

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 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

11:30 AM Paul Graham Anniversary

Monday, February 29, 2016

7:00 AM Ervin Mella, Jr. Memorial

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

7:00 AM Maria & Camillo D'Angelo Anniversary

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

7:00 AM

Thursday, March 3, 2016

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Friday, March 4, 2016

7:00 AM Dianne Frazier Anniversary

Saturday, March 5, 2016

4:00 PM Paul Micaloonis, Jr. Anniversary

Sunday, March 6, 2016

7:00 AM Pasquale Agapito Memorial

9:30 AM Ernesto DiCenso Anniversary

11:30AM John McDonough Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—72%

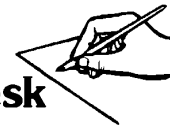
Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 6,391.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 3,054.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,233.75
Total Offertory	\$ 10,678.75

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,

It is time once again for THE CATHOLIC APPEAL. This is the annual collection for the support of the work of Cardinal O'Malley and the Archdiocese of Boston.

The power of the Church's presence in so many people's lives is hard to contain in words. This is how all of us contribute to feeding the hungry, bringing spiritual care to the sick, counseling those who are burdened, and in so many other ways extending Christ's touch to those in need.

We usually think of parish when we think about our Catholic life, and well we should. But the work of the Church goes on day in and day out beyond what we can accomplish on the parish level. Every Catholic should be proud of who we are as a Church community and should be ready to contribute when the bishop asks for our help.

Some of you have already been contacted by mail. For the rest, Appeal materials will appear in church in the next couple of weeks.

I ask all of you to join me (I am increasing my gift this year) in supporting the many works of the Church done in our name across the great archdiocese each and every day.

In His service and yours,
Fr. Paul Clifford

Confirmation
for
Adult
Catholics



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.



Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"
- Lk 13:2-3



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



Can you believe we are at the beginning of the 3rd full week of Lent? After this week, we have 2 more weeks, and then Holy Week begins! It is my belief that Lent presents us with a healthy tension that encourages us to both give up/fast from certain things or behaviors **and** to do something more, something new. Sometimes during Lent, we need our “inner rooms,” and sometimes we need to be “in community.” Please consider joining our community of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare for the play, **Resurrection**, at St. Francis Sunday, March 6 at 3PM. It is the story of Peter and of the forgiveness of Jesus Christ—a most timely presentation for this Year of Mercy. The following weekend, our **collaborative mission** will begin at the 6PM Mass at St. Clare. It will continue on Monday at 7PM at St. Francis, Tuesday at 7PM at St. Clare, and conclude on Wednesday at 7PM at St. Francis. Both *Resurrection* and the Mission invite us to give up some time and something more, something new. Bring the family, bring a friend—bring a heart open to repentance and conversion. Blessings on your Lenten journey... **Bakers Needed** - We will be hosting collations after BOTH the Resurrection Play and the final night of the Mission (3/15). If you are willing to bake for either of these events please call the parish office or simply bring your goodies to the church hall prior to the event. Thank you!



SFA/SC Bereavement Group... We meet NEXT Tuesday, March 8 at 1PM in the SFA church hall. Enter through the side door closest to the parking lot and take the elevator or stairs to the lower level. **We are a drop-in group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month 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.

Thank you to everyone who supported last weekend’s Food Collection Sunday! Our pantry shelves (and our hearts) are filled with your generosity! We also welcome your donations of non-perishable food items and other groceries during the week at the parish office between the hours of 9AM and 4PM. **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 do so!



Parish Info and events of note...

- **Prayer Shawls...** dates for March will be Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00PM and Thursday, March 31 [date change] 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

SFA Spelling Bee Winners – In conjunction with our recent Catholic Schools Week, our students in grades five through eight participated in a school sponsored spelling bee. A word of congratulations to our first place winners in each grade level: Annie St. George (grade 8), Grace McDonald (grade 7), Bryce Thomas (grade 6) and Tommy Ho (grade 5). On March 10th, these students will compete in our South Region Catholic School's Spelling Bee at St. Jerome Elementary School in Weymouth. We wish all of them the best of luck!

Basketball News - This year, St. Francis of Assisi had three basketball teams play in the South Shore Parochial School League, which included: 7th and 8th grade boys; 5th and 6th grade boys and 5th and 6th grade girls. It was a fantastic season and all of our teams worked and played hard, as well as demonstrated great sportsmanship. A special word of congratulations to our 5th and 6th grade boy's team who finished the season undefeated and will proceed to the upcoming Play-Offs. Also, a word of thanks to our coaches, Mr. Scott Cunningham, Ms. Marie Lenane-Kelly and Mr. Robert Hamilton.



SFA Service Project - Once again this year as a service project for the month of February, our students participated in the "Jump Rope for Heart" program. Through this community service effort, our students had the opportunity to learn how to take care of their heart, as well as our school will make a donation to the American Heart Association. This week, our students as part of their regular-scheduled PE class jumped rope for this cause.

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.

St. Francis of Assisi Friar's 500 Club – Congratulations to the winners of the St. Francis of Assisi Friar's 500 Club for the month of January:

The Sodipe Family	\$500
The Freire Family	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Bao Tran	\$25
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Armstrong	\$25
Mr. & Mrs. Rabby Bristol	\$25
The Chikwendu Family	\$25
The Vu Family	\$25
Mrs. Connie Daly	\$25



THIS 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.

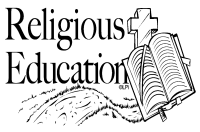
There will be coffee, juice, donuts, muffins and bagels and cream cheese. Whether you're a perspective member or not, we'd love to see you there. All are welcome and you don't have to join our Order, but we'd love it if you did, you might also. Thank you.

"Pennies for the Unborn" – The Catholic Daughters will be holding their annual Penny Drive on the weekend of March 5 and 6. The money collected will benefit the Cardinal's charities for the Unborn. All donations (large or small) are greatly appreciated. There will be baskets at the doors for your donation.



Readings for the Week of February 28, 2016

- Sunday: 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
- Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4/
 Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/
 Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Lk 11:14-23
- Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-11, 14, 17/
 Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/Lk 18:9-14
- Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/
 Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or
 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238

Religious Education Classes will meet as scheduled:

- Sunday, February 28 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5
Children meet for safety lesson in the school.
- Sunday, February 28 5:00—7:00PM Gr. 10
No class this week.
- Monday, February 29 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.
- Tuesday, March 1 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.
- Tuesday, March 1 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8
No class this week.
- Tuesday, March 1 6:00 – 7:30 Gr. 9
Classes meet at St. Francis of Assisi church hall.

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) Next meeting is Sunday, March 6, at **St. Francis of Assisi**. We will be meeting in the School Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Our young people are reaching for the sun! God keeps pouring resources down on them. Scripture and sacraments, mercy and compassion soak their roots. We ask the Holy Spirit to help foster these precious gifts so they will blossom into what God intended them to be.

God, help our young people to cultivate within their souls the seed of your love so they may bear good fruit. Be patient with them even when they waste your gifts and squander your love. Allow them the joy of blossoming signs of faith. Amen.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

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

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|---------|------------|----------|
| PILATE | SACRIFICES | WORSE |
| GALILEE | SINNERS | TREE |
| KILLED | SILLOAM | GARDENER |

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

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Sharing the Gospel

I sin. You sin. Everybody sins. God knows that we cannot be perfect like God. But God wants you to love him and talk to him. God wants you to be sorry for your sins, learn from your mistakes, and grow closer to him every day.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to grow closer to you with every day you give me.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself walking next to Jesus in your school.

Mission for the Week

When you get into trouble, ask God to help you change so that you do not do it again.





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Friday, March 4 at 3:00 PM, Deacon Joe will lead a Holy Hour that will include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Stations of the Cross and Benediction. All are welcome.

Rend Your Hearts.

Lent is a time when the Lord asks us to rend our hearts. But what does that mean? I went to the dictionary to find out. It means to tear apart violently and to tear ones garments in grief or rage. An example of this can be found when Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin and said that they would see “the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God and coming on the clouds” effectively saying that he was in fact God. It was then that high priest in a fit of anger at the perceived blasphemy tore or rent his garments.

When Jesus tells us to rend our hearts and not our garments he’s asking us to do something that goes against our nature. Like Adam and Eve, who in the garden, hid from the Lord because of their sin, we too hide within our hearts and minds the sin we don’t want anyone to know about. We hide it from our neighbors, we hide it from ourselves and we even try to hide it from God. Our sins are closely guarded secrets.

The Lord asks us to become angry at our sinfulness; to be grief stricken by the broken relationship with him that it causes. Like a cancer or infection growing within us it needs to be excised. We need a kind of open heart surgery where Jesus is the physician but the only way in to treat the disease is by our will, not his. We make the first painful incision. It takes all the courage we can muster because our hearts have been closed for so long. It takes a spiritual tearing apart that comes from our own grief and anger at how closed we have become to God’s love.

Let’s rend our hearts this Lent and allow the Lord to enter. Now we can reveal those things that, by fear, have kept us apart. Jesus is the wounded healer and he knows well the wounds that we suffer. That’s why he came to suffer them with us and take them to the cross with him on Calvary. May we always let Christ into our hearts to heal the wounds of sin and remove the obstacles that distance us from His divine love.



THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU — *The Light Is on for You* for confession continues on Wednesday evenings, from 6:30 – 8PM, here at St. Francis of Assisi and at various other Catholic churches throughout the Archdiocese. In addition to confession, we invite you to spend some quiet time in adoration of the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. . Our Lord is waiting for you!

Our Sunday Visitor Pamphlet Racks have been restocked for Lent. They are attached to the walls in the foyer at the main entrance (between the left and center doors) and at the top of the stairs (on the right-hand side) from the parking lot entrance.

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 church, and will be followed with a light Lenten supper of grilled cheese sandwiches, 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.

Lenten Moments of Mercy is a free daily e-mail series from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday that delivers reflections based on the Scriptures of Lent, shares the inspiring words of Pope Francis, and suggests Lenten actions and prayers. To sign up or learn more, visit www.loyolapress.com/lenten-moments-of-mercy.htm.

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.