



The Barrister

“Prefer nothing to the love of Christ.”

February 4, 2010

St. Blaise



Our Patron Saint

MUCH, MUCH TO READ THIS WEEK ...

Sts. Benedict and Scholastica



Dear Lord,
Fill our parents with Your choicest blessings and enrich their souls with Your holy grace.

Grant that they may faithfully and constantly guard that likeness to Your spiritual union with Your Church, which You have imprinted upon them.

Fill them with Your Holy Spirit, which is the beginning of wisdom, and enable them to impart Him always to their children. Thus may they ever walk in the way of Your commandments; and may their children be their joy in this earthly exile and their crown of glory in their heavenly home.

REGISTER NOW FOR 2010-11

WEIS CENTER South Campus



In keeping with the year-long 60th Birthday celebration for St. Thomas More School, Fr. Mike announced on January 31st that the Cornerstone Center will soon have a different name. The building, which houses our preschool, will be appropriately renamed the “**Weis Center—STMS South Campus**”, named after St. Thomas More Church’s founder and first pastor, Msgr. Robert Weis. Presenting a replica of the new signage, which will be in place within the next few months, is Mrs. MaryJo Biscan, administrative assistant for the school and one of the few relatives of Msgr. who remains in the area.



You're Invited to a Birthday Party
A Fun-Filled Morning for All of Our Pre-K Friends

When: Thursday, February 11, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Where: St. Thomas More School—Main Building Gym
Please enter through the main school office doors.

Who: Any preschool aged child who will be entering kindergarten soon and would enjoy a morning of fun activities with friends, old and new.

RSVP: To Martha Little at (219) 836-2660 or mlittle@stm-school.com by **Monday, February 8.**

You and your pre-k child/ren are invited to attend a special morning of activities geared to preschool children who will be starting kindergarten soon. Your child will enjoy games, a snack, and of course, a chorus of “Happy Birthday”. Siblings are welcome to join us, too.

Help St. Thomas More School Celebrate It's 60th Birthday



We know a lot about the devotion to St. Blaise by Christians around the world. His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern Churches. The Council of Oxford, in 1222, prohibited servile labor in England on Blaise's feast day. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honor and for decades many United States Catholics have sought the annual St. Blaise blessing for their throats.



Have YOU registered for 2010-11?
The seats are filling quickly.



8th Grade Parents

It is hard to believe that the time has come to plan, prepare and complete the task of creating the Class of 2010 memory video which creates a picture of the Class of 2010's life at STM (from preschool through 8th grade). We would like to see that all of the children from the class be represented. This can only be achieved if **YOU** comply with the requests for the needed photos. Please note that all photos will be returned to you. You need to mark all photos with your name and grade or the year the photo was taken. A family address label works best, otherwise please mark in pencil, ballpoint pens mark the photos. Here is what we need:

- 1. BABY PICTURE!** We are requesting that you send in an individual picture of your child when he/she is less than 12 months old. Any photo larger than a wallet up to an 8 by 10 works best. **Please note the yearbook committee is also requesting a baby photo.** Please send in two photos (please label which one you want used for which event) or specify if this photo can be used for both.
- 2. STM PHOTOS!** We are also looking for photos from Pre-K **to the present** that pertain only to STM activities (classroom, sports, scouts, band, plays, church, field trips, etc.). Group photos work best.
- 3. 8TH GRACE SCHOOL PICTURE!** We need your child's school picture **from this year.** Please send in all pictures (baby, activities and 8th grade) to school in an envelope marked **"MEMORY VIDEO"** to Jane Surd c/o Jackie (Mrs. Gurnak's class) by **Friday, February 5, 2010.**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

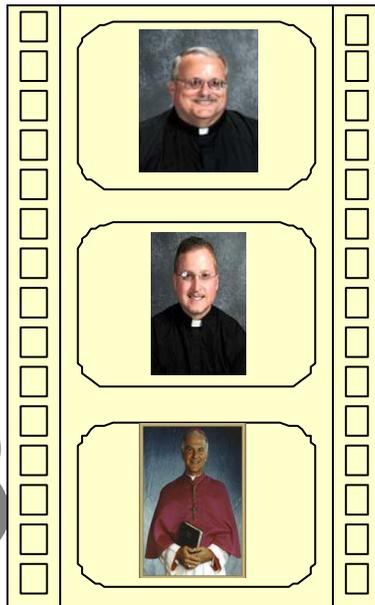
8TH GRADE PARENTS: DUE FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 5TH

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we give you our hearts and our souls.



Market Day is **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8th**
 Orders are due **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4th**
 We are asking **3rd grade parents to volunteer!**
Thank you very much!!!

STMS is so very appreciative of Mrs. Marge Zemkewicz for the OUTSTANDING ministry she performs in coordinating MARKET DAY. THANKS, MARGE!!!



THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST

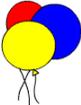
Our Father Mike, Father Rick and Bishop Melczek all DESERVE to be in pictures so that ALL could witness the GOOD that they do for Jesus and His Church!

Mrs. Gonzalez: Ext. 328
 Mrs. Boyle: Ext. 328
 Mr. Nordyke: Ext. 328



What is Happening at St. Thomas More School?

LOOKING FOR A CALENDAR FROM JANUARY TO FEBRUARY

- 4 Special Persons Day ; QSP Magazine Sale begins
- 8 Market Day  Market Day.
- 10 Middle School Dance (Feb. 13th) Permission Slip DUE today
- 11 Pre-K “Birthday Party” **North Campus** (Main Building)
- 12 **Father/Daughter Dance (Reservations only) 6:30-8:30 PM**
- 13 Middle School (Grades 6-8) Dance  7:00-10:00 PM
- 14 **HAPPY ST. VALENTINE DAY**
- 15 **NO SCHOOL PRESIDENTS DAY**  
- 16 **Mardi Gras Celebration** 
- 17 **ASH WEDNESDAY Mass at 9:00 AM LENT BEGINS**
- 18 QSP Magazine Sale ends
- 19 Progress Reports come home; **Stations of the Cross 2:15 PM**
- 20 **First Penance (3rd Grade Catholic children) 9:30 AM**
- 23 **HIS EXCELLENCY, BISHOP DALE MELCZEK WILL BE HERE TO CELEBRATE THE 8:30 AM ALL SCHOOL MASS Please attend if you are able to do so.**
- 26 Education Fair (Parent Viewing) 6:00 PM (Projects to go home that evening.)
Stations of the Cross 2:15 PM



JUNIOR HIGH PARENTS

If you choose to allow your student to not wear a coat, St. Thomas More School is not responsible if the student becomes ill.

IMPORTANT

Tuition Assistance Program

Now Underway

IMPORTANT

Tuition assistance application forms for the 2010-2011 school year are now available in the parish office. Catholic families who belong to a Diocese of Gary parish and have their children enrolled in any diocesan school, grades 1 through 12, may apply. Kindergarten and preschool students are not eligible. A \$21.00 non-refundable processing fee must accompany the application. Approximately \$500,000 is distributed on the basis of need to assist Catholic parents in providing Catholic faith formation, strong academic programs and safety for their children in our Catholic Schools.

The filing deadline is Monday, February 22, 2010. This is the date that completed applications must be returned to the pastor. This deadline will be strictly enforced. Parents will be notified of the results in writing by April 30.



Middle School Dance Saturday - February 13



The 8th Grade Leadership Committee is planning a Middle School Valentine's Day Dance for **Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 7:00 –10:00 PM in the STMS Gym. This dance is open to STMS students (ONLY) in grades 6 - 8. Students are asked to wear RED to the dance. No** cargo pants, please.

Permission Slips are **DUE** by **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2010.** A signed permission slip, **by this date**, is required for a student to attend.

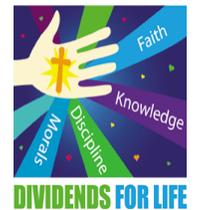
Permission slip and snack letter are to be found at the end of **this** Barrister and on EDLINE. Thanks!!!!

Thank You Parents & Friends!

As Catholic Schools Week comes to a close, the students and staff of St.

Thomas More School would like to extend their warmest thanks to YOU the parents and friends of St. Thomas More School for your continued support of our school. Your generosity and kindness has made us the **strongest and largest school in the Diocese of Gary**, with nearly 600 happy students enrolled. **Our students continue to be successful in and out of the classroom, excelling in a variety of areas, all while continuing on their religious journey.**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



QSP Fundraiser

Magazines, Music CDs, and Books

Anyone can participate. Order today and help St. Thomas More School!



New Orders and Renewals

Order on-line for convenience and a faster delivery time.

www.qsp.com

Account # 425023250

Catalogs and order forms can be picked up in the School or Parish Office. Credits from parishioners who are non-school families will be allocated to the St. Thomas More Home and School Association.

Order February 4th through February 18th.

For more information, contact Sue Doherty at (219) 922-0729.



Black History Month

"Freedom is never given; it is won."
-A. Philip Randolph



Laundry is the only thing that should be separated by color!

Thomas L. Jennings (1791 - 1859) was the first African-American to receive a patent in 1821. It was for a dry-cleaning process in 1821. He used the money earned from the patent to purchase relatives out of slavery and support abolitionist causes.

Judy W. Reed was the first African-American woman to receive a patent in 1884 for a hand-operated machine used to knead and roll dough.

Bessie Coleman (1893-1926) was the first licensed African-American pilot in the world. She received aviation instruction in France.

Booker T. Washington (1856 - 1915) was the first African-American to be honored on a U.S. stamp, in 1940.

George Washington Carver (1864 - 1943) who made agricultural advancements and inventions pertaining to the use of peanuts and Percy Julian, who helped create drugs to combat glaucoma, were the first African-Americans admitted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1990.

Maya Angelou's (1928 -) autobiographical, "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings" is the first non-fiction work by an African-American woman to make the best-seller list.

Matthew Henson (1867-1955) was a part of the first successful U.S. expedition to the North Pole in 1909.

Althea Gibson (1927 - 2003) was the first African-American tennis player to compete in the U.S. Championships in 1950 and at Wimbledon in 1951. In 1957 she won the women's singles and doubles at Wimbledon in 1957, which was celebrated by a ticker tape parade when she returned home to New York City.

Arthur Ashe (1943 - 1993) was the first African-American to not only be named to the U.S. Davis Cup team in 1963, but to also win the U.S. Open in 1968, to win the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1975, and the first to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1985.

Alexia Irene Canada became the first female African-American neurosurgeon in the United States in 1984.

Ben Carson (1951 -) a skilled neurosurgeon, led the first successful operation to separate a pair of Siamese twin infants who were joined at the back of the head in 1987.



St. Thomas More School EDUCATION Fair

You are invited to the St. Thomas More School **Education Fair** on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in the *Eagle's Nest* (St. Thomas More Gym).

Students choosing Science projects will be competing for the opportunity to participate in the Regional Science Fair to be held at Indiana University Northwest in March.

Students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to view the education fair projects on Tuesday, the 23rd.

COME SEE THE NEW EDUCATION FAIR AT ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL.





Questions about your lunch account???

E-mail Mrs. Murray for inquiries about lunch account balances at lmurray@stm-school.com



DON'T FORGET YOUR REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR.

Please keep encouraging your children to continue working **HARD**.

Please remember to check **EDLINE** often.

STMS HAS TALENT - YES WE DO !!!



ALL ARE INVITED TO COME AND WITNESS THE HUGE AMOUNT OF TALENT THE STUDENTS AT STMS HAVE!

OUR TALENT SHOW IS FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 5TH AT 9:30 AM IN THE GYM.

STMS STUDENTS HAVE TALENT!

THANK YOU, Miss Daniel, for coordinating the STMS Talent Show.



HOME & SCHOOL RAFFLE . . .



The STMS is sponsoring a raffle! Tickets will come home, with the children, next week.

\$10.00 per ticket 5 per family

Winners will be announced at Spring Fest on Saturday, April 10, 2010.



TOP SELLING FAMILY WILL RECEIVE \$500.00 !!!

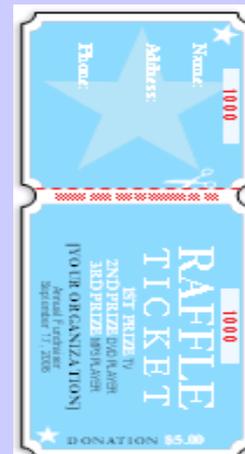
1ST PRIZE: \$4,000.00 (Cash or Tuition)

2ND PRIZE: \$1,000.00

3RD PRIZE: \$750.00

4TH PRIZE: \$500.00

5TH PRIZE: \$250.00



"Teaching Is an Expression of Christ's Charity" Pope Benedict XVI



Stamped With Love

- The children in Pre-K through Grade 4 may exchange Valentine cards next Friday, February 12, 2010. Teachers will be sending home a list of the students in the class.



The Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay, Love isn't Love until it's given away.



President's Day

Monday,
February 15th.

**NO
SCHOOL**



Progress Reports for **Quarter 3** will come home on Friday, February 19th.

(Where is this year going?????)



The Holy Season of LENT Begins

on Wednesday,
February 17th.

ASH WEDNESDAY
All School Mass is at
9:00 AM

nothing's too hard
for God



Those interested in trying out for the **MIDWEST WINGS SOCCER CLUB**,

coached by our very own, Mr. Francis, be sure to see the flyer which appears at the end of this edition of *The Barrister*.



Prayer for our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI

Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to Your shepherd, the Pope, a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love.

By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care may he, as successor to the apostle Peter and vicar of Christ, build Your church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

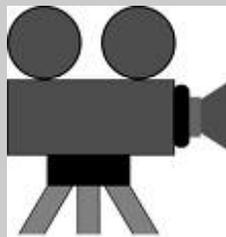
TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY



THIS Friday, February 5th, we will celebrate the **FANTASTIC**

service of our teachers & teacher assistants.

Please let them know you appreciate all they do for your children.



STMS MOVIE NIGHT

LIGHTS ACTION CAMERA

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY
MARCH 12, 2010
Kindergarten - Grade 8
6:00 PM

GYM Bring a lawn chair!
MORE INFORMATION TO
COME IN
THE BARRISTER.



MOVIE NIGHT
AT STMS

Spring Fest April 10th, 2010



Please save-the-date and join in the fun! The kids love it so much we decided to move it from Friday night to Saturday and make it longer! If you are interested in participating in planning, please contact Hillary Hanas at hhanas@hotmail.com or 219.922.9626.

Spring Fest will include lots of games for all age children, face painting, raffle, food, and the crowd favorite Cake Walk.

We are currently looking for donations for the Children's Raffle. Below is a list of highly sought after items. If you are willing to purchase and donate an item or have an extra toy around the house from the holidays, please drop it at the school office to **Jen Zabrecky**.

Video system games

Legos

Bike

American Girl doll and accessories

Rip Stick

Zhou Zhou hamsters and accessories

Center for the Visual Art/Performing Arts tickets/class

Playmobil

Webkinz

iPod



COUNSELOR'S CORNER...

Teens and pre-teens need the routine and firm foundation of rules that your family provides to be able to navigate their world in a confident manner. Curfews help to provide the routines and by setting them, parents are helping their children become confident young adults. Curfews also help keep order in a household.



Parents set curfews in two main ways: A blanket curfew is given and expected to be followed most of the time; and a curfew is set each time a teen goes out to do something in particular. Parents tend to lean one way or another in determining when their children need to be home at night. The decision on which way to go depends a great deal on how which type of curfew the parents were given when they were teens.

Determining curfew can be difficult and time consuming. The important thing for a parent to remember is to be in charge of the curfew. Ask the child for input if you wish. Be realistic about the time after finding out where the child wants to go and with whom. Decide how long it will take for your child to do the activity, to get home and base the curfew on that.

Setting a curfew comes down to parents taking the time to think it through and then establishing the rule with their teen's input. Compromising when the curfew rules are being set and staying firm after the curfew has been agreed upon will lead to the curfew that works for the whole family!

Mrs. McCabe, Counselor



**Come draw with Young Rembrandts
at St. Thomas More!**

Join us Tuesday, February 23 3:00-4:15 p.m.

for a FREE introductory class!



We will provide all the materials that you need.

**To participate, parents should sign up in the St. Thomas More Office.
Parents may sign up in person or send a note that has all contact phone numbers.**

This class is limited to the first 50 children to sign up.

Young Rembrandts teaches children how to draw using an engaging method in which all children can succeed. We learn about drawing and art while developing academic, conceptual, and critical thinking skills.

Young Rembrandts' **step-by-step method** and top **quality curriculum** continuously builds skills. Our program is for any child with **artistic interests**, as well as those who need further **fine motor skill development**.

If you have any questions about our program or this class, please call Laura at (219)548-7433



**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.***



**His Excellency
Bishop Melczek is
Coming to STMS.**

Our Bishop will be at STMS on **Tuesday, February 23, 2010** to pray our All School Mass at 8:30 AM.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US IF YOU CAN.

HELP NEEDED!

More volunteers are needed to help in the cafeteria during lunchtime. Kids love to see their parents during the school day so volunteer and visit with your children and their friends during lunch! Call Marcie Burzynski at 923-3069 if you can help.

Thank You!

WELLNESS TIPS

Feb 3rd 2010

Did you know that since 1963, the President declares February **American Heart Month** as our nation's number one killer? Learning how to protect yourself you're your family from cardiovascular disease is very important. It seems more people are afraid of being diagnosed with cancer than they are with high blood pressure or high cholesterol. Here are 5 simple things you can do to celebrate and practice heart healthy behaviors.

- 1) Start a healthy exercise plan – get that heart rate up for at least 30 minutes most days of the week. A leisurely stroll doesn't count and you don't have to do it all at one time. You want your blood pumping!
- 2) Eat a little square of dark chocolate. The darker the better for your heart.
- 3) Buy a pedometer and have a family 'walking' challenge.
- 4) Start using heart-healthy, extra-virgin olive oil.
- 5) Eat one additional serving of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables each day.



The American Heart Association and the National Football League have teamed up to bring you the NFL Play 60 Challenge, a cool new site full of creative ideas for getting active. Check it out now and learn how you can earn free stuff...

<http://www.NFLRush.com/play60>

Parents: VERY IMPORTANT

REQUESTS FOR TEACHERS



POLICY ADDITION FOR 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR.

The assignment of homerooms is done in the spring of the prior year. The goal of the collaborative decision by grade level teachers, departmental teachers, special services teachers, the principal and assistant principal is to build a class which will enable each individual child to have an academically successful year in a social environment that supports continued growth and development. The best possible attempts are made to provide a gender balance, a range of overall abilities and personalities, uniform class size and sensitivity to the number and nature of children receiving special services.

We, at St. Thomas More School, believe that **all** of our teachers are exceptional. Once in a while parents ask if they may request a particular teacher. We are asking that parents **do not make specific requests to have or not have a particular teacher**. We will, however, be more than happy to accept specific and relevant information which describes or supports a particular academic, pedagogical or social/emotional need of your child. **This information must be put in writing to the Principal prior to March**. Once again, we believe **all** of the members of the faculty at St. Thomas More School are **exceptional**, and although we welcome clarifying information, St. Thomas More School will **no longer** be able to accept specific requests for a teacher.

