

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 25, 2017

4:00PM John McDonald Anniversary

Sunday, March 26 2017

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

9:30 AM Marisa Federico Anniversary

11:30 AM Debra Canale Anniversary

Monday, March 27, 2017

7:00 AM Patricia Dailey Memorial

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

7:00 AM Annie Mullen Memorial

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

7:00 AM Chris D'Arcy Memorial

Thursday, March 30, 2017

7:00 AM Ray Desrosiers Memorial

Friday, March 31, 2017

7:00 AM Kevin DiBona Memorial

Saturday, April 1, 2017

4:00 PM Iolanda Cipollone and Veronica Bonfiglioli Anniversary

Sunday, April 2, 2017

7:00 AM Jamie O'Hare Anniversary

9:30 AM Philip Landry Anniversary

11:30AM

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:
Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—72%

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 5,136.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,608.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,291.25
Total Offertory	\$ 9,035.25

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



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

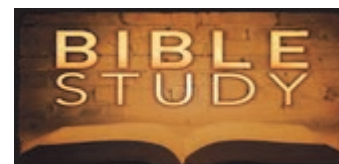
Tuesday, March 28 - at Saint Francis of Assisi - 7:00pm

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.

Did you know that the mid-point of Lent was last Thursday and that today, the 4th Sunday in Lent, is also known as Laetare Sunday? Today is meant to provide encouragement as we continue our Lenten journeys. How appropriate then, that our Collaborative Retreat begins this evening at 7PM at St. Clare church! May it help us all to find "a new way of seeing."



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.



From the desk of the Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Linda Muldoon



Below is the March 26, 2017 Daily Reflection from Creighton University's Online Ministries written by Julie Kalkowski of the Heider College of Business, <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>, used with permission.

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>, used with permission.

Gracious God help us to see with the eyes of Jesus so that we can always find God in others.

Today's exceptionally long Gospel is trying to open our eyes. Where are our blind spots? Do we have certain situations, like the Pharisees, where we refuse to believe despite what we are seeing?

Even though it was almost comical to see the lengths the Pharisees went to "to not see" the obvious, I think the writer was trying to illustrate the various ways we human beings can refuse to see. How many times have we not seen what is staring us in the face? The Pharisees stumbled through various gyrations trying to disprove that Jesus restored the sight of a blind man.

How many times have I spun actions so they fit in with what I want to believe about friends or politicians? How many times have I refused to let facts challenge my strongly held beliefs and/or opinions? I can be so sure I am right that I dismiss the possibility of looking at something from a different perspective. I can rationalize just about anything so I don't have to "see" another way of looking at an issue or an interaction. Rationalizing is so much easier than trying to "see" and "live as children of the light" as Saint Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Ephesians.

We humans are funny...the convolutions we put ourselves through so that facts don't interfere with our strongly held beliefs. We see what we want to see and often what we expect to see regardless of what just happened.

During Lent we can take the time to examine our experiences that prevent us from seeing. God is calling us to see with the Creator's eyes, not our human eyes in the first reading. We are being gently reminded to see people for who they are, not what they look like. What prevents us from seeing all people as children of God?

Jesus didn't come to be "right" or to prove the Pharisees wrong, but to help us learn to be "right" with God. And sometimes that requires a new way of seeing.



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, April 11 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



Boston Archdiocesan CYO Champions 2017- Congratulations to our 5th/6th Boys' Basketball Team who won the Boston Archdiocesan CYO Championship Game against Immaculate Conception School of Revere, last Sunday afternoon with the score of 40 to 26. Our team was presented with the Peter E. Williams Trophy that is now on display at SFA. In addition, each player was awarded with a medal. We are so proud of our team's success this season and their accomplishment (14 games undefeated)! A special word of gratitude and thank you to our coaches, parents and school community, who supported and cheered on our school. Our boys will now advance and represent Boston in the New England CYO Tournament which will be hosted by the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT during the weekend of March 31st.

Amelia Earhart: Pioneer in Aviation - During Catholic Schools Week, our students at every grade level read and listened to the same book, *Who Was Amelia Earhart?* by Kate Boehm Jerome and illustrated by Nancy Harrison and David Cain. As a follow-up activity, a performance of *Amelia Earhart: Pioneer in Aviation* was presented to our students this week by Sheryl Faye Presents Historical Women. Our students not only enjoyed the performance, but were inspired by Amelia's story to pursue their own budding interests, whatever they may be, and reinforced the importance of family, respect for others and individuality. "This program is supported in part by a grant from the Randolph Cultural Council), a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency."

Dog Sledding Presentation – Our third-grade students have been reading the novel "Balto and the Great Race", which was inspired by the yearly running of the Iditarod sled race. This coming week, our students are very excited for they will have the great opportunity to meet our guest visitor, Mr. John Kenney, a real-life musher. Mr. Kenney will bring his lead Siberian Husky, Teddy, dressed in his sled dog racing harness, as well as a real working dog sled that he has used for many years with all the various attachments and gear. Mr. Kenney will talk about being a musher and share experiences about the Iditarod as it relates to the story that our students are reading. As a follow-up, our students in grade three will donate to help support the two Siberian Husky Rescues in New England (Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue and Massachusetts Union of Siberian Huskies).

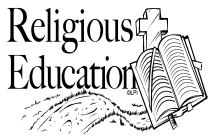
If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the EFT option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2016 please call the parish office at 781-843-1332. In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner who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



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. - Jn 9:35-38

Readings for the Week of March 26, 2017

- 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
- Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b/
Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/
Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-15, 17-18/
Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12/
Jn 7:40-53
- Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238

Classes this week are as scheduled:

Sunday, March 26 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5

No classes this week.

Sunday, March 26 5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10

No classes this week.

Next Class is April 2.

Monday, March 27 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes meet in the church for Stations of the Cross.

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes meet in the church for Stations of the Cross.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8

No classes this week.

Thursday, March 23, 2017 6:00-7:30 Gr. 9

Classes this week at St. Clare.

Next class April 6.



CONFIRMATION IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Confirmation II (Grade 10) We will meet again on Sunday, April 2nd at St. Clare from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Please plan on attending the 6:00 Mass. If you received a message in regards to **Baptismal information**, please submit that as soon as possible. In order to receive Confirmation, a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate must be on file.

"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." –Ephesians 5: 8-9


The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Stay Close and God Bless,
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli

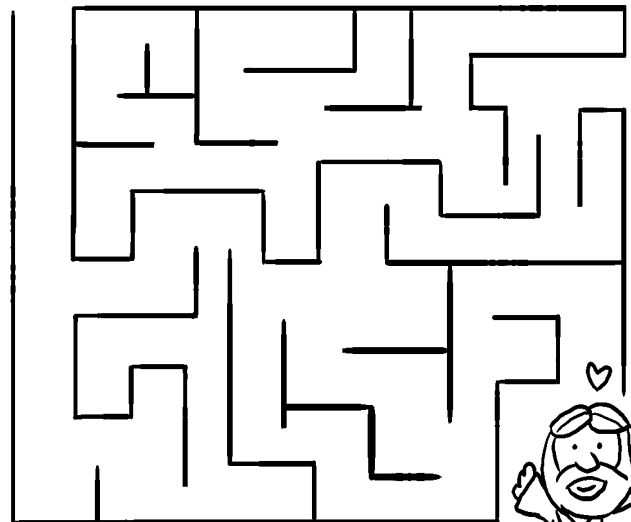
BRAINTREE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

The Braintree Catholic Women's Club has two \$1,000 scholarships available to high school seniors who will be graduating this year. One will be awarded to a Braintree High School senior and the other will be awarded to a BRAINTREE senior graduating from a Catholic high school. Notices have been sent to all participating schools. The deadline for this scholarship is April 15, 2017. Please contact the guidance department of your school requesting an application, or call Mrs. Margaret Hart, BCWC Scholarship Chairperson at 781-849-1755.



 Puzzle

Help me to find God!



©LPI



Sharing the Gospel

When Jesus saw the blind man, he did not just walk by. Jesus stopped. He knew he could help the man, and honor God at the same time. Showing all of God's love and power, Jesus healed the blind man's eyes. For the first time in his life, the man could see Jesus and believe in him.

Prayer

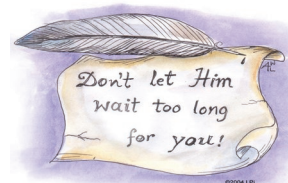
Jesus, thank you for helping the blind man believe in you.

Something to Draw

With your eyes closed, try to draw a picture of Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Draw a cross and put it in a place where you can see it and think of Jesus every day.





From the Archdiocese of Boston

March 26 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Laetare Sunday
Laetare – Rejoice! We are nearing the end of our Lenten journey. How is your Lent? Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians and the Gospel story of the man born blind talk about light and dark. We are two weeks into Daylight Savings Time, days are longer, but is the light of faith growing stronger in you? "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." It's not too late. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving (charity) are the pillars of Lent. How can you make these pillars pleasing to the Lord during these last weeks of Lent? It's. Not. Too. Late.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

The Benedictine Monks of Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham cordially invite 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 or call 617-746-5637.

JESUS IN BOSTON—YOUNG ADULT EVENT

All Young Adults and College Students are invited to join us on Friday, April 7th @ 7:30pm for our monthly "Jesus in Boston" event. This month, we will be at Sacred Heart Church in Boston's North End. This is a great way to strengthen your interior life through the sacraments and to meet new people spending time in fellowship with other Catholic young adults. Join us for Eucharistic adoration, Mass, Confession, great food and even better people! For more information please email Mike Drahos at MDrahos@rcab.org.

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. Thank you for your prayers and support.



March 26—Fourth Sunday of Lent... In today's Gospel, Jesus gives sight to the blind man. Through grace we are also transformed from not seeing to seeing, and then Jesus sends us to help others see and to believe. **Your gifts this month allowed the St. Francis of Assisi Conference of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul to give hope and help to families and individuals with the groceries they receive from our food pantry and by specific and limited financial assistance. Thank you and God bless you!**

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,

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be hosting the Stations of the Cross at St. Francis on Friday, March 31st beginning at 6pm. The following Friday, on April 7th at 6pm St. Clare will be hosting the Stations of the Cross. Both evenings will be followed by a simple meal of pizza and salad in the church hall. The cost is \$3 per person. Please join the Catholic Daughters in an evening of spirituality and community.



"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." Let your spouse see into your heart better 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.



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 or call 617-242-4199.

Sr. Miriam Patrice: A Celebration of Life!

Please join us on April 1 at 11:00 at St. John the Baptist Church, 44 School Street, Quincy to celebrate the life of Sr. Miriam Patrice McKeon at a Memorial Mass concelebrated by Reverends Michael McNamara and Francis Conroy. A Sister of Charity for 67 years, who was missioned in Nova Scotia, Sr. Miriam resided at St. John the Baptist convent for many years. As Board Member and advocate, she faithfully served the communities of Friends of the Unborn and Fr. Bill's. Let's remember our beautiful Sister in Christ in song and celebration. Refreshments and fellowship to follow in the church hall.