



Saturday, February 13

9:00am Scott Callahan (*Memorial*)
4:00pm Charles W. Grant (*Memorial*)

Sunday, February 14

8:00am Robert Lagasse (*Memorial*)
10:00am Fr. Ted Saja (*Memorial*)
11:30am Eva Kay (*7th Anniversary*)
5:00pm George Ramsey III (*Memorial*)

Monday, February 15

9:00am Madeline Libera (*Memorial*)

Tuesday, February 16

9:00am Marietta Aldrich (*Month's Mind*)

Wednesday, February 17—Ash Wednesday

6:30am
9:00am Maureen Kohanski (*6th Anniversary*)
4:00pm *Prayer service only*
7:00pm

Thursday, February 18

9:00am Patricia Wise (*Memorial*)

Friday, February 19

6:30am
9:00am

Saturday, February 20

9:00am Elizabeth Ireland Burns (*2nd Anniversary*)
4:00pm James R. McKeon (*6th Anniversary*)

Sunday, February 21

8:00am Claire Hall (*16th Anniversary*)
10:00am Mr. & Mrs. Armand Rocheville & Paul Rocheville (*Memorial*)
11:30am Edmond "Buddy" Cormier (*16th Anniversary*)
5:00pm Blanche Urbanek (*1st Anniversary*)

2009 TAX LETTERS

The 2009 tax letters are ready. Please call or stop by the Parish Office if you would like to receive your copy. Thank you!

Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone for their incredible generosity shown in the collection for Haiti. The proceeds will go to Catholic Relief Services and we are humbled that you were able to help so greatly in this time of need. God bless you all.



Mass Schedule

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

St. Francis Parish: 6:30am Mass, 9:00am Mass, 4:00pm (Prayer service ONLY) and 7:00pm Mass

Ste. Marguerite Parish: 7:30am Mass, 4:00pm (Prayer service ONLY) and 7:00pm Mass

Sacrament of the Sick

In honor of the World Day of the Sick, we will offer the Sacrament of the Sick after all the liturgies this weekend. Please spread the word that anyone having both mental or physical problems, including the burden of old age, is invited to come to Liturgy and receive the grace of the Sacrament.

**Journey To Jerusalem
Joint Parish**



LENTEN RETREAT

The journey begins Monday with Fr. Bill guiding us on the path of love, enlightening the way of "Embracing God's Love". Mass will be celebrated. On Tuesday, we move forward in our journey by exploring how to "Live in Intimacy with God". On Wednesday we continue along the path of love with Fr. Bill guiding us in "The healing power of love... Even in Sin God is Present". The evening concludes with Reconciliation.

Monday, February 22, 7pm: St. Francis Parish
Tuesday, February 23, 7pm: Ste. Marguerite Parish
Wednesday, February 24, 7pm: St. Francis Parish

We hope you will join us!

World Marriage Day

Beyond the Sacrament of the Sick, this Sunday is also World Marriage Day (Valentine's Day) and so we will take an opportunity after Communion to bless all married couples at the liturgies. Please join us as we pray for all married and engaged couples!

From Fr. Bob



Lent is upon us this week and the Church gives all of us the opportunity to reflect on our relationship with the Lord and to CHANGE! The spirit and focus of Lent is “metanoia” a Greek word that means “change” –change of the HEART! We get so caught up in everything about life – home, relationships, work, money, ambition, sickness, depression, great joys and hard times, even the ongoing process of life to death. But we too often get so “busy” that we forget GOD in our life. Somehow God tends to be an “addendum” to really living, instead of realizing that God is the very CORE of our being and life. After all, we have been “made in the image and likeness of God”. Does that make a difference in our lives? I hope so, and yet, it is so difficult to keep a focus on the presence and love of God that walks with us and stays by our side. It seems easier to just “do it”-- live life as best we can, and not acknowledge that life would be so much more peaceful (even peace-filled) if we gave some time to improving our relationship with the Lord. THAT IS LENT! Forty days to “use” to draw us closer to the God who loves us, and in particular, to the God who lived, suffered, died and rose for us – Jesus Christ our Savior. In the coming few days, you will receive the Lenten Brochure outlining all the opportunities available in the parishes “above the river”. I encourage you and your family to do something to turn your heart to God and Christ – to experience a “metanoia”. It may be small; it may be attending Mass, or going to the Joint Retreat, or joining the ARISE program, or the rosary, adoration, or the discussion groups. I hope that it will be something. Don’t miss this opportunity to let the Lord’s grace bring some order and peace to your life. You will not regret it. COME HOME. RETURN TO CHURCH. BE WELCOMED. WE MISS YOU. If there is anything that the priests or staff members can do to help you in your spiritual journey, to draw closer to Jesus and to feel his love, please call us, make an appointment and RISK! Often real growth comes after we risk – speaking or doing what we know in our hearts we must do. Lent is the opportunity given to each one of us. Let us pray for each other that we will take advantage of the graces that God has for us – we only need ask!

On another note, as many of you know by now, Fr. Chris Casey will be ending his three-year term with us at the end of May. The Archdiocese has structured a program for the newly ordained that gives them three years in a parish getting oriented to parish ministry and then three years in a parish centering more on preparing for pastoring and administration. Fr. Chris will end his ministry with us. Of course we are very sad with his leaving, because he has been

a wonderful help and strength and support for so many people in both parishes, and absolutely, for me and Fr. Lyons. We have had a wonderful living situation together and I am very grateful. His leaving offers us a chance to evaluate how things are going with this unique relationship of having two parishes and a school and one pastor and associate (and gratefully, a few senior priests to support us). Over the coming few weeks, I will be asking the Parish Council and Finance Committee and Staffs of both parishes for their input and reflections. How do they think the arrangement has gone? What has been good? What areas need to be addressed? Was this arrangement the best, or could there have been another alternative? What suggestions do they have for the future, given that we have no idea what will happen when Fr. Chris leaves? I invite you to email, write or call your parish leadership and let them know your feelings and ideas. Who knows what the future will bring any of us, but we want you to have the chance to express your opinions. God bless us all as we move forward – in Lent – and beyond.

Fr. Bob

Bread and Wine Donation

We invite parishioners to donate the Bread and Wine for consecration at all Masses for a given week. This can be a personal donation or in memory of someone. The person donating or person(s) remembered will be listed in the bulletin on the weekend and will cover all Masses for that week. Suggested offering for this gift is \$50. Please call the Parish Office to schedule this special memorial.

Scripture Study

Join us for our next Scripture Study class, **People of the Passion**, beginning **Ash Wednesday (February 17)** and continuing through Lent. We will meet **every Wednesday from 9:30-11am**. Call Kathy in the Parish Office to sign up. We hope you will take this opportunity during the holy season of Lent to draw closer to the Lord through Scripture. Bring a friend!

Adult Confirmation Classes

St. Joseph the Worker Shrine, Lowell, MA

The program will consist of 8 sessions on 8 successive Tuesdays: **February 9, 16, 23 and March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** from **7:00-8:30 pm**. The classes will take place downstairs in the Shrine in the Presentation Hall. The presenter will be Fr. Gene Tremblay OMI, S.T.L.

To register for this program, you must do so through your parish - to complete the necessary application forms leading to the Sacrament of Confirmation!

The bread and wine last weekend were given by Joanne Bradley in memory of **The Bradley and Nagle Families**.

**Mass of Thanksgiving
Celebrating 100 Years of Scouting**

The Office for the New Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults and The Catholic Committee on Scouting invite all former and current scouts, scout leaders and their families for a celebration with His Eminence Cardinal Sean O'Malley. The celebration will be held at the **Cathedral of the Holy Cross at 1400 Washington Street, Boston on Sunday, February 28, 2010 at 2pm.** Cathedral tours will be available beforehand beginning at 12:15 and light refreshments will be served afterward at Cathedral High School. A commemorative patch will be given to the first 1,000 registered participants! Advanced registration is welcomed but not required. To register, e-mail to BSA100thMass@yahoo.com or visit www.oymboston.org for a registration form.

**Christian Men's Weekend
Developing Intimacy With God
March 19-21, 2010**

St. Basil Salvatorian Center—Methuen, MA

Prayer, an encounter with God, is also a conversation with Him. It is the surest way to develop a deep and intimate personal relationship with Jesus. Today, more than ever, men are being called to this intimacy with our Lord, Jesus Christ. The talks and sharings on this weekend will provide teachings on prayer and will also explore different prayer forms used in the early Church. Time is provided on the weekend for silence, sharing and practice of some of the prayer forms. Men on the weekend will encounter God's love in song and sacrament. The weekend is open to all Christian men (juniors in high school and older). The cost of the weekend is \$95. The weekend begins at **7:30pm on Friday and ends at 2pm on Sunday.** For an application form, please see Deacon John Hunt.

Faith Film Discussion

Each Tuesday during Lent, Fr. Bob and Fr. Chris will lead an hour-long discussion sparked by a short film. We will be using some of the NOOMA films, which provide very stimulating discussion and reflection. Fr. Bob will lead **Tuesday mornings at 9:30 after Liturgy.** There will be coffee and donuts available. Fr. Chris will lead the session at **7:00pm on Tuesday nights,** with coffee and refreshments. Both sessions will last an hour so you can plan your day/night. Come, seek, share and grow. We hope you will join us for this Lenten growth moment.

Lenten Brochure

We have sent out the Lenten Brochure to all our parishioners. If you do not receive a brochure by the end of this week, please call the office so we can check our register and make sure we have the correct address.

**Looking for a way to grow spiritually
during Lent?**

We have several opportunities to help!



Arise—small groups and faith sharing. Want to join an ARISE group? We have many days and times available. Call the office to find out more!

Lenten Retreat: More information elsewhere in the bulletin. Join us for this unique prayer moment during Lent!

Centering Prayer and Lectio Divinia: Wed. evenings from 7-8:30pm

Lenten Evening of Prayer and Reflection for Men: Tuesday, March 2 from 7-8:30pm. Our evening will be led by Deacon John and dinner will be served. Join us!

Day of Prayer with Deacon John and Kathy: Saturday, March 20 from 9am-2pm. "Who Is Your God"? A light lunch will be served.

Faith Film Discussions: Tuesday mornings at 9:30am and Tuesday evenings at 7pm. More info elsewhere in the bulletin!

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday at 9:30am in the Church

St. Francis Men's Retreat

The men of St. Francis Parish are invited to spend a weekend of reflection and renewal at the **HOLY FAMILY RETREAT CENTER, WEST HARTFORD, CT on the weekend of March 26-28, 2010.** The program's purpose is to set aside a time and place to renew our spiritual life and strengthen our resources for doing this. The weekend includes presentations, prayer services, free time and Sunday liturgy. Optional workshops on practical areas of family, emotional and faith life are included. The retreat begins with 6:00 PM supper on Friday and concludes around noon on Sunday, after Mass & Brunch. Call Bob Leger at 978-683-5631 or Steve Thompson at 508-451-1416 for more information.

Saint Louis School

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2010-2011 school year at St. Louis School in Lowell. Check out www.saintlouisschool.org to see what St. Louis has to offer! Contact Ms. Kristyna Dumais, Principal, at 978-458-7594 for a registration packet and to set up a personal tour of our school. Thank you!

Pastoral Visitors and Ministers of Communion

We will have a day of reflection for all pastoral visitors and ministers of Communion on **Saturday, March 6 from 9am-12pm in the Parish Hall.** If you are part of this important ministry, please join us to reflect on the wonderful gift that God has given you. Please call the Office to sign up.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sacraments

Baptism: Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

Marriage: Contact one of the parish priests at least six months in advance.

Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays 9:30 AM-6:30PM

Contemplative Prayer Group

Men and women are invited to join the contemplative prayer group at **7pm on Wednesday nights in the Annex**. Come every week or once a month

Rosary

The Rosary is prayed Monday – Friday at 8:30 AM.

Pastoral Care of the Sick & Homebound

Please notify the parish office when parishioners are homebound, in extended care facilities, or are admitted to the hospital.

Parish Nurses

Call Louise at 978-454-7970.

Prayer Line

Call Barbara at 978-937-0239 or Pat at 978-685-1137, also online at www.saintfrancis.net/prayerline.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meeting in the Parish Hall every Saturday at 8:00 PM.

Bereavement Support

Meets second & fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 PM.

Please call Louise Daigle at 978-454-7970.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Call the Parish Office at 978-452-6611.

Spiritual Direction

If you are interested in spiritual direction, call the parish office at 978-452-6611 or Marcy at 978-458-9715.

Parish Pastoral Council

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