

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 2, 2016

4:00 PM Ralph & Flora Malcolmson Memorial

Sunday, January 3, 2016

7:00 AM Dorothy Wager Memorial

9:30 AM Barbara Blushi Anniversary

11:30 AM Claire & William McCarthy Memorial

Monday, January 4, 2016

7:00 AM

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

7:00 AM Marjorie Smith Memorial

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

7:00 AM

Thursday, January 7, 2016

7:00 AM

Friday, January 8, 2016

7:00 AM

Saturday, January 9, 2016

4:00 PM George Ward Anniversary

Sunday, January 10, 2016

7:00 AM Courtney West Memorial

9:30 AM Josephine Dwyer Memorial

11:30AM The Marks Family Memorial



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 3, 2016

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

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22--4:6/Ps 2:7-8, 10-12/
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19--5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14-15, 17/
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7/
Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30/
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 or Acts 10:34-38/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Observances for the Week of January 3, 2016

Sunday: Epiphany of the Lord; National
Migration Week

Monday: Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Tuesday: John Neumann, Bishop

Wednesday: André Bessette, Religious

Thursday: Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

Next Sunday: Baptism of the Lord

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—73%

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 5,654.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,545.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,189.92
Total Offertory	\$ 9,388.92

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

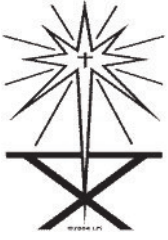
PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH WHEN PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!



**WISE MEN
STILL SEEK
HIM**



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



The magi knew. Like most in the ancient world, they understood the appearance of a great star to signal a ruler's birth. They knew, and so they did something. They followed the star. They saw the child. They did him homage. They paid attention to the warning of the dream. **The magi knew.** We are far-removed from that ancient world, **and we know the rest of the story.** What will we do with what we know? The story is in our heads and in our hearts. In this Year of Mercy, at this time of New Year's resolutions, let's tell the story of the newborn king of the Jews, of the promised Messiah, of God's revelation to and love for all of us. In this Year of Mercy and beyond, let us be the hands and feet and voice of God.

On Christmas Eve I received the following email from Fr. Danial Louh, SMA:

*Good morning Linda.
I hope all is well in the entire parish. Thanks for your love and concern. I can imagine how St. Francis can be solicited. It is just my hope that a little corner will be found for me to have some relieve as after Ebola, all seems on standstill in the Country.*

I hereby come to wish Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the entire St. Francis' Family.

May the Lord be pleased with the efforts that each and everyone of you is making from his/her little corner of the Lord's vineyard. My Best Wishes of Peace, Good Health and Joy in the New Year.

God's blessing to all.

Attached is our Card

Thanks.

Fr. Daniel



Parish Info and events of note...

- **SFA 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.
- **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. Do you hunger, do you thirst for something more? Do you want to learn about the food that endures for eternal life, to taste and see the goodness of the Lord? Maybe you have questions about our faith or your own circumstances. 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.
- **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.

Volunteers

The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, traditionally held the end of January, has been moved to Friday, April 22, 2016. This will be a joint celebration with the volunteers from our sister parish, St. Clare. Formal invitations will be sent out at a later date. Thank you for all that you do to keep our parish a vibrant and welcoming community.





From
Mr. Brian Cote,
Principal



As we begin this New Year, we look forward to the return of our students on Monday, January 4, 2016. It is our hope that they will return from a safe, healthy and wonderful Christmas break; ready to once again to be engaged in learning. As our school begins 2016, there are three significant events that will soon occur: re-registrations, new registrations, and Catholic Schools Week 2016.

There are 6568 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 advertisement 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 2016-2017 academic school year will begin as soon as our students return.

An Open House will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00PM. 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 (February 1st - 5th) from 9:00AM – 12:00PM. 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 2016. This 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 contribution 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 – Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service".

Calling all Alumni - St. Francis of Assisi School currently offers to 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 updating your contact information by:

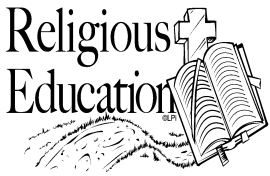
- ◆ Completing our on-line Alumni Update Form located on our school's website (www.sfab.org/sfabschool);
- ◆ Joining us on Facebook www.facebook.com/sfabraintree
- ◆ Sending your current contact information (name, address, city, state, zip, telephone, year of graduation) and email address as well as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

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Monday our Grand Annual Collection was \$58,500 from 285 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.





Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238



Religious Education Classes will meet as scheduled:

Sunday, January 3, 2016 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5
No classes this week. The next parent/child session is
January 10, 2016

Sunday, January 3, 2016 5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10
No classes this week. Classes resume January 10, 2016
with class and Mass at St. Clare's starting at 5:00PM

Monday, January 4, 2016 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, January 5, 2016 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, January 5, 2016 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8
Graded 6 & 7 meet in the school.
Grade 8 meets in the church hall

Tuesday, January 5, 2016 6:00 – 7:30 Gr. 9
No classes this week. Mass with Grade 10 on Sunday,
January 10, 2016 at St. Clare.

This Sunday, January 3, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. January 6 marks the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas. We hope you have had a very thoughtful, peaceful and joyous Advent and Christmas Season. We look forward to working with your children in this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

This Year of Mercy is an invitation for love, kindness, generosity and forgiveness. This was beautifully exemplified by one of our Catechists shortly before Christmas. **“Thank you, but it is my turn to give.”** is her gentle reply to the Dad who offers to help pay for the Christmas festivities. You see, she invites her entire 5th grade religious education class to join her at the 9:30 Mass. Many of the children and their families accept the invitation to come, sit together and celebrate Mass. Immediately following, she invites them downstairs to share some fellowship. Words cannot describe the joy in the room...let’s just say the Holy Spirit is moving. Many of the parents talk about “feeling something at Mass”. Beyond signing their children up for instruction with us, they are witnessing the love of Christ for themselves in the people of the Church. They are moving closer to being part of the Church themselves. **“Welcome through the door...”** she says silently... **“Welcome through the door...”**

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Come through the door and stay close!
Diane and Ronna



Puzzle

Unscramble these words from today’s Gospel:

wise men	king	Mary
child	star	gifts
born	worship	dream

wsie mne W i s e m e n

brno _ _ _ _

knig _ _ _ _

derma _ _ _ _ _

cildh _ _ _ _ _

wrsohpi _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Mrya _ _ _ _

gfsti _ _ _ _ _

srt a _ _ _ _

©LPI

Sharing the Gospel

Isn't God amazing? He made all the stars and planets to move, so every night the sky looks a little different. When God created the world, he planned exactly when the wise men would see the star. He wanted them to find Jesus.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for making the planets and stars so the wise men could find Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of stars and planets shining in the night sky.

Mission for the Week

Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.



from
the
Archdiocese
of Boston



FROM THE PASTORAL PLANNING OFFICE

January 3 – The Epiphany of the Lord

These readings are lovely and familiar – easy to gloss over because we know them so well. Take note of the Gospel’s last line: “they departed for their country by another way.” In poetry, prose, and song, many talented people have written about this line. Home by another way. Our home is with the Lord – in eternal life, we hope, but also here on earth. Do we need to take another path, *today*, to grow closer to the Lord? On the well-trod paths we travel every day, what temptations or barriers should we be avoiding? A trip is always better with a good travelling companion – a worthwhile New Year’s resolution may be to ask a friend to walk with you “another way”, the way of sacraments and prayer.

STEUBENVILLE EAST YOUTH CONFERENCE

Do you wish there was a place that you could bring your teens to encounter thousands of other young Catholics, hear from national speakers and enter into profound worship with the aid of professional musicians? Yes, such an event exists, AND its right in our backyard! The annual Steubenville East Youth Conference will be held in Lowell, MA again this coming year from July 15th – 17th, 2016. If you are interested in learning more about this event, email Mike Drahos at MDrahos@rcab.org. *Please note: Registration will open on January 15th, 2016 and this event is known to sell out quickly!

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE– WITNESS TO LIFE

On January 21, 2016, young people from the Archdiocese of Boston will depart to join hundreds of thousands of their peers in Washington, DC, at the 43rd annual March for Life on January 22nd, 2016. This powerful event began as a small demonstration on anniversary of the historic Roe v. Wade decision. Today, the March for Life is the largest pro-life event in the world and is a great opportunity to witness to the dignity of all human life, especially the most vulnerable in our society - the unborn. We are happy to once again invite you to join Cardinal Sean O’Malley and the Archdiocese of Boston on this life changing pilgrimage to rise up and witness to life in 2016! We have four distinct tracks to best serve all those interested, including a middle school, high school, young adult, and family track. Please visit www.bostoncatholic.org/witnesstolife or contact us at WitnessToLife@rcab.org; 617-746-5766 for more information.

LIFT Worship Night

Join LIFT Ministries on Tuesday, January 12th @ 7pm for an inspiring night of worship at Holy Family Church in Rockland with speaker Frank Connell. The night will include uplifting music, a relevant talk, confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, and is FREE to attend and open to ALL AGES. A downloadable flyer, along with more information about LIFT, can be found on their website at www.liftedhigher.com. Come and worship with hundreds of Catholics from around the Boston area!

Early Bird Special Boston & South Shore Men’s Prayer

Gathering **Saturday, 7:00-8:30 AM**. Next meeting: January 16 at St. Mary of the Hills Lower Church, 29 St. Mary’s Road (off Brook Road), Milton. Join us for prayer, presentation by, and discussion with, Phil Plageman and Jim Kackley, Right to Life Leaders. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Please call 617-822-1785 for more information. **Most Rev. Dave Nicgorski, OMV, Rector Major of the Oblate Order, Early Birds Spiritual Adviser**



THE BRAINTREE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S CLUB

has two \$1,000 scholarships available to High School Seniors who are graduating in the year 2016. One will be awarded to a Braintree High School graduate and the other will be awarded to a Braintree Senior graduating from a Catholic High School. Notices for this scholarship have been sent to all participating schools in the area. The deadline for this scholarship is February 19, 2016. Please contact the guidance department of your school requesting an application or call Mrs. Margaret Hart, BWC Scholarship Chair.

