4. Families with more than one student eating hot lunch are encouraged to send in ONE check (or cash) in one envelopes. Money will be divided between siblings accordingly.
5. Days not used are credited for future use. There is a \$-9.00 charge limit per account. If students do not bring in money after 5 charges, they will not be allowed in the hot lunch line until payment is made. However, students will be offered a peanut butter or cheese sandwich if they have nothing else to eat.
6. Students should turn in payment in a SEALED envelope labeled with the following information: Lunch Money, Student First & Last Name, Teacher Name, Amount Enclosed.
7. E-mail Mrs. Murray for lunch account balance inquiries: [lmurray@stm-school.com](mailto:lmurray@stm-school.com)
8. Remember to check Edline for the Monthly Menu/Volunteer List.

A page to color.



Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.