

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

**Mass Intentions –December 5-13, 2009**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM William Bovitz**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Jose & Liowtina Marques**

**9:30 AM Diane Kelley**

**11:15 AM Leo J. Earley**

**Monday**

**9:00 AM Rosetta Varano Paglinca**

**7:00pm Joseph & Mary Vozzella**

**Tuesday**

**9:00 AM William J. Rooney**

**Wednesday**

**9:00 AM MaryAnn Murphy**

**Thursday**

**9:00 AM Neil MacDonald**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Jim Frackelton**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Vincenza Onorato**

**9:30 AM Jean O'Neil**

**11:15 AM Robert J. Morrell**

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ENVELOPES**

Envelopes are by the Blessed Mary for anyone who wishes prayers for their departed loved ones. The donations will be used for decorating the Church for Christmas. The names of the deceased will be listed in the bulletin.



**ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
ADULT AND CHILDREN CHOIRS**

Come join us for this year Christmas Concert! It will take place on Friday, December 18, at 7pm in the Church.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4:00pm 6:00pm & Midnight**

**CHRISTMAS MORNING**

**9:30am & 11:15am**

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

It is hard to believe that we are in the second week of Advent. The Giving Tree project is in full swing. The Women's Club's Birthright project is likewise in progress. Your support of these projects will bring joy to many families in the area.

I am grateful for the response to the Grand Annual collection. As I mentioned in my letter, I want to use the proceeds for some capital improvements. The circulating pump for the heating system in Villanova Hall failed. The repair for that was over two thousand dollars. When we had our building inspection, we failed. The inspector wanted some additional exit signs and emergency lighting put in. We did that work. I have not seen the bill for that. I believe that the estimate was a little over one thousand dollars. The proceeds of the Grand Annual is being used for these type of projects. Thanks for your help.

I did get some snow shovelers. That is good.

On Friday, December 18, 2009 we will have our annual Christmas concert. Come join us for this event.

On Sunday, December 6, 2009, Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities will have a house tour in Lowell. The homes are decorated for Christmas. It is a lot of fun. For more details see the notice elsewhere in the bulletin.

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

Fr. Earley

**ST. THOMAS GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION**

As of December 2, 2009	\$21,760.00
Our Parish Goal	\$50,000.00

**CHURCH SUPPORT**

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

**SPECIAL FINANCIAL & FOOD COLLECTION**

The second collection this weekend will be taken up for the St. Thomas Charities Committee. They will also be collecting food for the Wilmington Food Pantry. That can be dropped off in Villanova Hall.

**WREATH SALE**

The Parish Outreach Ministry will be selling Christmas wreaths this weekend after all Masses.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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### **THE GIVING TREE**

The “Giving Tree” with ornaments, on each ornament is a request for one gift (or blank socks, mittens, or hats). We ask you to take an ornament, purchase the gift requested, gift wrap it and tape the ornament to the outside of the gift to indicate what the package contains, and put it under the tree. On or before Sunday, December 20. We hope the “Giving Tree” will remind us all that the true meaning of Christmas is “Christian Charity and love of neighbor are what really matters.”

### **BIRTHRIGHT OF LOWELL**

Again this year St. Thomas Women’s Club will collect unwrapped layette items for newborn babies of unwed mothers in the Framingham area. Items may be placed in the basket outside the confessionals from Nov. 29 through Jan. 3. They are in desperate need of wipes and diapers. We are helping Framingham because the Lowell office has closed.

### **ST. THOMAS WOMENS CLUB SOCIAL**

The Women’s Club will hold its Christmas Social on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Villanova Hall.

**ALL WOMEN IN THE PARISH ARE INVITED TO JOIN US.** We are having a Pot Luck Supper- please bring an appetizer, main dish or dessert. Please call Joan 657-3905, to let us know. If you want to take part in the Yankee Swap bring a wrapped \$10. gift. Also anyone who wants to bring an unwrapped Birthright gift may do so.

### **SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED**

We are looking for someone who is able to shovel the walkways and stairs for all snowstorms. If interested please see Fr. Earley or call the rectory.

### **FAMILY SKI TRIP JANUARY 9<sup>th</sup>**

The Family Ski trips are back anyone interested in going on Saturday Jan. 9 2010 please call Rich Casey at 978-447-1020.

### **WEDDING BANN**

*Donna Taylor and Joseph Neylon*

### **OUTSIDE THE PARISH**

#### **HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR**

Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities will be holding its Holiday House Tour “Holiday in the Highlands” in Lowell, Sunday, December 6, from 12noon to 4pm

Tour ticket prices: \$25.00 advance purchase, \$30.00 day of event

To purchase tickets or make a donation, please make check payable to MVCC and send to 70 Lawrence Street Lowell Ma 01852-2697.

For further information please call 978-4521421 or visit our website at [www.ccab.org](http://www.ccab.org)

Proceeds to benefit the Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities food pantries and fuel assistance programs.

#### **PARENTING CLASSES**

Practical ways to tackle the challenges of raising children ages 5 to 12! Through this program you will learn skills that will help you develop cooperation, responsibility and good character in your children. You’ll also learn positive discipline techniques so you can avoid those all too familiar power struggles. Best of all, you’ll be able to share ideas with other parents who know exactly what you’re going through!

Date: six Monday evenings:

January 4, 11, 25 & February 1,8,22

Time: 7-9pm

Location: Wilmington United Methodist Church

Cost: \$20 for one or two parents from the same household sharing the same book

To register: Call Rev Leslie Hastings at 978-658-4519 or email her at [wumcchristianed@verizon.net](mailto:wumcchristianed@verizon.net)

#### **THREE NOTABLE CATHOLIC SPEAKERS COMING TO BOSTON AREA FOR ADVENT CONFERENCE SAT, DEC 12**

Don’t miss Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference and the opportunity to be inspired by well known Catholic speakers Johnnette Benkovic of EWTN Radio & TV, Vinny Flynn, author of 7 Secrets of the Eucharist and Dan Lynch of Our Lady of Guadalupe Apostolate. The special all day program will be held at St. Joseph’s in Medford and will begin with the rosary and Mass at 8am. Tickets are \$70 per person and includes lunch. To order tickets or for more information call 781-218-2834 or mail checks to Eternal Life Radio(payable ELR) PO Box 589, Medford, MA 02155.

**DECEMBER 6, 2009**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Dec 6</b> 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	<b>Dec 7</b> NO CCD 7pm Mass	<b>Dec 8</b> NO CCD 9am Mass Immaculate Conception	<b>Dec 9</b> Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>Dec 11</b> 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	<b>Dec 12</b>
<b>Dec 13</b> 9:30 Mass Children's Liturgy Coffee & Donuts  7pm Prayer Group	<b>Dec 14</b> Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	<b>Dec 15</b> Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	<b>Dec 16</b> Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Dec 18</b> 7pm Christmas Concert	<b>Dec 19</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation 10:30, 11:30, 1pm
<b>Dec 20</b> 9:30 Gr 2 Mass 1pm Baptism  7pm Prayer Group	<b>Dec 21</b> Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	<b>Dec 22</b> NO CCD	<b>Dec 23</b> NO CCD	<b>Dec 24</b> Christmas Eve Mass 4, 6 & Midnight	<b>Dec 25</b> Christmas 9:30 & 11:15am	<b>Dec 26</b>
<b>Dec 27</b> 9:30 Mass Children's Liturgy Coffee & Donuts  1pm Baptism Instruction  7pm Prayer Group	<b>Dec 28</b> NO CCD	<b>Dec 29</b> NO CCD	<b>Dec 30</b> NO CCD	<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>Jan 1</b>	<b>Jan 2</b>
<b>Jan 3</b> 1pm Baptism  7pm Prayer Group	<b>Jan 4</b> Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	<b>Jan 5</b> Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	<b>Jan 6</b> Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	<b>Jan 7</b>	<b>Jan 8</b>	<b>Jan 9</b>
<b>Jan 10</b> 9:30 Mass Children's Liturgy Coffee & Donuts  7pm Prayer Group	<b>Jan 11</b> Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	<b>Jan 12</b> Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	<b>Jan 13</b> Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	<b>Jan 14</b>	<b>Jan 15</b>	<b>Jan 16</b>
<b>Jan 17</b> 1pm Baptism  7pm Prayer Group	<b>Jan 18</b> NO CCD	<b>Jan 19</b> Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	<b>Jan 20</b> Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>Jan 22</b>	<b>Jan 23</b>
<b>Jan 24</b> 9:30 Mass Children's Liturgy Coffee & Donuts  7pm Prayer Group	<b>Jan 25</b> Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	<b>Jan 26</b> Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	<b>Jan 27</b> Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Jan 30</b>

**OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE November 25, 2009**

***“Dear children! In this time of grace I call you all to renew prayer in your families. Prepare yourselves with joy for the coming of Jesus. Little children, may your hearts be pure and pleasing, so that love and warmth may flow through you into every heart that is far from His love. Little children, be my extended hands, hands of love for all those who have become lost, who have no more faith and hope. Thank you for having responded to my call.”***

**Meditation of the Heart**

By Carolyn M. Kenney

In a few weeks, we will be celebrating Christmas. Until that day arrives, we will be busy buying presents, decorating our homes and preparing for Christmas day when family and friends will stop by. However, we cannot let the material aspect of Christmas be our only focus. We need to stop and take time individually - and as a family - to renew our faith and to strengthen it. Now is the time to develop a deeper relationship with God.

On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus who was born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. As the “star” appeared to the three Magi, there is a star today marking the place of Jesus’ birth. People from around the world - of all faiths - travel to see this holy site. As wonderful and spiritually moving as this is, Jesus is truly present every day - body, blood, soul and divinity - in the Eucharist. Contemplate on the realization that on Christmas day the best gift you will receive is Jesus in Holy Communion.