



REFLECTIONS

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ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

New Adult Faith Formation Director

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is pleased to introduce Jeri Holladay as the new part-time Director of Adult Faith Formation. Jeri is married to Don Holladay and they have been members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish for the last 12 years.

Jeri came to our parish from Locust Valley, a small town in New York. She attended school in the New York City area. She received a Bachelor's degree from Long Island University and a Master's from St. John's University.

Jeri has one sibling, a sister who lives in Wichita. She visited her sister often and she really liked Wichita, so when she was offered a job as an Associate Professor of Theology at Newman University, it was a simple decision to make the move to be near her sister. Jeri became Chairman of the Theology and Philosophy departments at Newman, and she was the founding Director of the Gerber Institute for Catholic Studies.

After her time at Newman University, Jeri became Director of Adult Education at the Spiritual Life Center, where she began the annual Summer Theology Institute. She has been a leader of numerous seminars and series and has directed and taught in the Religious Studies program. Jeri worked at the Spiritual Life Center for 10 years.

The parish is very fortunate to have such an accomplished scholar coordinating faith formation opportunities for adults in our parish. We welcome her, and offer her our wholehearted support.

— Marilyn Loy



40th Anniversary Dinner

More than 255 guests dined at the 40th Annual St. Thomas Aquinas Adult Appreciation Dinner held January 28,



2012, on the school campus. The tradition of the dinner began in 1972 under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Philip J. Allen and continues to this day. The dinner is held as close to the feast day of St. Thomas as possible, with this "ruby" anniversary dinner falling on the prescribed date.

Thank you to **Tom and Paula Wierman**, host and hostess, for a most enjoyable evening, which began with a get-acquainted reception in the school cafeteria. Corporate Catering served the dinner

consisting of chicken breast (breaded and sautéed in creamy lemon butter with capers and artichoke hearts), marinated top sirloin, Baby Bakers (Yukon Gold potatoes), California vegetable medley, tossed salad, dinner rolls, assorted cakes and chocolate fountain with dipping elements, and beverages. (Yum!)

Father Matt McGinness took a few brief moments to address the crowd and to introduce our new Parish Administrator, **Molly Fox**.

He recognized the powerful intercession of our patron saint as we prayed together the prayer composed by him. In addition, he thanked everyone for their generosity to the parish and for being part of the celebratory gathering.



(Continued on page 3 - Dinner)

UNITING TOGETHER

Knights of Columbus Council 10242 News

New Members

On January 9, 2012, Knights of Columbus Council 10242 welcomed their newest members in a celebration ceremony. Pictured from left to right are Council Grand Knight **Bill Doolittle**, new members **Jonathan Reiter, Chad Sloan, Josh Cicora, Matthew Vermeeren**, Council Membership Director **Curtis Richardson**, new members **Andrew Saylor, Jason Cervantes, Barry Jones, Brian Miller** and District #33 Deputy **Mark Mason** and Council Deputy Grand Knight **Joe Hicks**. Please welcome our newest Knights as they accept their role in further supporting parish community and church activities.



Knights of Columbus collection for persons with mental challenges nets \$2,693.50

Co-Chairmen Joe Hicks (right in pictures) and Tony Hurtig (left in pictures) presented checks to three organizations as a result of funds collected during the Council's 2011 Tootsie Roll Drive. A 2011 Tootsie Roll Drive proceeds check for \$897.85 was presented to Leigh Horsley, Director of Development, at Heartspring on Friday Dec. 16, 2011. Heartspring, www.heartspring.org; 8700 East 29th St. North, Wichita, KS 67226; 634-8700; President and CEO: Gary W. Singleton PhD., 634-8784; Director of Development: Leigh Horsley; Development Associate – Annual Giving: Suzanne Walenta-Baumann.



Another check for \$897.85 was presented to Judy Pollard-Lickliger, President of Erin is Hope Foundation, Inc., on Thursday Dec. 22, 2011. Erin Is Hope Foundation Inc, www.erinishope.org; 4921 E. 21st Street, North, Wichita, KS 67208; 681-3204; President: Judy L. Pollard-Lickliger M.A., CCC-SLP; 681-3204, judy@erinishope.org



A check for \$897.80 was also presented on Dec. 22, 2011, to Tom Racunas, Director of Ministry of Persons with Disabilities for the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. Diocese of Wichita Ministry with Persons with Disabilities; www.cwowk.org; 424 N. Broadway, Wichita, KS 67202; 269-3900; Director: Tom Racunas, 269-3900, racunast@cdowk.org.

Knights get lucky and make a donation to the STA Youth Group

STA Knights of Columbus Council 10242 Grand Knight Bill Doolittle (center) presented a \$1,000 check to Father Daniel Duling and the STA Youth Group. The council purchased a \$100 raffle ticket for the youth group during the Kansas State Knights of Columbus Religious Education Fund drive. The Religious Education Fund generates funds to support Catholic parishes and high schools throughout the state of Kansas.



(Continued from page 1- Dinner)

Sherrie Holdeman created more than 30 artistic floral arrangements, which were used as table centerpieces and beautiful background music was provided by

parish organist, **Martin Meier**, on the piano. Guests taking home Sherrie's creations were



encouraged to donate to the "Walk In Sisters Shoes" fund on their way home.

In addition to the Wiermans, we thank the following for their assistance: **Clark and Amy Schafer**, **Craig and Mary Ann Dreiling**, **Rick and Joan Beebe**,

Bob and JoAnn Hetrick, **Mary Ann Chang**, **Roger and Imelda Huhnke**, **Sounida Truong**, **Bob Munhall**, and **Pete Foss** as well as any others, who made contributions to the festive evening.

A note from **Pam and Mike Wegeng** expressed their appreciation in this manner: "Father Matt and all involved, thank you for the lovely evening at the parish dinner. We know there is a lot of planning that takes place in preparation for an event such as this. The food was delicious and we were impressed with the tables and decorations. Thanks for a delightful evening with our parish family!"



BECOMING A MORE HOLY COMMUNITY

Second graders make first confessions

Many months of preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation culminated on the nights of January 24 and 26, 2012, 79 second graders received the sacrament for the first time. A simple candle lighting ceremony highlighted the services attended by the students, their parents and teachers. Helping with the confessions of parents, as well as the students, were our parish priests and guest priests, Father Sean O'Shea, Father Colin Boor, Father Pat York, Father Jeremy Huser and Father Paul Oborny. Each student took home a personalized votive candle (courtesy of **Julia Walsh**) as a remembrance of the evening. A special "thank you" goes to the teachers who prepared our students and to the parents, who provided a reception following each evening's activities.



Infant Baptisms

Ella Katherine Young, daughter of Michael and Colleen, was baptized by Father Daniel Duling on December 11, 2011. Her godparents are Jason Farmer and Kalyne Alloway. Ella has an older brother, Owen.

Adriana Elizabeth Boothe, daughter of Laurie, was baptized by Father Daniel Duling on January 8, 2012. Her godparents are her aunt, Andrea Boothe, and her uncle, Justin Boothe. Adriana's grandparents are Kelly and Jackie Boothe, who are STA parishioners.

Eloise Avelina Aguilar, daughter of Rick and Rona, was baptized by Father Matt McGinness on January 29, 2012. Her godparents are Fr. Benjamin Sawyer and Heather Yacenda. Eloise has an older sister, Emily, and both girls wore the same Baptismal outfit.

Marching for life in the nation's Capital

One of the most amazing things about taking a group of youth on a pilgrimage is to see the grace of God working in their lives. You can literally see their transformation from the beginning of the trip until the end. There was no difference with the March for Life 2012 trip.

Forty-six people loaded a bus on January 19 to head to Washington, D.C., to be the voice for the voiceless, to defend life. We prayed, we sang, we danced, we watched movies, we slept, all to prepare for the big March. Most of the youth on the trip had never been outside the state of Kansas, and we ventured all the way to D.C. Some of them would not leave my side and others I could not keep track of easily.

But these young adults came back with a new outlook on life. They saw 30,000 kids their own age packed into two arenas that had the same faith conviction and stance on life they had. They saw over 500,000 people descend upon D.C. to stand for the same cause they did. You talk about a powerful moment in their lives. So powerful, that many of these young adults were not ready to get off the bus when we arrived back in Wichita (although the chaperones and I had other thoughts).

Overall our trip to Washington D.C. was a huge success. For



those who have never been, it is a life experience you do not miss. It is a pilgrimage that will change your outlook on life; a pilgrimage that will deepen your love for God; a pilgrimage where we defend the most defenseless. Mark your calendars for the weekend of Jan. 21, 2013, and plan to join us!

— Father Daniel Duling

2012 Cub Scout Pinewood Derby

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Cub Scout Pack #520 proudly announces its Pinewood Derby Winners for 2012:

Judges Certificate Winners were as follows: Best Design - **Camden Wilson**; Most Unique - **Isaac Marney**; Best Use of Imagination - **William Bann**; Most Comical - **Jonathan McIlvain**; Best Wedge- **Jack Seis**; Best Vehicle (not a car) - **Daniel Samsel**; Most Intimidating - **Michael Mash**; Best Accessories - **Miles Miller**; Most Realistic Looking Car - **Conley Hamblin**; Fastest Looking - **Nick Faló**; Hottest Paint Job - **James Shepherd**; Best Theme- **Braden Jessup**; Best Movie Theme - **Jacob Doolittle**; Best Character - **Josh Grim**; Most Pyrotechnic (hot) - **William Doolittle**; Most Aerodynamic - **Marcus Kaysen**; Most Decorated - **Steven Janssen**; "Wow" Award - **Ryan Lipphardt**; 'Coolest" Car - **Mason Kelley**; Best Block - **David Hathaway**; Best Detail Job- **Charlie Pendleton**.

Congrats to all the Scouts for Outstanding Sportsmanship and Effort! You all are Winners!

— Susie Marshall



Fastest Race Time: 1st-Jack Seis; 2nd-Marcus Kaysen; 3rd-David Hathaway; 4th-Charlie Pendleton; 5th-William Bann (Pictured left to right with their dads: Bann, Pendleton, Hathaway, Kaysen, and Seis.

PACK Best of Show (votes by scouts): 1st-Jamey Marshall - R2-D2 pictured with his dad Mark Marshall.

Den Best of Show (Judges vote): Tiger-Alex Clarke; Wolf-Bubba Wright; Bear-Braden Schoeppner; Webelos 1-Jamey Marshall; Webelos 2-Jacob Doolittle (pictured left to right: Clarke, Wright, Schoeppner, Marshall, Doolittle.



Hard fought spelling bee

This year's annual STA Spelling Bee was an exciting battle to the end! Eighth grader **Will Mohr** (left) took first place, fifth grader **Hayes Hungate** (center), second, and third place went to seventh grader **Thomas Mondry** (right). Forty-eight 5th-8th graders participated in the bee this year, which lasted nearly an hour due to the high number of extraordinary spellers! The competition, involving some extremely difficult words such as *eupepsia*, *adjudicative*, *asphyxiant* and *systole*, was fierce. Finally, Will prevailed by correctly spelling *nocturnal* and *parasite*.

Congratulations to all three winners shown in the photo with eighth grade English teacher, **Mrs. Barb Dresselhaus!**

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Thanks for your continued generosity. We have had a solidly good year in 2011. We paid our bills, gave Bishop Jackels money for the Together Vision, helped some of the poorer parishes in the Diocese, and were able to put a little money into savings. May God reward you for your stewardship of His Gifts to you.

Fa Matt



PARISH RECEIPTS	1st Quarter 2011/2012 07/01/11 - 09/30/11	2nd Quarter 2011/2012 10/01/11-12/31/11	YTD Total 2011/2012 07/01/11-12/31/11
Ordinary Parish Receipts			
Weekly Contributions	1,151,548.30	1,597,427.99	2,748,976.29
Building Preservation	10,566.17	22,316.00	32,882.17
Interest Income - Chancery	-	6,000.00	6,000.00
Use of Parish Property	525.00	-	525.00
Total Ordinary Receipts (10% tithe calculation)	1,162,639.47	1,625,743.99	2,788,383.46
Extraordinary Parish Receipts			
Votive Stand & Pamphlet Reimb	1,599.73	2,209.02	3,808.75
Christmas Collection Receipts	-	35,278.00	35,278.00
Miscellaneous Income	7,816.05	7,963.16	15,779.21
GO Board Receipts	12,109.85	8,095.00	20,204.85
Parish Picnic Donations	3,605.54	-	3,605.54
Elementary Subsidy from other Parishes	14,033.80	72,048.50	86,082.30
Mission Outreach	21,478.50	29,843.10	51,321.60
Total Extraordinary Receipts	60,643.47	155,436.78	216,080.25
TOTAL PARISH RECEIPTS	\$ 1,223,282.94	\$ 1,781,180.77	\$ 3,004,463.71
PARISH DISBURSEMENTS			
1st Quarter 2011/2012			
2nd Quarter 2011/2012			
YTD Total 2011/2012			
Ordinary Disbursements			
10% Tithe to Diocese	116,263.95	162,574.40	278,838.35
Church Salaries/Benefits	113,824.38	131,632.82	245,457.20
Utilities	17,367.81	14,894.30	32,262.11
Repairs/Maintenance	5,174.07	12,388.68	17,562.75
Operational Expenses	37,196.25	66,243.45	103,439.70
Elementary Ed School Cost	815,168.11	595,937.44	1,411,105.55
High School Cost	152,151.00	298,873.00	451,024.00
Total Ordinary Disbursements	1,257,145.57	1,282,544.09	2,539,689.66
Extraordinary Disbursements			
Mission Outreach	21,478.50	29,843.10	51,321.60
Together Vision Contribution	100,000.00	-	100,000.00
Remit Christmas Collection	-	35,278.00	35,278.00
Donations	-	150,000.00	150,000.00
Building Preservation Disbursements	10,953.00	5,841.00	16,794.00
"GO" Distributions	4,855.08	9,146.60	14,001.68
Other Expenses	3,865.40	8,018.66	11,884.06
Capital Outlay - Non Instructional	246.77	1,722.00	1,968.77
Total Extraordinary Disbursements	141,398.75	239,849.36	381,248.11
TOTAL PARISH DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 1,398,544.32	\$ 1,522,393.45	\$ 2,920,937.77
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ (175,261.38)	\$ 258,787.32	\$ 83,525.94

REFLECTIONS is published monthly by and for the parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Wichita, Kansas.

Pastor: Father Matthew C. McGinness **Associate Pastor:** Father Daniel J. Duling

Please submit material at the church office on diskette (with a printed copy) OR clean typewritten copy on 8½ by 11-inch paper OR via e-mail to church@stthomaswichita.com. Please include a contact name and phone number with all submissions.

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Articles and photos for the March issue are due on Monday, Feb. 27, 2012.

STA Parish - Kapaun-Mt. Carmel High School 2011-12 First Semester Honor Roll

Superior Honors

Grade 12: Rachel Baldwin, Drue Benning, Joseph Cummings, Michael Kopper, Charles Mohr, Aaron Wolf; **Grade 11:** Ellen Crocombe, Katherine Elliott, Morghan Hartmann, Natalie Hertel, Anna Korroch, Jeremy Lickteig, Natalie Nibert, Manuela Nivia, Tony Raper, Madison Razook, Katie Wells, Kayla West, Molly Wierman; **Grade 10:** Austyn Ames, Nicholas Auer, Gabe Bann, Greta Ciccolari-Micaldi, Alexandra Davis, Ainsley deNoyelles, Caroline Engle, David Ewers, Matthew Gilbaugh, Sydney Kuhn, Bridget Lavigne, Abigail Louis, Henry McKenzie, Natalie Meitzner, Allegra Morton, Kaitlyn Nuckolls, Jordan Relph, Ali Rickert, Scott Rider, Kaitlin Salyer, Matthew Samsel, Gabrielle Torline, Christine Wolf; **Grade 9:** Michaela Dreiling, Sofia Gilkeson, Alexander Graf, Grace Hagan, Thomas Harrington, Anne Lievens, Elizabeth Pringle, Ryan Rathert, Alex Stadler, Matthew Wells, Lynette Wolf

First Honors

Grade 12: Emily Abay, Aaliyah Gomillion, Halsten Higgins, Paul Lievens, Nicholas O'Donnell, Thompson Pham, Priscilla Pringle, Grace Ruane; **Grade 11:** Sydney Ain, Hannah Bongers, Jordan Burns, Sarah Doolittle, Peter Gaul, Jacob Klitzke, Meredith Parmelee, Margaret Schafer, Susan Wrinn; **Grade 10:** Nicholas Bradley, Wesley Crowds, Mary Catherine Cyphert, Elizabeth Dwyer, Rebecca Eron, Audrey Grant, Joseph Hayes, Paige Hungate, Christine Moore, Arnold Nguyen, Anne Perez, Ross Puritty,

Katie Walker, Mollie Walker; **Grade 9:** Alexandra Abi-Mikhael, Samantha Bachrodt, Brandon Bleakney, Michael Boulanger, Jared Burns, Mijail Corimanya, Kealey Dwyer, Hannah Johnston, Michael Lickteig, Whitney McKenzie, Julia Moore

Second Honors

Grade 12: Robert Castleberry, Alexis Eron, Andy Hurtig, Taylor Kruse, Tyler Leary, Kevin Luman, Robert Moore, Portia Morton, Aaron Nguyen, Sean O'Neill, Theresa Perez, Abigail Rinckenbaugh, Blake Severt, Robert Tinker; **Grade 11:** Jacob Dreiling, William Klausmeyer, Ryan Lindsay, Brandon Nece, Blake Torline, Cidney Washington; **Grade 10:** Kali Babich, Sam Genilo, Robert Grabendike, Cassidy Helena, Parker Howell, Guillermo Kilpatrick, Georgia Schaefer, Allison Schulte; **Grade 9:** Nolan Gerdes, Alexandra Jennings, Peyton Miller, Kenburly Nguyen, Erin Peters, Luke Singer, Christopher Stadler

SERVING OUR PARISH & OTHERS

"For I was naked and you clothed me..."
(Matthew 25:35)

Thank you very much for your generous donations during the parish's annual coat, sweater, and blanket drive. The Mission Outreach Apostolate distributed several van loads of items to the **Klothes Kloset**. A representative related how thankful they were: "We count on you every year to help us in January. We were completely out of men and children's items. Your donation made a tremendous difference in keeping those in need warm during the winter months." Thanks again for your help warming up Wichita 2012!

– DeAnn White, Mission Outreach Chair



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