



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)*
11:45am *Marion Bretton (2nd Anniversary)*
5:00pm *Marianne Brosius (24th Anniversary)*

Monday, March 29

6:30am
9:00am

Tuesday, March 30

9:00am

Wednesday, March 31

6:30am
9:00am *Helen O'Connor (3rd Anniversary)*

Thursday, April 1—Holy Thursday

9:00am *Morning Prayer*
7:00pm

Friday, April 2—Good Friday

9:00am *Morning Prayer*
7:00pm *Good Friday service*

Saturday, April 3—Holy Saturday

9:00am *Morning Prayer*
7:00pm *Easter Vigil*

Sunday, April 4—Easter Sunday

8:00am
10:00am
11:45am

Weekly Offertory

March 21, 2010

OFFERTORY: \$6,879
ONLINE GIVING: \$355

The collection *next weekend* is for the Clergy Benefit Trust. There will be NO COLLECTION on Holy Thursday.

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

FOOD FOR ALLELUIA PARTY



We need your help for the Alleluia Party after the Easter Vigil which welcomes our new members into the Church. We need desserts and crackers and cheese, etc. Please sign up at the back of the church. You can leave the food in the Church Hall on Holy Saturday, anytime during the day. Put the perishable food in the refrigerator. Thank you.

Reminders

The 11:30 Mass for Easter Sunday (April 4th) will be moved to 11:45am. Thank you for your cooperation! Also, The Archdiocese has suggested that we return to the use of two species. 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!

Easter Flowers

There are offertory envelopes in the pews for parishioners to dedicate the Easter flowers to a deceased loved one. If you wish, you may put your offering in any collection basket.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Important Message from Fr. Bob Assignment Change



I want to inform you that Cardinal Sean has assigned me to St. Patrick Parish in Watertown. My pastorate will be ending once new pastoral leadership has been assigned in Dracut. During the past few years there has been a lot of change and adjustment for us all. For the parishioners of Ste. Marguerite d'Youville, it seems on-going; for those at St. Francis, it was a new challenge. As you know, Fr. Chris Casey will be ending his three-year assignment at both parishes at the end of May. Combine that with the changes at St. Louis School, and it is an understatement to suggest that the Church in Dracut is in "flux."

I want to thank every person that has been so supportive of my ministry in Dracut over the past four years. In truth, it has been a challenging time in a changing church. Often when we place our lives in God's hands, God prompts us to places we would not have thought to go. In recent months, my prayer has helped me realize that new leadership may be better in Dracut – admitting my own limits as pastor. Please know that the pastoral care of both parishes and the school has always been my focus. I have tried to serve you as best I can as priest and pastor and acknowledge that there have been some successes and some disappointments. I thank the staffs of both parishes for their constant effort as Fr. Chris and I bounced back and forth. In so many ways, the staffs were the "glue" keeping the parishes going on a daily basis.

The Director of Clergy Personnel and the Personnel Board of the Archdiocese, along with our Regional Vicar, Fr. Arthur Coyle, and the Archdiocesan Office of Pastoral Planning will be assessing the status of the parishes and offering their counsel to Cardinal Seán as he discerns and decides how the two parishes can best be staffed for the immediate future. The Parish Staffs, Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees have recently offered their input with many constructive thoughts on the "one pastor/two parishes" arrangement over the past three years that will be very helpful in determining future leadership of the parishes. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance during this process.

God has blessed me with a wonderful priesthood and an incredible variety of ministries in my thirty-nine years of service to the Church. What makes it so wonderful are the people who are patient, understanding and loving. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you. God bless.

Fr. Bob

Decorating the Church

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Easter. We will meet on **Friday, April 2 immediately following Good Friday services**. All are welcome to help and many hands are needed!

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!

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 drvmusic@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!

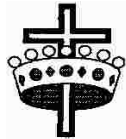


Altar Bread & Wine
this weekend is given by
Sharon Smart in memory of
The Smart, Jones and Murphy Families

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 Mrs. Donna Henderson, Interim Principal, at 978-458-7594 for a registration packet and to set up a personal tour of our school. Thank you!

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Champions—First Place (and fourth time winner), Stephen Janeczko, Second Place: Michael Vega; Third Place: Emily Masse.

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

On Monday, March 29th, Saint Louis Pre K and K will have their first Lenten retreat. They will be visiting the Stations of the Cross at St. Marguerite's. I am confident this experience will be meaningful to our young students.

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, Interim Principal, at 978-458-7594

Bereavement Support Group

The next meeting of our Bereavement Support Group will be held on **Wednesday, April 14 at 7pm**. Grief is a long, difficult journey; do not go it alone. All meetings are kept confidential.



Rest in Peace

Jack B. Maib,
Father of Carl Maib

Rita Breton,
Aunt of Anne Keating

Richard J. Vallois,
Brother of Donald, Dennis and Kenneth Vallois

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--there is one more week left of this opportunity for Wednesday reconciliation. 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.

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.

Spring Into New Life

What lies hidden within you that needs the warmth of the SON?



Come join us for our next Wine, Women and the Word event! Spring is upon us and new life is blooming all around; what opportunities for growth lie in you? Use the warmth of the SON to take care of the spiritual seeds that have been sown to assure the blooms will be more beautiful than the year before. Join us for this unique evening of prayer, meditation and fellowship on **Thursday, April 22 from 7-9pm**. We will have wine, coffee, soda and other refreshments. Bring a friend!

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

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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