



**NOTHING NEW TO SAY**

A prophet with nothing new to say - how can that be? Think for a moment about John the Baptist. John's ministry called the children of Israel to repentance, a message they had heard for centuries. John spoke of the Messiah, the great gift from God who had been promised for so many years. John called people away from wickedness and back to living a righteous life. And not one of these messages was new.

What John did was remind people of things they already knew. Even when he rebuked people for the sins in their lives, John spoke secrets their hearts already knew. Each seeker could have named the sin in their own lives if they only had enough courage to face their failings and their God. You see a message doesn't have to be new to be powerful. John's ministry was effective because He called people back to God from the banks of the Jordan and the river bank of your life today. What will you answer?

**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 **Ste. 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!



**CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve**

**Ste. Marguerite's**

**4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

**St. Louis School Center**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Mass with  
Children's Pageant and Choir**

**Christmas Day**

**Ste. Marguerite's**

**8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**



**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 takes place on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Center. If you are interested in being part of this program, please call the Parish Office at 978-957-0322.**



St. Joseph the Worker Shrine presents "The Song of Christmas", the Christmas story in song, a concert by Lowell's own Spindle City Singers, directed by Mr. Normand L. Ayotte, next Sunday, December 20, 2009 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.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

Each year at Christmas and Easter, parishioners across the Archdiocese are asked to look deep within their hearts in support of our priests' retirement, medical and financial needs. Therefore, this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the collection requested throughout the Archdiocese will be for just this need.

This year with Christmas being on a Friday, your support for the parish should be made at the usual parish offertory collection taken up at the regularly scheduled weekend Masses.



**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.



**OFFERINGS**

Offertory Collection:	\$3,864.00
Monthly Parish Support:	\$2,319.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$926.00
Grand Annual to Date:	\$36,427.00

## Thank You

A special Thank You to everyone who helped with last Sunday's Children's Christmas Party. Because of your hard work, everyone who came had a wonderful, memorable time. Thank you especially to Lauren Dery, her committee, all volunteers and of course, our special guest, Santa Claus!



### 600 CLUB DRAWING THIS SUNDAY

Ste. Marguerite d'Youville 600 Club Drawing for December will take place this Sunday, December 13, 2009 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.

### FUEL ASSISTANCE

You could be eligible for fuel assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). A flier with the Maximum Income Preliminary Benefit Levels is available at the rear of the church. For more information, contact the Dracut Senior Center or Community Teamwork in Lowell.



### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### **THIS SUNDAY - Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS**

Parish Center Hall

We're having a Birthday Party- 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Cake, Ice Cream, and Games - Please bring a gift, wrapped or unwrapped for someone your age and gender. Gifts received will be donated to the children in need from Catholic Charities. Gifts should be \$10.00 & under.

### SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE

The annual Christmas Festival of Lights at La Salette Shrine in Attleboro, MA will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. between now and January 5, 2010.

The Christmas Festival of Light is a gift from the La Salette Missionaries to God's people. There are over 300,000 lights celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. Parking and admission is free. You should allow three hours for your visit to the Shrine. See the outdoor manger and the International Display of Nativities with over 400 new crèches. Cafeteria and Gift Shop on site.



### SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL

#### **SAVINGS! SAVINGS! SAVINGS!**

Doesn't everyone need a little extra savings at this time of the year? St. Louis School will be selling Discount Cards after each Mass on December 19 and 20. The discount cards are \$10.00 each and are valid for the entire 2010 year at many local businesses on a variety of services. For more information, please contact Saint Louis School at 978-458-7594. Thank you for your support.

#### **Special Opportunity for IRA Gifts Available But Only Through December 31, 2009**

Between now and December 31, 2009, you could make a gift to Ste. Marguerite d'Youville Parish far bigger than you ever thought possible.

You can make the gift of a lifetime by giving from your IRA to the parish without federal tax penalty. So your retirement funds can go further than ever before.

This is good news for parishioners who want to make a charitable gift during their lifetime from their retirement assets, but have been discouraged from doing so because of the income tax penalty.

Here's what it takes to qualify for this tax advantage:

- Be 70 and a half years or older
- Have an IRA – whether traditional or Roth
- Want to make a charitable gift up to \$100,000
- Make the gift by December 31, 2009

For more information and for sample forms to use in making the gift, call Richard Ely at The Catholic Foundation at 617-779-3702 or email [Richard\\_Ely@rcab.org](mailto:Richard_Ely@rcab.org). Or visit our website [www.CatholicLegacySociety.org](http://www.CatholicLegacySociety.org).

### 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](mailto:Sr_Marian_Batho@rcab.org).

**DECEMBER 13, 2009**

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**BREAD AND WINE**

This week, at all Masses, the gift of Bread and Wine is given in memory of **Leo and Bernadette Hebert**. Please remember them in your prayers.

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 at 978-957-0322 to schedule this special memorial.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

***We are now taking Mass intentions for January through June 2010. Please call the Parish Office with your intentions.***

**This Weekend – December 12 & 13**

**Saturday**

4:00 p.m. Pauline Geoffroy

**Sunday**

7:30 a.m. Florence Berard (2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.)

9:00 a.m. Emilie Ferron

11:00 a.m. Lillian Provencher (5<sup>th</sup> Ann.)

**Weekday Masses**

Monday 7:30 a.m. Laura & Fernando Morrissette

Tuesday 7:30 a.m. Doris Eno

Wednesday 7:30 a.m. Holly Sullivan

Thursday 7:30 a.m. Helen Taylor

Friday 7:30 a.m. Dorothy Barker

Saturday 7:30 a.m. Shirley Marchand

**Next Weekend – December 19 & 20**

**Saturday**

4:00 p.m. Leo Morrissette (5<sup>th</sup> Ann.)

**Sunday**

7:30 a.m. Marcel (Red) Painchaud (16<sup>th</sup> Ann.)

9:00 a.m. Arthur Gagnon (2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.)

Therese Gagnon (1<sup>st</sup> Ann.)

11:00 a.m. Louis R. Boucher

**SNOWBIRDS**

Several people have expressed a desire to continue using offertory envelopes when they spend the winter months in Florida.

If you plan on being away for the winter months and would like to continue using your parish envelopes, please call the Parish Office with your winter address and your envelopes will be mailed there. In March we will automatically transfer them to your local address.