



FASHION STATEMENT

Walk through any mall today and you're bound to get a few shocks: fluorescent hair, vampire wannabes, jeans worn half-mast. Eye popping styles create a portable cone of notoriety drawing attention to the brave youths who wear them. And the shock value works. Whether we admire or detest the styles, we find ourselves wondering just who those people are, or who they want us to think they are.

John the Baptist might have fit right in, draped in his distinctive camel skin tatters. An ascetic desert life, with minimal food and clothing, gave John a jarring impact before he spoke a word. But unlike today's trend-hounds, John's fashion statement said 'my mind is not focused on this world. God has given me a greater vision'. People shocked by John's clothes were also drawn by his spirit, his devotion to God. The sight of John in this week's gospel gives us pause to ask...what am I wearing today, inside and out? Am I dressed with God's love and message of salvation?



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

During the Season of Advent, many people are moved to receive the Sacrament of Penance in anticipation of the Savior's coming. The parishes of St. Marguerite d'Youville and St. Francis will hold a joint Advent Penance Service at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 17, 2007 at St. Francis Church. Everyone is invited.

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.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

The Charismatic Prayer Group meets every Tuesday evening in the chapel of the St. Louis School Center, 221 West 6th St. in Lowell.

Please use the entrance nearest the parking lot on the rectory side. Evening includes Rosary at 6:30 p.m., Mass at 7:00 p.m. followed by Prayer Meeting. All are invited at any time during the evening.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Bereavement Luncheon is a very rewarding ministry. You are helping a parishioner by cooking, baking or working at the luncheon.

The families of the deceased appreciate the convenience, hospitality and delicious food. Some of the relatives are now cooking for us. This shows that this ministry is appreciated and successful. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated. For more information please call the Parish Office at 978-957-0322.



TRIM-A-TREE PARTY

Fr. Bob, Fr. Chris and Fr. Lyons are holding an Open House and Trim-a-Tree Party at their residence, 115 Wheeler Road in Dracut, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. next Sunday, December 16, 2007. They hope that you will allow them to share the hospitality that they receive from you and drop by for a bit. Bringing an ornament to decorate the tree is optional. We are much more hoping to share a few moments with you.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank Mr. Lucien Dalpe, his committee and all the volunteers who made our annual Children's Christmas Party such a successful event. There is much involved in setting up such an event and their work was very much appreciated by the families that participated.



GIVING TREE

All gifts for the Giving Tree must be received this weekend. If you forgot to drop it off in church, please drop it off at the Parish Office on Monday.

GRAND ANNUAL DRIVE

As we approach the end of the tax year, this would be an opportune time for you to make a tax deductible donation to the Grand Annual Drive. Not only would this reduce your tax liability, it would greatly address the financial needs of the parish. If you have already given, you may want to add to your donation. If you have not yet given, please consider making a donation at this time.



AMOUNT NEEDED WEEKLY	\$8,357.00
Income received from 11/26 to 12/2, 2007	
Offertory Collection	\$5,493.00
Other Income	\$3,075.00
TOTAL PARISH INCOME	\$8,568.00
WEEKLY GAIN or (DEFICIT)	\$ 211.00
<i>Christmas Flowers (to date)</i>	\$2,357.00
<i>Grand Annual (to date)</i>	\$42,846.00

The second collection this weekend is the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

More than 19,000 religious, (mostly sisters and nuns) have less than 20% of the amount needed for the projected costs of living and health care as they age. Please be generous in today's appeal.

Due to this archdiocesan second collection, the collection for Parish Support usually taken up this weekend will be taken up next weekend.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FROM FR. BOB

The Season of Advent has begun and our progress through this time to Christmas is going to speed by. I want to thank in a special way all those who offered their reflections at the Advent Prayer Services this past week. The attendance was low but the spirit and energy was high. Each speaker contributed in a grace-filled way and I am so grateful. At Ste. Marguerite's for the help by sacristans, lectors and music ministries, Ed Lamontagne, Deacon Everett Penny and Joan Donnelly. At St. Francis for Collette Piche, Wake Sauls and Sharon Smart.

This weekend the Generations of Faith program will be held at St. Francis and I am looking forward to the event. Next week, at both parishes, the Parish Council, Finance Committee and Staffs will gather for a special meeting to address some of the important issues of the parishes. Monday is the day for Ste. Marguerite and Wednesday evening for St. Francis. Please keep us in your prayers as we vision, evaluate and make some important decisions as we move forward as a parish community in both places.

I want to invite you to two special events: the first is the RECTORY OPEN HOUSE, to be held next Sunday, December 16th, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at St. Francis Rectory – our new home. Allowing us to welcome you into our home is a pleasure and privilege and we hope you will take a few minutes of your busy Sunday afternoon to drop by and visit our home, have a little bit of “cheer” and optionally help us decorate our tree with an ornament. The second moment is the ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE, a joint moment of prayer for both parishes to be held on Monday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Church. Advent is a time of preparation – for the Lord as well as Christmas events, so we hope you can give a few minutes to “prepare” for Christmas through the sacrament of reconciliation.

There is a lot of work that happens behind the scenes in the parish over the coming few weeks – decorating, music preparation, food distribution through St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Giving Tree gifts and much more. Please just take a few minutes each day, perhaps even as you get up or just before getting into bed, to thank God for Christmas – not all the hectic lifestyle, but for CHRIST – the Incarnation and the reason for the feast.

God bless you all.

Fr. Bob



600 CLUB DRAWING THIS SUNDAY

Ste. Marguerite d'Youville 600 Club Drawing for December will take place this Sunday, at 9:00 a.m. Please join us in the Parish Hall for a Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Door prize for this drawing is \$50.00. You must be present to win door prize.



You can play BINGO in a SMOKE-FREE environment every Tuesday in the Parish Hall beginning at 6:45 p.m. Doors open at 3:00 p.m. and delicious homemade food is available between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

ST. LOUIS SCHOOL MEMORIAL GIFT PROGRAM

Donations to the Memorial Gift Program of St. Louis School are wonderful extensions of your love and concern when you want to remember a friend or loved one. Contributing to these various funds provides satisfaction in knowing that you are helping shape the educational and moral future of our school children. Gifts can be made in times of bereavement as a perpetual remembrance, for birthdays, anniversaries, graduation, illness or thinking of you. These donations are often given in lieu of other gifts or flowers. Families of those honored will be notified and will be remembered in our prayers and newsletter. The amount of your gift is never disclosed. If you have any questions or concern, please call the school at 978-458-7594.

ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER

An Advent Day of Prayer is being offered at San Damiano House of Prayer – 333 Pawtucket St. in Lowell on Saturday, December 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This day will include input, time for reflection and sharing. Suggested donation is \$25.00 and lunch will be included. To register, call 978-441-0988.



St. Joseph the Worker Shrine presents “Ring the Bells of Christmas”, a concert by Lowell's own Spindle City Singers, directed by Mr. Normand L. Ayotte, next Sunday, December 16, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. There is no charge for admission but a free will offering would be appreciated to help defray the costs associated with the concert. All are invited.

HOLY TRINITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Just in time for late shoppers! Holy Trinity Parish will hold its annual Silver Bells Christmas Fair this coming Saturday, December 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at their Parish Hall – 340 High St. in Lowell. Fair includes crafts, fresh green centerpieces, gift items, baked goods as well as Polish and American food.

FRANCO AMERICAN SCHOOL LAUNCHES ITS 100 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Come and celebrate with us on Monday, December 31, as we enter our 100 year of educational commitment and service to the Greater Lowell area. Join us for a *reveillon* (French meaning “stay awake to celebrate”) from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Our celebration will begin with a bilingual Mass in the school chapel followed by entertainment and refreshments in the historic Ayer mansion. All are welcome.

PMA OPEN HOUSE – Pre-K to 8

The Presentation of Mary Academy in Hudson, NH will hold an open house and information session on Friday, January 11, 2008 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. PMA provides a nurturing, co-ed environment for students in grades PreK to 8, offering excellent academics rooted in the traditions and values of the Catholic Faith. For more information, please contact June Nolet at 603-889-6054.

DECEMBER 9, 2007



MASS INTENTIONS

This Weekend – December 8 & 9

Saturday

4:00 p.m. Victor & Daisy Tremblay
7:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Tanguay Family

Sunday

7:30 a.m. Catherine Gamache
9:00 a.m. Dorothy Barker (3rd Ann.)
11:00 a.m. Thomas Waterworth, Sr. (32nd Ann.)

Weekday Masses

Monday 7:30 a.m. Maria Polites (26th Ann.)
Tuesday 7:30 a.m. Parish Intention
Wednesday 7:30 a.m. Kerry Ann McGann (23rd Ann.)
Thursday 7:30 a.m. Ann Adamski
Friday 7:30 a.m. Ann Adamski
Saturday 7:30 a.m. Christopher Vieira

Next Weekend – December 15 & 16

Saturday

4:00 p.m. Herve & Ella Ste. Marie
7:00 p.m. Germaine Martin & Susan Santa Maria

Sunday

7:30 a.m. Marcel Painchaud
9:00 a.m. Fernando & Laura Morrissette
11:00 a.m. Lillian Provencher (3rd Ann.)

PPC, FINANCE & STAFF MEETING

A joint meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Committee and Parish Staff will take place at 7:00 p.m. this Monday, December 10, 2007 in the Parish Center Hall.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

In an attempt to facilitate communication in our parish, the members of these two committees are at your service and are willing to receive your concerns. Please do not assume that they can answer your question, but they are willing to listen and bring it to the next meeting.

Parish Pastoral Council

Deacon Gerard Hardy	deac96@comcast.net
Deacon Everett Penney	e.penney@comcast.net
Paul Bergeron	978-453-2020
Christine Carignan	978-453-3385
Daniel Dery	978-454-7223
Joshua Dery	firestata16@hotmail.com
Roma Fauvel	978-957-6486
John McGann	978-957-1429
Rita Moore	978-459-8464
Joanne M. Murphy	978-957-4558
Judie Plourde	978-957-6924

Finance Committee

Kathleen Patenaude	978-957-0538 (Chair)
Robert Audet	978-957-3112
Roland N. Toupin	978-957-1733
Lauren Dery	978-454-7223
Tom Waterworth	978-957-0664