

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions –December 15-23 , 2007

Saturday

5:00 PM Eileen McGrath

Sunday

8:00 AM For the People of the Parish

9:30 AM Antonio Aveveto

11:15 AM Robert Knowles

Monday

9:00 AM Joan Brothers

Tuesday

9:00 AM William “Billy” Davis

Wednesday

9:00 AM John Rielly

Thursday

9:00 AM Emma Wilcouawicz

Saturday

5:00 PM Vecchiarelli & Caggiano Families

Sunday

8:00 AM Mary & Alexander Quandt, Kathleen Blackburn & Paul Quandt

9:30 AM George, Alice & Mary Pratt

11:15 AM John Gage

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Outreach Ministry will be Christmas Caroling at Deming Way on Wednesday, December 19 at 5:30. They will meet in Villanova Hall. All are welcome to join them. If you can donate cookies they can be dropped off in Villanova Hall on Wednesday.

EPIPHANY PAGEANT

On Sunday, January 6th at the 9:30 Mass the Children’s Liturgy will be having the Epiphany Pageant. There will be a mandatory meeting for all those who want to participate on the morning of Dec 29th. All interested children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade please call Debbie Casey at 978-447-1020.

CHURCH SUPPORT

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

The Second Collection is the Parish Monthly.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The Grand Annual collection is underway. The goal for the Grand Annual is \$50,000.00. Thus far, we have collected \$26,660.00 from 178 donors. I want to thank all those who have given. This collection will continue on into the New Year. This collection plays an important role in keeping St. Thomas solvent. SO again, thanks to all those who have given.

The Christmas Concert was held on Friday, December 14, 2007 at 7:00 PM. . The Nazareth Academy Trinity Singers joined our choir. It was a good take in. I want to thank our music director, Lora Tamaghini, for putting the concert together. I also want to thank our choir and the Nazareth Trinity singers. Finally I want to thank Santa Claus for showing up.

The Christmas Mass schedule will be as follows:
Monday, December 24th at 4 PM (upstairs and downstairs) 6:00 PM and midnight.
Tuesday December 25th at 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM.
The parish office will be closed on December 24th and 25th.

All the gifts for the Giving Tree should be returned by this Sunday, December 16th. Catholic Charities will pick them up at the beginning of the week.

Our second grade students received the sacrament of reconciliation this Saturday. Congratulations to all of them. They now begin their preparation for receiving the Eucharist.

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

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm 6:00pm & Midnight

CHRISTMAS MORNING

9:30am & 11:15am

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 16th. 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".

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 6th, 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.

CLOTHING DRIVE

St. Thomas Charity Committee will hold a clothing drive on January 12 & 13. They will be collecting men's women's and children's Clothes
Clothes may be left in Villanova Hall after all Masses.

FOOD will also be collected for the Wilmington Food Pantry

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

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Join Father Augustine Anda on an inspirational trip to the Holy Land. The pilgrimage will take place from March 24, 2008-April 4, 2008 and the cost is \$2699. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Eliesa at 978-977-3062. Join Father Anda on this trip and walk in the Footsteps of Christ.

35th ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

The Immaculate Conception (Malden/Medford) Respect Life Committee is once again planning a pilgrimage to the 35th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The group will **leave from Malden with a secondary pick-up at St. Margaret's Church in Burlington** by motor coach on Monday morning, January 21(MLK Holiday) and will return on Wednesday evening January 23. The cost is \$250 per person, double occupancy (\$400 single) until January 4th (a little higher after that date) Come and be inspired by the hundreds of thousands of young people who will witness to the Gospel of Life in this non-confrontational event. Please call Janet Callahan @ 781-324-3564 to register or for more information.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Can you spare just one hour/week at lunchtime once a month or more? Meals on Wheels Drivers are needed.

Homebound seniors in Bedford, Lexington and Woburn need help getting a midday meal delivered on weekdays! Perfect job to do with a friend, or share a route or alternate weeks. Regular and substitute drivers are needed. Drivers receive mileage reimbursement of \$0.42 per mile plus satisfaction in providing this essential service. Call Minute Senior Services 781-221-7023 or toll free 888-222-6171 or email:dbarr@minutemansenior.org.

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE Nov. 25, 2007

"Dear Children! Today, when you celebrate Christ, the King of all that is created, I desire for Him to be the King of your lives. Only through giving, little children, can you comprehend the gift of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross for each of you. Little children, give time to God that He may transform you and fill you with His grace, so that you may be a grace for others. For you, little children, I am a gift of grace and love, which comes from God for this peaceless world. Thank you for having responded to my call."

DECEMBER 16, 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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
Dec 23 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 24 Christmas Eve 4pm, 6pm midnight	Dec 25 Christmas Day 9:30am, 11:15am	Dec 26 No CCD Classes Christmas Vacation	Dec 27	Dec 28 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Dec 29
Dec 30 1pm Baptism instruction 7pm Prayer Group	Dec 31 No CCD Classes	Jan 1 No CCD Classes	Jan 2 No CCD Classes	Jan 3	Jan 4 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 5
Jan 6 Epiphany Pageant 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 7 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm	Jan 8 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Jan 9 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Jan 10	Jan 11 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 12 CLOTHING COLLECTION
Jan 13 CLOTHING COLLECTION 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 14 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm	Jan 15 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm	Jan 16 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Jan 17	Jan 18 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	Jan 19
Jan 20 7pm Prayer Group	Jan 21 No Classes MLK Day	Jan 22 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm	Jan 23 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26

Meditation of the Heart

By Carolyn Kenney

I would like to wish you a **Merry Christmas**. I will not wish you Happy Holidays or Seasons Greetings. This is Christmas and there is more to it than just the materialistic side. We need to put Christ back in Christmas. At this joyful time of year, we write Christmas cards and exchange gifts, while soft white flakes cover the ground in a blanket of white. Despite the growing increase of secularism, we must learn the true meaning of giving and sharing. We must love one another as exemplified by Jesus when He came to share His life with us. Day by day, incidents of violence reign throughout our country and throughout the world. What would our parents and grandparents say if they could see what is transpiring in our schools, colleges and countries today? Our world cannot continue on at this current pace. We must put Christ back into Christmas, into our lives and into our families.