



When we do corporal or spiritual works of mercy we are caring for Jesus himself, because he lives in each of us. We do so, not to be repaid in this life but to be rewarded in the life to come, as well as to live in imitation of our generous God. Christians care for one another without consideration of the rewards. Jesus uses the parable of the banquet to encourage those who would be his disciples to live lives of humility. We must take care not to exalt ourselves when we do good works.



Monday, September 3, 2007

Morning Mass will be celebrated at its usual time of 7:30 a.m. The Parish Office and St. Louis School will be closed.

WORK AS HE WORKED

They who tread the path of labor follow where My feet have trod
 They who work without complaining do the holy work of God
 Every task however simple sets the soul that does it free
 Every deed of love and mercy, done to man is done to me.

Henry van Dyke

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Twelve-hour Adoration will take place on Friday, September, 7, 2007 and every First Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. We hope that you will sign up for a specific time as we must have someone present at all times and we also hope that many people will drop by for a visit and a moment of prayer before the Lord. We are asking that this Adoration moment center on both a prayer for Vocations and also your own personal needs. Let us pray for one another.



SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

This Sacrament will be offered every Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Liturgy. We ask that you come to the front pew and wait for the priest to finish greeting the people and return to the sacristy for the Sacred Oils.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

We wish to thank all who supported our Bake Sale of last weekend and congratulations to our raffle winner Eleanor Beaudoin.



St. Vincent de Paul Society Members, Ste. Marguerite d'Youville Conference, will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2007 at St. Louis Convent.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Lowell District Council, will take place on Sunday, September 23rd at St. Theresa of Lisieux Church on Boston Road in Billerica. Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. followed by meeting in the Parish Hall. Members are asked to RSVP John Bartlett at 978-667-7376 no later than September 10.

The 2nd Annual St. Vincent de Paul Dinner Dance Fund Raiser will be held October 20th 2007 at Lenzi's Function Hall in Dracut. Cocktails from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing.. We will have prizes and raffles. Tickets are \$35.00 and are available by leaving a message for Bill Sullivan at the Parish Office (978-957-0322).

RETROUVAILLE.....a lifeline

Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no communication, if you are considering a separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. Look us up on the web at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. The next Retrouvaille weekend will be held on September 21-23, 2007.



This year the Parish Picnic will be held on September 16, 2007 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (rain or shine) at the Acacia Club, 247 Sladen St. in Dracut. There will be a DJ, dancing, 50/50 raffle and fun for the kids. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses next weekend and are also available at the Parish Office. The cost is \$6.00 per person if purchased in advance or \$7.00 if purchased at the door. Children under 3 admitted free. Please bring family, friends and neighbors (**also your lawn chairs**). If possible, please purchase your tickets in advance so that we will have an idea on how much food to prepare.

⇨ **PARISH PICNIC MEETING** ⇩

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the Parish Picnic is asked to attend a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 10, 2007 in room 101 of the Parish Center. It is very important that we have enough volunteers for this parish event. It would make it so much easier on everybody if there were many people sharing the work.



Offertory Collection	\$4,625.57
Earthquake Relief/Peru	\$1,754.03

Next week the second collection will be the Annual Catholic University of America collection.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM FR. BOB:

Happy Labor Day Weekend! Greetings to everyone from the "recuperating one." Thanks for the prayers and concern. The knee is healing quickly and well, obviously your prayers are effective. As we celebrate Labor Day and the "beginning" of the regular year, I want to send God's blessings to the faculty, staff and students at St. Louis School as they begin this Centenary Year. One Hundred Years of the Sisters of the Assumption offering their service and work is a grace for us all. The major celebration is only a week away and we are all looking forward to it.

Let me also share a few thoughts to some persistent rumors that have been circulating around. First, there are no absolutes! The rumors continue (must have been a slow summer in Dracut) that Ste. Marguerite's Parish is closing. At the present time, that is not true. Can I say categorically that this parish – or any parish – will not be closed in the future; sorry, I have no crystal ball. My assignment from the Archbishop coming to Dracut was to pastor Ste. Marguerite's Parish and administer St. Louis School. My subsequent assignment this past Spring was to pastor St. Francis Parish *in addition to* Ste. Marguerite's Parish. Fr. Chris and I have been asked to pastor both independent parishes – and that is what we are attempting to do. This will only happen with the support of the people from both parishes and you have been so great these past few months!!! At the present time, the only shared "link" between the two parishes is the divided costs for the priests and the rectory. Will we try to initiate some shared programs as time goes on? Absolutely! We would have worked on this if this arrangement had never taken place. Fr. Blaney and I were already speaking of ways to cooperate and share ministry and programs.

In past discussions regarding parish viability, I have always noted that it is not "priests" that close parishes, but people. It is no secret that Ste. Marguerite's Parish is in serious financial difficulty. The Parish Council, Finance Committee and I have been reporting that for a year. The Parish needs to stabilize its finances and increase its support and participation in the parish – or there can be serious consequences. This situation is arising, not because of the priests, but because 85% of the registered parishioners of Ste. Marguerite's Parish do not attend liturgy on a regular basis and do not contribute financially to the parish. By the way, of the 15% who do attend, it is known statistically that 5% of those attending contribute 80% of the income. I have asked the Finance Committee and a new Ad Hoc Development Committee to quickly address this issue. I look forward to their suggestions. [In a spirit of disclosure, probably only 20-25% of parishioners at St. Francis Parish are attending on a regular basis. Nationally, regular attendance is about 25-30% of registered parishioners.]

THE NEW YEAR. For all of us, this is going to be a new experience. Summer is over, the transitions have taken place, and now September begins. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, the most obvious consequence of trying to administer two parishes for the priests will be our diminished presence in the Parishes on Sundays. I am most disappointed and saddened by this fact, but it is a reality. I have worked out our schedule so that Fr. Chris and I

alternate Sunday mornings between the two parishes, but it means you will see each of us less. BUT, I strongly emphasize that you know we are there for you, and you need to call! If you need us to help you or your family in any way, *please call and make an appointment*. We are trying to return calls within 24 hours or less. Please be patient with us and know how much we want to be there for you. We are ALL learning a new way of being priest and people in a parish. It will take some time, evaluation and reflection to understand it best and work out the kinks. With your continued support, I know it can be done. It's your parish and you can make it work well!

So we begin – independent, yet more interdependent – to bring the Lord Jesus Christ to us all. That, after all, is the only goal – to come to know, love and serve the Lord in this world and prepare for the next. Everything else is truly secondary; we just tend to forget that and need to remind one another every once in a while. As the year begins, PEACE TO YOU and YOUR FAMILIES.

God bless you all, Fr. Bob.



ST. LOUIS SCHOOL

Opening day for K1 and K2 will be September 4, 2007. Please note that September 4 & 5 will be half days for K1 & K2.

The opening School Liturgy (Mass) will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at SLS Center..

Calendar for 2007-2008 school year is available on the school web page at www.saintlouisschool.org

The closing Mass for the school centennial will take place at 9:00 a.m. next Sunday in the SLS Center (former church) with His Eminence Seán Cardinal O'Malley as principal celebrant. Following the Mass you can visit the school and view graduation pictures from most of those 100 years. All are invited.



600 CLUB DRAWING NEXT SUNDAY

Ste. Marguerite d'Youville 600 Club Drawing for April will take place next Sunday, September 9, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us in Ste. Marguerite Church Hall for a pancake breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. You must be present to win door prize.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Please do not leave purses or other valuables unattended in the pews especially when going to receive Communion.
- Please turn off your cell phones as you enter the church.

MASS INTENTIONS

This Weekend – September 1 & 2

Saturday

4:00 p.m. Alphonse Chaisson
7:00 p.m. Parish Intention

Sunday

7:30 a.m. M/M Alphonse L. Thibeault
9:00 a.m. Paul Vigeant (1st Ann.)
11:00 a.m. Coutu Family

Weekday Masses

Monday 7:30 a.m. Parish Intention
Tuesday 7:30 a.m. Parish Intention
Wednesday 7:30 a.m. Donald Richards
9:00 a.m. Scholl Opening Mass
At SLS Center
Thursday 7:30 a.m. Lawrence L. Day
Friday 7:30 a.m. Parish Intention
Saturday 7:30 a.m. Parish Intention

Next Weekend – September 8 & 9

Saturday

4:00 p.m. Lucien Trudel
7:00 p.m. Donald Richards

Sunday

7:30 a.m. Bertha Mercier (1st Ann.)
9:00 a.m. Gertrude Bastien
9:00 a.m. St. Louis School Centennial Mass
with Cardinal O'Malley at SLS Center
11:00 a.m. Paul Raymond Chalifoux

INFANT/TODDLER PRESCHOOL PARENTS GROUP

Stay at home moms and dads, come join us for 1½ hours one day per week with your young ones and join in for story times and activities for the three age groups.

This will take place on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Please fill out the form below if you are interested in becoming part of this program. Sessions will begin in October.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

CHILD(REN'S) NAME(S):

_____ AGE _____

_____ AGE _____

_____ AGE _____

Please place completed form in the collection basket or bring/send to the Parish Office.