

Message from Fr. Rick

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given you besides.....”

Last week we heard Jesus’ daunting challenge to perfection: a call to imitate the gratuitous love of the Father who makes His Sun to shine on all, the good and wicked alike.

Today’s Gospel addresses the other side of the same coin so to speak. Because of God’s providential care for His creation we have no need to fret or to worry about having enough to meet our needs.

We should trust that as long as we are seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness, God can be trusted to bestow on us everything else we need to sustain our physical needs.

So, are we “seeking first” His Kingdom and His righteousness? Or, are we fretting and worrying over things that if we only realized it, God is already prepared to lavish on us if only we make our relationship with Him our first priority.

ADULT EDUC. AT ST. THOMAS - THIS MONDAY EVENING: The last class of our Adult Education series, “Catholic Social Teaching”, had to be postponed. The class will be held this Monday, Feb. 28th at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Hall. Dorothy Barewicz, the Director of Catholic Formation for the Diocese of Burlington, will be the presenter. Refreshments will be served. Hope you can come—all are welcome!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: St. Thomas is establishing a Fundraising Committee to develop fundraising ideas, research the feasibility of various fundraising proposals, and to help plan events. If you have an interest in any of these activities, we’d love to have your input. We especially welcome and encourage involvement of our younger parishioners in high school and college. Very flexible time commitment. We need your ideas. If you would be interested in serving on such a sub-committee of the Parish Council, please contact Fr. Rick at 899-4632 or Frank Babicz, Parish Council Chair, at 899-4650.



PALMS: If you would like to have your old palm properly disposed of, please bring them to church and place them in the baskets at each entrance. We’ll do the rest!

WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY MASSES

February 26	
SAT	4:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Clement Boisjoli by Sean & Mary Ann Ledwith
February 27	
SUN	8:30 AM - For the repose of the soul of Francis Dolen by the Ken & Donna Schaeffler
MON	8:00 AM - For the repose of the soul of Peter Bacenet, Sr. by Esther C. Danielson
TUE	6:30 PM - In celebration of the 96th birthday of Alphonsus Collins
WED	6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary’s followed by Exposition
THURS	8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary’s
FRI	8:00 AM - For the repose of the soul of Alison Earl by Donna Rooney
March 5	
SAT	4:10 PM - Rosary before Mass 4:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Francis Dolen by Paul & Lucy Bathalon
March 6	
SUN	8:30 AM - For the parishioners of St. Thomas & St. Mary’s

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 5 & 6, 2011

Mass	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Altar Servers
4:30 PM Sat.	T Potvin Tom Rivers	D Dufresne	Please help!
8:30 AM Sun.	Deacon Peter D Novembrino N Scott	M Frederick W Gardner	H Kessler

THE PRAYER CHAIN? If you have a need for prayers for any reason, a group of parishioners have agreed to pray for your intention/s. You may give as much or as little information as you wish. For daytime requests, contact Sandy Gosselin at 899-2060 or StThomasPrayers@aol.com. For nighttime requests, e-mail Kit Wheatley at wheatleykit@aol.com.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY - If you need help with transportation, minor repairs (not electrical, mechanical, plumbing or any requiring licensure), shopping, are suffering from a loss or would like a visit (not nursing care), please call the parish office at 899-4632. We will contact a volunteer from our Helping Hands Ministry. *All requests held in strict confidence.*

Stewardship - February 19 & 20, 2010
(Weekly Offertory Goal = \$2,850.00)

74 Envelopes = \$2009.00; Loose Currency = \$544.66
TOTAL = \$2,553.66

YTD Budget = \$96,900.00
YTD Actual = 98,891.56
YTD Overage = \$ 1,991.56

Please remember to make up your contributions if you are away on vacation. Thanks.

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday	2/27		<u>NO</u> Rel. Ed. Grs. K-6 <u>NO</u> Rel. Ed. Grs. 7 & 8 <u>NO</u> Confirmation Class Years 1 & 2
Monday	2/28	6:30 PM	Adult Educ. Class in Parish Hall: “Catholic Social Teaching”
Tuesday	3/1	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Confessions Exposition
Wednesday	3/2	6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Confessions at St. Mary’s Exposition at St. Mary’s Women’s Prayer/Discussion Group
Thursday	3/3	7:15 PM	Sacred Worship Meeting (formerly Liturgy Committee)
Saturday	3/5	3:45 PM 4:10 PM	Confessions Rosary before Mass
Sunday	3/6	9:50-11:05 AM 10:00-11:15 AM 3:45-5:30 PM	Rel. Ed. Classes Grs. K-6 (Kindergarten students, please check schedule with Catechist) Rel. Ed. Grs. 7 & 8 Confirmation Class-Years 1 & 2

Religious Education News

I am pleased to announce that St. Thomas Parish has hired Laura Wells of our parish as a part-time religious education coordinator. It is important to realize that at present we cannot afford to pay a full-time religious education coordinator but we can afford to pay someone part time. Thank you, Laura.

ADULT REL. ED. AT ST. PIUS X IN ESSEX CENTER:

"Ignorance of the Scriptures is Ignorance of Christ."
THAT Is What Catholics Really Believe About the Bible!
presented by Fr. Paul Couture on
February 17th, at 7:00 P.M.

Often fundamentalists very emphatically accuse Catholics of not believing in the Bible and of not reading it and they make converts of Catholics who believe this false accusation. 1) That is a tragic mistake because the very opposite is true, e.g., there is great emphasis on the Bible and the Bible is in all our main Catholic documents. 2) It would surprise these fundamentalists that Catholics absolutely believe in the centrality of the Bible as the Word of God. 3) In fact, the scriptures comprise the whole first half of the Mass, i.e., the Liturgy of the Word. We feed on the Word, first half of the Mass, while the second half of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, is also scripturally based. 4) The fundamentalist interpretation of Scripture is not the only Protestant interpretation. In fact, there is wide ecumenical cooperation between Catholics and mainline Protestant churches in Scriptural research.

Fr. Paul Couture, a scripture scholar from St. Michael's College, will present this talk focusing the role of the Bible in Catholic belief and the importance of the scriptures in our lives as Catholic Christians. For additional information, contact Deacon Gerry Scilla at 878-0639.



CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER: Please mark your calendars for the Knights of Columbus *Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner* on Sun., Mar. 13th from 5:00-7:00 P.M. in the Parish Hall. Cost at the door is \$10/Adult, \$5/ages 5-12, under 5/free. No reservations needed.

K OF C SCHOLARSHIPS: Once again, the Knights of Columbus, Bishop Rice Council, will award up to three \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors who are pursuing post-secondary studies. To be eligible to compete for one of these Scholarships applicants must graduate from High School during 2011 and attend an accredited post-secondary college or institution commencing in the Fall of 2011 AND must be the son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter of a member of the K of C, Bishop Rice Council or Bishop Rice Assembly (living or deceased). Other requirements may apply and all details are posted on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the church for you to take home. Deadline is March 25, 2011.

MARCH Breakfast: The 4th Degree Assembly Knights of Columbus Council of Essex and Underhill will be combining together to hold a Country Breakfast here at St. Thomas on Sun., March 27th from 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. The usual great breakfast menu will be served. The cost is by donation. Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the 4th Degree Assembly Scholarship Fund. Come and bring to whole family to enjoy this delicious Sunday morning treat!



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Please call the parish office at 899-4632 to schedule a week in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. \$10 suggested donation.

TOWN MEETING DAY - Note from VT Right to Life: I hope you will all look for the Doyle Poll on Town Meeting Day next Tuesday and be sure to vote NO on the question about legalizing physician-assisted suicide in Vermont. We need to make sure the pro-suicide folks don't get a large majority of responses in their favor. I think it would be a big shock to them if Chittenden County rejects the idea! And it might be the best way we can influence our local representatives - but only if we get a lot of our neighbors to do the same.

PILGRIMAGE HOSTED BY FR. LIVELY, Oct. 31 through Nov. 10, 2011 to Fatima, Lourdes and Paris. If you are interested in this pilgrimage, please take a look at the brochure on the bulletin board. If you need more information, you may contact Fr. Lively at: Before April 1st: 1205 Kensington St., Port Charlotte, FL 33952, 1-941-255-5690 - or - After April 1st: 257 Peacham Pond Rd., Marshfield, VT 05658, 1-802-426-3847.

PRAYING FOR AN END TO ABORTION: The Cenacle of Life is a weekly prayer group that meets before the Blessed Sacrament for 10 decades of the rosary with pro-life meditations. All are welcome to join or just to visit whenever possible. Two area Cenacles of Life pray especially for the girls and women who have abortion appointments in Burlington. Approximately 15 babies are aborted there each week. The Burlington Cenacle has recently moved to St. Francis Xavier Church every Tuesday morning following the 8:00 A.M. Mass. Another Cenacle of Life meets at St. Pius X Church in Essex Center every Wednesday following the 8:30 A.M. Mass. For more information, contact Michele Marin 658-6837.

"How to Contact Your Legislator"

Information sheets are available in the back of church. If you are a member of the Diocesan Respect Life Phone Tree or simply wish to be prepared to include your voice on important public policy matters, please take home a copy of this helpful document.

WE PRAY FOR

SICK: For all our sick: Jay Tisbert, Amy Tomasi, Viola Esterino, Maria & Tom Sweeney, Roland Boisjoli, Gasper Tavormina, Elizabeth Grant, Lorraine Bruns, Stan Koniuto, Jill Akerley, Anthony Minadeo, Nancy Guaman, Fran Morrisseau, Hilde Rivadeneira, Carmela Cardenas, Conlan Shaw, Mark Archambault, Shirley Dorcy, Darlene Klatke, Arvind Benkataraman, Don Beaulieu, Patricia Meagher, Connie Hanover, Frank Livingstone, Cindy Ryan, Kathy Blair, Roger Nadeau, Paul Keeler, Harriette Carson, Ann Kelly, Yvonne Cross, Lawrence Livingstone, Mary Stella, Arthur Frazer, Bret Johnson, Riley McLaughlin, Agnes Ghioni, Dina Remillard, Michael Chandler, Marlene Fitzgibbons, Pam Tierney, Emerson Royer, Cathryn Rotando, Yuriy Bihun, Silvio Desjardins, Madeline Lamb, Rachel McKnight, Mary Sevcik, John Lynch, Roy Keith, Lynn McLaughlin, Olivia Pierce, Martha Wagner, Abby Wintersteen, Henry Miller, Donald Potvin, Alphonsus Collins, Gary Strait, Scott Smith, Richard Masse, Anthony Giammanco, Kathryn Devlin, Erin Barch, Anna Tavormina, and Janis Peyser.

DECEASED: For all who have died, especially Zelma Vigneau Dorothy McCarthy, and all deceased members of St. Thomas and St. Mary's parishes.

Other Intentions: Julie, Brenda, M.D., Matt C., and Jen G.

Readings For the Week



Mon., Feb. 21
Sir 17:20-24
Mk 10:17-27

Tues., Feb. 22
Sir 35:1-12
Mk 10:28-31

Wed., Feb. 23
Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17
Mk 10:32-45

Thurs., Feb. 24
Sir 42:15-25
Mk 10:46-52

Friday, Feb. 25
Sir 44:1, 9-13
Mk 11:11-26


Sat., Feb. 26
Sir 51:12 cd-20
Mk 11:27-33

Sunday, Feb. 27
Dt 11:18, 26-28, 32
Ps 31:2-3, 3-4, 17, 25
Rom 3:21-25, 28
Mt 7:21-27



MARCH 2011

Please consult the weekly bulletin for revisions to this calendar.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sunday Mass schedule:</p> <p>8:30 AM at St. Thomas 10:30 AM at St. Mary</p>	<p>Feb. 28 8:00 AM Mass</p> <p>6:30 PM - Adult Ed. "Catholic Social Teaching"</p>	<p>March 1</p> <p>6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM - Exposition</p>	<p>2 <i>St. Mary's:</i> 6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM - Exposition 7:00 PM-Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.</p>	<p>3 <i>St. Mary's:</i> 8:00 AM Mass 7:15 PM - Sacred Worship Committee Meeting (formerly Liturgy)</p>	<p>4 8:00 AM Mass</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3:45 PM - Confessions 4:10 PM - Rosary 4:30 PM - Mass <i>6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary's</i></p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:50-11:05 AM-Rel. Ed. K-6-UCS (Kindergarten students—check with Catechist)</p> <p>10:00-11:15 AM-Rel. Ed. Grs. 7 & 8</p> <p>3:45-5:30 PM: Confirmation Class-Years 1 & 2</p>	<p>7 8:00 AM - Mass</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM - Exposition</p> <p>7:30 PM - K of C Meeting</p>	<p>9 ASH WEDNESDAY Day of Fast & Abstinence</p> <p>8:00 AM-Mass at St. Thomas</p> <p><i>6:00 PM-Mass at St. Mary</i></p> <p>7:30 PM-Mass at St. Thomas</p> <p>NO Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.</p>	<p>10 <i>St. Mary's:</i> 8:00 AM Mass</p>	<p>11 Day of Abstinence 8:00 AM Mass</p> <p>7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3:45 PM - Confessions 4:30 PM - Mass <i>6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary's</i></p>  <p><i>Daylight Saving Time begins—turn clocks ahead one hour</i></p>
<p>13 8:30 AM Mass: Grs. K & 1 Participate at Mass</p> <p>9:50-11:05 AM-Rel. Ed. K-6-UCS (Kindergarten students—check with Catechist)</p> <p>10:00-11:15 AM-Rel. Ed. Grs. 7 & 8</p> <p>3:45-5:30 PM: Confirmation Class-Years 1 & 2</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM: K of C Corned Beef Dinner (pay at the door)</p>	<p>14 8:00 AM - Mass</p> <p>7:00 PM-Music Ministry Practice</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM - Exposition</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>St. Mary's:</i> 6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM-Stations o/t Cross NO Exposition</p> <p>7:00 PM-Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.</p>	<p>17 <i>St. Mary's:</i> 8:00 AM Mass</p> <p>(6:30 PM Food Shelf Set-Up at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church)</p> <p>7:00 PM: Maintenance Meeting</p>	<p>18 Day of Abstinence 8:00 AM Mass</p> <p>7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>19 9:00 AM-12 Noon: Jesus Retreat for Gr. 2 & parents in parish hall and First Reconciliation (9:30 AM-Food Shelf Distribution-Good Shepherd)</p> <p>3:45 PM - Confessions 4:30 PM - Mass <i>6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary's</i></p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:50-11:05 AM-Rel. Ed. K-6-UCS (Kindergarten students—check with Catechist)</p> <p>10:00-11:15 AM-Rel. Ed. Grs. 7 & 8</p> <p>3:45-5:30 PM: Confirmation Class-Years 1 & 2</p>	<p>21 8:00 AM - Mass</p> <p>7:00 PM - Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM - Exposition</p>	<p>23 <i>St. Mary's:</i> 6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM-Stations o/t Cross NO Exposition</p> <p>7:00 PM-Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.</p>	<p>24 <i>St. Mary's:</i> 8:00 AM Mass</p> <p>7:00 PM: Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p>25 Day of Abstinence 8:00 AM Mass</p> <p>7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>26</p> <p>3:45 PM - Confessions 4:30 PM - Mass <i>6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary's</i></p>
<p>27 8:00-11:00 - K of C 4th Degree combined Country Breakfast with Essex K of C - at St. Thomas</p> <p>9:50-11:05 AM-Rel. Ed. K-6-UCS (Kindergarten students—check with Catechist)</p> <p>10:00-11:15 AM-Rel. Ed. Grs. 7 & 8</p> <p>3:45-5:30 PM: Confirmation Class-Years 1 & 2</p>	<p>28 8:00 AM - Mass</p> <p>6:30 PM Lenten Reflection: "The Cross" by Msgr. Lavalley</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM - Exposition</p>	<p>30 <i>St. Mary's:</i> 6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM-Stations o/t Cross NO Exposition</p> <p>7:00 PM-Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.</p>	<p>31 <i>St. Mary's:</i> 8:00 AM Mass</p>	<p>April 1 Day of Abstinence 8:00 AM Mass</p> <p>7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>April 2</p> <p>8:30 AM: possible Easter Vigil Choir Practice (watch the bulletin)</p> <p>3:45 PM - Confessions 4:10 PM - Rosary 4:30 PM - Mass <i>6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary's</i></p>
<p>April 3</p> <p>9:50-11:05 AM-Rel. Ed. K-6-UCS (Kindergarten students—check with Catechist)</p> <p>10:00-11:15 AM-Rel. Ed. Grs. 7 & 8</p> <p>3:45-5:30 PM: Confirmation Class-Years 1 & 2</p>						