



Saturday, December 5

9:00am Doris & Henry Gaillardetz (*Memorial*)
4:00pm Nancy Kramer (*Anniversary*)

Sunday, December 6

8:00am Yvonne Saindon (*Memorial*)
10:00am Maurice Beaulieu (*Memorial*)
11:30am Louis & Eunice LaVoie (*Memorial*)
5:00pm *Benefactors & Deceased members of St. Francis Parish*

Monday, December 7

9:00am Richard Sawyer, Sr. & Richard Sawyer, Jr.

Tuesday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

9:00am
7:00pm

Wednesday, December 9

9:00am Lyle Connors (*Memorial*)

Thursday, December 10

9:00am Raymond & Winifred Bigold (*Memorial*)

Friday, December 11

9:00am

Saturday, December 12

9:00am Carolyn Cole (*Memorial*)
4:00pm Leo Bouley (*7th Anniversary*)

Sunday, December 13

8:00am Arthur Saindon (*Memorial*)
10:00am Alice Curry Reinert (*5th Anniversary*)
11:30am Caroline Shanahan (*16th Anniversary*)
5:00pm Grace Gannon (*10th Anniversary*)

Weekly Offertory

November 29, 2009

OFFERTORY: \$5,696

MORTGAGE: \$5,116

CPL OFFERTORY: \$2,012.50

CPL MORTGAGE: \$1,631

Thank you for your generosity!

Joint Parish Advent Retreat



Take some time for God during this joyous Advent season and join us for our Joint Parish Advent Retreat on **Monday, December 14 and Tuesday, December 15. Both nights will begin at 7pm.**

On **Monday**, our time will begin at **St. Marguerite Parish** with a Reconciliation Prayer Service and time for individual confessions. On **Tuesday**, join us at **St. Francis Parish** for an Evening of Prayer and Celebration of God's coming into the world. Refreshments to follow. We hope to see you there!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 8, 2009



Masses at St. Francis: 9:00am and 7:00pm

Masses at Ste. Marguerite d'Youville:

Monday, December 7, 2009: 7:00pm

December 8: 7:30am

St. Francis Parish Giving Tree



St. Francis Parish has set up its annual Giving Tree! This Christmas tree is placed at the rear of the church and is decorated with gift tags showing needed or desired Christmas gifts for someone in need. Parishioners take the tags and return the gifts to St. Francis. The gifts should be wrapped with the gift tags firmly attached, **no later than December 13th.**

In previous years, thanks to your kindness and generosity, you have made Christmas much happier for many families needing assistance at this time. Thank you for helping!

Can you help?

Help is needed to water the Christmas flowers. Please call Sharon in the parish office for more information if you are available to help. Thank you!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Joint Christmas Concert



The combined choirs of St. Michael and St. Francis parishes will hold a Christmas concert **here at St. Francis on Sunday, December 13 at 2pm in the church.** Take a chance to slow down and savor the joy and sounds of the season! Come hear some wonderful traditional and contemporary Christmas music and join us afterward for refreshments in the Parish Hall. Hope to see you there!

7th and 8th Grade Youth Night Cancellation

The 7th and 8th grade Youth Night scheduled for **December 9th** has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled for a later date...stay tuned!

RCIA

RCIA has begun! We meet every Sunday **starting with the 10am Mass and a meeting to follow at 11am.** It's never too late to join! 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.

Upcoming Christmas Collection

The upcoming Christmas Collection supports the retirement, healthcare and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We encourage you to please give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to faithfully serving God and the faithful of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

Book Discussion Group 90 Minutes in Heaven



Brought to you by popular demand, join us as Fr. Bob and Kathy discuss 90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper with you. Simply purchase and read the book and call the Parish Office to sign up for this event being held on **Saturday, January 9 from 9:30-11am.** Looking for a Christmas gift for someone? 90 Minutes in Heaven makes a meaningful and thought-provoking gift. Give it to a loved one and then bring him or her along to our discussion! Don't miss this chance to "see life's troubles in a whole new light". Sign up today!

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.

Children's Christmas Choir



Do you love music? Come and join us for the Children's Christmas Choir! We will sing at the **6pm Christmas Eve Mass.** Simply come to rehearsal if you would like to join! **Our remaining rehearsal date is Saturday, December 19 from 11:30am-1pm.** Please join us!

Spiritual Life Commission Meeting

The next meeting of the Spiritual Life Commission will be held on **Monday, December 7 at 6:45pm.** See you then!

Men's Spirituality Breakfast

All men 18 and older are welcome to join us on **Saturday, December 12 from 7-9am** for the Men's Spirituality Breakfast in the Parish Hall. Our morning includes fantastic food, excellent fellowship, a spiritual speaker and daily Mass in the church at 9am. Please join us!

Thanks from the Dracut Food Pantry!

"Thanks" for "giving" so generously to the "Thanks for Giving" food drive in November. Last month we welcomed the highest number (128) of families since our first opening, so each and every donation is greatly appreciated. With so many local families struggling in this economy, the kindness of the St. Francis Parish family is a great gift this season and always.

With our warmest wishes for a blessed holiday season,
The Dracut Food Pantry

Widow & Widowers Christmas Party

The Widow and Widowers Social Support Group will hold its Christmas party on **Saturday, December 12 from 11:30am-3:00pm in the Parish Hall.** All are welcome!

From Fr. Bob



As we move through Advent and closer to Christmas with reflections on all our blessings, I want to thank everyone that is helping to keep the parish going. We all know that it is a small group of dedicated and loyal people that stay involved and offer such an enormous amount of volunteer service. We need to encourage EVERYONE to get more involved because “many hands make light work”; but our gratitude is great for those who do so much. The leaders of the Harvest Fair, like the Corams and Linda Carolan, Deb Hovansian and Sharon Chelton helped organize the people and event so well. The Christmas Fair was so successful due to the leadership and coordination of Dave and Celeste Allard and Delia and Debbie Ayotte. Their enthusiasm is contagious for the many other hard-working people to come together and offer their time, talent and treasure. God Bless you all. Let us continue to give a little of our time for the growth of the parish.

Christmas Flowers

Christmas flower envelopes have been placed in the pews this weekend. You may return your donation in the offertory basket during any collection. Thank you for your generosity.

St. Vincent de Paul

In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to “Prepare the way of the Lord” and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

**Is there a family you know who needs assistance?
Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that
together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate
Christmas.**

Generations of Faith Meal

St. Francis is extremely grateful to The Chateau for the delicious meal served at each of the Generations of Faith festivals. All of our attendees left with full stomachs and happy hearts. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Advent Rosary Evening of Prayer

We will have an Advent Rosary Evening of Prayer on **Sunday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew Church in Billerica.** The Advent “Rosary” will focus on the events leading up to the birth of Christ. Come and join us in prayer and song as we prepare our hearts and minds to receive Jesus this Christmas. There will be fellowship downstairs following the prayer service. Contact Adrienne@saintandrewbillerica.com with any questions.



Rest in Peace

Gloria Fugere,
Mother of John Stoessel

CATHOLICS CAN LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH ONLINE ANYTIME AT CATHOLICTV.COM

Catholics now have an online source for Catholic catechesis available to them at anytime at www.CatholicTV.com. CatholicTV.com offers many shows which aim to teach about the Catholic faith. These catechetical shows include a retreat based on the Ignatian Discernment of Spirits, a series on the Old Testament prophets, a Catechetical game show, a Catholic discussion show produced by teenagers, a show on Catholic marriage, and many others.

CatholicTV is a nationally-broadcasted television network headquartered near Boston. CatholicTV streams its broadcast simultaneously, 24 hours a day at www.CatholicTV.com

CatholicTV.com has over 60 shows for Catholics who are interested in learning more about their faith and growing closer to God. CatholicTV produces about 40% of its programming and all of the shows by CatholicTV have archived episodes viewable anytime.

Pray for your Priests?

During this Year for Priests, The Vocation Office is happy to announce that the Serra Boston Vocation Club is initiating the "Adopt-a-Priest Apostolate" where Faithful throughout the Archdiocese spiritually adopt a priest presently working in the Archdiocese of Boston for one year.

Those participating are given (by random in a sealed envelope) the name of a priest presently living or working in the Archdiocese, prayer cards and a prayer booklet and are asked to pray for the particular intentions and ministry of that priest.

This is a great way to support our Priests and to promote a Culture of Vocations. Would you please consider this important prayer mission?

For more information or to be assigned a priest of the Archdiocese to pray for on a daily basis, please call 978-462-1057 (ask for Loretta Gallagher-President of Serra) or go to: www.serraboston.org or www.vocationsboston.org.

Bereavement Support Group

The next meeting of the Bereavement Support Group will be held on **Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00pm in the Conference Room.** Grief is a long, difficult journey; do not go it alone. Resources are available to you and the meeting is kept confidential. All are welcome.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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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