

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 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

11:30 AM Kevin G. Casey Anniversary

Monday, February 22, 2016

7:00 AM Mary Conneely Memorial

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

7:00 AM John Calarese Month's Mind

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

7:00 AM Grace DiTocco Month's Mind

Thursday, February 25, 2016

7:00 AM Special Intention

Friday, February 26, 2016

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, February 27, 2016

4:00 PM Jerry Foley,
Mary & James Donahue Memorial

Sunday, February 28, 2016

7:00 AM Marian Ciccone Memorial

9:30 AM Phyllis & Laurence Cedrone Anniversary

11:30AM Paul Graham Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—71%

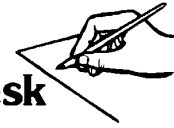
Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 4,684.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,445.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,233.75
Total Offertory	\$ 8,362.75

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 Pastor's Desk



My brothers and sisters,

LENT has begun - **IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS!**

Three things I'd like to put before you as we continue through the Season:

DAILY MASS: There really is no better way to draw closer to Christ. Even if you can't go every single day, making an effort to connect with the Eucharist beyond Sunday will provide great spiritual fruit. Mass is celebrated Monday through Friday at 7:00AM—St. Francis of Assisi and Monday through Wednesday at 9:00AM and Saturday at 8:00AM at St. Clare. Some other local options are Monday through Friday at 12:05PM at the Pastoral Center and Monday through Friday at 5:30PM at St. Thomas More.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU in the Braintree Collaborative will take place at St. Francis of Assisi each Wednesday from 6:30-8:00PM. On Wednesday, March 23 it will also be held at St. Clare from 6:00-8:00PM. This is a beautiful time to come to Confession and/or spend some time in adoration with the Lord, praying for reconciliation and peace in hearts, homes, families, and the world.

COLLABORATIVE LENTEN MISSION: Our Lenten Mission begins with the 6PM Mass at St. Clare on Sunday, March 13 (there is no service/presentation other than the Mass on that evening). The Mission continues on Monday, March 14 at St. Francis, Tuesday, March 15 at St. Clare and concludes on Wednesday, March 16 at St. Francis of Assisi with Adoration, Penance and collation. Please mark your calendars.

Please know of my prayers and those of all the priests and staff for you during this sacred time of renewal.

In His service and yours,
Fr. Paul Clifford



While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." - Lk 9:34-35



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon

Today's Gospel contains the words of God the Father, with which we can pray, especially during Lent: "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." The ability to listen is a true gift, especially in our noisy, cluttered and busy world. It implies a slowing down and some silence on our part—not always easy. The following reflection, written by Andy Alexander, SJ of Creighton University, caught my eye because of its title. Chocolate has a way of getting my attention! But... it is about so much more than chocolate. Read it and see how God desires to help us transform our lives.



Beyond Giving Up Chocolate: Going Deeper in Lent

From the time we were children, our first question for Lent was often, "What are you giving up for Lent?" Giving something up for these 40 days is a custom that when we were younger helped us enter into the season with a sense of purpose and a greater awareness.


As adults, we might want to consider looking at Lent in a deeper way. We are probably much more settled into our behaviors and patterns of life and sometimes giving up something is where we begin - and end - our reflections on Lent. It can be tempting to say, "I am giving up chocolate" or beer or even all sweets and all alcohol. But without more reflection, it can become simply a way I show God how strong I am. It is more about me than any conversation with God.

Lent isn't simply about us "giving up" something. The real grace is when we recognize that Lent is a season in which God wants to *give us* something. God wants to help us transform our lives and make us more free as people – not just freer with God, but in the way we live our lives and love our families.

It is much easier for us to simply choose something to give up – then we can dismiss Lent. "I am giving up TV for Lent." "I am giving up movies... snacks... soda." We give it up and exercise our willpower for 40 days to prove to ourselves and to God that we can do it. And at the end of Lent we can return to what we gave up.

But this year we might reflect and ask the deeper questions: What is God inviting me to change this Lent? How do I know what God might be stirring in me? I begin by listening to the movements in my heart. Where am I feeling uncomfortable with the choices I am making? With the things I have done? With the habitual ways I respond? The Lord will be speaking to me in those small nagging moments of discomfort in my heart.

Parish Info and events of note...

- **Prayer Shawls...** meets THIS Thursday, February 25 at 12:30PM in the church hall. Newcomers, novices and experts are always welcome! The dates for March will be Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00AM and Thursday, March 31 **[date change]** at 12:30PM. 
- **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.



SFA/SC Bereavement Group... We continue THIS 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 THIS weekend. We welcome your donations of non-perishable food items and other groceries at today's Masses as well as during the week at the parish office between the hours of 9AM and 4PM. If you prefer not (or forgot) to shop but would like to help out financially (kindly write checks to St. Vincent DePaul with SFA on the memo line), please use of the blue envelopes from the holders affixed to the back inside wall of the church. 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!



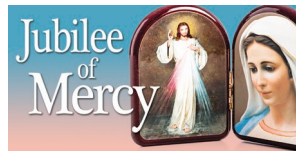
From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal

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 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.



Knights of Columbus On Sunday, February 28, the Braintree Knight of Columbus Council #1462 will be sponsoring a **Coffee Hour/Recruitment Drive** after both the 7:00 and 9:30 Masses. There will be coffee, juice, donuts, muffins and bagels and cream cheese. Whether you're a perspective member or not, we'd love to see you there. All are welcome and you don't have to join our Order, but we'd love it if you did, you might also. Thank you.



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. For more information email maryellen.cassani@gmail.com or call Saint Jerome Parish Office 781.335.2038. Donation is \$50. payable at the first class to Saint Jerome Adult Confirmation Program.

Readings for the Week of February 21, 2016

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

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/
Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/
Mt 20:17-28

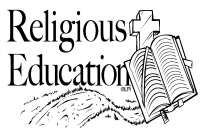
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/
Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11/1
Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

1st Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15,
19b-26, 39a, 40-42



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238

Religious Education Classes will meet as scheduled:

Sunday, February 21 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5

Children meet for safety lesson in the school.

Sunday, February 21 5:00—7:00PM Gr. 10

Class this week at St. Clare.

Monday, February 22 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Children meet for safety lesson in the school.

Tuesday, February 23 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Children meet for safety lesson in the school.

Tuesday, February 23 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8

Grades 6 & 7 meet in the school.

Grade 8 meets in the church hall.

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 6:00 – 7:30 Gr. 9

No classes this week. Next class is March 1 at St. Francis.

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.


Confirmation II (Grade 10) Class this week, February 21, at St. Clare. Next meeting is Sunday, March 6, at St. Francis of Assisi. We will be meeting in the School Hall from 5:00-7:00PM. **Please Note: Class location change.**

TRANSFIGURATION: (noun) *dramatic change in appearance, especially one that reveals great beauty, spirituality, or magnificence.*

When Jesus appeared in his radiant light to the apostles on the mountain he was there to give them encouragement and a lasting image to hold on to when times got tough. He was there to encourage them to take this light and go out into the world and change others. When we turn our lives to God, we, too, will be filled with a light that not only changes/transfers us but also changes/transfers all those we meet with the spirit of Christ blazing in our hearts, in our words and in our actions. Let us pray for the *trust and willingness* to change in a way that carries the light of Christ to each other.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Stay Close,
Diane and Ronna

 **If you are a registered parishioner** who utilizes the parish envelope system or the EFT Preparation 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.



 **Puzzle**

Help Jesus find the way to his tent.



Sharing the Gospel

One night when Jesus prayed, Jesus showed Peter, James and John what he would look like in heaven. Jesus' face changed and his clothes glowed brightly. Jesus even talked to Moses and Elijah, who had gone to heaven many years earlier. Jesus was different. He was from God!

Prayer

Dear Jesus, I can hardly wait to see what you really look like in heaven.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus with bright, glowing clothes.

Mission for the Week

Find something that glows in the dark. As you see it in a dark room, imagine how brightly Jesus must have glowed.





from
the Archdiocese of
Boston



February 21 – Second Sunday in Lent
Luke’s account of Jesus on the mountain with Peter, James, and John, is rich with meaning. Peter recognizes their special circumstance: “Master, it is good that we are here.” We don’t have to go up the mountain to be with Jesus. When we are united with Jesus through sacraments and daily prayer, we can use Peter’s words every second of every day, “Master, it is good that I am here, *with you!*” Now listen to what God says, not just to the Apostles, that day on that mountain, but to each of us, every second of every day: “This is my chosen Son, listen to Him;” Pray in a special way this Lent to hear Jesus’ voice and pray particularly for the courage to share your faith with others. Introduce a friend to Jesus.

JESUS IN BOSTON

All Young Adults and College Students are invited to join us on Friday, March 4th @ 7:30pm for our monthly “Jesus in Boston” event. This month, we will be at St. Leonard’s in the North End. It’s a great way to strengthen your interior life through the sacraments and to meet new people spending time in fellowship with other Catholic young adults. Join us for Eucharistic adoration, Mass, Confession, great food and even better people! For more information please email Mike Drahos at MDrahos@rcab.org.

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 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.



Small, faith-sharing groups using *Lenten Longings* for Cycle C from Renew International have begun. Openings remain in women’s groups that meet Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7PM as well as in a group for men and women that meets Fridays at 10AM. 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.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Francis of Assisi is planning “service suppers” on two Fridays (3/11 and 3/18) during Lent for the first 100 persons each week. These Lenten celebrations will begin at 5:00PM with the Stations of the Cross in St. Francis of Assisi Church, and will be followed with a light Lenten supper of grilled cheese sandwiches, bowl of clam chowder or tomato soup, salad, and beverage in the church hall. A donation of \$3/pp or \$10/per family is requested. The service supper on March 18th is being run in conjunction with the Religious Education students, as they learn about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—the focus of Lent. Call CDA Regent Ginny Polio at 781-843-5638 with any questions.

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.