

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions August 23 – 31, 2008

Saturday

5:00 PM Edward White

Sunday

8:00 AM Gertrude Wagstaff

9:30 AM Joseph P. Ring

11:15 AM Charles Cosgrove

Monday

9:00 AM Agrippina Sturzo

Tuesday

9:00 AM Robert Barry

Wednesday

9:00 AM Jerome Martin

Thursday

9:00 AM Jerome Martin

Saturday

5:00PM Orginia Amaro

Sunday

8:00AM Mary Desmond

9:30 AM John Landry Jr.

11:15 AM Isabel Doucette

SUMMER HOURS

CCD Office: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10am to 3pm

Rectory: Tuesday Wednesday Thursday 10 to 2pm

WEDDING BANNES

I Josie Limoli and Elio Mauro

BAPTISM

The following children were welcomed into St. Thomas Parish Family on August 17, 2008.

Kiera Otilia Camire Luke Matthew Cushing
Noah Paul Sederquist Pasquale Finamore DeLucia

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Adult Choir first rehearsal will be Wed., Sept 3 at 7pm

The Children's Choir first rehearsal will be Wed., Sept 10 at 6pm

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The Religious Education program is in need of volunteers. There is a notice elsewhere in the bulletin detailing their needs. Please consider helping out in this important ministry.

Each vicariate is celebrating the bicentennial of the Archdiocese of Boston by celebrating a Mass and sponsoring an event. Our vicariate is celebrating Mass at St. Michael's in North Andover at noon on September 7 followed by a

cookout. I would encourage you to go. Tickets for the Mass and cookout are available at the rectory. The tickets are free. If you would like a ticket call the rectory or see one of the priests or deacons after Mass.

As an aside, let me explain the breakdown of the diocese. The Archdiocese of Boston is broken down into regions. We are the Merrimack Region. Each region is broken down into vicariates. We are in the Andover, Lawrence, Methuen vicariate. Each vicariate is broken down into parishes.

Next week I will be going away on retreat with my religious lawyers friends. We are going to Stella Maris Retreat House in Skaneateles, NY. We have Don Bisson a Marist Brother, as our director. He has entitled his presentation "Individuation and Reclaiming the Experience of God". I am looking forward to it.

In 2003 the Archdiocese of Boston issued a booklet on guidelines for ministerial conduct. It was all part of the protecting God's children program. At that time I made the booklets available to all those in any ministry in the church. At the end of the booklet there is one page summary that they are now asking each person in any ministry in the church to sign. This is in addition to the CORI form. Unlike the CORI form, you sign this form once in a life time. We will keep it on file. The forms are in the sacristy. Please read it over and sign it. You can leave it in the CORI basket on the counter in the sacristy.

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 \$27,103.00 from 193 households, reaching 92 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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FAMILY FUN DAY

Sun, Sept 21st games, food and fun for all ages. If you would like to help please call Pat Archfield at 978-250-1710.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The CCD Office is in need of volunteers in the following grades.

Grade 3	3 teachers
Grade 5	2 teachers
Grade 6	3 teachers
Grade 8	2 teachers

The requirements for teaching: are that you are a confirmed practicing catholic and in good standing in the Church.

Classes will begin the week of September 22.

PROTECTING GODS CHILDREN

There will be a class for all volunteers who have not already taken it on Wednesday, September 10 at 6pm and Sunday, Sept 14 after the (11:15 Mass) 12:30pm.

A CLASS ON TEACHING THE PROTECTING GODS CHILDREN

Class will be Sept 6 & 7 in Braintree 8am to 4pm. Please call Mary at 978-250-1710 or the rectory for more information.

NEW CORI'S FORMS FOR 2008-2009

All volunteers in the Parish need to fill out a new cori every year. 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

In addition to the CORI form. We ask you to please sign a **CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT AGREEMENT**, We will keep it on file. The forms are in the sacristy. Please read it over and sign it. You can leave it in the CORI basket on the counter in the sacristy.

FOOD COLLECTION

This Weekend The Charities Committee will be collecting food for the Wilmington Food Pantry. All donations may be dropped off in Villanova Hall.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

We are collecting school supplies. Boxes are at the entrances of the Church through August. If you have any questions please call Donna 978-988-0853

ARISE TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Arise Together in Christ is a three-year, parish-centered process of spiritual renewal and evangelization that enables people to deepen their faith, develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community, and reach out in service to others. The ARISE process applies the standard of Christ to all areas of life. It emphasizes people living in good relationship with one another, as they make concrete applications of the Gospel to their life situations.

The goals of the ARISE process are:

Teaching and witnessing to the Word of God in Sacred Scripture

Developing vibrant communities of faith and service that are ongoing

Implementing a strategy for adult faith formation

Providing a concrete and practical means of evangelization

Enhancing the celebration of the Sunday liturgy

Remember that sign up Sunday is fast approaching. Please keep September 14, 2008 in mind. Should you have any questions or wish to learn more about the program, please call Deacon Joe Fagan at the Rectory.

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSTS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Bicentennial Mass and picnic will offer an opportunity to look back with a sense of profound gratitude and to look forward with hope, so mark your calendars and reserve Sunday, Sept 7, 12-4pm, for what promises to be a joyful renewal of our "Journey Together in Christ"

Tickets for the Mass and cookout are available at the rectory. The tickets are free. If you would like a ticket call the rectory or see one of the priests or deacons after Mass.

VISITING NURSING HOMES & HOMEBOUND

Most of us are able to take for granted the ability to walk down the aisle of the church in order to receive the Eucharist. But others require that communion be brought to them. The Parish Pastoral Visitors/Nursing Home Ministry makes that possible. Once a week, members visit Woodbriar of Wilmington and Wilmington Woods Nursing Care Center. We bring communion to between 70 and 75 people a week. Depending on the resident's condition, we offer the Eucharist sit and chat, or simply say a prayer. For some, when they see the Eucharist, their faces just light up. Some members of the ministry are retired; others have careers, such as an airplane pilot or teachers. While the nursing homes are visited weekly, the 12 members take turns, going in pairs. As a result, the commitment for each individual member is once every two or three months. Members of the ministry also bring Communion to those parishioners who are sick and homebound. Is your Spiritual Compass pointing to serve the Parish Pastoral Visitors/Nursing Home Ministry? Please call Mary Dombrowski at 978-250-1710.

AUGUST 24, 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 Adult Choir 7pm	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 PROTECTING GOD CHILDREN Class 6pm Children's Choir 6pm Adult Choir 7pm	Sept 11	Sept 12 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 13
Sept 14 ARISE SIGN UP Protecting Gods Children Class 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 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 27
Sept 28 1pm Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group	Sept 29 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 9 6:45to 8pm	Sept 30 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 7 6:45 to 8pm	Oct 1 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 6 to 5:30pm	Oct 2	Oct 3 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Oct 4 Dominican Sisters Pie & Bread Sale
Oct 5 9:30 Children's Liturgy Gr 2 Mass 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Oct 6 Gr 1 4to 5pm 4 5:30 to 6:30pm 9 6:45to 8pm	Oct 7 Gr 2 4to5pm 5 5:30 to 6:30pm 7 6:45 to 8pm	Oct 8 Gr 3 4to5pm 6 6 to 5:30pm	Oct 9	Oct 10 6-7:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Oct 11

Meditation of the Heart by Carolyn M. Kenney

In today's Gospel, Saint Matthew relates an important incident which he and the other Apostles faced. Jesus asked them, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Then, He asked them a much more pointed question, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter, who was always the first to answer a question posed by Jesus, answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter had the faith and courage to realize that Jesus was the Messiah whom everyone had been waiting for.

Who do you say that Jesus is? Do you have the faith and understanding to know that He is truly the Son of God? Do you have an integral and personal relationship with Him? If not, you should because only Jesus is able to guide and sustain you through this demanding journey of life. (www.meditationsoftheheart.com)