

# 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](http://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 12, 2016

4:00 PM James Fahey Anniversary

### Sunday, March 13, 2016

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

9:30 AM Concetta Leonida Memorial

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

### Monday, March 14, 2016

7:00 AM

### Tuesday, March 15, 2016

7:00 AM

### Wednesday, March 16, 2016

7:00 AM Kathleen Walbridge Anniversary

### Thursday, March 17, 2016

7:00 AM

### Friday, March 18, 2016

7:00 AM

### Saturday, March 19, 2016

4:00 PM Thomas Pokaski Anniversary

### Sunday, March 20, 2016

7:00 AM

9:30 AM Maria & Camillo D'Angelo Memorial

11:30AM Charles Francis McNamara Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—75%

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

## Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 6,213.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,542.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,196.25
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 9,951.25</b>

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



My brothers and sisters,

I'm so excited for our Collaborative Mission! We have some wonderful moments of prayer planned—all oriented to lifting up the Mercy of God

Please make every effort to attend the Mission. My goal is that every parishioner would attend every session of the Mission. I'm also enough of a realist to know that we might not be able to achieve that perfect attendance mark. So I do challenge everyone to participate in whatever way you can. Maybe only one or two sessions are possible. There are some Missions/Retreats that require participation in all the sessions—this is not one of those.

If it's impossible to make any of the evening sessions, maybe you can attend the daily Mass on Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday (or all 3). On those days Masses are celebrated at 7AM at St. Francis, 9AM at St. Clare and 12:05 at the Pastoral Canter (66 Brooks Drive, Braintree).

At any rate, everyone can pray for the success of the Mission—that many graces will flow through our presenters and fill our hearts and communities with the love and peace of the Holy Spirit.

Please know of my gratitude and prayers for all of you as we move into these last days of Lent.

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



*Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." - Jn 8:6b-7*



From the desk of the  
Pastoral Associate  
Mrs. Linda Muldoon

When the scribes and Pharisees, to test Jesus, brought before him the woman “caught in the very act of committing adultery,” I have often wondered what happened to the person she was caught with. BUT—even more so—**just what did Jesus write on the ground?** If we Google “a line in the sand,” we find it to be “a point beyond which one will proceed no further.” The scribes and Pharisees must have found infuriating the initial silence of Jesus as well as his reply to them, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone at her.” He spoke to them a verbal line in the sand, and after they were gone, he gave to the woman not condemnation but the opportunity to change her life, “Go, and from now on, do not sin anymore.” We can be quick to pass judgment—let us be open to what our Lord teaches us today.



## Parish Mission




Our St. Francis/St. Clare of Assisi **collaborative mission** begins THIS weekend at the 6PM Mass at St. Clare. Fr. Shawn Carey will be our celebrant and speaker (within the Mass). We continue on Monday at 7PM with Sister Marian Batho at St. Francis, Tuesday at 7PM with Fr. Jim Mahoney at St. Clare, and conclude on Wednesday at 7PM with Fr. Mark O’Connell at St. Francis. The Mission invites 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...

**Bakers Needed** - We will be hosting collation on Wednesday, March 16 at the conclusion of the Mission. If you are willing to bake for this event please call the parish office or simply bring your goodies to the church hall prior to the Mission. Thank you!



**SFA/SC Bereavement Group...** We meet NEXT Tuesday, March 22 at 1PM in the St. Francis of Assisi church hall. Our topic will be grief and the Easter holiday. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month through May 24<sup>th</sup>.** 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.

## Parish Info and events of note...

- **Prayer Shawls...remaining** date for March will be 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.





From  
Mr. Brian Cote  
Principal



Academic excellence and faith formation are at the core of our school. We are committed in providing our students with high standards, both academically and spiritually. Congratulations to many of our second graders from St. Francis of Assisi Parish who made their First Penance this past Wednesday. Together, as a school community along with our grade two parents, we had the great opportunity to witness the children making this special sacrament. I would like to express my appreciation and thank our grade two teachers, as well as, our parents for preparing the children so well.

Lent being a season of forgiveness, it provides us with the opportunity to examine our own conscience and to think about Jesus' words of forgiveness. As believers and followers of Jesus, we are called to forgive others.

During this season of Lent, our students continue to have the opportunity to attend a variety of spiritual experiences including, but not limited to: grade level penance services, classroom liturgies and on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> attending a Holy Hour for Vocations.

### SAVE THE DATE - SFA Spring Social

Join us for the SFA Spring Social on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at Great Pond Manor (formerly Emerald Hall) in Braintree. This event will feature a cocktail reception, complete with appetizers, silent auction, raffles, games, music and so much more! The Spring Social promises to be a festive and fun-filled evening that allows us to celebrate our community as well as to raise financial support to strengthen and enhance our high quality programs at SFA. More information and details regarding this event will be forthcoming!

# 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](http://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](mailto:bcote@sfab.org). We look forward to possibly serving your family in the spiritual, academic, and social development of your child.

**The Braintree Catholic Women's Club** will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, April 16 at 1:30PM, St. Clare's church hall. The regular business meeting will take place before the program. [Note change of program]. The game Left, Right and Center, will be the program for the afternoon. Be sure to bring your quarters to participate in the fun. For more information contact chairpersons for this event Gilda Mullen at 781-843-8588 or Marie Connelly 781-843-1965. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

**The Braintree Braves Drum and Bugle Corps** will be having their Winter Recruiting Drive on Saturday, March 19 at Thayer Academy from 12:00—4:00PM. Girls and boys ages 8 to 14 are welcome to join. For more information call manager Jim Buglio at 781-843-6313.



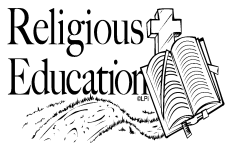
**If you are a registered parishioner** who utilizes the parish envelope system or the EFT option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2015 please call the parish office

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.

### Readings for the Week of March 13, 2016

- 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
- Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or  
13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-6/Jn 8:1-11
- Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-21/  
Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52-56/  
Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-9/Jn 8:51-59
- Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-7/Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/  
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/  
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Next Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/  
Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/  
Lk 22:14--23:56 or 23:1-49





Mrs. Diane Hopkins  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli  
Phone 781.848.3238



**Religious Education Classes will meet as scheduled:**

Sunday, March 13 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5  
Classes meet in the school..

Sunday, March 13 5:00—7:00PM Gr. 10  
No classes this week.

Monday, March 14 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5  
Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, March 15 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5  
Classes meet in the school.

Tuesday, March 15 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8  
No classes this week.

Tuesday, March 15 6:00 – 7:30 Gr. 9  
Classes meet at St. Clare this week.

**Please note location and the time change: 6:30 – 8:00**

**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 (Grade 10)** 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.

***“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”*** John 8:7

We all have stones in our hands and we want to throw them sometimes. It's easier to just throw the stone, or the insult, than it is to forgive and show understanding or compassion. Our call to be Holy is a call to drop our stones of anger, fear and resentment towards others. Recognizing God's mercy and love will soften our hearts and open our eyes to the great joy of offering forgiveness to someone who is truly sorry. It may even help us to forgive ourselves when we feel our sin is inescapable.

Please keep our confirmation candidates in your prayers as they experience the fullness of God's mercy. May they feel renewed and inspired by the Holy Spirit to show others how freeing it can be to drop their stones.

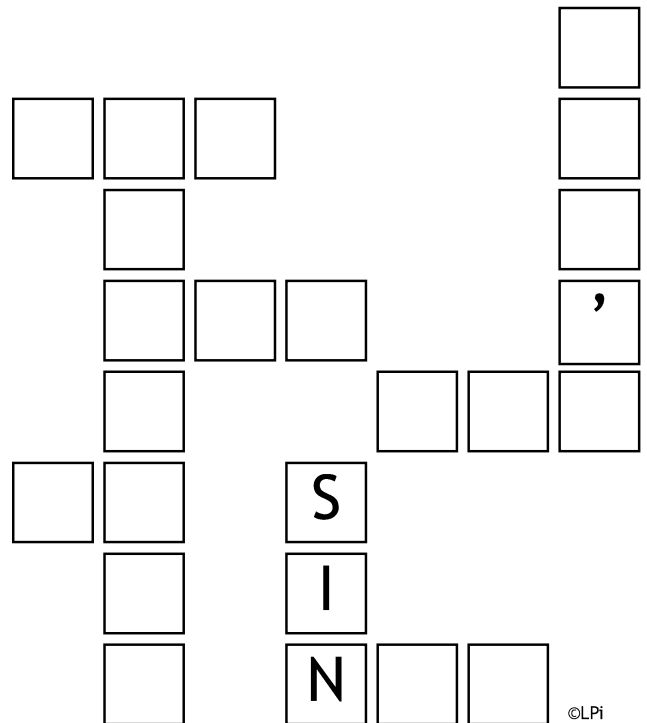
***The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.***

Stay Close,  
Diane and Ronna

 **Puzzle**

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

**You may go now, but don't sin anymore.**



©LPI

**Sharing the Gospel**

When we do something wrong, God does not want to punish us. God just wants us to stop, learn from our mistake, and make better choices next time. Try to remember that the next time you catch a friend sinning. Instead of tattling, talk to your friend, and gently help your friend do what is right.

**Prayer**

Dear God, help me to be kind to my friends when they make mistakes. Help me remember that sometimes I make bad choices, too.

**Something to Draw**

Draw a picture of Jesus right next to you, helping you after you have done something wrong.

**Mission for the Week**

Name one thing you have done wrong. Jesus can forgive you for your mistakes. Try to forgive other people, too.



## from the Archdiocese of Boston



### March 13 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

In Isaiah the Lord tells us, “see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” For some people, speaking about their faith and the importance of prayer and sacraments in their life is new. It can be difficult. It takes practice. It is worth the effort. Saint Paul’s goal and the goal he encourages the Philippians to adopt should be our goal as well: “I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus”. That’s our goal. Living our lives rooted in Christ Jesus, who is full of mercy and forgiveness. Continue to pray for the Catechumens who celebrate the third scrutiny today on their journey to the saving waters of Baptism.

**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!



### **Your Easter Offering**

**The Easter collection** this year supports the health and well-being of our priests. The 614 active and senior priests in our Archdiocese have dedicated their lives to serving the Catholic faithful and our Church of Boston. Now, it is our turn to care for them. Please give generously to our parish collection this Easter. You can also give online at [clergyfunds.org](http://clergyfunds.org). Thank you on advance for your prayers and generous support if the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust.

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Francis of Assisi** “service supper” THIS Friday March 18 for the first 100 persons each week. This Lenten celebration 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. This service supper 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.



**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.

### 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](http://www.liftedhigher.com). Come and worship with hundreds of Catholics from around the Boston area!

**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](http://www.loyolapress.com/lenten-moments-of-mercy.htm).

### Retreats and Other Programs for Lent:

Espousal Retreat House in Waltham, 781.209.3120, [www.espousal.org](http://www.espousal.org)  
Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, 781.749.2155, [www.glastonburyabbey.org](http://www.glastonburyabbey.org)  
Miramar in Duxbury, 781.585.2482, [www.miramarretreat.org](http://www.miramarretreat.org)  
St. Joseph Retreat House in Cohasset, 781.383.6024, [www.csjretreatcenter.org](http://www.csjretreatcenter.org)

