

## ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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### Mass Intentions March 10-18, 2007

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Frances T. Foster**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Malcom & Aline Budd**

**9:30 AM Chuckie Peterson**

**11:15 AM Donald Franco**

**Monday**

**9:00 AM David F. Dwan**

**Tuesday**

**9:00 AM Ralph Defuria**

**Wednesday**

**9:00 AM Patricia Vieira**

**Thursday**

**9:00 AM Leo MacCarthy**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Sophie Parrella**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Mark Matarese & Joseph King**

**9:30 AM James M. McGonagle II**

**11:15 AM Abilio Medeiros**

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Just a Reminder, Stations of the Cross are said every Friday during Lent at 6:30pm.

### CHURCH SUPPORT

We are grateful to all who mail in their envelopes when away from the parish. Thank you for your generosity

Offertory February 25, 2007           \$5,615.00

Parish Monthly February 25, 2007   \$4,125.96

### WEDDING MUSIC

Lora Tamaghini, our Music Director, will meet with all the couples who will be getting married in 2007 in the church at 3pm on Sunday, March 25.

### ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB HAPPENINGS

All Women of the Parish are invited to join us!

April 9<sup>th</sup>- TBA

April 21<sup>st</sup>- Senior Anointing Mass and Luncheon

May 14<sup>th</sup> TBA

June 11<sup>th</sup>- Closing Mass 6:30pm and Diner

### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Our Lenten retreat is over. Each night we had good crowds for a parish retreat. I want to thank those who helped setting up and manning the sales table. I am grateful for Catherine's presence and her message. Women are very good retreat presenters.

A letter for Religious Education registration has been sent out to all the parents of children who are currently enrolled in the program. If you did not receive the letter or you are new to the program, please call the religious education office at 978-658-6040. If you are unable to afford the registration fee, please call the religious education office or speak to me. There are a lot of children in the program whose parents do not attend church regularly. Please pass the word on to them that registration for religious education will end on April 27, 2007. I appreciate your assistance.

We will be going to Biloxi, Mississippi the first week of October to continue the work of restoring homes damaged or destroyed by Katrina. The big fundraiser for this event is the STAMP dance. The dance will be held this Saturday night (OR PAST Saturday night if you are reading this on Sunday morning). I want to thank all those who bought tickets for the dance or donated money in lieu of attending. I also want to thank those who donated prizes as well as those involved in set-up and clean up. When I get a total of what was raised, I will let you know. If you would like to contribute to the Biloxi trip, you can give at any time

Confirmation is coming up towards the end of the month. As I recall, it is Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. As usual we will have two sessions. Bishop Allue will be us.

On my days off this past week, I ran down to Manhattan to visit with Paul and Helen Vitale. It is always good to see both of them. They are both doing well and extend their greetings to you.

Well I think that is it for now. Until next time, take care.  
Fr. Earley

### ON OUR WEB SITE

Have you checked out our web site lately? We're highlighting S.T.A.M.P.

*Imagine living in Biloxi, Mississippi a year after Hurricane Katrina, and you're still not back in your home. These are the folks our parishioners traveled south to help in July as part of the St. Thomas Appalachian Mountain Club (S.T.A.M.P.)*

To read the rest of this story, go to [stthomasvillanova.com](http://stthomasvillanova.com) and read The Pastor's Corner.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**LENT GOSPEL GIVING**

The Traditional foundation for Lenten practice rests on three supports: PRAYER-FASTING-ALMSGIVING. To assist those in need, and to help fulfill the third of these support, St. Thomas Parish Outreach Ministry is going to have "Lenten Gospel Giving" program. Each week parishioners will be asked to bring ONE item with them to Mass based on the Gospel reading of each week in Lent. The gifts will be donated to various needy causes, some in which we are already involved.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent March 17 & 18**

"When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place and he began to be in need." Like 15:14- Please bring in canned goods for the Wilmington Food Pantry.

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A basket of wood chips are at all the Church doors. These are our reminders. We ask each of you to take one wood chip and carry it with you every day of Lent, as a daily reminder that we share in the burden of Christ's cross, but also in His promise of new life. We will ask you to return your wood chip on Psalm Sunday as a symbol of your Lenten sacrifices. All the chips will then be put together to form a Good Friday cross, a symbol of our union with Jesus and His death and resurrection.

**LENTEN DONATIONS**

During Lent St. Thomas Women's Club is collecting donations for Fr. Paul's Priest Friend in New Orleans whose parish is struggling to rebuild after Katrina. Donations can be sent to the Women's Club c/o St. Thomas Parish or call Joan 978-657-3905. Make checks out to the Women's Club.

**OPERATION RICE BOWL**

Catholic Relief Services' Lenten Program Operation Rice Bowl throughout Lent will help us pray, fast, and give in solidarity with those in need around the world. The Rice bowls are in baskets at the entrances of the church. We ask that they be returned on Holy Thursday.

**BAPTISM SCHEDULE**

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**NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT**

**EASTER SUNDAY                      APRIL 8 @ 11:15 AM**

**DURING SUNDAY MASS      MAY 6 @ 11:15 AM**

**April 15 @ 1:00 PM                      May 20 @ 1:00 PM**

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION**

Anyone who has a child entering first grade in Sept., and the child was NOT BAPTIZED at St. Thomas we ask you to bring his/her baptismal certificate to the office for verification and we will register him/her at that time. The Office is in the basement of the Church. If you have questions, the religious education office 978-658-6040.

**Registration tuition payment**

**1 Child \$75.00**

**2 Children \$100**

**3 or more children \$125.00**

If you have a parochial school child entering into grade 10 and plan on having him/her confirmed, you must register him/her in the religious education program

**LATE REGISTRATION**

We are entering phase two of CCD Registration therefore there will be a \$10.00 late fee per student as of Thursday, March 15- Thursday, April 26. As of April 27, 2007, We will not be accepting any registrations for the 2007-2008 school year.

**JOIN US IN ADORATION**

We invite you to participate in Novena to St. Patrick for Vocations from March 9-17.

On Mon., March 12 at St. Williams in Tewksbury 3pm-4pm (Holy Hour)

On Wed., March 14 at St. Charles in Woburn 10:30am-11:30am (Holy Hour) or St. Patrick in Stoneham 7-8pm (Holy Hour)

*O Glorious St. Patrick, who was sent to the people of Ireland to spread the faith and spend your life in loving service to God and His people we now turn to you, patron of Boston , to intercede for us.*

*Help us to clasp unto our hearts, this day, the healing strength of the Trinity. May the example of your life, preaching and prayers inspire fervent and loving followers of Jesus in our Archdiocese. May your prayers obtain for us the grace to work together in building up the Church in Boston.*

*Pray for us to be open to the Holy Spirit and to live the vocation to holiness by loving God above all things and our neighbors as ourselves.*

*Intercede for us with the Master of the Harvest to send an abundance of workers into the fields. May your prayers obtain for us devoted Priests, Deacons and Religious to serve God and His Church*  
*Amen*

**MARCH 11, 2007**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>March 11</b> <b>7pm</b> <b>Prayer group</b>	<b>March 12</b> Gr 1 4--5pm Gr 4 5:30-6:30pm Gr 10 6:45-8:00pm	<b>March 13</b> Gr 2 4-5pm Gr 5 5:30-6:30pm Gr 8 6:45-8:00	<b>March 14</b> Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30pm	<b>March 15</b>	<b>March 16</b> <b>6:30PM</b> <b>STATIONS</b>	<b>March 17</b> <b>ST, Patrick's</b> <b>Day</b>
<b>March 18</b> <b>7pm</b> <b>Prayer group</b>	<b>March 19</b> Gr 1 4--5pm Gr 4 5:30-6:30pm  Confirmation  Group 1 7pm Practice	<b>March 20</b> Gr 2 4-5pm Gr 5 5:30-6:30pm Gr7 6:45-8:00	<b>March 21</b> Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30pm  Confirmation  Group 2 7pm Practice	<b>March 22</b>	<b>March 23</b> <b>6:30PM</b> <b>STATIONS</b>	<b>March 24</b> Confirmation 10:30& 1:30pm
<b>March 25</b>  3pm Wedding Music Brides Meeting  7pm Prayer group	<b>March 26</b> Gr 1 4--5pm Gr 4 5:30-6:30pm Gr 9 6:45-8:00pm	<b>March 27</b> Gr 2 4-5pm Gr 5 5:30-6:30pm Gr 8 6:45-8:00	<b>March 28</b> Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30pm	<b>March 29</b>	<b>March 30</b> <b>6:30PM</b> <b>STATIONS</b>	<b>March 31</b> Scrap booking
<b>April 1</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>  7pm Prayer group	<b>April 2</b> <b>OLIVIA</b> <b>THE</b> <b>PASSION</b>	<b>April 3</b> <b>LIFE LINE</b> <b>SCREENING</b>	<b>April 4</b>	<b>April 5</b> <b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> 7pm Mass	<b>April 6</b> <b>GOOD</b> <b>FRIDAY</b> 3pm stations 4:15 Children 7pm Service	<b>April 7</b> <b>EASTER</b> <b>VIGIL</b>
<b>April 8</b> <b>EASTER</b>	<b>April 9</b> <b>WOMENS</b> <b>CLUB</b>	<b>April 10</b> <b>JESUS DAY</b>	<b>April 11</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>April 13</b> 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	<b>April 14</b>

**Meditation of the Heart**

by Carolyn Kenney

Do you ever think back to the days of your childhood? There are many wonderful memories there. If you look deep enough, you will see the lessons you were taught without even realizing it at the time. Years ago, we did not have many modern conveniences which we have today. We only had three television stations, but the shows were quality ones and were watched by the whole family - together. Free time was spent outdoors with neighborhood children, where we got fresh air and used our minds to keep busy.

Will your children look back one day with fond memories of quality time spent with family, relatives and friends? Quite often as children, we would gather after supper in the living room where the radio was situated and pray the rosary with Cardinal Cushing. The rosary is still recited today! Every night it is on Boston Catholic television at 7:00 p.m. As a family start a practice to gather together one or two nights a week and pray the rosary. Many graces are bestowed at that time. As you pray the rosary, you will grow closer to the Blessed Mother, and she will lead you to a closer relationship with her Son - with Jesus.

**OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE OF FEBRUARY 25, 2007**

*“Dear children! Open your heart to God’s mercy in this Lenten time. The Heavenly Father desires to deliver each of you from the slavery of sin. Therefore, little children, make good use of this time and through meeting with God in Confession, leave sin and decide for holiness. Do this out of love for Jesus, who redeemed you all with His blood, that you may be happy and in peace. Do not forget, little children: your freedom is your weakness, therefore follow my messages with seriousness. Thank you for having responded to my call.”*