



The Grace Vine

December 2009



FATHERS (AND MOTHERS) AND FRIENDS

*They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.*

Thomas Merton

December 10

Thomas Merton was born in France in 1915, the son of a New Zealander artist father and an American mother. His mother died when he was 6 and it was an event that greatly impacted the child. Educated in France until he was 13, Thomas attend a British boarding school until graduation in 1933 and was accepted into Clare College, Cambridge. His father had died the year before and the young man isolated himself while at university. He stayed only 1 year, remembered by some as a heavy drinker and by others as a womanizer. There is a persistent story that he fathered a child during this time and that there was some kind of legal action pending that his guardian settled discreetly if Tom would go to his material grandparents' home in the United States.

Merton enrolled at Columbia University in Manhattan in January 1935, majoring in English literature. He graduated in 1938 with a bachelor's degree and continued immediately in the graduate program. He had begun studying the classic literature of the Catholic Church and, upon reading of the conversion of the British poet Hopkins, felt that he too should follow such a path. He was baptized in November 1938. The following spring he received his master's degree.

Although Tom began work on his doctorate, he felt the call to the priesthood and met with a representative of the Franciscans. They issued an invitation to join them but noted that he could not enter the monastery until the next year. Tom then told the representative of his indiscretions in college. The invitation was withdrawn.

Devastated, Tom found a job teaching English literature at St. Bonaventure University and moved into a dormitory on campus. He figured if he couldn't become a monk, he could at least live among them! During Holy Week of 1941, he booked a retreat at the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani near Bardstown, KY. These were the Trappists who thought that the human voice should only be heard in praise of God. He had found his home. He arrived at the abbey that December, was accepted as a postulate, and became a novice in March 1942. Already a published author, he expected to be asked to give up his writing; instead, each abbot insisted that he continue. Over the years, his fellow monks had difficulty realizing that the accomplished author, theologian, and retreat leader Thomas Merton was their Brother (and later Father) Louis. Eventually, he was permitted to move into a small cabin within the walls of the monastery and this became his hermitage.

He died in 1968 while attending a conference in Bangkok when he touched a poorly grounded electric fan. Ironically, his death brought to the fore his later work that had begun to open Roman Catholic thought to the mystical traditions of the East. His reputation and influence has grown since his death, and he is now widely regarded as the foremost 20th century Catholic mystic and thinker. The Episcopal Church remembers him on the date of his death.

Prayer:

*Gracious God, You called Your monk Thomas Merton to proclaim
Your justice out of silence, and moved him in his contemplative
writings to perceive and value Christ at work in the faiths of others:
Keep us, like him, steadfast in the knowledge and love of Jesus
Christ; who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.*



Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.

Wednesday, December 2 6:00 PM Healing Service with Holy Eucharist

Officiating The Rev. Carol Evans

Sunday, December 6 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Advent 2

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| <p>Officiating The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon The Rev. William D. Snyder Lay Reader Bette Brooks Acolyte Kevin Splinter Altar Guild N. Lundgren, S. Johnson, & N. Ervin Coffee Hosts 8:00 Cindy Hoskins & Pat Williams 10:00 Hospitality Committee Counters Marcia Splinter & Roberta O'Keefe Loyalton Kathy Summy</p> | <p>1st Reading Baruch 5:1-9 Roberta O'Keefe Fred Lundgren</p> <p>Canticle 4 The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)</p> <p>2nd Reading Philippians 1:3-11 Cathy Mansor</p> <p>Gospel Luke 3:1-6</p> |
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Sunday, December 13 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Advent 3

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| <p>Officiating The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon William Snyder Lay Reader Carolyn Englert Greeters John & Mary Jean McDonald Acolytes Schyler Conway & Paige Paxton Altar Guild N. Lundgren, S. Johnson, & N. Ervin Coffee Hosts 8:00 A. & D. Ondrejko, Pauline Wamsley 10:00 Judy Canan & Kay Canan Counters Marcia Splinter & Roberta O'Keefe</p> | <p>1st Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20 Stephanie York</p> <p>Canticle 9 The First Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12:2-6)</p> <p>2nd Reading Philippians 4:4-7 Brandon Higgins</p> <p>Gospel Luke 3:7-18</p> |
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Sunday, December 20 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Advent 4

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| <p>Officiating The Rev. Carol S. Evans Lay Reader Maynard Evans Greeters Bev Lewis-Mercury & TBA Acolytes Eric Splinter & McKenna Conway Altar Guild N. Lundgren, S. Johnson, & N. Ervin Coffee Hosts 8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Hospitality Committee Counters Marcia Splinter & Roberta O'Keefe Loyalton Bill Snyder</p> | <p>1st Reading Micah 5:2-5a Jeff Croll</p> <p>Canticle 3 The Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)</p> <p>2nd Reading Hebrews 10:5-10 Martha Croll</p> <p>Gospel Luke 1:39-55</p> |
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HANGING OF THE GREENS

THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army of Portage County is in desperate need of Bell Ringers for their Red Kettles that are located at various sites throughout Portage County. Bell ringers are volunteers who are responsible for the ringing of the bell for a two hour time period. A sign up sheet is available in the parish hall for those interested in "Ringing the Bell" with the knowledge that you are helping others that are less fortunate.



Thursday, December 24 7:00 PM Family Service with Holy Eucharist Christmas

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Officiating | The Rev. Carol S. Evans | 1st Reading | Isaiah 9:2-7 |
| Lay Reader | Carolyn Englert | | Fred Lundgren |
| Greeters | Fred & Nancy Lundgren | Psalm | 96 |
| Acolyte | Th-Phil, Cross - Jenna, Schyler | 2nd Reading | Titus 2:11-14 |
| Altar Guild | N. Lundgren, S. Johnson, & N. Ervin | | Nancy Lundgren |
| Counters | Marcia Splinter , Reba Cook | Gospel | Luke 21:1-20 |

Thursday, December 24 10:30 Music, 11:00 Holy Eucharist Christmas

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|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Officiating | The Rev. Carol S. Evans | 1st Reading | Isaiah 9:2-7 |
| Deacon | The Rev. William D. Snyder | | Steve Barna |
| Lay Reader | Bette Brooks | Psalm | 96 |
| Greeters | John & Irene Machisko | 2nd Reading | Titus 2:11-14 |
| Acolytes | Th - Phil, Cross - Eric | | Tim Splinter |
| Altar Guild | N. Lundgren, S. Johnson & N. Ervin | Gospel | Luke 21:1-20 |
| Counters | Marcia Splinter , Reba Cook | | |

Sunday, December 27 8:00 Holy Eucharist, 10:00 Lessons & Carols Christmas 1

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|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Officiating | The Rev. Carol S. Evans | 1st Reading | Isaiah 61:10—62:3 |
| Deacon | The Rev. William D. Snyder | Psalm | 147 |
| Lay Reader | Roberta O’Keefe | Gospel | John 1:1-18 |
| Greeters | Jim & Nancy Ervin | | |
| Acolytes | Taylor Paxton | | |
| Altar Guild | N. Lundgren, S. Johnson, & N. Ervin | | |
| Coffee Hosts | 8:00 TBA | | |
| | 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald | | |
| Counters | Marcia Splinter , Roberta O’Keefe | | |

10:00 AM Lessons & Carols
Lesson 1 Kevin Splinter, Genesis III
Lesson 2 Kathy Summy , Genesis XXII
Lesson 3 Nancy Lundgren, Isaiah IX
Lesson 4 Steve Barna, Isaiah
Lesson 5 Sue Ahrens, St. Luke 1
Lesson 6 Mary Ann Switz, St. Luke II
Lesson 7 Cathy Mansor, St. Luke II
Lesson 8 William Snyder, St. Matthew II
Lesson 9 Rev. Carol Evans, St. John I

Sunday, January 3 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Christmas 2

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|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Officiating | The Rev. Carol S. Evans | 1st Reading | Jeremiah 31:7-14 |
| Deacon | The Rev. William D. Snyder | | Cathy Mansor |
| Lay Reader | Bette Brooks | Psalm | 84 |
| Greeters | Fred & Nancy Lundgren | 2nd Reading | Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a |
| Acolytes | Jenna Summy | | Jeff Croll |
| Altar Guild | TBA | Gospel | Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 |
| Coffee Hosts | 8:00 TBA | | |
| | 10:00 Chris Stickle & Denise Crouse | | |
| Counters | TBA | | |
| Loyalton | Kathy Summy | | |





Did You Know?...



Irene & John Machisko had a wonderful time in St. Louis celebrating their son **David's** 50th birthday, the surprise party went off without a hitch and David loved the time spent with all his family and friends. Now Irene and John will be headed for Atlanta to be with their son **John** and his family for Thanksgiving...

Cathy Mansor was headed for Seattle, Washington, for the Thanksgiving holiday and she was taking her grandson with her, he's interested in looked at the university there. However, Cathy fell and broke her leg and any trip in the near future is doubtful. Our prayers are with you Cathy...

Marsha and Bill Snyder will be off to Minnesota to spend the holiday with their son and family, their taking along daughter Jill and her young daughters. This should be a great 13 hour drive!!...

Marcia & Tim Splinter and the boys will be headed for New York to be with Marcia's parents...

Bette Brooks will have all her girls (except **Caroline**) home for Thanksgiving. There will be lively conversation and fun at the Brooks' household...

Judy Canan will be going to her daughters this year along with the rest of her family. No cooking this year for Judy...

Bill Snyder had another car accident. The owner of a local car dealership ran into him. What luck? He's now sporting a newer van, it wasn't free, but close enough to make Bill and the dealership happy...

Megan Worthen is enjoyed playing in her high school band this year. And **Jenna Summy** finally got a instrument as big as she is. Sister **Emily Summy** was awarded an academic award this fall at Maplewood. Congratulations!...

The Adult Christian Ed classes that were held on Wednesday nights were very interesting with lots of lively conversation and insight. Thanks to everyone who participated and especially to **Carolyn Englert** for her leadership. This was a four week program on the Nicene Creed. Some of the people who participated were **Toni, Tony & Megan Worthen, Bill & Marsha Snyder, Emily, Kathy, and Jenna Summy, Bonnie & Blake Quay, Addrienne, Schyler, & McKenna Conway, and Goldie Shriver**...

Nancy & Fred Lundgren's son Bill and his daughters will be here for the holidays...

Mary Ann Switz will be spending Thanksgiving at Disney World with her son and his family. Say "hello" to

Mickey for us!!...

Sue Ahrens went to Massachusetts to visit daughter **Sonja** and her family and had a wonderful time...

Alice and Ken Boydell are anxiously waiting the birth of daughter **Ellen's** second baby. It's a boy and due anytime...

Our sympathy goes to **Shirley and Mike Johnson**. Shirley's father **Bill Franks** passed away last month...

Our youth group went to the Center of Hope and asked what they could do to help. It was decided that raking leaves would be needed. So on a very windy day and on a busy road, in the middle of Ravenna, they made every effort to get the leaves in the containers. Thanks to **Denise Crouse, Addrienne Conway, & Chris Stickle, their fearless leaders and Phillip Crouse, Brittany Canon, Nicky & Sam Stickle & Jillian, McKenna, & Schyler Conway** for helping with this worth while project and everyone felt good about a job well done. Lots of pictures were taken and are posted on the bulletin board. Check then out!!...

Mary Ann Switz is excited about her grandson **Phillip** being chosen for a traveling baseball team. Will grandma be traveling to all 90 games next year??...

Hope everyone has introduced themselves to some new folks, **Steve and Susan Merrill**. They move here from Michigan, and it is noted that this is the farthest south they have ever lived...

Our rector, **The Rev. Carol S. Evans** will be back when you read this (yah) after three months sabbatical and she was truly missed. Thank you to **Fr. Jim Cooney** for stepping in to some very "big" (not literally) shoes...

Bev Lewis Mercury is recovering from surgery and we hope all is well...

Bonnie and Blake Quay have been in Florida as of late, Bonnie's father has been very ill...

We received a note from **Phyllis Shorts** and she says "Hello" to everyone...

Tim and Eric Splinter will be in Garrettsville Curtains Up Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol". Eric is Peter Cratchit and Tim...is Scrooge! Now there's a stretch! Shows are the 2nd and 3rd weekends in December at the High School in Garrettsville...

Thanks to those who volunteered at County Clothing in November: **Roberta O'Keefe, Mike & Shirley Johnson, Fred and Nancy Lundgren, John and Mary Jean McDonald**.

On the Horizon

**Saturday, December 12th
Fellowship & Game Night
6:30 pm**

We'll be going to Judy Canan's house again this month.

**Saturday, January 9th
Fellowship & Game Night
6:30 pm**

We'll be at Splinter's house this month for fun and games.



**Sunday, December 13th
Christmas Cookie Pickup**

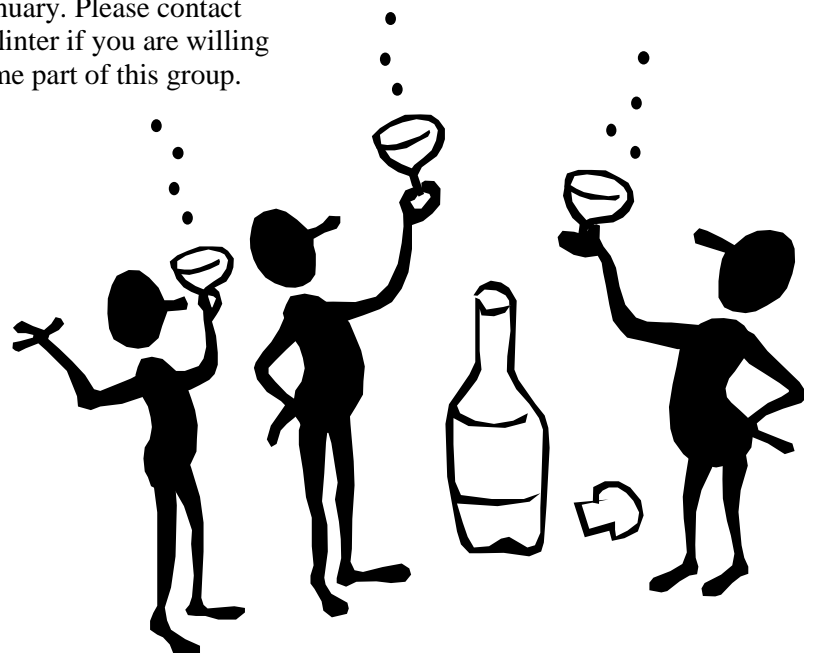
**Thursday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
Family Christmas Service
7pm**

**Music and Carols
10:30pm**

**Festive Eucharist
11pm**

**January ?
Fundraising Committee**

Fundraising will meet sometime in early January. Please contact Marcia Splinter if you are willing to become part of this group.



**Sunday, December 27th
Lessons & Carols
10am Service**

Birthdays

- 2nd Nydah Ellet
- 7th Roberta O'Keefe
- 11th Kay Canan
- 12th Caroline Minnich
- 16th Shirley Johnson
- Tim Scibelli
- 20th Stephanie York
- 21st Bud Minnich
- Beth Dier
- Steve Barna



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

- 17th Bruce & Sue Ahrens
- 22nd Jim & Amy Neely
- 27th Rev. Lloyd & Roberta O'Keefe
- 28th Blake & Bonnie Quay

Baptisms

- 3rd Rev. Carol Evans
- 9th Faith Postlethwaite
- 13th Mike Johnson
- 22nd Michael Canan
- 23rd Mechele Novak
- Ricky Sanek
- 24th Leslie Thomas



The Bulletin Board

Acolytes Schedule

Check these dates now so we
can make any changes before
we publish next month:

1/10—Schyler & Paige

1/17—Kevin

1/24—Taylor

1/31—Eric & McKenna

2/7—Jenna

Tim@splinterfactions.net

Marcia@splinterfactions.net

330-527-2084

THANK YOU TO OUR GRACE CHURCH FAMILY

*Thank you for all of your support
during the time of my dad's death and
my mother's move to Layalton.*

Mike & Shirley Johnson

ACME REGISTER TAPES

For those of you who shop at
Acme, please save your cash
register tapes dated September
27 to February 20, 2010. The
County Clothing Center can
turn them in for cash.

Christmas Cards

Take a new tour through
the Card Shop in the
Parish Hall. Christmas
Cards are among the
current selections!


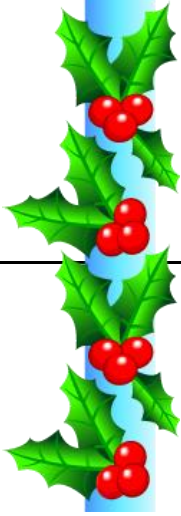




Bill Artz of **Marshall's and Majestic
Dry Cleaning** sent the parish a letter
which included the following...

*"I have been praying for a way to make
my business prosper as well as further
the Kingdom of God. An idea came to
me. If your congregation would bring
their dry cleaning to us...once a month,
bring all the receipts to Marshall's...we
would **Tithe [your] church 10% of
the total.**"*

To that end, please give any receipts
from Marshall's Dry-cleaning to
Marsha Snyder for handling.

December The Grace Vine 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------|---|---|---|--|---|
|  <p>6 2 Advent •8am HE •9:00 Coffee •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>1</p> <p>•2-4pm Sit & Stitch</p> | <p>2</p> <p>•10-2 Gracie's Back Door •6pm Healing Service and HE</p> | <p>3</p> <p>•7:00-8:30 Choir Practice</p> | <p>4</p>  | <p>5</p> |
| <p>13 3 Advent •8am HE •9:00 Coffee •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> <p>•7pm Vestry Meeting</p> | <p>9</p> <p>•10-2 Gracie's Back Door</p> | <p>10</p> <p>•7:00-8:30 Choir Practice</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p>•6:30 Game Night at Judy Canan's</p> |
| <p>20 4 Advent •8am HE •9:00 Coffee •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •Hanging Greens</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> | <p>16</p> <p>•10-2 Gracie's Back Door</p> | <p>17</p> <p>•8am Retired Men's Breakfast •7:00-8:30 Choir Practice</p> | <p>18</p> <p>•10-2 County Clothing Center</p> | <p>19</p> |
| <p>27 Christmas I •8am HE •9:00 Coffee •9:15 Choir •10am Lessons & Carols •11:15 Coffee</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> <p>•2-4pm Sit & Stitch •7pm Choir Practice</p> | <p>23</p> <p>•10-2 Gracie's Back Door</p> | <p>24</p> <p>•7pm Christmas Eve Family Service •10:30 Christmas Music & Carols •11pm Festive Holy Eucharist</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>  | <p>26</p>  |
| | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> <p>•10-2 Gracie's Back Door</p> | <p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> | | |