

Message from Fr. Rick

9th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It is tragic and richly ironic that at the same time Vermonters are debating legalizing doctor prescribed death (a.k.a. "Physician Assisted Suicide") we here in this community have recently experienced the suicides of two young men. I, for one, cannot escape the almost macabre irony.

One act, the act of suicide, is viewed in two strikingly different ways. For these two young people and their families and friends and classmates, a horrific tragedy and a cause for deep grief and pain at an irrevocable choice that forever deprives them of the presence of a loved one in this world.

And yet, the same awful choice is celebrated by some in our society who view as a right, the choice to end their own lives through the taking of a lethal dose of a prescribed medication—"death with dignity" they call it, "self deliverance" is another, chillingly Orwellian euphemism.

How is it that one case is seen as a tragedy and the other as a right to be sanctioned by law?? When, in reality we are talking about the same ugly reality—suicide, a tragedy that no society worthy of the name civilized should ever seek to enshrine as a legal right.

AT TOWN MEETING this past Tuesday, I had an opportunity to speak with Representative George Till. I asked him about the status of the Doctor Prescribed Death bill in the legislature. He told me that he did not believe the legislature would take it up this session nor, did he believe that the legislature would deal with it next year either (2012 being an election year).

William Frank, our other representative, actually sits on the committee that will be dealing with Doctor Prescribed Death. As a concerned citizen I will be contacting Mr. Frank to ask him about the status of this legislation. And I urge any parishioner concerned about this issue to contact our representative in Montpelier and let them know you don't want to see this beautiful state, our home, to be a place that turns it's back on some of the most vulnerable Vermonters.

Representative Till also told me he is distributing a survey (by postcard I think he said) of all physicians in Vermont to get their feedback on this issue. It will be interesting to see the results of that survey.



PALMS: If you would like to have last year's palms 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

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
MON	8:00 AM - For the repose of the soul of Nathan Patnode
TUE	6:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Lawrence Bouchard by the family
ASH WED	8:00 AM - Mass at St. Thomas - In thanksgiving by Laura Wells <u>6:00 PM</u> - Mass at St. Mary's (<u>NO Confession, NO Adoration</u>) <u>7:30 PM</u> - Mass at St. Thomas - For the parishioners of St. Thomas & St. Mary's
THURS	8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary's
FRI	8:00 AM - For a happy death for Michael Malone by Vern & JoAnn Konczal
March 12 SAT	4:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Francis Dolen by the Ledwith Family
March 13 SUN	8:30 AM - For the coordinator, students, teachers & aids of our Rel. Ed. program Gr. 1 participate at Mass

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 12 & 13, 2011

<u>Mass</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
4:30 PM Sat.	Deacon Peter S May	T May	Please help!
8:30 AM Sun.	Deacon Peter P Keith M A Ledwith	B MacDonough B Surprenant	B Herridge

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 26 & 27, 2011
(Weekly Offertory Goal = \$2,850.00)

69 Envelopes = \$2,233.00; Loose Currency = \$236.00
TOTAL = \$2,469.00

YTD Budget = \$ 99,750.00
YTD Actual = 101,360.56
YTD Overage = \$ 1,610.56

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

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday	3/6	9:50-11:05 AM	Rel. Ed. Classes Grs. 1-6 (<u>NO</u> Kindergarten this week)
		10:00-11:15 AM	Rel. Ed. Grs. 7 & 8
		3:45-5:30 PM	Confirmation Class-Years 1 & 2
Tuesday	3/8	6:00 PM	Confessions
		7:00-7:45 PM	Exposition
		7:30 PM	Knights of Columbus Meeting
<u>Ash Wednesday</u>			<u>NO</u> Confessions at St. Mary's <u>NO</u> Exposition at St. Mary's <u>NO</u> Women's Prayer/Discussion Group
Friday	3/11	7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	3/12	3:45 PM	Confessions
Daylight Savings Time—turn clocks ahead 1 hour			
Sunday	3/13	8:30 AM	Gr. 1 participation at Mass
		9:50-11:05 AM	Rel. Ed. Classes Grs. K-6
		10:00-11:15 AM	Rel. Ed. Grs. 7 & 8
		3:45-5:30 PM	Confirmation Class-Years 1 & 2
		5:00-7:00 PM	K of C Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner - Pay at the door!

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.

GUIDELINES FOR LENT

- The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity. Lent extends from Ash Wednesday to The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.
- The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength", are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from 18 to 59.
- Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. Eggs, milk products and sauces made from animal fats may be eaten as well as fish and cold-blooded animals. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years or older.
- The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from the Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.
- Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended.
- Parents and teachers should see to it that, even those who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence because of age, are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us at 7:00 P.M. every Friday evening of Lent for Stations of the Cross beginning March 11th through April 15th.

Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's: Every Wednesday evening from Mar. 16th through April 13th at 7:00 P.M.

CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER: Please mark your calendars for the Knights of Columbus sponsored Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner next 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.

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.

BLOOD DRIVE: An American Red Cross community blood drive for area residents will take place on Wed., Mar. 16th. Eligible donors can give blood from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the United Christian Assembly Church on Raceway Road. Giving blood through the Red Cross is safe, simple, and virtually painless. What a great way to tithe, as we all have about 10 pints of blood in our bodies. Share the "gift of life" at this time when supplies of blood and blood products are critically low. Each presenting donor will receive a ticket to Essex Cinemas at the Lang Farm Shopping Plaza, in addition to the yummy goodies. *This drawing is sponsored by the United Christian Assembly.*

LENTEN RETREAT - March 12th to 16th: Msgr. John McDermott will preach a retreat at St. John Vianney Church on Hinesburg Road in South Burlington on Mar. 12th to 16th. He will speak at all the Sunday Masses. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mar. 14th, 15th and 16th, he will preach during Mass at 8:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. All are welcome.

GREGORIAN CHANT CONCERT, March 20th: The Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola under the direction of Dr. William Tortolano will offer a concert of music for Lent and Holy Week at St. John Vianney Church in South Burlington. The concert will take place Sun., Mar. 20th at 3:00 P.M. in the church.

CURSILLO - Vermont Cursillo will be holding Cursillo weekends this spring at Mountain Meadows in Killington. The men's weekend will be held March 24th-27th and the women's weekend will be April 7th-10th. For more info, contact Armand Auclair at 802-326-4862 for men, and Cathy Diego at 802-279-5043 for the women. More information is posted on the bulletin board at the church entrance.

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 Peysers.

DECEASED: For all who have died, especially Zelma Vigneau (Aunt of Louise Mathews), Dorothy McCarthy, Nathan Patnode, Leonard Bean (father of Jane Remy), Joseph O'Leary (father of Fr. Peter O'Leary), and all deceased members of St. Thomas and St. Mary's parishes.

Other Intentions: Julie, Brenda, M.D., Matt C., Jen G., Mike A., Matt A. and Brandon H.

Readings
For the Week



Mon., Mar. 7
Memorial of Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, martyrs
Tb 1:3; 2:1a-8
Mk 12:1-12

Tues., Mar. 8
Tb 2:9-14
Mk 12:13-17

ASH WED., Mar. 9
Jl 2:12-18
Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17
2 Cor 5:20-6:2
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thurs., Mar. 10
Dt 30:15-20
Lk 9:22-25


Friday, Mar. 11
Is 58:1-9a
Mt 9:14-15

Sat., Mar. 12
Is 58:9b-14
Lk 5:27-32

Sunday, Mar. 13
First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19
Mt 4:1-11

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>						