

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 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

11:30 AM Barbara Blushi Memorial

Monday, December 18, 2017

7:00 AM Special Intention

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

7:00 AM Roseann Walling Spec. Intention

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

7:00 AM Thomas Mercier Memorial

Thursday, December 21, 2017

7:00 AM Jim Morris Memorial

Friday, December 22, 2017

7:00 AM Sally Nilan Memorial

Saturday, December 23, 2017

4:00PM Edward O'Leary & Jeremiah O'Leary Anniversary Birthday Mem.

Sunday, December 24, 2017

7:00 AM Vincent Cioffi Memorial

11:00AM

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	\$ 4,568.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,555.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,031.60
Total Offertory	\$ 8,154.60

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

Schedule

Weekend Mass Schedule for the weekend of December 23—24

Saturday, December 23 St. Francis of Assisi
4:00PM AND 7:00PM

St. Clare
4:00PM

Sunday, December 24 St. Francis of Assisi
7:00AM and 11:00AM

St. Clare
9:00AM (only)

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24 St. Francis of Assisi
4:00PM (Upper church only), 6:00PM and 11:00PM

St. Clare
4:00PM and 6:00PM

Monday, December 25 St. Francis of Assisi
7:00AM, 9:30AM and 11:30AM

St. Clare
8:15AM, and 10:15AM

There is no 6:00PM Mass on Christmas Night

Special Confession Times

Sunday, December 17

St. Francis of Assisi 12:30PM
St. Clare 6:45-7:30PM

Monday, December 18

St. Francis of Assisi 7:30AM
St. Clare 9:30AM

Tuesday, December 19

St. Francis of Assisi 7:30AM
St. Clare 9:30AM

Wednesday, December 20

St. Clare 6:30-9:30PM

Friday, December 22

St. Francis of Assisi 4:30-5:30PM

Saturday, December 23

St. Francis of Assisi 1:30-3:45PM
and 8:00PM

St. Clare 7:30-9:30AM

Sunday, December 24

St. Francis of Assisi 12:00PM
St. Clare 10:00AM



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon
An Advent Invitation...

THE "O ANTIPHONS" OF ADVENT

(from www.usccb.org)

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.



December 17: O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: Come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18: O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: Come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19: O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: Come to save us without delay!

December 20: O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: Come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22: O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: Come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23: O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: Come to save us, Lord our God!



There is one remaining Advent Evening of Prayer, to be led by Deacon Joe MacDonald, THIS Wednesday, December 20, at 7PM in SFA church. 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 and Christmas—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 17—Third Sunday of Advent: In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord. **Christmas is a time of love and gift giving—please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.**



FEED THE HUNGRY

Food Collection Sunday... If, in the middle of all of your shopping, you remembered that today (3rd Sunday of the month) is our monthly food collection, our volunteers and staff extend an extra big thank you, because the need to keep our pantry stocked does not lessen with the holidays.

Your bags of groceries (only non-perishable food items, please) and your financial assistance (checks written to St. Vincent DePaul with SFA on the memo line) by means of the blue SVDP envelopes found in the church are always welcome and appreciated!

Our bereavement group meets THIS

Tuesday, December 19 at 12:30 (note time change) in the SFA church hall for our Christmas luncheon. 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) BY NOON ON MONDAY so we can plan (food) accordingly. If you would like to join in the Yankees swap, please bring a wrapped (\$20) gift. The group will start up again in March, but those grieving the death of a loved one are always welcome to contact the parish for assistance, using the above information.

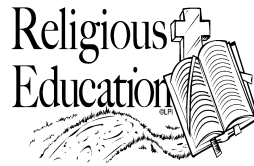


Parish Info and events of note...

- **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...** Next meets **Thursday, December 28th at 12:30PM**. 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 19 at 1:00PM in the church hall for our Annual Christmas luncheon.
- **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 17	10:30-11:30	Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.		
	5:00 – 7:00	Gr. 10
Classes meet at St. Clare.		
Monday, December 18	3:50-4:50	Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.		
Tuesday, December 19	3:50-4:50	Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.		
	6:30– 7:45	Gr. 6-8
Classes meet in the school		
Thursday, December 21	6:30-8:00	Gr. 9
No classes this week.		

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



Confirmation I (Grade 9): Next meetings - **Sunday, December 17th** for the 6:00 Mass at St. Clare and **Thursday, January 4th** from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Clare.

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

Our gracious young people are busy *bringing glad tidings*. They are serving the poor at My Brother's Keeper by donating toys and preparing Christmas packages. They are baking gingerbread homes and cookies and bringing them to Sunrise to decorate and share fellowship with residents. They are reminding each other to pray for renewed awareness of the greatness of God and his plan for them. Please pray for them to share their gifts while we wait in joyful hope for Christmas.

"Let us ask the Lord to help us recognize with gratitude this great outpouring of spiritual gifts which enables the Church to persevere in faith, to grow in grace and to be an ever more credible sign and witness of God's infinite love." – Pope Francis

My soul rejoices in my God.

Stay close,
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Tuesday our Grand Annual Collection was \$45,000 from 222 contributors (13% 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.



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! **This weekend 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.

Miracle on Bethlehem Street - Our students are diligently rehearsing lines and songs as they prepare for their annual Christmas Concert, which will be held on Wednesday, December 20th at 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend! This year, in addition to the traditional Christmas songs and carols, our students will also sing eight contemporary songs from the Christmas Musical for Children entitled *Miracle on Bethlehem Street*. Bethlehem has never been busier! Caesar's Census had the entire town in a frenzy ... and of course, everyone's favorite Innkeeper plans to capitalize on the coming crowds. He decided to make his inn a luxury inn complete with valet camel hitching and a fig on every pillow. From joyous to gentle, *Miracle on Bethlehem Street* captures the Christmas Story in an unforgettable telling with fun and heartfelt songs along with clever dialogue. I would like to extend a word of special thanks to Mrs. Lucia Murray, our music teacher for coordinating this performance and showcasing our talented students with their musical abilities.

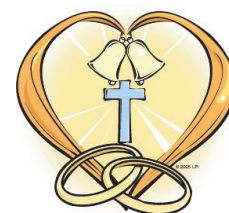
ENROLL TODAY—St. Francis of Assisi School is now accepting applications for all grade levels for the 2017-18 school year. For more information regarding our admissions procedure, simply visit our school's website (www.sfab.org) or contact us at (781) 848-0842. Are you interested learning more about what 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.



John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017

- Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
- Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
- Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
- Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
- Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
- Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38



Robert Joyce & Meghan Cotter I



From the Archdiocese of Boston

December 17 ~ Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday - The Scripture readings of this third week of Advent are filled with encouragement and joy. What words from Scripture caught your attention today? "The Spirit of God is upon me. . ." "Rejoice always." "In all circumstances give thanks for this is the will of God for you." "The one who calls you is faithful." Savor the word of God that you heard today and let it nourish you throughout the coming week.

Witness to Life Rally – Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:00 – 9:00PM at St. Stephen parish in Framingham. All are invited to help launch the Witness to Life pilgrimage at a Rally with Bishop Mark O’Connell, the Catholic band Delmore, prayer and adoration, plus two dynamic pro-life speakers: Sarah Mary Toce (Director of the New England Life and Leadership Project) and Dr. Paul Gondreau, Professor of theology at Providence College, and father of Dominic Gondreau, the young boy with cerebral palsy who was embraced by Pope Francis on Easter Sunday, 2013. For more information on this free event, contact Margaret Wakelee at mwakelee@rcab.org.

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



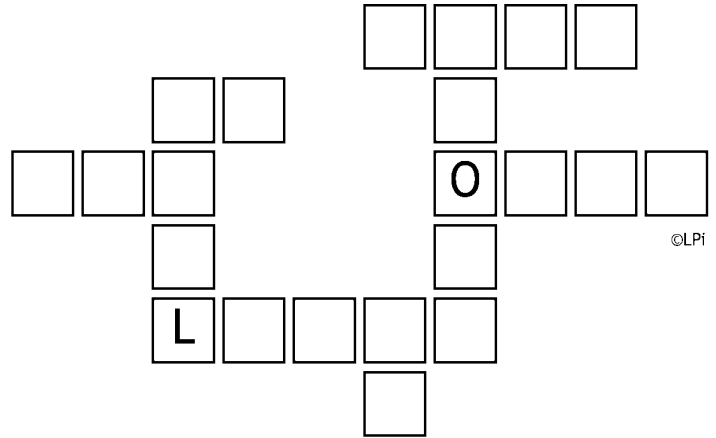
"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me." Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 19-21, 2018 in South Kingstown, RI and Mar 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O’Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at https://www.mema.org/.



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

He came only to tell about the light.



Sharing the Gospel

When you talk about Jesus, you will probably get a strong reaction from people. Some people love Jesus with their whole heart, and their lives really show it. Other people don't want to follow Jesus, and talking about him may even make them angry. Families and friends can be torn apart by that anger. No matter what, stay close to Jesus, and he will stay close to you.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to stay close to you always.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of a family broken apart because Jesus makes some of them happy, and Jesus makes the rest of them angry.

Mission for the Week

Be very loving when you tell others about Jesus.

