

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### Mass Intentions February 16-24, 2008

#### Saturday

5:00 PM Richard P. Robinson

#### Sunday

8:00 AM George Pratt

9:30 AM Edward White

11:15 AM Lawrence Reinhart

#### Monday

9:00 AM Joan Clark

#### Tuesday

9:00 AM John Snell

#### Wednesday

9:00 AM Donald F. Wholey

#### Thursday

9:00 AM Dolores Lacambria

#### Saturday

5:00 PM Carol DePasquale

#### Sunday

8:00 AM Norato & Maria Liberato

9:30 AM Winifred King

11:15 AM Abilio & Ermina Medeiros

### SICK & HOMEBOUND

If any one knows of someone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive communion in their home please call Mary at 978-771-3513.

### 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 Jim Buckley 978-658-4151.

### MANDATORY WEDDING MUSIC MEETING

On Sun, Feb 24, at 1pm there will be a mandatory Music meeting for Brides and Grooms getting married this year.

### CHURCH SUPPORT

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

### FEBRUARY 3, 2008

Offertory Collection totaled	\$6,425.12
Peter Pence Collection totaled	\$1,501.00

### 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 on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

You will notice that the Lenten missalettes were missing last weekend (and probably this weekend). For the nine years I have been here, they have always arrived on time. It was not until we were going to change them that we noticed we did not receive our shipment. We are tracking the missalettes down. They shall return (soon I hope).

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

**NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT  
THE 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**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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### LENT

*In the 2<sup>cd</sup> week of Lent we read about the transfiguration of Jesus. Our baptism is meant to be a transfiguration for us. Paul invites us to put on the life of Christ with clothing ourselves in heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. Colossians 12: 3-17 "what moves you into or away from such open heart."*

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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent-February 23 & 24 "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst." John 4: 13-14 Please bring juice boxes for the Wilmington Food Pantry and the House of Hope, Lowell, Ma**

### ST. THOMAS CHARITIES FOOD COLLECTION

On February 23 & 24 a Food Collection for the Wilmington Food Pantry. All donations can be dropped off in Villanova Hall after all Masses that weekend.

### BLANKET COLLECTION

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

### COOKING AND SERVING A MEAL

The Parish Outreach will be going to COR UNUM in Lawrence where they will be cooking and serving a meal on Saturday, February 23. They will be making chop suey, if anyone would like to donate hamburger or a dessert it would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in going please call Pat at 978-250-1710.

### PARISH OUTREACH

There will be a Parish Outreach meeting on Monday, February 18, at 7pm in Villanova Hall.

### 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**

### STAMP DANCE

9<sup>th</sup> 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.

### INFORMATIONAL MEETING FEB., 24, 12:15pm

**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.

### OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE JANUARY 25, 2008

*"Dear children! With the time of Lent, you are approaching a time of grace. Your heart is like ploughed soil and it is ready to receive the fruit which will grow into what is good. You, little children, are free to choose good or evil. Therefore, I call you to pray and fast. Plant joy and the fruit of joy will grow in your hearts for your good, and others will see it and receive it through your life. Renounce sin and choose eternal life. I am with you and intercede for you before my Son. Thank you having responded to my call."*

**FEBRUARY 17, 2008**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 17 7pm Prayer Group	Feb 18 NO CCD 7pm Outreach	Feb 19 SCHOOL	Feb 20 VACATION	Feb 21	Feb 22 6:30pm Stations	Feb 23 FOOD COLLECTION  CORUNUM
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 CONFIRMATION 10:30 & 1pm
March 30 7pm Prayer Group	March 31 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm					

Meditation of the Heart

by Carolyn Kenney

Today's gospel reading is one of the most beautiful in the Bible – the Transfiguration of Jesus. We read "...his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light." As Peter, James and John looked at Jesus, He radiated a brilliance they had never seen before. "...a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him. When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid."

For the three Apostles, they must have been in awe and amazement. But, as they lay on the ground in fear, Jesus gently said, "Rise, and do not be afraid." Many times, God asks us to do things we may not feel comfortable to attempt. We have an inner feeling of safety and surety and may not like to extend ourselves to try something unfamiliar. However, Jesus says to us, "Rise, and do not be afraid." Gently, He takes us by the hand and leads us up our mountain. There something new and wonderful is waiting which will change our lives and open our souls to infinite graces.