



Saturday, August 8

9:00am *Memorial Mass: Nancy Misiazek*
4:00pm *Louise Fraser (13th Anniversary)*

Sunday, August 9

8:00am *Julieann Hojlo (Anniversary)*
10:00am *Joseph Niemaszyk (6th Anniversary)*
11:30am *Theresa Beliveau (1st Anniversary)*
5:00pm

Monday, August 10

9:00am *Peter McQuillan (Memorial)*

Tuesday, August 11

9:00am *Theresa Beliveau (1st Anniversary)*

Wednesday, August 12

9:00am *Mary & Ralph Herrick (Memorial)*

Thursday, August 13

9:00am *Diminico Family (Memorial)*

Friday, August 14

9:00am

Saturday, August 15

9:00am *Loretta Larmand & Gertrude Beauchesne (Memorial)*
4:00pm *Madeline Libera (Memorial)*

Sunday, August 16

8:00am *Robbie Keating (5th Anniversary)*
10:00am *Fred Marden (2nd Anniversary)*
11:30am *Buddy & Irene Thivierge (Memorial)*
5:00pm

Weekly Offertory

August 2, 2009

OFFERTORY: \$6,937

COMMITMENT TO PARISH LIFE (TO DATE):

\$4,740.50

MISSIONS: \$2,386

The second collection *this weekend* is for Catholic Relief Services.

Thank you for your generosity!

Attention: All Parish Volunteers

In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy for annual background checks, all staff and volunteers must complete the annual C.O.R.I. (Criminal Offender Record Information) form. Please visit the Parish Office with your driver's license to complete the 2009-2010 C.O.R.I. form. If you have any questions, please call the office and ask for Nancy or email nmandarini@saintfrancis.net. Thank you!

Help Wanted!

Do you have 24 hours over the next year to share your faith with a child? Teachers are needed in all grades though Confirmation age. Free training supplied. You provide the faith and a willing heart. Call Kathy or Dawn in the Religious Education Office.

Flat Screens for the Classrooms

The "space" issue with large TVs seems to be a problem in our small classrooms downstairs. We would like to ask for five people to make a \$500 donation so that we can purchase a large flat-screen TV for each room and a DVD/VCR player. This will enable the catechists and other meeting participants to have this electronic potential available. We are happy to include a small plaque as a **memorial** if you wish to make a memorial gift in memory of a loved one. Please call the Office. Two people may also share a plaque by donating \$250 each toward one TV.

We hope some people will help us in providing good electronic media in the classrooms. Any help you can give is very appreciated.

Catholic Relief Services

This weekend's second collection is for Catholic Relief Services. This collection supports emergency relief, human development and peace initiatives in 99 countries around the world, where nearly half the population lives on less than \$2 a day. The collection funds the ministries of five Catholic Church organizations: Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., Migration and Refugee Services, Social Development and World Peace, and The Holy Father's Relief Fund. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/crscollection.



Rest in Peace

**Grace F. Cushing,
Mother of Carol Cardillo**

**Mary Keefe,
Wife of Jack Keefe;
Mother of David and John Keefe, Jr.**

From Fr. Bob

August is a special month for the parish. The summer months are speeding by and I hope that everyone is getting time for rest and relaxation – a bit of time to get away. Fr. Chris has just returned from a break and Fr. Lyons and I will be leaving at mid-month. Like you, we look forward to a little R+R away from the daily routine.

September is coming fast and with it, our new school year. If you know people who have not registered for Religious Education, I ask you to encourage them to do so immediately. This is true for Grade 1 students who are beginning. It should be an exciting year. Last year, our combined program with St. Marguerite for the Confirmation grades (9 and 10) was very successful. The students came to know the Catholic classmates at their school. This October, we have two Confirmations, offering an option for all students, so the liturgy will be a mix of the two parishes. This is a wonderful example of Christian community beyond the parish for us all. It was so successful as a program that we are going to move the concept down to Junior High this year. As always, we need your help and support with the Religious Education Program – please offer your time and talent to teach and assist.

St. Louis School gets a new life: As many of you may know, there has been a major shift at St. Louis School and I want to share that news with you. Despite the excellent “first” year with our new principal and very few concerns raised by teachers or parents, in early April, the school was faced with the apparent possibility of losing over 200 students – the registrations were down from 452 to 250. This was a formidable “crisis” for us all and the School Board worked diligently to address the problem. There seemed to be many reasons, all coming together (a perfect storm?): families moving from the area, new public pre-school programs, the economy, coupled with an increase in tuition really hit hard. After coming to difficult decisions and a significant parent meeting, we raised the tuition and encouraged all families to reconfirm their registration. As a result, we will trim the school down to 325+ this year. Sadly, it has meant letting go of a significant number of teachers and aides. This was not an easy task for Ms. Dumais, but necessary. Let me say how appreciative I am to every staff member that is not returning. For some it ends years of dedicated sacrifice and service to St. Louis School. There is really no way to adequately express our appreciation and we wish them all of God’s blessings. Had the families returned, this painful process could have been avoided. We are grateful, and countless students who have passed through the halls of St. Louis School are their legacy. We can be proud of the staff we have lost, as much as we are proud of the staff that remains. We are very excited for the new school year. There are new programs developing and a fresh new approach to providing quality Catholic education to the students and families that have remained. We thank these families for their faithfulness and trust in St. Louis School. We won’t disappoint you.

Please continue to pray for our parish community. The summer months have been very “lean” in terms of both participants at liturgy and financial contributions. If you have been away, we ask that you make up your obligation. Some added help from your generosity and sacrifice would be great! God bless you all for all you give and do for the parish. We continue to need your support in so many ways. As we move forward, may the Holy Spirit guide us in a realistic, honest and grace-filled way. Peace.

HELP-We NEED You! As the Fall draws closer and we are putting together the new calendar, I want to encourage you to get more involved in the parish. We are in particular need of a few people to help us with our **corporal works of mercy** – especially visiting the sick. We need **Eucharistic Ministers** to bring communion to those in a few of the nursing homes we cover. We need a few more people to help us with our **Altar Society** and doing some of the behind-the-scenes cleaning and washing that is important. We need people to **visit the nursing homes** as well, and also, we will be looking for some people to help us as **Sacristans** at some of the Masses – not all the time, but maybe every other week. Please let us know if you can help out. These are **ministries in the church** and are essential to the vital energy and service the parish provides. As a member of the parish, we need your support in many ways. Please call us. Thank you.

Commitment to Parish Life Program. We are still strongly encouraging you to participate in the new ways to offer your contribution to the parish. Many people who give online are very pleased to be able to include the parish as part of their monthly bill paying. We will continue to stress this method of paying – be it weekly, monthly, bi-yearly or annually. Your consistent contribution really helps us to balance our budget. More information will be coming in the Fall. Summer time is a difficult time to keep in touch, but we hope you will not forget us. Speaking of “keeping in touch”, Nancy Mandarinini has built up an important email list and will continue to send out “blast emails”, letting you know what is going on. If you haven’t given us an email contact, please do so.

Fr. Bob

Youth Altar Server Appreciation Day

We hope all youth Altar Servers will join us on **Tuesday, August 18 for a trip to Canobie Lake Park** in appreciation for all of their hard work! A **bus will leave from St. Francis at 10:30am** and will return at 5pm. Adult chaperones are needed for the trip and must complete a CORI form. For more information or to sign up for the trip, call the Parish Office at (978) 452-6611. See you then!

New Support Group Forming

We would like to begin a group for separated and divorced Catholics, and are seeking a few people who would be willing to serve in a leadership role. Interested? Call Kathy in the office at (978) 452-6611.



Something New at the Harvest Festival Vendors & Crafters Wanted

Applications are now being accepted for those interested in renting space at this year's Harvest Festival. The fair will be a great opportunity for Vendors and Crafters to showcase their items. Last year's fair was well attended and we are expecting another successful year! Rental space is 10 x 10 and the fee is \$40. For more information and a registration form, please email Sharon at schelton@saintfrancis.net.



Contemplative Prayer Group

Have some time now that summer is here and looking to deepen your spirituality? Men and women are invited to join the contemplative prayer group at **7pm on Wednesday nights**. Come every week or once a month. We have begun reading the latest book from current mystic and prophet Sr. Joan Chittester, [The Breath of the Soul: Reflections on Prayer](#). We will be reading and discussing it through September. See you in the Annex!

Dracut Fire Fighters
Charity Golf Tournament
To Benefit:

DRACUT FOOD PANTRY

Meadow Creek Golf Club
Rte.113 Broadway Road, Dracut, MA

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21st, 2009

9 a.m. Shotgun Start
\$125 per golfer, \$500 per foursome

Includes: Green Fees, Cart, and Dinner

All proceeds to benefit The Dracut Food Pantry
Please email questions/comments to Andrew Powell:
apowell@comcast.net or Mark Morowski:
mmoro06@yahoo.com

Dracut Firefighters Local 2586
P.O. Box 51
Dracut, MA 01826



Let us pray for, support and encourage those preparing for marriage...

Marc Deschenes & Jennifer Griffin

Wedding Date: August 15, 2009

Tracy Benoit & Paul Joyce

Wedding Date: August 22, 2009

Melissa MacLeod & Wade Sauls

Wedding Date: August 22, 2009

Kimberly Chelton & James Augustus

Wedding Date: August 22, 2009

Jane Callahan & Mark Gill

Wedding Date: August 29, 2009

Clergy Appreciation Dinner

We are asking for help for the priests of the Archdiocese. As you know, Pope Benedict has designated this year as the Year For Priests in order to offer an opportunity to renew and reinvigorate the priesthood around the world. Our Clergy Fund is in very serious financial need and this dinner is being sponsored to build up that Fund. On **Wednesday evening, September 16, at the Seaport Hotel, Boston**, there is a special fund-raising dinner for the Clergy Fund. Besides appreciating priests, it is also going to be an evening to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Cardinal Sean being a bishop. So it will be quite an event! The tables are \$5,000 for ten seats, but we are trying to work with a few other parishes to buy at least one. This is our idea:

- If you would like to attend this special night, you can procure seats for \$500 each. Great!

- If you would like to contribute to the Fund and perhaps attend, we are going to have a "lottery" for seats. We are asking you to donate \$50 for a "chance" to get a seat. We will pool the money and then draw names for the seats. You could possibly attend the event for \$50. We will work out transportation.

Over the next few weeks, we hope that you will consider making a contribution to this Clergy Fund-Priest Appreciation-Cardinal Sean Anniversary-Dinner (whew!). Call the office for any other details or questions. We will make the final decisions by mid-August, giving everyone a chance to get involved.

"Fishers of Men" Deep Sea Fishing Trip

The Men's Spirituality Breakfast group will set sail on **Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 8:00a.m. – 12noon**. The cost is \$33.00 and we are accepting cash only. Please sign up in the Parish Office.

NINETEENTH 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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Other Information

Contact the parish office at 978-452-6611 for more information.