



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)

Monday, February 22

6:30am:
9:00am Nickolas Petullo (1st Anniversary)

Tuesday, February 23

9:00am

Wednesday, February 24

6:30am
9:00am

Thursday, February 25

9:00am Wilma Johnson (Month's Mind)

Friday, February 26

6:30am Sandra Martin (Month's Mind)
9:00am

Saturday, February 27

9:00am Herve & Jeanne St. Louis & Margaret Bergeron (Memorial)
4:00pm Thomas & Hannah Maunsell (Memorial)

Sunday, February 28

8:00am Daniel Godfroy (17th Anniversary)
10:00am Matthew J. Randall (5th Anniversary)
11:30am Jeffrey Middlemiss (Memorial)
5:00pm John Cieslik (Memorial)

Weekly Offertory

February 14, 2010

OFFERTORY: \$5,669

FUEL: \$3,042

CPL: \$7,871.50

ONLINE GIVING: \$1,085

Thank you for your generosity!

**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!

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.

**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.

From Fr. Bob



This week, the Archdiocese begins a program called, THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU. It has been a successful program in many dioceses around the country and we are trying it this Lent. The purpose of the program is an INVITATION: Come back to church; come back to the Sacrament of Penance. It is grounded on the idea that if we can humble ourselves before our God, if we can admit our need for forgiveness, if we can welcome grace into our lives, then we will renew our relationship with Jesus and see how important his presence in our life can be. Today, we are confronted in so many venues by the lack of connection with organized religion. It is not just a Catholic thing. So often we hear, "I am spiritual, not religious." meaning, "I don't go to church!" But the point of Church is community, support and encouragement. The Church is a "ways and means" to Jesus – not the only way to be sure, but a tried and true one that has endured for over 2,000 years. Despite the lack of interest in community prayer and church, people today of all ages need Jesus to give them focus and a goal in their life. Look around at our society, deteriorating slow but sure in so many ways, and it is clear WE NEED GOD! It starts by admitting our need. The Sacrament of Penance is a simple but humble way to come before your God, admit our weakness and limitedness, and ask for forgiveness. It is a chance to be better, to be the person that we want to be, and the person that GOD wants us to be. THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU – so drop by.

Over the next four weeks, Confession will be available at every worship site in the Archdiocese from 6:30-8:00pm. Every site! You do not have to go to your own parish church – every parish church in the area will have a priest hearing confessions during that time. Consider the grace. Share this news with others. Encourage family members to return to the sacrament and "find Jesus" and find PEACE. That is what religion really gives, isn't it? PEACE – of mind and of heart! This is a moment when you can reach out to family members and friends that you know need the Lord in their life. RISK IT – speak to them. And let welcome the LIGHT into your own life as well. We are here for your peace. We are waiting for your arrival. The invitation has been made, please RSVP. In your church, the light is on for YOU!

A FAITH/FILM DISCUSSION. Starting this Tuesday morning and evening at St. Francis Parish, Fr. Bob and Fr. Chris will conduct an hour-long faith-filling discussion. Each week a short film will be shown as a catalyst to our discussion. These provocative films are quite stimulating and should provide for some excellent sharing.

We hope that you might join us. The **morning session** will take place after the 9:00am Liturgy. (We will have coffee and refreshments available and begin about 9:45, ending at 10:30. If there is a funeral, the program will start a bit later). The **evening session** will start at 7:00pm with coffee and the film shown at 7:15, with the discussion ending at 8:00. Please join us as part of your Lenten practice. Rather than "giving up" something for Lent; perhaps this year you can "do something" for Lent. We think you will be pleased with these films and discussion.

Fr. Bob

Scripture Study

Join us for our next Scripture Study class, **People of the Passion**, 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!

Get Ready for Our Barefoot4Haiti Event!



We have partnered with Soles4Souls to help collect new and gently worn shoes for the victims of the Haitian earthquake. Join us and take off your shoes for Haiti! As part of this powerful movement, clean out your closets and bring the shoes to donate! Bring your new or gently worn shoes on:

March 6 & 7 and March 13 & 14

Service Times: Before & after all Masses

Soles4Souls accepts all types of new and gently worn shoes including athletic, running, dress, sandals, pumps, heels, work boots, cleats, dance and flip-flops. Shoes appropriate for the conditions in Haiti will be delivered there.

Soles4Souls collects new and gently worn shoes from the closets of people like you and distributes them free of charge to people in need all over the world. Since 2005, Soles4Souls has given away more than 7 million pairs of shoes and protected countless lives from foot injury, disease and indignity. Currently, the organization gives away a pair of shoes every nine seconds. To learn more about Soles4Souls, **visit www.giveshoes.org**.

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!

St. Francis Scholarship

Applications for the St. Francis Scholarship in memory of Angelos D. Sakellarios and Gertrude E. Sakellarios are now available in the Parish Office. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who satisfy eligibility and evaluation criteria developed by the St. Francis Scholarship committee. The completed application packets should be returned to the office no later than **April 15, 2010**. Eligibility: The applicant must be a registered and confirmed member of St. Francis Parish, a graduating high school senior and accepted to or pending acceptance in an accredited post-secondary school.

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. 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.

The St. Francis Parish Annual Baby Shower

The St. Francis Parish Family Annual Baby Shower will be held on Palm Sunday weekend, **March 27th and 28th, 2010**. Please bring unwrapped gifts to Mass on the Saturday and Sunday of this weekend. All gifts will be given to the Pro Life Office of St. Mary's Parish in Lawrence to be distributed to those in need throughout the Merrimack Valley. If you prefer a monetary donation, a basket will be provided. Please make your check payable to: *Fund for the Unborn*. **Suggested items needed: baby outfits in sizes 0-3 and 3-6 months, baby bottles, newborn or size 1 disposable diapers, diaper bags, blanket sleepers, baby powder, sweaters, undershirts, pacifiers, crib sheets, nightgowns, socks and receiving blankets.** Thank you!



Rest in Peace

Chester "Chuck" Chelton,
*Father of Joanne Chelton, Charles and Don Chelton;
Father-in-law of Sharon Chelton*

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.

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.

Please Come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent — The Light Is On For You!

The Church encourages all Catholics to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation each Lent. In addition to our normal Saturday afternoon confession time, St. Francis and all the Catholic parishes and chapels of the Archdiocese will be open on **Lenten Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm**. Please take advantage of this opportunity to make a good Lenten confession. Please also reach out to the Catholics you know that have been away from the regular practice of our faith and invite them to seize this chance to begin again. The Archdiocese's website for this initiative, www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org, has great material to help everyone prepare to make a good confession.

FR. LYONS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY MASS



With gratitude to Almighty God, the parish communities of Saint Francis and Ste. Marguerite D'Youville give thanks for 50 years of priestly ministry of Reverend James Daniel Lyons. We cordially invite you to join him for a Mass of Thanksgiving here at Saint Francis Church on the **Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 14, 2010, at 11:30 a.m.** Light refreshments will follow in the Parish Hall

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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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