

St. Thomas the Apostle Faith
Formation Newsletter

28th Annual Good Friday Pilgrimage



Friday March 21st

Beginning at 9 a.m. on the steps of the State Capitol (Washington St. side) with Archbishop Wilton Gregory and ending around 1 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Crypt, the Good Friday Pilgrimage (also known as the "Urban Stations of the Cross") is a wonderful experience where people of all faiths gather and visit 14 urban Atlanta sites. On this journey, we reflect upon today's social issues as they connect with the sufferings endured by Christ in His Passion and death.

In order to make this a parish experience **we have a bus leaving St. Thomas at 8:00 am that will take us down to the Capital and will bring us back to St. Thomas by 2:00 pm....at the cost of \$6.00 per person.**

Please see the sign up sheet in the commons next to the poster. Make your reservation today!

For more information contact Maria Cressler at the Parish Office. mccressler@stthomastheapostle.org or 770-432-8579.



Ignite!-Update



Our hearts were burning within us on Tuesday, February 12th as we listened to the faith story of Linda Veit, a member of our parish family for more than 20 years! The evening, once again, was filled with food, fellowship, and the sharing of our many gifts through song, prayer and reflection.

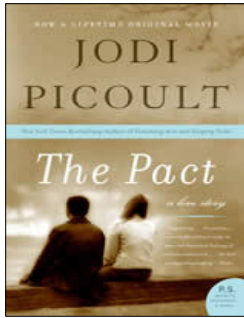
The third **Ignite!** event included a special treat—10 minutes of guided meditation, led by Emile Farje.

Join us as we continue to *Ignite* the fires within St. Thomas with the Ignite! Sponsored **Parish Mission coming in April**...see Page 4 for Details!



MARCH & APRIL 2008

Book of the Month Club



Jodi Picoult is the New York Times bestselling author of thirteen books. She received the 2003 New England Book Award for fiction. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband and three children

March 18th 10 am—11:30 am

This month's featured book for discussion

“The Pact” by Jodi Picoult

St. Thomas Book of the Month Club is reading **THE PACT** by Jodi Picoult this month. Please join us for a great discussion of life and faith on the third Tuesday of the month. We will discuss this book on Tuesday March 18th 10-11:30 am in the Library.

With this riveting psychological drama, Jodi Picoult explores the dynamics of intimate relationships under stress-- from the seemingly inexplicable mind of a teenager to the bonds of friendship and marriage. Few writers have such a gift for evoking everyday life coupled with the ability to create a level of dramatic tension that will keep you up reading late into the night. **The Pact is storytelling at its best:** wonderfully observed, deeply moving, and utterly impossible to put down.

It's a great book! Join us for coffee and a great discussion in a relaxed setting.....our Parish Library!

Young Adult Ministry Lenten Coffee-House Series

March 5th: “If you knew The Gift of saying yes”

St. Jude Catholic Church, Atlanta www.stjudeatlanta.com

Fr. Eric Hill

Decisions, decisions. We face them every day. One of the most important decisions we'll ever make is saying “yes” to Christ. But what happens after that? Come and join us as we hear from Fr. Eric Hill – pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul. Fr. Eric Hill was ordained to the priesthood on 3 June 2000 for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He received a B.A. in Philosophy from Saint Vincent College and a M.Div. from Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Fr. Eric will share with us The Gift of saying yes.

March 12th: “If you knew The Gift of the sacraments”

St. Jude Catholic Church, Atlanta www.stjudeatlanta.com

Chris and Michelle Benzinger

Our final destination is heaven. Seem impossible? It helps to know that Christ gives us the tools to reach Eternal Life: the Sacraments. How do the sacraments help us to achieve eternity? How can single young adults prepare for the sacrament of marriage? What are some of the ways that couples can raise holy families? Come and hear Chris and Michelle Benzinger share the answer to these questions. Chris and Michelle have been married six years and are the parents of three wonderful boys. They have spent three years with Catholic missions serving in Austria, Mexico, and the United States. They currently serve as directors of Life Teen Camp Covecrest in Tiger, GA.

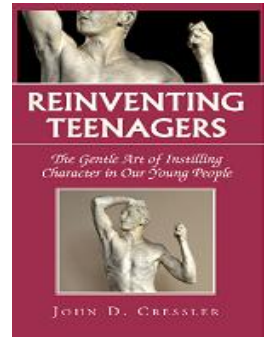


Life Teen Parents- Next meeting April 20th

Throughout this school year Life teen Parents have met on **6 Sunday evenings** in the Adult Faith Formation Center. These gatherings included Faith Formation (reviewing the topics of faith that their teens were exploring during their Life-Nights) as well as lively discussions on "parenting teens" today. We meet following the Life teen Mass. Our next meeting is April 20th.

Our last gathering was held on Sunday, February 10th. Life teen Parents enjoyed a presentation by John D. Cressler on his book ***Reinventing Teenagers: The Gentle Art of Instilling Character in Our Young People***. Attendees received a complimentary book.

Reinventing Teenagers provides parents and teachers of teenagers with a fresh approach and a hands-on resource for changing the number one thing we hate about today's kids: their lack of character. *Reinventing Teenagers* provides 650 carefully chosen quotations and personal reflections on 20 different subject areas relevant to today's teens. A variety of creative approaches are used to help get our young people to begin to reflect on their lives, think about their goals and aspirations, perhaps become a bit less cynical, and realize that they are the makers of their own destiny. A second presentation is planned for September! Stay tuned!!!!



Life Teen Calendar of Upcoming Events

- St. Thomas Spring Retreat "**Source and Summit**" is **March 28th- 30th** at the Life Teen Covecrest Camp in Tiger, GA. It is open to any 9th -12th grader. **Cost is \$75.00**
- **Spring Break Six Flag's Trip is Tuesday April 8th from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.** Join us for a day at Six Flags and dinner at CC's pizza. Tickets are half priced. Contact Carla in The youth ministry office for details.
- **Life Night Calendar for March and April** Life Teen is a Catholic Program for teenagers 9th-12th grade. We meet every Sunday night immediately following the 5 p.m. mass, with a half hour of fellowship/dinner then an interactive message from 7-8:30. We do skits, small groups, discussions and games. Come and check it out.

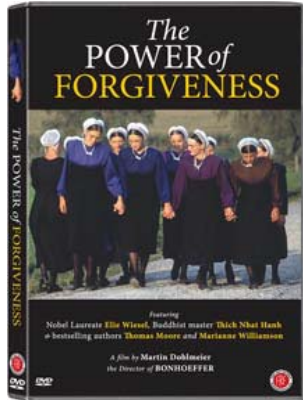


**Source & Summit
March 28th-30th**

March 9th "Prove It" --Proving the Existence of God
March 16th "Witness" --Living out your faith in School
March 23rd No Life Teen EASTER
March 30th No Life Teen HOME FROM RETREAT
April 6th "Dinner and a Movie"--Fun social for Spring Break
April 13th "Donuts after Mass" --Patty & the Band are joining us
April 20th "Mirror Image"-- What Christ reveals about us
April 27th "Nailed"--A Loving God vs the reality of suffering

****REMEMBER parents that Life Teen goes through the end of May!!****

Holy Hollywood- Fri. April 11th



The POWER of FORGIVENESS

Best Documentary 2007, Sun Valley Film Festival
"A healing message" - Christian Science Monitor

The 78-minute documentary includes stories with *The Amish*, *North Ireland*, *Ground Zero*, renowned Buddhist teacher *Thich Nhat Hanh*, Nobel peace Laureate *Elie Wiesel* and interviews with best-selling authors *Thomas Moore* (*Care of the Soul*), *Marianne Williamson* (*The Gift of Change*) and others.

A St. Thomas the Apostle Tradition, *Holy Hollywood* combines "Dinner and a Movie" with "Friends and Fellowship." Holy Hollywood participants gather in the social hall to sit back and enjoy a great movie over dinner and wine with friends. It is a B.Y.O. "D" (Dinner) event. The Social hall is decorated with table cloths and candles with Candy, Popcorn and soft drinks provided .

Doors open at 6:30pm
movie begins at 7:30pm

What are you looking for?

Easter Parish Mission



This mission will show you how:

- Intentional discipleship changes our lives
- To be a successful and fruitful life-long disciple.
- God changes the world through the cooperation of ordinary people.
- God heals, guides, redeems and restores our lives.

Monday through Thursday, April 21-24

The St. Thomas staff is happy to present the parish with a parish mission lead by **Fr. Michael Fones** from *The Catherine of Siena Institute*; a program of the Western Dominican Province dedicated to equipping parishes for the formation of lay Catholics for their mission in the world.

Fr. Michael Fones grew up in a small town in central Illinois, graduated from Michigan Tech and Stanford with degrees in geophysics, entered the Western Dominican Province in 1984, and have been ordained since 1992. After working in campus ministry for twelve years at Arizona State, University of Utah, University of Oregon and University of Arizona, he became the co-Director of the Catherine of Siena Institute.

"Every lay man and woman has been called by Christ (in his or her baptism) to a unique mission, and every lay man and woman has been gifted by the Holy Spirit in order to be able to answer that call." **Let's answer the call together!! Don't Miss It!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!



Fr. Michael Fones

Sponsored by  **Ignite!**