

"A Century of Caring; A Legacy of Faith"

ST. MARTIN

T T OUR TALK

FEBRUARY 2012

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From the Principal's Desk

By: Carolyn Murphy

Welcome to SMOT School Centennial Year!

Kindergarten: Our Kindergartners are using the book, *The Mitten*, to learn about the season of winter. They each made a mitten and retold the story by tucking animals inside. Along with that, they are learning about animals that hibernate.

Grade 1: First Graders can be found learning the difference between mammals and reptiles. They are making a booklet of the various animals that are reptiles. Each student has their own rosary and each day they pray a decade of the Rosary.

Grade 2: Our Second Graders are busy learning about traditions and cultures. They are comparing and contrasting others to their own traditions they have at home.

Grade 3: In Third Grade, our students are learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his dream. They are writing their own dreams for the future.

Grade 4: Simple machines are the topic in Fourth Grade. They are excited to explore them and see how they work. They are even going to build their own compound machines.

Grade 5: Fifth Graders are researching their favorite authors and making displays to share with their classmates.

Grade 6: In our Sixth Grade, students can be found writing their own class newspaper. They have been interviewing me, as well as other faculty members. Students in Fifth and Sixth Grades are starting preparations to present Shadow Stations during Lent.

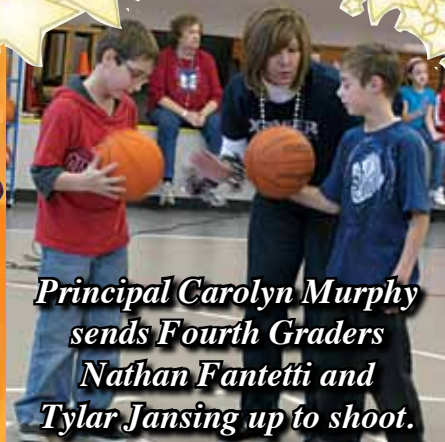
Grade 7 and 8: In our Seventh and Eighth Grades, our students are exploring the Seven Catholic Teachings on Social Justice. They are working on presentations, so they can teach the younger students here at St. Martin.



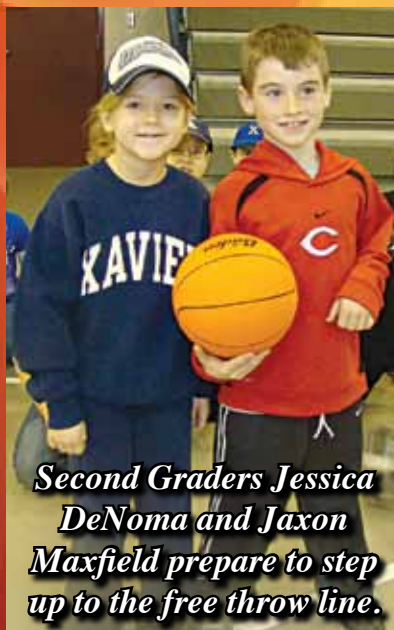
UPCOMING EVENTS

Catholic Schools Week	January 29-February 3
Parent /Teacher Conferences	February 16
No School	February 17
No School (Presidents' Day)	February 20
Mardi Gras/Mission Fair	February 21
Ash Wednesday	February 22

Crosstown Shootout SMOT Style



Principal Carolyn Murphy sends Fourth Graders Nathan Fantetti and Tylar Jansing up to shoot.



Second Graders Jessica DeNoma and Jaxon Maxfield prepare to step up to the free throw line.



Fifth Grader Michael Sweeney prepares to take a shot.



Eighth Grade Teacher Sarah Schablein and Sixth Grade Teacher Linda Holthaus go in to represent SMOT faculty.



RCIA for Children and Teens Explore Service **By: Laurie Huff, Coordinator of Religious Education**

The journey towards the Easter Sacraments offers many paths, including the formation of faith through service. Thus far, our RCIA for Children and Teens group has taken part in two projects that benefit the sick and the local community.

First, a visit was made to the *Ronald McDonald House* in which we baked delicious treats, including brownies, peppermint cookies, muffins, and cakes for the residents and their families. Also, we toured the facility and learned about the population it serves. In addition, our young people had the opportunity to discover that many of the children residents were fighting a rare terminal illness which required intensive travel from the other side of the globe.

Next, the second service project was for the community outreach agency known as *My Neighbor's Place*. *My Neighbor's Place* serves the working poor and unemployed of Westwood by providing food, clothing, and household items to those in need. Each year, a Christmas party is organized for residents who are struggling with the resources to provide a Christmas meal and gifts for their children. As a result, parents are given the opportunity to collect gifts for their families by attending this special event. This year, our RCIA for Children and Teens youth filled over 250 goody bags for each child who graced the doors of *My Neighbor's Place* Christmas Party!



Finally, we are often reminded that perhaps our greatest call as Christian people is stepping out of ourselves in order to meet the needs of others. The recent experiences at the *Ronald McDonald House* and *My Neighbor's Place* visibly brought forth a broader perspective of our youth through their opened eyes, minds, and hearts. As they take the next steps on the journey towards Easter, we look forward to where the Spirit may lead them in the future as they fulfill their own call to serve.



**Advent
Wreath
Making**



TAJČI

Concert



Pastoral Council

Present at the December 1, 2011, Pastoral Council meeting were: Kevin Bonecutter, Bill Clark, Kristen Dupps, Liz Kaiser, Carolyn Murphy, Kevin Weber, Debbie Weitz and Father Terry Hamilton. Absent: Nicole May, Vickie Reinhardt, Fred Schlimm.

A motion was made by Kevin Weber to amend the prior minutes to reflect that he did not request a sliding-scale tuition; rather that he mentioned the idea as an option. Kevin Bonecutter made a motion to amend minutes to include in New Business the elimination of "At Large" positions on Pastoral Council and the creation of two new Task Forces: Outreach (Debbie Weitz) and Lay Ministers (Nicole May).

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Spiritual Life: Adult Faith Formation – Book Club; We collected names of people interested in a book club after the ministry fair and will contact them after the holidays. Lent/Immigration; Liz is discussing the suggestions made by Council, specifically, presenting a series on the three social justice issues selected by the Archdiocese in Lent. There's been some discussion about publishing the personal stories of families, or individuals, who have experienced issues with immigration, work after prison and the death penalty on Facebook. It seems as though St. Martin's has a Facebook group, but not a Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=127077211917&v=info>. It has not been updated since 2009. The owner/creator of the Facebook page is Nicole Beeler May. Liz Kaiser stated there was discussion about starting a Facebook page for St. Martin's to communicate updates within the parish. Liz will investigate how to make this happen. Advent Wreath Making; Fair turnout after all the Masses on November 27. Tatiana Concert; Concert will be Thursday, December 8 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) at 7:00 p.m. There will be a Mass at 5:00 followed by fellowship (light supper) in Fr. Mick Hall. RCIA; Five children are in RCIA. Worship; Working on Advent/Christmas; after the New Year we will be looking at the Lent/Easter cycle. Caring Connectors; Giving Tree is up and was full of gift tags Thanksgiving Weekend. This year we included some St. Vincent de Paul tags for the first time. Scripture Study; Ron Hancock has been out of town so no update at this time. Welcome Committee; Liz will set a time to brainstorm after the holidays.

Parish Life: Our Centennial Year of Celebration came to a close at a beautiful Mass on November 11, 2011. A special thanks to Debbie Brunst, Sue Momberg and the entire Centennial Committee for all their hard work in planning all the wonderful events over the past year. It truly was a wonderful year of celebration. Advent Wreath Making and hospitality was held after all Masses on November 27. Pastoral Council discussed that we will attempt next year not to charge for wreath-making supplies. Thanks to Marti Barnes for again coordinating this event. Pastoral Council President's Report/New: I suggest a new procedure to help facilitate communication between our congregation and our Pastoral Council – the creation of a pastoral council e-mail address that would be passed among presidents and would also be posted in the bulletin. Perhaps a suggestion/comment box somewhere in church also might prove beneficial. Lastly, attached is my version of the first part of the Pastoral Council Constitution with dates from the last meeting. My hope is that we will finalize this portion at the meeting.

Finance: The financial report was reviewed. The Finance Commission proposed to increase the 2012-2013 tuition by \$75 and continue with the multi-child discount of \$300 for second child; \$400 for the third child; and \$500 for the fourth child. With this proposal, the 2012-2013 tuition would be \$3,175 for one child; \$6,050 for two children; \$8,825 for three children; and \$11,500 for four children. The 2012-2013 out-of-parish tuition will remain at \$4,250. Also, the 5% discount if paid in full by June 1, 2012, minus the \$50 pre-tuition paid in February 2012. The Finance Commission does not recommend a sliding-scale tuition since we already give multi-children discounts,

grants, scholarships and if anyone is having financial difficulty, it is up to the individual to contact the Business Manager and/or Pastor to discuss their situation. "The Great Tuition Give Away" – The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is giving away \$17,500 in tuition credits and prizes to current and prospective families. To register, go to facebook.com/mycatholicsschool. Both current and prospective students are eligible. Enter by Friday, February 3, 2012, at 12:00 noon. **Youth:** Youth will be involved in both the 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Masses on Christmas Eve.

Athletics: No Report submitted.

Education Commission: Decision Items; Lee Marلمان volunteered to be our representative at the Finance meeting on November 17, 2011. Looked at marketing approaches for Open House of the School in January 2012; possibly recreating brochures. PTO Report; Our Gift Card Program has been revitalized and we are once again selling after Masses and through our school. PTO meetings will provide a basic babysitting service (Mrs. Murphy's daughters and friends). Last meeting included a Recipe Exchange with the food items brought to the meeting and served afterwards. PTO will begin publishing its Treasury Reports in order to be viewed by the parish and school parents. Will begin working on a revision of ByLaws. Pastoral Council Report; Talked about having lines painted in parking lot for three spaces (for drop-off and pick-up) by Property and Grounds. Need other ideas to improve the flow for pick-up after school. Discussion Items; Lisa Kammerer stated that the Education Commission subcommittees have not met at all and they need to do a better job in order to get projects done. Worked on a strategy for Finance Committee meeting. Would like to get a sponsorship for Personal Safety Programs (possibly through PTO). New Business; Work on items for Catholic Schools Week. Next Meeting is in January 2012.

Property and Grounds: A parishioner has brought forward an issue – in years past, snow that is cleared from the sidewalk is piled on the sidewalk between the walk and street which poses problems for people parking on the street. The maintenance department is aware of this concern and will attempt to remedy. Cars are still parking in the fire lane in the circle on the Harding Avenue side of church. This blocks the driveway and cars and fire trucks cannot get through. The fire lane is painted on the ground, but it will be investigated to see if we can obtain signs to post. The next Property & Grounds meeting will be Monday, January 9, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., in the Fr. Kotter Room.

Principal: First Quarter report cards went home. We held our first quarterly Awards Ceremony – First Honors (13); Second Honors (40); Rainbow Award – turned in all homework and assignments (64); Star Award – no "W's" in personal conduct (135); All-star Achievement Award, one per homeroom given to the child who goes above and beyond academically – works to make SMOT a better place. Eighth graders took the High School Placement Test. Service Project; "Thanksgiving Bountiful Baskets" which allowed us to collect food items and money for our St. Vincent de Paul; each homeroom filled a laundry basket. We donated enough to feed ten families! Throughout December we will be collecting gifts for St. Vincent De Paul.

Pastor Report: Fr. Terry reported that Archbishop Schnurr was very pleased with our closing ceremonies on November 11, 2011.

New Business: Kevin Weber presented a St. Martin application he created for the Android Market. The application includes such things as Mass times, contact information, prayers and prayer requests. The application was very impressive and will soon be made available to everyone. Further review of Pastoral Council Constitution will be tabled until next meeting.

Our next Pastoral Council meeting will be Thursday, January 19, 2012, at 8:00 p.m., in Room E of the Red School Building.



Pages for Sages...
For our wisest members...
February 2012

Happy New Year! Although the New Year started officially a month ago, this is our first "Pages for Sages" for 2012. We hope you will find the articles below helpful and relevant to your life. May 2012 be filled with many blessings, good health, and happiness for all. Can you believe that Lent begins on February 22? Be sure to watch the bulletin for various services and activities for the Lenten season. Stay safe and warm during the rest of the winter.

Saint for February – Saint Scholastica

Twins often share the same interests and ideas with an equal intensity. Therefore, it is no surprise that Scholastica and her twin brother, Benedict, established religious communities within a few miles from each other. Born in 480 of wealthy parents, Scholastica and Benedict were brought up together until he left central Italy for Rome to continue his studies. Little is known of Scholastica's early life. She founded a religious community for women near Monte Cassino at Plombariola, five miles from where her brother governed a monastery. The twins visited each other once a year in a farmhouse because Scholastica was not permitted inside the monastery. They spent these times discussing spiritual matters. According to the *Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great*, the brother and sister spent their last day together in prayer and conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day. He refused her request because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, thus breaking his own Rule. Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to the abbey. Benedict cried out, "God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it." Brother and sister parted the next morning after their long discussion. Three days later, Benedict was praying in his monastery and saw the soul of his sister rising heavenward in the form of a white dove. Benedict then announced the death of his sister to the monks and later buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself.



Comment: Scholastica and Benedict gave themselves totally to God and gave top priority to deepening their friendship with him through prayer. They sacrificed some of the opportunities they would have had to be together as brother and sister in order better to fulfill their vocation to the religious life. In coming closer to Christ, however, they found they were also closer to each other. In joining a religious community, they did not forget or forsake their family but rather found more brothers and sisters.

Quote: "All religious are under an obligation, in accordance with the particular vocation of each, to work zealously and diligently for the building up and growth of the whole mystical body of Christ and for the good of the particular churches. It is their duty to foster these objectives primarily by means of prayer, works of penance, and by the example of their own lives" (*Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops*, 33, Austin Flannery translation).

Patron Saint of: Nuns

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Prayer

O God, to show us where innocence leads, You made the soul of Your virgin Saint Scholastica soar to heaven like a dove in flight. Grant through her merits and her prayers that we may so live in innocence as to attain to joys everlasting. This we ask, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Popping the Cork:

A New Year's Resolution for Caregivers



Promise yourself this year will be the year you become your own best caregiver. Resolve to do what thousands of others need to do – make time for yourself, because in so doing, you make your time with others better and more valuable. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Accept Help: Those called to caregiving know in ways others don't that giving care too often means putting yourself last. But let's face it, you can't do everything. Quite simply, you deserve a break. While you're at it, don't just experience the beauty of your own respite. Witness the enjoyment your loved one may get from interacting with others who might step in to provide care while you are gone. Lean on friends and let them help.

Laugh, Exercise and Relax: Laugh, exercise and relax, not necessarily in that order. But understand the importance of letting go. Laughter has long been touted as an antidote for what ails you, and exercise tones our bodies as well as our minds. Laughter and exercise together are a formidable formula for relaxation, the latter literally a key to life. As for how to do the ho-ho-ho, why not rent a funny movie?

It's All About You: Maintain "me" time. No matter your obligations, continue with hobbies and personal routines. Read a good book, dig in the dirt, create a scrapbook or cook. Treat yourself to a manicure, a pedicure or a massage. Keep up with friends and social activities. After all, time away can be a quality investment since you will return refreshed and ready to tackle new challenges.

Stay positive: Your outlook is contagious and by turning the corners of your mouth up, you just might help a loved one do the same. Keeping a journal can provide an outlet for your emotions and can double as a barometer of your moods and attitudes.

Take Care of Yourself: This includes eating regular, well-balanced meals; getting plenty of rest, and limiting alcohol, as well as caffeine consumption. Poor sleep is a condition that needs to be addressed, diagnosed and treated – it could be as important as nutrition, exercise and social engagement to the health of a caregiver. Taking care of yourself is the golden rule of caregiving.

So there you have it. Five resolutions you should be sure to keep in this year! At a time of life when the daunting burden of caring for a disabled loved one will no doubt be added to an already-heavy load, it's important to remember your own best health is a necessary prerequisite to good care. Know you are investing in your own best future by taking care of the business of love. Have a Happy 2012!

Adapted from Fearless Caregiver Newsletter, December 2010

The Holy Father's Intentions for February 2012



General Intention: Access to Water; That all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.

Missionary Intention: Health Workers; That the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions.

Memorial Mass Fund December 2011



<i>For the Memory/Intention of:</i>	<i>From:</i>
Helen Wuellner	Jean & E. J. Krabacher
Emil Staub	Jean & E.J. Krabacher
Rosemary Mense	Bob & Mary Danemayer
In Thanksgiving	Kathleen & Angelo
Kevin Beiler	Kathy & Steve Brunette
John Hock	Ron & Jaime Meyer
Evelyn Jones	Jim Gibson
Tom Cunningham	Jim Gibson
Anne Hartman	Tom & Donna Vale

January 2012

<i>For the Memory/Intention of:</i>	<i>From:</i>
Robert G. Huth	Elizabeth A. Huth
Michael Huth	Elizabeth A. Huth
John P. Huth	Elizabeth A. Huth
Ralph J. Rust, Sr.	Elizabeth A. Huth
Marilyn & Thomas Hoesl (living)	Elizabeth A. Huth
James & Marlene Moore	Kathleen & Angelo
Emil Staub	Eileen Murray
Rita Babb	Joann Ernst
Mary Lou Baumer	Dolores Ritchie
Bill Casey	The Stotler Family
Debi Nagel	Frank & Sue Weyer
Norma Telscher	Michael & Eileen Martin
Norma Telscher	Rita Goertemoeller
L. Patricia Schnieders	Jim Sunderhaus Family
Michael Cyprian Torbeck	Jim Sunderhaus Family
Henry Reed	Jim Sunderhaus Family
Mary Schroeder	Jim Sunderhaus Family
Charles De Zarn	Ruth & Gene Klosterman
Beverly Zeek	Lois Peter
Harry & Florence Heilmann	Lois Peter
Charles Dehne	Tony & Phyllis Olberding
Joseph Wilson	Tom & Donna Vale
Jeffrey Kemme	Dupont Family
Ken Paff	Doris & Mary Ann Neiheisel
Gilbert & Dorothy Neiheisel	Doris & Mary Ann Neiheisel
Harold & Mary Ann Stricker	Doris & Mary Ann Neiheisel
Dennis Principe	Kathleen & Angelo
Principe Family	Kathleen & Angelo
Gertrude, Leonard P., Thomas A. Ramstetter & Kenneth Roedel	Mary Jane & Charlene Ramstetter

Deaths

November 2011

Helen Wuellner
Emil Staub
William Schill
Jacob Krekeler
Kevin Beiler
Betty Ventre
Lorraine Stiles

December 2011

Julie Nickson
Jeff Kemme
Norma Telscher



Welcome New Parishioners

November 2011

Trish Deurham
Emily Schroth
Eric Fuhrman
Bridget Fay
Gavin Glevicky
Stefanie Cornelius
Nicholas Corcoran
Melissa Weisbrodt
Paul & Janet Jones
John & Elizabeth Liedhegner

December 2011

Katherine Pence
Adam & Jennifer Jent
Barbara & William King
Jaime Walsh
Kristopher & Patricia Francis
Katie Mock



Tour Talk is the official publication of

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The primary purpose of this newsletter, published 10 times a year (monthly, except January and August) is to provide short, well-balanced articles about parish news, such as committee reports, fund-raising activities and current events.

Deadline is the 10th of the month. Articles and photos can be e-mailed to:

dbroerman@fuse.net.

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