

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions –December 9-17, 2006

Saturday

5:00 PM Thomas & Jianna Caiazzo

Sunday

8:00 AM Jane Harvey

9:30 AM Vincenza Onorato

11:15 AM Mass of Thanksgiving

Monday

9:00 AM George Moses

Tuesday

9:00 AM Mass of Thanksgiving St. Anthony

Wednesday

9:00 AM Herta Husmann

Thursday

9:00 AM Frank Simmons

Saturday

5:00 PM Charlie Baldwin

Sunday

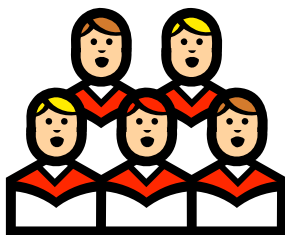
8:00 AM Lucy Caggiano

9:30 AM Antonio Azevedo

11:15 AM Ana LaFrazia

FAITH A MOTHER'S STORY

Celebrate the Advent season by experiencing "Faith: A Mother's Story" presented by Olivia Woodford this Sunday, December 10th at 7pm. Olivia is an actress/director and founder of Healing Theater. She is a one-women performance. Come and experience the events surrounding Jesus' birth come to life. Join Mary, her Mother Anna, her cousin Elizabeth, Leah of the House of David, shepherdess, and Anna, the seeress of the temple.



ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CHILDRENS AND ADULT CHOIRS

Come join us for this year Christmas Concert! It will take place on Friday, December 15, at 7pm in the Church.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The Christmas rush is on!! There are several events that are coming up that may give you a break from the rush. On Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 PM in the church, Olivia Woodford will be presenting Faith: the Mother's Story. It is a performance piece about the women around Mary as they hear about the birth of Jesus. Come and join us for this Advent event.

On Friday evening, December 15, 2006 at 7:00 PM we will have our Christmas concert in the church. Come and join us for this event.

We have the Giving Tree project going on during the season of Advent. The gifts are given to the needy in Merrimack Valley. Catholic Charities distributes the gifts.

The Women's Club will be collecting infant wear for Birthright. Speaking of the Women's Club, they will have their Christmas Yankee Swap on Monday night. Come join them.

Someone asked me since the fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24 and Christmas falls on Monday, December 25, can you attend a Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday night and cover your Mass obligation for both days. The answer is no. There is no two for one sale in the church!!

Speaking of going to the Mass on Christmas, the schedule is as follows: Christmas Eve 4:00 PM up and down; 6:00 PM and midnight. (And yes the Midnight Mass begins at Midnight. The choir will sing some carols beforehand.) On Christmas day the Masses are at 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM.

Last week we had the Charities Committee collection. The work of the Charities Committee benefits the people of Wilmington. Between December 1, 2005 and November 30, 2006, we spent \$7,196.27 in assisting people. Your generosity allows the parish to assist those in need. In that amount are the cost of the food vouchers, payment of rent, utilities, etc. Thanks for your support.

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

CHURCH SUPPORT

The Offertory for December 3, 2006 totaled	\$5,097.00
The St. Thomas Charities Collection totaled	\$3,272.19
The new Giving Tree donations totaled	\$85.00

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

Envelopes are by the Blessed Mary for anyone who wishes prayers for their departed loved ones. Masses will be said during the Christmas season. All the names of the deceased will be listed in the bulletin. Donations will be used for the decorations for Christmas.

THE GIVING TREE

The "Giving Tree" with ornaments, on each ornament is a request for one gift (or blank socks, mittens, or hats). We ask you to take an ornament, purchase the gift requested, gift wrap it and tape the ornament to the outside of the gift to indicate what the package contains, and put it under the tree. On or before December 17th. We hope the "Giving Tree" will remind us all that the true meaning of Christmas is "Christian Charity and love of neighbor are what really matters".

ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB HAPPENINGS

BIRTHRIGHT

Again this year St. Thomas Women's Club will be collecting unwrapped Layette items (They are desperate for) **NEWBORN INFANTS ONLY** Through the Epiphany of the Lord, Jan 7th, A basket will be outside the confessionals for donations. The items will be given to Birthright of Lowell to help unwed mothers in the Lowell area. Any questions please call Joan at 978-657-3905. Thank you.

YANKEE SWAP

Monday, Dec. 11 in Villanova Hall all women of the parish are welcome. Please bring a dessert or appetizer. If you wish to participate in the Yankee Swap please bring a wrapped \$10. gift. Also, you can bring all Birthright items.

Up coming events

Feb 12 – Mardi Gras Party holiday foods

April 9th - TBA

April 21st - Senior Anointing Mass and Luncheon

May 14th TBA

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

All Women of the Parish are invited to join us!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm 6:00pm & Midnight

CHRISTMAS MORNING

9:30am & 11:15am

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

with Father Augustine Anda

Join Father Augustine Anda on an inspirational trip to the Holy Land. The pilgrimage will take place from March 13-24, 2007 and the cost is \$2499. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Eliesa at 978-977-3062. Join Father Anda on this trip "In the Footsteps of Christ."

TRAVEL TO MEDJUGORJE

St. Monica's Parish in Methuen will be traveling to Medjugorje in May or September/October 2007. Medjugorje is where Our Blessed Mother still appears to the Visionaries and still calls us to go there. A place where conversions and miracles take place every day, in Our Blessed Mother's own words "If you knew how much I love you, you'd cry with joy". To register or for more details on this beautiful spiritual experience please contact Claude Langlois (978) 682-6012.

34th ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

The Immaculate Conception (Malden/Medford) Respect Life Committee is once again planning a pilgrimage to the 34th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The group will **leave from St. Margaret's Church in Burlington** by motor coach on Sunday, January 21 and will return on Tuesday evening January 23. The cost is \$220 per person, double occupancy (\$350 single) until January 7th (a little higher after that date) Come and be inspired by the tens of thousands of young people who will witness to the Gospel of Life in this non-confrontational event. Please call Janet Callahan @ 781-324-3564 to register or for more information.

DECEMBER 10, 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 10 A Mother's Story 7pm Olivia Woodford	Dec 11 Gr 1 4-5pm Gr4 5:30-6:30 Gr10 6:45-8:00 Women's Club	Dec 12 Gr 2 4-5 Gr 5 5:30-6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Dec 13 Gr 3 4-5 Gr 6 5:30-6:30	Dec 14	Dec 15 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT	Dec 16 First Reconciliation 10:30 11:30 & 1pm
Dec 17 Gr 2 9:30 Mass 1pm Baptisms 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 18 Gr 1 4-5pm Gr4 5:30-6:30 Gr 9 6:45-8:00	Dec 19 Gr 2 4-5 Gr 5 5:30-6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	Dec 20 Gr 3 4-5 Gr 6 5:30-6:30	Dec 21	Dec 22 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 23 5pm Mass
Dec 24 8, 9:30 & 11:15 CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm 6pm & Midnight	Dec 25 CHRISTMAS 9:30 & 11:15	Dec 26 NO CCD	Dec 27 NO CCD	Dec 28	Dec 29 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 30
Dec 31 Baptismal Instruction	Jan.1 NO CCD	Jan 2 NO CCD	Jan 3 NO CCD	Jan 4	Jan 5 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 6 Epiphany

Meditation of the Heart
by Carolyn Kenney

Did you ever take a close look at one of the flowers in your garden? The delicate petals unite together to form a circle of beauty. However, how does the flower look when one or two of the petals are missing? When this happens, the intricate nature of the flower is incomplete.

We are each a unique creation formed out of God's love. We are created "in His image and likeness." Through the Holy Eucharist, Jesus is present and abides with us in an intimate way. Father Jozo Zovko of Medjugorje has said, "A person separated from the Eucharist is like a petal pulled from a flower." Without the Eucharist, we are incomplete. We are missing the true love and true goodness of God. When we receive the Holy Eucharist with reverence, we become united with Him, who desires to nourish and sustain us with His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

OUR LADY'S MONTH:Y MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 25, 2006

"Dear children! Also today I call you to pray, pray, pray. Little children, when you pray you are close to God and He gives you the desire for eternity. This is a time when you can speak more about God and do more for God. Therefore, little children, do not resist but permit Him to lead you, to change you and to enter your life. Do not forget that you are travelers on the way toward eternity. Therefore, little children, permit God to lead you as a shepherd leads his flock. Thank you for having responded to my call."