

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

856 WASHINGTON STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 02184

Parish Office Phone: 781-843-1332 • Fax: 781-848-0976 • Website: [www.sfab.org](http://www.sfab.org)

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



**Pastoral Staff:** Rev. Paul Clifford, Pastor  
Rev. Donald Delay, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Robert Milling, Senior Priest in Residence  
Mrs. Linda Muldoon, Pastoral Associate  
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Director of Music  
Mr. Brian Cote, School Principal, 781-848-0842  
Mrs. Diane Hopkins, Religious Education, 781-848-3238  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli, Religious Education, 781-848-3238

**Parish Office:** Mr. Rick Timmerman, Business Manager  
Miss Patty Kinnally, Office Manager

**Mass Schedule:** Saturday Evening – 4:00 PM  
Sunday – 7:00, 9:30 and 11:30 AM  
Weekday – Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday – 2:30 to 3:45 PM

**Sacrament of Marriage:** A minimum of ten months notice is required. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a hall.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** First and Third Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM.  
Please call the Parish Office to register.

**Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls:** Please notify the Parish Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness.

**Community Meetings:** School Hall Alcoholics Anonymous – Friday 8:00 PM

**Food Pantry:** Thursdays – please call the Parish Office one day in advance.

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, July 23, 2016

4:00 PM Edward O'Leary & Jeremiah O'Leary Memorial

## Sunday, July 24, 2016

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

9:30 AM Patricia Salvaggio Memorial

11:30 AM Madeline Wilson 100th Birthday

## Monday, July 25, 2016

7:00 AM Charlotte Birsinger Memorial

## Tuesday, July 26, 2016

7:00 AM Charles Romer Memorial

## Wednesday, July 27, 2016

7:00 AM Lucilla Ruiz Special Intention

## Thursday, July 28, 2016

7:00 AM Esther Breslin Anniversary

## Friday, July 29, 2016

7:00 AM Richard Keane Memorial

## Saturday, July 30, 2016

4:00 PM Santa & Pasquale Iannello Memorial

## Sunday, July 31, 2016

7:00 AM

9:30 AM Thomas Glynn Anniversary

11:30 AM John O'Sullivan Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:  
Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—70%

If you are interested in the Online Giving option to simplify your weekly contributions please contact the parish office.

## Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 4,545.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,433.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,003.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 7,981.00</b>

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH WHEN PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!**



**Summer Evenings of Prayer...** The first of two planned collaborative evenings of prayer takes place **THIS Wednesday, July 27 at 7PM in St. Francis of Assisi Church.** Take a break from the heat, cool off in our air-conditioned church, nourish your soul, renew a friendship, and enjoy some refreshments. Come alone, invite a friend, bring the family, all are welcome! For more information, please call Linda at 781.843.1332. **The second evening of prayer will take place at St. Clare on August 17.**

### Readings for the Week of July 24, 2016

Sunday: Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-3, 6-8/Col 2:12-14/  
Lk 11:1-13

Monday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1-6/Mt 20:20-28

Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8-11, 13/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18/  
Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1-6/Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Jn 11:19-27 or  
Lk 10:38-42

Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/  
Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/  
Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21



**"Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence." - Lk 11:5b, 7a, 8**



*From the desk of the  
Pastoral Associate  
Mrs. Linda Muldoon*



Having just completed a “staycation” where our typical household of 2 adults expanded to include 5 (grand) children and anywhere from 1 to 5 additional adults, I am struggling a bit with returning to my usual routine! In the wonderful busyness of planning and enjoying meals and activities together and of remaining open to what the day might bring, my usual prayer routine became more fluid as well. In today’s Gospel, when the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, he teaches them the prayer we know as the “Our Father” and instructs them to bring their needs to God. If you are feeling disconnected or distracted, perhaps the article below, reprinted with permission from the **University of Creighton Online Ministries Home Page/Praying Ordinary Time Home Page** will be of **help to you**.

### **Beginning Again: Talking With God**

We have good intentions and resolves and one thing so many of us want is a deeper relationship with God. It is a longing that comes from our hearts but we don’t always know what to do with it. Below are a few hints and resources to get us started – or re-started – talking to God. It sounds simple, so why does it get complicated? The good news is that God is the one who really wants to talk with us. God wants us to feel that he loves us with a bottomless love and is just waiting to listen to anything we want to say. Further proof of this good news: It was God who sparked our hearts to make us want to respond to him in a newer way. What is standing in our way?

### ***I just don’t know where to begin.***

We can reflect on our prayer and what we mean by prayer. Sometimes the most difficult journey in prayer is the short distance from our heads to our hearts. We might enjoy reading theology and spirituality books and websites, but it can draw us into *concepts* and *ideas* about God rather than feeling in our hearts how much we are loved by God. The shift in focus happens when we move from “saying prayers” to praying in the sense of entering into a close, personal relationship, which centers on a sense of closeness, accompaniment and intimacy. Prayer is really just conversation with someone who loves us more than we can imagine. What do we want to thank God for? What do we worry about? What are we facing today? What do we want to ask of God? Speak, then listen.

### **I don’t have a minute free all day – when can I possibly pray?**

Spending 30 minutes in silent meditation is wonderful, but most of us can’t do that in our lives. But we all can find small “in-between” moments in our lives when we can find a greater intimacy with God. It means looking for the tiniest spaces in our day when we can simply lift our hearts to God. St. Ignatius encouraged his followers to be “Contemplatives in Action,” “seeking and finding intimacy with God, in all things,” and we can do that by continually tucking small prayer spaces into our days. Developing this pattern in our days can help us feel accompanied by God all day long.

### **Here are a few suggestions. Which ones might work for me today?**

- Brushing teeth is something we do every day for a few minutes. If we transform that time into a simple dialog with God, it can begin and end our day in prayer.
- A drive in the car can become a brief retreat if we turn off the radio and use that time to have a conversation with God.
- A regular shower or bath time can be the perfect, undistracted spot to connect with the One who loves us.
- We can pray walking to a meeting, crossing a street or heading into a store.
- As we reach to answer a phone, a 2 second prayer for the person calling can change my interaction with the caller.
- If we find our mind wanders, gently transform it into a prayer by saying to God, “I am distracted by the meeting I have today. Let me tell you what I am worried about.” Or, “I can tell I am preoccupied by my relationship problems with my brother. Please give me the grace to forgive him.” We can take our distractions to God and ask for help.
- Ask, “Where is my focus, on me or on God?”

### **SFA/SC Bereavement Group Summer Reunion...**

Because of vacation schedules and renovations to the SFA church hall kitchen, we have not yet (and may not be able to) set a date. Please consider attending the Evenings of Prayer as a wonderful way to re-connect with the Lord and with one another. If you are struggling over the loss of a loved one, please feel free to call the parish office.



**As you plan your summer vacation** here is something to pack in your suitcase along with your sunscreen, or in your smart phone! **To find the Mass closest to your location, visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org).** When you make your reservations, please remember to reserve some time for the Lord!

## Parish Info and events of note...



From  
Mr. Brian Cote  
Principal

- **Prayer Shawls...** will resume again in September. Newcomers, novices and experts are always welcome!
- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry...** We are open Thursdays from 10AM-12NN and 2-4PM. If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.** It begins with a time to ask your questions and discern whether God is calling you to something more. Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Maybe you were baptized but missed the opportunity to receive your first holy communion or be confirmed. Do you hunger, do you thirst for something more? Do you want to learn about the food that endures for eternal life, to taste and see the goodness of the Lord? Maybe you have questions about our faith or your own circumstances. You can reach out to a member of our staff at any time by contacting the parish office or join us for an inquiry session, soon to be scheduled. If the words above do not resonate with you, please pass them along to someone you know who may be interested. God works through us, especially when we pay attention.
- **Visits to the Sick and Homebound...** If you or someone you know cannot attend Mass due to surgery, illness or infirmity, you can request a Communion visit. Our staff and trained home visitors are available and willing to come to you. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **Parish Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the parish prayer line, please call the parish office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is newly deployed and you would like their info to appear on the board, please call or email the parish office. Thank you.

**Miramar Retreat Center's 13th annual "Some Enchanted Evening"** will be held on August 6, 2016, beginning at 5pm at the Miramar Retreat Center, 121 Parks St., Duxbury, MA. Enjoy a social hour, gourmet dinner, silent auction, and music. Bring your family and friends. Proceeds benefit the Miramar Capital Fund. Tickets are \$100 per person. To make reservations, place an ad in the program book, make a donation, or donate an item for the auction, call Miramar Retreat Center at (781) 585-2460. Publication deadline for ads and donations is July 15th. Tickets are limited. Reserve yours before July 26th. Come out to see us, have some fun with friends and at the same time support the mission of Miramar Retreat Center!

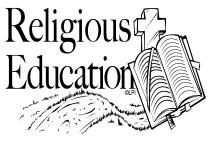


**"School Nurse Position Available"** – St. Francis of Assisi School is currently seeking a full-time nurse to join our school for the 2016 – 2017 academic school year. The school nurse is responsible for maintaining the school's health policies and programs. The primary role is to promote health education and to provide preventative health services to facilitate the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social growth of our students. If interested in applying, please send a letter of interest, resume and license(s) to Brian Cote, St. Francis of Assisi School, 850 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184 or via email at [bcote@sfab.org](mailto:bcote@sfab.org). For more details regarding this position, contact Brian Cote at 7811-848-0842 x12 or via email.

## Enroll Today

St. Francis of Assisi School is now accepting applications for all grade levels for the 2016-17 school year. For more information regarding our admissions procedure, simply visit our school's website ([www.sfab.org](http://www.sfab.org)) or contact us at (781) 848-0842. Are you interested in learning more about what SFA has to offer for your child, its curriculum and extracurricular activities? Arrange your personalized visit/tour with our principal by contacting Brian Cote at (781) 848-0842 x12 or emailing [bcote@sfab.org](mailto:bcote@sfab.org). We look forward to possibly serving your family in the spiritual, academic, and social development of your child.





Mrs. Diane Hopkins  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli  
Phone 781.848.3238

**Finding God in tiny ways...**

As hard as we try to have an orderly and smooth welcome on the first day of Religious Ed classes, confusion seems to walk through the door. Within minutes we assign each child to a classroom and teacher and they get to work deepening their relationship with each other and with God.

No sooner is Mrs. Hopkins back in her office when a young child appears holding back tears. Quick to comfort, she learns this little boy is nervous. His fist is tight to his chest and he is clinging to something. Gently she invites him to let go of his fear. "You are holding something very carefully. May I see?" A smile appears as his hand opens to reveal a tiny green frog. He tells Mrs. Hopkins his father gave it to him who received it from his father. He was told if you hold the frog tightly your fear would go away. Clearly, a feeling of security and **love** has been passed down from generation to generation. No further explanation is needed... this frog is special since it holds within it the reassurance of something bigger than a small piece of metal. *It is pure love in the palm of his hand.* Mrs. Hopkins tells him God exists in the frog because God is present in the love he is feeling. "With God, you are never alone. Trust him."

By divine design and *because this is the only way it can be explained*, Mrs. Petrilli enters the office to this sweet scene. She is introduced to our little disciple and encourages him to share his family treasure. He reaches into his pocket and says confidently, "I love this frog." He doesn't need to tell her why because she can see within it the power of love. Mrs. Petrilli reaches into the pocket of her sweater and pulls out a small rock to share. Like his frog, she carries her own tangible reminder of the love of God. On her rock is engraved one word...**trust**.



No words are necessary now. God is surely present.

With treasured frog safely in his pocket and God in his heart our young disciple decides he will stay with Mrs. Hopkins this week and because of the instant connection he felt to Mrs. Petrilli, he requested to start in her class next week. He had a wonderful year!

We hope you are finding the presence of God in tiny ways too this summer!

**Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.**

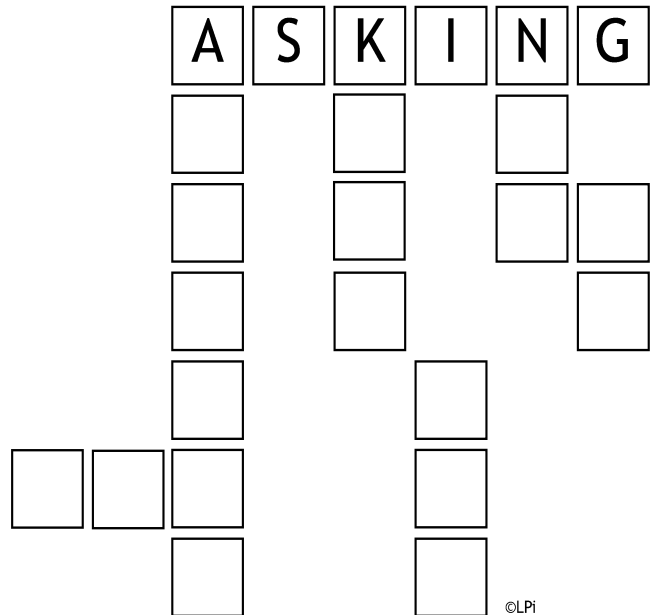
Stay cool and stay close,  
Ronna Petrilli and Diane Hopkins



 **Puzzle**

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

**You are not ashamed to keep on asking.**



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**Sharing the Gospel**

Do you know how to pray? All you need to do is talk to God. He is your loving Father. Tell him how you would like to make him happy. Ask him to give you the things you really need. Ask him to help you forgive other people, just like he forgives you. God loves you, so talk to him often.

**Prayer**

Dear God, thank you for loving me and listening to me.

**Something to Draw**

Draw a picture of your favorite place to talk to God.

**Mission for the Week**

Make time to pray every day this week.



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## From the Archdiocese of Boston



### July 24 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's all about relationships. God was no stranger to Abraham. Abraham's faithfulness and closeness to the Lord made him comfortable enough to bargain back and forth. This conversation wouldn't happen between strangers. Now, look at what Jesus tells us, "ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Keep the lines of communication open between you and God through daily prayer. Prayer, and frequent confession and Eucharist will deepen your relationship with Jesus.

### EMPOWER—BOSTON (9/10/2016)

"Empower" is Youth Ministry training at its best! It will be held on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at St. Francis Parish, Medford Catholic Collaborative. The day will include training for small group facilitation, relational ministry, and middle school ministry; as well as activities for high school ministry, team planning, Mass, lunch and the best praise & worship music. The goal of the day is to help parishes lead teens closer to Jesus Christ! This event is sponsored by the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation and Parish Support, and Life Teen. Registration opens May 1<sup>st</sup> with a discount for early registrations. All priests attend for free!



### 25TH AND 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

His Eminence, Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM invites all couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2016 to the Silver and Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. The Mass will be celebrated on September 25th at 11:30 and will include a renewal of vows. Family members and friends are welcome to attend. For more information and to register, please visit [bostoncatholic.org/WeddingAnniversaryMass](http://bostoncatholic.org/WeddingAnniversaryMass). Please register by September 2 to have your name included in the printed list of anniversary couples. A formal invitation and more information will be mailed to each registered couple in September.



Please join us for a community rosary to be held on the grounds of St. Clare's Church on Sunday July 31, 2016 beginning at 9:15AM. Everyone is invited to attend. We will gather outdoors at the Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and water fall. In the event of inclement weather, we will gather in the sanctuary. The community rosary will be led by the Knights of Columbus Braintree Council as part of the 5th Sunday Rosary Program. A supply of rosary rings and prayer cards on how to pray the rosary will be available.



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Pray for Peace

Peace

SPIRIT OF LIFE,  
 MAY WE SEE THE VALUE OF LIFE.  
 SPIRIT OF HOPE,  
 MAY WE RENEW OUR HOPE IN YOU.  
 SPIRIT OF PEACE,  
 MAY WE FIND PEACE IN YOUR LOVE,  
 AND LOVE EACH OTHER ENOUGH  
 TO BRING YOUR PEACE TO OUR WORLD.  
 AMEN.

Peace

REMEMBERING THOSE AFFECTED BY RECENT VIOLENCE AROUND THE WORLD