

ST THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions August 9-17, 2008

Saturday
5:00 PM Arthur Robichaud

Sunday
8:00 AM Gertrude Wagstaff
9:30 AM People of the Parish
11:15 AM Roseanne Dyer

Monday
9:00 AM Jessica Fredrickson

Tuesday
9:00 AM The People of the Parish

Wednesday
9:00 AM Maryann Corzo

Thursday
9:00 AM The People of the Parish

Friday
9:00 AM Marie Baldwin

Saturday
5:00PM Mary Pratt

Sunday
8:00AM Gertrude Wagstaff
9:30 AM The People of the Parish
11:15 AM Priscilla Shdeed and Deceased members of the Shdeed Family

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mass schedule for the Assumption
9am on Friday, Aug 15

WEDDING BANNS

II Sara M. Enos & Joseph T. Lane
II Marie Sampson & Matthew Hovis

BAPTISM

The following children were welcomed into St. Thomas Parish Family on August 3, 2008.

Davide Vincenzo Vitale Jr.
Daniel Francis Moriarty
Julia Margaret Moriarty
Kaitlyn Isabella Shackeford

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Since I did not know that we were going to be audited this year until I received a letter in late May or early June, the \$4,500.00 fee was not in the budget. Since I now know that I will be audited again in 2011, I can budget for it going forward. Since I have to come up with that fee, I asked the diocese to waive the fee for the Arise program. It costs \$1,800.00. The diocese has agreed to waive the fee this year. That is good news. I am hoping that you are seriously thinking about participating in the Arise program.

Arise Together in Christ is the name of the spiritual renewal program that will begin in the fall. The format for the program is small faith sharing groups that meet in homes for six weeks. The group will be lead by a trained leader. Each participant will be given a booklet that will contain the prayers, the scripture for reflection, questions to guide the discussions, etc. The beauty of the program is that you do not have to be a theologian to participate nor is it a program where there are right and wrong answers. You are sharing your thoughts on the faith. We will have a sign up Sunday in September. Between now and then, you will be hearing much more about the program.

2008 Catholic Appeal - Handing on the Light of Christ
Thank you to all supporters of the 2008 Catholic Appeal. Our parish has raised \$26,725.00 from 190 households, reaching 91 percent of our parish goal of \$29,500.00. If you have not yet pledged, please consider a gift today and help us meet our goal. Remember, our parish will receive 25 percent of all funds we raise above our goal. Please remember to make your pledge now even if you plan on fulfilling that pledge towards the end of the year. You can pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the church to be mailed in, or for more information please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com or call 617-779-3700. Every gift matters. Thank you!

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

SUMMER HOURS

CCD Office hours Mon, Tuesday, Wednesday 10am to 4pm
Rectory Office hours Tues., Wed., Thurs., 10am to 2pm

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BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

As you begin to buy school supplies for your own kids, please pick up a few extra and bring them to church. We are collecting school supplies that will be distributed to needy families through Catholic Charities in Lowell. There will be boxes at the entrances to the church from now through the middle of August. They are most in need of backpacks, notebooks, paper, pens, pencils, markers, glue, pencil boxes, rulers, scissors, etc. Thank you for your continued generosity to this project.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The CCD Office is in need of volunteers

Grade 1	3 teachers
Grade 3	2 teachers
Grade 5	2 teachers
Grade 6	4 teachers
Grade 8	2 teachers

CCD Classes will Begin the week of September 22

The schedule will stay the same as last year

Monday	Grade 1	4 to 5pm
	4	5:30 to 6:30pm
	9 or 10	6:45 to 8pm
Tuesday	Grade 2	4 to 5pm
	5	5:30 to 6:30pm
	7 or 8	6:45 to 8pm
Wednesday	Grade 3	4 to 5pm
	6	6 to 5:30pm

FAMILY FUN DAY

Once again St. Thomas will have a Family Fun Day Sunday, September 21st with games, food and fun for all ages.

More information will follow. If you would like to help out with the planning or volunteer for the day of please call Pat Archfield at 978-250-1710 or the rectory.

CHURCH SUPPORT

Offertory for July 27, 2008	\$4,834.00
European Relief Collection	\$1,385.00

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

NEW CORI'S FORMS FOR 2008-2009

All volunteers in the Parish need to fill out a new cori. This includes all CCD Teachers and all ministries. The Forms are in the Sacristy. **PLEASE NOTE EACH VOLUNTEER MUST PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY HIS OR HER IDENTITY- MA LICENSE, US PASSPORT ETC.**

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSTS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Representatives from eleven parishes of Vicariate III of the Merrimack Region are planning a local celebration of the Bicentennial of the Archdiocese of Boston. Everyone is invited to a Mass and family gathering on Sunday, September 7, at St. Michaels Parish in North Andover. The celebration begins with a noon Mass to be concelebrated by priests of the vicariate. A family picnic celebration will immediately follow with activities for all ages.

The Bicentennial Mass and picnic will offer an opportunity to look back with a sense of profound gratitude and to look forward with hope; an opportunity to join together and recommit to witness to Christ's Gospel, to pass on the faith, and to build on a civilization of love.

Further details will be provided as the date nears. In the meantime, mark your calendars and reserve Sunday, September 7, 2008, 12-4pm, for what promises to be a joyful renewal of our "Journey Together in Christ."

PROJECT RACHEL

Do you know someone who is carrying grief and sorrow over past abortions? Project Rachel is the post-abortion ministry of the Catholic Church to help those dealing with the pain of abortion. Project Rachel will offer three "Come to the Waters" post abortion healing retreats this fall: Saturday, Sept 6 Oct 18, or Nov 15 For more information and registration for the date of your choice, contact Project Rachel at 508-651-3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Compassionate Care Hospice is seeking volunteers to help maximize the quality of life for terminally ill patients and to support their families in the Lowell area. Volunteers meet with patients wherever they call home, whether it is a nursing home, assisted living or a private residence. Volunteers are an integral part of the Hospice team and provide invaluable companionship to the patients and their families. No experience is necessary and training is provided. Compassionate Care Hospice embraces the use of holistic Therapy and is also seeking to recruit volunteers with special experience in the areas of art, music, meditation, massage, aromatherapy, Reiki and pet therapy.

AUGUST 10, 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August 10 7pm Prayer Group	August 11	August 12	August 13	August 14	August 15 9am Mass Assumption	August 16
August 17 Coffee Hour 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	August 23 FOOD COLLECTION
August 24 FOOD COLLECTION 7pm Prayer Group	August 25	August 26	August 27	August 28	August 29 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	August 30
August 31 1pm Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	Sept 1 LABOR DAY	Sept 2 Home taught material Pick up CCD Office 10-5pm	Sept 3	Sept 4	Sept 5 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 6
Sept 7 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Sept 8 6:45pm Gr 1- 6 Teachers meeting Women's Club 6:30pm Mass	Sept 9 6:45pm Gr 7-10 Teachers meeting	Sept 10	Sept 11	Sept 12 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 13
Sept 14 7pm Prayer Group	Sept 15	Sept 16	Sept 17	Sept 18	Sept 19 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 20 CLOTHING FOOD COLLECTION
Sept 21 FAMILY FUN DAY 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Sept 22 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 10 6:45to 8pm	Sept 23 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 8 6:45 to 8pm	Sept 24 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 6 to 5:30pm	Sept 25	Sept 26	Sept 27

Meditations of the Heart

By Carolyn M. Kenney

In today's gospel of Saint Matthew we read how Jesus "...came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

So many times Jesus walks toward us, but we do not see Him. We are blinded by the fast pace of life around us. We ignore Him and feel that we can deal with problems on our own. Suddenly, we realize things are crashing down and we panic. It is at that point that we must also "get out of the boat" and with faith walk towards Jesus. (www.meditationsoftheheart.com)

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE July 25, 2008

"Dear children! At this time when you are thinking of physical rest, I call you to conversion. Pray and work so that your heart yearns for God the Creator who is the true rest of your soul and your body. May He reveal His face to you and may He give you His peace. I am with you and intercede before God for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call"