

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions January 26- February 3, 2008

Saturday

5:00 PM Nicholas Vecchiarelli

Sunday

8:00 AM Helen Roueche

9:30 AM Margarita Limoli

11:15 AM Abilio & Erminia Medeiros

Monday

9:00 AM Gregory Meyer

Tuesday

9:00 AM Mass of Thanksgiving

Wednesday

9:00 AM For the People

Thursday

9:00 AM For the People

Saturday

5:00 PM Marion Murphy & Mary Marotta

Sunday

8:00 AM For the People of The Parish

9:30 AM Camelo Limoli

11:15 AM Guilhemere & Ana Viveiros

PRAYER SERVICE

A Prayer Service for all Eucharist Ministers and those who take the Eucharist to the sick and homebound and nursing homes will be held on Sunday, January 27th at 7pm. All Eucharist ministers are encouraged to come for spiritual support and for updates with the latest changes with this ministry.

WINE , WOMEN & SONG

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, January 31 at 7pm in the Chapel. Each of our monthly meetings begins with a social time of wine (or soda), horsd'oeuvres, and conversation followed by prayer and reflection through music. All women are welcome! This month our prayers and songs will be centered on preparing for Lent.

MANDATORY WEDDING MUSIC MEETING

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

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

A parishioner asked me to say a word about the handicapped parking near the chapel entrance. According to the parishioner, there are people parking there who do not have a handicapped parking plate or placard. Please remember those spots near the chapel entrance are reserved for those with a handicapped plate or placard. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

I have mentioned in the past the parish spiritual renewal program called Arise Together in Christ. The Archdiocese of Boston is sponsoring this program as part of its bicentennial celebration. The program guides the participant through five seasons over the course of three years. Each season last six weeks. The seasons are:

| | | |
|------------|------|----------------------------|
| Season I | Fall | Encountering Christ Today |
| Season II | Fall | Change Our Hearts |
| Season III | Fall | In the Footsteps of Christ |
| Season IV | Fall | New Heart, New Spirit |
| Season V | Fall | We Are the God News. |

The process involves forming small faith sharing groups that will meet in homes and other locations in the parish during the course of the week. The group will be headed by a leader who will be trained in leading the group. The Archdiocese of Boston will provide a two hour training session for the leaders of the groups. The participants will have a booklet for each session. The booklet will have the prayer service for the group, the scripture to reflect on as well as the discussion questions. The small group could be formed from neighborhoods, among friends or with people you share a ministry with such as the Women's Club, the Charities Committee, lectors, Outreach Committee, etc.

I am hoping that many will become participants. It is a way to grow in your faith. If you would like to be a leader and go to a training session, please call me. If you would like to go a training session for informational purposes only, please call me. If you would like to join the Steering Committee, call me or come to the next meeting of the Steering Committee on Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

In the near future we will say more about the program at all the Masses.

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

S.T.A.M.P. DANCE

MARK YOUR CALANDER FOR THE
ANNUAL S.T.A.M.P. DANCE
SATURDAY, MARCH 8.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB MARDI GRAS PARTY

On Monday, Feb 4th at 7:00PM in Villanova Hall. There will be a "pot luck supper" with a Mardi Gras flavor, after which we will play "PASS THE GIFT" game. The gifts will be supplied by the Club. Wear a mask or costume if you wish. The colors for Mardi Gras are green, gold and purple. All are asked to bring a main dish, side dish dessert etc. Please call Joan at 978-657-3905 to let us know what you are bringing or if you are looking for a suggestion so that we will have a varied menu. All Women of the Parish are welcome to join us.

MARRIAGE PREP SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING...

World Marriage day will be celebrated here on February 9th at the 5pm Mass.

As you know there exists a 50% failure rate in married relationships. In an effort to lower that number, the Archdioceses has in place Marriage Preparation Classes which look at 5 areas of Marriage, Communication, Finance, Sexuality, Parenting and Spirituality. St. Thomas has a Program which will run late April.

We are always looking for Married Couples to facilitate and I am looking for that Special Couple who would be willing to moderate the day and assure the Running of the Program. If interested Call Deacon King at the Rectory 978-658-466

BLANKET COLLECTION

The Parish Outreach will be having a blanket collection through the month on January and February. Blankets don't have to be new but must be clean.

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 for the Church in Latin America

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.

BAPTISMS

On Sunday January 20, 2008 the following children were welcomed into St. Thomas Parish Family.

Brady M. Cabral
Mikaela R. Casey
Marina R. Feeney
Alexandria Elizabeth Greenwood
Wendy Elizabeth Ong

BAPTISM SCHEDULE

THERE WILL BE NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT

THE LAST BAPTISM BEFORE LENT
FEBRUARY 3, 2008

THE BAPTISMS DURING THE EASTER SEASON
WILL BE:

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

A THANK YOU

St. Thomas Charities Committee would like to thank the parishioners for their generous donations of Food and Clothing at our Collection last weekend. Approximately 200 bags of clothes were collected and given to 4 churches in Lawrence. The Food was given to the Wilmington Food Pantry. The recipients were appreciative and we thank you for your support

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

THE HEART OF THE CROSS A PASSION PLAY

St. William's will have a "Heart of the Cross" performance by Olivia Woodford on the first Monday of Lent, February 11 at 7pm. This will be held in the upper church of St. Williams Parish and is open to the public and free of charge.

JANUARY 27, 2008

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Jan 27 1pm Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer Group | Jan 28 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm | Jan 29 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm | Jan 30 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30 | Jan 31 | Feb 1 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration | Feb 2 Grade 10 Confirmation Retreat |
| Feb 3 Baptism 7pm Prayer Group | Feb 4 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 9 6:45-8pm 7:30pm Women's Club | Feb 5 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 7 6:45-8pm | Feb 6 Ash Wednesday 9am Mass 4pm service CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30 | Feb 7 | Feb 8 6:30pm Stations | Feb 9 5pm Mass WORLD MARRIAGE DAY |
| Feb 10 11:15am Grade 10 Mass 7pm Prayer Group | Feb 11 CCD grades 1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30pm 10 6:45-8pm | Feb 12 CCD grades 2 4-5pm 5 5:30-6:30 8 6:45-8pm | Feb 13 CCD grades 3 4-5pm 6 5:30-6:30 | Feb 14 Happy Valentine's Day | Feb 15 6:30pm Stations | Feb 16 |
| Feb 17 7pm Prayer Group | Feb 18 NO CCD | Feb 19 SCHOOL | Feb 20 VACATION | Feb 21 | Feb 22 6:30pm Stations | Feb 23 FOOD COLLECTION |
| 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 | | | | | | |

Meditation of the Heart

by Carolyn Kenney

In today's gospel we read how Jesus "...left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea..." It was here that He called Peter and Andrew saying to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Walking on, He called John and James who also joined Him. Jesus "...went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel... and curing every disease and illness among the people."

During my trip to the Holy Land last year, our group spent four days in this area. We watched the sun as it rose each morning in breathtaking beauty over the Sea of Galilee. We walked through the village of Capernaum, visiting the home of Peter's mother-in-law and other biblical sites. Today the Presence of Jesus can still be felt; it transcends time and is palpable today in the many places He lived and taught. His Spirit lives and lingers throughout the land, while the strong beat of His heart transmits love over the centuries. The Presence of Jesus is more than a "knowing" this was where He walked. His Presence is a gentle meeting between His heart and the hearts of those who visit this awe-inspiring land.