

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions March 21 - 29 2009

Saturday

5:00 PM Angela & Giuseppe DePasquale

Sunday

8:00 AM Mark Matarese

9:30 AM Maria Grace Rosa

11:15 AM Joseph Kingston

Monday

9:00 AM Vittorio Iocco

Tuesday

9:00 AM John G. Mathi

Wednesday

9:00 AM Elinor Mello

Thursday

9:00 AM Robert Rizzo

Saturday

5:00 PM Joao Tavres

Sunday

8:00 AM Francis Hightower

9:30 AM For the People of the Parish

11:15 AM Rita Ennis

THE BAPTISMS DURING THE EASTER SEASON

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12th @ 11:15 AM

DURING SUNDAY MASS

MAY 3rd @ 11:15 AM

REGULAR BAPTISM NO MASS

April 19 & May 17 @ 1:00 PM

EASTER ENVELOPES

For those who wish prayers said for their deceased loved ones there are envelopes by the Statue of Mary all donations will be used for the decorations for Easter. Please PRINT clearly. All names will be printed in the bulletin. Masses will be said during the Easter Season.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Please note on Good Friday, April 10 The Baptist Church will have the Ecumenical service at 12 noon

WEDDING BANNES

II Nicole Minghella and Robert French

MARRIAGE PREP

St. Thomas Marriage Prep. Program is Saturday, March 28th, from 9am to 4pm. For information or to register please call the Rectory 978-658-4665.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The STAMP dance was held this past weekend. It was a huge success. The returns are still coming in. So far we raised over \$7,000.00. I want to thank the STAMP Dance Committee for their efforts in organizing this event and working the event. I also want to thank all those who supported the effort by donating a prize for the drawing, making a monetary gift to STAMP and by purchasing a ticket. It was a job well done

Religious Education registration for next year is in full swing. As I say each year, no child will be deprived of a religious education because of a family's inability to pay the registration fee. If you are having a problem, speak with Marilyn Mandosa, Dotty Barker or myself. Please remind any neighbor or friend who may be unaware that it is time to register especially those families who will be entering our program for the first time. Thanks.

The Catholic Appeal is underway. I would ask that you seriously consider making a donation to the Catholic Appeal. As Cardinal Sean said last weekend in his message, the Catholic Appeal supports various ministries that pass on the faith. I have left appeal packets in the pew. If you received one in the mail, you could fill it out at home and bring it with you. Please remember that whatever you pledge can be paid over time. You can drop your pledge card in any collection basket or mail it directly. Thank you for considering this request.

This Tuesday the Very Reverend Arthur Coyle, VE, Episcopal Vicar for the Merrimack Region will be making a visitation to the parish. He will meet with the staff in the afternoon and hold a joint meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council in the evening.

On March 28th, Bishop Allue will be with us to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation.

On Palm Sunday, our joint choirs along with the Trinity Singers from Nazareth Academy will sing at the 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM Masses. We did this last year and it was well received.

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

THANK YOU

Thanks to all for making this year's STAMP DANCE a HUGE success!! More than 160 people attended last Saturday's dance and many others generously donated to help us raise the funds needed in our efforts to help those less fortunate. Again, Many thanks to you all!

MARCH 23, 2008

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.

Next Sunday March 29 "Amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." John 12-24 Please bring in sunflowers seeds, chex mix, pretzels, beef jerky or peanuts for "Our Local Heroes."

**ST. THOMAS CHARITIES COMMITTEE
FOOD & CLOTHING COLLECTION**

APRIL 18 & 19

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN VILLANOVA HALL AFTER ALL MASSES THAT WEEKEND.

ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB

April 13- Planning for Senior Mass and Luncheon 7pm in Villanova Hall

April 25- Senior Mass and Luncheon 10am Workers-Seniors 11:30am

June 1- Scholarship Meeting 7pm in Villanova Hall

June 8- Closing Mass at 6:30pm and dinner at Kyoto Steak House in Tewksbury

WINE, WOMEN, & SONG

On Thursday, March 26, at 7pm in chapel. Discussion will be around "Were almost there!"

Each month of our monthly meetings begins with a social time of wine or soda hors d'oeuvres, and conversation followed by prayer and reflection through music. All women are welcome!

SEDER SUPPER

The Seder will be held on Monday, April 6 at 7:00pm in Villanova Hall. Come share the supper and relate the Readings of the Old Testament to Jesus's teachings in the New Testament. Please call the Rectory to RSVP.

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 March 11, 2009 \$ 46,391.00

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

2009 CARDINAL APPEAL

This month, Cardinal Sean is asking every Catholic household to participate in the 2009 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 economic downturn, support of the Catholic Appeal is more urgent this year. If we exceed our financial goal, we will receive 25 percent of all funds raised above goal for use in the parish. Please know that your participation is important and that all gifts matter.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

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 him/her 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

CONFIRMATION PRACTICE

Group 1 6:45 Monday, March 23

Group 2 6:45 Wednesday, March 25

Confirmation practice will be in the Church. We ask that all sponsors or responsible adult must accompany each confirmation student.

MARCH 23, 2008

March 22 7pm Prayer Group CCD 2009-2010 Late registration begins	March 23 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 6:45pm GR 10 Group 1 practice	March 24 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 8 6:45 to 8pm	March 25 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 6:45pm GR 10 Group 2 Confirmation practice	March 26 7pm WINE WOMEN & SONG	March 27 6:30pm STATIONS	March 28 MARIAGE PREP Confirmation 10:30 & 1pm
March 29 Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	March 30 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 9 6:45to 8pm	March 31 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 7 6:45 to 8pm	April 1 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 5:30pm to 6:30 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	April 2	April 3 6:30pm STATIONS	April 4
April 5 PALM SUNDAY 7pm Prayer Group	April 6 HOLY WEEK 7pm SEDER SUPPER	April 7	April 8 Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	April 9 HOLY THURSDAY 7pm Mass	April 10 GOOD FRIDAY 7pm	April 11 EASTER VIGIL 7pm Mass
April 12 EASTER	April 13 Women's club 7pm	April 14 JESUS DAY Grade 2 4:00pm-6:00pm	April 15	April 16	April 17 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	April 18 FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE
April 19 1pm Baptism 2:30pm Divine Mercy No Prayer Group	April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	April 25 SENIOR MASS LUNCHEON
April 26 Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	April 27 First Communion practice for Group 1 4:00-5:00pm	April 28 First Communion practice for Group 2 4:00-5:00pm	April 29 First Communion practice for Group 1 4:00-5:00pm	April 30 First Communion practice for Group 2 4:00-5:00pm	May 1 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	May 2 10:30am & 1pm First Communion
May 3 Baptismal 11:15 Mass 7pm Prayer Group	May 4 First Communion practice for Group 1 4:00-5:00pm	May 5 First Communion practice for Group 2 4:00-5:00pm	May 6 First Communion practice for Group 1 4:00-5:00pm	May 7 First Communion practice for Group 2 4:00-5:00pm	May 8 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	May 9 10:30am & 1pm First Communion

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

In today's gospel, Saint John writes, "And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil." Jesus is the "light" which Saint John talks about. John continued, "...whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."

Unfortunately, there is much darkness and evil in our world today. We can see and feel it all around us. We read about it daily in the newspaper and watch it on television not only in the news, but in a variety of programs. Are we on a downward spiral? We can and we must change! If not, we will continue on a path of self-destruction. We cannot allow this to happen to the next generation. Our parents worked hard and showed us a life of truth and values. What happened to these fine attributes? Will they ever return?

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

February 25, 2009

"Dear children! In this time of renunciation, prayer and penance, I call you anew: go and confess your sins so that grace may open your hearts, and permit it to change you. Convert little children, open yourselves to God and to His plan for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

LOWELL WISH PROJECT

Donations needed for the Lowell Wish Project. Please help 3 Wilmington Middle school students as they run a donation drive for struggling or homeless families in Lowell. You can contribute by donating diapers, baby wipes, children's clothing, towels or bedding. The drive will run from March 18th -April 4th. Donations may be sent in with students attending CCD or dropped off in the Lower church donation box. Many thanks for your support!