

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

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.

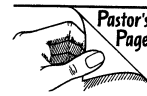
Sacrament of Baptism: First and Third Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM.
Please call the Parish Office to register.

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, September 3, 2016

4:00 PM John McLean Anniversery

Sunday, September 4, 2016

7:00 AM Parishioners Memorial

9:30 AM Hillary Katua and Nicholas Kamuti Memorial

11:30 AM

Monday, September 5, 2016

7:00 AM Herbert & Olive Walbridge Memorial

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

7:00 AM Shirley & Joseph Sopol Memorial

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

7:00 AM Daniel Mahoney Anniversery

Thursday, September 8, 2016

7:00 AM

Friday, September 9, 2016

7:00 AM

Saturday, September 10, 2016

4:00 PM Mary Sawyer Memorial

Sunday, September 11, 2016

7:00 AM Doris Kippenhan Anniversery

9:30 AM Joan Palmer Anniversery

11:30AM John Kyne, James Kelly and Thomas & Katherine Kelly Memorial

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:
Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—69%

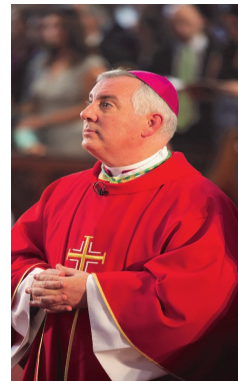
If you are interested in the Online Giving option to simplify your weekly contributions please contact the parish office.

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 5,347.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,994.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,253.75
Total Offertory	\$ 9,594.75

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

My Brothers and Sisters,



WOW! What else can be said about last week's Mass with Bishop Mark O'Connell? My own thanks go to all who worked so hard to make it such a wonderful event. May God's blessing follow "Fr. Mark" along whatever path God may choose to lead him. If you want to send the Bishop a card or note you can send it to him at St. Theresa of Lisieux Parish, 63 Winter Street, North Reading, MA 01864.

Welcome this weekend to Fr. Emmanuel Zinsu, SMA. He will be the celebrant at the 11:30 Mass this Sunday. Fr. Emmanuel was with us 3 years ago and is, simply, one of the finest priests I have ever met.

LABOR DAY: Blessings to all workers, laborers of all kinds, and especially union members and those in the trades. Blessings to all who own and operate small businesses and to the self-employed.

There are also so many people these days who are unemployed and underemployed. Both those who work and those who are deprived of it appreciate the gift it is.

In our Catholic understanding, we treasure the value of work as both a gift and duty entrusted to us by God right from the Creation. Our daily work is the primary way we serve God and glorify Him. Whether it is the chores we do without complaint because Mommy and Daddy have assigned them to us, our first teenage job, the work we do as adults or, retired, the simple prayers and tasks of an ordinary daily routine, we labor—not only for ourselves but for family, the community, the world, and to glorify God.

Happy Labor Day to one and all!!!!

MISSION APPEAL UPDATES:

I. FR. THOMAS OTIENO, SMA Many thanks for your generous offerings to Fr. Thomas—our Summer guest and new friend! His needs in Zambia are great—especially for his "kids" as he calls them.

II. LOUISIANA FLOODS Up next is this Sunday's optional collection for on-going relief efforts in Louisiana. I've been in touch with Mr. David Aguilar—Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities in Baton Rouge. There is so much devastation there; rebuilding will continue for months and, in some cases years. Whatever you can do to help is appreciated. Ushers will receive your offerings on the way out of church. (Checks to St. Francis Parish with LA or Louisiana on the memo line.)

III. FR. JAMES OJO. My friend Fr. James will visit with us for a “mini-appeal.” He will be with us on Labor Day morning at the 9AM Mass. He will speak after Communion. In brief: the seminary with which he used to be affiliated in his diocese (Idah) in Nigeria had a fire. The library was burned to the ground. He has been busy assembling books but now needs to ship them (expensive!). If you can help, come to the 7 AM Mass on Labor Day (or the 9 AM at St. Clare). You are also welcome to send a gift to the Parish House. Checks, as always, payable to ST. FRANCIS PARISH, with “FR. JAMES” or “NIGERIA” on the memo line.

IV. Later in the month comes our Annual Mission Appeal that we are required to take up on behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

I realize this is a lot, and I don’t expect every parishioner to commit to every appeal. Many thanks for your prayerful consideration.

Finally, “Save the date” also for our Grand Annual Appeal. Our goal is to distribute the Parish Financial Report in the next few weeks, meet with the Finance Council at the end of September, and send the Grand Annual Appeal right before Columbus Day.

In His service and yours,
Fr. Paul Clifford



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



My reflection for last week’s bulletin reflection was written on Tuesday, August 23, prior to the ordination of our 2 new bishops for the Archdiocese of Boston. In it, Bishop Mark O’Connell characterized himself: **“I’ve always been a happy priest; I plan on being a happy bishop.”** I then commented that he has always also been a humble priest and will be a humble bishop.

Well... on the day of ordination, as guests entered the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, some of our group from SFA remained outside on the plaza to enjoy the beautiful weather. A large, chartered bus pulled up to the curb, and passengers began to disembark. I recognized many folks who work at the Pastoral Center.

And then... soon-to-be Bishop Mark O’Connell stepped off the bus along with Fr. Kevin Sepe and Fr. Paul Soper, his “best men” (aka his handlers, his bodyguards) for the day, charged with the responsibility to have Bishop Mark where he needed to be, when he needed to be there, and with what he needed to have with him. They were his “men in black,” took their job very seriously, and did not expect their charge to deviate from the straight path into the Cathedral!



But... he did. Bishop Mark saw two individuals with protest signs standing quietly to his right. He went over to them and spent several minutes in conversation. Fr. Sepe and Fr. Soper watched from a distance until Bishop Mark began to move toward them.



Only... he then took the time to greet us and other folks he recognized before finally heading inside. The Episcopal Ordination was filled with pageantry, reverence, music and joy—so many beautiful sights and sounds! But an image that will remain with me for a long time is that of Bishop Mark O’Connell taking a moment to put the protestors ahead of his schedule, to courteously and respectfully affirm the inherent worth and acknowledge the dignity of the uninvited guests. In Bishop Mark’s humility, in the joy of that day, and in his ministry as bishop, many have been and will be invited to meet Jesus the Messiah.

Bereavement Ministry

The SFA/SC Bereavement Group is for those who have lost of a loved one and are looking for a faith-based, caring, and confidential environment to share your grief and perhaps learn from the experiences of others. We begin Tuesday, September 13 from 1 – 2:30PM in the church hall and will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays into the month of December. Please call 781.843.1332 for more information.



Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” - Lk 14:28, 33

Parish Info and events of note...



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal



- **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.
- **Prayer Shawls...** will resume again Tuesday, September 13 at 7PM and Thursday, September 22. Newcomers, novices and experts are always welcome!
- **SFA/SC Bereavement Group** will resume in the fall. Please call the SFA 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.



The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 5
in observance of Labor Day.
Have a SAFE and happy long weekend.

Welcome Back! The school bells are about to ring to mark the beginning of the 2015 – 2016 academic school year at SFA. Our school is ready and truly looks fantastic. Our faculty has returned and their classrooms have been attractively decorated, eagerly awaiting the arrival of our students.

School begins on Wednesday, September 7th for students in grades 1 – 8. The first couple of days (Wednesday and Thursday), will be early dismissal days at 11:30 a.m., with faculty meetings and professional development opportunities in the afternoons. Our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs will begin on Monday, September 12th.

Substitute Teachers Needed – As another school year begins, we are in need of individuals who may be interested in being placed on our substitute teacher list. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Connie Daly, our school secretary at 781-848-0842, ext. 10 or by email at cdaly@sfab.org.

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) or contact us at (781) 848-0842. Are you interested 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. We look forward to possibly serving your family in the spiritual, academic, and social development of your child.



Catechist – *noun* - a teacher of the principles of Christian religion, teacher of the Catholic faith by word and example. Seven reasons why you may want to be a catechist:



- You are a Catholic
 - You love your faith
 - You enjoy being with children and young people
 - You love meeting new people
 - You would like to contribute to the parish
 - You want to share your faith with others
- You want to learn more about your faith

Do you feel unqualified? So did the prophets, apostles and saints.

Is God calling you to be a catechist? Call Diane or Ronna to meet and discuss what being a catechist is all about. Pray!

For more information about being a catechist, please visit www.eCatechist.com.

Registration Forms – due now. Registrations are on our website at www.sfab.org. Just click on the Religious Education Program window and then click on the Class Times tab. The icons are at the bottom of the page for the Registration Form for Grades 1-8 and the Registration Form for Grades 9 & 10.

Please note that the Grade 9 & 10 Confirmation program is a separate program with a separate registration form and fee schedule.

If you prefer to have a registration form mailed, please let us know.

We will also be sending out reminders on our Connect Ed. System prior to the start of each class with more detailed information.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 781-848-3238 or dhopkins@sfab.org or rpetrilli@sfab.org

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Stay Close and God Bless,
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|
| DISCIPLE | WIFE | SISTER |
| FATHER | CHILDREN | LIFE |
| MOTHER | BROTHER | CROSS |

C R O S S U L I F E
P S D N O F Y W A N
T W I F E B U I T L
M D S A S T O W H R
O A C H I L D R E N
T I I T S H E F R I
H R P S T I N G Y O
E U L W E L D W N T
R Y E B R O T H E R
O U S I T D W N F I

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Sharing the Gospel

Living God's way can be very hard for some people. Name the people in your family. Can you love God more than you love your family? Name some of your friends. Can you love God more than you love your friends? Name your favorite books, movies or toys. Can you love God more than those things? It is OK to love your family, have good friends, and enjoy the gifts God has given you. Just remember to love God first.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to love you more than anyone or anything else.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of a heart. Inside the heart, draw all the people and things you love.

Mission for the Week

Say a special prayer to God today. Thank him for your family, your friends, and for all the things God has given you to enjoy.

September 4 ~ Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jesus doesn't mince words as he describes the cost of discipleship. His disciples - us! - really need to be dedicated to the mission. In dramatic language, he tells us that nothing should stand in the way of discipleship. And, oh, by the way, discipleship is demanding – sacrifice is involved, possibly persecution and suffering. Pray today for the many Christians around the world who are persecuted and killed for being followers of Jesus. In an article in *First Things*, religion reporter John Allan estimates that there are: "150,000 martyrs every year, meaning 17 deaths every hour". Some people would do anything to be able to come to Mass and receive Eucharist. We have it easy. We dare not take it for granted.

CLERGY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT COLLECTION

In two weeks, the diocese-wide collection will support the health and well-being of our 614 Boston priests. Our priests are always there for us; they share Christ's good news, joyfully perform good works, and spread good faith to all they encounter. Show your gratitude by giving generously to the collection on September 17/18. You may also make your gift online at clergytrust.org or simply text the word **PRIEST** to 56512 (msg. & data rates may apply). Thank you in advance for your prayers and generous support of our priests through the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust.

MEETING CHRIST IN PRAYER is an 8-week guided prayer experience based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, calling for a commitment of daily prayer and faith sharing. The Office of Spiritual Life will offer this program at the Pastoral Center on Wednesday evenings, Sept. 21 through Nov. 9 from 7-8:15PM. To learn more, please call Sister Anne D'Arcy at 617-779-3648 or email sdarcy@rcab.org.



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. 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.



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Friends of the Unborn need your help!
Please help our brave women! We need your help this month to continue providing for the courageous mothers living here at "Friends of the Unborn." With your financial support, we are able to help young women protect the precious life they carry, while showing them a path to self-reliance through love, education and spiritual guidance. The summer months are when our ministry needs your support the most. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation to "Friends of the Unborn," Box 692246, Quincy, MA 02269 or via PayPal at www.friendsoftheunborn.org. May God bless you.

35th Annual Lawn Party to benefit Seminarians

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston is hosting its 35th Annual Lawn Party on Wednesday, September 28th, at 6:00 P.M. on the grounds of the seminary. This premiere fundraising event is hosted this year by Bishop Robert Reed. The evening will include a reception and dinner with music. Located on Route 30 in Weston, the seminary prepares second career candidates, men over the age of 30, for priesthood. The proceeds from the Lawn Party help to keep tuition costs affordable. For ticket information, please call the Pope St. John XXIII Development Office at 781-899-5500, or visit their website www.psj.edu/lawn-party. You can make a difference and encourage the vocations of these men through your support of the Lawn Party.

Explore your Catholic High School options at a multi-school fair hosted by Archbishop Williams on Sunday, September 18th from 11:00-1:00 (80 Independence Avenue, Braintree). For more information contact Brett Marcotte -- bmarcotte@awhs.org.

Readings for the Week of September 4, 2016

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-6, 12-17/
Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33
Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-7, 12/Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-17/
Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6/
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3-6, 12/
Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/
Lk 6:43-49
Next Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17,
19/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10