

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, April 1, 2017

4:00PM Iolanda Cipollone and Veronica Bonfiglioli Anniversary

Sunday, April 2 2017

7:00 AM Jamie O'Hare Anniversary

9:30 AM Philip Landry Anniversaries

11:30 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Monday, April 3, 2017

7:00 AM Judith Stempleski Anniversaries

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

7:00 AM Michael Conneely Anniversaries

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

7:00 AM Rafael Gutierrez Memorial

Thursday, April 6, 2017

7:00 AM William Dickinson Memorial

Friday, April 7, 2017

7:00 AM James DiGiusto Memorial

Saturday, April 8, 2017

4:00 PM James Fahey Anniversaries

Sunday, April 9, 2017

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

9:30 AM Giacomo & Liberata DiCenso Memorial

11:30AM Sheila Baraggia Anniversaries

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:
Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—68%

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 5,674.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 3,354.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,291.25
Total Offertory	\$ 10,319.25

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

Thank You!

Our Collaborative Lenten retreat has come to a close. Thank you to everyone from St. Francis and from St. Clare whose efforts behind the scenes made possible our four evenings together. Thank you also to the Office of Spiritual Life, our presenters, and our parishioners who attended.



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, through April 11 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 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.



Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." - Jn 11:25-27



From the desk of the Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



In the Old Testament reading from the prophet Ezekiel, it is the LORD who says, "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them." In the Gospel from John, Jesus, having wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, is not quite so poetic when he calls him forth from his tomb with a rousing, "Lazarus, come out!" This is a multi-layered piece of scripture that beautifully lends itself to experiential prayer before we begin our Holy Week observances. Are you one of the disciples, questioning Jesus' decision to return to Bethany but choosing to accompany him to see what will happen? Are you Martha or Mary, sisters of the dead man, who each call out Jesus for not having arrived sooner, AND who in spite of her (Martha) sorrow makes a stunning profession of faith? Are you an anonymous member of the crowd that follows Jesus to the tomb, not sure if you believe but curious to see what he will do there? Are you Lazarus, all bound up and dead to the world? Or maybe you are Jesus, with the intent of revealing the glory of God through your words and actions. During Lent, we are called to go deep into our "caves" and ask God to show us the things of this world that bind us and blind us from living as true disciples. God does not love us less for these things but waits for us to ask his help in discarding them so that we, too, can live as children of the light and be well-prepared to participate in the liturgies of Holy Week and the glory of Easter.

The Little Black Book for Lent can still be a valuable part of your Lenten journey. 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**. Visit www.onlineministries.creighton.edu to see what may appeal to you.

Almost there... Still wearing a brace and still using (and not loving) crutches, but an x-ray this week revealed positive results from all those days of non-weight bearing. Hope to be back in time to say Happy Easter—in person! I am so grateful for the flowers, cards, and notes that truly brightened many a day!



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, 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.



April 2—Fifth Sunday of Lent... The Gospel today challenges us to see and believe the signs of grace in our lives: joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy, and kindness. **Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brings joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy, and kindness to the hurting hearts of the poor.**



APRIL 2, 2017



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal

SFA's 2nd Annual Spring Social – Come celebrate and join us for SFA's 2nd Annual Spring Social on Friday, May 12th at 6:00 pm at Great Pond Hall in Braintree. Our event last year was a spectacular time; socializing as a community, as well as raising financial support to benefit our students. Like last year, our event will include a fun DJ, delicious hearty appetizers, desserts, and a cash bar. We will have one-of-a-kind raffles, interactive fundraising games, a "wall of wine," and an amazing silent auction featuring tickets to Walt Disney World, and more! The funds raised at this year's Spring Social will assist us in *continuing to build a foundation for our students today, tomorrow, and our future* as we continue to improve our curriculum offerings, teaching resources, and most specifically, technology needs and advancements. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://sfabraintree.eventbrite.com?s=74493359> or visit our school's website (www.sfab.org) for additional information and details. Once again, child care services will be provided on this evening. As always, we have the greatest appreciation for the generosity of our school families, faculty, staff, parishioners, and friends of St. Francis of Assisi School who never fail to come together to support the mission of our school.

MARC Presentation – At a recent professional development day, our faculty and staff participated in a workshop conducted by the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) from Bridgewater State University addressing the topics of bullying and cyberbullying prevention. This past week, SFA hosted two programs for our students (grades 4-6; and 7&8) sponsored by MARC. These programs were developmentally-appropriate for students and will also address the topics of bullying and cyberbullying prevention. We are in the process of arranging and offering a presentation for our parents.

Enroll Today – St. Francis of Assisi School is now accepting applications for all grade levels for the 2017-18 school year. 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 must 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

Classes this week are as scheduled:

- Sunday, April 2** 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5
Classes in the school.
- Sunday, April 2** 5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10
Classes at St. Clare.
- Monday, April 3** 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5
Classes in the school.
- Tuesday, April 4** 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5
Classes in the school.
- Tuesday, April 4** 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8
No classes this week.
- Thursday, April 6, 2017** 6:00-7:30 Gr. 9
Classes this week at St. Clare.



There is a new addition in the rectory that you probably haven't met. If you speak to Fr. Paul today, ask him about his new pet.



CONFIRMATION IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Confirmation I (Grade 9) We will meet on Thursday, April 6th at St. Clare from 6:00 to 7:30PM. Please join us on Palm Sunday, April 9th for Mass at 6:00 at St. Clare with the 10th grade Confirmation Candidates.

Confirmation II (Grade 10) Our last formal gathering together before Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 9th for class at 5:00 and Palm Sunday Mass at 6:00.

****The Confirmation Ceremonies and Practices are as follows:**

St. Francis of Assisi (SFA) – Friday, April 21st, at 7:00PM for Candidates (registered through St. Francis of Assisi) with surname from A-L. Candidate and sponsor should arrive by 6:15. **Practice** at SFA at 7:00PM on April 19th for Candidate and Sponsor

St. Francis of Assisi (SFA) – Friday, April 28th, at 7:00PM for Candidates (registered through St. Francis of Assisi) with names from M-Z. Candidate and sponsor should arrive by 6:15. **Practice** at SFA at 7:00 pm on April 26th for Candidate and Sponsor

St. Clare – Saturday, April 29th, at 11:00 am for all Candidates registered through St. Clare. **Practice** at St. Clare at 7:00 on April 27th for Candidate and sponsor
**** (excluding previously changed arrangements)**

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" Gospel of John 11: 40

Pray for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit because taking things on faith isn't an easy proposition, especially in our "prove it" society. Some of us may be blessed with miraculous moments when we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit assuring us that there is more to come. Many of us believe without seeing; we follow without knowing where we will land. This kind of faith is a miracle in itself. Why do we have this gift of faith when others don't? What keeps us faithful day after day, sometimes during incredibly difficult times? This kind of faith is a gift; a miracle; and it's not our own doing. Let us be open to the generous work of the Spirit!

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Stay Close and God Bless,
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



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.

Readings for the Week of April 2, 2017

- 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
- Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or
13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-6/Jn 8:1-11
- Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-21/
Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52-56/
Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-9/Jn 8:51-59
- Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-7/Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10-12abcd, 13/
Jn 11:45-56
- Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/
Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/
Mt 26:14--27:66 or 27:11-54



 **Puzzle**

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| GOD'S SON | LAZARUS | BELIEVES |
| SICKNESS | MARY | WEEPING |
| RISE | MARTHA | WRAPPED |

S A O E T R H I E T Y
T W R A P P E D H O N
O E K R W Y A O Y U T
B E L I E V E S T S H
H P T S A O M Y N I E
T I H E U N A J H C S
U N S V M A R Y L K O
O G K H E I T D W N U
T P A Y N O H S Y E A
I S D L A Z A R U S H
G O D S S O N F E S R

©LPI

Sharing the Gospel

Instead of telling people he was the Savior, Jesus showed them. By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus sent a message loud and clear. Jesus was the Savior they had all been waiting for. He was filled with God's love and power, and many people believed in him.

Prayer

Thank you for showing me that you are my Savior, Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Lazarus wrapped up like a mummy, walking to Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Write the words, "God can do anything" on a piece of paper. Read it every morning.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

April 2 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

We're almost at the end – today's readings give us such hope. Ezekiel gives us God's promise: I will put my spirit in you that you may live, ... I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD." Jesus gives us His assurance of everlasting life: "whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." We are moving toward Jerusalem, but we know, for certain, that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. This is very Good News. If your Lent has been less than you hoped, it's not too late: add a few minutes each day to think about this Good News, remember, God's spirit is in YOU. Share the Good News with someone this week.

ARCHDIOCESAN ADDICTION RECOVERY PASTORAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Mayor Thomas Koch, Quincy parishes & collaboratives and the Archdiocese of Boston join together for a Mass of hope, healing & prayerful remembrance. Tues April 4, 7:00pm at Sacred Heart Church, 386 Hancock Street. We wish to prayerfully support all who are afflicted with the disease of addiction, all families and loved ones affected, and pray with all who grieve.

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.



Upcoming Events

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be hosting the Stations of the Cross at St. Clare on Friday, April 7th at 6pm. Stations 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.

Early Bird Special—Boston & South Shore Men's Prayer Gathering, **Saturday, 7:00-8:30AM** at St. Mary of the Hills Lower Church, 29 St. Mary's Road (off Brook Road), Milton. Prayer; Coffee and refreshments; Presentation and discussion. Next meeting April 15. Topic: St. Joseph, Father by Geoff FitzGerald Early Bird Member

LIFT Worship Night

Join LIFT Ministries on Tuesday, April 18th @ 7pm for an inspiring night of worship at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Hanson, MA with guest speaker Fr. Stan Fortuna. 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. Come and worship with hundreds of Catholics from around the Boston area!



"Untie him and let him go." Husbands and wives, untie each other from the fetters of misunderstanding 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.

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.

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.