

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, February 13, 2016

4:00 PM Paul Kerr, Rita Powers & Hannah Spolsino Memorial

Sunday, February 14, 2016

7:00 AM Martial Speer Anniversary

9:30 AM Irene Lund Memorial

11:30 AM Michael Fitzgerald Anniversary

Monday, February 15, 2016

7:00 AM Ann King & Michael Benson Memorial

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

7:00 AM Mary Conneely Memorial

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

7:00 AM Martin Conneely Anniversary

Thursday, February 18, 2016

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Friday, February 19, 2016

7:00 AM John O'Donnell Month's Mind

Saturday, February 20, 2016

4:00 PM Arman J. Del Pico Anniversary

Sunday, February 21, 2016

7:00 AM Benjamin Venuti Anniversary

9:30 AM Karen O'Neil Anniversary

11:30AM Kevin G. Casey Anniversary



THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU — begins this Wednesday and every Wednesday for the duration of Lent from 6:30-8:00PM in our church. In addition to confession, we invite you to spend some quiet time in adoration of the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Lent Planning for Lent...

Small, faith-sharing groups using *Lenten Longings* for Cycle C from Renew International are about to begin. A group for men and women, led by Linda Muldoon, begins this Monday afternoon (2/15) at 3:30 at Grove Manor. A group for women, led by Barbara Mitchell, begins this Wednesday (2/17) at 7PM in the St. Francis church hall. Another group for women, led by Sue Reid, that began last Thursday at 7PM, has some openings remaining. A group for men and women, led by Marie Manning, begins this Friday (2/19) at 10AM in the St. Francis church hall. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please call the SFA parish office at 781.843.1332 or send an email to lmuldoon@sfab.org.

The Little Black Book, containing six-minute reflections on the weekday Gospels of Lent, is available on the tables by the doors to the church.

RESURRECTION

Cantata/Music Drama

By Bryan Jeffery Leech

Performed by the

St. Patrick's Family Players

Join us Sunday, March 6 at 3PM in St. Francis of Assisi church for "Resurrection", a musical cantata. This is the inspirational story of Simon Peter and the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. The performance leads the audience on an unforgettable spiritual journey with St. Peter as he faces his martyrdom. Peter recalls his own experiences with Christ as well as those he shared with Mary Magdalene and the disciples as they followed Jesus. In moving song, Peter shows the anguish for his denial of Christ and the joy that comes with the Resurrection and His forgiveness. The performance is free. A free-will offering would be welcome. Refreshments will be served in the church hall following the performance.

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—72%

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 5,844.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,834.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,233.75
Total Offertory	\$ 9,911.75

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!



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon

First week of Lent

In today's Gospel, St. Luke describes the 40-day desert experience of Jesus and the temptations presented to him by the devil. Although most of us will never spend 40 days without food in a real desert, a "desert experience" in our prayer lives can be most helpful. It offers us an opportunity to empty ourselves of the physical, emotional and spiritual distractions that manage to place themselves between us and the Lord. A beautiful prayer for anytime, but especially appropriate in Lent when we seek to empty ourselves, is the Suscipe of St. Ignatius of Loyola: **Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.**




SFA/SC Bereavement Group... We continue NEXT Tuesday, February 23 at 1PM in the St. Francis of Assisi church hall. Enter through the side door closest to the parking lot and take the elevator or stairs to the lower level. **We will run as a drop-in group on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from February 9th through May 24th.** Everyone is welcome at any time—there is no need to pre-register. To find out if a session has been cancelled due to weather, please call the SFA parish office at 781.843.1332.

SFA Monthly Food Collection Sunday is next weekend. Our food pantry clients and also our volunteers and staff truly appreciate your donations of non-perishable food items, small toiletries, cleaning supplies and paper products. We have re-stocked our blue donation envelopes for those who forgot or prefer not to shop. Please write checks to St. Vincent DePaul with SFA on the memo line. You can place these envelopes in the offertory basket or the rectory mail slot. **Everything we receive directly benefits an individual or family in need—we have absolutely no overhead!** If you are considering or trying to teach someone the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, supporting our food pantry is a great way to begin!



Parish Info and events of note...

- **Prayer Shawls...** meets again Thursday, February 25 at 12:30PM in the church hall. Newcomers, novices and experts are always welcome! 
- **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.

My Brother's Keeper Blanket Drive



"Give a hug, provide a blanket" by supporting the Blanket Drive. To make a contribution, donor cards and mailing envelopes are available at the exits to the Church. Last year, My Brother's Keeper delivered 1,550 blankets locally to the homes of families in need. Thank you.



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal

February is the shortest month of the year, especially with all of the inclement weather and snow days that have already occurred. However, within those twenty-nine days (leap year), a number of noteworthy ones will be observed and/or celebrated.

As a nation, we will be celebrating the 207th birthday of Abraham Lincoln and 284th birthday of George Washington, as well as President's Day.

As Catholics and Christians, this past week we gathered for our Ash Wednesday liturgies as we prepare ourselves for the beginning of the season of Lent. The Lenten season gives us the opportunity to take time and think of sacrifices and/or good deeds we can do. Lent is a time for reflection and a time to slow down as we pray, fast, and do almsgiving. As we prepare for Lent 2016: I hope and pray that this season will be one of spiritual growth and renewal for you and your families.

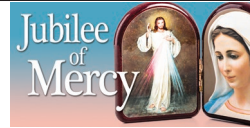
As we continued our celebration of Catholic Schools Week this past week due to inclement weather, we at SFA, are truly blessed to have a school that places a focus on growing in faith, striving for high academic standards, and serving those in need in our local and global communities.

Students and teachers alike are always pleased that their mid-winter vacation comes in February. This year, the school vacation will begin on Monday, February 15th, Presidents' Day, and will conclude on Friday, February 19th. I look forward to welcoming all of our students when they return to school on Monday, February 22nd. May they all have a safe, healthy and wonderful vacation.

May God watch over all of you and your families during the month of February.

Enroll Today

St. Francis of Assisi School is now accepting applications for all grade levels for the 2016-17 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 in 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.



For the year of Mercy in the season of mercy: Mother Olga speaks on God's Mercy in the Jubilee Year of Mercy on Monday, February 22, 2016.

Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, is foundress and mother servant of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth. Mother Olga will speak at the Church of the Sacred Heart in North Quincy, 386 Hancock Street, on February 22, 2016 at 7 P.M. Mother will offer a reflection on God's Mercy in the light of this Jubilee Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has declared for 2016.



Winter session begins Sunday March 6 with 5pm mass at Saint Jerome Parish followed by class. Program ends with Confirmation on Sunday April 17 at 1pm.

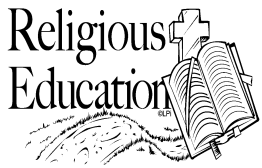
Who is invited?

Any baptized adult who has received First Communion but who has postponed the reception of Confirmation. Please note that the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary to be a godparent at baptism and to serve in church ministry. This sacrament is also highly recommended for those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. ***A baptized Catholic, if married, is expected to be validly married in the Church prior to receiving Confirmation. Any questions regarding marriages, please consult your parish priest prior to registering.**

What will the course be like? The course will introduce the adult learner to major aspects of the Catholic faith through the study of the Mass which includes reflection on the sacraments, the creed, prayer and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit essential to live the Christian life. The five weeks will be a chance to ask questions and move forward in faith. Please note: attendance at the 5pm mass is part of the class experience.

What do you need to begin?

Email maryellen.cassani@gmail.com or call Saint Jerome Parish Office 781.335.2038. All candidates will need a Baptismal and First Communion certificate to present at the first class along with the completed registration form. All candidates will need a sponsor who is typically 18 years or older and a confirmed, practicing catholic. Donation is \$50. payable at the first class to Saint Jerome Adult Confirmation Program.



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238

Religious Education schedule:

No classes this week. Enjoy the school vacation week!

Confirmation II (Grade 10) Next meeting is Sunday, February 21 at St. Clare in the church hall from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Confirmation I (Grade 9) Next meeting is Tuesday, March 1 at St. Francis of Assisi in the church hall from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

This past week our Confirmation candidates (grade 9) experienced silenceyes, *silence*. The awkwardness was deafening. Culture has trained them to rebel against it...so silence has become a stranger. We paired prayer with silence and made a new introduction. The response was remarkable as the young men and women voiced how beautiful their experience was when they dove deep into prayer. In the silence (and in the mystery of the darkness), they open themselves up to an intimate encounter with Christ.

During the season of Lent, we encourage them to continue to make the sacrifices they are used to making, but we hope they will add prayer to their Lenten routine. Prayer can be a comforting and beautiful new practice to implement and nurture. In *prayer*, and just maybe in the *silence*, they will realize that *Christ is near*.

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!

Stay Close,
Diane and Ronna



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the EFT option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2015 please call the parish office at 781-843-1332. If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or EFT/online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the parish office.

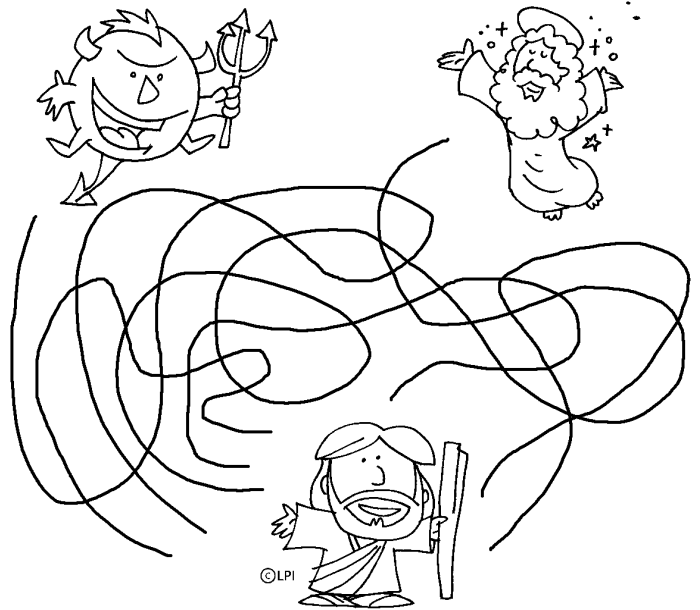


The parish office will be closed on Monday, February 15 in observance of Presidents' Day. Have a great and safe weekend!



 **Puzzle**

Help Jesus to avoid the devil by staying on the path that leads to God!



Sharing the Gospel

Jesus was powerful, and the devil knew it. Jesus could have used the power he had selfishly, to get whatever he wanted - food, land to rule, or even angels to come running. Instead, Jesus chose to save his power to do what God wanted.

Prayer

Dear God, help me not to be selfish. Help me to be more like Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw Jesus praying to God in the desert.

Mission for the Week

God has given you special talents to share with others. If you enjoy drawing, make a picture for someone else. If you enjoy singing, sing songs that make God smile.





from
the Archdiocese of
Boston



February 14 – First Sunday in Lent

This is a busy day. Catechumens and Candidates head to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion. During this period of Purification and Enlightenment they need our continued prayers. And today is Valentine's Day! The readings are not about cherubs with bows and arrows, but are all about love. Out of love God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt and sent His Son to redeem us. And Jesus' love for us brought him to fast for 40 days in the desert and withstand temptations of the devil. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three hallmarks of Lent. With Jesus as our model, we can incorporate all three into our lives this Lent. All for love of Him who first loved us. Unconditionally.

PROJECT RACHEL

During the Year of Mercy, *Project Rachel* extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of abortion to experience God's Mercy at a one-day retreat for hope and healing. Retreats will held at confidential locations on Saturday February 20, March 19 and June 4. Referrals for sacramental reconciliation to specially trained priests are also available throughout the year. For more information, contact *Project Rachel* at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH
Archdiocese of Boston – Men's and Women's Cursillo**

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity. It is an encounter with Christ in a small community of the Church, in order to deepen your own faith and strengthen your ability to be witnesses of Christ in the world.

The dates for the **Cursillo Weekends** are:

Women: March 3-6, 2016

Men: April 21-24, 2016

The weekend runs from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon and is held at the Campion Center in Weston MA.

For information and registration, please check the Boston Cursillo Website: www.bostoncursillo.org or call the Office of Spiritual Life at 617-779-3640 or email us at spiritual_development@rcab.org.



The **BRAINTREE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB** will hold a "Friends of the Unborn Baby Shower" on Wednesday, March 9 at 1:30PM at St. Clare's Parish Hall. The Guest Speaker for the event will be Joan Bailey, Executive Director of the Friends of the Unborn Crisis Pregnancy Center. Members are asked to bring an unwrapped baby gift or necessary baby items or make a monetary donation to help support this critical program. For more information please contact Mrs. Margaret Hart at 781-849-1755. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

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, BCWC Scholarship Chairperson. Tel # 781-849-1755.

Readings for the Week of February 14, 2016

- Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-15/
Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
- Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/
Mt 7:7-12
- Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48
- Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14/
Phil 3:17--4:1 or 3:20--4:1/Lk 9:28b-36



**The devil said to him, "All this will be yours, if you worship me." Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve."
- Lk 4:6a, 7-8**