

# 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. Shawn Carey, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Permanent Deacon/Director of Music  
Mrs. Diane Hopkins, Religious Education, 781-848-3238  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli, Religious Education, 781-848-3238

**Parish Office:** Miss Patty Kinnally, Office Manager

**Mass Schedule:** Saturday Evening – 5:30 PM  
Sunday – 9:00 and 11:30 AM  
Weekday – Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday – 12:30 to 2:00 PM  
Other times by appointment.

**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  
(Suspended due to Coronavirus)

**Food Pantry:** Thursdays – please call the Parish Office one day in advance.

# Mass Intentions



## Saturday, December 5, 2020

5:30PM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

## Sunday, December 6, 2020

9:00AM E. Pat McGrath Anniversary

11:30AM Joseph Stanton and Gertrude Stanton Anniversary Anniversary

## Monday, December 7, 2020

7:00AM

## Tuesday, December 8, 2020

7:00AM

## Wednesday, December 9, 2020

7:00AM

## Thursday, December 10, 2020

8:00AM

## Friday, December 11, 2020

7:00AM

## Saturday, December 12, 2020

5:30PM

## Sunday, December 13, 2020

9:00AM Franklin Cropley and Steve Lemieux Anniversary Anniversary

11:30AM Bernadette Lucy & Joseph Forti Memorial

My brothers & sisters,

A Blessed Advent to All!

We face strange and difficult times these days, but that puts us more squarely in our Advent posture. NOTHING went "according to plan" for the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. At every turn there was a surprise, or a denial, or a restriction on their dreams. It would have been so easy to be bitter and reject God altogether. They never did. They grew in the depth of their faith precisely because of the difficult situations and people who threatened their security and even their lives. Can we do the same?

We are preparing for Christmas. Fr. Shawn and I have arranged a generous schedule of Masses and Confessions. We will post a Christmas Mass (New Year's too) on our YouTube channel as we do each Sunday. Boston Catholic TV also has a rich schedule of Christmas programming. For those who do feel a need to come to church on Christmas be prepared for it to be different. It is imperative that you register online (or by phone if necessary). Masses will be smaller, simpler and socially distanced. Please be prayerful and thoughtful about coming to church. No one should feel pressured to come. Until further notice from the cardinal, there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays.

Mary and Joseph found within and beyond themselves meaning and strength they never knew that had. In this Advent may we seek the mercy and grace of God - nothing else - and trust that the light of the Christmas Star will shine brightly from and within our hearts.

In His service and yours,

*Fr. Paul Clifford*



**Tuesday, December 8 is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule for the collaborative of St. Francis /St. Clare of Assisi is:**

### St. Francis of Assisi

Monday, December 7

Vigil 5:30PM

Tuesday, December 8

7:00AM and 12:10PM

### St. Clare

Monday, December 7

Vigil 4:00PM

Tuesday, December 8

9AM and 5:30PM

Thank you for your offerings for the last weekend:

**Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT %.**

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

# Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 2,948.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 805.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,859.67
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 5,612.67</b>

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



From  
*Deacon Joe MacDonald*

### Liturgy of the Hours

Recently, I wrote about the Rosary and what an important prayer it is. Today I'm going to write about what has been my favorite and most beloved form of prayer for more than forty years, the Liturgy of the Hours, also called the Divine Office.

Forty years ago, I was preparing for an organ recital as a requirement of the degree program at Boston Conservatory. There was an organ teacher I had in high school who helped prepare me for my audition into the school and I thought it would be appropriate to invite him to attend the concert.

After our initial contact, he invited me to his house for dinner so we could catch up. When I arrived, I noticed there was a wooden plaque by the front door which said "House of Prayer Community." I stepped in and met my teacher and his roommates and noticed that the décor of the entire home all pointed to Christ in one way or another. They told me that before they had dinner every night, they prayed the evening office from the Liturgy of the Hours together and invited me to join them. It was my first experience with the Divine Office. It was powerful. It called me back to the church that night. It was the first-time sacred scripture had popped off the page and spoke to me. It was from the Canticle of Mary "The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name." The Divine Office has since been an integral part of my spiritual vocabulary and my Catholic experience.

What is this Divine Office or Liturgy of the Hours you might ask? The simplest way to explain it is to say that Liturgy of the Hours consists of a four-week cycle of psalms, biblical canticles, readings from scripture, song, prayers, intentions, and other readings. Priests, deacons, and most consecrated religious are required to pray the office. Years ago, you may have heard it said that the priest was reading his breviary, which meant he was praying the office.

There are six different "hours" in the Divine Office. This doesn't mean it takes an hour to pray each of them. It means that they are prayed at certain hours of the day, although the hours are not set in stone. The hours are: Office of Readings; Morning Prayer; Midmorning Prayer; Midday Prayer; Midafternoon Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer. Of these, the two pinnacle hours are Morning and Evening. The first hour, Morning Prayer comes around sunrise and Evening Prayer is said around sunset. So, if one were to be faithful to all the hours you might start with Morning Prayer at 6 and the others following at 9, noon, 3, and 6 (Evening Prayer) and night prayer at 9PM.

At the time of Christ, the Jewish community had a tradition of gathering for prayer at appointed hours and the early Christian Community faithful to that tradition, and it has carried on to this very day. It is a way of praying that Jesus himself may have been very familiar with.

It is also a way of bringing to fruition Saint Paul's call that we "pray without ceasing."

It is true that most of us, because of our lifestyle or other commitments, are unable to pray each hour but, we may be able to pray at least Morning and/or Evening prayer.

Hopefully some of you are now asking, "how do I pray the Divine Office?"

There are three publications that can be purchased.

1. Shorter Christian Prayer. This is a smaller version of the office that just contains Morning and Evening Prayer. It is not as complete as the other publications but is a good place to begin.
1. Christian Prayer. This is a larger volume that contains all the hours but is lacking in certain readings etc.
2. The Liturgy of the Hours 4 volume set. This is the complete office.

Now if you can't purchase a book or a set of books there is an alternative. You can go to [Divineoffice.org](http://Divineoffice.org) and find it online or get their app for your mobile device.

Another option is [ibreviary.com](http://ibreviary.com) which is also available as an app for your mobile device.

When we pray the liturgy of the hours, either alone or with a group, our prayer is untied to every Christian who is also praying the office. We never pray it alone.

Advent is a good time to use new or unfamiliar forms of prayer to jump start our Christian spirituality and so prepare a way for the Lord to enter our hearts anew.

If you have any questions about the Divine Office or how to pray it, feel free to contact me.





St. Clare

Ryan Edward MacDonald & Taryn Claire Sullivan



Please remember in your prayers the following people who have gone home to the Lord in the past week:

**St. Francis of Assisi**

James Conroy, John M. Kelley, Jr. and Camille "Lorraine" McDermott

**St. Clare**

John T. Curley

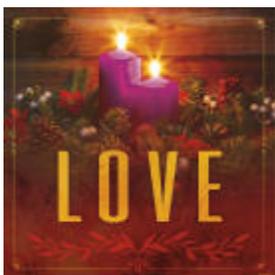
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*



**Advent Rosary Evenings...** continues THIS Monday, December 7 at 6:45PM in St. Francis of Assisi Church. Throughout Advent we will meet weekly (December 7, 14, and 21). We hope you'll consider making this time a new holiday tradition—for yourself or with family and friends.



We are now booking Mass Intentions through Tuesday, February 16, 2021 (the day before Ash Wednesday). To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332. *Please do not leave this information on the Mass Reservation line.*



# Parish Info and events of note...

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry** 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.
- **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 deployed and you would like their info to appear on the blue board in the church, please call or email the parish office. If you are aware of needed updates to the board, please let us know that as well. Thank you.



For the health and safety of all, the Advent Giving Tree will be a little different this year. Instead of picking a tag from the Giving Tree we are working with 2 organizations, Marge Crispin Center here in Braintree and My Brother's Keeper. You can help out by purchasing and donating a new toy or game. **You can also purchase Gift Cards (i.e. Target, Wal-Mart, Amazon, Game Stop, Best Buy, Simon Mall, Movie Theatre, etc.).** These new, unwrapped toys/games or Gift Cards can be brought to church and placed under the tree (beginning Thanksgiving weekend) or dropped off at the Collaborative Office. If you tend to shop online you could even have toys/games delivered directly to the collaborative office (856 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184) if this would make your life easier. Gift Cards can also be dropped in the mail slot of either parish (front door/Liberty Street entrance of St. Clare Parish House; or side door/Office entrance of St. Francis). All donations will be divided and delivered to the two organizations for distribution. **Gifts should be returned NO LATER THAN Friday, December 11.**



*John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist.*

*He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." - Mk 1:4, 6-7a*

### Readings for the week of December 6, 2020

- Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/ Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**Sunday Masses continue** with limited seating to provide safe social distancing for all in attendance. We remind you: You must **book a seat(s) for the Mass** you want to attend. There are two methods for booking a time. You may only book times for yourself and members of your household.

**On-line booking** is found at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a45a5a722a4f49-braintree>

### Phone Booking

- .. Dial 781-843-1332 and Press 3
- .. Follow recorded instructions
- .. Provide your Name, Phone#, Church, Mass Time and the total # of household members coming to Mass. Hang up after you are done with your message

### The cut-off times for Mass Reservations are as follows:

- 2:00PM Saturday for the Saturday evening Masses
- 10:00PM Saturday for the Sunday morning Masses
- 2:00PM Sunday for the Sunday evening Mass

**You are required to wear a mask at all times** in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 31. You do not have to wear a mask if you have a medical or disabling condition that prevents this. Children under 2 do not require a mask; Children ages 2-5 is up to parental discretion.



### December 6, 2020 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not? ©LPi



From the  
Archdiocese of  
Boston



### December 6 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

The prophet Isaiah instructs us: "Prepare the way of the Lord." This Advent, it may be difficult to keep our focus on the message of the season. Not only is there ongoing concern about the continued spread of the Covid-19 virus, but there are also concerns about how best to celebrate Christmas in our parishes and homes! What does it mean to prepare the way for the Lord in our current reality? Don't allow the worries and the tasks before you prevent you from finding time to prepare your heart for Christ. Begin each day this week by making this simple prayer, "Come Lord Jesus, come! Come Lord Jesus, come!"

**Fiat**, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. The topic will be "An Advent Reflection on Mary." If you are interested, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at [marian.batho@csjboston.org](mailto:marian.batho@csjboston.org) or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.



### Let Your Voice Be Heard – Again "Say No to ROE"

The state legislature has extended the session until January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Please remind the members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary that you oppose the expansion of abortion in Massachusetts. Please call the Committee at 617-722-2396 and let them know you are **opposed** to H3320 and S1209 – the ROE legislation. Every telephone call helps!

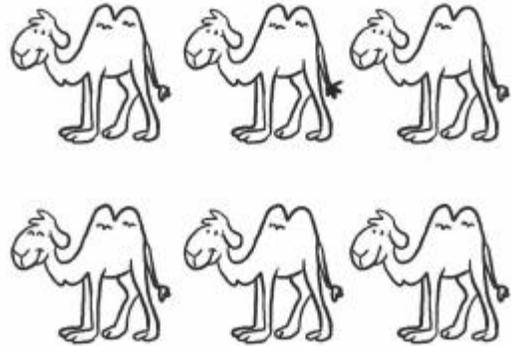
Remember these bills would remove:

- The requirement that young girls obtain consent before an abortion
- The requirement that efforts be made to save a living baby who survives abortion
- The requirement that late term abortions be performed in hospitals
- The bills would allow abortion on demand for all nine months of pregnancy.

For more information about how the ROE legislation would expand abortion in Massachusetts visit [www.macatholic.org](http://www.macatholic.org).

### PUZZLE

Find the 2 identical camels.



### MISSION

Ask your family if you have hurt their feelings.  
Ask them to forgive you.



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### Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist had an important message. When you make sinful mistakes, and when you turn away from God, stop. Learn from your mistakes, and do things God's way. Were you bossy or rude? Be thoughtful and kind. Did you tell a lie? Be honest instead. God wants you to share his love with other people.

### Prayer

Jesus, help me to learn from my mistakes. Thank you for forgiving me.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself being kind to a friend.

### Mission for the Week

Ask your family if you have hurt their feelings.  
Ask them to forgive you.

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