

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 10, 2016

4:00 PM Richard & Margaret Keane Anniversary

Sunday, December 11, 2016

7:00 AM Albert, Tecla & Steven Jolicoeur Memorial

9:30 AM Elizabeth "Pat" McGrath Anniversary

11:30 AM Patricia "Pat" Salvaggio Memorial

Monday, December 12, 2016

7:00 AM Kimberly Mahoney Lind Memorial

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

7:00 AM

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

7:00 AM Henry Pires Memorial

Thursday, December 15, 2016

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Friday, December 16, 2016

7:00 AM Frances Irene Burke Memorial

Saturday, December 17, 2016

4:00 PM Franklin Copley & Steven Lemieux Anniversary

Sunday, December 18, 2016

7:00 AM Salvatore Lombardo Anniversary

9:30 AM Patricia Salvaggio Memorial

11:30 AM Anna & Rinaldo Ventresca Memorial

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

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 4,997.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,743.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,253.75
Total Offertory	\$ 8,993.75

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



The St. Francis/St. Clare of Assisi Collaborative Mass schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is as follows:

St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, December 24

4:00PM Upper and Lower Church, 6:00PM and 11:00PM

Sunday, December 25

7:00AM, 9:30AM and 11:30AM

St. Clare

Saturday, December 24

4:00PM and 6:00PM

Sunday, December 25

8:15AM, 10:15AM and 6:00PM

Please see the flyer at church entrances for a complete list of Advent Confession opportunities.

Readings for the Week of December 11, 2016

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/
Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab/Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36

Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



"This is the one about whom it is written:

**Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.**

**Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there
has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the
least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." -**

Mt 11:10-11

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



The Third Sunday of Advent readings speak to us of prophecy and of fulfillment. The beauty and poetry of Isaiah prophecy what will happen when our saving God comes to bring new life to his people—a message of hope and of trust.

In Matthew's Gospel, to the followers of John the Baptist, Jesus reveals the fulfillment of the prophecy by his own saving words and deeds. Fast forward to the 21st century, and God's people still seek healing and wholeness, help and salvation—physical, emotional, and spiritual. We await that final coming of Jesus, the coming that the writers of the New Testament believed to be so imminent. Pope Francis writes: "The gift of faith we receive (at baptism) allows us to love God without ever having seen him. Our belief in the salvation promised us is what drives us to live in hope and to be witnesses of Christ's presence among us. **Joy** is a sign of that presence. It is a mark of a Christian. Love and **joy** are fruits of the Holy Spirit. Love and **joy** also help sustain us through difficult times as we work to attain the goal of our faith, the salvation of our souls." On this Gaudete Sunday, let us light the rose-colored candle and **rejoice** in the Lord—always!

Bereavement Group meets THIS 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 by Monday at noon* if you plan to join us so that we can include you in the meal count.



A St. Vincent DePaul Reflection for December 11: Third Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched, felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us. **Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, we thank you for sharing in the ministry of Jesus by the many generous gifts our Society of St. Vincent de Paul has received this Advent—so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.**



Our Advent Giving Tree concludes 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.


GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Wednesday our Grand Annual Collection was \$46,300 from 246 contributors (12% 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.

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.

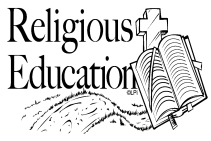
“**The Christmas Chronicles**” – Our students are diligently rehearsing lines and songs as they prepare for their annual Christmas Concert, which will be held on Friday, December 16th at 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend! This year, in addition to the traditional Christmas songs and carols, our students will also perform the children’s Christmas musical “The Christmas Chronicles,” which captures the joy of Christmas through heartwarming songs and entertaining dialog. I would like to extend a word of special thanks to Mrs. Lucia Murray, our music teacher for coordinating this performance and showcasing our talented students and their musical abilities.



Santa’s Breakfast - Join us this Saturday, December 17th from 8:30 – 11:00 p.m. for our annual “Santa’s Breakfast” in the School Hall. There will be Music, Food, Games, Entertainment, Photos with Santa and Much More! Santa will arrive at 9:00 a.m. Enjoy a nice breakfast, and have fun with friends and family during this beloved St. Francis of Assisi School tradition. All are welcome! Tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 per family. We hope to see you there.



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 11 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5
No classes this week.

Sunday, December 11 5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10
No classes this week. Next class is December 18.
Class from 5:00-6:00 Mass with grade 9 at 6:00PM

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

Monday, December 12 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, December 13 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, December 13 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8
No classes this week.

Thursday, December 15 6:00-7:30 Gr. 9
Our class meeting will be a Reconciliation Service from 6:00 to 7:30 at St. Clare.

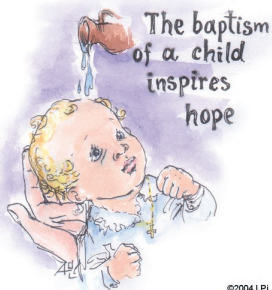
REMEMBER: Sunday, December 18 we will attend the 6:00 Mass at St. Clare with Grade 10 as an entire Confirmation Program.

“Sometimes we know what to do, but we lack the **courage** to do it. Let us learn from Mary how to make decisions, trusting in the Lord.” Pope Francis

Lord, come and save us.



Stay Close and God Bless,
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



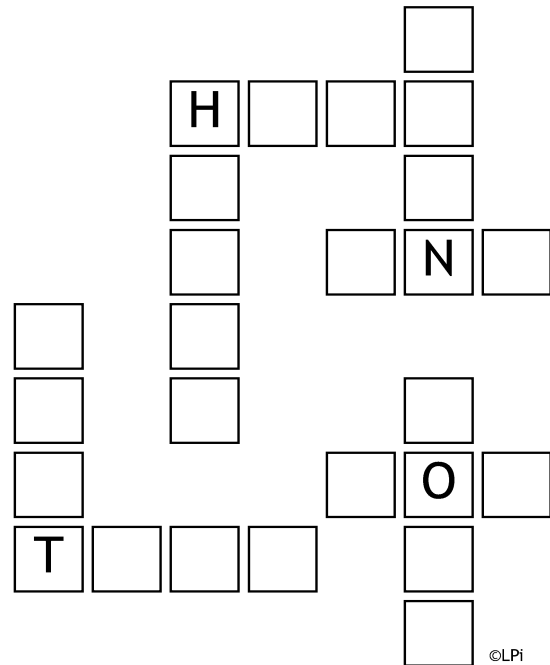
We welcome with joy into the family of the Church the following children who were baptized during the month of November, 2016:

Cecelia James Romikitis, Henry William Alter, Alexander Mateo Rojas, Jack Stephen Larosee, Elizabeth Ann Breslin, Peyton Kendall Sweeney, Nora Megan Sweeney and Jacob Leroy Magyar

Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Tell John what you have heard and seen.



Sharing the Gospel

Name someone that you think is very important. Jesus said that John the Baptist was the greatest man ever born. John the Baptist did not live in a big house or wear nice clothes. He was not the president, and he did not own a huge company. You would probably think he was very poor. But John the Baptist was truly great because he loved and trusted God with his whole heart. He helped other people follow God, too.

Prayer

Dear God, show me ways to help my friends follow God, too.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of the greatest man ever born.

Mission for the Week

If you have any videos that tell Bible stories, watch one or two together with your family.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

December 11 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

The letter of Saint James – four little verses packed with meaning. Patient or patience appears four times. Do you think he’s trying to tell us something? We live in an instant world. The average You Tube video is four minutes, 20 seconds – and that’s too long for some viewers. Advent is a time to put the brakes on – slow down, breathe. The world will tell us that time is running out – buy, buy, buy. Now! The Church tells us that Jesus will come whether the stockings are filled or not. Patience. This week, try to build in some quiet time – really. You can do it. Just five minutes – a bit longer than a TV commercial or You Tube video. Take the time to remember a loved one in prayer. Now that’s a gift – for the giver and recipient.



Have you ever wondered if God is calling you to be a religious sister? If so, Fiat is for you. Fiat is a discernment group for single women considering a vocation to religious life in the Catholic Church. An Advent Evening of Recollection will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine, 1105 Boylston St., Boston. If you are interested in attending, please respond to Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, Delegate for Religious, Sr_Marian_Batho@rcab.org or call 617-746-5637.



Your Christmas Offering

This Christmas, the collection will once again benefit the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which cares for the needs of our priests. **Our priests are always there for us;** they share Christ’s good news, perform good works, and build communities of good faith. All are welcome to learn more and make a gift online at clergytrust.org. And don’t forget to find the Trust on Facebook by searching “@ClergyTrust.” Thank you in advance for your prayers and support.



Pray for Vocations



Upcoming Events

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 THIS 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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.” As we await the coming of the Lord, let us rejoice and encourage our marriages to bloom by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Jan 20-22, 2017 in Duxbury, MA and Mar 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O’Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at www.WWMEMA.org.

