

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MASS INTENTIONS Feb. 20-28, 2010

Saturday

5:00 PM Richard Paul Robinson

Sunday

8:00 AM Mary & Alexander Quandt

9:30 AM George Pratt

11:15 AM Alice Pagliaro & Albert Dente

Monday

9:00 AM D. Katrina Henckel

Tuesday

9:00 AM Anthony Visconti & Mary Lou Ricci

Wednesday

9:00 AM Henry J. Trabucco

Thursday

9:00 AM Dolores LaCambria

Saturday

5:00 PM Ed White

Sunday

8:00 AM Gertrude E. Wagstaff

9:30 AM Winifred King

11:15 AM Kevin and Walter Clancy

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.

MANDATORY WEDDING MUSIC MEETING

On Sun, Feb 28, at 1pm there will be a mandatory Music meeting for Brides and Grooms getting married this year. For more information please call Lora at 781-243-1073.

PRE CANA CLASS DATES

St. Thomas Parish offers a Marriage prep class once a year. This year the dates are Friday March 26, 6pm to 8pm and Saturday March 27 from 9am to 4pm. To sign up or if you have questions please call the rectory

SKI TRIP SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

A Ski trip is planned for Saturday, March 6th to sign up or for more info please contact Rich Casey at 978-447-1020

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Our parish offers the Sacrament of the Sick on Sunday after the 11:15 Mass.

LENT 2010

Please be sure to take a Lent 2010 flyer home with you today. The Flyers are by the entrances of the Church with the Parish bulletins.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The annual STAMP dance will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010. Tickets are available. You can get them from a STAMP committee member or call the rectory and leave your name and phone number.

On every Wednesday night during Lent, the sacrament of reconciliation will be available in the church from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. This is part of an Archdiocesan project. It starts February 24th. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available in all churches, shrines and chapels throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. All Catholics are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

All couples getting married at St. Thomas of Villanova Church should attend the wedding workshop which will be held on Sunday February 28 at 1:00 PM in the church. Speaking of couples getting married, the St. Thomas of Villanova marriage preparation program also known as pre-Cana program will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 26th and 27th. Please call the rectory to sign up.

The Charities Committee will be collecting food for the Wilmington Food Pantry this weekend.

Next Sunday, February 28 at 2:00 Salma Hasan Ali will be speaking at Wilmington United Methodist Church about the work of the Central Asian Institute. Salma Hasan Ali is a Washington base writer originally from Pakistan who has traveled with Greg Mortenson in his work with the Central Asian Institute, which builds schools for children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Greg Mortenson and the work of the Central Asian Institute are highlighted in the best selling book Three Cups of Tea. This will be a wonderful event for anyone who is interested in paths to peace in Afghanistan. Admission to hear Salma Hasan Ali is free, but a love offering will be collected. Everyone is invited to this event. I ask that you let the Wilmington United Methodist Church know that you are coming by February 21 to help in their preparations. Please email Travis Bonnette-Kim for more information or to let him know you will be attending this event, wumcpastor@verizon.net

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

KING FAMILY RELIEF FUND

Deacon Cliff King's son Kip has had a fire destroy his home in Wakefield. Kip, his wife, and four children have lost everything. A fund was opened at the Wakefield Sovereign Bank, located at 369 Main St. Wakefield, Ma 01880. Contributions may be made at any Sovereign Bank. Please make checks payable to the "King Family Relief Fund" Your donations can be mailed to the bank at the address noted above attention Nicole DiMaria

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Church encourages all Catholics to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation each Lent. In addition to our normal Saturday afternoon confession time. St. Thomas and all the Catholic parishes and chapels of the Archdiocese will be open on Lenten Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. Please take advantage of this opportunity to make a good Lenten confession. Also reach out to Catholics you know that have been away from the regular practice of our faith and invite to seize this chance to begin again. The Archdiocese's website for this initiative www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org, has great material to help everyone prepare to make a good confession.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Abstinence: Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

Fast: Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, milk and fruit juices are allowed.

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.

The second Sunday of Lent February 27 & 28

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and His clothing became dazzling white." Luke 9:28 Please bring in deodorant, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste or soap for the Tewksbury Hospital.

HEAVEN CENT

For Lent we are placing baby bottles in baskets for lent and asking families to take one & bring it back on Psalm Sunday. Money will go to support homeless women & children

BLANKET COLLECTION

The blankets don't have to be new but must be clean

FOOD COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

All donations for the Wilmington Food Pantry can be dropped off in Villanova Hall this weekend.

2010 CARDINAL APPEAL

March 6-7 will be Catholic Appeal Weekend here at St. Thomas. Cardinal Sean is asking every Catholic household to participate in the 2010 Catholic Appeal, which funds the many central ministries and services of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Catholic Appeal is to our Archdiocese what a weekly offertory is to our parish-so your participation and support are critical. Because of the current economic climate, the need for the ministries supported by the Catholic Appeal has increased, making support for the Appeal more urgent than ever. On Appeal Weekend, we will be showing a video message from Cardinal Sean and asking every Catholic household to make a pledge. Please begin to prayerfully consider how you will participate. Every gift matters. For more information, please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Letters will be going out to families already in the program. 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 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.

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

This past Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. We often think of this as a time of fasting - a time in which we must give up something we like. Instead, this year let us do something. During these forty days let us take time to go to confession. In this holy sacrament we are gaining countless blessings. Through the person of the priest, it is Jesus to whom we are telling our sins. When the priest absolves you at the end of confession, it is Jesus saying to you "I forgive you."

How often do we have a misunderstanding with a loved one? That person knows of your love, yet we have an inner need to tell the person we are sorry for hurting them. Both you and your loved one need to hear those words "I'm sorry." So it is with God. He knows your sins better than you do yourself. However, if you are truly sorry He wants you to tell Him in confession. Forgiveness is received from Jesus acting through the person of the priest. At this time, you will feel His immeasurable mercy and grace.

FEBRUARY 21, 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 21 9:30 Mass Children's Liturgy Coffee & Donuts 11:15 Mass Grade 10 Mass 7pm Prayer Group	Feb 22 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	Feb 23 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Feb 24 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30 Reconciliation 6:30to 8pm	Feb 25	Feb 26 6pm Stations	Feb 27 FOOD FOR THE POOR
Feb 28 CCD Registration for 2010-2011 begins 1pm WEDDING MUSIC MEETING 7pm Prayer Group	March 1 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	March 2 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	March 3 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30 Reconciliation 6:30to 8pm	March 4	March 5 6pm Stations	March 6 SKI TRIP
March 7 9:30 Mass Children's Liturgy Coffee & Donuts Grade 2 Parent Meeting after the 11:15 7pm Prayer Group	March 8 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	March 9 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	March 10 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30 Reconciliation 6:30to 8pm	March 11	March 12 6pm Stations	March 13 FOOD COLLECTION
March 14 7pm Prayer Group	March 15 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	March 16 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	March 17 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30 Reconciliation 6:30to 8pm	March 18	March 19 6pm Stations	March 20 STAMP DANCE
March 21 7pm Prayer Group	March 22 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	March 23 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	March 24 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30 Reconciliation 6:30to 8pm	March 25	March 26 6pm Marriage Prep	March 27 Marriage Prep
March 28 1pm Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	March 29 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm 7pm Seder Supper	March 30 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	March 31 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30 Reconciliation 6:30to 8pm	April 1 Holy Thursday 7pm Mass	April 2 12noon Ecumenical Service Stations 3pm Adult 4:15 Children 7pm The Lords Passion	April 3 Easter Vigil NO 5pm Mass

S.T.A.M.P. DANCE The 11th Annual S.T.A.M.P. Dance is scheduled for Saturday, March 20. Tickets are on sale at \$25.00 each from any STAMP member before or after all masses starting immediately or by calling STAMP Dance Committee Chair, Bob Troy at 978-988-5513. The event is held in Villanova Hall starting at 6:30pm. There will be great food, great music and dancing and great fun for all!

Proceeds from the event are applied directly to offset costs associated with travel and materials for the STAMP efforts each year. This year, the group plans to return to the Mississippi Coast to help continue to improve the quality of life for those affected by natural disasters who do not have the resources to do so on their own. More about the STAMP efforts will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

The STAMP Dance Committee is also asking for donations of goods or services that can be used as RAFFLE Items at the dance. Items like sport or event tickets, gift certificates to restaurants or other services, gift baskets, autographed sports memorabilia, and other items are very much appreciated and will help STAMP help those in need. Please find any STAMP Member to make your donation. We hope you can join us on March 20th and thank you for your support!

AN EVENING OF HEALING AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER WITH FRANK KELLY

Thursday, February 25 at St. Theresa Parish, North Reading 6:45pm Rosary 7:10pm Mass 7:45pm Teaching & opportunity for personal prayer with Frank 8pm Opportunity for confession. Frank Kelly radiates peace and joy, He has always lived his life striving to give honor and glory to God the Father, whether it was serving our Lord as a husband, father, construction worker or as a sufferer of debilitating rheumatoid arthritis. Many have been touched by God, through this simple, humble man, whom God uses as a vessel to heal mind, body and soul.