

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, December 2, 2017

4:00PM Pamela Gorman Memorial

Sunday, December 3, 2017

7:00 AM Albert, Tecla & Steven Jolicoeur Memorial

9:30 AM Joseph Stanton Anniversary

11:30 AM Richard & Margaret Keane Anniversary

Monday, December 4, 2017

7:00 AM Peter Conneely Anniversary

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

7:00 AM Matthew McDonagh Anniversary

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

7:00 AM Joan Newcomb Memorial

Thursday, December 7, 2017

8:00 AM Charles Beaulieu Anniversary

5:00PM Bernadette Lucy & Joseph Forti Memorial

Friday, December 8, 2017

7:00 AM Daniel J. Mahoney Anniversary

12:10PM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, December 9, 2017

4:00PM Franklin Cropley & Steven Lemieux Anniversary

Sunday, December 10, 2017

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

9:30 AM Elizabeth "Pat" McGrath Anniversary

11:30AM Mary Daly Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:
Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—71%

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 5,636.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,897.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,322.00
Total Offertory	\$ 9,855.00

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Friday, December 8 is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule for the collaborative of St. Francis /St. Clare of Assisi is:

St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, December 7

Vigil 5:00PM

Friday, December 8

7:00AM, 8:45AM (School

Liturgy all are welcome)

and 12:10PM

St. Clare

Thursday, December 7

Vigil 4:00PM

Friday, December 8

9AM and 5:30PM



"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping." - Mk 13:35-36

Readings for the Week of December 3, 2017

Sunday:	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/ Mk 13:33-37
Monday:	Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/ Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [1a]/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



First Sunday in Advent

We know we're getting older when what we want is often "less" during the next few weeks of "more." For sure, many of us want less stuff, less traffic in the town that offers so many shopping options, fewer incessant ads that urge us to purchase every must-have that exists, less pressure to decorate the perfect home or bake dozens of cookies, and fewer items on the to-do list of our busy lives. The "more" is of our own choosing—more time to connect with the Lord, more carols that sing the story of our faith, more opportunities to just "be" with loved ones. In the darkness of early winter, let us seek the light; in the non-stop noise, let us carve out moments of holy silence; and in the faces of those around us, let us recognize Jesus.

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy." The quote is from Pope Francis in *The Joy of the Gospel*. Pray with it, and reflect upon whether this may be an invitation from God to seek out the sacrament of reconciliation. There will be many opportunities within our collaborative over the next few weeks.

This website tops my list of great resources for Advent—something for individuals and families, young and old can be found at <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>. Please take a moment to take a look.

December 3—First Sunday of Advent: As we begin Advent we are called to "Be watchful! Be alert" as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. **Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul blue envelopes will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.**



Advent Evenings of Prayer will be held on Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20 at 7PM in SFA church. Please join us—whether you need to escape by yourself or prefer to bring along a friend or two—to spend some time with the Lord. As we wait for the coming of the Lord, let us remember that God is also waiting—for us!



Our bereavement group meets next Tuesday, December 12 at 1PM in the SFA church hall. We are using the book, *The New Day Journal*, and copies are available for new members. If you are a returning member and already have this book, we ask that you bring it with you. Please feel free to call or email Linda Muldoon with questions—781.843.1332 or lmuldoon@sfab.org.



We welcome with joy into the family of the Church the following children who were baptized during the month of November, 2017:

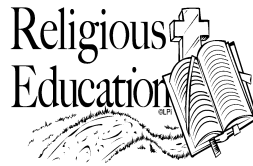
Elizabeth Mary Cullen, Nolan Willis Gary, Quinn Maeve O'Brien, William Patrick Washburn, Julia Kathleen Lonardo-Roy, and Morgan Rose MacDonald

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Wednesday our Grand Annual Collection was \$33,900 from 181 contributors (11% 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.



Parish Info and events of note...



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238

- **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 **Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00PM.** Come and join us when you can. (We suggest that you bring yarn, knitting needles, and/or crochet hooks. There is some yarn available; but, if you have your own, that would be most helpful.)
- **Our Bereavement Group ... next** meets Tuesday, December 12 at 1:00PM in the church hall. More information elsewhere in this bulletin.
- **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. 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.



We are now booking Mass Intentions through September 2, 2018.

Religious Education classes are as scheduled:

Sunday, December 3	10:30-11:30	Gr. 1-5
Classes go to church hall immediately after Mass.		
	5:00 – 7:00	Gr. 10
Classes this week at St. Clare.		
Monday, December 4	3:50-4:50	Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.		
Tuesday, December 5	3:50-4:50	Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.		
	6:30– 7:45	Gr. 6-8
Classes meet in school.		
Thursday, December 7	6:30-8:00	Gr. 9
No classes this week.		

Confirmation I (Grade 9): Next meeting - **Thursday, Dec. 14th** from 6:30 to 8:00PM at St. Clare and **Sunday, December 17th** for the 6:00 Mass at St. Clare.

Confirmation II (Grade 10): Next meeting - **Sunday, Dec. 17th** from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at St. Clare (Mass is part of our meeting time.) **Dec. 3rd class cancelled.**

We owe a heartfelt **“thank you”** to **Mr. Bob Brooks** who came to share his faith journey with our 10th graders. When an adult speaks about personal joys and challenges and how they encounter God, their honesty inspires each of us up to seek our personal encounter too. Mr. Brooks challenged us with an inspiring exercise to watch and listen for God in the world. He assured us that we are free to discover, through a prayer practice, God’s plan for each of us.

For I know the plans I have for you, “says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope...when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me. I will be found by you,” says the Lord. “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.”

Jeremiah 29: 11-13 and Psalm 32:8

Advent begins on Sunday, December 3. Advent is a wonderful time to start family traditions to do things together that focus on celebrating the coming of Jesus Christ. There are many ideas on-line that are appropriate for all age levels. The Advent wreath, meditations and doing something special each day for others in His name are just a few ideas.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal

Advent 2017 – With the upcoming hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, all of the decorating and wrapping of gifts, it is important, as Catholics, to remember that the Season of Advent begins this weekend. It is a difficult season to celebrate because of the commercialism of the secular world in which we live.

The Season of Advent allows us time to prepare ourselves for Christmas, as we ponder how Jesus came into this world in such a stunningly humble way and it is also a time when we look forward to His second coming at the end of the ages.

During the next four weeks, the SFA school community will make this Season of Advent a central focus of our actions and discussions within our classrooms. Some of our planned Advent activities will include prayer and liturgies, penance services, arts and crafts, Christmas stories, songs, and service projects. In addition, the faculty and students will participate in several outreach service projects – making the “spirit of giving” tangible for us. We wish to make the holidays a little brighter and bring joy to those who are far from home, as well as those who are less fortunate.



The Holiday Calendars Are Here! Thinking of stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts? Have scratch tickets crossed your mind? A \$10 scratch ticket gives you ONE chance to win, BUT wouldn't a wiser investment be a \$10 ticket on 31 chances to win \$5,000 in prizes? St. Francis of Assisi has you covered! **On December 9, 10, 16, and 17 following all of the Masses, SFA school children, families, and staff will be selling Christmas calendars for \$10 each.** Prizes will be drawn for each day beginning January 1 through 31 with prizes totaling over \$5,000! Stock up for all of your Christmas needs and don't forget the mailman, the milkman, the bus drivers, CCD teachers, co-workers, and more! In advance, we would like to thank you for your continued support of our school.

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 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.



Our Advent Giving Tree continues THIS Weekend. Our Christian Service Commission needs your help in providing gifts for many families who are unable to purchase even essentials for Christmas gifts. You can help in any of the following ways.

- 1) Take a tag from the tree and purchase a requested item.
 - * If you take a tag from the tree, please **look at it before you leave church** to be certain that you are willing and able to purchase at least some of the gifts listed there. If not—simply return it to the tree and take a different card that more suits your mindset and your budget. If someone has listed a basketball, please do not substitute a board game. (Seriously—this happens!)
 - * Please check to see if the organization sponsoring the card has requested that you wrap the gift(s). If the tag says **do not wrap**, you can still help everyone involved in sorting and organizing by placing your purchase in a gift bag so that our volunteers can easily check the contents.
 - * Please **securely attach the tag** you take from the tree to the outside of the bag or package. The tags are coded by color and number and we need them back so that your gift reaches the correct organization and recipient.
 - * **All gifts should be returned (left under the tree) no later than December 10.**
- 2) If you are unable to shop, you can make a monetary donation [**do not take a tag**] and members of the Christian Service Commission will do the shopping and wrapping for you. You may place your donation in the collection basket in an envelope marked “Advent Giving Tree Program.” Checks should be made payable to St. Francis of Assisi with “Giving Tree” on the Memo line.
- 3) If you would like to “adopt” an entire family for Christmas, please contact Kate Waldron at 781-848-5233 or katewaldron@verizon.net.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

December 3 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Advent is a season of waiting. All of us are waiting for the coming of Christ and as the Gospel says, "You do not know when the Lord is coming." Pray for the strength to follow Jesus, to keep Him in mind even though the incessant commercialism of the season tries to turn our attention away from Him. And pray for the courage to introduce Jesus to others.

Witness to Life Pilgrimage: January 18-20, 2018.

The Archdiocese of Boston Witness to Life pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. begins with a Witness to Life Rally on Thursday, January 18, 7:00PM at St. Stephen parish in Framingham. The Rally is open to all—even if you're not going on to the March for Life in D.C. Pilgrims will board the bus after the Rally and travel overnight to D.C. The \$180.00 pp/(quad occupancy) package includes transportation, hotel, meals, tours, and WTL apparel. Join Cardinal Seán O'Malley, and hundreds of others from RCAB Catholic schools and parishes as we march with thousands in our nation's capital to stand up for life. For more information, visit bostoncatholic.org/witnesstolife; or contact witnesstolife@rcab.org



"Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." As we begin the waiting of Advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 19-21, 2018 in South Kingstown, RI and Mar 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at https://wwwmema.org/.



The BRAINTREE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB will host their annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30PM at St. Clare's Parish Hall in Braintree. Come and enjoy a medley of Christmas Music and "Songs you love to hear" performed by Mike Dardis with Piano and Guitar. Christmas raffles will also be held to support our scholarship fund. For more information please call Margaret Hart or Yvonne Colligan 781-843-2765.



Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- WATCH, COME, MIDNIGHT, READY, MASTER, DAWN, TIME, EVENING, MORNING

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

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Sharing the Gospel

When you play on a baseball team, you learn how to pay attention. Your coach reminds you and your teammates to stay ready. You learn to watch the ball. Those are good lessons to learn, because Jesus wants you to pay attention, too. Keep your eyes and your mind on Jesus, so you're ready when he comes.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to stay ready for you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of people who help you stay ready for Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Play a quick game of baseball. Cheer for one another. End the game with a prayer that you will keep your eyes on Jesus.