

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions March 14-22, 2009

Saturday

5:00 PM Sophie Parrella

Sunday

8:00 AM Joan Gilbert

9:30 AM Sean Manning

11:15 AM Donald Franco

Monday

9:00 AM Sean Manning

Tuesday

9:00 AM For the People of the Parish

Wednesday

9:00 AM Charles Peterson

Thursday

9AM Anna Mudry

Saturday

5:00 PM Angela & Giuseppe DePasquale

Sunday

8:00 AM Mark Matarese

9:30 AM Maria Grace Rosa

11:15 AM Joseph Kingston

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.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Please note that on Good Friday, April 10 The Baptist Church will have the Ecumenical service at 12 noon

MARRIAGE PREP

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

WEDDING BANNES

I Nicole Minghella and Robert French

III Jennifer Webber and Paul Amaral

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The STAMP dance is this weekend. As you know this is our biggest fundraiser for STAMP. If you are unable to attend but would like to support the effort, you could make a donation to STAMP. Mail it to the rectory or give it to any STAMP member.

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 began last weekend. I would ask that you seriously consider making a donation to the Catholic Appeal. As Cardinal Sean said last weekend in his message, the Catholic Appeal supports various ministries that pass on the faith. I have left appeal 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. You can drop your pledge card in any collection basket or mail it directly. Thank you for considering this request.

On March 28th, Bishop Allue will be with us to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation.

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

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.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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 22 "And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world" John 3:19 Please bring in batteries "AAA" or "AA" size or flashlights our "Local Heroes."

HEAVEN CENT

The baby bottles given out during Lent are for you to fill with extra change for BIRTHRIGHT AND PROJECT RACHEL.

ST. THOMAS CHARITIES COMMITTEE

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE WILMINGTON FOOD PANTRY THIS WEEKEND
ALL DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN VILLANOVA HALL 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 March 11, 2009	\$ 46,391.00
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 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. 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.

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

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

CONFIRMATION PRACTICE

Group 1 6:45 Monday, March 23

Group 2 6:45 Wednesday, March 25

Confirmation practice will be in the Church. We ask that all sponsors or responsible adult must accompany each confirmation student.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

RELAY FOR LIFE 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 A box is in the Foyer of the Church for your donations. Any questions please call June 978-657-7119.

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.

MARCH 15, 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 6:45pm GR 10 Group 1 practice	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 6:45pm GR 10 Group 2 Confirmation practice	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 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	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 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	May 2 10:30am & 1pm First Communion
May 3 Baptismal 11:15 Mass 7pm Prayer Group	May 4 First Communion practice for Group 1 4:00-5:00pm	May 5 First Communion practice for Group 2 4:00-5:00pm	May 6 First Communion practice for Group 1 4:00-5:00pm	May 7 First Communion practice for Group 2 4:00-5:00pm	May 8 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	May 9 10:30am & 1pm First Communion

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

Last Sunday, Pope Benedict XVI asked for prayers of “spiritual support” during his upcoming trip to the Holy Land from May 8-15. The Pope explained the reason of the trip: "to ask the Lord, while visiting the places sanctified by his life on earth, for the precious gift of unity and peace for the Middle East and for all of humanity."

After visiting the Holy Land twice, I find it amazing that three major world religions find it difficult to live in peace and harmony in the land where Jesus lived for thirty-three years. Yet, it is also amazing that all too often we cannot live within our family unit in peace and harmony. It isn't always easy, but we must strive to “love one another.” God is passionately involved in the world and in our life as well. Pray for Pope Benedict XVI during his upcoming trip and also pray for one another.
 (“Meditations of the Heart” is available through www.authorhouse.com)

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.”