

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

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**MASS INTENTIONS Feb. 24-March 4, 2007**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Eleanor & James McCue**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Frank Curley**

**9:30 AM Raymond V. Capodanno**

**11:15 AM Winifred King**

**Monday**

**9:00 AM Lisiario A. Colantuoni**

**Tuesday**

**9:00 AM Yvonne Deveau**

**Wednesday**

**9:00 AM Jean Donnelly**

**Thursday**

**9:00 AM Robert Knowles**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Angelo & Katrina Guriano**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Arthur Kelley & Dorothy Kelley & Dorothy Rooney**

**9:30 AM Jacinto Rego**

**11:15 AM Robert Dorval**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

We all know it's easy to have good intentions but hard to follow through with them. On the First Sunday in Lent, most of us have good intentions to spend this time before Easter in penance and prayer. But perhaps before the end of Lent, we might need a reminder of that commitment. At the end of Mass, a basket of wood chips will be at all the Church doors. These will be 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.

**THANK YOU**

*St. Thomas Parish Outreach Ministry would like to thank everyone for their donations for our meal at My Brother's Table. It was a wonderful experience for all, as we could see the face of Jesus in each person we served.*

**WEDDING MUSIC**

**Lora Tamaghini, our Music Director will meet all the 2007 Brides/grooms in the church at 3pm on March 25.**

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

Beginning the weekend of March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, Catherine Joanne will be here for the parish retreat. She will introduce the retreat at all the Masses that weekend. On Sunday night she will have a concert. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, there will be a talk on Theresa of Lisieux, Theresa of Avila, and Theresa of Calcutta. Come join each night of the parish Lenten Retreat.

Religious Education registration has begun. A letter concerning registrations 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 has begun. 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. Come join us on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at 7:00 PM. Tickets are now available. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. If you would like a ticket, see me before or after Mass.

Parish Outreach will sponsor its Lenten Giving program. Each week a different item will be collected and given to a charitable organization such as a food pantry, a feeding program or shelter. Watch the bulletin for further details.

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

**STAMP DANCE**

Tickets are now being sold for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual STAMP Dance on Saturday, March 10 in Villanova Hall. Please join us for a fun filled night of great raffle prizes, food and dance. Tickets are \$25 each and are available at the rectory or by calling Mike at 978-657-8407. They may also be purchased from any STAMP member. Thank you for your support

**CHURCH SUPPORT**

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

**Offertory Collection for February 18, 2007  
\$5,661.88**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**COLLECTING**  
**BLANKETS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

The blankets don't have to be new but clean. Boxes are at all entrances of the Church.

**ST. THOMAS CHARITIES FOOD COLLECTION**

On February 24 & 25 there will be a Food Collection for the Wilmington Food Pantry. All donations can be dropped off in Villanova Hall after all Masses this weekend.

**LENTEN GOSPEL GIVING**

Next week please bring razors, shaving cream, lotions, soap, toothpaste & brushes, and deodorant (men & women). Like 9:29 " And while He was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white"

**LENTEN DONATIONS**

During Lent St. Thomas Women's Club will be 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 you can call Joan @ 978-657-3905. Make checks out to the Women's Club.

**BAPTISM**

The following children were welcomed into St. Thomas Parish Family on February 18, 2007

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Samantha M. Bryan</i>       | <i>Nicholas Alan Gattineri</i> |
| <i>Keira A. Gilbert</i>        | <i>Lia Mae Holowenczak</i>     |
| <i>Ava Margaret LeClair</i>    | <i>Molly Grace Lydon</i>       |
| <i>Shane Anthony Maguire</i>   | <i>Austin Michael Needham</i>  |
| <i>Alexandra Frances Quick</i> |                                |

**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 Religious Ed. Office is located in the basement of the Church. If you have questions, call the religious education office at 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.

**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**

**OUTSIDE THE PARISH**

**Support Girl Scouts.... In A Way That Tastes Good!**

Girl Scout Cookies will be available to purchase before and after all masses on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. For \$3.50 you can get your favorite box of cookies or try the new Lemonades!

**DO YOU KNOW OF AN APARTMENT FOR RENT?**

Single professional Male looking for one or two bedroom apartment in this area. Quiet, respectful, responsible & faith centered. Please call Steve at 978-664-1122.

**SENIOR CENTER**

The Senior Center is in need of donations of wood (cut offs) scrap wood for wood projects and wooden toys. Please contact Terri Marciello Director at 978-657-7595

**FEBRUARY 25, 2007**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Feb 25</b> <b>FOOD</b> <b>COLLECTION</b>  <b>GR 10</b> <b>11:15 Mass</b>  <b>Gr 2 Parent</b> <b>Meeting 1pm</b>  <b>7pm</b> <b>Prayer group</b>	<b>Feb 26</b> <b>Gr 1 4--5pm</b> <b>Gr 4</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b> <b>Gr10</b> <b>6:45-8:00pm</b>	<b>Feb 27</b> <b>Gr 2 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 5</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b> <b>Gr 7 6:45-8:00</b>	<b>Feb 28</b> <b>Gr 3 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 6</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b>	<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 2</b>  <b>6:30PM</b> <b>STATIONS</b>	<b>March 3</b> <b>5pm Mass</b> <b>Catherine</b> <b>Joanna</b>
<b>March 4</b>  <b>COOKIE SALE</b>  <b>7pm</b> <b>RETREAT</b>	<b>March 5</b> <b>Gr 1 4--5pm</b> <b>Gr 4</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b>  <b>7pm</b> <b>RETREAT</b>	<b>March 6</b> <b>Gr 2 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 5</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b>  <b>7pm</b> <b>RETREAT</b>	<b>March 7</b> <b>Gr 3 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 6</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b>  <b>7pm</b> <b>RETREAT</b>	<b>March 8</b>	<b>March 9</b>  <b>6:30PM</b> <b>STATIONS</b>	<b>March 10</b> <b>STAMP</b> <b>DANCE</b>
<b>March 11</b> <b>7pm</b> <b>Prayer group</b>	<b>March 12</b> <b>Gr 1 4--5pm</b> <b>Gr 4</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b> <b>Gr 10</b> <b>6:45-8:00pm</b>	<b>March 13</b> <b>Gr 2 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 5</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b> <b>Gr 8 6:45-8:00</b>	<b>March 14</b> <b>Gr 3 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 6</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b>	<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> <b>Gr 1 4--5pm</b> <b>Gr 4</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b>	<b>March 20</b> <b>Gr 2 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 5</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b> <b>Gr7 6:45-8:00</b>	<b>March 21</b> <b>Gr 3 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 6</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b>	<b>March 22</b>	<b>March 23</b>  <b>6:30PM</b> <b>STATIONS</b>	<b>March 24</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>10:30&amp; 1:30pm</b>
<b>March 25</b>  <b>3pm</b> <b>Wedding Music</b> <b>Brides Meeting</b>  <b>7pm</b> <b>Prayer group</b>	<b>March 26</b> <b>Gr 1 4--5pm</b> <b>Gr 4</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b> <b>Gr 9</b> <b>6:45-8:00pm</b>	<b>March 27</b> <b>Gr 2 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 5</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b> <b>Gr 8 6:45-8:00</b>	<b>March 28</b> <b>Gr 3 4-5pm</b> <b>Gr 6</b> <b>5:30-6:30pm</b>	<b>March 29</b>	<b>March 30</b>  <b>6:30PM</b> <b>STATIONS</b>	<b>March 31</b> <b>Scrap booking</b>

Meditation of the Heart

by Carolyn Kenney

Tonight while sitting in the chapel at Adoration, I can hear the wind as it howls outside. It would have been so easy to stay home. Snow is on the ground - for a change - the air is bitter and the wind is blowing fiercely. However, it is warm inside the church; the winter cold seems far away. The monstrance sits on the altar and Jesus' love envelops those present.

Where is everyone? Although this night is cold, people are willing to go out for a multitude of reasons. Some will go to the movies, to a basketball or hockey game, out to eat or even shopping. On your way out, why not stop for five minutes on a Friday night and visit Our Lord at Adoration? If you come and visit Jesus on such a cold night as this one, He will bless you abundantly. We are in desperate need of peace. We need - and must - develop and nurture our relationship with God.

Regarding the Eucharist, Saint Angela of Foligno said, "This Sacrament really contains You. O my God, You whom the angels adore, in whose presence the spirits and mighty powers tremble. Oh, if we could only see You clearly as they do, with what reverence would we approach this Sacrament, with what humility would we receive You."