



**Saturday, September 26**

9:00am *For the intentions of the St. Francis Prayer Line*  
4:00pm *Beatrice & Thomas Bean (Memorial)*

**Sunday, September 27**

8:00am  
10:00am *Roger & Rita Guilmette (Memorial)*  
11:30am *Louise Gauthier Mason (Memorial)*  
5:00pm *Josephine DiRocco (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)*

**Monday, September 28**

9:00am

**Tuesday, September 29**

9:00am

**Wednesday, September 30**

9:00am

**Thursday, October 1**

9:00am

**Friday, October 2**

9:00am *Arthur Moisan (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)*

**Saturday, October 3**

9:00am *Beatrice Taylor (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)*  
4:00pm *Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Masse (Memorial)*

**Sunday, October 4**

8:00am *Frank & Adeline Gaiero (Memorial)*  
10:00am *The Campbell Family (Memorial)*  
11:30am *John Romanowski (Memorial)*  
5:00pm *Benefactors & Deceased Members of St. Francis Parish*

**Weekly Offertory**

*September 20, 2009*

**OFFERTORY: \$6,023**

**MORTGAGE: \$1625**

**CPL: \$502**

**Mortgage CPL: \$1625**

**Online: \$295**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**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.

**Attention Parish Bakers --  
It's a Bakeless Bake Sale!**



For "Harvest Sweets" this year, we'll be baking cookies from commercial dough and making fudge in St. Martha's Kitchen. Instead of baking for the festival, would you be willing to donate an ingredient(s) for our Harvest fudge? We'll need: **Semi-sweet chocolate chips, white sugar, chopped walnuts, marshmallow fluff and sweetened condensed milk.** All package sizes welcome. Deposit in the "Bakeless Bake Sale" bin in the main lobby. Thank you (and enjoy the time off)!

**VIRTUS Training**

On **Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>** we will be having a VIRTUS Training at **12pm**. All new volunteers who have completed a CORI form must attend this one-time session. If you have taken this class you do not need to attend again. The class lasts 3 hours and is free of charge. Please call the office to sign up or email [mandarini@saintfrancis.net](mailto:mandarini@saintfrancis.net) - space is limited.

**SUNDAY TV MASS**

On **Sunday, October 25**, Fr. Chris will celebrate the TV Mass on Channel 7 at 7AM. We want to invite approximately 12 people from each parish to attend this liturgy, followed by breakfast on the way home. It is an early start to the day – we leave by 5:45, but it is a great experience. If you are interested in joining us you can email [NMandarini@saintfrancis.net](mailto:NMandarini@saintfrancis.net) or call Nancy at the Parish Office to register.

**SAVE THE DATE!**



Our Harvest Festival will be held on **Saturday, October 10 from 10-4 (rain date Sunday, October 11)**. Fantastic food, games, vendors and crafters, live music, raffles and so much more. More information can be found elsewhere in the bulletin! This is a great day of family fun—you won't want to miss it!

**Fr. Gagnon to End Serving at St. Francis**

For over 20 years, Fr. Gagnon has served the people and parish of St. Francis—from Methuen Street to Wheeler Road. He has been a loyal and faithful servant to the people of St. Francis and to the community of Lowell and beyond. This past week, Fr. Gagnon asked me to accept his decision to end his saying public Mass at St. Francis. With incredible gratitude for all that he has given, I respected his wishes. Fr. Gagnon will end his schedule at St. Francis on **Sunday, October 4 at the 10am Liturgy** (in a marvelous sign of grace—the feast of St. Francis!). After the liturgy, there will be a **reception downstairs for Fr. Gagnon** to allow everyone to express their own gratitude and appreciation. We invite everyone to the **10am Liturgy on Sunday, October 4** to be with us as we celebrate his priestly ministry to us. God bless him!

**Gift Card Harvest Tree Raffle**



Come reap a "bountiful harvest". **After all Masses this weekend**, you may purchase a chance to win our gift card tree. Chances are 1 for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10. You may also purchase your chances when you come to the Harvest Festival.



*Rest in Peace*

**Bruno A. Nicolai,**  
*Husband of Maria Nicolai; Father of  
Norma McGowan and Susan Nicolai*

**Live Well with Lowell General Hospital**

September is Peripheral Vascular Diseases month. Over 8 million people are affected by peripheral arterial disease (PAD). By the age of 65 years old, 20% of Americans will have PAD. A FREE seminar presented by Dr. MacNaught followed by a brief PAD screening is being offered at **LGH on Oct. 5th from 6-7pm**. Call 1-877-LGH-WELL (877-544-9355) to register.

**PARACHUTE PLOP - 50/50**



It's time to "fall in" for a great day of fun. Come to the Harvest Festival to watch our 3 jumpers and see where they land. After all masses this weekend, please stop by the table on the plaza and purchase a chance to win money in our 2nd "Parachute Plop - 50/50". Good luck to all!

**Upcoming Meetings**



**Mon, Sept. 28:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers Meeting, 6-7:30pm  
**Monday, October 5:** Spiritual Life Commission, 6:45pm  
**Tuesday, September 6:** Grade 2 Parent Meeting, 6:45pm  
**Tuesday, October 13:** St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, 7pm  
**Wed., October 14:** Baptismal Preparation Class, 7:30pm  
**Wed., October 14:** Bereavement Support Group, 7pm  
**Sunday, October 18:** Widow & Widowers Group, 2-4pm

**HARVEST FESTIVAL GAMES COMMITTEE**

We are looking for people to help run the games for our Harvest Festival on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Do you have a couple of hours to help us out? If you're interested, please contact Donna Martin at [carolanmartin@comcast.net](mailto:carolanmartin@comcast.net).

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education Teachers Needed!**

Would you like to share your love of God and Church with our younger parishioners? We are in need of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Religious Education teacher at 6:30pm on either Wednesday or Thursday evenings. We also need a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at 4pm on Mondays. Please call Dawn in the Religious Ed office if you are interested at (978) 453-4460!

**Cards for Kathy Long**

We realize that many of our parishioners are worried and concerned about Kathy Long and her son Travis. The address below is for anyone who would like to send Kathy a note or card to let her know that you are praying for Travis and her family at this difficult time. I am sure she would love to hear from you as her days have been long and difficult being so far away from family, friends and home. Travis continues to make very slow progress; the family has a long road ahead of them. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you!

**Providence Cancer Center**  
**Attention Marsh Tengwell for Kathy & Travis Long**  
**4805 NE Glison Street**  
**Cancer Support Services/1st floor N Tower**  
**Portland, Oregon 97213**

**Charity Beyond Bounds—Thank you!**

Last weekend, we asked for your support for Kathy Long who is with her critically ill son, Travis, in Portland, OR. We hoped that the opportunity to help her financially during this difficult time would be a good "connection" for us all. You were marvelous and giving. We received over \$4,800 and monies are still coming in. If you were unable to donate last weekend, you may still bring a donation to the Parish Office if you so wish. Thank you, thank you so very much. Kathy is overwhelmed by your charity, love and prayers.

### Come Help the Harvest!

Our Harvest Festival last year was a great success, mainly due to the help of our parish family. To make this year's festival (scheduled for Oct. 10 or rain date Oct.

11) another memorable community event, we need your help once again!

#### Introducing our Gift Card Harvest Tree!

Gift cards really do grow on autumn trees, and a lucky raffle winner will take home the full bounty! Help make this a **tree-mendously fun** fundraiser for the parish by donating a gift card (or certificate) in any denomination from \$5 and up. All are welcome -- restaurants, grocery stores, coffee shops, fast food, movies, entertainment, services, department stores and more. Leave your gift card/certificate (marked Gift Card Harvest Tree) at the parish office or with an usher at weekend Masses -- then look for it at the festival hanging from a branch of our bountiful tree. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Who knows, YOU could be the lucky winner!

**Used Books** -- Our Used Book Tent was a HUGE success last year! Please bring in those used paperbacks and hard covers taking up space in your home. Look for the book deposit box in the church lobby. No textbooks or encyclopedias please.

**Costume Clothes Line** -- Just in time for Halloween parties and Trick-or-Treat, gently used costumes in all sizes are welcome. Look for the costume deposit box in the church lobby.

**Thanks for ALWAYS coming through for us, and please be sure to join us for some Harvest fun!**

### It's Almost Trunk-or-Treat Time!



You may remember our creatively decorated SUV on the plaza last year, promoting our Harvest Festival Trunk-or-Treat Trail. The concept was untested last year -- little did we know what a success it would be! Our parishioners decorated their trunks and cargo spaces in lovely harvest themes or spooky ones, and the kids and adults had a blast going through, taking candy from each trunk. **We need your help again this year!** Anyone interested in entering their decorated car/SUV/truck on the trail should call Kathy Laferriere at 978-446-1446 or email [katlafer@comcast.net](mailto:katlafer@comcast.net). Spaces are limited.

### RCIA

RCIA will begin on **Sunday, October 18 with the 10am Mass** and a meeting to follow at 11am. RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for any adults who wish to make their Confirmation or be baptized in the Catholic faith. Want more information? Call the Parish Office at (978) 452-6611 to find out more or to sign up.



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

Christopher Pappathan & Patricia Maunsell  
*Wedding Date: October 9, 2009*

Rachael O'Brien & Patrick Harrington  
*Wedding Date: October 10, 2009*

### ARISE Together in Christ

*ARISE Together in Christ* is a three-year, parish-centered process of spiritual renewal and evangelization that enables people to deepen their faith, develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community, and reach out in service to others.

**Season Three of *ARISE Together in Christ* will begin October 4, 2009.** The third season is called *In the Footsteps of Christ*. There will be six faith-sharing sessions meeting once a week inviting us to explore the Catholic understanding of discipleship, and in particular how this implies active commitment to charity and justice.

We invite all parishioners to participate in the *ARISE* process and be part of the spiritual renewal and evangelization that is happening in approximately 180 parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston!

Please consider joining a group—new groups are forming.

**Group leaders are also needed!** Sign-up cards can be found at the back of the church. Please call the office if you would like more information.

### 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](mailto:nmandarini@saintfrancis.net). Thank you!

### Religious Education Classes

Classes will begin this week! Class lists are posted downstairs in the Parish Hall. Any questions? Contact Dawn Bastien in the Religious Education Office.

### San Damiano House of Prayer

The San Damiano House of Prayer is celebrating the anniversary of St. Francis' passing, its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the greater Franciscan community through several events. Join them on **Saturday, October 3 at 7pm** for "Enacting the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi" at St. John the Evangelist Parish on 115 Middlesex St. in North Chelmsford, MA.

## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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### 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](http://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

Anthony Bazzinotti 978-441-2783 [abazzinotti@hotmail.com](mailto:abazzinotti@hotmail.com)

Richard Blanchette (co-chair) [richblb@comcast.net](mailto:richblb@comcast.net)

Christiann Dignam (978) 683-0946 [christidignam@verizon.net](mailto:christidignam@verizon.net)

John Farren 978-275-2821 [farren4ma@aol.com](mailto:farren4ma@aol.com)

Deacon John Hunt 978-452-6611

Robert Leger [rsleger@hotmail.com](mailto:rsleger@hotmail.com)

Jim Long [jim@easternindustries.com](mailto:jim@easternindustries.com)

Kathy Long 978-452-6611 [klong@saintfrancis.net](mailto:klong@saintfrancis.net)

Pam Lupien 978-446-1484 [pjlup@comcast.net](mailto:pjlup@comcast.net)

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Mark Riopelle 978-683-7180 [mjlove2win@comcast.net](mailto:mjlove2win@comcast.net)

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Beth Schroth [phriend32@yahoo.com](mailto:phriend32@yahoo.com)

Sharon Smart (978) 851-0501 [smart.sharon@comcast.net](mailto:smart.sharon@comcast.net)

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Sharon Chelton (978) 452-6611 [schelton@saintfrancis.net](mailto:schelton@saintfrancis.net)

Fr. Bob Connors (978) 452-6611 [rlconnors@comcast.net](mailto:rlconnors@comcast.net)

Fr. Chris Casey (978) 452-6611 [christopher.j.casey@verizon.net](mailto:christopher.j.casey@verizon.net)