

# 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, November 26, 2016

4:00 PM Joannie Hill Anniversery

### Sunday, November 27, 2016

7:00 AM Edward & Marie Neary Memorial

9:30 AM Philip Fasano, Sr. Anniversery

11:30 AM John Curran, Sr. & John Curran, Jr. Anniversery

### Monday, November 28, 2016

7:00 AM Annie Mullen Memorial

### Tuesday, November 29, 2016

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

### Wednesday, November 30, 2016

7:00 AM

### Thursday, December 1, 2016

8:00 AM Margaret "Maggie" MacDonald Month's Mind

### Friday, December 2, 2016

7:00 AM Patricia Chuckran Spec. Intention

### Saturday, December 3, 2016

4:00 PM Joseph Stanton Anniversery

### Sunday, December 4, 2016

7:00 AM George Kippenhan Anniversery

9:30 AM Josephine Dwyer Anniversery

11:30AM Karen Goguen Anniversery

**Information not available due to an early bulletin deadline for Thanksgiving weekend.**

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

## Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$
Offertory/Loose	\$
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,253.75
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>

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

My Brothers and Sisters,

**COME LORD JESUS!**

This ancient Christian cry, which concludes the Book of Revelation and points to the end of all things, is also an appropriate prayer for the Season of Advent that begins today. Welcome to Liturgical Year 2017!

The Season of Advent is almost forgotten in the rush of Christmas commercialism and in the way our secular society celebrates holidays. In our culture the anticipation of our holidays is considered part of their celebration. There is a build-up to "the day" that grows in intensity culminating in an explosion of celebration and activity. Then it is DONE! December 26th, July 5th, the day after Memorial Day; back to school/work.

By contrast, the Church begins the season of celebrating our holidays on the day. The lead-up to the Feast can include some minor celebration—more anticipation, really. There is a growth in intensity, yes, but it proceeds from the work of spiritual preparation.

These two modes of celebrating are opposed, and giving appropriate attention to both is a bit of an art. Some ideas:

**ADVENT WREATH:** Yes, we have one in church but these really belong in homes. Procure and use one to the extent you can in your household.

**ADVENT CALENDARS:** Especially for kids, these can be helpful in combining celebration and anticipation.

**CONFESSION:** I'm pretty sure you'll be cleaning up the house for Holiday celebrations. Take time to put your spiritual house in order too.

**PLAN HOW YOU WILL CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:** The Christmas Season in the Church begins on December 25. It technically concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (this year, Monday January 9). Our more ancient and still-venerable tradition was "The Twelve Days of Christmas" from December 25 to the Feast of the Epiphany or "Little Christmas" on January 6. The Christmas Season includes "The Feast of [St.] Stephen" 12/26, St. John's Day 12/27, the Holy Innocents 12/28, New Year's/Mary, Mother of God 1/1, and, of course, Epiphany (you can observe it on January 6, in the U.S. the bishops move it to the Sunday so it will be January 8 this year).

Choose to learn more about just one or another of these days and highlight it appropriately. Any prayer, gesture, or moment of charity or festival beyond December 25 can strengthen our faith and sense of Christ as central.

**COME, LORD JESUS!**

In His service and yours,  
*Fr. Paul Clifford*



From the desk of the  
Pastoral Associate  
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



**What about that Advent Wreath?** After a conversation this morning, we invite those of you who use an Advent Wreath as part of your celebration of the season to bring your wreath to be blessed during the Masses **next** Sunday, December 4. And if your wreath is cumbersome or so situated in your home that it is difficult to bring it to Mass, please consider bringing even just one of its candles instead. For those of you unfamiliar with the concept, simply Google "Advent Wreath."

The following is from (and much more is available at) *Praying Advent*, on Creighton University's *Online Ministries* web site: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>. Excerpts used with permission.

It happens every year, as predictably as drawing up a shopping list, decorating the tree and planning the Christmas Dinner. Every year we think, "Now THIS is the year when I really will enter into Advent." And there it stays. Nothing happens. We know in our hearts that Advent can be more than a "pre-Christmas" season, more than those four weeks of getting ready for the Big Day on December 25th. We sit in Church and hear the different readings, the darkness and the promise of hope.

What if this Advent, we allow ourselves to imagine a life that is different? What if our hearts were at peace and our lives more satisfying? That longing in the most hidden corners of our hearts is something holy, a Holy Longing, a desire for a deeper relationship with God.

We might squirm at that and stammer all of the excuses we know: "Not now. I'm really busy. I'm not a very holy person. I'm going to get to a serious relationship with God as soon as my kids are gone... when I don't have to care for my parents; when I get the promotion at work; when we move to a new house." There are dozens of ways we can evade the issue, but still, that longing is there for something more.

Advent is a time to recognize both our holy longing and the healing love God has for us, despite the many barriers we put up between ourselves and God. We can start simply and just rest at the edge of our beds in the mornings, open our hands and whisper, "Come, Lord Jesus!" If we let ourselves feel what is in our hearts, we know they are filled with love. We can carry that experience with us as we go through even the busiest of our days. We may not know exactly where to begin or how to fill this longing in our hearts but it is simple. God waits with infinite love and with arms outstretched to meet us. The words we say don't matter. We

can speak as if God is a friend we have not seen in a long time, but one with whom we can sit in a comfortable silence. It's just about taking the first step. Even if we are fearful about this next step, we can say to God what is in our hearts. In this Advent season, it's time to risk, to make the first step, to find our way back home.



Our Advent Giving Tree begins THIS Weekend (November 26-27). Our Christian Service Commission needs your help in providing gifts for many families who are unable to purchase even essentials for Christmas gifts. You can

help in any of the following ways.

- 1) Take a tag from the tree and purchase a requested item.
  - \* If you take a tag from the tree, please **look at it before you leave church** to be certain that you are willing and able to purchase at least some of the gifts listed there. If not—simply return it to the tree and take a different card that more suits your mindset and your budget. If someone has listed a basketball, please do not substitute a board game. (Seriously—this happens!)
  - \* Please check to see if the organization sponsoring the card has requested that you wrap the gift(s). If the tag says **do not wrap**, you can still help everyone involved in sorting and organizing by placing your purchase in a gift bag so that our volunteers can easily check the contents.
  - \* Please **securely attach the tag** you take from the tree to the outside of the bag or package. The tags are coded by color and number and we need them back so that your gift reaches the correct organization and recipient.
  - \* All gifts should be returned (left under the tree) **no later than** December 12.
- 2) If you are unable to shop, you can make a monetary donation [**do not take a tag**] and members of the Christian Service Commission will do the shopping and wrapping for you. You may place your donation in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Advent Giving Tree Program." Checks should be made payable to St. Francis of Assisi with "Giving Tree" on the Memo line.
- 3) If you would like to "adopt" an entire family for Christmas, please contact Kate Waldron at 781-848-5233 or [katewaldron@verizon.net](mailto:katewaldron@verizon.net).

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.





Wedding Banns

Andrew Price & Nancy Conner II



## Parish Info and events of note...

- **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...** next meets Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00PM in the St. Francis church hall. If you knit or crochet or would like to learn—in an atmosphere of soft music, prayer and quiet conversation, please give us a try! 
- **SFA/SC Bereavement Group** Tuesday, December 13 at 1PM in the St. Francis church hall for an early celebration of Christmas. Plans include a prayer service, luncheon, and a Yankee swap. Our twice monthly sessions will resume in February. Meanwhile, if you have lost a loved one and are looking for some support as you grieve, please call (781.843.1332) or email (lmuldoon@sfab.org) the parish office—we have resources and referral information as well as a cup of coffee or tea and plenty of tissues! 
- **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.
- **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.



From  
**Mr. Brian Cote**  
Principal

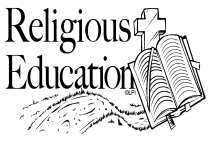
**Advent 2016** – With the upcoming hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, all of the decorating and wrapping of gifts, it is important, as Catholics, to remember that the Season of Advent begins this weekend. It is a difficult season to celebrate because of the commercialism of the secular world in which we live.

The Season of Advent allows us time to prepare ourselves for Christmas, as we ponder how Jesus came into this world in such a stunningly humble way and it is also a time when we look forward to His second coming at the end of the ages.

During the next four weeks, the SFA school community will make this Season of Advent a central focus of our actions and discussions within our classrooms. Some of our planned Advent activities will include prayer and liturgies, penance services, arts and crafts, Christmas stories, songs, and service projects. In addition, the faculty and students will participate in several outreach service projects – making the “spirit of giving” tangible for us. We wish to make the holidays a little brighter and bring joy to those who are far from home, as well as less fortunate.

**The Holiday Calendars Are Here!** Thinking of stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts? Have scratch tickets crossed your mind? A \$10 scratch ticket gives you ONE chance to win, BUT wouldn't a wiser investment be a \$10 ticket on 31 chances to win \$5,000 in prizes? St. Francis of Assisi has you covered! **On December 10, 11, 17, and 18 following all of the Masses, SFA school children, families, and staff will be selling Christmas calendars for \$10 each.** Prizes will be drawn for each day January 1 through 31 with prizes totaling over \$5,000! Stock up for all of your Christmas needs and don't forget the mailman, the milkman, the bus drivers, CCD teacher, co-workers, and more! In advance, we would like to thank you for your continued support of our school.





Mrs. Diane Hopkins  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli  
Phone 781.848.3238

Classes meet as scheduled for Religious Education

Sunday, November 27 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5

No classes this week.

Sunday, November 27 5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10

No classes this week, next class is December 4.

Each student's sponsor information sheet is due at this class.

Monday, November 28 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, November 29 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, November 29 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8

No classes this week.

Thursday, December 1 6:00-7:30 Gr. 9

Classes meet at St. Clare church hall.

This Sunday, November 27, is the first Sunday of Advent. It is the beginning of the season of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus. We often miss the true meaning of Advent because of the Christmas parties and "busyness" of the season. Please take time each day to pray, to focus on your spiritual needs. When you accept your need for a Savior, you may open yourself to receive the gifts of the Advent season. There are many websites that offer wonderful prayers and daily devotions for the Advent Season. One that is good is: [onlineministeries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/](http://onlineministeries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/). You can also just Google "Praying Advent".



***Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.***

Stay Close and God Bless,  
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



## GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Friday, November 18 our Grand Annual Collection was \$37,150 from 187 contributors (9% of Appeals sent). Thank you to all who have contributed. If you did not receive an Appeal letter or have misplaced your copy, please call the parish office at 781-843-1332 and we'll be happy to send you a new one.



## Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

NOAH	MARRIED	TAKEN
EATING	FLOOD	LEFT
DRINKING	TOGETHER	READY

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

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### Sharing the Gospel

Remember that when God told Noah to build an ark, his neighbors laughed at him. Then one day God sent the flood. Only Noah's family was saved because they listened to God, and they were ready. Jesus has already told you that one day he will come back. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be ready. When you read Bible stories, listen carefully. Love God like Noah did, and learn to do what God asks.

### Prayer

Dear God, help me to love you and to be ready for Jesus.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Noah and his family on the ark with all the animals.

### Mission for the Week

Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.



## From the Archdiocese of Boston

### November 27 ~ First Sunday of Advent

It is Thanksgiving weekend, and the first Sunday of Advent, the season when "We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ." All this and football too. Unsolicited advice for this weekend - and beyond: Give thanks, always. Live in hope. Life isn't always easy but we know how the Story, our Sacred Story, ends and that gives us hope. The Light of the World will come to us as a helpless Baby. He brings our salvation; kings and shepherds will bow down before Him. Now is the time to extend or renew a personal invitation to Jesus to come into your life. Make Advent a time to add just two minutes to your daily prayer time, and end each day by thanking God for one thing. Prayer and gratitude, are ingredients that foster hope.

### PROJECT RACHEL RETREAT

"The Project Rachel Retreat gave me hope. I now know that I can once again be active in my faith..." If you or someone you know is in pain from a past abortion, *Project Rachel* extends a special invitation to participate at a one-day retreat for post-abortion hope and healing on Saturday, December 3. Location is confidential. For more information, contact *Project Rachel* at 508.651.3100 or [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com).

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

#### Archdiocese of Boston – Men's Cursillo

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity. It is an encounter with Christ in a small community of the Church, in order to deepen your own faith and strengthen your ability to be witnesses of Christ in the world.

The date for the **Men's Cursillo Weekend** is:

**December 1-4, 2016**

The weekend runs from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon and is held at the Campion Center in Weston MA.

For information and registration, please check the Boston Cursillo Website: [www.bostoncursillo.org](http://www.bostoncursillo.org) or call the Office of Spiritual Life at 617-779-3640 or email us at [spiritual\\_development@rcab.org](mailto:spiritual_development@rcab.org).



# Pray for Vocations

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### ST. CLARE'S HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE

The Fontbonne Academy Chorus and St. Clare's Choir present A Musical Evening of Popular & Holiday Songs, Saturday, December 3 from 6:00-7:00PM at St. Clare Church. The performance is free. Enjoy the harmony of voices of Fontbonne's finest! Let the music of the holiday bring peace to your heart. Also, a special ending to the evening with a Sing-A-Long for all!

**The Braintree Catholic Women's Club** will host their annual Christmas Party with entertainment provided by the Braintree High School String Band. This event will be held on Wednesday, December 14 at 1:30PM in St. Clare Parish Hall. Get in the spirit of the holidays. The Christmas raffle will be held at this time to support our Scholarship Fund. For more information, please call chairperson Margaret Hart, 781-849-1755 or Yvonne Colligan, 781-843-2765. All are welcome.



**The Braintree Knights of Columbus** invite all adults to their Christmas Party on Saturday, December 17 at the Sons of Italy Hall on King Hill Road. The festivities begin with a cocktail hour from 6:30 – 7:30, followed by a dinner provided by Fasano's Catering. Tickets are \$35. For more information, please call Richard at 781.843.5095.

### Readings for the Week of November 27, 2016

- Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122/Rom 13:11-14/  
Mt 24:37-44
- Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 23/Mt 4:18-22
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147/Mt 9:35--  
10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



**"Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:43-44**