

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MASS INTENTIONS Feb. 23-March 2, 2008

Saturday

5:00 PM Carol DePesquale

Sunday

8:00 AM Notrato & Maria Liberato

9:30 AM Winifred King

11:15 AM Abilio & Erminia Medeiros

Monday

9:00 AM Gertrude Wagstaff

Tuesday

9:00 AM For the People of the Parish

Wednesday

9:00 AM Mary Centrella

Thursday

9:00 AM Special Intention

Saturday

5:00 PM Dorothy & Arthur Kelley

Sunday

8:00 AM Jacinto Rego

9:30 AM Robert C. DeYoung

11:15 AM Robert Dorval

VIDEO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Thomas' Mass is broadcast weekly on WCTV. Volunteers are needed to videotape one Mass every 6 weeks or so. Training available. Call Sandra Curtin 978-658-5932.

ON OUR WEB SITE

Where is your spiritual compass calling you? That is the theme for our Ongoing Ministry Fair, which will begin in March. This is a ministry fair with a twist. Typically, a parish will take a weekend to set up booths and have ministry leaders available to talk about the many ways parishioners can serve. But the twist at St. Thomas will be that the fair will take place over a year, with a different ministry highlighted every two weeks....

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

What's that you say? You haven't seen the web site recently? We completely redesigned the site a little over a year ago? Every month we update Pastor's Corner and Latest News. You'll also find a list of staff and ministry contacts, as well as information about all the parish ministries.

So check us out at stthomasvillanova.com.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Please mark your calendars. On Saturday March 8, 2008 we will hold our annual STAMP dance in Villanova Hall. For more information, look elsewhere in our bulletin. If you are interested in going on our next trip, come to the meeting this Sunday, February 24th after the 11:15 AM Mass. The meeting will be in the lower church.

Religious Education registration is underway. A registration letter and form was sent to all families who currently have a child in the program. Please return the registration form as soon as possible. As I have said since the day I arrived at St. Thomas, no child will be deprived of a religious education because of a family's inability to pay the registration fee. If you cannot pay the fee, speak to Marilyn Mandosa or Dottie Barker or myself. If you cannot pay the religious education fee during the registration period but could pay it later, then get the registration form in and just note you will pay the fee later. What is helpful to us is getting the forms in on time. Please spread the word to those who are not with us today. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and your help in spreading the word about registration.

I have decided to join the Billerica parishes in a communal celebration of penance. The service will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2008 at 7:00 PM in St Theresa's Church. (St. Theresa's Church is the one that is in the center of town on Rt. 3A between O'Connor's Hardware and the K-Mart Mall.) This will give people an opportunity to go to confession to a priest other than Father Paul or myself.

Some people have asked whether we are having a Lenten Retreat. The answer is no. The reason is that we will be starting the RENEW program. We are using the money we normally use for the retreat to offset the cost of the RENEW program. The actual faith sharing groups will not start until the fall.

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

**NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT
BAPTISMS DURING THE EASTER SEASON**

**EASTER SUNDAY
March 23 @ 11:15 AM**

**DURING SUNDAY MASS
April 6 & MAY 4 @ 11:15 AM**

**REGULAR BAPTISM NO MASS
April 20 @ 1:00 PM**

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

CATHOLIC APPEAL

Next weekend, March 1st & 2nd, will be Catholic Appeal Weekend here at St. Thomas. God calls each of us to share our gifts with others for the building up of his kingdom. Cardinal Sean is asking every Catholic household to participate in this year's 2008 Catholic Appeal, which funds the many programs and services of our Archdiocese of Boston. The Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish-so your participation and support are critical. On Catholic Appeal Weekend, we will be showing a video message from Cardinal Sean and asking every Catholic household to make a pledge.

Cardinal Sean thanks all the families from St. Thomas that contributed \$27,776.00 to the 2007 Catholic Appeal. This year, our participation target is to have 303 households participating. Our financial goal is to raise \$29,500. If we exceed our financial goal, we will receive 25 percent of all funds raised above goal for use here at our parish. Please know that your participation counts and that all gifts matter.

We encourage you to take home an information packet from Mass this weekend so that you can prayerfully consider how you will participate. Those of you that gave to the Appeal last year should also receive a letter this week from Cardinal Sean. Please bring your completed pledge card and pledge envelopes to St. Thomas next week to place in the collection basket. Thank you.

LENT

The traditional foundation for Lenten practice rests on three supports: PRAYER-FASTING-ALMSGIVING. To assist families in need, and to help fulfill the third of these, St. Thomas Parish Outreach Ministry is participating in Lenten Gospel Giving. Each week, anyone who would like to participate is asked to bring ONE item with them to Mass. The gifts will be donated to various needy causes, some in which we are already involved. There will be a reminder in the bulletin each week.

4th Sunday of March 1st & 2nd "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me. 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." John 9:11 Please bring in large print magazines, puzzle books, and reading books for the Wilmington Senior Center.

ST. THOMAS CHARITIES FOOD COLLECTION

Food Collection for the Wilmington Food Pantry. All donations can be dropped off in Villanova Hall after all Masses Today.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Registration is going on now, letters have gone out. 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. The Religious Ed. Office is located in the basement of the Church. If you have questions, call the religious education office at 978-658-6040.

Registration will be available Sunday, Feb 24 after the 9:30 Mass

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.

GRADE 2 PARENT MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, March 9 AT 1PM IN THE CHURCH

BLANKET COLLECTION

The blankets don't have to be new but must be clean

STAMP DANCE

9th Annual STAMP Dance on Saturday, March 8 in Villanova Hall, Please join us for a fun filled night of great raffle prizes, food and dance.

STAMP Committee is now making plans for our trip to Mississippi this fall. If you are interested in coming on the STAMP trip, please plan to attend the meeting on Sun., February 24 following the 11:15 Mass. We are looking for motivated individuals who have some experience in the building trades or plenty of unlimited energy to help us to continue the rebuilding process along the Gulf Coast. Please come to the meeting downstairs in the Church on February 24 at about 12:15 if you are interested in getting involved. If you are unable to make the meeting but are interested in participating contact Chris or Carol at 657-5150 or Agnes at 657-6062.

WOMENS CLUB

On March 10th at 7:30 in Villanova Hall our own Carolyn Kenney will share her trip to Jerusalem with us. All women are invited to attend.

FEBRUARY 24, 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 24 1pm WEDDING MUSIC MEETING 7pm Prayer Group	Feb 25 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Feb 26 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Feb 27 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Feb 28	Feb 29 6:30pm Stations	March 1
March 2 7pm Prayer Group	March 3 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	March 4 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	March 5 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	March 6	March 7 6:30pm Stations	March 8 STAMP DANCE
March 9 Gr. 2 Parent meeting 7pm Prayer Group	March 10 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm Women's Club	March 11 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	March 12 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	March 13	March 14 6:30pm Stations	March 15
March 16 PALM SUNDAY 7pm Prayer Group	March 17 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	March 18 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	March 19 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	March 20 HOLY THURSDAY 7pm Mass	March 21 GOOD FRIDAY 3pm Adult Stations 4:15 Children Stations 7pm Service	March 22 7:30pm EASTER VIGIL MASS No 5pm Mass
March 23 EASTER	March 24 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	March 25 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	March 26 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	March 27	March 28 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	March 29 CONFIRMATI ON 10:30 & 1pm
March 30 7pm Prayer Group	March 31 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	April 5

Meditations of the Heart

by Carolyn Kenney

In these few weeks leading up to Easter, we reflect upon the sufferings of Jesus as He carried the cross to Calvary. Here was a totally innocent man, devoid of any wrong-doing. Yet, He was scourged, crowned with thorns and forced to carry a cross upon which He was crucified. He did not complain, but instead asked His Father to forgive those who nailed Him to the cross.

We all face hardships and difficulties in our lives. Saint Padre Pio once said, "We must become accustomed to the sufferings which Jesus will be pleased to send us. Jesus, who cannot bear to keep you in a state of affliction at length, will come to help and comfort you, by instilling new courage in your spirit." Every moment of your life, Jesus looks upon you with mercy and love. Although you do not see Him, if you take the time to look within your soul, you will feel Him walking by your side. This Lent, pray to Jesus for His help, His comfort and His love.