

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions March 7-15, 2009

Saturday
5:00 PM Caroline Vernaci

Sunday
8:00 AM Elizabeth A. Earley
9:30 AM Anthony Fruciano
11:15 AM Domenico Maglione

Monday
9:00 AM Maryann Murphy

Tuesday
9:00 AM Lillian Cosby

Wednesday
9:00 AM Thomas Coughlin

Thursday
9:00 AM Charles Peterson

Saturday
5:00 PM Sophie Parrella

Sunday
8:00 AM Joan Gilbert
9:30 AM Sean Manning
11:15 AM Donald Franco

EASTER ENVELOPES

For those who wish prayers said for their deceased loved ones there are envelopes by the Statue of Mary all donations will be used for the decorations for Easter. Please PRINT clearly. All names will be printed in the bulletin. Masses will be said during the Easter Season.

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.

WEDDING BANNES

II 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

MARRIAGE PREP

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 Program is Saturday, March 28th, from 9am to 4pm. For information or to register please call the Rectory 978-658-4665.

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

February 25, 2009

“Dear children! In this time of renunciation, prayer and penance, I call you anew: go and confess your sins so that grace may open your hearts, and permit it to change you. Convert little children, open yourselves to God and to His plan for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

In today's gospel, we read of the Transfiguration of Jesus before Peter, James and John. It was here, on the top of this mountain, the three apostles witnessed Jesus in His true and glorious magnificence. A beautiful church now stands on the place where the Transfiguration took place. Inside is a stunning altar where pilgrims are allowed to have mass. Above this altar is “The Altar of the Divine” which is situated at the very top of the church. No one is allowed to celebrate mass at that altar, not even the Holy Father.

Standing outside, one can gaze upon miles and miles of beauty. It was here Peter, James and John heard the words from God the Father when He said to them, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” The richness of God transcends time and is still alive today. He speaks these same words to us - “Listen to Him.” But, do we?

(“Meditations of the Heart” is available through www.authorhouse.com)

THANK YOU

To all of those who contributed to my Eagle Scout Project of rejuvenating Villanova Hall foyer with your thought, prayers and donations I thank you very much. Your response to my project was overwhelming and I am very appreciative. The Hall now has a newly renovated foyer, back hallway and bathroom as well as a brand new looking sign over the doorway! I hope all of you can stop by to see the many hours put in to benefit our parish and community.

Again thank you all. Josh Weaver

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

LENTEN DISPLAY

For Lent a “desert” is built in the sanctuary near the ambo (Lectern) to highlight the Gospel of the First Sunday in Lent in which the Spirit leads Jesus into the desert. This display will remain in the sanctuary throughout the forty days of Lent to remind us that each of us must enter the desert to experience conversion. During Lent, come and kneel down in front of the “desert” and consider how many unique grains of sand it requires to form a desert and mediate on your need for a desert experience to carry you through this Lent season.

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 “While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.” John 3:19 Please bring in cup-of-soup, instant coco, powdered drink mix, or instant soups for our “Local Heroes”

HEAVEN CENT

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

ST. THOMAS CHARITIES COMMITTEE

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE WILMINGTON FOOD PANTRY

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN VILLANOVA HALL NEXT WEEKEND, MARCH 14 & 15 AFTER ALL MASSES.

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

2009 CARDINAL APPEAL

This 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

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.

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.

MARCH 8, 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 FOOD COLLECTION
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 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	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

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/wilmingtonna.

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.

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.savenaz.com.