

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.



Saturday, March 19, 2016

4:00 PM Thomas Pokaski Anniversary

Sunday, March 20, 2016

7:00 AM Veronica Bonfiglioli Memorial

9:30 AM Maria & Camillo D'Angelo Memorial

11:30 AM Charles Francis McNamara Anniversary

Monday, March 21, 2016

7:00 AM

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

7:00 AM

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

7:00 AM

Thursday, March 24, 2016

9:00 AM Holy Thursday Morning Prayer

Friday, March 25, 2016

9:00 AM Good Friday Morning Prayer

Saturday, March 24, 2016

9:00 AM Holy Saturday Morning Prayer

8:30 PM Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 27, 2016

7:00 AM *Alleluia*

9:30 AM *He Is*

11:30AM *Risen*

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—73%

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 4,789.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 2,281.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,196.25
Total Offertory	\$ 8,265.25

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

My brothers and sisters,

And so we enter **HOLY WEEK:**

Today is **Palm Sunday**. We commemorate two central events: the Solemn Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem and the Passion of Jesus (this year according to St. Luke).

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week are sacred days when we prepare ourselves for Easter.

On **Holy Thursday** the only Mass is the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. This Mass begins the Church's Sacred Triduum—3 days seen and taken as one.

From Holy Thursday night through Sunday's festivities is a time when we focus on Christ alone.

Good Friday commemorates the death of Jesus while looking past the Cross to the Tomb. Services are at 3:00PM and 7:00 PM at St. Francis, and at 3:00 PM St. Clare's. It is a day of abstinence from meat for all Catholics 14 and over. It is a day of fast for all Catholics age 18-59 inclusive (one main meal only, no eating between meals, 2 other meals may be taken to sustain strength, but those combined will not be more than the main meal).

Holy Saturday is a day of restful preparation. The Sacraments (other than Confession and Last Rites) are not celebrated.

Easter Sunday is the solemn celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. It is, thus, the preeminent Christian Feast.

On behalf of the priests, Deacons Mike Cavanaugh, Chuck Ruoff and Joe MacDonald and the staff of both parishes please know of our prayers and best wishes for a blessed Holy Week, Triduum and Easter to you and yours, Happy Easter!
Fr. Paul Clifford

Please see the special bulletin insert for a complete list of Holy Week Services and Confession times.



**"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."
- Lk 19:38**

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon

So here we are at Palm Sunday, at the beginning of Holy Week. In some ways, Ash Wednesday seems so long ago; in other ways, those Lenten resolutions could have used a little more time... As we take our palm branches and hear again the story of the Passion, let us resolve to walk with Jesus this week, to be with him from the Last Supper through his Resurrection. Imaginative prayer brings us right into the story and can bring the events to life as we consider the sights, the sounds, the smells, the tastes and the textures that surround Jesus. We can go deeper and place ourselves there with him—as bystanders or as participants. May this week remind all of us that we are truly the beloved of God!



We hope that you (and perhaps a guest or 2) will join us for Morning Prayer on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday at St. Francis and for the other liturgies of the Triduum. Please keep **Gabrielle** and **Sophia** in your prayers as they make their final preparations to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. Thank you.

THANK YOU


Thank you to the four presiders of our Collaborative Lenten Mission, to everyone who assisted with hospitality, and to all who “gave up” time from their busy lives to “do something new.” Many thanks also to the leaders and attendees of our Lenten Longings faith sharing groups.

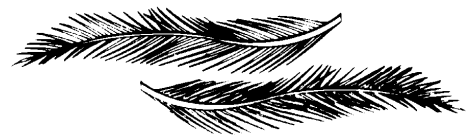


SFA/SC Bereavement Group... We meet THIS Tuesday, March 22 at 1PM in the St. Francis of Assisi church hall. Our topic will be grief and the Easter holiday. Enter through the side door closest to the parking lot and take the elevator or stairs to the lower level. **We are a drop-in group that meets on the 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.



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.



The Catholic Daughters would like to thank you for your generosity to the collection of Pennies for the Unborn. Your response was overwhelming—we realized over \$1200. between both St. Clare and St. Francis Parishes.



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal



A Way with Words – It was a great night at St. Jerome Elementary School as we held our 2016 Region 5 Spelling Bee. Eleven of our schools competed with 43 competitors, which took nearly two hours to name the winners! It is with great pride I extend a word of Congratulations to Annie St. George (grade 8) from SFA, who earned the title of Champion by winning First Place. What a fantastic accomplishment! Second place was Dylan Stiles from St. Jerome School; third place was Christina Zhou from Quincy Catholic Academy and Fourth place was John Ternullo from St. Jerome School. Each one of these students was awarded an Amazon gift card. Also competing were Bryce Thomas (grade 6) and Tommy Ho (grade 5); who did a fine job of representing SFA. Unfortunately, Grace McDonald (grade 7) was ill and was unable to attend. We are certainly proud of all of our students at SFA.

Basketball Playoffs - Congratulations to our 5th/6th Boy's Basketball Team who won their playoff game against Immaculate Conception School of Revere last Saturday afternoon, with the score of 38 - 24. We are so proud of our team! The boys will advance and play game 7 against St. Raphael of Medford this Saturday, 3/19 at Catholic Memorial at 11:30. Let's Go SFA!!!

SAVE THE DATE - SFA Spring Social

Join us for the SFA Spring Social on Friday, April 29th 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) 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.

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.

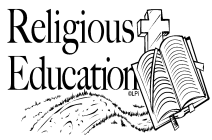


If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the EFT option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2015 please call the parish office at 781-843-1332. If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or EFT/online giving system, but would like to; or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



Readings for the Week of March 20, 2016

- 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
- Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11
- Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17/
Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
- Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34/
Mt 26:14-25
- Thursday: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/
Ps 89:1-6/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21
- Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/
Ps 116:12-13, 15-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/
Jn 13:1-15
- Friday: Is 52:13--53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13,
15-17, 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/
Jn 18:1--19:42
- Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1--2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/
Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/
Ex 14:15--15:1/Is 54:5-14/Is 55:1-11/
Bar 3:9-15, 32--4:4/Ez 36:16-17a,
18-28/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/
Rom 6:3-11/Lk 24:1-12
- Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17,
22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/
Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12 or Lk 24:13-35



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238

Religious Education Classes will meet as scheduled:

Sunday, March 20	10:30-11:30	Gr. 1-5
Parents/students meet in the church hall immediately after Mass.		
Sunday, March 20	4:45—7:00PM	Gr. 10
Penance Service at St. Clare.		
Monday, March 21	3:50-4:50	Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.		
Tuesday, March 22	3:50-4:50	Gr. 1-5
Classes meet in the school.		
Tuesday, March 22	6:30- 7:45	Gr. 6-8
Grade 6 meets in the school.		
Grades 7 & 8 meet in the church for a Penance Service.		
Tuesday, March 22	6:00 – 7:30	Gr. 9
Classes meet at St. Clare this week.		

Confirmation I (Grade 9) Next meeting is **Tuesday, April 5th** in the church hall at **St. Francis of Assisi** from **6:00 to 7:30 pm.**

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 doesn't experience Reconciliation prior to Mass will have the opportunity immediately following Mass. It is your obligation to seek out a time for Reconciliation prior to Confirmation.

Entering Holy Week with much fan fare and palms waving... we can quickly fast forward to the darkness that we know is coming in a few days. Are we going to stand under the weight of the cross and defend Jesus or are we going to betray him and run? Believing in Jesus back then meant taking a risk just as it does now. It is not easy for teenagers, or any of us for that matter, to openly admit to something we cannot capture on our cell phone cameras or document in a Google search. We are conditioned to demand proof. Having faith to take that leap in the dark will most certainly help our hearts find the truth in those things we cannot see.

We pray that the Holy Spirit fills us with the courage we need to take that leap of faith, even when it is risky or uncomfortable. Help us to reach out to others in faith, hope and love so they may feel their way through darkness with our light.

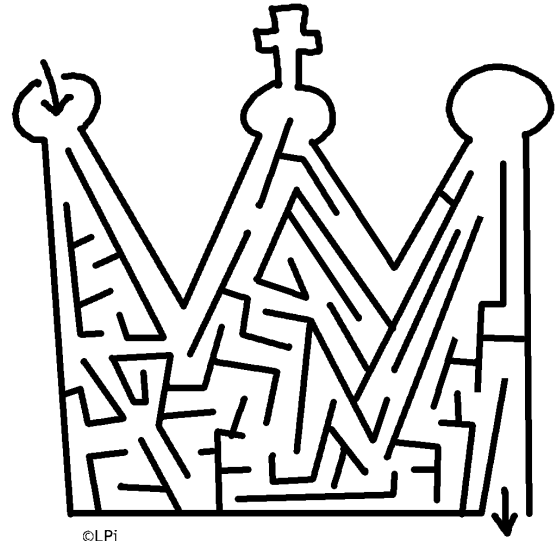
My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
Stay Close,

Diane and Ronna



Puzzle

Jesus is the King, so here is a maze inside of his crown.



©LPI

Sharing the Gospel

The friends of Jesus made a special parade just for him. The people liked Jesus. He fed them. He healed them. They wanted to crown him king. They were sure that with Jesus in charge, they could live in peace. When you praise God, and when you put Jesus in charge of your life, you really can live with peace in your heart!

Prayer

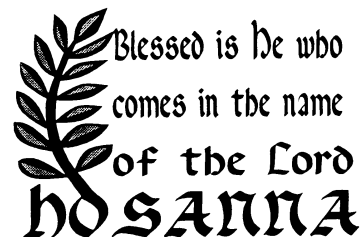
Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be my king.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus as king in your house.

Mission for the Week

Make Jesus king of your life. Ask him to help you spend your time doing the things that would make him happy.





from
the Archdiocese of
Boston



March 20 ~ Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
We know these readings; we know them well. We know how the story ends. But shame on us if we do not listen and ponder as if hearing for the first time. "...at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Do your words confess that Jesus is Lord? Are you willing and ready to share His remarkable love for us with others? For this task, the Lord will give us well-trained tongues, that we might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Invite someone to join you next week for Easter Mass.



Your Easter Offering

Next week's Easter collection is for our priests. The Clergy Health and Retirement Trust cares for the health and well-being of our 614 active and senior priests in our Archdiocese, ensuring an appropriate level of care and quality of life for the men who have dedicated their lives in service to the Church of Boston. Our priests are there for us. Now, it is our turn to care for them. Please give generously to the collection next week. You can also make your gift online at clergyfunds.org. Thank you in advance for your prayers and generous support of our priests.

FIAT

Fiat is a discernment group for single women in the Archdiocese of Boston who are considering a vocation to religious life. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine, 1105 Boylston St., Boston. Sister Margaret Michael, FSP will speak on the topic, "Mercy and the Call." If you are interested in attending, please respond to Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, Delegate for Religious, Sr_Marian_Batho@rcab.org or call 617-746-5637.

JESUS IN BOSTON

All Young Adults and College Students are invited to join us on Friday, April 1st @ 7:30pm for our monthly "Jesus in Boston" event. This month, we will be at St. Leonard's Church in Boston's North End. This is 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.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU — *The Light Is on for You* for confession concludes THIS Wednesday evening, 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 with new materials for Holy Week and the Easter Season. 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.

Lenten Moments of Mercy is a free daily e-mail series that concludes on 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.



Holy Week Prayer

Dear Jesus,

*in this Holy Week, we remember the time
from your triumphal entry as a king in Jerusalem
to your tragic death as a criminal on Golgotha.*

*In this week, give us the grace to imitate you
in our everyday lives.*

*As you washed the feet of your apostles,
help us to serve others without thought of ourselves.*

*As you forgave Peter for his denial of you,
help us to forgive those who have wronged us.*

*As your apostles were faced with their own weaknesses,
help us know our own limits, and our need for your aid.*

*Most of all, give us the grace to remember
that you died for love of us.*

Amen.

