

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

To kick off the Lenten season, we had a Mardi Gras party last Sunday in Villanova Hall. It was a lot of fun. Families were able to create masks and beads. There were Mardi Gras cakes and ice cream Sundays. I want to thank the crew that organized the event.

You may recall that Joshua Weaver spoke at all the Masses a while back seeking support for his Eagle Scout project. His project was to renew the foyer of Villanova Hall. The foyer looks great. I especially like the framed photographs that he put up. It really dresses up the foyer. Thanks Joshua for a job well done.

Religious Education registration for next year is in full swing. As I say each year, no child will be deprived of a religious education because of a family's inability to pay the registration fee. If you are having a problem, speak with Marilyn Mandosa, Dotty Barker or myself. Please remind any neighbor or friend who may be unaware that it is time to register especially those families who will be entering our program for the first time. Thanks.

The Catholic Appeal will begin on the weekend of March 7th and 8th. You should have received the mailing from the Archdiocese of Boston. I would ask that you seriously consider making a donation to the Catholic Appeal. On the weekend of March 7th & 8th we will listen to a message from Cardinal Sean. We will also have the opportunity to fill out the packets in the pew. If you received one in the mail, you could fill it out at home and bring it with you. Please remember that whatever you pledge can be paid over time

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

Saturday

5:00 PM Kevin Clancy

Sunday

8:00 AM Jacinto Rego

9:30 AM Shirley Meek

11:15 AM Robert Dorval

Monday

9:00 AM Gene McCarthy

Tuesday

9:00 AM Joan O'Brien

Wednesday

9:00 AM June Casey

Thursday

9:00 AM Kelly Crossen

Saturday

5:00 PM Caroline Vernaci

Sunday

8:00 AM Elizabeth A. Earley

9:30 AM Anthony Fruciano

11:15 AM Domenico Maglione

ARISE TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Please consider taking part in this opportunity during our Lenten journey. Call the Rectory if you would like more information or sign up for a class.

MARRIAGE PREP

Marriage Prep will be held on SATURDAY, MARCH 28th in Villanova Hall. For info. or to register call the Rectory.

WEDDING BANNS

I Jennifer Webber and Paul Amaral

THE BAPTISMS DURING THE EASTER SEASON

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12th @ 11:15 AM

DURING SUNDAY MASS

MAY 3rd @ 11:15 AM

REGULAR BAPTISM NO MASS

April 19 & May 17 @ 1:00 PM

FAMILY SKI TRIP

DUE TO THE OVERWELMING SUCCESS OF THE LAST SKI TRIP THERE WILL BE ANOTHER TRIP Sat, March 7, 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. All children 6-17 must be accompanied by parent.

S.T.A.M.P. DANCE

Tickets are now available at the rectory, from any STAMP member or by calling Mike at 978-657-8407. Please join us for a night of dinner, dancing and great raffle prizes on Saturday, March 14 in Villanova Hall.

LENT GOSPEL GIVING

The Traditional foundation for Lenten practice rests on three supports: PRAYER-FASTING-ALMSGIVING. To assist those in need, and to help fulfill the third of these support, St. Thomas Parish Outreach Ministry is going to have "Lenten Gospel Giving" program. Each week parishioners will be asked to bring ONE item with them to Mass based on the Gospel reading of each week in Lent. The gifts will be donated to various needy causes, some in which we are already involved.

Next Sunday March 7th & 8th "And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them." Mark 9:3 Please bring in shaving cream, razors, toothpaste/brushes, lip balm, and Q-tips for "Our Local Heroes"

HEAVEN CENT

For Lent we will be giving out baby bottles for you to fill with extra change for BIRTHRIGHT AND PROJECT RACHEL.

2009 CARDINAL APPEAL

Next weekend March 7-8 will be Catholic Appeal Weekend here at St. Thomas. As a Catholic community, we are called during this season of Lent to respond to God's grace in our lives. We do so by continuing to participate as fully as we are able in the building up of His kingdom. This month, Cardinal Sean is asking every Catholic household to participate in the 2009 Catholic Appeal, which funds the many central ministries and services of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Appeal is to our Archdiocese what a weekly offertory is to our parish-so your participation and support are critical. Because of the economic downturn, support of the Catholic Appeal is more urgent this year. On Catholic Appeal Weekend, we will be showing a video message from Cardinal Sean and asking every Catholic household to make a pledge.

If we exceed our financial goal, we will receive 25 percent of all funds raised above goal for use in the parish. Please know that your participation is important and that all gifts matter.

We encourage you to take home an information packet from Mass this weekend so that you can prayerfully consider how you will participate. Those of you that gave to the Appeal should also receive a letter this week from Cardinal Sean. Please bring your completed pledge card and pledge envelopes to St. Thomas next week to place in the collection basket. Thank you. For more information, please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org

CHURCH SUPPORT

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

ST. THOMAS GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION

As of February 23, 2009	\$ 46,131.00
Our Parish Goal	\$ 50,000.00

Thanks to all who have already given, for those who may be thinking of contributing to the Grand Annual you may mail your gift to the parish or drop it in the offertory basket

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

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.

TO REGISTER FOR CCD PLEASE CALL

The Religious Ed. Office at 978-658-6040. Their office is located in the basement of the Church.

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.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

RELAY FOR LIFE

Wilmington will be having a Relay For Life event at the High school track the weekend of May 16-17. For more information www.relayforlife.org/wilmingtonma.

PLEASE RECYCLE

The Minuteman Senior Service are looking for old cell phones, PDAs, blackberries and Palms and all the Paraphernalia that goes along with them example car chargers... The Minuteman sends them to a recycling center that pays a small amount for them. This helps the environment and any monies collected helps for frail senior serves. A box will be in the Foyer of the Church for your donations. Any questions please call June 978-657-7119.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 1 7pm Prayer Group	March 2 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 9 6:45to 8pm	March 3 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 7 6:45 to 8pm	March 4 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	March 5	March 6 6:30pm STATIONS	March 7 SKI TRIP
March 8 Gr 2 Parent Meeting 12:30 in Church 7pm Prayer Group	March 9 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 10 6:45to 8pm	March 10 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 8 6:45 to 8pm	March 11 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	March 12	March 13 6:30pm STATIONS	March 14 STAMP DANCE
March 15 7pm Prayer Group	March 16 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 9 6:45to 8pm	March 17 ST.PATRICKS DAY Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 7 6:45 to 8pm	March 18 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	March 19	March 20 NO STATIONS	March 21
March 22 7pm Prayer Group CCD 2009-2010 Late registration begins	March 23 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 10 6:45to 8pm	March 24 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 8 6:45 to 8pm	March 25 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	March 26	March 27 6:30pm STATIONS	March 28 MARIAGE PREP Confirmation 10:30 & 1pm
March 29 Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	March 30 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 9 6:45to 8pm	March 31 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 7 6:45 to 8pm	April 1	April 2	April 3 6:30pm STATIONS	April 4
April 5 PALM SUNDAY 7pm Prayer Group	April 6 HOLY WEEK	April 7	April 8	April 9 HOLY THURSDAY 7pm Mass	April 10 GOOD FRIDAY 7pm	April 11 EASTER VIGIL 7pm Mass
April 12 EASTER	April 13	April 14 JESUS DAY Grade 2 4:00pm-6:00pm	April 15	April 16	April 17 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	April 18 FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE
April 19 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	April 25 SENIOR MASS LUNCHEON
April 26 Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	April 27 First Communion practice for Group 1 4:00-5:00pm	April 28 First Communion practice for Group 2 4:00-5:00pm	April 29 First Communion practice for Group 1 4:00-5:00pm	April 30 First Communion practice for Group 2 4:00-5:00pm	May 1	May2 First Communion

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

During his weekly address, Pope Benedict XVI said, "Every person needs a "center" in his life, a source of truth and goodness to draw from in the flux of the different situations of everyday life and its toil. Everyone of us, when he pauses for a moment of silence, needs to feel not only the beating of his own heart, but more deeply, the beating of a trustworthy presence, perceptible to the senses of faith and yet more real: the presence of Christ, heart of the world."

"Meditations of the Heart" is available through www.authorhouse.com

ANNOUNCING THE NEW ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF NAZARETH We're happy to announce the opening of the all new Academy of Our Lady of Nazareth an all girls Catholic college preparatory high school opening in Sept. 2009, a school of rigorous academics and premier performing arts. Check website for details www.sayenaz.com.