

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

**Mass Intentions –February 2-10, 2008**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Marion Murphy & Mary Marotta**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM For the People of the Parish**

**9:30 AM Carmelo Limoli**

**11:15 AM Guilhemere & Ana Viveiros**

**Monday**

**9:00 AM Paul O'Brien**

**Tuesday**

**9:00 AM Mary Marrocco**

**Wednesday**

**9:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

**Thursday**

**9:00 AM Steven Vining**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Virginia Crane**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Guilhemere & Ana Viveiros**

**9:30 AM Joseph Saporito & Family & The Fusco Family**

**11:15 AM Grade 10 Students**

**BIRTHRIGHT    THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for allowing us to be part of your Christmas Outreach Program again this year.

We appreciate the generosity of your parish family and especially the work done by Joan Corsaro and the St. Thomas Women's Club.

Sincerely,        Birthright

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank the Parishioners at the 5pm Mass on November 17, 2007 who contributed to My Eagle Scout Project in which a loading dock for the Food Pantry was built. Total donations from Parishioners were \$654.00.

Thank you again for your support on this project to help the Wilmington Food Pantry.

Sincerely, Brian Connelly

**BLANKET COLLECTING**

The blankets don't have to be new but must be clean.

**S.T.A.M.P. DANCE**

MARK YOUR CALANDER FOR THE  
ANNUAL S.T.A.M.P. DANCE .  
SATURDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> IN VILLANOVA HALL

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

We will celebrate World Marriage Day on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at the 5:00 PM Mass. After the Mass there will be a reception in Downstairs. All married couples are welcomed to attend.

Deacon King is looking for a lead couple who will coordinate our marriage preparation program. If you have any questions or are interested in the position, please call Deacon King at the rectory.

Please mark your calendars. On Saturday March 8, 2008 we will hold our annual STAMP dance in Villanova Hall. If you are interested in going on our next trip, watch the bulletin for the date and time of the initial information meeting. We are looking towards the end of February.

The Grand Annual collection continues. The results thus far are: 249 parishioners have donated \$37,700.00. It is not too late to give. Thanks to all who have given.

I have received the number of active priests in the Archdiocese of Boston. Here are the stats:

	2007	2006	2001
Age			
75 & above	27	(22)	
65-74	113	(104)	
55-64	168	(154)	
45-54	110	(105)	
35-44	61	(59)	
25-34	14	(13)	
TOTAL	493	(457)	503 (461)        631

The figures in parenthesis represent those priests who are "Truly Active" – which removes those priests who are on health leave or are unassigned.

The numbers speak for themselves. In the last six years we lost 138 priests. If you look at the 2007 numbers you see that out of the 493 priests, 308 are over the age of 55. The numbers just reinforce what I have been saying about the emergence of new models of ministry and parish life. The coming years will be very interesting.

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

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Lent begins Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> .  
The Mass schedule will be 9am and 7pm  
& 4:00pm Service only

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### WOMEN'S CLUB MARDI GRAS PARTY

Please note the Party begins at 7:00pm on Mon, in Villanova Hall. All Women of the Parish are welcome to join us.

### LENT

The traditional foundation for Lenten practice rests on three supports: PRAYER-FASTING-ALMSGIVING. To assist families in need, and to help fulfill the third of these support, St. Thomas Parish Outreach Ministry is going to participate in Lenten Gospel Giving. Each week, anyone who would like to participate is asked to bring ONE item with them to Mass. The gifts will be donated to various needy causes, some in which we are already involved. There will be a reminder in the bulletin each week.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent-February 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**

"It is written, One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4- Please bring in bread products for area shelters and the Food Pantry.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Registration letters have gone out.

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 will be available Sunday, Feb 24 after the 9:30 Mass**

#### **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.

**GRADE 2 PARENT MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, March 9 AT 1PM IN THE CHURCH**

### VIDEO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Thomas' Mass is broadcast weekly on WCTV. Additional volunteers are needed to videotape the Mass. Each person tapes one Mass every 6 weeks or so. Training is available. Call Jim Buckley 978-658-4151.

### MANDATORY WEDDING MUSIC MEETING

On Sunday, February 24, at 1pm there will be a mandatory Music meeting for Brides and Grooms getting married this year.

### MARRIAGE PREP SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING...

World Marriage day will be celebrated here on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the 5pm Mass.

As you know there exists a 50% failure rate in married relationships. In an effort to lower that number, the Archdiocese has in place Marriage Preparation Classes which look at 5 areas of Marriage, Communication, Finance, Sexuality, Parenting and Spirituality. St. Thomas has a Program which will run late April.

We are always looking for Married Couples to facilitate and I am looking for that Special Couple who would be willing to moderate the day and assure the Running of the Program. If interested Call Deacon King at the Rectory 978-658-4665.

### **THERE WILL BE NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT**

#### **THE BAPTISMS DURING THE EASTER SEASON**

##### **EASTER SUNDAY**

**March 23 @ 11:15 AM**

##### **DURING SUNDAY MASS**

**April 6 & MAY 4 @ 11:15 AM**

##### **REGULAR BAPTISM NO MASS**

**April 20 @ 1:00 PM**

### SICK & HOMEBOUND

If any one knows of someone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive communion in their home please call Mary at 978-771-3513.

### OUTSIDE THE PARISH

#### **THE HEART OF THE CROSS A PASSION PLAY**

St. William's will have a "Heart of the Cross" performance by Olivia Woodford on the first Monday of Lent, February 11 at 7pm.

This will also be performed at

St. Athanasius Church 300 Haverhill St. Reading on Sunday, February 10 at 3pm.

**FEBRUARY 3, 2008**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 3 Baptism  7pm Prayer Group	Feb 4 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm  7:30pm Women's Club	Feb 5 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Feb 6 Ash Wednesday 9am Mass 4pm service  CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Feb 7	Feb 8 6:30pm Stations	Feb 9 5pm Mass WORLD MARRIAGE DAY
Feb 10 11:15am Grade 10 Mass  7pm Prayer Group	Feb 11 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Feb 12 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Feb 13 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Feb 14 Happy Valentine's Day	Feb 15 6:30pm Stations	Feb 16
Feb 17 7pm Prayer Group	Feb 18 NO CCD	Feb 19 SCHOOL	Feb 20 VACATION	Feb 21	Feb 22 6:30pm Stations	Feb 23 FOOD COLLECTION
Feb 24 1pm WEDDING MUSIC MEETING 7pm Prayer Group	Feb 25 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Feb 26 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Feb 27 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Feb 28	Feb 29 6:30pm Stations	March 1
March 2 7pm Prayer Group	March 3 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	March 4 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	March 5 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	March 6	March 7 6:30pm Stations	March 8 STAMP DANCE
March 9 Gr. 2 Parent meeting  7pm Prayer Group	March 10 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm  Women's Club	March 11 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	March 12 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	March 13	March 14 6:30pm Stations	March 15

**Meditation of the Heart**

by Carolyn Kenney

Jesus sat down on a rich expanse of land; it was deep green velvet overlooking the Sea of Galilee with low-lying hills in the distance. The sun glistened on the sea stretched before Him and "He began to teach them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven..." His twelve Apostles sat amongst the crowd as Jesus began to teach them the Beatitudes, which we read in today's Gospel.

The Apostles were ordinary people like you and me. Yet God chose them to follow His Son, to listen to His teachings and to share those teachings with others. It is not easy to follow Jesus in today's world, yet God has chosen you for this vital undertaking. On the other hand, too often the attraction of materialism beckons us and keeps our minds focused on worldly possessions. But, God is not asking the impossible. All He asks of us is to take the time to listen to the words of the gospel and to dwell upon them in our hearts. The Apostles did just that and it dramatically changed the course of their lives. What will it do in your life?

**OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE JANUARY 25, 2008**

*"Dear children! With the time of Lent, you are approaching a time of grace. Your heart is like ploughed soil and it is ready to receive the fruit which will grow into what is good. You, little children, are free to choose good or evil. Therefore, I call you to pray and fast. Plant joy and the fruit of joy will grow in your hearts for your good, and others will see it and receive it through your life. Renounce sin and choose eternal life. I am with you and intercede for you before my Son. Thank you having responded to my call."*