

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions March 17-25, 2007

Saturday

5:00 PM Sophie Parrella

Sunday

8:00 AM Mark Matarese

9:30 AM James M. McGonagle II

11:15 AM Abilio Medeiros

Monday

9:00 AM David Dwan

Tuesday

9:00 AM Ray Sinclair

Wednesday

9:00 AM Anna Macadino

Thursday

9:00 AM Anna Macadino

Saturday

5:00 PM Joe Bulger

Sunday

8:00 AM Walter Surette Jr.

9:30 AM Alexander & Mary Quandt

11:15 AM Limoli Margarita

CHURCH SUPPORT

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

WEDDING MUSIC

Lora Tamaghini, our Music Director, will meet with all the couples who will be getting married in 2007 in the church at 3pm on Sunday, March 25.

ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB

All Women of the Parish are invited to join us and share the fun of making Beaded Bookmarks. Monday, April 9th at 7:30PM in Villanova Hall. Approx \$8.00. Please sign up before April 4, by calling Kathy @ 978-658-9189. Come join us!

ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB HAPPENINGS

All Women of the Parish are invited to join us!

April 21st - Senior Anointing Mass and Luncheon

May 14th TBA

June 11th - Closing Mass 6:30pm and Diner

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Last Saturday night was the 8th annual STAMP dance. It was a huge success. In fact it was our most successful. We grossed \$10,208.10. Our net was over \$8,200.00. Congratulations to all the STAMP committee members who worked so hard to make it a success. I want to also thank those who bought tickets or made a donation as well as those who donated items. We will be having another fundraiser in May. It will be a comedy night. Watch the bulletin for details.

Religious Education registration is in its final stage. A letter concerning registrations has been sent out to all the parents of children who are currently enrolled in the program. If you did not receive the letter or you are new to the program, please call the religious education office at 978-658-6040. If you are unable to afford the registration fee, please call the religious education office or speak to me. There are a lot of children in the program whose parents do not attend church regularly. Please pass the word on to them that registration for religious education is entering its final stage. I appreciate your assistance.

Olan Mills will be here Thursday, April 12; Friday, April 13; and Saturday, April 14 to take pictures for the parish directory. I would encourage you to participate. If you participate, you will receive one free 8 x 10 picture and a free copy of the directory. We have appointments on Thursday and Fridays available in case your Saturdays are busy with errands. Sign up is available at the front door of the church and outside the confessional area. Come and get a free print.

Next Saturday is confirmation. Bishop Allue will be here for two sessions. Please keep the confirmation candidates in your prayers.

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

ON OUR WEB SITE

Have you checked out our web site lately? We're highlighting S.T.A.M.P.

Imagine living in Biloxi, Mississippi a year after Hurricane Katrina, and you/re still not back in your home. These are the folks our parishioners traveled south to help in July as part of the St. Thomas Appalachian Mountain Club (S.T.A.M.P.)

To read the rest of this story, go to stthomasvillanova.com and read The Pastor's Corner.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

5th Sunday in Lent, March 24 & 25

"Early in the morning, Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down to teach them" John 8:2- Please bring in pens, tablets, glue stick, pencils, color markers, and paper for the Special needs Lighthouse School, Chelmsford, Ma

A basket of wood chips are at all the Church doors. These are our reminders. We ask each of you to take one wood chip and carry it with you every day of Lent, as a daily reminder that we share in the burden of Christ's cross, but also in His promise of new life. We will ask you to return your wood chip on Psalm Sunday as a symbol of your Lenten sacrifices. All the chips will then be put together to form a Good Friday cross, a symbol of our union with Jesus and His death and resurrection.

LENTEN DONATIONS

During Lent St. Thomas Women's Club is collecting donations for Fr. Paul's Priest Friend in New Orleans whose parish is struggling to rebuild after Katrina. Donations can be sent to the Women's Club c/o St. Thomas Parish or call Joan 978-657-3905. Make checks out to the Women's Club.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Catholic Relief Services' Lenten Program Operation Rice Bowl throughout Lent will help us pray, fast, and give in solidarity with those in need around the world. The Rice bowls are in baskets at the entrances of the church. We ask that they be returned on Holy Thursday.

BAPTISM SCHEDULE

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 8 @ 11:15 AM

DURING SUNDAY MASS MAY 6 @ 11:15 AM

April 15 @ 1:00 PM May 20 @ 1:00 PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

The Office is in the basement of the Church. If you have questions, the religious education office 978-658-6040.

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

LATE REGISTRATION

We are entering phase two of CCD Registration therefore there will be a \$10.00 late fee per student as of Thursday, March 15- Thursday, April 26. As of April 27, 2007, We will not be accepting any registrations for the 2007-2008 school year.

CONFIRMATION PRACTICE

Group 1 Monday, March 19, 7pm

Group 2 Wednesday, March 21, 7pm

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Just a Reminder, Stations of the Cross are said every Friday during Lent at 6:30pm

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

As with many organizations, The Samaritans of Merrimack Valley rely on volunteers who, through the goodness of their hearts, reach out to those in crisis. People from all walks of life are trained by Samaritans to offer support and caring to those who are lonely, despairing or suicidal. Anyone who can listen with an open mind, with compassion and without judgment, please call 978-688-0030 or e-mail Samaritans@familyserviceinc.com.

Training sessions March 31-April 7 from 9am to 3pm
June 4,6,11 & 13 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm August 20,23,27 & 30 from 6:30pm -9:30pm October 20 & 27 9am to 3pm.

MARCH 18, 2007

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| March 18 7pm Prayer group | March 19 Gr 1 4--5pm Gr 4 5:30-6:30pm Confirmation Group 1 7pm Practice | March 20 Gr 2 4-5pm Gr 5 5:30-6:30pm Gr7 6:45-8:00 | March 21 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30pm Confirmation Group 2 7pm Practice | March 22 | March 23 6:30PM STATIONS | March 24 Confirmation 10:30& 1:30pm |
| March 25 3pm Wedding Music Brides Meeting 7pm Prayer group | March 26 Gr 1 4--5pm Gr 4 5:30-6:30pm Gr 9 6:45-8:00pm | March 27 Gr 2 4-5pm Gr 5 5:30-6:30pm Gr 8 6:45-8:00 | March 28 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30pm | March 29 | March 30 6:30PM STATIONS | March 31 Scrap booking |
| April 1 PALM SUNDAY 3pm No Prayer group | April 2 OLIVIA THE PASSION | April 3 LIFE LINE SCREENING | April 4 | April 5 HOLY THURSDAY 7pm Mass | April 6 GOOD FRIDAY 3pm stations 4:15 Children 7pm Service | April 7 EASTER VIGIL |
| April 8 EASTER | April 9 WOMENS CLUB | April 10 JESUS DAY | April 11 | April 12 OLAN MILLS PICTURES | April 13 OLAN MILLS PICTURES 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration | April 14 OLAN MILLS PICTURES |
| April 15 1pm BAPTISM 7pm Prayer group | April 16 | April 17 | April 18 | April 19 | April 20 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration | April 21 CHARITIES FOOD & CLOTHING COLLECTION SENIOR LUNCHEON |

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE OF FEBRUARY 25, 2007

“Dear children! Open your heart to God’s mercy in this Lenten time. The Heavenly Father desires to deliver each of you from the slavery of sin. Therefore, little children, make good use of this time and through meeting with God in Confession, leave sin and decide for holiness. Do this out of love for Jesus, who redeemed you all with His blood, that you may be happy and in peace. Do not forget, little children: your freedom is your weakness, therefore follow my messages with seriousness. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Meditation of the Heart

by Carolyn Kenney

On my recent trip to Israel, there was a small boy who I will never forget. We were on our way to Jericho when we stopped by the side of the road to take a quick picture of a monastery set in the side of a rocky desert mountain. Suddenly, a young boy came running down a short dirt road. Upon reaching our group, he stopped and went from one person to the other saying, "A dollar please." The look on his face was one of pity and sorrow. He, along with his family, are Bedouins. Suddenly his father came along carrying necklaces on his arm and began selling them to some of the group. This is their livelihood! These people still live in a primitive style with very little of the material pleasures we enjoy.

We are so blessed; we do not realize how good God is to us. This trip was a moving experience for me and for others in the group. The people we met were warm and caring. I will never forget this little boy. Daily people in our country walk and strive for materialistic pleasures. Daily people in the Holy Land walk in the footsteps of Our Lord and strive only for a better life.