

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, 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

11:30 AM John McDonough Anniversary

Monday, March 7, 2016

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

7:00 AM

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

7:00 AM Judith Stempleski Memorial

Thursday, March 10, 2016

7:00 AM

Friday, March 11, 2016

7:00 AM Patricia "Pat" Salvaggio Month's Mind

Saturday, March 12, 2016

4:00 PM James Fahey Anniversary

Sunday, March 13, 2016

7:00 AM

9:30 AM Concetta Leonida Memorial

11:30AM Francis J. & Margaret J. Shea Month's Mind

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—71%

If you are interested in the Online Giving option to

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 5,828.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 3,009.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,233.75
Total Offertory	\$10,070.75

simplify your weekly contributions please contact the parish office.

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

My brothers and sisters,

Two great Lenten events for our two great parishes: TODAY (Sunday) at 3PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church is the dramatic cantata **Resurrection** performed by the St. Patrick's Family Players out of Watertown. This is a graced and powerful and uplifting performance. The Holy Spirit will touch your heart and your Easter will mean so much more. Come and bring a friend. My thanks on your behalf to Jim Quinlan and all who have worked to bring this work of art and prayer to our community.

NEXT WEEK our Collaborative Mission begins. The presenters will take the pope's Year of Mercy as their point of departure in calling us to focus on Christ and the loving heart of God.

When is it? Next Sunday at 6PM—AT MASS at St. Clare's. There is no service before or after Mass. Then, our prayer continues on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights at 7PM (Monday and Wednesday at St. Francis, Tuesday at St. Clare's).

Who should come? You, your family, your friends, that neighbor "who never gets out of the home", that friend who keeps saying things like, "Yeah, I know I need to get back to Church...", anyone who has ever clicked the remote 20 times muttering, "Arrgh, there's NOTHING on TV anymore." All those, and more, should come. But they never will unless you a.) step up and invite them and b.) come yourself. (If bribes are required—perhaps I should say incentives—there will be simple hospitality and refreshments on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.)

WHO IS SPEAKING? On Sunday the celebrant of the Mass and Mission Preacher will be FR. SHAWN CAREY, Director of the Deaf Apostolate and Priest-in-Residence in our Collaborative. On Monday we will be joined by SISTER MARIAN BATHO, CSJ. Sr. Marian is the Cardinal's Delegate for Religious and serves/has served in many other capacities in the Church in Boston. FR. JAMES MAHONEY joins us on Tuesday evening from the Light of Christ Collaborative of Parishes in Whitman and Abington. Fr. Jim also serves on the Clergy Personnel Board of the archdiocese. (Full disclosure: he's also my classmate and friend.) And on Wednesday FR. MARK O'CONNELL returns to the Braintree parishes, having preached the entire Mission once before, to share both his preaching skills and his gifts as a confessor. The Wednesday service dovetails with THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU. Confessions will be heard from 6:30 through the conclusion of the Mission and the social time.

Please pray with me for the success of this Mission for our collaborative here in Braintree.


In His service and yours, *Fr. Paul Clifford*



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon




As I read the timely and timeless parable of the Prodigal Son for this weekend, the compassion and the joy of the father are what resonate with me. No "I told you so!" No turning his back. No trying to hide the fact from his family and friends that his son had messed up and he'd taken him back. No punishment. Instead—a huge celebration! What about us? How easily we squander the gifts of time, talent and treasure that God lavishes upon us. And what do we do when we come to our senses? Do we acknowledge, do we ask for forgiveness, do we make amends? And to whom? Even when we are "a long way off," God sees us, waits for us to turn toward him, and runs to us. In these final weeks of Lent, with the grace of God, may our hearts be changed so that we, too, get up (with whatever baggage we carry) and go to the Father—right into his loving embrace.

During the remainder of March, **Gabrielle and Sophia** are in the final stages of their preparation for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.  By working with their families, their catechists, their peers and members of our staff, they have grown in love and knowledge of our Lord and his Church. Please pray for them that their hearts remain open to the presence and love of God in their lives and in the sacraments they will soon receive.

We invite everyone to join us for the play, **Resurrection**, at St. Francis THIS 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. With a multi-generational cast, this play has something for all ages—grandchildren thru grandparents. Please be sure to take a program and a candle before you enter the church. *And since on the Sundays of Lent, we are released from fasting, please join us for refreshments in the church hall after the play. If you would like to bring along a baked good, kindly leave it downstairs in the hall prior to the start of the show. Thank you!*

The following weekend, is **collaborative mission** (see Fr. Paul's column for further detail). Both *Resurrection* and the Mission invite us to give up some time and do something new. Bring the family, bring a friend—bring a heart open to repentance and conversion. Blessings on your Lenten journey...

Parish Info and events of note...

- **Prayer Shawls...** dates for March will be Monday, March 7 at 7:00PM and Thursday, March 31 **[date changes]** 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 First Penance - On Wednesday afternoon, March 9th at 12:15PM, many of our grade 2 students from St. Francis of Assisi School will be making their First Penance. Let us keep these students, as well as all of our students in grade two who will be making this sacrament in our thoughts and prayers.



Scholastic Book Fair - In celebration of "Reading across America," SFA will be sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair March 7th - 10th in the church hall. The times are Monday evening, March 7th from 6:00 pm - 7:00PM; Tuesday March 8th from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm; Wednesday, March 9th from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm; and Thursday, March 10th from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Our school families and parishioners are encouraged and invited to take advantage of our Book Fair. All are welcome. Books are certainly an investment in a child's education and future.

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.



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.



SFA/SC Bereavement Group... We meet THIS Tuesday, March 8 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 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. at 781.843.1332.



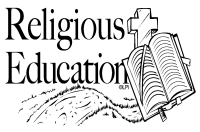
"Pennies for the Unborn" - The Catholic Daughters will be holding their annual Penny Drive on THIS weekend. The money collected will benefit the Cardinal's charities for the Unborn. All donations (large or small) are greatly appreciated. There will be baskets at the doors for your donation.

Readings for the Week of March 6, 2016

- 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
- Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/
Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/
Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18/
Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9-12/Jn 7:40-53
- Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'" -
Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238

Religious Education Classes will meet as scheduled:

Sunday, March 6 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5

Children go directly to school from Mass.

There is no guest speaker this Sunday.

Parent/Child Session will be on March 20.

Sunday, March 6 5:00—7:00PM Gr. 10

Class meets this week at **St. Francis of Assisi School.**

Monday, March 7 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, March 8 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, March 8 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8

Grades 6-7 meet in the school.

Grade 8 meets in the church hall.

Tuesday, March 8 6:00 – 7:30 Gr. 9

No class this week.



Confirmation I (Grade 9) Next meeting is **Tuesday, March 15 at St. Clare** . We will be attending the **Lenten Mission** together at 7:00 pm. Please report to the St. Clare Church Hall at 6:30 pm for a short class meeting.

Confirmation II (Next meeting is **Sunday, March 20, at St. Clare** . We will be meeting in the Church Hall starting at **4:45 pm to attend a Penance Service**. An important part of our class time will be to join the parish for the **6:00 Mass**. Anyone who didn't experience Reconciliation prior to Mass will have the opportunity immediately following Mass.

So often we want to become "a new creation" thinking all our problems will be solved and our life will be so much easier, only if we could be transformed all at once and for all time. Our young people will soon receive the gifts of the *Holy Spirit* at Confirmation. If they learn to accept these gifts as a *divinely loving assist*, the journey of becoming a new creation despite its path of "two steps forward and one step back" will seem less complicated and more realistic. They can indeed become a new creation today, and if they slip, they can start over again tomorrow. Like the loving father in the story of the Prodigal Son, God, will be there waiting to celebrate with them every time. We ask you to continue to pray for the inspiration to newness within our Confirmation Candidates. Amen

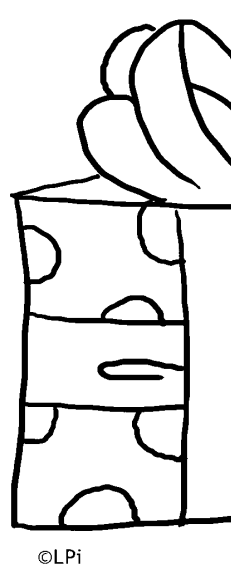
Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

Stay Close,
Diane and Ronna



 **Puzzle**

Complete the Picture.



©LPi

Sharing the Gospel

Everything you have is a gift from God -- your body, your mind, your food, your clothes -- everything! Sometimes people become proud, and they think they have earned God's gifts. Sometimes people run away from God, and they waste God's gifts. Just remember, it is never too late to run back to God. Every good gift comes from God.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to be truly thankful for all the gifts you have given me.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus hugging you.

Mission for the Week

Name three good things God has given you. Say "thank you" to God for those gifts in a prayer.





from
the Archdiocese of
Boston



March 6 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent
“A man had two sons...” – so begins one of Jesus’ most poignant parables. Slowly re-read this passage (Lk 15:1-3,11-32). Where are you in the story? Are you the younger son or daughter, who just wants to get away from home, but soon realizes that home is where she /he is loved unconditionally? Are you the disgruntled older sibling – faithful, but bitter? Are you the parent, who looked to the horizon every day, hoping for the return of your beloved child? If we take seriously Saint Paul’s words, that “...we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us.”, then we must be ambassadors of forgiveness and mercy. This week we pray for all Catechumens celebrating the second scrutiny today on their journey to the saving waters of Baptism.

LIFT Worship Night

Join LIFT Ministries on Friday, March 18th @ 7pm for an inspiring night of worship at Sacred Heart Church in Quincy with speaker Dave VanVickle. 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!



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00AM on Sunday, March 13, 2016. Clocks should be changed from 2:00 to 3:00AM. This is also a good time to change the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



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 THIS 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.