

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 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

11:30 AM Mary Daly Anniversary

Monday, December 11, 2017

7:00 AM Herbert Walbridge Anniversary

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

7:00 AM Jay Thompson-Glikin Anniversary

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

7:00 AM Karen McElaney Memorial

Thursday, December 14, 2017

7:00 AM Henry Pires Anniversary

Friday, December 15, 2017

7:00 AM Laura Froelich Anniversary

Saturday, December 16, 2017

4:00PM Nacole LaTorella Anniversary

Sunday, December 17, 2017

7:00 AM Anna & William Polin Memorial

9:30 AM Philip Fasano, Sr. Anniversary

11:30AM Barbara Blushi Memorial

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—69%

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 5,282.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,879.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,031.60
Total Offertory	\$ 9,192.60

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



Our Advent Giving Tree concludes THIS Weekend. **All gifts should be returned (left under the tree) no later than December 10.** If you were unable to shop, you can make a monetary donation 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. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



"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/
Mk13:33-37
- 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

Please see the enclosed Mass schedule for the weekend of December 23-24, Christmas Eve/Christmas Day and special Confession times.



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon

An Advent Invitation...



There are two remaining Advent Evenings of Prayer that begin at 7PM in SFA church on Wednesdays, December 13 and 20. On December 13, we will offer a presentation given by Maureen McCann Waldron, long-time staff member of Creighton University, entitled "The Season of Waiting – Our God Who Is Waiting for Us." Our time together (about an hour) will begin and end with prayer, and coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and goodies will be served during the presentation. Please join us—and bring a friend—as we step out of the fray and into the quiet zone to reconnect with one another and with our God.

This website continues to top 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.



The following are the words of Pope Francis, taken from his preaching on the 2nd Sunday of Advent in 2014. *Isaiah's message, which resounds in this second Sunday of Advent, is a salve on our wounds and an impetus to prepare with commitment the way of the Lord. Indeed, today the Prophet speaks to our hearts to tell us that God condones our sins and comforts us. If we entrust ourselves to Him with a humble and penitent heart, He will tear down the walls of evil, He will fill in the holes of our omissions, He will smooth over the bumps of arrogance and vanity, and will open the way of encounter with Him. It is curious, but many times we are afraid of consolation, of being comforted. Or rather, we feel more secure in sorrow and desolation. Do you know why? Because in sorrow we feel almost as protagonists. However, in consolation the Holy Spirit is the protagonist! It is He who consoles us; it is He who gives us the courage to go out of ourselves. It is He who opens the door to the source of every true comfort, that is, the Father. And this is conversion. Please, let yourselves be comforted by the Lord! Let yourselves be comforted by the Lord! The Virgin Mary is the "Way" that God Himself prepared in order to come into the world. Let us entrust to her the salvation and peace awaited by all men and women of our time.*

December 10—Second Sunday of Advent: In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our families, and to reach out to those in need. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.



Our bereavement group meets THIS Tuesday, December 12 at 1PM in the SFA church hall. We will meet again on Tuesday, December 19 for our Christmas luncheon, and we invite all former members of the group to join us for what has become a holiday tradition. If you wish to attend, please call the parish office (781.843.1332) or email Linda (lmuldoon@sfab.org) so we can plan (food) accordingly, and feel free to bring a gift for the Yankee Swap.

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Wednesday our Grand Annual Collection was \$38,900 from 203 contributors (12% 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.

A Prayer for Advent

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

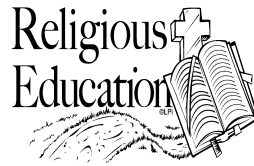
I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail.
Amen.

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, 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 ...** meets THIS 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.



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238

Religious Education classes are as scheduled:

Sunday, December 10	10:30-11:30	Gr. 1-5
	No classes this week.	
	5:00 – 7:00	Gr. 10
	No classes this week.	
Monday, December 11	3:50-4:50	Gr. 1-5
	Classes meet in the school.	
Tuesday, December 12	3:50-4:50	Gr. 1-5
	Classes meet in the school.	
	6:30– 7:45	Gr. 6-8
	No classes this week.	
Thursday, December 14	6:30-8:00	Gr. 9
	Classes this week at St. Clare.	

We wish all our young people and their families an Advent season full of hope, faith, joy and peace.



CONFIRMATION NEWS:

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

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

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

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Stay close,
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal



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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECTS

In keeping with the tradition of giving this holiday season, our SFA School community will participate in a variety of Christmas service projects.


In our middle school (grades 6 – 8), our students will be participating in a Christmas service project to help the homeless that are served by our local communities. From December 4th through December 15th, we will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks, in children and adult sizes, for those less fortunate than ourselves. All donations will be brought to an area bank that will send these items to the Salvation Army to be distributed as the need arises.

In our elementary school (grades PK – 5), our students will be participating in a Christmas service project to help keep children warm in the cold. From December 4th through December 20th, we will be collecting school aged size pajamas for children in need. All donations will be delivered to the Massachusetts Department of Children & Family located in Braintree.

Finally, as an entire school community, we sponsored a "Red and Green" Dress Down Day on Wednesday, December 6th. The proceeds from this dress down day will be used to adopt a family for Christmas. As always, we thank you for your help and generosity in these matters.

SFA SCHOOL FUNDRAISER AT THE CHATEAU

SAVE THE DATE!!! On Thursday, December 14th, enjoy lunch/dinner or take-out at The Chateau in Braintree from 11:15 – close and SFA will receive 20% of the total bill of all food and beverages. **Please note: Fundraising Tickets are Required: when paying your check, give the server the fundraising ticket that appears below.**



The Chateau of Braintree presents:
The Chateau Sponsored Fundraiser

On Thursday December 14, 2017 bring the fundraiser ticket below and enjoy lunch, dinner or order take-out from The Chateau Restaurant of Braintree. When paying your check, give the server your ticket. The ticket will be attached to your check. The Chateau Restaurant will contribute 20% of the total bill to the:

St. Francis of Assisi School
Thursday December 14, 2017

We are providing a community outlet to local non-profit groups for fundraising. This is a great way to raise money for important community organizations that are often not financially supported to the extent of what is needed to succeed.

THURSDAY 12/14/17 TIME: 11:30AM-CLOSE

SPONSORED FUNDRAISER
20% OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:

St. Francis of Assisi School

THE CHATEAU RESTAURANT BRAINTREE - ITALIAN FAMILY DINING
535 JOHN MAHAR HIGHWAY - BRAINTREE, MA 02184

TAKE OUT ORDERS INCLUDED ~ TO ORDER CALL 781-380-8770
ONLY ONE TICKET PER GROUP NEEDED ~ DOES NOT APPLY TO DELIVERY ORDERS

Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or on restaurant property. Thank you.

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.





From the Archdiocese of Boston

December 10 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

The prophet Isaiah instructs us: "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is about and yet, it can be difficult to keep this focus when we are pulled in too many directions by the shopping and cooking and card writing that go with the season. Don't allow the tasks to prevent you from finding time to prepare your heart for Christ. Begin each day this week by making a simple prayer, "Come Lord Jesus, come! Come Lord Jesus, come!"

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



"Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." Let us learn to comfort each other better 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://www.mema.org/>.



Pray for Vocations

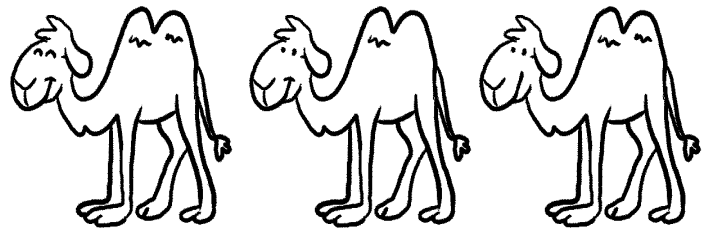
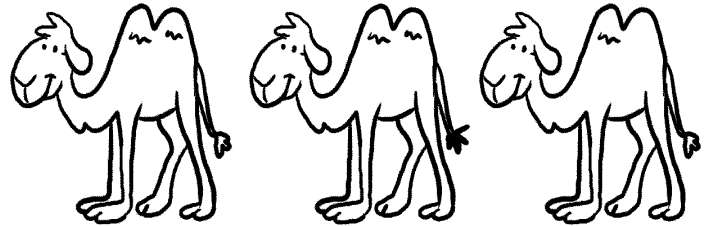
The **BRAINTREE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB** will host their annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30PM at St. Clare's Parish Hall in Braintree. Come and enjoy a medley of Christmas Music and "Songs you love to hear" performed by Mike Dardis with Piano and Guitar. Christmas raffles will also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

Kids Corner



Puzzle

Find the 2 identical camels.



©LPI

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.

