

# 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, March 18, 2017

4:00PM Evelyn Forkin Memorial

## Sunday, March 19, 2017

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

9:30 AM Helen, Harold & Robert O'Leary Memorial

11:30 AM Michael Fitzgerald Anniversary

## Monday, March 20, 2017

7:00 AM Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil Spec. Intention

## Tuesday, March 21, 2017

7:00 AM

## Wednesday, March 22, 2017

7:00 AM

## Thursday, March 23, 2017

7:00 AM Richard Walbridge Memorial

## Friday, March 24, 2017

7:00 AM Robert Manning Spec. Intention

## Saturday, March 25, 2017

4:00 PM John McDonald Anniversary

## Sunday, March 26, 2017

7:00 AM

9:30 AM Marisa Federico Anniversary

11:30AM Debra Canale Anniversary

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	\$
Offertory/Loose	\$
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,291.25
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>

**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** — continues 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 7, 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.



## 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 - at Saint Clare - 7:00pm  
Tuesday, March 28 - at 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.**

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



From the desk of the Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Linda Muldoon



Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent, just about the midpoint--already.

In the heat of the mid-day sun, Jesus waits by the well for his disciples who had gone into town to buy food. He also waits for someone else. Commentaries on this Gospel passage suggest that the Samaritan woman approached the well at noontime so as not to be seen by anyone else. We might say, "She had a lot of baggage." And this stranger, this Jew, says to her, "Give me a drink." Suddenly, it is about so much more than a cool drink on a hot day. Jesus talks with her about living water, her past, where and how and whom to worship, and even reveals his identity. The disciples return, and the woman goes into town to summon the very people she'd been avoiding. Curiosity piqued, they go to the well, they go to Jesus; and they believe—not because of the woman but because of what they heard for themselves.



Where does Jesus wait for us? As we toss and turn, unable to fall asleep? On the youth baseball field as the game drags on and we have so much else to do? In the folks we fear who are not quite like us? In the doctor's office? At the Registry of Motor Vehicles? At our collaborative retreat? At Bible Study? In confession? At Mass? Wherever we are—right now?

"Give me a drink." That's the opening line for today. Let us pray with it. Let those words be followed by: Give me your attention. Give me a moment of your time. Give me your heart. Give me that baggage. Let me show you what I have been waiting to give to you. My well is bottomless; share what you receive.

**The Little Black Book for Lent...** It's not too late to begin! 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 look on the tables by the doors to the church and take one home today! We also continue to recommend the many resources available through **Creighton University**. I just spent some time on their site and read some transcripts of Lenten Audio Conversations. Food for thought... Visit [www.onlineministries.creighton.edu](http://www.onlineministries.creighton.edu) to see if any appeal to you.



## 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 THIS 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 ...** 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. 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.



**Bakers Needed—St. Francis of Assisi will be hosting the collation after the Collaborative Mission on Tuesday, March 28.** If you are willing to bake for this event please call the parish office or simply bring your goodies to the church hall prior to the Mission. Thank you!





From  
Mr. Brian Cote  
Principal



**ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, TALENT, FAITH ...**

**A Way with Words** – It was a great night at St. Francis of Assisi School as we held our Area 5 Regional Spelling Bee. Eleven schools competed with a total of 42 competitors, it took nearly two hours to name the winners! It is with great pride that I extend a word of congratulations to Alexandra Lacandula (grade 5) from SFA, who earned the title of Champion by winning First Place. What a fantastic accomplishment! First runner-up was Carl-Henry Charlot from St. Agatha School; Second place was John Ternullo from St. Jerome School; Third place was Colson Ganthier from St. Mary of the Hills School and Fourth place was Nicholas Ternullo from St. Jerome School. Each one of these students was awarded an Amazon gift card. Also competing were Grace Burgoyne (grade 6), Anthony Apomollo (grade 7) and Thao Ho (grade 8), who did a fine job of representing SFA. We are certainly proud of all our students at SFA.

**Championship Bound** - Congratulations to our 5th/6th grade Boys' Basketball Team who won their semifinal game against St. Raphael School of Medford last Sunday afternoon, with the score of 41 - 14. We are so proud of our team! The boys now advance and compete in the Championship Game of the Archdiocese



of Boston CYO Tournament against Immaculate Conception School of Revere this Sunday, 3/19th at Catholic Memorial High School at 2:00PM. Let's Go SFA!!!

**Who Got Talent?** - Our students certainly shined and rocked our stage with nearly 30 various acts at our recent Talent Show. Special thanks to ... all our performers for their courage and preparation in sharing their talents; to Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. Rousseau, Ms. Gratta, Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Murray, and Mrs. Lord for all their support and hard work; to Mrs. Hamilton and Kevin for all their efforts and talents in hosting our show; and finally, to our wonderful stage crew members for their work behind the scenes.

**SFA First Penance** – Due to the snow storm, our First Penance for grade 2 students from St. Francis of Assisi Parish was postponed and rescheduled for Tuesday afternoon, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:15 p.m. Let us keep these students, as well as all our students in grade two who will be making this sacrament, in our thoughts and prayers.

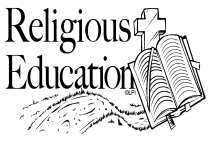
**If you are a registered parishioner** who utilizes the parish envelope system or the EFT option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2016 please call the parish office at 781-843-1332. In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner 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.



**The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:9a, 10**

**Readings for the Week of March 19, 2017**

- Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
- Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/  
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/  
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc,  
8-9/Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/  
Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Lk 11:14-23
- Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17/  
Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:3-4, 18-21ab/  
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/  
Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17,  
34-38



Mrs. Diane Hopkins  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli  
Phone 781.848.3238

Classes this week are as scheduled:

- Sunday, March 19 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5  
Classes meet in the school.
- Sunday, March 19 5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10  
Penance Service at St. Clare.  
Time change please arrive by 4:45PM
- Monday, March 20 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5  
Classes meet in the school.
- Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5  
Classes meet in the school.
- Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8  
Classes meet in the school.
- Thursday, March 23, 2017 6:00-7:30 Gr. 9  
No classes this week.  
Next class March 30.

**FIRST COMMUNION IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

The second First Communion Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 25, from 9:00AM – 12:00PM. You will receive a reminder via the Connect Ed. System.



**Confirmation I (Grade 9):** Your next class is March 30 at St. Clare, 6:00-7:30.

**Confirmation II (Grade 10):** Please note class time change. On March 19 we are meeting at 4:45 at St. Clare in the church for a Penance Service. We will attend the 6:00 Mass as a class.

*"When we are in the dark, in difficulty, a smile doesn't come to us. It is hope that teaches us to smile in that path to find God... I hope that God is by my side. We can all say this. Every one of us. I have hope. God accompanies me and holds me by the hand." – Pope Francis*

**If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.**

Stay Close and God Bless,  
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



 Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

Sychar	well	truth
woman	worship	faith
drink	Father	Savior

- Scyhra S y c h a r
- wroshpi \_\_\_\_\_
- fatih \_\_\_\_\_
- wmoan \_\_\_\_\_
- Fethar \_\_\_\_\_
- Svairo \_\_\_\_\_
- wlel \_\_\_\_\_
- turth \_\_\_\_\_
- dirkn \_\_\_\_\_

©LPi

**Sharing the Gospel**

Jews didn't usually like the people from Samaria, let alone visit one of their towns or talk to any of them. Men didn't usually talk to women back then, either. When Jesus talked to the woman at the well, Jesus broke those silly rules. Jesus saw into the woman's heart and knew that she needed God in her life. Jesus came to rescue her from her sin. She was so happy that she invited everyone in her town to meet Jesus, too.

**Prayer**

Dear God, thank you for caring about me, no matter where I live, and no matter what I have done wrong.

**Something to Draw**

Draw a picture of Jesus talking to you at the grocery store.

**Mission for the Week**

Ask God to open your heart so that you will be friends with other kids, no matter what they look like.



## From the Archdiocese of Boston

### March 19 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

In many parishes those preparing for initiation into the Catholic Church – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist – at the Easter Vigil, will experience the first of three Scrutinies today. Scrutinies are “.. rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose.... meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good.” All of us can benefit from ‘self-searching and repentance’. Look at the Samaritan woman in today’s Gospel. Her conversation with Jesus put her on the ‘fast track’ to self-searching and repentance. Her conversation with Jesus transformed her into a great evangelizer: “Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?’” This week, share what God has done for you with someone. Invite someone to *Come see.....*

### CATHOLIC APPEAL

Through your support of the 2017 Catholic Appeal, we are able to bring the Gospel message to life. If you have yet to make a pledge to this year’s Catholic Appeal, please complete a pledge form available in the back of the church or visit [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org). Thank you for your prayers and support.

### HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

The Benedictine Monks of Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham cordially invited you to a Compline and Holy Hour on Monday, March 27, 2017 from 7:45 – 8:45 p.m. to pray for vocations. Glastonbury Abbey is located at 16 Hull St. Hingham.

**Fiat**—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. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine, 1105 Boylston St., Boston. Kathy Reda will speak about her vocational story and the call to consecrated virginity. If you are interested in attending, please respond to Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, Delegate for Religious, [Sr\\_Marian\\_Batho@rcab.org](mailto:Sr_Marian_Batho@rcab.org) or call 617-746-5637.



Prayer, fasting, and **almsgiving** are synonymous with Lent. Thank you to everyone who gave alms by shopping for today’s monthly Food Collection Sunday. If you forgot or do not frequent the supermarket, we greatly appreciate cash, checks (written to St. Vincent DePaul with SFA on the memo line), and supermarket or fast food gift cards. Please use the blue SVDP envelopes found throughout the church and place them in the collection basket or the rectory mail slot. We are grateful for any assistance you can offer!

**March 19—Third Sunday of Lent...** In today’s Gospel, Jesus says: “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.”



**Through your almsgiving you are doing the will of the Father and finishing the work of Jesus. Know that your cash or check is multiplied by the money placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Envelopes.**

## Upcoming Events



"Is the LORD in our midst or not?" Let God enhance your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Apr 22-23, 2017 in Brewster, MA and Jun 10-11, 2017 in Medway, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O’Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at [www.WWMEMA.org](http://www.WWMEMA.org).

### LIFT Worship Night

Join LIFT Ministries on Tuesday, March 21st @ 7pm for an inspiring night of worship at St. Agatha Church in Milton, MA with guest speaker Fr. Mark Murphy. The night will include uplifting music, a relevant talk, confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, and is FREE to attend and open to ALL AGES. A downloadable flyer, along with more information about LIFT, can be found on their website at [www.liftedhigher.com](http://www.liftedhigher.com). Come and worship with hundreds of Catholics from around the Boston area!



**Keep the Momentum Going** at the 2017 Massachusetts Citizens for Life Convention on April 8 at Boston College’s Devlin Hall. Meet other pro-lifers and hear from speakers on how to end *Roe v. Wade* and what happens after. And more! Get all the details at [MassProLife.com/2017Convention](http://MassProLife.com/2017Convention) or call 617-242-4199.