

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, January 7, 2017

4:00PM Edward O'Leary Anniversary

Sunday, January 8, 2017

7:00 AM Michael Nee & Cali Nee Anniversary

9:30 AM Barbara Blushi Memorial

11:30 AM Richard Grant Anniversary

Monday, January 9, 2017

7:00 AM George Wood Anniversary

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Assisi

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

7:00 AM

Thursday, January 12, 2017

7:00 AM Ramona Belfiori Memorial

Friday, January 13, 2017

7:00 AM Barbara Blushi Anniversary

Saturday, January 14, 2017

4:00 PM Frank O'Toole Anniversary

Sunday, January 15, 2017

7:00 AM Camillo & Maria D'Angelo Memorial

9:30 AM Ann Palombo Memorial

11:30AM James Dwyer Memorial

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:
Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—73%

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

Collection Report

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Offertory Envelopes | \$ 5,363.00 |
| Offertory/Loose | \$ 2,423.00 |
| EFT Weekly Average | \$ 1,023.00 |
| Total Offertory | \$ 8,809.00 |

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



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Readings for the Week of January 8, 2017

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29/
Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:21-28 or
Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Ps 8/
Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/
Jn 1:29-34

Observances for the Week of January 8, 2017

Sunday: Epiphany of the Lord;
National Migration Week

Monday: Baptism of the Lord

Tuesday: Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)

Friday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time





From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon

Parish Info and events of note...

The Epiphany of the Lord...



The paragraph below is the concluding paragraph from the first Epiphany homily given by Pope Francis in January of 2014. Every phrase and every sentence touch my heart and challenge me. Every phrase and every sentence lead me back to the New Year's resolutions I've been considering. And finally, copies of (every phrase and every sentence of) this paragraph have been placed where I can frequently revisit it. Throughout 2017, may we seek the Light and keep the faith.



On the feast of the Epiphany, as we recall Jesus' manifestation to humanity in the face of a Child, may we sense the Magi at our side, as wise companions on the way. Their example helps us to lift our gaze towards the star and to follow the great desires of our heart. They teach us not to be content with a life of mediocrity, of "playing it safe", but to let ourselves be attracted always by what is good, true and beautiful... by God, who is all of this, and so much more! And they teach us not to be deceived by appearances, by what the world considers great, wise and powerful. We must not stop at that. It is necessary to guard the faith. Today this is of vital importance: to keep the faith. We must press on further, beyond the darkness, beyond the voices that raise alarm, beyond worldliness, beyond so many forms of modernity that exist today. We must press on towards Bethlehem, where, in the simplicity of a dwelling on the outskirts, beside a mother and father full of love and of faith, there shines forth the Sun from on high, the King of the universe. By the example of the Magi, with our little lights, may we seek the Light and keep the faith. May it be so.



**WISE MEN
STILL SEEK
HIM**

- **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 THIS Tuesday, January 10 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!

- **Our Bereavement Group** will resume in February (2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 1-2:30PM), and we will use the book, *The New Day Journal*. This book is "a journey from grief to healing for people coping with the loss of a loved one." Meanwhile, if you have just experienced or are struggling with the loss of a loved one, we have resources, referral information, and lots of tissues. Help and a cup of tea are a phone call away at 781.843.1332.

- **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.

JANUARY 8, 2017



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal

As we begin this New Year, there are three significant events that will soon occur: re-registrations, new registrations, and Catholic Schools Week 2017.

There are 6525 Catholic Schools nationwide, which are noted for their faith-filled education and academic excellence. National testing scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance and other data show that Catholic schools frequently outperform schools in both the public and private sections. We are among those numbers and are truly proud of our school for our: rich faith formation program, high academic standards and expectations, accomplishments of our students, and the opportunities they are afforded. Our current families, students and alumni are our best advertisement and school ambassadors. They can witness, and have witnessed, the spiritual development as well as the personal and academic growth evident in each of the students entrusted to our care. We thank them for truly unlocking their child's potential with a Catholic Education.

Re-registrations of our current students for the 2017-2018 academic school year will soon begin as our students return.



An Open House will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Highlights of the day include the following: An informational session; guided tours directed by SFA students; meet administration, faculty, and staff; hear from current students, parents, and alumni; and learn about SFA's curriculum and extracurricular activities. In addition, prospective families may also visit our school throughout Catholic Schools Week (January 30th – February 3rd) from 9:00AM – 1:00PM. Applications will be accepted (pending availability) on a first come, first serve basis. Enroll Today!

The third important New Year event is Catholic Schools Week 2017 itself. Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. During the week, we focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. We build community awareness of and involvement in Catholic schools throughout the country. And we honor those who contribute to the success of our schools—students, families, faculty and staff, volunteers, community supporters and local and national leaders.



This year's theme is "Catholic Schools – Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service".

Calling all Alumni – St. Francis of Assisi School would like to offer its alumni four great ways to stay connected so that you can receive news about our school, alumni events, and alumni news. But, we need your help by updating your contact information by :

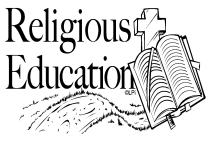
- Completing our on-line Alumni Update Form located on our school's website (www.sfab.org/sfabschool);
- Joining us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sfabraintree
- Sending your current contact information (name, address, city, state, zip, telephone, year of graduation) and email address as well as news about what you have been up to alumni@sfab.org; or
- Contacting us at (781)-848-0842.

Help us spread the news to other SFA alumni and parents of alumni and we look forward to reconnecting with you. Thank you for staying in touch.

Enroll Today

St. Francis of Assisi School offers a rolling admissions policy. 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.





Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238



Class meet as scheduled for Religious Education:

Sunday, January 8 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5

Classes meet in the school.

Parents please walk your child over to the school immediately following Mass.

Sunday, January 8 5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10

Classes meet in St. Clare church hall.

We will be attending the 6:00 Mass as part of class.

NEXT CLASS: January 22.

Monday, January 9, 2017 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes meet in school.

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes meet in school.

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8

Classes meet in school.

Thursday, January 12, 2017 6:00-7:30 Gr. 9

No classes this week.

NEXT CLASS: January 19

CONFIRMATION II (Grade 10) - IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Important Note/Retreat: All Confirmation Candidates (grade 10) have been assigned a date of either **Saturday, January 14th or January 21st to attend a retreat being held at St. Francis of Assisi.** Please review the information received regarding the upcoming retreat.

Parents, kindly return your assignment to our office at St. Francis of Assisi as soon as possible.

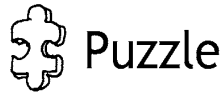
As we join together to celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord may we all become like the Magi in recognizing the divine arrival of Jesus, fully human and fully God. May our quiet hearts seek the truth, follow the light, and make our way towards him too!

“Following a light, they were searching for the Light. The star appearing in the sky kindled in their minds and in their hearts a light that moved them to seek the great Light of Christ. The Magi followed faithfully that light which filled their hearts, and they encountered the Lord.” Pope Francis



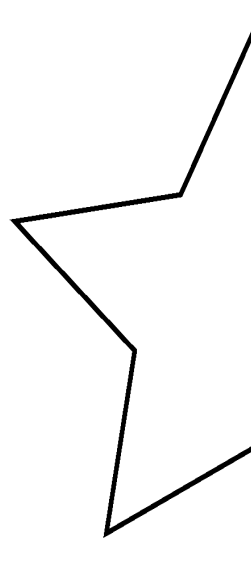
Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Stay Close and God Bless,
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



Puzzle

Can you draw the second half of this star?



©LPI

Sharing the Gospel

When Jesus was born, angels sang. I'll bet you never thought stars could sing for Jesus, too. But the stars in the sky sang in their own way, just by moving and twinkling in the sky. The Savior was born. Jesus was the King that God's people had been waiting for. Magi who had been watching the sky saw a star much brighter than the rest. They followed that star until they found Jesus, and they worshipped their new king.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for making the stars move and twinkle in a special way, so that the Magi could find Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of the Magi following the brightest star.

Mission for the Week

Ask your family if you can visit a planetarium, or look through a special telescope, so you can see the stars God made.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

January 8 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord
We know this story so well – we can sing by heart “We Three Kings”, here is an example of perseverance. These men were determined to follow the star to “do him homage.” We follow a lot of stars these days: sports stars, rock stars, movie stars, stars famous for being... famous. Maybe it’s time to take a page from the Magi’s book and go home by another way. There is one Star to follow – Jesus Christ, fully human, fully Divine. Sports and music and film can be very good things, but take the road that Jesus is on.

Prayer Service Celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King
A prayer service to celebrate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King will be held on January 16, 2017 at 9:00 am at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, 517 Blue Hill Avenue, Grove Hall. Featured guest speaker is Professor Randall Kennedy, Harvard Law School. Tickets are \$15.00 and MUST be purchased in advance. Space is very limited. For tickets, please call Lorraine Smith 857-249-7773 or Ruth Andrews, 617-610-5579.

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreat
God’s forgiveness knows no bounds – Pope Francis. The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Winter/spring dates are February 4, March 4 and May 20. Location is confidential. Limited to ten participants. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

The Christmas collection went to benefit the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which helps care for the health and well-being of our priests. Our parish contribution will have a significant impact on the quality of life programs provided for our priests. Please visit clergytrust.org to learn more or to make a gift. Don’t forget to also find the Trust on Facebook by searching “@ClergyTrust.” Thank you.

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Wednesday our Grand Annual Collection was \$58,900 from 277 contributors (14% 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.



Upcoming Events



The Catholic Daughters of the America's will be having a special presentation at their January meeting. Joan Vercollone Barry will speak on Human Sex Trafficking: What is it? How does it work? Where does it exist? This is a free lecture and will be presented on Saturday, January 21st at 10:00AM at **St. Clare** in the lower church hall. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

PENNIES FOR THE UNBORN

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be collecting Pennies for the Unborn next weekend, Jan 14 and 15. Please come prepared to make a donation of any denomination.



Early Bird Special Boston & South Shore Men’s Prayer Gathering will be held **Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 7:00-8:30 AM**. Bob Joyce, President, The Pro-Life Legal Defense Fund will speak about his group’s work and achievements. Location: St. Mary of the Hills Lower Church 29 St. Mary’s Road (off Brook Road), Milton. Please call 774-343-5075 for more information

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.WWME.org.



The Knights of Columbus is seeking a field agent for a career opportunity representing their Insurance, Annuity and Long Term Care Program. We offer a complete benefits package with this full time position. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information on this exciting career opportunity, please contact Michael R. Capobianco, General Agent at (508) 238 – 2300.



Pray for Vocations