

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, 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

11:30 AM Karen Goguen Anniversery

Monday, December 5, 2016

7:00 AM Peter Conneely Anniversery

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

7:00 AM Teresa & Timothy Driscoll Memorial

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

7:00 AM Eliot Rowland, Sr. Memorial

5:00PM Thomas F. Conner Anniversery

Thursday, December 8, 2016

7:00 AM Daniel J. Mahoney Anniversery

12:10PM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Friday, December 9, 2016

7:00 AM Herbert Walbridge Anniversery

Saturday, December 10, 2016

4:00 PM Richard & Margaret Keane Anniversery

Sunday, December 11, 2016

7:00 AM Albert, Tecla & Steven Jolicoeur Memorial

9:30 AM Elizabeth "Pat" McGrath Anniversery

11:30AM Patricia "Pat" Salvaggio Memorial

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—75%

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes \$ 8,704.00

Offertory/Loose \$ 3,467.00

EFT Weekly Average \$ 1,253.75

Total Offertory \$13,424.75

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



THIS Thursday, December 8 is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule for the St. Francis of Assisi/ St. Clare Collaborative is:

St. Francis of Assisi

Wednesday, December 7 Vigil 5:00PM

Thursday, December 8 7:00AM, 8:45AM (School Liturgy all are welcome) and 12:10PM

St. Clare

Wednesday, December 7 Vigil 4:00PM

Thursday, December 8 9AM and 5:30PM



Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail.

Amen.

From Catholics Online



John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. - Mt 3:4-6



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



The Second Sunday of Advent readings for Cycle A are so familiar to us! The Responsorial Psalm links the beautiful Old Testament reading from Isaiah (fullness of peace) with John the Baptist in the Gospel of Matthew (justice shall flourish). In the New Testament reading, it seems as though St. Paul writes not to the Romans, but to you and me and everyone who cast a ballot last month: “Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by **endurance** and by the **encouragement** of the Scriptures we might have **hope**. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to **think in harmony with one another**, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that **with one accord** you may **with one voice** glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” May our good God help us and our nation to move forward together!

Many of us do some deep cleaning at this time of year. We sort through our physical “stuff” and donate or even discard much of it, items which no longer fit or for which we no longer have any use. That can create some space in our closets or the absence of clutter in our homes, and we like how it looks—at least until the Christmas gifts have been opened. Perhaps we look high for the cobwebs or low for the dust bunnies and in the middle polish some furniture, and we like how it looks. But what about our spiritual stuff? Does it need some cleaning or some reorganizing or some letting go? How about creating some space in our hearts and working with the emptiness—preparing it for Jesus? Need some help? Our priests offer MANY opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation during Advent, and they are also open to offering it to you at a time that may not appear on the enclosed schedule. Need to be more anonymous to receive this sacrament of healing and peace? Google any local Catholic parish or Glastonbury Abbey for additional options for confession. “Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.”



Wedding Banns

Andrew Price & Nancy Conner III

Bereavement Group meets NEXT Tuesday, December 13 at 12:30PM in the St. Francis church hall for an **early celebration of Christmas**—a prayer service, luncheon, and Yankee swap. **CURRENT** group members have received invitations via email or US mail. **FORMER** members are also welcome to attend—please call the parish office if you plan to join us so that we can include you in the meal count. **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!




Our Advent Giving Tree continues THIS Weekend. You can help provide gifts for families, who are unable to purchase even essentials for Christmas gifts, 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 11.**
 - 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.
- Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

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...** 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** 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.

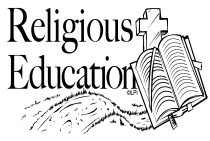
As we live our mission in “*preparing our students academically for this technological age*”, we at SFA are committed to providing our students with a rigorous academic program, as well as providing the necessary resources and tools to ensure that the integration of technology occurs in all of our classrooms. It is truly our goal to create 21st century learners and leaders.

Skype is an instructional tool that provides boundless opportunities for authentic teaching and learning to occur. It enables our teachers to explore beyond the four walls of our classrooms, as well as inspires our students, the next generation of global citizens, through transformative learning. The integration of skype lessons brings the curriculum to life in ways never before possible.

On Friday, our kindergarten students, along with their grade four buddies skyped with children’s book author Lori Degman. All of our students truly enjoyed this interactive experience as Ms. Degman read her new book *Norbert’s Big Dream*. Ms. Degman also shared with our students the excitement and fun of reading and writing; her journey as an author; how a picture book is created, and offered a period of time for questions and answers. In addition, our students will have an opportunity to purchase their own personalized copy of her new book.



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, December 4 10:30-11:30 **Gr. 1-5**

Parents and children will go to the church hall immediately after Mass.

Sunday, December 4 5:00 – 7:00 **Gr. 10**

Classes meet in church hall from 5:00 through the 6:00 Mass at St. Clare.

Sponsor Information Sheet is due at this class. (From your welcome package or download one from the website www.sfab.org) found under the Activities tab.

Monday, December 5 3:50-4:50 **Gr. 1-5**

Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, December 6 3:50-4:50 **Gr. 1-5**

Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, December 6 6:30- 7:45 **Gr. 6-8**

Classes meet in the school.

Thursday, December 8 6:00-7:30 **Gr. 9**

Classes meet at St. Clare church hall.

Confirmation I (grade 9):

Thursday, December 15 our class meeting will be a Reconciliation Service from 6:00 to 7:30 at St. Clare.

Sunday, December 18 we will attend the 6:00 Mass at St. Clare. We will be attending the Mass as an entire Confirmation Program.

"It is better to set a high bar of values for our lives and to meet them most of the time than to set a low bar and meet them all the time." Dina Dwyer-Owens Taken from Values Inc.

ADVENT: **Add** in the good and **vent** out the rest!

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



Stay Close and God Bless,
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli

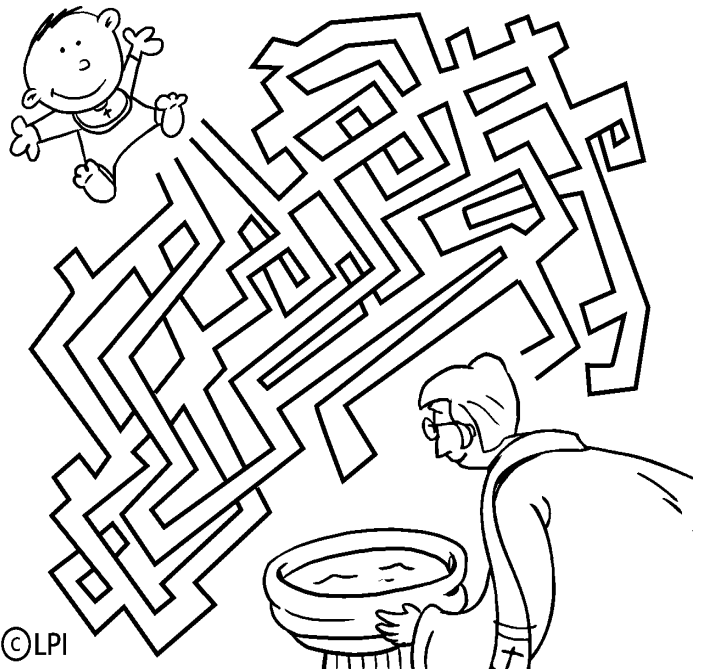
GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Wednesday our Grand Annual Collection was \$41,800 from 218 contributors (11% 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

Help the baby find his way to the priest for his baptism.



©LPI

Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist taught people to get ready for Jesus. He told them to change their lives. John helped many people wash away all their mistakes and bad choices. He washed away all their cheating, lying, fighting, and stealing. Once they were clean, John wanted them to see that living God's way is so much better. John told the people not only to clean their bodies, but to show that they love God by the way that they live.

Prayer

Dear God, help my words and my choices to show that I love you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of John washing you in the Jordan River.

Mission for the Week

Write a prayer to God, asking him to help you stop doing those things, and start being honest, giving and kind.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

SAMUEL CIRCLES

A coalition of Men's Religious Communities serving in the Archdiocese of Boston will host Samuel Circles, evening gatherings each month for young single men who are looking into the possibility of joining a Religious community. The next Samuel Circle will take place at The Assumptionist Center, 330 Market Street, Brighton on December 7, 2016 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The name for these gatherings is taken from the story of the call of the prophet Samuel who heard his name called from God as a young man and was aided by the prophet Eli. For more information go to www.facebook.com/samuelcircles4mendiscerningreligiouslife or call Fr. Rocco at 508 429 2144.

STEBENVILLE EAST YOUTH CONFERENCE

Do you wish there was a place that you could bring your teens to encounter thousands of other young Catholics, hear from national speakers and enter into profound worship with the aid of professional musicians? Yes, such an event exists, AND its right in our backyard! The annual Steubenville East Youth Conference will be held in Lowell, MA again this coming year from July 14th – 16th, 2017. If you are interested in learning more about this event, an information session is being held at the Pastoral Center in Braintree, and will also be available via webinar on **December 6th** at 6:30pm (PLEASE NOTE: this date has changed since previously being scheduled for Dec 8th). Please email Mike Drahos at MDrahos@rcab.org for more information.

ADVENT MORNING OF PRAYER

Sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Life

“Waiting with Mary of Nazareth”

Saturday, December 10, 2016 10am-12n
Pastoral Center 66 Brooks Drive Braintree

Conference, guided prayer, quiet prayer, sharing

To register call 617-779-3648
or email sdarcy@rcab.org



Troop #138 Annual Wreath Sale - Boy Scouts will be selling wreaths after all Masses this weekend. There will be traditional, premium and a limited supply of Red Sox, Patriots, and Bruins hand crafted Wreaths. This is the troops major fundraiser to support the advancement of scouting. Thank you for supporting local scouting.

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.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Boston & South Shore Men's Prayer Gathering—**Saturday, 7:00-8:30AM**. Prayer, Coffee and refreshments, presentation and discussion. Next meeting: December 17. The topic is *Refugees in Boston*, with guest presenter **Gary Morehead**. The meeting takes place at St. Mary of the Hills Lower Church, 29 St. Mary's Road (off Brook Road), Milton. Please call 774-343-5075 for more information

NEW YEAR'S EVE SENIOR GALA

December 31, 2016—12:00-4:00PM at the Sons of Italy-Braintree. Dinner-Dancing, Noisemakers, Champagne toast \$35.00 per person. For more information or tickets please call Marta at 781-848-4768.

Readings for the Week of December 4, 2016

- Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11