



The Barrister

"Prefer nothing to the love of Christ."

January 14, 2010

Blessed Odo of Novara



Our Patron Saint

St. Benedict and St. Scholastica



Prayer for Vocations (for parents)

Loving God,

You have given us the privilege as well as the responsibility of being loving parents. In the name of Jesus, we ask you to guide us as we invite our children to hear your call to service and leadership in our Church.

May our children respond with deep faith and generosity to the needs of God's people.

Help us to be a source of encouragement to our children by our own desire to be committed people who serve with love and enthusiasm.

Amen



Infant Jesus of Prague,
You promise us:

"The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you."

NO SCHOOL ON THE FOLLOWING DATES

(End of First Semester)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010
(Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)



EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION WITH THE CHILDREN

It is wonderful seeing parents at the Holy Mass in school. Your children are always so happy to see you. **Please, come as often as you can.**

Monday	Grades 7 & 8	8:30 AM
Tuesday	ALL SCHOOL	8:30 AM
Wednesday	Grades 1 & 2	8:30 AM
Thursday	Grades 5 & 6	9:00 AM
Friday	Grades 3 & 4	8:30 AM



REPORT CARDS

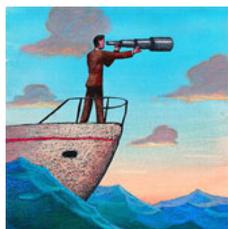
Report Cards will soon be coming home. I know the children are excited about this!?

Friday, JANUARY 22

Teacher: How do you spell "dog"?
Pupil: d, o, g, then hit enter.

*"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."
Dr. M.L. King, Jr.*

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR



We have received the 2010-2011 calendar from the School Town of Munster thus we can begin building the calendar for St. Thomas More School. Please be sure to note the vacation days so that you will be able to provide child care on those days.

The calendar below lists the **main** days throughout the year. For example, in October **all** Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Gary are required to attend the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA) held in Indianapolis. You will also note that on Monday, November 1st, 2010, the schools in Munster will be closed for "Fall Break," and on **Tuesday, November 2nd, 2010**, the Munster schools will be closed for Election Day. Since 60+% of our children ride the Munster Public Schools buses, St. Thomas More School will also be closed on these days. We tell you this now so that you have plenty of time to arrange child care.

AUGUST

23 First Day of School
ALL STUDENTS REPORT

SEPTEMBER

6 **Labor Day No School**
20 Progress Reports

OCTOBER

22 End of First Quarter
27 **INPEA No School**
28 **INPEA No School**
29 **INPEA No School**

NOVEMBER

1 **Fall Break No School**
2 **Election Day Schools Closed in Munster**

DECEMBER

8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
(This **is** a Holy Day of Obligation)
17 **Christmas Vacation begins at 3:00 P.M.**



JANUARY

3 School Resumes
10-13 Semester Exams (7 & 8)
Quarter Exams (6th)
14 **End of First Semester No School**
17 **Birthday of Dr. King No School**

FEBRUARY

14 Progress Reports
21 **President's Day No School**

MARCH

18 End of Third Quarter
21-25 **Spring Break No School**
28 School Resumes

APRIL

22 **Good Friday No School**
25 **Easter Monday No School**
26 Progress Reports

MAY

27 8th Grade Baccalaureate Mass 7PM
28 Graduation 10:00 AM
30 **Memorial Day No School**

JUNE

2 **Last Day of School 3:00 Dismissal**

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

As I type this we have just completed one full week of school after the Christmas break. I was wondering how the children would act after having two full weeks of vacation, festivities, gift openings, over eating and late nights. It is difficult for us adults to get back into a regular routine and I can imagine how difficult it is for little ones who really may not have any concept of time. One thing I have noticed this week is that the children are very happy to see and be with their classmates and teachers. That being said they are also very antsy and talkative. I'm happy to see them so happy but I also have had to deal with several children that are being a bit defiant to their teachers, rude to fellow students and voicing their opinions out loud in class. Some of the teachers are becoming frustrated with their students and have to take the time to remind them of classroom protocol and how to interact with others on an appropriate level.

I love meeting with the students in a classroom, group or individually and have met some of the kindest, funniest students around. The parents I have had the pleasure to meet have been nothing short of accepting and supportive and we have worked together to improve their child's school experience. Please take the time now, after one full week of school has been completed, to ask your child how things are going at school. Some suggested topics may be:

- Time management
- Homework assignments
- Upcoming tests
- Friends
- Adequate sleep

Children often won't admit it but they do want parents to take one on one time with them just to talk about daily things. That "alone" time means a great deal to them. I realize it is extremely difficult to try to find the time to fit it in but it can be done right before bed. Walk them to their room, sit on the edge of their bed ask how things are going. Eventually they will get into that pattern and find that they actually look forward to it. You will enjoy the time you spend with your child and even the teenagers will eventually open up and start to discuss personal issues!!!

Have a Happy and Safe 2010!!!

Mrs. Anna McCabe

Guidance Counselor



HOME & **SCHOOL**

We will be having our general meeting on **February 3rd** in the **cafeteria** at **7:00 PM**.

Please come and join us. You are wanted.



Was it or Wasn't it ?

In the Christmas edition of, *The Barrister*, I indicated the parish schedule of Masses for January 1, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. In that same schedule, I stated that January 1 (New Years Day) was a Holy Day of Obligation.

When we returned from break, I received a letter asking that I explain the policy of Holy Mother Church concerning the obligation of attending Holy Mass on the days proclaimed Holy Days in the United States.

I gladly do so. I hope this helps.

I. If the following Holy Days fall on a Saturday or a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is “abrogated” (moved) to Sunday. If the day falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, it remains an obligation to attend Holy Mass. (Even if the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated, the day is still Holy.)

January 1	The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
August 15	The Feast of the Assumption of Mary
November 1	The Feast of All Saints

II. The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus (40 days after Easter) has automatically been moved to the Sunday which follows the Feast.

III. The following Holy Days are ALWAYS Holy Days of Obligation. All Catholics are required to attend Holy Mass.

December 8 The Feast of the Immaculate Conception (*The conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne*)

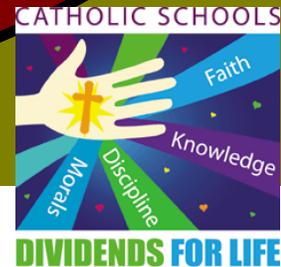
December 25 The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus (Christmas)

IV. What about Easter? Easter is, indeed as the song proclaims, “*Our Triumphant Holy Day*.” Is automatically a Holy Day because it always falls on a Sunday, and ALL Sundays are days when Catholics must attend Holy Mass.

V. Do Catholics still observe a fast before Mass? Yes, one hour before receiving Holy Communion there should be no eating or drinking (except water). Yes, this does include chewing gum. (If a person is ill or the physician tells the person to eat, he/she does not break the fast by doing so.)

*The Eucharist (His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity)
is the supreme proof of the love of Jesus. After this,
there is nothing more but Heaven itself.*

Catholic Schools Week 2010



Parents

Catholic Schools Week is just around the corner.

This year we will begin the week with the school's annual Open House on Sunday, January 31st and continue with activities throughout the week. Please see the full schedule of events with corresponding forms in next week's Barrister.

Please take note of the completion dates on any participation forms that need to be returned to the school. (The form for any students wishing to be STMS Ambassadors is in this Barrister. Forms for participation in the Open House Mass and Very Special Persons Day will appear next week).

Thank you, in advance, for any contributions that you can make to our requests for donations of treasure, time and talent.

Help is needed for short periods of time throughout the week. If you can help, please call Pam Pasyk at 836-9151, # 309 or e-mail: ppasyk@stm-school.com.

Don't forget that registration begins on February 1st, 2010 for the 2010-2011 School Year.

Sunday, January 31st:

Annual Open House from 9:00 –Noon. All families are encouraged to attend church and visit their child's classroom. Usher's Club Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 until 11:30. Forms for participation will be in next week's Barrister.

Monday, February 1st:

A special performance will be presented for all students.

Tuesday, February 2nd:

All School Mass celebrating the Year of the Priest. Special parent help may be needed during this time. Watch next week's Barrister for further details.

Wednesday, February 3rd:

Mass at Bishop Noll for 7th and 8th Grade (pending).

Thursday, February 4th:

Very Special Persons Day. Invite a favorite relative or friend to have lunch with your student. Reservation forms and details will be in next week's Barrister.

Friday, February 5th:

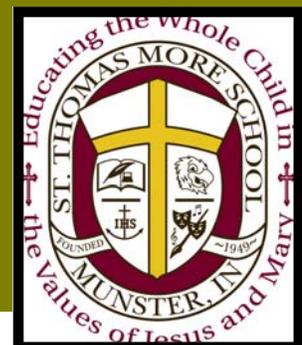
Talent Show in the Gym at 9:30 a.m. Cookies will be given to our bus drivers. Can you bake? Look for talent show permission slips coming soon.

Throughout the week:

Collection of non-perishable food items for St. Vincent DePaul Society.

THIS YEAR'S THEME:

*Dividends for Life:
Morals, Discipline, Knowledge, Faith*





ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

8435 Calumet Avenue • Munster, Indiana 46321-2595

Phone: (219) 836-9151 • Fax: (219) 836-0982

www.stm-school.com

e-mail: schooloffice@stm-school.com

+JMJ

Dear 7th & 8th Grade Students, Parents & Guardians,

We are looking for students that are interested in becoming an Ambassador for St. Thomas More School.

Ambassadors will be responsible for giving tours, welcoming and escorting visitors during events such as the Open House and Special Persons Day, and in general, positively promoting our school. Students may occasionally be needed during the school day as well as some evenings and weekends.

Students **must** attend a training class in the Solar Room on Tuesday, January 26th **or** Thursday, January 28th from 3:10 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Students need to **attend only one** of these sessions and may attend either of the two meetings. **Parents are asked to pick up their child promptly at 4:00 from the main school office doors.**

Please return the attached permission form to the main office no later than Tuesday, January 26th. Students who do not have a permission slip submitted by January 26th will not be able to participate this year. No exceptions.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Thomas More School and thank you for sharing your children's enthusiasm for STMS.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chet Nordyke
Principal

Mrs. Pam Pasyk
Recruitment Coordinator

St. Thomas More School

Ambassador Program

Permission Form

My student _____ has my permission to become an Ambassador for St. Thomas More School.

We understand that attendance is mandatory at one of the training sessions. We also understand that he or she will be asked to participate at events during and after school hours and on the weekends.

Parent

Student

Date

Here I am, Lord. I have come to do Your Will.



Second Semester begins on Tuesday.

PLEASE ... "In the Loop." Keep checking EDLINE to stay ...

Honor Roll Status will be based upon the **SEMESTER AVERAGE for Grades 7 & 8.** The SEMESTER AVERAGE is determined by averaging the FIRST QUARTER GRADE, SECOND QUARTER GRADE **AND** the SEMESTER EXAM.

FOR EXAMPLE: Let's say these are the Math scores for your child:

Quarter 1	88%	(40% of Semester Grade)
Quarter 2	93%	(40% of Semester Grade)
Sem. Exam.	73%	(20% of Semester Grade)
Semester Average: 87% (Honor Roll)		



Thank You Jesus, for Your gift of love.



SECOND QUARTER PARENT CONFERENCES

These Conferences are optional. If you would like to have a conference with **any** teacher, please email the teacher and set up a time convenient for both.



Please say a prayer for the repose of the soul of **Sister Mary Arilda** who went home to Jesus at 103. Sister Arilda was a Mishawaka Franciscan. **R.I.P., Sister Arilda.**



Prayers please

Please keep **Mr. Chuck Long**, a long time friend and benefactor of STMS, in your prayers. Many remember his wife, Joanne, who went to God a few months ago.



THANK YOU MRS. LACIAK

Sadly for STM, but joyfully for her, **Mrs. Pat Laciak** is leaving her position in our computer lab after ten years of ministry to the children and faculty of STM. Mrs. Laciak and her husband are relocating to Indianapolis.



WELCOME MRS. HAJDUCH

We are happy to announce that Mrs. Joann Hajduch has accepted the ministry position in our computer lab. Mrs. Hajduch's years of experience in computer technology makes her a perfect fit for our computer lab.

"Many people mistake our work for our vocation.

Our vocation is the love of Jesus."

Blessed Mother Teresa

School Principal: *I've called you into my office, Peter, because I want to talk to you about two words I wish you wouldn't use so often. One is "great" and the other is "lousy."*
Peter: *Certainly, sir. What are they?*



Parents: It's **GREAT** to read to your child and **have your child read to you.** Another idea ... **Practice Math facts with your child.** It is a **BIG** help.

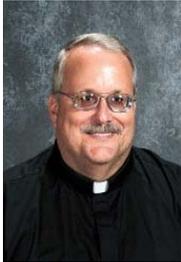


PARENT ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED ...

Parents:

We have some 7th & 8th grade students still not wearing coats. Teachers are being told that **YOU** have given them permission to **not** wear a coat. In order to keep them from detention, you need to send a note stating your child does **not** have to wear a coat. It is very difficult to believe **YOU** tell them it is O.K. to not wear a coat and get sick. Ah yes, adolescence - - - what a fun period of life.

The Year of the Priest



Dear Lord,
we pray that the Blessed Mother
wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession
strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests
to follow her own words,
"Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).



May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace
all who suffer at the foot of the cross.



May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love
seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.

Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.



Please Pray
for our
Seminarist,
**MARK
CREGGER**

Mary, Mother of priests,
and example of faithful,
humble, and joyful
acceptance of God's
will, help all those who
are called to the
priesthood to open their
ears and hearts to the
gentle call of the Holy
Spirit.

Saint John Vianney,
pray for us.



Everyone is invited to the
St. Thomas More School

Open House

on Sunday, January 31st
from 9:00 until Noon.

*Bring friends and families who
could be NEW to our school
Family.*

Save the Date

St. Thomas More School will host an Anniversary
Party/ Reunion to mark it's 60th Birthday on
Saturday, April 24th. Please save the date and
plan to join fellow alumni and
parents. If you have any current
alumni contact information, please
forward information to Pam Pasyk
at (219) 836-9151, #309 or e-mail
to: ppasyk@stm-school.com.



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.*



FROM THE DESK OF:

Mrs. Albrecht
Librarian



2010 Read-a-thon
January 11th - February 19th

“**READERS ARE WINNERS**”



*Any child from **preschooler through eighth grade** in the Lake County Public Library district can participate.*



*Sign-up at school or at the **Munster Library Branch**. Permission forms must be signed by a parent or guardian.*



Read as many books as possible during this six-week project.



Trophies and awards will be distributed at school in May.

“The more that you read, the more you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.” Dr. Seuss

St. Thomas More, pray for us.

Use T.R.I.P.....It Pays.



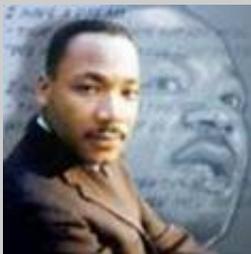
INCREASES: From 1/9/10 through 1/29/10, **Best Buy** will increase from 3% to 4%. From 1/16/10 to 4/2/10, **Exxon/Mobil** will increase from 1.5% to 2.5%.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER: Because of the Monday school holiday on Jan. 18, TRIP orders should be turned in on **TUESDAY** morning (8:30 am) Jan. 19 and will be sent home or available for pick up on **THURSDAY** Jan. 21 (3 pm).

Your **T.R.I.P. statements** showing the credits you've earned from May through December will be coming out soon. Watch for them! Many school families have earned hundreds of dollars in tuition credits just by using T.R.I.P. from May through December 2009. If you're one of these families, or if you've earned enough in T.R.I.P. credits to cover 2010-2011 STM registration fees for your child(ren), or if you're just simply shocked at how much money you've accumulated through T.R.I.P., please let other school families know your secret. For that matter, pass it on to anyone you know who is considering sending their children to St. Thomas More School but who may be concerned about the cost. Most schools that use T.R.I.P./scrip as a fundraiser do not give all credits back to school families. St. Thomas More School is unique!



"Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake.



Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way."

— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

+ JMJ

Dear Parents/Guardians:

St. Thomas More, pray for us, St. Benedict, pray for us. St. Scholastica, pray for us.

Have a GREAT week. Thank you for entrusting your children to us. We promise to continue to nurture them and provide them with the **BEST** Catholic education possible.

Be assured of my prayers for your family and especially the children.

To Jesus through Mary,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Rordyke".

Principal



S.T.M. LUNCH MENU – WEEK OF JANUARY 18, 2010

Daily Ala Cartes: Salads—Large-\$2.25; Small-\$1.80 Yogurt--\$0.70 Milk--\$0.45

Monday, January 18 **NO SCHOOL**



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
DR. KING**

"Intelligence plus character—that is
the goal of true education."
— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

Tuesday, January 19

Corn Dog
Potato Wedges
Green Beans
Pears
Rice Krispie Treat
Milk

Ala Carte: Corn Dog \$1.20

Tuesday Volunteers

Chris O'Brien
Kathy Davidson
Sue Doherty

Wednesday, January 20

Mini Sub Sandwich
Shredded Lettuce
Celery Sticks & Dip
Nachos & Cheese
Pineapple Tidbits
Cake
Milk

Ala Carte: Sandwich \$1.50

Wednesday Volunteers

Nita Barajas
Patti Gething
Alicia Zaleski

Thursday, January 21

Sloppy Joe **OR**
Chicken Patty Sandwich
Tater Tots
Corn
Peaches
Sherbet
Milk

Ala Carte: Sandwich \$1.50

Thursday Volunteers

Diane Beckman
Amy Wiess
Andrew Lerma

Friday, January 22

Bosco Sticks
Marinara Dip
Salad
Applesauce
Vanilla Wafers
Milk

Ala Carte: Bosco Stick \$0.90 (1)

Friday Volunteers

Cris Tumacder
Martha Smith
LeAnn Maiolo



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. Menu subject to change.
2. Hot Lunch Prices: Student - \$1.85/day 5 days - \$9.25 20 days - \$37.00
Adult - \$2.50/day
3. Cash or checks made out to STM are accepted.
4. Families with more than one student eating hot lunch are encouraged to send in ONE check (or cash) in one envelope. 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 and Last Name, Teacher Name, Amount Enclosed
7. E-mail Mrs. Murray for lunch account balance inquires: lmurray@stm-school.com
8. Remember to check Edline for the monthly menu and the cafeteria volunteer list.