

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, January 6, 2018

4:00PM James Dwyer & Susan Spillane Memorial

Sunday, January 7, 2018

7:00 AM Michael Nee Anniversary

9:30AM Ann Palombo Memorial

11:30AM William P. Sweeney, II Memorial

Monday, January 8, 2018

7:00AM Special Intention

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

7:00 AM Nadia Mummolo Memorial

Thursday, January 11, 2018

7:00 AM Tanya Christine Dominico Anniversary

Friday, January 12, 2018

7:00 AM Barbara Blushi Anniversary

Saturday, January 13, 2018

4:00PM Frank O'Toole Memorial

Sunday, January 14, 2018

7:00 AM Guido Buglio Memorial

9:30AM

11:30AM Theresa Baldwin Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for the last 2 weekends:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT
71% on 12/24 and 69% on 12/31.

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

Collection Report

	12/24/2017	12/31/2017
Offertory Envelopes	\$ 5,511.00	\$ 4,229.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,742.00	\$ 2,364.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,031.60	\$ 1,031.60
Total Offertory	\$ 9,284.60	\$ 7,624.60

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



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Readings for the Week of January 7, 2018

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 [27b]/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 [2]/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Wednesday our Grand Annual Collection was \$55,000 from 255 contributors (15% 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.



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." I have a good friend who studies the movement of the planets and the stars. She ends everything she writes about them with, "The stars may guide, but you decide." How did the magi know that particular star rose for the newborn King of the Jews?

What faith, what trust they showed in deciding to follow the star to the Christ child! What "stars" guide us? The North Star? The sun? A favorite constellation? The Star of Bethlehem? Or do our "stars" not look like stars? The Child in the manger? Our Redeemer on the cross? The Holy Spirit? The Wisdom of God? The Word of God in Sacred Scripture? Or are our stars more the people and things of this world? The characters in the Christmas stories remind us that Jesus came as the savior of Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, men and women—not as a one and done event but to remain with us—as our star, our journey, and our destination. The beginning of a New Year gives us the opportunity to consider our decisions, our actions, and their consequences—for ourselves and all of creation.

January 7—Epiphany: Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the spirit of the magi, please put your gift in the blue St. Vincent de Paul Envelopes so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.



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.

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.



WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

Prayer for Epiphany

Dear Jesus,
though a newborn, the wise men knew your greatness.
On a hint from the heavens,
they traveled far from their places of comfort
so that they could honor you.
From their belief in your divinity,
they gave amazing gifts, offerings that symbolized
your life, power, and even your death.
And because of a dream in the night,
they altered their well-laid plans to return home
in order to protect you.
May we be so willing to honor, sacrifice, and obey,
all for love of you,
as we meditate on the meaning of this day.
Amen.



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

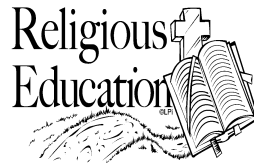


The annual PENNIES FOR THE UNBORN drive will be held the weekends of January 6/7 & 13/14. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be collecting all donations after the Masses.



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 **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 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 ...** 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.



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
 Phone 781.848.3238

Religious Education classes are as scheduled:

Sunday, January 7 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5
 Parent/Child session.

Meet at end of Mass in front of statue of Mary on right side of church so that teachers can bring students over to class.

5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10

Class at St. Clare.

Monday, January 8, 2018 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5
 Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 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, January 11, 2018 6:30-8:00 Gr. 9

No classes this week..

Confirmation I (Grade 9) -

Next Class on January 18 at St. Clare.

Thursday, February 1st from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi (Note change of place).

Confirmation II (Grade 10)

Next meetings:

Sunday, January 7th from 5:00 to 7:00* pm at St. Clare

Sunday, January 21th from 5:00 to 7:00* pm at St. Clare

*(Mass is part of our meeting time.)

Please return your Sponsor Sheets at the next meetings.

We are experiencing an epiphany...are you?

Epiphany [ih·pif·uh·nee]

Definition:

- A Christian festival held on January 7th in honor of the coming of the Three Kings to the infant Jesus. A celebration of the divinity of Jesus.
- A moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way.



As Catholics the combination of these definitions is significant. We honor the sudden realization that the appearance of God is made perfect in the birth of Jesus.

Lord every nation on earth will adore you.

Stay close,
 Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal

As we begin this New Year, we welcomed back our students. We hope that they had a safe, healthy and wonderful Christmas break; and are ready once again to be engaged in learning. Also as St. Francis of Assisi School begins 2018, there are three significant events that will soon occur: re-registrations, new registrations, and Catholic Schools Week 2018.

There are 6429 Catholic Schools nationwide, which are noted for their faith-filled education and academic excellence. National testing scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance and other data show that Catholic schools frequently outperform schools in both the public and private sections. We are among those numbers and are truly proud of our school for our: rich faith formation program, high academic standards and expectations, accomplishments of our students, and the opportunities they are afforded. Our current families, students and alumni are our best advertising and school ambassadors. They can and have witnessed the spiritual development as well as the personal and academic growth evident in each of the students entrusted to our care. We thank them for truly unlocking their child's potential with a Catholic Education.

Re-registrations of our current students for the 2018-2019 academic school year will soon begin as our students return.

An Open House will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Highlights of the day include the following: An information session; guided tours directed by SFA students; meet administration, faculty, and staff; hear from current students, parents, and alumni; and learn about SFA's curriculum and extracurricular activities. In addition, prospective families may also visit our school throughout Catholic Schools Week (January 28th – February 3rd) from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Applications will be accepted (pending availability) on a first come, first serve basis. Enroll Today!

The third important New Year event is Catholic Schools Week 2018 itself. Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. During the week, we focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. We build community awareness of and involvement in Catholic schools throughout the country. And we honor those who contribute to the success of our schools—students, families, faculty and staff, volunteers, community supporters and local and national leaders. **This year's theme is:**

“Catholic Schools – Learn~Serve~Lead~Succeed.”



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 7, 2018 The Epiphany of the Lord "Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." What a wonderful example the Magi give us in their visit to the infant Jesus. First of all, they demonstrate profound faith in God's word, spoken through the prophet Micah: "And you, Bethlehem ... from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel" (cf. 5:2). Embarking on a long and difficult journey, they trust that they will find this newborn king of the Jews in Bethlehem as the prophecy announced.

On their arrival at the home of the Holy Family, the Magi also give us an example of profound humility. These important men, to whom kings look for guidance and advice, do not hesitate to bow down, to "prostrate themselves" and give homage to a tiny babe. Putting their own position out of their minds, they reverently worship the infant Lord even as he sits on the lap of his mother.

The generosity of these three "kings" is also evident as they open their treasure boxes and give to the poor child the richest of gifts. Traditionally, we understand the gold to symbolize the earthly kingship of Christ, the frankincense to represent his divinity, and the myrrh to stand as a symbol of the anointing he will receive upon his death. Finally, the wisdom of these men is evident in their decision to return to their country "by another way." Understanding the threat that King Herod posed to Jesus, they followed a plan that would help keep the divine child safe even though it meant inconvenience to themselves.

Faith, humility, generosity, and wisdom. These gifts are the real legacy of the Three Kings. Today, let us ask God for the blessing of having these gifts in our lives.



From the
Archdiocese of
Boston

January 7 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord

In an age when we rely on a “gps” or “Google maps” or “waze,” it is easy to find another route home. But the magi in today’s Gospel didn’t have this modern technology to rely on when they were told to return to their country “by another way.” The familiar route was not to be taken yet they trusted and did as was advised. On this feast of Epiphany, what “new way” is God inviting you to travel now? Where in your life might God be urging you to “take another route?” Will you trust that God will lead you along a new path?

Share the Journey: Prayer Service

You are invited to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 to “Share the Journey” and join in prayer for **National Migration Week**. There will be prayer services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. at 637 Cambridge St., Brighton, MA. Learn more at www.csjboston.org



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.



Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today’s Gospel:

- | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|
| WISE MEN | MESSIAH | GIFTS |
| STAR | WORSHIP | WARNED |
| HEROD | EXCITED | DREAM |

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

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Sharing the Gospel

Jigsaw puzzles are fun. Solve a puzzle with your whole family, and it comes together even faster. God helped the wise men solve a puzzle. They wanted to find the newborn king. Together the wise men read God’s promises, did their homework, and followed the star. When all of their answers fit, they found baby Jesus.

Prayer

God, thank you for all the people who helped me find Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of the people who help you learn more about Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Solve a puzzle together with your family. Work together like the wise men did.