

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

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**Mass Intentions November 17-25, 2007**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Katherine & Lawrence Hayford**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM For the People of the Parish**

**9:30 AM Francesco Romano**

**11:15 AM Eva & Joseph Corsaro**

**Monday**

**9:00 AM All Souls Remembrances**

**Tuesday**

**9:00 AM Frank Enos**

**Wednesday**

**9:00 AM Emily & Charlie Landry**

**Thursday**

**9:00 AM Paul Brooks**

**Saturday**

**5:00 PM Joseph, Georgine & Thomas Melanson & Ray Gay**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Diogenes Amaro**

**9:30 AM Stanley (Zakas) Zakauskas**

**11:15 AM John Vincent Kelley II & Diane Marie Kelley**

**CHURCH SUPPORT**

The second collection is the Parish Monthly Collection.

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

**WEDDING BANNES**

**Jennifer Kane & Chris O'Rourke**

**Kristin Courtinay & Michael Sellitto**

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

The letters for the Grand Annual collection were mailed. This is an important collection for St. Thomas. When we did the budget for this year, we factored in this collection. If this collection does not reach its goal, then the parish will be in financial difficulties. I would urge you to give to this collection. I will report back to you in a couple of weeks on how the collection is doing. I am hoping to create some visual that will tell you how we are doing.

Several weeks ago, the shrubs were removed from in front of the church and loam was put down and was hydro seeded. The hedges by the side of the rectory were also removed. The shrubs and hedges were in poor condition. Many people have commented favorably on them. However the credit has to go to the Finance Council who asked me some time ago to do it. I am glad that the hedges around the rectory are gone. It opens up the side yard. You have to watch trees and bushes around your house. You do not want to give an intruder a place to hide while breaking in. That's not being paranoid; it's being realistic.

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service is this Sunday night. St. Thomas is the host church. I hope we have a decent turnout from STV.

The Women's Club ran another successful craft fair. I want to thank them for all their work. I also want to thank their spouses for their help in the kitchen and setting up.

Finally, I hope all of you have a very Happy Thanksgiving. If your plans call for travel, may you travel in peace and safety.

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

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Brian Connelly a member of our parish, who is working on his Eagle Scout Project, needs our help.

He will speak at the end of each Mass and ask for donations, to complete his project. He is building a loading deck on the Food Pantry in Wilmington. Please see him after Mass and help if you can.

## THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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### PARISH OUT REACH MINISTRY

The Parish Outreach Ministry will be selling wreaths after all Masses on the weekend of November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The Cost of the wreath with a beautiful bow is \$10.00.

### GET YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED

Parish Nurses will be taking Blood pressures after all Masses on the weekend of November 24 & 25. Coffee or tea will be served after the 8am Mass. So buy your wreath, get your blood pressure taken and enjoy the day.

### WINE WOMEN AND SONG

On Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, Wine, Women and Song will take place in the Chapel. Theme will be centered round "Guest who's coming for Christmas?" Come join us for hors d'oeuvres, song, discussion and prayer. If you join us, I'm sure you'll come back

### BRINGING THE EUCHARIST TO WOODBRIAR

ANYONE INTERESTED IN BRINGING EUCHARIST TO THE PATIENTS AT WOODBRIAR. PLEASE CONTACT MARY DOMBROWSKI at 978-250-1710.

No experience is necessary will train. This takes about an hour out of your weekly schedule and is a very rewarding experience.

### BIRTH RIGHT

Again this year St. Thomas Women's Club will collect new layette items unwrapped for Birthright of Lowell. Birthright helps unwed mothers of the Lowell area with layette items for their new babies. We will be collecting from the first Sunday of Advent, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Epiphany Sunday Jan., 6. There will be a laundry basket near the confessionals for the donations.

### ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

The Women's Club will hold their Christmas Meeting on Monday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in Villanova Hall. All Women of the parish are invited to join us. We will be holding a Yankee Swap. Each person who wants to participate should bring a \$10 wrapped gift. Also would everyone please bring an appetizer or dessert. Birthright items may be dropped off at the meeting.

### CORI'S FORMS FOR 2007-2008

All volunteers in the Parish **must** fill out a Cori every year. The Forms are in the Sacristy.

EACH VOLUNTEER MUST PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY HIS OR HER IDENTITY- MA LICENSE, US PASSPORT, ECT.

### MERIMACK VALLEY CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The Lowell Food Pantry are looking for volunteers. They need people who can stuff bags, give out food, and help with intake. You must be 17 years of age, or older and pass a Cori check. Morning and afternoon hours are available. Please call Delis at (978) 454-9946 for further information.

### AN EASY WAY TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT FAITH...

The Biblical story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac is a frightening one. How could God ask this of Him? The ultimate lesson of the story is that God did not want a child to be sacrificed. This story points to issues that we, as parents can consider today. Although our culture does not condone the physical sacrifice of children, it does require more and more from them in order that they are seen as valuable in the world.

### **SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

What expectations do we have of our children? Do we insist on academic or athletic excellence beyond their capacity or interest? Do we insist that our way of doing things is the only way our children should follow?

The above excerpt was taken from *52 Simple Ways to Talk with Your Kids about Faith*. For more tips on how to start a conversation with your child on this theme and many more, go to [www.Loyola Books.org/52SimpleWays](http://www.Loyola Books.org/52SimpleWays).

### THANKS GIVING PRAYER

Dear Lord, on this Thanksgiving Day,  
please bring us not only good food and memories  
but help us remember that it is *you* we are thanking.

When we enjoy our meal with our relatives,  
may we thank *you*, who brings all food from the earth.  
When we enjoy the company of relatives and friends,  
may we thank *you*, the source of all life and happiness.

And when we pray our prayer of blessing,  
May our hearts be on *you*,  
who is the source of all holiness , joy,  
and every blessing that is showed on us.  
Amen.

**NOVEMBER 18, 2007**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 18 7pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving service	Nov 19 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	Nov 20 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Nov 21 No CCD Class	Nov 22 Thanks giving	Nov 23 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Nov 24 Wreath Sale
Nov 25 9:30 Children's Choir  1pm Baptism instruction  7pm Prayer Group	Nov 26 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Nov 27 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Nov 28 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Nov 29	Nov 30 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 1
Dec 2 Grade 10 11:15am Mass  1pm Baptism  7pm Prayer Group	Dec 3 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	Dec 4 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Dec 5 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Dec 6	Dec 7 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 8
Dec 9 9:30 Children's Choir  7pm Prayer Group	Dec 10 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Dec 11 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Dec 12 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Dec 13	Dec 14 St. Thomas Adult & Children Choir Christmas Concert 7pm	Dec 15 First Reconciliation 10:30,11:30 & 1pm
Dec 16 Gr 2 9:30 Mass  All Giving Tree gifts returned  1pm Baptism  7pm Prayer Group	Dec 17 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	Dec 18 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Dec 19 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Dec 20	Dec 21 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 22

**OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE October 25, 2007**

*“Dear Children! God sent me among you out of love that I may lead you towards the way of salvation. Many of you opened your hearts and accepted my messages, but many have become lost on this way and have never come to know the God of love with the fullness of heart. Therefore, I call you to be love and light where there is darkness and sin. I am with you and bless you all. Thank you for having responded to my call.”*

**Meditation of the Heart By Carolyn Kenney**

In last week's second reading Saint Paul writes, "...may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father...encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word...the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you...may the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ."

God encourages and strengthens us if we only stop to hear His voice. Surely God directed the heart of Saint Peter throughout the three years he walked with Jesus. God strengthened Peter and encouraged him in his boldness of faith to the point where Saint Peter even walked on water at Jesus' call. Do we have boldness of faith, as did Saint Peter? Or, do we walk with Jesus only on Sunday? We are not called to literally "walk on water." However, we are called to "get out of the boat" and to trust in Jesus as we walk beside Him each day.