

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions –January 19-27, 2008

Saturday

5:00 PM Nicholas Vecchiarelli

Sunday

8:00 AM For the People of the Parish

9:30 AM Manuel & Maria Jose Chaves

11:15 AM Aldo Caira

Monday

9:00 AM Anthony Capuano

Tuesday

9:00 AM Mary E. Kirk

Wednesday

9:00 AM Special Intention

Thursday

9:00 AM Special Intention

Saturday

5:00 PM Nicholas Vecchiarelli

Sunday

8:00 AM Helen Roueche

9:30 AM Margareta Limoli

11:15 AM Abilo & Erminia Medeiros

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

**THE NINTH ANNUAL S.T.A.M.P. DANCE
MARCH 8th IN VILLANOVA HALL**

BAPTISM SCHEDULE

THERE WILL BE NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT

**THE LAST BAPTISM BEFORE LENT
FEBRUARY 3, 2008**

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

**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**

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I have received a couple of comments from people concerning the number of contributors to the Grand Annual. They thought that the number of participants would have been greater. I thought I would give you a little more information concerning envelopes.

We send out 2,025 packets each month. I get quarterly reports from the envelope company. During the course of the quarter we will receive a contribution from 510 people. We will not hear from 1515 people at all. On any given Sunday, we will receive between 260 to 320 envelopes. These numbers are typical of parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston.

The Parish Council meets this Sunday night at 7:00 PM in the parish center.

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.

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 Villanova Hall. All married couples are welcomed to attend.

As part of the bicentennial celebration, the Archdiocese of Boston is sponsoring the Renew program for parishes. The program will start in the spring and go for three years. It involves people coming together in small groups to pray and share their faith. There is a book that each group would follow. It has the prayer service as well as scripture readings and discussion. If you would like to be a group leader, please call me at the rectory. The Archdiocese will provide training for group leaders. Even if you are unsure, give me a call. You could go to the training session and see if you like the program and want to participate. This program has been used around the world with great success. I am hoping that it is a success here at St. Thomas.

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

PRAYER SERVICE

A Prayer Service for all Eucharist Ministers and those who take the Eucharist to the sick and homebound and nursing homes will be held on Sunday, January 27th at 7pm. All Eucharist ministers are encouraged to come for spiritual support and for updates with the latest changes with this ministry.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WINE , WOMEN & SONG

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, January 31 at 7pm in the Chapel. Each of our monthly meetings begins with a social time of wine (or soda), hors d'oeuvres, and conversation followed by prayer and reflection through music. All women are welcome! This month our prayers and songs will be centered on preparing for Lent.

WOMEN'S CLUB MARDI GRAS PARTY

Mon, Feb 4 at 7:00PM in Villanova Hall. This will be a "pot luck supper" with a Mardi Gras flavor, after which we will play "PASS THE GIFT" game. The gifts will be supplied by the Club. Wear a mask or costume if you wish. The colors for Mardi Gras are green, gold and purple. All are asked to bring a main dish, side dish dessert etc. Please call Joan at 978-657-3905 to let us know what you are bringing or if you are looking for a suggestion so that we will have a varied menu. All Women of the Parish are welcome to join us.

CHURCH SUPPORT

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

This Sunday Second Collection is the Parish Monthly.

Next Sunday will be the Latin American Collection

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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.

BLANKET COLLECTION

The Parish Outreach will be having a blanket collection through the month on January and February. Blankets don't have to be new but must be clean.

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 9th 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.

Meditation of the Heart by Carolyn Kenney

The greatest mistake we can make in our lives is to shrink from our responsibilities. We have responsibilities to our family, our friends and our jobs. We must give our utmost of love and support to those who play an important role in our lives. They, for their part, must do the same.

However, the greatest responsibility we have – to ourselves and to one another – is to seek God. Saint Padre Pio said, "Do not halt in seeking the truth, in discovering God. Do not be ashamed of Christ and His doctrine." Little by little, we have begun to dismiss God – from our schools, our society and our homes. What have we accomplished by doing this? Is our world one of peace and harmony? We all seek meaning in our lives, that which will give it purpose. We must seek God – seek His guidance and love. You need Him more than you realize.

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 be held in the upper church of St. Williams Parish and is open to the public and free of charge.

JANUARY 20, 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 20 1pm Baptism 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 1pm Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 28 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Jan 29 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Jan 30 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Jan 31	Feb 1 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Feb 2 Grade 10 Confirmation Retreat
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	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

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

December 25, 2007

“Dear Children! With great joy I bring you the King of Peace for Him to bless you with His blessing. Adore Him and give time to the Creator for whom your heart yearns. Do not forget that you are passersby on this earth and that things can give you small joys, while through my Son, eternal life is given you. That is why I am with you, to lead you towards what your heart yearns for. . Thank you for having responded to my call.”