

## ST THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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### Mass Intentions August 7-15, 2010

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Jennie Puccio**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Alexander & Mary Quandt Kathleen Blackburn**

**9:30 AM Susnn Fitzpatrick**

**11:15 AM Cunningham Family**

**Monday**

**9:00 AM Betty Grassia**

**Tuesday**

**9:00 AM For the Parishioners**

**Wednesday**

**9:00 AM Jessica Frederickson**

**Thursday**

**9:00 AM Special Intention**

**Saturday**

**5:00PM Hayford Family**

**Sunday**

**8:00AM Arthur Robichaud**

**9:30 AM Priscilla & All Deceased members of the Shdeed Family**

**11:15 AM Mary Pratt**

### “PICNIC IN THE PARK”

**FAMILY FUN DAY MEETING, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11 AT 7PM IN VILLANOVA HALL. EVERYONE WELCOME! BRING YOUR IDEAS AND THOUGHTS TO HELP MAKE THIS DAY A FUN FILLED PARISH EVENT FOR ALL AGES.**

### FAMILY FUN DAY

Once again St. Thomas Parish will have a Family Fun Day with games, food and fun for all ages. Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 26.

If you would like to help out planning or volunteer for the day please call Pat Archfield at 978-250-1710 or the rectory.

### LOVE UNTIL TI HURTS AND THEN LOVE SOME MORE

About a month ago, I spoke to the congregation at each mass promising that hearts will be touched with the help of their money and prayers. I write the today with a clear conscience and a plethora of heartwarming memories. A women came up to me after one of the masses I spoke at, and she gave me eighteen medals of the Immaculate Conception, I asked her

who she wants me to give these too. “You will know”, she responded.

Each day my camp crew and I went into villages. We hopped off our rickety, old Daihatsu truck that crammed in twenty of us to set up camp for the children. The supplies that you all helped fund were carried off the truck into the village’s church. Early in the day, you would find me playing with the younger boys around four or five years of age with blocks making towers as high as me or sharing a laugh with another child because I could not manage to draw in between the lines of a picture. I usually wandered outside later on where the older children resided playing a pick up game of baseball or soccer. There must be something in the water because four year old girls were throwing the ball better that I was!

I had two fears going down to the Dominican Republic. One being the stories I was told of cockroaches found resting in your bed as big as your hand. The other was my lack of Spanish background. I came on this trip to connect with the children giving just a little bit more love, care and hope in their lives. I questioned whether the language barrier would hold me back from what God sent me forth to do

In the smaller villages we would have to travel along dirt pathways in research of homes to let the children know about our camp. In much larger villages with up to three hundred children, they would be waiting at the gates for us. I remember telling a friend how I felt like I was walking down the red carpet in Hollywood high fiving and waving to everyone as they were cheering for us. My presence alone brought smiles, and I could not help but smile back. The language barrier means nothing when love is the purpose of action

The trip was not all hunky dory by any means. At some the large camps especially, there were times when I just wanted to alone and have some peace and quiet. The last camp we held was actually in the village where Pedro Martinez from Boston Red Sox grew up. It was also the dirtiest and most poverty stricken with trash piled twenty feet in the air in the middle of the road. I was responsible for the nine and ten year olds, and they were especially rowdy. At one point I recall thinking why am I doing this to myself, and then all of a sudden a boy bonks me off the head with a foam baseball bat. I turned around to see his bright smile, and it spoke to me. God told me to get up on your feet and show these children the love that really exists in this world. Show these kids that even though there is a language barrier, and despite the fact that you are from totally different backgrounds, cultures, and countries, you still share that mortal commonality of being human. You all still need love.

Mother Teresa once said “Love until hurts and then love some more.” The most important value I learned from this missionary trip is that an individual can really change the world with something as simple as a smile.

Peace Love  
Connor May

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

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### **CHURCH SUPPORT**

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

Please note that the scheduled Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken up as the second collection on the weekend of August 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **THIS WEEKEND THE SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN UP FOR THE XAVERIAN MISSIONARIES**

#### Information about the Xaverian Missionaries

Today over a thousand Xaverian Priests, brothers and sisters bring God's love to people on every continent. In 18 countries around the world, including Japan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Burundi, D.R. Congo, Brazil, Colombia, The Philippines and Sierra Leone. The Xaverian Missionaries have received the cooperation of the peoples with whom they work. It is, however the loyal support of generous friends in America, which enables us to increase and multiply our works of mercy. Whenever the Xaverian Missionaries have been able to build a church or a seminary, a school or a hospital (often with their own hands), it has because of the help given to us by our fellow Christians here in the States, who have made a special commitment to aiding the foreign missions. These co-missionaries are the ones who make possible the training of future native priests, brothers and sisters in missions, who furnish the medicines and very often the training so necessary for missions work. Ultimately, our purpose is to create an atmosphere of Christian love an atmosphere which encourages those among whom we work to live the two great commandments of love for the one true God and love of neighbor. At the same time, the Xaverians provide the opportunity for the natives themselves to take their spiritual and material destinies into their own hands.

Mission Appeals afford us the opportunity to tell the people about the Missions, the work we so and allow then to be co-missioners with us.

### **ST. THOMAS CHARITIES COMMITTEE**

#### **FOOD COLLECTION**

**August 21 & 22, 2010**

All donations may be dropped off in Villanova Hall this weekend. **The Food pantry is especially in need of grape jelly, tuna, canned fruit and condiments**

### **BAPTISM**

The following children were welcomed into St. Thomas Parish Family on August 1, 2010.

**Molly Hawkins  
Gabriella Lynn Martens**

### **BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION**

As you buy school supplies for your own kids, please pick up a few extra and bring them to church. We are collecting school supplies that will be distributed to needy families through Catholic Charities in Lowell. There are boxes at the entrances to the church through the middle of August. They are most in need of backpacks, for High school students, notebooks, paper, pens, pencils, markers, glue, pencil boxes, rulers, scissors, etc. Thank you for you continued generosity to this project.

#### **Looking for a summer service project?**

I am looking for a family or two to help with the school supply collection this summer, with the intention of taking over the project next summer. It is a great project for a young family. The tasks include setting up the boxes in mid July, putting the announcement in the bulletin, and sorting the supplies each Sunday. If you are interested or have further questions please call Donna at 978-988-0853.

### **PROTECTING GODS CHILDREN**

Please call the Rectory if you plan to attend one of the following class times

Thursday, September 9 at 6:30pm or Sunday, September 12 after the 11:15 Mass

The class will take place in the Basement of the Church and will last about two to three hours.

### **NEW CORI FORMS 2010-2011**

Cori forms are in the sacristy

**IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME FILLING OUT A CORI FORM PLEASE BE SURE TO TAKE A BLUE FORM**

**PLEASE NOTE VOLUNTEER MUST PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY HIS OR HER IDENTITY MA LICENSE US PASSPORT ETC.**

Volunteers in any parish ministry who have the potential for unmonitored access to children are required to fill out a Cori annually.

**AUGUST 8, 2010**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August 8 NO Prayer Group	August 9	August 10	August 11	August 12	August 13	August 14
August 15 1pm Baptism NO Prayer Group	August 16	August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21 FOOD COLLECTION  10 to 11:30am Angels Meeting
August 22	August 23	August 24	August 25	August 26	August 27	August 28
August 29 1pm Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	August 30	August 31	September 1	September 2	September 3 6pm to 7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	September 4
September 5 1pm Baptism NO Prayer Group	September 6 Labor Day	September 7	September 8	September 9 6:30pm Protecting God's Children class	September 10	September 11
September 12 Catechetical Sunday 11:15Mass 12:30pm Protecting God's Children Class	September 13 Gr 1 4 to 5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8	September 14 Gr 2 4 to 5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8	September 15 Gr 3 4-5pm 6 5:30 -6:30	September 16	September 17	September 18 Charities Clothing & food Collection
September 19 Grade 1 9:30 Mass 1pm Baptism	September 20 Gr 1 4 to 5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8	September 21 Gr 2 4 to 5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8	September 22 Gr 3 4-5pm 6 5:30 -6:30	September 23	September 24	September 25

**SUMMER HOURS:**

**PRAYER GROUP WILL MEET LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH at 7pm**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION WILL BE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH from 6-7:30pm**

**OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE**

**July 25, 2010**

*“Dear children! Anew I call you to follow me with joy. I desire to lead all of you to my Son, your Savior. You are not aware that without Him you do not have joy and peace, nor a future or eternal life. Therefore, little children, make good use of this time of joyful prayer and surrender. Thank you for having responded to my call.”*

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

In our life, we all undergo hardships and difficulties that we do not anticipate. Yet, if we listen to the gospel, Jesus tells us many times “do not be afraid.” Do not be afraid when everything is closing in around you. Do not be afraid when all is bleak. Open your heart and soul to God and put your entire being in His hands. Ask Him to guide you and show you how you are to obey His will.

God created each of us for a specific purpose and we must place our faith and trust in Him. We must pray that God will show us how to be a living witness of our faith to others. When difficulties come into your life, pray before Jesus who is present in the tabernacle. He is truly present just as He was to the Apostles. He will talk to you as He did with them. He will calm your fears and fill your heart with His love and peace.