

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions –December 13-21 , 2008

Saturday

5:00 PM Jim Frackelton

Sunday

8:00 AM Helen Roueche

9:30 AM Maria Chaves

11:15 AM Domenico Maglione

Monday

9:00 AM Lucy Coehlo

Tuesday

9:00 AM Robert Kennedy

Wednesday

9:00 AM John Rielly

Thursday

9:00 AM Cynthia Raczka

Saturday

5:00 PM Leo & James Campbell

Sunday

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

9:30 AM Antonio Azevedo

11:15 AM George, Alice & Mary Pratt

WEDDING BANNS

Deanna Burns and Matthew Bucci

CHURCH SUPPORT

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

The Second Collection is for the Retired Religious Collection.

ST. THOMAS GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION

As of December 9, 2008	\$ 28,571.00
Our Parish Goal	\$ 50,000.00

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

S.T.A.M.P (St. Thomas Appalachia Project) will be selling candy after all Masses this weekend and also next weekend on the 20th & 21. All proceeds will help fund next years trip to Mississippi!

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Last Friday night we had our annual Christmas concert. As always the adult and children's choir and the Nazareth Trinity singers were superb. We even had a visit from Santa Claus. I want to thank Lora Tamaghini, our Music Director, for all the time and effort she put in to the concert. I also want to thank our choir members and the Nazareth Trinity singers. I look forward to it each year.

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. There are still a few tags on the tree. All gifts should be returned by next Sunday.

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.

Last weekend we had the Charities Committee collection. As I write this I have not received the deposit slip back from the bank. When I get it, I will let you know how we did. The 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 again. 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.

The Christmas collection goes to the Clergy pension plan. Like many pension plans, the clergy plan is underfunded. They just hired a layman who is an expert in the benefits area to help reorganize the pension plan. I am happy to report that the preliminary analysis shows that no money is missing or misspent. However Cardinal Sean has ordered an audit of the clergy pension fund since its inception in the early seventies. Cardinal Sean considers transparency very important in the life of the church in Boston. He feels that transparency is the way to regain the trust of the people. Your support at Christmas is very much needed and appreciated by the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston

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

ADVENT PRAYER

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.

THIRD 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 21. 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 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

EPIPHANY PAGEANT

On Sunday, January 4th at the 9:30 Mass the Children's Liturgy will be having the Epiphany Pageant.

FAMILY SKI TRIP

On Saturday, January 10, 2009 a Motor coach will leave St. Thomas parking lot for Gunstock Mtn. N.H. at 7am and return at approx. 6pm. Cost for Adult ages (18-64) \$69 Teen (13-17) \$59. and Children (6-12) \$55. Price includes round trip transportation and lift ticket. For more information contact Rich Casey at 978-447-1020.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm 6:00pm & Midnight

CHRISTMAS MORNING

9:30am & 11:15am

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

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!

HEALING MASS

On Thurs, Dec 18 at 7:30pm at St. Theresa Church in North Reading, Fr. Albert MacPherson OSA, will offer a Mass of Healing for yourself or intercession for another. Immediately following the Mass there will be an opportunity for an individual blessing with blessed oil; please note this is not Sacrament of the Sick. For more info 978-664-3412 x 12.

THE PASSION PLAY

OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY - MAY 10, 2010

Fr Augustine Anda is conducting a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Florence, Venice, Munich and Oberammergau, Germany. We will visit numerous historical and religious places while traveling through the Italian and Bavarian Alps! Daily mass will be celebrated by Fr Augustine. While in Oberammergau, we will see The Passion Play which is put on every ten years by the people of that village. Space is limited and tickets must be obtained for The Passion Play. If interested contact Carolyn Kenney at 90 Middlesex Avenue, Wilmington Telephone # 978-852-7852 and email address - cmk44@comcast.net. Reserve early. Reserve now.

CATHOLIC CRUISE TO THE WESTERN CARIBBEAN

8-Night Catholic Western Caribbean Cruise with Fr. Brendon Murphy April 30-May 8, 2009 on the Carnival Miracle out of 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 14, 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 17 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 Baptismal 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 Epiphany Pagent 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 Family ski trip
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

After learning that she was to become the Mother of Jesus, Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. Upon seeing Mary, Elizabeth said, “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” After receiving the good news from the angel Gabriel that she was to be the Mother of God, Mary had replied, “...I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” She did not go into a great dialog or discourse with Gabriel, with faith and belief in God she simply said “yes”.

Where do you place your conviction? What do you pledge your commitment to? Many people place their trust, confidence and hope in money. They feel that money can cure many of their problems. Others place their trust in drugs or alcohol in the hope their troubles will somehow disappear. Of course, we all need money to pay bills and put food on our table. However, gambling, drugs and alcohol will not take away problems. It's time to return to Jesus. He has been ignored for too long – in our country and in our homes. Place your belief in Him as did our Blessed Mother. Simply say “yes”.

<http://meditationsoftheheart.com>