

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

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**Mass Intentions –December 16-24, 2006**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Charlie Baldwin**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Lucy Caggiano**

**9:30 AM Antonio Azevedo**

**11:15 AM Ana LaFrazia**

**Monday**

**9:00 AM George Moses**

**Tuesday**

**9:00 AM Mass of Thanksgiving to St. Anthony**

**Wednesday**

**9:00 AM John Rielly**

**Thursday**

**9:00 AM John Gage**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM The Driscoll Family**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Vecchiarelli & Caggiano Families**

**9:30 AM Elizabeth & Albert Daniels, Buddy Krakofsky**

**11:15 AM For the People of St. Thomas Parish**

**ADVENT PRAYER**

In all our preparations for Christmas, may we always remember that Jesus is the reason for this blessed Season. Thank you, loving God for this time of joy and expectation, Walk with us and show us the way today and every day of Advent. Amen

**CHURCH SUPPORT**

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

Offertory Collection for Dec. 10, 2006	\$6,167.82
Retired Religious Collection	\$1,340.00

The Second Collection is the Parish Monthly.

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

Last Sunday Olivia Woodford presented Faith: the Mother's Story. It was a performance piece about the women around Mary as they heard about the birth of Jesus. Most people seemed to enjoy the performance.

On Friday evening, December 15, at 7:00 PM we had our Christmas concert in the church. I want to thank Lora Tamagini, our music director, and the members of the adult and children's choir. It was a great evening. It got my mind off all the things I still have to do before Christmas. Thanks to all who made it possible.

The Women's Club had their Yankee swap last Monday night. A good time was had by all.

On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, our second grade students received the sacrament of reconciliation. Congratulations to all our students and thanks to all those who helped prepare them.

The gifts for the Giving Tree have to be in by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. We will leave the church open to 6:00 PM so that you may drop off the gift. Catholic Charities will pick up the gifts first thing Monday morning.

We have a new parish web site. The web address is [www.stthomasvillanova.com](http://www.stthomasvillanova.com) Take a look at it. It has a lot of useful information concerning weddings, baptism, etc. It has links to the Archdiocese of Boston web site, to the Vatican, and US Catholic Conference.

It also has a link to the Boston college web site entitled *The Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

If you go there and dig into the site there are a lot of articles you can print out on the faith and read at your leisure. In the future I will add other sites. I think this may be the way to go for adult education. As you know it is hard to get people out to talks even if it is an outside speaker. I thought that you could read things on line at your leisure or print them out.

Well that is it for now. Hang in there. There is only one more week of Christmas madness before you can sit, relax and enjoy family and friends. Until next time, take care.

Fr. Earley

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4:00pm 6:00pm & Midnight**

**CHRISTMAS MORNING**

**9:30am & 11:15am**

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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### 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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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".

### TOYS FOR TOTS

Karen & Frank West are collecting new, unwrapped toys for the annual U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Campaign. The toy collection box is located in the basement of the Church. If anyone is in need of toys or has questions about the program, please call Karen or Frank West at 978-658-1754 or email westrewilm@aol.com.

### 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### MENS CLOTHING DRIVE

St. Thomas Charity Committee will hold a men's clothing drive on January 13 & 14.  
Clothes may be left in Villanova Hall after all Masses.

**FOOD** will also be collected for the Wilmington Food Pantry

### BAPTISMS

The following children were welcomed into St. Thomas Parish Family.

Sara L. and Celia Jean Kulis  
Isabella Mary Melaragni.

### WEDDING BANNES

Christine Decicco & Richard Stranberg

### LOST AND FOUND

There is a Lost & Found box downstairs in the basement of the Church.

Some of the items have been left behind from children attending CCD class, however things that have been found through out the Church have also been placed in the box..

Please be sure to take a look through the box if you think you may have left something behind in the church.

### OUTSIDE THE PARISH

#### NEW YEARS EVE AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Come join us in ringing in the New Year at the Knights of Columbus. Excellent buffet diner, dancing to the music of Wayne Fleury, party favors and a champaign toast. After party coffee and desert. \$40.00 per person call 978-658-6507 for tickets. Check our web sight for dinner menu [www.wilmingtonkofc.com](http://www.wilmingtonkofc.com)

### TRAVEL TO MEDJUGORJE

St. Monica's in Methuen 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. To register contact Claude Langlois (978) 682-6012.

### 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

Immaculate Conception (Malden/Medford) is planning their March for Life in Washington, D.C. They will **leave from St. Margaret's in Burlington** on Sun, Jan 21 and will return on Tues evening Jan 23. \$220 (\$350 single) until Jan 7<sup>th</sup> (a little higher after that date) . Please call Janet Callahan @ 781-324-3564 to register or for more information.

**DECEMBER 17, 2006**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Dec 17</b> <b>Gr 2 9:30</b> <b>Mass</b> 1pm Baptisms  7pm Prayer Group	<b>Dec 18</b> Gr 1 4-5pm Gr4 5:30- 6:30 Gr 9 6:45- 8:00	<b>Dec 19</b> Gr 2 4-5 Gr 5 5:30-6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	<b>Dec 20</b> Gr 3 4-5 Gr 6 5:30-6:30	<b>Dec 21</b>	<b>Dec 22</b> 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	<b>Dec 23</b> <b>5pm Mass</b>
<b>Dec 24</b> <b>8, 9:30 &amp;</b> <b>11:15</b>  CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm 6pm & Midnight	<b>Dec 25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>9:30 &amp; 11:15</b>	<b>Dec 26</b> <b>NO CCD</b>	<b>Dec 27</b> <b>NO CCD</b>	<b>Dec 28</b>	<b>Dec 29</b> 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	<b>Dec 30</b>
<b>Dec 31</b> <b>Baptismal</b> <b>Instruction</b>	<b>Jan.1</b> <b>NO CCD</b>	<b>Jan 2</b> <b>NO CCD</b>	<b>Jan 3</b> <b>NO CCD</b>	<b>Jan 4</b>	<b>Jan 5</b> 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	<b>Jan 6</b> <b>Epiphany</b>

**ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB HAPPENINGS      All Women of the Parish are invited to join us!**

- Feb 12 – Mardi Gras Party holiday foods**
- April 9<sup>th</sup> - TBA**
- April 21<sup>st</sup> - Senior Anointing Mass and Luncheon**
- May 14<sup>th</sup> TBA**
- June 11<sup>th</sup> - Closing Mass 6:30pm and Diner**

**Meditation of the Heart      by Carolyn M. Kenney**

Christmas is one week away; are you ready? Are you ready - spiritually? For weeks now, we have all been trying to think of the “right” gift to buy for family members and friends. But, what gift will you give Jesus? In today’s gospel, John the Baptist tells the crowd, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.”

We may not be materially wealthy, but do we really need to be rich? We have our health, home and one another. This Christmas, pray for those less fortunate than yourself. Let us take the advice of John the Baptist and “...share with the person who has...” nothing. We have been blessed, so much more than we realize - both materially and spiritually. This Christmas look inside your heart and soul and share yourself - your time and love - with everyone you meet. May you all have a blessed Christmas.

**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.”*