

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions –December 8-16, 2007

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

Monday

9:00 AM William Trail

Tuesday

9:00 AM Joan Brothers

Wednesday

9:00 AM Erminia Medeiros

Thursday

9:00 AM George Boylen

Saturday

5:00 PM Eileen McGrath

Sunday

8:00 AM For the People of the Parish

9:30 AM Antonio Azevedo

11:15 AM Robert NoKnowles



**ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CHILDRENS AND ADULT CHOIRS**

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

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.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. With Advent, there are many different things going on from the Giving Tree to an Advent program to First Reconciliation to our Christmas concert and other things as well. The Giving Tree gifts will be given to Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities (tags have a "CC") and to the Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services (tags have "RIS"). As an aside Catholic Charities has a contract with the US State Department to resettle refugees who come to the United States from refugee camps around the globe. They are here legally and anxious to put the wars and persecutions behind them. They come to the United States with few clothes but high hopes for a better and freer life. You are invited to participate in as many as you have time for.

The Christmas Concert will be held on Friday, December 14, 2007 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.

The Grand Annual collection is underway. I want to thank all those who gave already. Our goal for the collection is \$50,000.00. We have collected approximately \$20,000.00. As I write this, Pat Worthington, our parish secretary, has a bunch of envelopes on her desk which she will open, record and deposit today. Some people have asked whether they could fulfill their gift over several payments. The answer is yes. Whatever fits your budget is fine with me. I am just grateful that you are willing to support your church.

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

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

As we begin our Advent journey, guide us, dear God of Love. Help us to recognize the great gift You have given us in Jesus, and may we prepare well for His rebirth in our hearts.

On each day of this journey, may we move closer to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World. Shine the Light of Your grace upon us that we may follow Him faithfully.

In all our preparations for Christmas, may we always remember that Jesus is the reason for this blessed season.

Thank You, loving God, for this time of joy and expectation. Walk with us and show us the way today and every day of Advent.

Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

Envelopes are by the Blessed Mary for anyone who wishes prayers for their departed loved ones. Masses will be said during the Christmas season. All the names of the deceased will be listed in the bulletin. Donations will be used for the decorations for Christmas.

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".

BIRTHRIGHT

Again this year St. Thomas Women's Club will be collecting unwrapped Layette items (They are desperate for) **NEWBORN INFANTS ONLY** Through the Epiphany of the Lord, Jan 6th, A basket will be 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.

ST. THOMAS CHARITIES COMMITTEE FOOD & CLOTHING COLLECTION

The Charities Committee will be Collecting Food for the Wilmington Food pantry along with Men's, Women's and Children's Clothes On January 12 & 13 donations may be left in Villanova Hall after all Masses that weekend.

Your donations are greatly appreciated by the recipients

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.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

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 and walk in the Footsteps of Christ.

35th ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

The Immaculate Conception (Malden/Medford) Respect Life Committee is once again planning a pilgrimage to the 35th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The group will **leave from Malden with a secondary pick-up at St. Margaret's Church in Burlington** by motor coach on Monday morning, January 21(MLK Holiday) and will return on Wednesday evening January 23. The cost is \$250 per person, double occupancy (\$400 single) until January 4th (a little higher after that date) Come and be inspired by the hundreds of thousands of young people who will witness to the Gospel of Life in this non-confrontational event. Please call Janet Callahan @ 781-324-3564 to register or for more information.

GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A SPECIAL GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

Sign up now for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day! For more information call Ray & Beth Ginepro at 1-800-710-WWME or visit our webpage at www.wwmeMA.org

MEALS ON WHEELS

Can you spare just one hour/week at lunchtime once a month or more? Meals on Wheels Drivers are needed.

Homebound seniors in Bedford, Lexington and Woburn need help getting a midday meal delivered on weekdays! Perfect job to do with a friend, or share a route or alternate weeks. Regular and substitute drivers are needed. Drivers receive mileage reimbursement of \$0.42 per mile plus satisfaction in providing this essential service. Call Minute Senior Services 781-221-7023 or toll free 888-222-6171 or email:dbarr@minutemansenior.org.

DECEMBER 2, 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 Women's Club Meeting 7:30	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 CLOTHING COLLECTION
Jan 13 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

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.”