



Saturday, December 19

9:00am Gerard Gervais (*1st Anniversary*)
4:00pm Harold Evans (*Memorial*)

Sunday, December 20

8:00am Evelyn Moniz (*1st Anniversary*)
10:00am Roland Thibault (*Memorial*)
11:30am Anthony Marchionda (*1st Anniversary*)
5:00pm George Ramsey (*Memorial*)

Monday, December 21

9:00am Frances Storazzi (*Month's Mind*)

Tuesday, December 22

9:00am George Vinal (*Anniversary*)

Wednesday, December 23

9:00am Jacqueline Greenwood (*Memorial*)

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve

9:00am, 4:00pm, 6:00pm & 10:00pm

Friday, December 25—Christmas Day

8:00am & 10:00am

Saturday, December 26

9:00am Deacon John Hunt (*Living Intention*)
4:00pm Marcel & Lorraine Jacques (*Memorial*)

Sunday, December 27

8:00am Roger Joyal (*14th Anniversary*)
10:00am Louise Gauthier Mason (*Memorial*)
11:30am Philip Haggerty (*6th Anniversary*)
5:00pm Bill, Billy & Ed O'Neil (*Memorial*)

Monday, December 28

9:00am Exilia Turcotte (*Memorial*)

Tuesday, December 29

9:00am Richard Bradley (*Month's Mind*)

Wednesday, December 30

9:00am William Colburn (*Memorial*)

Thursday, December 31

9:00am
5:00pm

Friday, January 1—Mary, Mother of God

9:00am

Saturday, January 2

9:00am
4:00pm

Sunday, January 3

8:00am *Benefactors & Deceased Members*
10:00am Irene R. Paquin (*8th Anniversary*)
11:30am Jeffrey Middlemiss (*Memorial*)
5:00pm Raymond J. Goodwin (*14th Anniversary*)

*St. Francis Parish
Christmas Mass Schedule 2009*



Thursday, December 24, 2009

Christmas Eve

4:00pm, 6:00pm (with Children's Choir) & 10pm

Friday, December 25, 2009

Christmas

8:00am & 10:00am

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!



Decorating the Church for Christmas

Can you help? We will be decorating the Church for Christmas **TODAY, Sunday, Dec. 20 after the 11:30 am Mass And Monday, Dec. 21 at 6 pm.** All are welcome to help!

Weekly Offertory

December 13, 2009

OFFERTORY: \$8,640

CPL: \$2,749

ONLINE GIVING: \$675

GRAND ANNUAL (TO DATE): \$46,738

Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Collection

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. As you may be aware, the Christmas Collection supports the retirement, healthcare and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We prayerfully ask you to remember the meaningful role these priests have had in your spiritual life, as well as the spiritual lives of your loved ones. Please be generous to this important collection in support of our Senior Priests.

**A Message From Our Pastor
Fr. Bob Connors**



Holy Day's Greetings and Blessings to you and your family. With the death of my father in the past few months, the reality and blessing of family surfaces strongly and compels me to wish each and every one of you a blessed and holy Christmas and New Year. There are so many blessings that we give to each other and, sadly, this time of the year we are effusive in our wishes, but the rest of the year? Well, perhaps one of our resolutions that we can begin immediately is to look around at our family, friends and relatives and realize how special they are and see the "goodness" within them. We can go to school, go to work or play and appreciate that every person is simply human, doing the best that they can do. When Jesus enters the world as a human being, he reminds us of the incredible "gift" that we are to one another. He was certainly a gift – Emmanuel – God With Us – but he transforms humanity by his Incarnation. If that wasn't enough, by our Baptism, we actually BECOME one with Christ in his Body. Then at Eucharist, we gather with and for one another to BE the Body of Christ, receiving the Body of Christ. If we are looking for a "miracle" in our lives, often just taking a few moments to reflect on the incredible gift of life can be a grace that is all around us.

This Christmas, your Clergy and Staff wish you and your family the BEST of the holy days. We pray that the coming year will be filled with God's blessings for you all. We continue to hope that you will join our community with your prayer and presence. We are complete when we are all together, and the parish needs your support and help. God bless you all.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU to the combined choirs of St. Francis and St. Michael Parishes for their wonderful, uplifting concert last Sunday. It showed the amount of effort and work that was put into the entire production. The attendance was large, the people were enthusiastic and the music was superb! Thanks for this Christmas "gift." It was very special.

Fr. Bob

Mary, Mother of God

January 1, 2010

Holy Day Mass schedule

Thursday, December 31: 5:00pm

Friday, January 1: 9:00am



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.

Do you like to bake?

Bakers are needed for various parish events. If you are willing to help out from time to time, we would love to put your name on a call list for when baking help is needed. Please contact Sharon in the Parish Office at (978) 452-6611 or via e-mail at schelton@saintfrancis.net. Thank you!

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.

**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!

Bereavement Support Group

There will be **no Bereavement Support Group held on Wednesday, December 23**. Join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, January 13th at 7pm in the St. Dominic Conference Room**. Grief is an especially hard journey around the holidays. You are not alone; please join us. All meetings are kept confidential.

Holy Hour For Life

Join us for the Holy Hour for Life on **Thursday, January 21 at 7pm** in the church. Come and pray with us for an end to abortion. Join us afterward for refreshments in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN VOCATION

Being attentive to our Christian call to witness to God's tremendous love

On the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church invites us to consider our own vocation. How can I discern God's call? How can I listen to God's invitation? Marriage, religious life, priesthood, diaconate...What am I to offer: my talents, my skills, my entire being? We have all been chosen by God through our Baptism to respond to our vocation. A panel of men and women will speak about their vocations. Take time with God and others to explore your vocational call. The time is right, God is waiting for you.

When: Sunday, January 10, 2010

Where: St. Michael Parish Hall, 196 Main Street, North Andover, MA

Time: 2:00-5:00-including Vespers and Benediction

This afternoon is free and open to all, but we would appreciate pre-registration so that we can plan accordingly. Please R.S.V.P. to Sister Marian Batho, CSJ at 617-746-5637 or Sr_Marian_Batho@rcab.org

WINE, WOMEN AND THE WORD

Where do we find our hope? What is the path to healing?
Relax and come in out of the cold! Join us on **Thursday, January 28 from 7-9pm in the Parish Hall** for our **Wine, Women and the Word** program. We will have wine, sparkling beverages and hot cocoa as we discuss and look deep within ourselves through prayer and reflection. Join us—and bring a friend, too! Hope to see you there.



Altar Bread & Wine
this weekend is in memory of
Philip J. Haggerty

Winter Wonderland Raffle!

Grand Prize: Your choice of a weekend stay at the Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, NH or the CoCo Key Water Resort in Danvers, MA. **Second prize** will be a 19" flat screen TV and **third prize** is two Bruins tickets! Chances are 1 ticket for \$5 or three tickets for \$10. The drawing will be held at the Winter Wonderland Dinner Theater, and you do not have to be present to win! **Tickets will be available after all Masses beginning the weekend of January 3, 2010 and in the Parish Office.**



Rest in Peace

Exilia Bastien,

Sister of Willie Letendre

Simon Carbonneau,

Father of Raymond Carbonneau

Joseph (Cliff) Gallant,

*Father of Cyndie Bourassa, Laurie Martineau,
Cliff and Glenn Gallant*

Charles Grant,

*Husband of Gladys Grant; Stepfather of
Sandra Segien*

Dorothy (Ramsey) Kinney,

Mother of Anna Corey

Managing your Offertory Donations

At Saint Francis Parish we have several options to assist you with your gifts to the parish. Besides the regular weekly envelopes, you may be interested in a different approach to providing your donation.

Through Enterprise Bank, we are able to set up automatic monthly withdrawals from your checking account for your offertory donation. Enterprise Bank has been very generous and does not charge the parish for this service. With automatic withdrawals, you do not have to remember your envelope every week!

If you prefer to use a credit card, this can be arranged through our website. Just click on the icon *Online Donation System* and follow the prompts. This service is provided by **NetCharge**. You can also do automatic checking account withdrawals with **NetCharge**. In addition, there is our ongoing program **Commitment to Parish Life**, where you can plan your offertory donations for the entire year.

Please prayerfully think about the best way for you to manage your gifts to the parish. You may contact Sharon Chelton in the parish office Mon – Fri at 978-452-6611 for more information regarding the many options of giving.

Winter Wonderland Dinner Theater

**Friday, January 29, 2010 in the St. Francis Parish Hall
6pm-11pm**

Join us for a wonderful evening of song, good food and fellowship while enjoying the musical tunes of the St. Francis Parish Show Performers. A delicious Italian dinner by the Chateau Restaurant will be served. A Beer and Wine Bar will be available. Seating is limited, so get your tickets early! **Tickets will be on sale the weekend of January 3, 2010** after all the Masses and in the Parish Office. Donation is \$20 each. You won't want to miss it!

FOURTH 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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