

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, March 4, 2017

4:00PM Barbara & David Harrington Memorial

Sunday, March 5, 2017

7:00 AM Theresa Grant Memorial

9:30 AM Phyllis & Laurence Cedrone Memorial

11:30 AM Pasquale Agapito Memorial

Monday, March 6, 2017

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

7:00 AM

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

7:00 AM

Thursday, March 9, 2017

7:00 AM Judith Stempleski Memorial

Friday, March 10, 2017

7:00 AM

Saturday, March 11, 2017

4:00 PM Domenic Finocchio Anniversary

Sunday, March 12, 2017

7:00 AM

9:30 AM Ernesto DiCenso Anniversary

11:30AM John "Matt" Wood Memorial

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:
Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—74%

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 6,177.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,674.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,291.25
Total Offertory	\$10,142.25

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



Give up time this Lent to learn how God's word becomes our prayer.

Join us for a Survey of the Psalms with Celia Sirois of CHRISM on Tuesdays, March 7-April 11 (no session on 3/28) from 7-8:30PM in the St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall. The suggested offering for all CHRISM courses is \$5/session. Pre-registration is not required, please bring your Bible.



THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU — begins this Wednesday and every Wednesday for the duration of Lent from 6:30-8:00PM in our church. In addition to confession, we invite you to spend some quiet time in adoration of the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

LENTEN HOLY HOUR — Friday evenings beginning March 10 through April 6, Deacon Joe MacDonald will be presiding at a Holy Hour which includes Stations of the Cross, Exposition of the Eucharist and Benediction, at 6PM in the church.



Prayer For Lent

Dear Jesus,
 you spent 40 days in the desert
 before you began your ministry to the world.
 You resisted the temptations offered by the devil,
 saying no to worldly pleasures and power.
 Like the prophets before you,
 40 days in the desert was preparation
 for the great mission of your life.
 As Lent begins, help us to make our lives pure and holy.
 Give us the grace to willingly make our own self-denials
 into personal deserts, which will prepare us for your work.
 Purify our souls in the crucible of this Lenten season,
 and make our hearts acceptable to you and your Father.
 Amen.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



Today is the 1st Sunday in Lent; and in the Gospel, Matthew writes: "At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards **he was hungry.**"

Here we are—are four days and four nights into Lent. What about our fasting? **How hungry are we?** It is ingrained in many of us to "give up something for Lent." Our typical "sacrifices" of a favorite food or beverage, a TV show or time on-line are useful if our hunger for them somehow draws us closer to God so that it is **the Lord for whom we hunger.** Or... we can fast from behaviors that cause fault lines in our relationships with God and with each other—impatience, dishonesty, selfishness, disrespect, avoidance, harsh words, etc. If only there was a "hold" button for what too quickly flows out of us! Or... we can do more, and we can give more with one loving, kind, generous gesture at a time. This Lent, **let us hunger for God** and for all that leads us closer to him. Today Jesus himself encourages us as he rebukes the devil:



"It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*"

"Again it is written: *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*"

"It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.*"

Also this Lent, we have available to us free copies of ***The Little Black Book for Lent***. Although small enough to fit in a pocket or a purse, this book can have a big impact on living Lent, day to day. Please take one home today! As in the past, Creighton University has many resources for Lent. I just spent some time on their site, and found a Daily Prayer option that includes Scripture, prayer, and petitions. Visit www.onlineministries.creighton.edu to find the ones that speak to you. If you can make (or have) some space in your schedule for a daytime or evening presentation, consider looking at Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury www.miramarretreat.org or Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham www.glastonburyabbey.org.

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...** Meets Tuesday, March 14 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 ...** Due to unforeseen circumstances our Bereavement Group will be **postponed for a while**. Please continue to watch the bulletin and website for more information. In the meantime if you are struggling and would like to speak to a member of the clergy, please call the parish office. Thank you.

- **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



Lent 2017 - As Catholics and Christians, the Lenten season is once again upon us as our school community gathered and celebrated Ash Wednesday with a liturgy planned by grade four this past Wednesday, March 1st. The Lenten season gives us the opportunity to take time and think of sacrifices and/or good deeds we can do. Lent is a time for reflection and a time to slow down as we pray, fast, and do almsgiving. Throughout this Lenten season: I hope and pray that it will be a time for spiritual growth and renewal for you and your families.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday last Thursday, March 2nd and throughout the week our SFA School Community celebrated "Reading Across America 2017" with various all-school and individual classroom activities. Some of the activities included a door decoration contest, a "Battle of the Books" contest to determine which Dr. Seuss books were favored in each classroom, and on March 2nd, students and staff alike were invited to wear crazy socks to school with their uniforms as we celebrated "Fox in Socks" day! A special word of thanks to our faculty and staff for their participation and efforts as they incorporated Dr. Seuss books into their classrooms.

As we continue our celebration of "Reading across America," SFA will also be sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair March 6th – 9th in the lower church hall. The times are Monday evening, March 6th from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm; Tuesday – Thursday, March 7th – 9th from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Our school families and parishioners are certainly encouraged and invited to take advantage of our Book Fair. All are welcome. Books are certainly an investment in a child's education and future.

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.

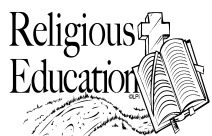
If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the EFT option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2016 please call the parish office at 781-843-1332. In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner who has made a single contribution of \$250 or more. If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or EFT/online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the parish office.



Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan!" - Mt 4:8-10a

Readings for the Week of March 5, 2017

- Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17/
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11
- Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/
Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
- Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48
- Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22/
2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238

Classes this week are as scheduled:

Sunday, March 5 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5

Class in the school. Guest speaker in the church hall.

Parents, please have children move to front pews in front of the statue of Mary, Mrs. Hopkins and teachers will walk them over to the school.

Sunday, March 5 5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10

Classes at St. Clare. We will be attending Mass with Grade 9 as part of this class. **Next class: March 19 at St. Clare.**

Monday, March 6 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes in the school. Safety Monday

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes in the school. Safety Tuesday

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

Classes in the school.

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

No classes this week.

Mass March 5 at 6:00PM—St. Clare.



CONFIRMATION IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Confirmation I (Grade 9): Class scheduled for March 16 has been cancelled. **Your next class is March 30 at St. Clare, 6:00-7:30.**

The **Respect for Life Baby Shower** was a huge success. Thank you to all students and parishioners who contributed! Your generosity is a living testament to the goodness of God. The teenagers are praying for you to whom they share love.

As we journey through Lent let us remember Jesus' words "not to worry about tomorrow" because "there is a loving Father who never forgets his children." While "trusting in him "Doesn't magically resolve our problems," it allows us "to confront them with the right spirit."— Pope Francis

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

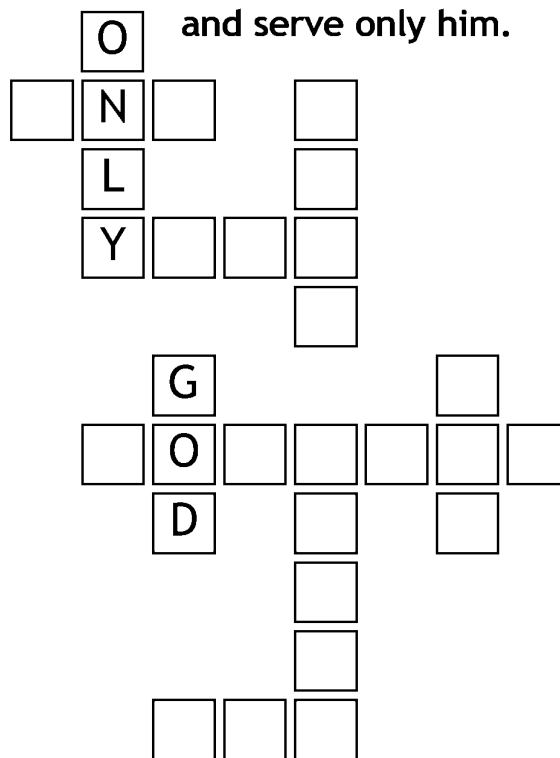
Stay Close and God Bless,
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

**Worship the Lord your God
and serve only him.**



©LPI

Sharing the Gospel

After Jesus' baptism, Jesus went 40 days without eating. Imagine how weak, hungry, tired and cranky you could be if you went that long without eating. That was the moment the devil chose to try to trick Jesus into using God's power selfishly. But Jesus was still strong. Jesus had been praying those 40 days, getting ready to save you and the whole world from the devil's tricks. Jesus would never give in to his enemy.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to save me from the devil's tricks.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus praying to God.

Mission for the Week

One really good way to fight the devil's tricks is to pray often. Pray in the morning, at noon, and at night.



From the
Archdiocese of
Boston

March 5 ~ First Sunday of Lent

Jesus was like us in all things but sin. He was tempted, sorely tempted, over and over. This first Sunday in Lent might be a good time to take account of the things in our lives that tempt us away from God and from the light of Christ. Like New Year's resolutions, Lent is a time to look at what needs improvement in our relationship with God. The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It's not about fasting to lose 10 pounds, it's fasting to build up strength to resist temptation. A common practice in Lent is to give up something we like – a latte, not Brussel sprouts – and putting that money in a mission box or your St. Vincent de Paul box. Make this Lent a good one. Also, pray, today, for the hundreds of catechumens and candidates in our archdiocese who are entering the next stage of preparation to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist or to be received into the Catholic Church.

CATHOLIC APPEAL

Next week, Catholics across the Archdiocese will be invited to pledge their support to the 2017 Catholic Appeal. The Appeal helps to maintain and expand the many ministries that serve the Catholic faithful in our part of Christ's vineyard. Please be sure to read the insert in today's bulletin to see how these ministries impact our parish and the life of our Church.

LENTEN REFLECTION FROM REV. MATT WILLIAMS

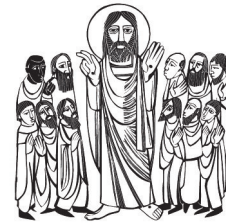
"You don't fast because you don't feast" a priest once told his congregation. He was speaking about feasting on the Word of God and it's correlation to fasting. Cardinal Seán reminds us that Lent is a "baptismal retreat," providing a great opportunity to deepen our friendship with Jesus and our understanding about what it means to live as His disciples. If we *feast* on His Word, we will encounter the merciful gaze of Jesus and be filled with the love of God; this fullness, will give us the desire to *fast* and detach from creature comforts. Join Fr. Matt Williams as he offers a daily reflection to inspire you to feast so that you may fast. For more information visit: www.DisciplesinMission.com/FeasttoFast



Upcoming Events



"Then the eyes of both of them were opened," Let us appreciate the totality of our spouses by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Mar 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI and Apr 22-23, 2017 in Brewster, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at www.WWMEMA.org.



CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
A Lenten Retreat Sponsored by the
Parishes of Saint Clare and
Saint Francis of Assisi

Sunday, March 26, at Saint Clare - 7:00pm
Monday, March 27 - Saint Clare - 7:00pm
Tuesday, March 28 - Saint Francis of Assisi - 7:00pm
Wednesday, March 29 - at Saint Francis of Assisi - 7:00pm

By baptism we are united with Christ and called to be his disciples. During this retreat we will gather for prayer, renew our life in him and deepen our communion with one another, so we can be witnesses of Christ's presence in our lives.

This Parish Retreat will be conducted by the
Archdiocesan Office of Spiritual Life.



Lent is a call to "give alms for the poor." Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent DePaul so that together we can help the suffering and the poor.