



Saturday, March 20

9:00am Bob & MaryLou Witts (*Memorial*)
4:00pm Robert Todisco (*5th Anniversary*)

Sunday, March 21

8:00am Edith Scholldorf (*9th Anniversary*)
10:00am Alma & Philippe Morin (*Memorial*)
11:30am Theresa Beliveau (*Memorial*)
5:00pm Warren M. Pettengill (*3rd Anniversary*)

Monday, March 22

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

Tuesday, March 23

9:00am Claire Caldwell (*Month's Mind*)

Wednesday, March 24

6:30am
9:00am Dennis Dyleski (*Memorial*)

Thursday, March 25

9:00am Rene Nadeau (*Month's Mind*)

Friday, March 26

6:30am
9:00am

Saturday, March 27

9:00am *For the intentions of the St. Francis
Prayer Line*
4:00pm Walter Schramm (*Memorial*)

Sunday, March 28—Palm Sunday

8:00am Vincent, Louise & Inge DiPaolo (*Mem*)
10:00am Helen Jean (*12th Anniversary*)
11:30am Marion Bretton (*2nd Anniversary*)
5:00pm Marianne Brosius (*24th Anniversary*)

Weekly Offertory

March 14, 2010

OFFERTORY: \$5,972

CPL: \$1,314

ONLINE GIVING: \$893

The second collection *this weekend* is for the monthly mortgage.

Thank you for your generosity!

Holy Week 2010



Holy Thursday: April 1, 2010

9:00am: Morning Prayer
7:00pm: Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday: April 2, 2010

9:00am: Morning Prayer
Noon: Stations of the Cross for Families
7:00pm: Good Friday service

Holy Saturday: April 3, 2010

9:00am: Morning Prayer
7:00pm: Easter Vigil
ALLELUIA PARTY to follow in the Parish Hall

Easter Sunday: April 4, 2010

Masses: 8am, 10am & 11:45am

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!

Reminders

The 11:30 Mass for both Palm Sunday (March 28) and Easter Sunday (April 4th) will be moved to 11:45am for those two days only. Thank you for your cooperation! Also, The Archdiocese has suggested that we return to the use of two species at Liturgy on Palm Sunday. We look forward to the opportunity to once again share in the body and blood of Christ under both species. Even though we understand that the Body and Blood is present completely in either form, the sign and symbol value of "take and eat" and "take and drink" is such a wonderful grace and privilege. **ON THAT NOTE:** We need more Eucharistic Ministers to distribute communion at our liturgies. Although we know that people are timid and/or humbled to perform this important ministry, we call you forth! We are also in need of Lectors for all Mass times. Let the Spirit of God use you in a way that benefits the entire community. Please call the office and let them know that you are willing to be trained and to serve as an EM or Lector. Training sessions will be scheduled shortly. Thank you!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LENTEN 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.

Generations of Faith Festival "Blessed Are the Peacemakers"



Please join us for our next Generations of Faith event entitled "Blessed are the Peacemakers". The event will be held on the remaining dates: **Tuesday, March 23, 5:30-7:30pm; Thursday, March 25, 5:30-7:30pm.** Choose one date—all Religious Education Families are encouraged to attend. A delicious spaghetti and meatball meal will be served. Call or stop by the office to sign up!

Cor Unum Volunteers Needed

The current Cor Unum St. Francis teams have dwindled quite a bit for various reasons and need help -- especially on nights when there are no youth groups filling in. Everyone is welcome to join a St. Francis Team, serving just one Thursday a month (from 4:15 pm to 6:30 pm). St. Francis has been a tremendous help since Cor Unum opened three years ago, and we'd like to continue our ministry with the same devotion that our previous teams have demonstrated. CU is less than 20 minutes from Dracut, so please consider exploring this outreach opportunity -- especially during this season of Lent. For more information, please email Debbie at debhovan@comcast.net or call 978-453-9882. Also feel free to visit corunummealcenter.org.

St. Francis Parish Ultreya

The St. Francis Parish Ultreya will now be held on the **2nd Saturday of each month after the 4pm Mass from 4-6:30pm!** Our next meeting will be **Saturday, April 10th.** This evening includes prayer, a speaker, faith sharing and a pot luck dinner. Child care will be available. You need not have made a Cursillo to attend an ultreya. Please join us!

Spiritual Direction

If anyone is thinking about spiritual direction, a parishioner is looking for two people to intern with her for the summer months beginning in June. She is currently completing coursework to become a Spiritual Director and needs two directees to help complete it. If you are interested, please call Joyce at (978) 490-7343.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your very presence at the Celebration of Mass of Thanksgiving and festivities after on the occasion of my 50th Anniversary as a priest. I cannot thank you enough for being a friend, a relative or parishioner at any place I've served. I will remember you and yours in all of my prayers. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Fr. Lyons

Save the Date for VBS!



AHOY! Vacation Bible School 2010 dates have been set for **July 12th-16th from 9am-12pm each day!** The theme this year is a High Seas Expedition—Exploring the mighty love of God! The cost is \$45 per student and every family will receive a music CD. Any student age 11 and older can be a Junior Counselor and attend VBS for \$20 (which includes a t-shirt and DVD). High school students and adults are needed to teach; see Dawn in the Religious Education Office. Please call the office if you are interested in signing up or stop by to fill out a form.

Walk For Hunger in Dracut

On **Good Friday, April 2, from 9:30am-12:30pm,** 7th and 8th graders from the Religious Education program will be walking from Ste. Marguerite Parish to St. Francis Parish. They will end their journey with the Stations of the Cross at St. Francis. Please sponsor one of our students as they walk to support the Dracut Food Pantry and the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry of Dracut. Contact the Religious Education Office for more information.

Bass Player Needed!

Instruments of Faith, the 5:00 Sunday Mass band, is looking for a bass player. We are hoping to have someone to start at the May 16th Mass. Please contact Scott at drymusic@gmail.com if you are interested or to obtain more information.

POT LUCK SUPPER TO BENEFIT ANN ZARECHIAN BOWDEN

FRIDAY, APRIL 9th 7PM-10PM @ ST. FRANCIS
Great Food ~ DJ ~ 50/50 raffle ~ Drawing of Raffle Prizes
Donation: \$10

An excellent raffle with prizes of a complete outdoor furniture set and canopy, Nook electronic reader, and gift card tree is being held. Visit the parish office to get your ticket today--\$5 each or 3 for \$10!



Altar Bread & Wine
this weekend is given by
Debbie Ayotte in memory of
Robin Loiselle

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.

Saint Louis School News



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!

Congratulations to our JV Girls Basketball team for an undefeated season and EAA Championship!

All are invited to join us for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on **Saturday, March 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Saint Louis Center**. There will be a full buffet breakfast, activities for the children, pictures with the Easter Bunny, great raffles and "Mystery Eggs"! Adults are \$6.00 and children \$4.00. For reservations, please call 978-458-7594.

The Saint Louis Junior High will be presenting the Pantomime on **Sunday, March 28th at 7:30 p.m. in the Center**. Please join us for this reflective journey of Christ's last days.

We are pleased to announce the start up of a Three Year old component to our Early Childhood program for the 2010-2011 academic years. We are now accepting registrations. Spaces are very limited. For more information, please contact Donna Henderson, Early Childhood Coordinator, at 978-458-7594.

Finally, the SLS BETA Club has collected over 250 pairs of shoes for the Shoes for Haiti Project. What a great job for our academic and service program!



Rest in Peace

Irene Wasylak,
*Wife of John W. Wasylak; Mother of Carol Kane, Jack,
Richard, and Robert Wasylak*

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. www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org

Chaperones Needed

The Peer Leaders will be holding their annual **Good Friday Fast** again this year. **Chaperones are needed for the hours of Midnight to 6am**. Volunteers for all of or any part of the night are greatly appreciated! Please sign up in the Parish Office.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Report St. Francis Conference

Revenue increased from \$5,100 in 2008 to \$11,000 in 2009. These revenues were received primarily through poor box collections and memorials.

Direct assistance to one hundred thirty-seven needy individuals in the amount of \$10,439.00 included Market Basket vouchers and other food provision, clothing vouchers, mortgage/rent payments/ utility payments, furniture vouchers, CCD tuition assistance, and temporary homeless assistance.

Assistance was also provided to the two Dracut Food Pantries.

Sixteen Thanksgiving meals and thirteen Christmas meal vouchers were delivered. In addition, over four hundred Christmas gifts were distributed to two hundred fifteen people through the Giving Tree Program. Regular clothing collections are made from our bin in the rear parking lot.

A home visit to the families by Vincentians is required prior to assistance being rendered. All Vincentians donate their time, vehicles and skills to serving the poor. We ask you to continue your generosity which enables us to serve the poor in these difficult times. May God bless you for all that you do!

*With sincere appreciation from the St. Francis
Conference-St. Vincent de Paul Team Members*

FIFTH 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-5:30PM

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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