

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions –December 6-14, 2008

Saturday

5:00 PM William Bovitz

Sunday

8:00 AM Mary & Joseph Vozzella

9:30 AM Vincenza Onorato

11:15 AM George Boylen

Monday

9:00 AM Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday

9:00 AM Anthony Fruciano

Wednesday

9:00 AM Rick Ring

Thursday

9:00 AM Diane Maloney

Saturday

5:00 PM Jim Frackelton

Sunday

8:00 AM Helen Roueche

9:30 AM Maria Chaves

11:15 AM Domenico Maglione

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.



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

Come join us for this year Christmas Concert! It will take place on Friday, December 12, at 7pm in the Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm 6:00pm & Midnight

CHRISTMAS MORNING

9:30am & 11:15am

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The Ministry Fair that has been going on has brought many new people into different ministries. The last ministry we spoke about was arts and environment. At that time we invited people to come and help get the church ready for Advent. We had a good number of new faces that showed up last Saturday to help decorate the church. To both the new faces and the old faces, I say thank you.

The Giving Tree is up. Although times are tough for everyone, I am hoping that the parish will continue their generous response to helping the needy in our midst.

The Women's Club is conducting a drive to benefit Birthright. If you want to donate a layette, there is a basket near the confessionals.

This weekend is the Charities Committee collection. Any money collected benefits the people of Wilmington. It is this collection that enables us to help people with food vouchers and utilities. We have notice an uptick in the number of requests for assistance.

Here are the numbers. Since December 1, 2007 to December 1, 2008, we spent \$2,600.00 on food vouchers; \$1,855.36 on utilities and \$650.00 on other forms of charity. The total amount that has been distributed to Wilmington residents has been \$5,105.36. I want to thank you for your past support of this collection.

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

Until next time, take care.

Fr. Earley

ST. THOMAS GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION

As of December 2, 2008	\$24,586.00
Our Parish Goal	\$50,000.00

CHURCH SUPPORT

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

SPECIAL FINANCIAL & FOOD COLLECTION

The second collection this weekend of December 6th and 7th will be taken up for the St. Thomas Charities Committee. They will also be collecting food for the Wilmington Food Pantry. That can be dropped off in Villanova Hall.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

S.T.A.M.P. CANDY SALE

S.T.A.M.P (St. Thomas Appalachian Project) will be selling candy after all Masses on December 13 & 14 and 20th & 21. All proceeds will help fund next years trip to Mississippi!



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 Sunday, December 21st. 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 OF LOWELL

Again this year St. Thomas Women’s Club will be collecting layette items for **NEWBORN INFANTS ONLY** starting the **First Sunday of Advent, Nov 30, through the Epiphany of the Lord Jan 4th**. 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 WOMENS CLUB DECEMBER SOCIAL

All women of the parish are welcome to come join in the fun on December 8th in Villanova Hall. Please bring a dessert or appetizer. If you wish to participate in the Yankee Swap please bring a wrapped \$10. gift.

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 10 & 11 donations may be left in Villanova Hall after all Masses that weekend.

Your donations are greatly appreciated by the recipients

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

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

ADVENT RETREAT MORNING

Saturday, Dec 13 the retreat will begin with 8am Eucharist at St. Joseph the Worker Shrine in Lowell. “In Our waiting, Our Becoming” is a morning to reflect together on God’s coming. Retreat ends at 1pm

Presented by Suzanne Beebe. Offering \$15. Registration is necessary oblateassociates@stjosephshrine.org or call Carmela at 978-458-6346 x215.

SHELTER NEEDS CAN YOU HELP?

Outreach at the Lowell Transitional Living Center is in need of sleeping bags, flashlights, tarps, tents and men’s winter coats to assist our brothers and sisters living under bridges and on our streets. Contact Outreach Worker Cheryl at 978-458-9888 if you can help. Thank you for your kindness!

CATHOLIC CRUISE TO THE WESTERN CARIBBEAN

Come and sail away on a 8-Night Catholic Western Caribbean Cruise with Fr. Brendon Murphy April 30-May 8, 2009 on the Carnival Miracle out of New York City, N.Y. Ports of Call: San Juan, P.R., St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. & Tortola, B.V.I. Prices begin at \$1778.00 for two passengers which includes all port fees and taxes. Daily Mass and Rosary offered. Deposits of only \$50 per person will reserve your cabin. Space is limited. For further information or to register, contact Doug or Eileen at 860-399-1785/dpayttc@aol.com

DECEMBER 7, 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 7 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 8 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 10 6:45to 8pm	Dec 9 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 7 & 8 6:45 to 8pm	Dec 10 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	Dec 11	Dec 12 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 13 S.T.A.M.P CANDY SALE
Dec 14 Children's Liturgy 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 15 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 9 6:45to 8pm	Dec 16 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 8 6:45 to 8pm	Dec 3 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	Dec 18	Dec 19 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 20 First Reconciliation Grp 1@ 10:30 Grp 2 @11:30 Grp 3@ 1pm
Dec 21 Gr 2 9:30 Mass 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 22 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 10 6:45to 8pm	Dec 23 No CCD	Dec 24 NO CCD Christmas Eve Mass 4 up & down 6pm & midnight	Dec 25 Christmas Morning Mass 9:30am & 11:15am	Dec 26 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 27
Dec 28 Children's Liturgy Baptism Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 29 NO CCD CHRISTMAS VACATION	Dec 30 NO CCD CHRISTMAS VACATION	Dec 31 NO CCD CHRISTMAS VACATION	Jan 1, 2009 NEW YEARS DAY	Jan 2 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 3
Jan 4 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 5 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 9 6:45to 8pm	Jan 6 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 7 6:45 to 8pm	Jan 7 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	Jan 8	Jan 9 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 10 FOOD & CLOTHING COLLECTION
Jan 11 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 12 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 10 6:45to 8pm	Jan 13 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 8 6:45 to 8pm	Jan 14 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	Jan 15	Jan 16 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 17
Jan 18 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 19 NO CCD	Jan 20 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 7 6:45 to 8pm	Jan 21 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	Jan 22	Jan 23 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 24
Jan 25 Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 26 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 10 6:45to 8pm	Jan 27 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 8 6:45 to 8pm	Jan 28 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	Jan 29	Jan 30 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 31

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE NOVEMBER 25, 2008

“Dear Children! Also today I call you, in this time of grace to pray for little Jesus to be born in your heart. May he, who is peace itself, give peace to the entire world through you. Therefore, little children, pray without ceasing for this turbulent world without peace, so that you may become witnesses of peace for all. May hope begin to flow through your hearts as a river of grace. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

As Christmas approaches, we are caught up on what special gift to buy for family members and friends. In fact, most of our time these next few weeks will be spent at a variety of stores. However, is this where all our attention should be centered at this time of the year?

Over 2000 years ago, a Child was born in Bethlehem. He was not born in a comfortable hospital, but instead was born in a manger. His parents were too far from home to have their families come and see their newborn Son. Instead, shepherds and three kings came to pay Him homage. Today, visitors from throughout the world visit this holy place where a silver star marks the place of His birth. During these next few weeks, do not become enveloped in only the material aspect of the season. Take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus and His love for you.

<http://meditationsoftheheart.com>