

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Intentions March 15-23, 2008

Saturday

5:00 PM Joe Bulger

Sunday

8:00 AM Annie & Charlie Baldwin

9:30 AM James M. McGonagle II

11:15 AM Donald Franco

Monday

9:00 AM John Landry

Tuesday

9:00 AM Nancy Potenza

Wednesday

9:00 AM John Pittore

Thursday

9AM NO MASS

7:00 PM Holy Thursday Mass

Saturday

7:30 PM Easter Vigil

Sunday

8:00 AM Easter

9:30 AM Easter

11:15 AM Easter

CANDY SALE

After Mass this weekend STAMP will be selling Candy Bars for \$2.00 And Boxes and Baskets of Candy for \$15.00

MARRIAGE PREP

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 Program is Saturday, April 26, from 9am to 4pm We are always looking for Married Couples to facilitate and assist in the operation of the Program. If interested Call Deacon King at the Rectory 978-658-4665.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

This weekend starts Holy Week. This year instead of having the choir together with the Trinity Singers from Nazareth give a concert to start off Holy Week, they will be doing some special choral pieces at the 9:30 AM and 11:15 Mass today. I am sure that you will enjoy them. Palm will be available at all the Masses this weekend.

The schedule for Holy Week is as follows:

On Holy Thursday, the Mass will be at 7:00 PM. There is no morning Mass.

On Good Friday, the town wide ecumenical service will be at noon at the Methodist Church. Stations of the Cross for adults will be at 3:00 PM. Stations for the children will be at 4:00 PM. The Celebration of the Lord's Passion will be at 7:00 PM.

The Easter Vigil will be held on Saturday at 7:30 PM. There is no 5:00 PM Mass.

The Masses on Easter Sunday are at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM.

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. I would encourage anyone who would like to go to confession for Easter to avail them of this opportunity

Last Saturday night we held our annual STAMP dance. It was another huge success. I put \$8,300.00 in the bank after a number of expenses have been paid. There are a few more bills to come in before I get a true net. I want to thank the STAMP committee for all their work as well as all those who supported the effort.

After all the Masses this weekend, STAMP will be selling Easter candy. If you need some Easter candy, stop by the display.

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.

The Annual Catholic Appeal started a few weeks ago. I would urge you to support this important Archdiocesan campaign. In the coming weeks I will be saying more about how we are doing against our goal. There are still Catholic Appeal packages in the benches if you did not receive one in the mail.

Well that is it for now. Until next time, take care.

Fr. Earley

PALM SUNDAY

OPERATION RICE BOWL

For all those who have been participating in Operation Rice Bowl, we ask that they be returned on Holy Thursday.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

The Office is in the basement of the Church. If you have questions, the religious education office 978-658-6040.

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

LATE REGISTRATION a \$10 late fee per student after Wed., March 19-April 29. As of April 30 we will not be accepting any registrations for the 2008-2009 school year.

CONFIRMATION PRACTICE

Group 1 6:45 Monday, March 24

Group 2 6:45 Wednesday, March 26

Confirmation practice will be in the Church. We ask that all sponsors or responsible adult must accompany each confirmation student.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Please note that on Good Friday, March 21 the Wilmington Methodist Church will have the Ecumenical service at 12 noon

THERE WILL BE 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

CHURCH SUPPORT

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

Offertory March 2, 2008 \$6,055.50

Catholic Relief Services Collection \$1,567.58

Offertory March 9, 2008 \$5,367.50

CATHOLIC APPEAL

The Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish-so your participation and support are critical. Families from St. Thomas that contributed \$27,776.00 to the 2007 Catholic Appeal. This year, our participation target is to have 303 households participating. Our financial goal is to raise \$29,500. If we exceed our financial goal, we will receive 25 percent of all funds raised above goal for use here at our parish.

ST. THOMAS MINISTRY FAIR

“Where is your “Spiritual Compass” calling you at St. Thomas. That is the theme of our Ongoing Ministry Fair. Every two weeks a different ministry will be highlighted. The first week it will be highlighted in the bulletin and at Mass. On the second week, a representative from the ministry will speak at all Masses and will be available to talk with them after each Mass. This is a great opportunity to get to know more about each ministry at St. Thomas and where your spiritual compass is pointing.

VIDEO MINISTRY

Volunteers videotape the Mass once a week. The Mass is replayed during the week on local cable television. If interested call Sandra for more information 978-658-5932.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

The Sons of Italy presents Breakfast with the Easter Bunny to benefit Alzheimer's Sun, March 16, 9am to 12 pm at the Knights of Columbus. donation:\$7 Children under 5 free Call Charlie Destefano at 978-658-5598 for tickets.

CHRISM MASS

A bus will leave the parking lot of St. Theresa in North Reading, Tuesday morning at 9:45 am returning at approximately 2pm please reserve your space by Friday, March 14 @ 978-664-3412.

MARCH 16, 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 16 PALM SUNDAY BAPTISM INSTRUCTION 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 Ecumenical Service 12noon Methodist Church	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	April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4 6-8:30pm Eucharistic Adoration	April 5

ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CLUB will sponsor a play at the Stoneham Theatre The Porch, on Friday, May 30th at 8pm. The tickets are \$30 for Seniors 62 & over and \$35 for Adults. Please call Joan, at 978-657-3905 to make a reservation. Adapted from Neary's Beyond Belief, the play is set on the North Shore. This homespun comedy follows the Labor Day preparations of three best friends as they bicker about Lawrence Welk, share recipes and swap stories.

EASTER ENVELOPES For those who wish prayers said for their deceased loved ones there are envelopes by the Statue of Mary all donations will be used for the decorations for Easter. All names will be printed in the bulletin

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE FEBRUARY 25, 2008

“Dear children! In this time of grace, I call you a new to prayer and renunciation. May your day be interwoven with little ardent prayers for all those who have not come to know God’s love. Thank you for responded to my call.”

Meditations of the Heart by Carolyn Kenney

They had reached the top of Calvary; Simon laid the cross on the ground and sadly looked at Jesus. Tears flowed down his cheeks. As Jesus turned towards the guards, Simon drifted to the back of the crowd that had gathered around the cross. His grief was almost unbearable as he watched the cruelty with which the guards threw Jesus down onto the cross. The cries of the women around him tore at his heart. He fell to his knees, buried his head in his hands and prayed. Jesus had done nothing wrong. Why were they crucifying Him?

We all face hardships and difficulties; at times, the trials we endure become too much for us to handle alone. Like Simon, we must help one another carry our crosses. We must look upon one another with love, understanding and acceptance. Jesus walks our journey of life by our side - every step of the way. Let us follow His beautiful example of love.