

## ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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### Mass Intentions September 12-20, 2009

#### Saturday

5:00 PM Claire DiGiambattista

#### Sunday

8:00 AM Joseph Sousa

9:30 AM Lois Gardner

11:15 AM Donald Franco

#### Monday

9:00 AM George Novello

#### Tuesday

9:00 AM Mary Simeone

#### Wednesday

9:00 AM Joseph MacEachern

#### Thursday

9:00 AM Janet Simmons

#### Saturday

5:00 PM Marguerite & Anthony Paone &

Mary A. & Joseph P. Fitzgerald

#### Sunday

8:00 AM Jan DeLuca

9:30 AM Son's of Italy

11:15 AM Tom Casey

### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

During the summer you encounter a lot of reruns on television. In the spirit of the summer reruns, this column is a rerun from last week. I will rerun it during August because many people are away. Someone told me that the first two weeks of August are the most popular vacation times. I thought it was around the fourth of July.

As you may have read in the newspaper or heard on television, Cardinal Sean has raised the retirement age for priests in Boston from 70 to 75. It did not come as a total surprise. All you had to do was the math. By that I mean he has to cover 292 parishes plus other ministries such as hospital chaplains, college chaplains, etc. He does not have enough priests to cover those. So from a human resource perspective, I knew something had to give. Secondly, it benefits the Clergy Benefit Trust. He will not be paying out a retirement stipend for an additional five years and at the same time the parish or institution where the priest is assigned will be paying into the trust. This is just another temporary stop gap measure. The Church needs to develop a long term strategy to deal with the clergy shortage issue. Prayer alone is not the solution.

The religious education is in need of teachers and aides. The needs are listed elsewhere in the bulletin.

As part of the celebration of the Year of the Priest, the Archdiocese is having a priest appreciation dinner at the Seaport Hotel in Boston on September 16. The tables are \$5,000.00 each. Since there are 10 people at a table, tickets are \$500.00. They would like each parish to sponsor a table. If anyone is interested in purchasing a ticket, please call the rectory. All proceeds will benefit the Clergy Benefit Trust.

Over the past several weeks I have been writing about a new proposed model for the financial relationship between the parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston and central ministries. This week I am repeating what I wrote last week since many people were away. I will also tell you what the new model is. The goal of the model is to streamline the relationship, make it more transparent and fairer. What is the current relationship? Currently each parish has a Catholic Appeal target. There are no consequences if you do not reach the target... Each parish also pays a school tax (6% of offertory and monthly), a hospital tax (2.5% of offertory and monthly), Cathedra-tricum (1-2% of offertory and monthly), 50% of the Communication collection and various fees (audit, real estate, etc.). They want to simplify this approach.

The new proposed model will consist of a parish tithe and a Catholic Appeal assessment. The parish tithe will be 10% of offertory (including the monthly), the Grand Annual collection and net rental income. Net rental income is generated when a parish leases a building or parking lot to an outside entity. We do not have any net rental income. The parish tithe replaces all current taxes and fees. Each parish will have a Catholic Appeal assessment. The assessment will be 7-8% of offertory (including the monthly), the Grand Annual collection and net rental income. The difference between the current goal for the Catholic Appeal and an assessment for the Catholic Appeal is that an assessment requires us to pay the assessment even if the money collected for the Catholic Appeal does not equal the assessment. Any shortage would have to come out of the parish operating revenue. Let's assume that this year's goal is an assessment. Our assessment is \$29,500.00. Thus far we collected \$27,297.00. Under the new model, I would have to write a check from the parish to cover the \$2,203.00 shortfall. Under the new model the Catholic Appeal assessment will be much greater than the current goal of \$29,500.00 because the assessment will be 7-8% of offertory (including the monthly), the Grand Annual collection and net rental income.

Under the new model, more money will be going out of the parish than under the old model. Since we are not running a huge surplus, more money going out of the parish means one of two things, either we make cuts here at the parish in order to meet our obligation to the diocese or we increase our revenue to meet our obligation to the diocese.

## **TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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In the coming weeks, I will present a comparison between the old model and the new model from a dollars and cents perspective.

In fairness to the Archdiocese of Boston, this is the model that I was familiar with when I was stationed in New Jersey. I would venture that most dioceses use this model. Since they have not used it in Boston, it may seem to be draconian to some. I will continue to keep you informed.

Finally, the latest update from the Catholic Appeal's office states that 216 parishioners have pledged \$27,667.00 towards our goal of \$29,500.00. Thanks to all who gave. If you would like to give, it's not too late to give!!

Well I guess that is it for now.  
Fr. Earley

### **CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Adult Choir rehearsal Wednesday's 7pm  
Every other week The Children's Choir Wednesday's 6pm

### **ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB**

Opening Mass on Monday, Sept 14 at 6:30pm in the Chapel.  
All Women of the Parish are invited to join us.

### **ST. FRANCIS HOUSE MENS COLLECTION** **September 19 & 20**

Once again the Charities Committee will have a Clothing Collection for the St. Frances House. They are in need of the following items in sizes large through 6X:

Winter jackets  
Men's casual shirts  
Men's pants  
Men's and women's sweatshirts  
New and gently used footwear  
Backpacks/bookbags  
New men's underwear  
New men's t-shirts  
New men's crew socks

You may also donate your time, we are always looking for volunteers.

### **DOMINICAN SISTERS BAKE SALE**

St. Thomas of Villanova Parish will have a bake sale on the weekend October 3 & 4, all proceeds will go to Sister Madaline & her missionary efforts

### **NEW CORI'S FORMS FOR 2009-2010**

We ask all volunteers in the Parish to please fill out a new cori. This includes all CCD Teachers and all ministries. The Forms are in the Sacristy. Thank you.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

EACH VOLUNTEER MUST PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY HIS OR HER IDENTITY- MA LICENSE, US PASSPORT ETC.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

We are still in need of a teacher for Grades 5, 7 & 8  
Office Help is always needed for all grades!

CCD Classes will Begin the week of September 14

**PARENT AND STUDENT MEETING FOR GRADE 10  
6:45pm in the Main church on Monday Sept 14.**

### **ARISE SIGN UP**

Season Three of Arise Together in Christ, In the Footsteps of Christ, will begin this Fall. All who participated in Season two found the experience rewarding. Each Season consists of six, 90-minute weekly sessions. Most sessions are scheduled during the evening. Sign-up Sunday will be September 20th. Applications will be available at the entrance to the Church. Parishioners who have participated in Arise will be available to answer any questions you may have. And remember, ARISE is an opportunity to invite a family member, neighbor or friend to join you, whether a member of the parish or not.

### **FAMILY FUN DAY** **"FUN FOR ALL AGES"**

Sunday, September 27, 1:30pm to 4pm followed by outdoor Mass. Cook-out, moon bounce, crafts, cotton candy, popcorn, games for all ages, prizes. Come and enjoy a wonderful day with St. Thomas faith community.

If you would like to help out with the planning or volunteer for the day of please call Pat Archfield at 978-250-1710

### **OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE** ***August 25, 2009***

*"Dear children! Today I call you anew to conversion. Little children, you are not holy enough and you do not radiate holiness to others, therefore pray, pray, pray and work on your personal conversion, so that you may be a sign of God's love to others. I am with you and am leading you towards eternity, for which every heart must yearn. Thank your for having responded to my call. "*

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2009**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sept 13 Catechetical Sunday 11:15 Mass 7pm Prayer group	Sept 14 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm Women's Club Mass 6:30pm	Sept 15 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 - 6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Sept 16 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30 7-8pm Adult Choir	Sept 17	Sept 18 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 19 FOOD & CLOTHING COLLECTION
Sept 20 GR 1 9:30 MASS  ARISE SIGN UP 1pm Baptism  7pm Prayer group	Sept 21 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	Sept 22 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	Sept 23 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30  6-7pm Children Choir 7-8pm Adult Choir	Sept 24	Sept 25 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 26
Sept 27 GR 2 9:30 MASS FAMILY FUN DAY 1pm Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer group	Sept 28 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	Sept 29 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Sept 30 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30  7-8pm Adult Choir	Oct 1	Oct 2 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Oct 3 Dominican Sisters BAKE SALE
Oct 4 BAKE SALE  Gr 10 Mass 1pm Baptism  7pm Prayer group	Oct 5 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm 7pm Women's Club	Oct 6 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	Oct 7 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30  6-7pm Children Choir 7-8pm Adult Choir	Oct 8	Oct 9 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Oct 10
Oct 11 7pm Prayer group	Oct 12 No CCD Class Columbus Day	Oct 13 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Oct 14 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30  7-8pm Adult Choir	Oct 15	Oct 16 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Oct 17 Food & Clothing Collection
Oct 18 7pm Prayer group	Oct 19 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	Oct 20 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	Oct 21 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30  6-7pm Children Choir 7-8pm Adult Choir	Oct 22	Oct 23 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Oct 24
Oct 25 1pm Baptismal Instruction  7pm Prayer group	Oct 26 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	Oct 27 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Oct 28 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30  7-8pm Adult Choir	Oct 29	Oct 30 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Oct 31
Nov 1 1pm Baptismal Instruction  7pm Memorial Service	Nov 2 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	Nov 3 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	Nov 4 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30  6-7pm Children Choir 7-8pm Adult Choir	Nov 5	Nov 6 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Nov 7 FOOD COLLECTION

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

In today's gospel from Saint Mark, we read these words of Jesus, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Needless to say, it is not always easy to follow Jesus teachings in today's world. On the other hand, this is exactly what Our Lord asks of each one of us. He asks us to share our faith with everyone we come into contact with. When we follow in His steps, He walks beside us encouraging us with every step we take.

Earlier in this gospel, Jesus asked the apostles, "...who do you say that I am?" Saint Peter, with no hesitation whatsoever replied, "You are the Christ." As we follow Jesus, He asks us the same question, "Who do you say that I am?" We must each answer from the depth of our soul. Jesus is the Son of God; He has overcome death and lives in eternal splendor with His Father. Today Jesus asks you the question, "Who do you say that I am?" What is your answer to Him?