

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

**Mass Intentions –December 12-20, 2009**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Jim Frackelton**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Vincenza Onorato**

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

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

**Monday**

**9:00 AM Theresa Langlois**

**Tuesday**

**9:00 AM Vincent Finocchi**

**Wednesday**

**9:00 AM Vincent Finocchi**

**Thursday**

**9:00 AM Barbara Bavota**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Ralph Crawford**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Eugene & Geneva Belliveau**

**9:30 AM John, Marilyn & Gene Gage**

**11:15 AM George, Alice & Mary Pratt**

**BAPTISM**

On December 7, 2009 the following children were welcomed into St. Thomas Parish family:

*Elizabeth Kristine Oldenburg  
Emma Grace Tramontozzi*

**WEDDING BANNS**

*Michelle Tobin and Keith Forget*

**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 December 7, 2009	\$ 22,865.00
Our Parish Goal	\$ 50,000.00

**S.T.A.M.P. CANDY SALE**

S.T.A.M.P (St. Thomas Applachian Project) will be selling candy after all Masses this weekend and also next weekend. All proceeds will help fund next years trip to Mississippi!

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

It is hard to believe that we are in the third week of Advent. The Giving Tree project is in full swing. Please bring the gift to the church by Sunday, December 20. Catholic Charities will pick them up early Monday morning. The Women's Club's Birthright project is likewise in progress. That project continues until the Epiphany. 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 are being used to pay for these type of projects. Thanks for your help.

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

On Sat., Dec 19, our second grade students will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. We have three sessions. The sessions are at 10:30 AM 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

The Christmas collection will go towards the health and retirement needs of the priest of the Archdiocese.

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



**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

**PARISH OUTREACH CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Sun, Dec 13 meet at Villanova Hall at 5pm All are welcome to join & bring joy to our seniors. We ask that you bring a dozen cookies four to a bag & we add banana, & set of gloves, scarf & hat.

**SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED**

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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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### CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

Envelopes are by the Blessed Mary for anyone who wishes prayers for their departed loved ones. Masses will be said during the Christmas season. All the names of the deceased will be listed in the bulletin. Donations will be used for the decorations for Christmas.

### 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 Dec 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.

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm 6:00pm & Midnight

#### CHRISTMAS MORNING

9:30am & 11:15am

### EPIPHANY PAGEANT

Sun, Jan 3 at the 9:30 Mass the Children's Liturgy will be having the Epiphany Pageant. The group is beginning to organize this year's Pageant. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Ginger Dankese at [gdankese@comcast.net](mailto:gdankese@comcast.net) or 978-447-1599 or Terry McDermott at [mcbeags@verizon.net](mailto:mcbeags@verizon.net) or 978-694-1073. Please keep in mind that the speaking parts are reserved for fourth and fifth graders who regularly attend the Children's Liturgy Masses. There will be one required practice that will be scheduled for a morning during school vacation week.

### ST. THOMAS WOMENS CLUB SOCIAL

Christmas Social on Mon., Dec 14 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.

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

Anyone interested please call Rich Casey at 978-447-1020.

### ADVENT REFLECTION

As we enter into this third week of Advent, a time of waiting imaging ourselves as living within the Womb of God. This is the imagery that Dom Marmion used as he writes of Jesus as always living in the Womb of God. Whether Jesus is walking on the teaching or sitting at table with his friends, he is living in the womb of God, that power source is his constant abode. We offer this image for your Advent meditation: that we too live in the womb of God and find our "power source" there...

Touchstones of Transformation: We reflect on what we have done and what we have left undone for this Advent season:

"This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

How well have I lived with this? In what ways might I have lived this more fully?

"When did I see hungry and feed you, a stranger and take you in, sick or in prison and visit you? When you did it to these my sisters and brother you were doing in to Me" (Matthew 25:37-40)

How responsive have I been to the needs of others? What more might I do?

"Every human being is granted one more chance, one more opportunity to start life all over again. Just as God had the power to begin, we have the power to continue by beginning again and again." (Elie Wiesel)

In what ways do I give up myself or others too easily? Where could I give myself or others a new chance to begin?

"Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth: "you owe me."

Look what happens with a love like that: It lights the whole sky(Hafiz)

In what ways do I keep track of blessings or failures and compare myself to other? In what ways do I bring light into my world and others? We invite you to consider ways in which the hills and valleys of your heart and lives might be leveled out so that you might more easily travel into and draw life for the womb of our God.

## DECEMBER 13, 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<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>

**WILMINGTON YOUTH CENTER** is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders who reside in Wilmington. They meet on Saturday nights from 7pm to 9:30pm students are not allowed access to the Center until 7pm. You must be a registered member. For more information please call 978-436-1051

### 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

At the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to ask if she would be the Mother of Jesus, the Messiah. Immediately, she replied, “May it be done to me according to your word.” What an awesome responsibility she would undertake. Her purpose in life had been shown to her.

Like Mary, we too must find our purpose in life. No matter our age, God asks us to obey His will not only for our good, but for the benefit of all those people we come in contact with. Maybe we encounter many people in the course of a day, or perhaps only a few. If we touch and affect the life of one person, hopefully that individual will, in turn, grow in faith and touch the life of another. Pray within your soul for you to be touched by God's love and wisdom.