

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions –December 1-9, 2007

Saturday

5:00 PM Deceased members of Macone, Marino & Valente Families

Sunday

8:00 AM For The People of the Parish

9:30 AM Leo J. Earley

11:15 AM Confirmation Students

Monday

9:00 AM Paul V. Quinn Sr.

Tuesday

9:00 AM Robert Knowles

Wednesday

9:00 AM Angela LoNigro

Thursday

9:00 AM Mary & Joseph Vozzella

Saturday

5:00 PM Anne Vecchiarelli & Lucy Caggiano

Sunday

8:00 AM Ana LaFrazia

9:30 AM William Bovitz

11:15 AM John & Madeleine Bocchino

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

Envelopes are by the Blessed Mary for anyone who wishes prayers for their departed loved ones. The donations will be used for decorating the Church for Christmas. The names of the deceased will be listed in the bulletin

CHURCH SUPPORT

The Second Collection this weekend is The St. Thomas Charities Collection.

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

The Charities Committee is collecting food for the Wilmington Food Pantry this Weekend. All food donations may be dropped off in Villanova Hall after all Masses this Weekend.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. With the beginning of Advent, There are many things going on, the Giving Tree, an Advent program, First Reconciliation, our Christmas concert and other things as well. You are invited to participate in as many as you have time for.

The Christmas Concert will be held on Friday, December 14, at 7:00 PM. In the past we had it on Sunday evening or afternoon. We thought we would schedule it on a Friday night so that there are fewer conflicts with pre-Christmas gathering, parties or shopping. The Nazareth Academy Trinity Singers will join our choir. It is always a good take in.

About a week or so ago, the priests of the Archdiocese gathered for another convocation. There were three speakers. The first one was great. He spoke realistically about some of the issues that priests face. He spoke of the unrealistic expectations that priest have on many different levels. The unrealistic expectations arise from the priest's background and training, from parish life and from the diocese. He went on to say that many priests are looking for a spirituality that fits – fits our lifestyle, time constraints, etc. He went on to speak about the fact that many priests have poor skills dealing with anger and conflict. Finally he spoke about the priest needing to deal with loss. The loss issues arise from a number of sources. Besides the usual losses that everyone experiences such as loss of family members and friends; loss from illness and old age, etc., the priest is also dealing with the loss that has arisen from the abuse crisis. The loss comes in many different forms. Here are two examples. There is the loss of trust and confidence in leadership. There is also the loss of what I call proud of being a priest. In the past, if I was outside a church setting and someone asked me what I do, I would respond that I am a priest and a lawyer. Now days I respond that I am an attorney who represents non-profit corporations. That part is true. I just leave out the priest part. In any case what I liked about the speaker was he was not in a state of denial. He named the issues and addressed them. If a person or institution is in denial about reality, then I do not know how healing and growth can occur.

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



ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS CONCERT ADULT AND CHILDREN CHOIRS

Come join us for this year Christmas Concert! It will take place on Friday, December 14, at 7pm in the Church.



THE GIVING TREE

The “Giving Tree” with ornaments, on each ornament is a request for one gift (or blank socks, mittens, or hats). We ask you to take an ornament, purchase the gift requested, gift wrap it and tape the ornament to the outside of the gift to indicate what the package contains, and put it under the tree. On or before December 16th. We hope the “Giving Tree” will remind us all that the true meaning of Christmas is “Christian Charity and love of neighbor are what really matters.”

BIRTH RIGHT

Again this year St. Thomas Women’s Club will collect new layette items unwrapped for Birthright of Lowell. Birthright helps unwed mothers of the Lowell area with layette items for their new babies. We will be collecting from the first Sunday of Advent, Dec 2nd to the Epiphany Sunday Jan., 6. There will be a laundry basket near the confessionals for the donations.

ST. THOMAS WOMEN’S CLUB MEETING

The Women’s Club will hold their Christmas Meeting on Monday, Dec 10th at 7:30pm in Villanova Hall. All Women of the parish are invited to join us. We will be holding a Yankee Swap. Each person who wants to participate should bring a \$10 wrapped gift. Also would everyone please bring an appetizer or dessert. Birthright items may be dropped off at the meeting.

THANK YOU

Women’s club Women’s Club again would like to thank everyone who helped make the craft fair a big success. Special thanks go out to the Sons of Italy, the men who worked the kitchen and the people who provided the food. We also want to thank all the merchants, parishioners, and crafters who donated raffles and baked goods, and the crafters that made it all possible.

CORI’S FORMS FOR 2007-2008

All volunteers in the Parish **must** fill out a Cori every year. The Forms are in the Sacristy.

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications, Inc., our publisher, will have a sales representative available within the next few weeks for those interested in placing a new ad. This is your opportunity to secure a space for the new publication year. To place your ad, please contact the sales person at 1-800-888-4574.

A THOUSAND CRANES

Performance Dates Dec 8 and Dec 15 at 7pm

The United Methodist Church

The children Theatre Workshop of Wilmington invites you to join a free performance. This is the true story of Sadako Sasaki, a little girl from Japan who at age 11, was diagnosed with Leukemia as a result of radiation fallout from the Hiroshima Bombing 10 years before. The play is perfect for elementary school children and up. For more info contact Joanie Walsh 781-608-1019.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Join Father Augustine Anda on an inspirational trip to the Holy Land. The pilgrimage will take place from March 24, 2008- April 4, 2008 and the cost is \$2699. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Eliesa at 978-977-3062. Join Father Anda on this trip walk in the Footsteps of Christ.

Meditation of the Heart

by Carolyn Kenney

Earlier this year, I traveled with thirty-two other people to the Holy Land of Israel. We visited the beautiful Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Mount of Beatitudes, Mount Tabor, Jerusalem and Garden of Gethsemane. At each holy place we went to, we were deeply moved. However, I will always remember the day we visited the Church of the Nativity and the place where Jesus was born. Beneath a small marble altar is a silver star in the floor marking the spot of Jesus birth. One by one, we knelt down and with reverence kissed the star, thereby uniting us with Our Lord in a special way.

As we traveled throughout the Holy Land, the Presence of Jesus could still be felt; it transcends time. His Spirit still lives and lingers throughout the land, while the strong beat of His heart transmits love over the centuries. The Presence of Jesus is more than a “knowing” this was the land where He lived. His Presence is a gentle meeting between His heart and my heart. As you kneel before the manger this Christmas, feel His love reach out to you and touch your heart.

DECEMBER 2, 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 2 Grade 10 11:15am Mass 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 3 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	Dec 4 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Dec 5 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Dec 6	Dec 7 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 8
Dec 9 9:30 Children's Choir 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 10 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Dec 11 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Dec 12 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Dec 13	Dec 14 St. Thomas Adult & Children Choir Christmas Concert 7pm	Dec 15 First Reconciliation 10:30, 11:30 & 1pm
Dec 16 Gr 2 9:30 Mass All Giving Tree gifts returned 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 17 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	Dec 18 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Dec 19 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Dec 20	Dec 21 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 22
Dec 23 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 24 Christmas Eve 4pm, 6pm midnight	Dec 25 Christmas Day 9:30am, 11:15am	Dec 26 No CCD Classes Christmas Vacation	Dec 27	Dec 28 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 29
Dec 30 1pm Baptism instruction 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 31 No CCD Classes	Jan 1 No CCD Classes	Jan 2 No CCD Classes	Jan 3	Jan 4 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 5
Jan 6 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 7 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	Jan 8 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Jan 9 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Jan 10	Jan 11 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 12

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE NOVEMBER 25, 2007

“Dear Children! Today, when you celebrate Christ, the King of all that is created, I desire for Him to be the King of your lives. Only through giving, little children, can you comprehend the gift of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross for each of you. Little children, give time to God that He may transform you and fill you with His grace, so that you may be a grace for others. For you, little children, I am a gift of grace and love, which comes from God for this peaceless world. Thank you for having responded to my call.”