

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions –December 22-30, 2007

Saturday

5:00 PM The Vecchiarelli & Caggiano Families

Sunday

8:00 AM Mary & Alexander Quandt, Kathleen Blackburn, & Paul Quandt

9:30AM George, Alice & Mary Pratt

11:15 AM John Gage

Wednesday

9:00 AM Diane Kelley

Thursday

9:00 AM Yvonne Deveau

Saturday

5:00 PM Arthur Boudreau

Sunday

8:00 AM Andrew Ring

9:30 AM Joan Brothers

11:15 AM Maria Chaves

EPIPHANY PAGEANT

On Sunday, January 6th at the 9:30 Mass the Children's Liturgy will be having the Epiphany Pageant. There will be a mandatory meeting for all those who want to participate on the morning of Dec 29th. All interested children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade please call Debbie Casey at 978-447-1020.

BIRTHRIGHT

St. Thomas Women's Club is collecting unwrapped Layette items (They are desperate for) **NEWBORN INFANTS ONLY** Through the Epiphany of the Lord, Jan 6th, A basket is outside the confessionals for donations. The items will be given to Birthright of Lowell to help unwed mothers in the Lowell area. Any questions please call Joan at 978-657-3905. Thank you.

CLOTHING DRIVE

St. Thomas Charity Committee will hold a clothing drive on January 12 & 13. They will be collecting men's women's and children's Clothes

Clothes may be left in Villanova Hall after all Masses.

FOOD will also be collected for the Wilmington Food Pantry

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The Christmas Mass schedule will be as follows:
Monday, December 24th at 4 PM (upstairs and downstairs) 6:00 PM and midnight.

Tuesday December 25th at 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM.

The parish office will be closed on December 24th and 25th.

The collection taken up at the Christmas Masses is for the Clergy Benefit Trust. The Clergy Benefit Trust funds the health care and pension programs for priests in the Archdiocese of Boston. Now that I am getting older, I will probably have more health care issues and am closer to retirement (in 11 years I will retire). So, please give generously to the Christmas collection. Nothing like being a little self serving!!!

All the gifts for the Giving Tree were delivered to Catholic Charities. As always we had a wonderful response. Your generosity will make the eyes of many children shine on Christmas morning. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. The layettes for Birthright are still being collected.

Last weekend was a snowy weekend. However the Masses went on. Do you know how many people were at the Masses? As I was sitting there listening to the readings I counted the number of people at each of the Sunday Masses. There were 30 something people at each of the Masses. The 5:00 PM Saturday was crowded.

Considering the bad weather, we were lucky that we had our Christmas concert on Friday night and the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation for our second graders on Saturday morning. Those events were in between the two storms. Our second grade students will be attending the 9:30 AM Mass this Sunday to receive their pins which mark the beginning of their preparation for Eucharist.

Finally I want to wish each and every one of you a very merry Christmas.

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

Fr. Earley

BAPTISM

**THERE WILL BE NO BAPTISMS DONE DURING LENT
FEBRUARY 6, – MARCH 16, 2007**

**THE BAPTISMS DURING THE EASTER SEASON
WILL BE:**

March 23 11:15 AM (EASTER)
April 6 11:15 AM
April 20 1:00 PM
May 4 11:15 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

If we could only get the self-centered, selfish people who've taken Christ out of Christmas to get the "I" out of Holiday and make it a Holy Day again, perhaps we could get Christ back in Christmas and in the world where He's so desperately needed!

Twas the month before Christmas
When all through our land,
Not a Christian was praying
Nor taking a stand.

Why the PC Police
Had taken away,
The reason for Christmas-
No one could say.

The children were told
By their schools not to sing,
About Shepherds and Wise Men
And Angels and things.

It might hurt people's feelings,
The teachers would say
December 25th
Is just a "Holiday".

Yet the shoppers were ready
With cash, checks and credit
Pushing folks down
To the floor just to get it!

CDs from Madonna,
An XBOX, an I-pod
Something was changing,
Something quite odd!

Retailers promoted
Ramadan and Kwanzaa
In hopes to sell books by
Franken & Fonda

As Targets were hanging
Their trees upside down
At Lowe's the word Christmas-
Was no where to be found.

At K-Mart and Staples
And Penny's and Sears
You won't hear the word Christmas;
It won't touch your ears.

Inclusive, sensitive,
Di-ver-is-ty
Are words that were used
To intimidate me.

Now Daschle, Now Darden,
Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzer
On Boxer, on Rather,
On Kerry on Clinton!

At the top of the Senate,
There arose such a clatter
To eliminate Jesus,
In all public matter.

And we spoke not a word,
As they took away our faith
Forbidden to speak
Of salvation and grace.

The true Gift of Christmas
Was exchanged and discarded
The reason for the season,
Stopped before it started.

So as you celebrate "Winter Break"
Under your "Dream Tree"
Sipping your Starbucks,
Listen to me.

Choose what you say
Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS,
NOT HAPPY HOLIDAY.

***WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm 6:00pm & Midnight

CHRISTMAS MORNING

9:30am & 11:15am

CHURCH SUPPORT

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

DECEMBER 23, 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 Epiphany Pageant 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 CLOTHING COLLECTION
Jan 13 CLOTHING COLLECTION 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 14 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Jan 15 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Jan 16 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Jan 17	Jan 18 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 19
Jan 20 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 21 No Classes MLK Day	Jan 22 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Jan 23 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Jan 24	Jan 25 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 26
Jan 27 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 28 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Jan 30 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Jan 31 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30			

Meditation of the Heart By Carolyn M. Kenney

Over 2000 years ago, Jesus was born in a cave in Bethlehem. His Mother and foster Father knelt by His side as shepherds and magi came to pay Him homage. Today a silver star lies beneath a marble altar, marking the place of His birth. It is here that people come from all over the world to pay homage to Our Lord.

Today my family and I welcomed home the newest addition to our family – a baby boy! The day was bitter cold outside, but inside happy hearts welcomed the baby into a warm and loving family. Mother Teresa once said, “Life is the greatest gift that God has bestowed on mankind.” We are each created in the image of God and are thereby endowed with a deep responsibility to one another. We must not be self-centered individuals, as society would like us to become. We must focus our attention on one another with love and a giving, gentle spirit. Merry Christmas!

OUR LADY’S MONTHLY MESSAGE Nov. 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.”