

## 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. 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](http://www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org), has great material to help everyone prepare to make a good confession.

### **Saturday**

**5:00 PM Ed White**

### **Sunday**

**8:00 AM Gertrude F. Wagstaff**

**9:30 AM Winifred King**

**11:15 AM Kevin & Walter Clancy**

### **Monday**

**9:00 AM Grace M. Rosi**

### **Tuesday**

**9:00 AM Mike Franculli**

### **Wednesday**

**9:00 AM In honor of Fred Pullo**

### **Thursday**

**9:00 AM Patricia Howard**

### **Saturday**

**5:00 PM Joan Earley**

### **Sunday**

**8:00 AM John, Helen, Hack Gouveia**

**9:30 AM Kelly Crossen**

**11:15 AM Robert Dorval**

### **ARISE TOGETHER IN CHRIST**

Consider taking part in this during our Lenten journey. Call the Rectory for information or sign up for a class.

### **MANDATORY WEDDING MUSIC MEETING**

This Sun, Feb 28, at 1pm mandatory Music meeting for Brides and Grooms getting married this year.

### **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 Sat. March 27 from 9am to 4pm.

### **MARRIAGE PREP TEAM**

**The Marriage Prep team is hoping to get two more Married Couples to help with the Program on Saturday, March 27. If you might be willing to lend a hand or if you'd like more information please call Chris Neville at 978-657-5150.**

### **SKI TRIP SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010**

A Ski trip is planned 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.

### **THERE WILL BE NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT**

FEBRUARY 17, – APRIL 4, 2009

### **THE BAPTISMS DURING THE EASTER SEASON:**

APRIL 4 11:15 AM (EASTER)

APRIL 18 1:00 PM

MAY 2 11:15 AM

MAY 16 1:00 PM

### **WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING**

On Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm the Women's Club invites you to a Lenten Program offered by Pat Archfield "Refection on a Journey through lent". All women of the parish are invited to attend. Any questions please call Joan 978-657-3905.

### **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 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 20<sup>th</sup> and thank you for your support!

### LENTEN REGULARIONS

**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 Third Sunday of Lent March 6 & 7**

"I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; It may bear fruit in the future." Luke 13:9 Please bring in canned or jars of fruit, jelly. Jam. Or juice boxes for the Wilmington Food Pantry

### 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

### 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.

### 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 February 22, 2010	\$ 34,785.00
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

### 2010 CARDINAL APPEAL

Next weekend March 6-7 will be Catholic Appeal Weekend here at St. Thomas. As a Catholic Community, we are called during this season of Lent to love and share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We do so by continuing to participate as fully as we are able in the building up of His kingdom. This month, 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 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, support of the Catholic Appeal is even more urgent this year. On Appeal Weekend, we will be showing a video message from Cardinal Sean and asking every Catholic household to make a pledge.

Cardinal Sean thanks all the families from St. Thomas that contributed to the 2009 Catholic Appeal. If we receive our financial goal, we will receive 25 percent of all funds raised above goal for use in our parish. Please know that your participation is important and that all gifts matter.

We encourage you to take home an information packet from Mass this weekend so that you can prayerfully consider how you will participate. Those of you that gave to the Appeal last year should also receive a letter this week from Cardinal Sean. Please bring your completed pledge card and pledge envelopes to St. Thomas next week to place in the collection basket. Thank You!

### 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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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
April 4 EASTER Baptism @ 11:15	April 5	April 6	April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10

**Meditation of the Heart**

**By Carolyn M. Kenney**

Today at the top of Mount Tabor in Galilee lies The Church of the Transfiguration which overlooks the valley below for miles around. In the upper church is the Altar of the Divine. Priests and even the Pope are not allowed to celebrate mass here. In the lower church is a stunning altar at which priests and pilgrims are allowed to celebrate mass. In front of this altar lies a rock, covered by sturdy glass, where it is believed Jesus stood when He was transfigured before Peter, James and John. The peace in and around this church is refreshing.

When the three Apostles saw Jesus transfigured before them, standing there in His heavenly glory, how did they feel? If Jesus were to suddenly stand before you, how would you feel? I think we would be astonished to say the least. If this were to happen, our faith would definitely increase. But God asks us to believe in Him, to have faith without seeing. For as we read elsewhere in the Bible in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

**Holy Land Pilgrimage - December 2010**

Join Father Augustine Anda, Parochial Vicar of St. Columbkille Parish in Boston, as he leads an inspiring pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The trip runs from November 30 - December 9, 2010 and costs \$2,299 plus tax. We will visit Bethlehem, Cana, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem and many other inspiring sites. To request a flyer, please email Carolyn Kenney at cmk44@comcast.net or call 978-852-7852. Space is limited and a deposit is required.