

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions March 28-April 5, 2009

Saturday

5:00 PM Joao Tavres

Sunday

8:00 AM Francis Hightower

9:30 AM For the People of the Parish

11:15 AM Rita Ennis

Monday

9:00 AM Hugo Medina

Tuesday

9:00 AM Walter E. Meh,

Wednesday

9:00 AM Mary O'Rourke

Thursday

9:00 AM Mary Marcone

Saturday

8:00 PM Irene & Joe Lyons

Sunday

8:00 AM Vittorio Iocco

9:30 AM Stephen Hancox

11:15AM Domenico Maglione

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

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.

SEDER SUPPER

The Seder will be held on Monday, April 6 at 7:00pm in Villanova Hall. Come share the supper and relate the Readings of the Old Testament to Jesus's teachings in the New Testament. Please call the Rectory to RSVP.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

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

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

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 is underway. I would ask that you seriously consider making a donation. 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.

This past Tuesday the Very Reverend Arthur Coyle, VE, Episcopal Vicar for the Merrimack Region made a visitation to the parish. He met with the staff in the afternoon and held a joint meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council in the evening.

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

On Palm Sunday, our joint choirs along with the Trinity Singers from Nazareth Academy will sing at the 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM Masses. We did this last year and it was well received.

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

Dear Parishioner:

Thank you for your consistent generosity. These are challenging times for many of us however we continue to be blessed with a generous spirit throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. With the generosity of you and so many of our Catholic brothers and sisters, the Christmas Collection in support of the Clergy Funds increased by approximately 5%. The Clergy Funds primary purpose is to provide medical care and retirement benefits to senior clergy who have served parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. Stabilizing the Funds is a top priority of Cardinal Sean, the Archdiocese, and its priest.

We are thankful that you have chosen to give generously to the priests who have devoted their lives to faithfully serve God and the good work of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all our priests, that you for your continued support

Sincerely yours in Christ,

All the Priests throughout the Archdiocese of Boston

FIFTH 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 April 4 & 5 "Many people spread cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches... Mark 11:7. Please bring in socks, wipes, tissues, or home town clothing for "Our Local Heroes."

FOOD & MEN /WOMEN CLOTHING COLLECTION

Once again we ask for your generosity to support less fortunate people. The Charities Committee will be collecting for the Wilmington Food Pantry and also Donations of men & women clothing.

Please drop off food and clothing in Villanova Hall April 18/19, 2009

ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB

April 13- Planning for Senior Mass and Luncheon 7pm in Villanova Hall

April 25- Senior Mass and Luncheon 10am Workers-Seniors 11:30am

June 1- Scholarship Meeting 7pm in Villanova Hall

June 8- Closing Mass at 6:30pm and dinner at Kyoto Steak House in Tewksbury

SENIOR ANNOINTING MASS AND LUNCHEON

Senior Anointing Mass and Luncheon will be Sat., April 25. Mass will be at 11:30am followed by the luncheon. To make a reservation, please call Joan at 978-657-3905. No reservations will be taken after that date. If you need a ride, please let us know when you register.

SONS OF ITALY EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST

The Sons of Italy invites you to have Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Sunday, April 5th from 9am to 12 noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The menu includes scrambled eggs, tatar tots, bacon, sausage, French toast sticks, coffee, juice, and assorted muffins. A donation of \$7.00, children under 5 free. Contact Charlie at 978-658-5598. All proceeds will go to benefit Alzheimer Disease.

CHURCH SUPPORT

February 15, 2009

Offertory Collection	\$4,787.00
Monthly Collection	\$3,337.00

February 22, 2009

Offertory Collection	\$6,854.00
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March 1, 2009

Offertory Collection	\$5,105.00
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March 8, 2009

Offertory Collection	\$5,266.36
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March 15, 2009

Offertory Collection	\$5,441.00
Monthly Collection	\$3,872.77

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

TO REGISTER FOR CCD PLEASE CALL

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

LATE Registration tuition payment

1 Child \$85.00

2 Children \$120

3 or more children \$155.00

Last day for registration is Saturday May 9th.

PARISH OUTREACH MEETING

St. Thomas Parish Outreach Ministry meeting will be Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm in Villanova Hall.

PATORAL CARE TO THE SICK & HOMBOUND is sponsoring a six week workshop starting on Tuesday, April 14 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Judith Talvacchia a certified Chaplian at MI Nursing/Restorative Center in Lawrence will teach the workshop. To register please call the rectory.

MARCH 29, 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 7pm Parish outreach Meeting	April 3 6:30pm STATIONS	April 4
April 5 PALM SUNDAY 7pm Prayer Group	April 6 HOLY WEEK 7pm SEDER SUPPER	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 Women's club 7pm	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 2:30pm Divine Mercy No 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 LAST DAY for CCD 2009- 2010 registration

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

After Jesus' body was removed from the cross, He was gently placed in His Mother's arms. Imagine the heart-wrenching pain she felt at that time. Her Son was totally innocent and had done nothing wrong. He had known and given only love throughout His life. Are we filled with love? Or, do we rebel against our cross and seek only comfort and ease? Saint Padre Pio said, "Our Lord sometimes makes you feel the weight of the cross. This weight seems unbearable but you carry it because, in His love and mercy, the Lord helps you and gives you strength."

Jesus endured a more excruciating death than we will ever face. As He walked to Calvary, He fell three times with the weight of the cross crushing His body more and more. As He rose to His feet each time, He looked into the future and saw your face gazing at Him. Your love gave Him strength to carry the cross. Allow His love now to give you strength each day to carry your cross. ("Meditations of the Heart" is available at www.authorhouse.com)

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

March 25, 2009

"Dear Children! In this time of spring, when everything is awakening from the winter sleep, you also awaken your souls with prayer so that they may be ready to receive the light of the risen Jesus. Little children, may He draw you closer to His heart so that you may become open to eternal life. I pray for you and intercede before the most High for your sincere conversion. Thank you for having responded to my call."

FOCA MAIL CAMPAIGN This weekend we will be asked to participate in a mail campaign against proposed federal legislation, the Freedom of Choice Act. Please oppose the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) and retain laws against government funding and promotion of abortion. You will have the opportunity to sign postcards to your U.S Representative and two U.S. Senators. Please plan to participate in this important event.