

# 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](http://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 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 Joseph Nguis & Alexander Nzioko Memorial

4, 6 & 11PM *Merry Christmas*

### Monday, December 25, 2017

7, 9:30 & 11:30 AM *Merry Christmas*

### Tuesday, December 26, 2017

7:00 AM Stephen Pollock Anniversary

### Wednesday, December 27, 2017

7:00 AM Jamie Lynn O'Hare Memorial

### Thursday, December 28, 2017

7:00 AM Annie Mullen Memorial

### Friday, December 29, 2017

7:00 AM Dorothy McRae Anniversary

### Saturday, December 30, 2017

4:00PM James & Betty Foley Memorial

### Sunday, December 31, 2017

7:00 AM Thomas P. Quinn Month's Mind

9:30AM Estelle "Kitty" Lezynski Memorial

11:30AM Louis & Josephine Anzaldi and Ancestry Memorial

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	\$ 5,522.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,572.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,031.60
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 9,125.60</b>

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



Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father." - Lk 1:30-32

# 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), 6:00 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

Saturday, December 23 St. Francis of Assisi 8:00PM  
Sunday, December 24 St. Francis of Assisi 12:00PM  
St. Clare 10:00AM



*From the desk of the  
Pastoral Associate  
Mrs. Linda Muldoon*



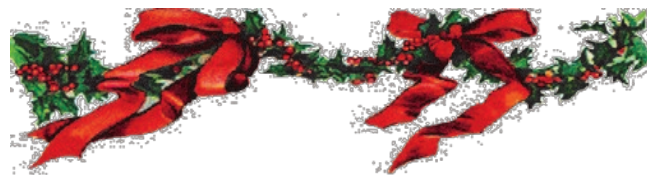
This bulletin is that of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, and the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent is a grand total of 24 hours! It lasts from the 4PM Mass on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> (the vigil for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent on December 24<sup>th</sup>) until, but not including, the 4PM Mass on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (the 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of the Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord). This also is the Christmas bulletin. Phew—so not only are many of us sleep-deprived, we are also time-deprived! Maybe part of our prayer for this week can be to contemplate a nativity scene—in our homes, on a Christmas card, or even better—outside or inside of church. Our senses can be over-fed with the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the season. Let us seek out some silence and some stillness to find for Whom it is that we truly hunger; approach the Lord Jesus in our emptiness with open hearts, open minds, and open hands; and trust that he will fill us.



**Reflecting on the Manger: The Mystery Revealed to Us in the Hay**

We get our word “manger” from the Latin (and so French, Italian, and Spanish) root, which means simply “to eat.” Jesus comes, into the greatest place of our poverty, not only “to be” with us but to nourish us. The manger can be the place we go this Christmas to be fed with the acceptance, love, and peace we need. There is no place of darkness in which we need ever feel alone. There is no situation, no loss, no tragedy that need ever leave us empty. There is no sin, no matter how selfish, that will ever leave us apart from God’s love. We have prayed, “Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord.” Now, our eyes are opened to the wondrous joy of his coming to us in that manger 2,000 years ago, so that we will understand his coming to us in our hunger today, and ultimately so that we will long for his final coming to bring us to the banquet that has been prepared, to fill all our longing. The above paragraph is shared with the permission of [www.http.onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/manger.html](http://www.http.onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/manger.html).

**December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. **Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the hearts of those living in poverty, bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.**



Many thanks to you, our parishioners, for your amazing generosity! Your response to the Advent Giving Tree and to our food collection; the anonymous donations of money and gift cards; and the time so graciously given by our many volunteers will guarantee a much Merrier Christmas for many families and individuals—right here in Braintree! In addition, many residents of our local care facilities received lovingly made and packaged shawls created by the women of our prayer shawl ministry.

**Our bereavement group** is now on winter hiatus, and we will start up again in March. Those struggling with and grieving the death of a loved one are always welcome to contact the parish for assistance by calling 781-843.1332 or sending an email to [lmuldoon@safb.org](mailto:lmuldoon@safb.org). We can offer a cup of tea, a box of tissues, a listening heart, and resources that will help along the way of your grief journey.



*Merry Christmas  
From the clergy and staffs of  
St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare*



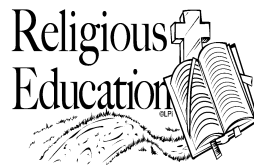
# Parish Info and events of note...

- **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 ...** 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.
- **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.



If you worship with us regularly, are here for the 1st time or are a returnee, we are so happy that you are here. If you would like to learn more about our parish family, please do not hesitate to

call the parish office at 781-843-1332.



Mrs. Diane Hopkins  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli  
Phone 781.848.3238

There are no Religious Education classes scheduled this week due to Christmas and the winter break from school.

*"Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which is Christ himself. He is truly the Savior, for he is the Lamb of God who takes upon himself the sin of the world (cf. Jn 1:29). With the shepherds, let us bow down before the Lamb, let us worship God's goodness made flesh, and let us allow tears of repentance to fill our eyes and cleanse our hearts. This is something we all need! Where God is born, hope is born. He brings hope. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war."* Pope Francis



**Merry Christmas to all our students and their families!**

**CONFIRMATION NEWS:**

**Confirmation I (Grade 9):** Next meeting- Thursday, January 4 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Clare.

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

**For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

Stay close,  
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



*He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to be.  
What came to be through him was life,  
and this life was the light of the human race.*

- Jn 1:2-4



From  
**Mr. Brian Cote**  
*Principal*



**The Meaning of Christmas**  
**“For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders;  
 and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”**  
 Isaiah 9:6

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff at Saint Francis of Assisi School, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Blessed and Holy Christmas. Let us keep our hearts and minds on the Birth of Jesus, the Greatest Gift of all. May each day of your Christmas be filled with peace and may God’s love continue to light your way through the New Year. Let this Christmas be a time filled with family, enthusiastically enjoying activities and traditions that will be a part of your memory forever.

**Calling all Alumni** – As families will soon gather to celebrate Christmas, St. Francis of Assisi School would like to offer its alumni four great ways to stay connected so that you can receive news about our school, alumni events, and alumni news. But, we need your help by updating your contact information by:

- Completing our on-line Alumni Update Form located on our school’s website ([www.sfab.org/sfabschool](http://www.sfab.org/sfabschool));
- Joining us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sfabraintree](http://www.facebook.com/sfabraintree)
- Sending your current contact information (name, address, city, state, zip, telephone, year of graduation) and email address as well as news about what you have been up to [alumni@sfab.org](mailto:alumni@sfab.org); or
- Contacting us at (781)-848-0842.

Help us spread the news to other SFA alumni and parents of alumni and we look forward to reconnecting with you. Thank you for staying in touch.

### Enroll Today

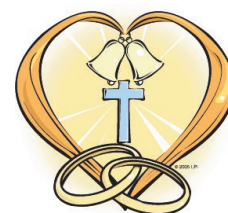
St. Francis of Assisi School offers a rolling admissions policy. For more information regarding our admissions procedure, simply visit our school’s website ([www.sfab.org](http://www.sfab.org)) or contact us at (781) 848-0842. Are you interested learning more about what SFA has to offer for your child, 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](mailto:bcote@sfab.org). We look forward to possibly serving your family in the spiritual, academic, and social development of your child.

### Readings for the Week of December 24, 2017

- 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
- Monday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
**Midnight:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/  
 Lk 2:1-14  
**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/  
 Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/  
 Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/  
 Mt 2:13-18
- Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6  
 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/  
 Lk 2:36-40
- Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/  
 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or  
 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8,  
 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/  
 Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

## GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Monday our Grand Annual Collection was \$48,400 from 236 contributors (14% 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.



*Robert Joyce & Meghan Cotter II*



From the Archdiocese of Boston



Puzzle

December 24 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today's Gospel is the wonderful story of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary. Over the years we have seen many artistic renditions of the Annunciation story. Take a moment today, before the festivities of Christmas get underway, to pray with your favorite image of this story and ask for Mary's help by praying the "Hail Mary."

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- MARY
- JOSEPH
- HOLY SPIRIT
- WEDDING
- ANGEL
- DREAM
- BABY
- JESUS
- VIRGIN

Christmas Collection -

The 590 diocesan priests in our Archdiocese are always there for us, sharing Christ's good news, performing good works, and building strong communities of faith. They stand with you during your times of joy and sorrow. They have devoted their lives to serving Christ and his family. Remember priests who have made a meaningful difference in your life, and consider honoring them with a generous gift in the Christmas collection. Thank you for your prayers and generous support of our priests.

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

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](mailto: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](http://bostoncatholic.org/witnesstolife); or contact [witnesstolife@rcab.org](mailto:witnesstolife@rcab.org).

Sharing the Gospel

Mary and Joseph put all their trust in God. Once they found out what God wanted, they did it. God wanted Mary to have a special baby, and she said "yes" to God. God wanted Joseph to be a good husband and father, and Joseph said "yes" to God. When that special baby from God was finally born, Joseph named him Jesus. One day God would ask Jesus to save the world from sin on the cross, and Jesus would say "yes" to God.

Prayer

God, help me to trust you and say "yes" to you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Saying "yes" to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say "yes" to them.

