

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. 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 26, 2020

5:30PM

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:00AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

11:30AM Philip D. Walling, Sr., Memorial
 Mary Tricomi, Rosemarie Roche,
 Paul Rober, Sr. & Paul Rober, Jr.

Monday, December 28, 2020

7:00AM Jamie O'Hare Memorial

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

7:00AM

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

7:00AM

Thursday, December 31, 2020

7:00AM

5:30PM John Polio Memorial

Friday, January 1, 2021

7:00AM

Saturday, January 2, 2021

5:30PM John Keaveney Memorial

Sunday, January 3, 2021

9:00AM Guido Buglio Memorial

11:30AM

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,

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ Information not
Offertory/Loose	\$ Available
EFT Weekly Average	\$ due to early
Total Offertory	\$ bulletin deadline

please contact the parish office.

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 1, 2021 is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day. The Mass schedule for the Collaborative of St. Clare and St. Francis of Assisi is as follows:

Thursday, December 31, 2020

4:00PM St. Clare

5:30PM St. Francis of Assisi

Friday, January 1, 2021

7:00AM St. Francis of Assisi

9:00AM St. Clare

12:10 PM St. Francis of Assisi

5:30PM St. Clare

Special Confession Times

Saturday, December 26

St. Clare

8:30-9:00AM

St. Francis of Assisi

12:30-2:00PM

Sunday, December 27

St. Francis of Assisi

12:30PM



Thank you to everyone who donated to our "Giving Tree" this year. Your generous response was awe-inspiring. Because of you some children in our community had a very Merry Christmas.

Thank you also to those who participated in our Thanksgiving Day Food Drive. Your contributions throughout the year (but especially these last 10 months) has allowed us to keep our pantry operating throughout the pandemic. We have a wonderful core of volunteers who tirelessly and compassionately give of their time every week to see that we meet the needs of the pantry clients. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts.



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Today's readings speak of faith. The faith of Abraham, the faith of Mary, of Joseph, and the faith of Simeon. But what is faith? For most of us we think of faith as the acceptance of certain beliefs. Is that all it is?

I believe and accept that the world is round but that doesn't change who I am or what my nature is or how I live my life. I believe that if I flip a switch on my wall the lights will come on and it does. Am I a better person for it?

Faith can't only be the acceptance of beliefs because real faith has the power to change lives.

Our word "faith" comes from the Latin "Fides" which has a much richer meaning than what we typically think. Latin was a language spoken in the Roman Empire and in its ancient use meant that two parties could rely on one another. A relationship between two parties couldn't even exist unless there was trust between them. FIDES was always reciprocal and mutual, and implied both privileges and responsibilities on both sides, be it between people, governments or businesses. Fides is about relationship.

Faith is a relationship and a gift from God. Belief may not change one's life but relationships will. When I got married, I believed our marriage was good and would last. But I believed because I also trusted Luanne. She trusted too, that I would do the things that a responsible husband would do to grow our love, just as she would. Our lives changed because of that faith, because of our FIDES.

Thinking of faith as FIDES in respect to the Lord can make all the difference to our understanding. Isn't a relationship with God what we're really looking for? Hasn't that been what God has been offering since the beginning? Abraham not only believed what God told him he trusted that it would happen. God would do what he promised and Abraham would do what God asked of him. A "fides" relationship existed between them.

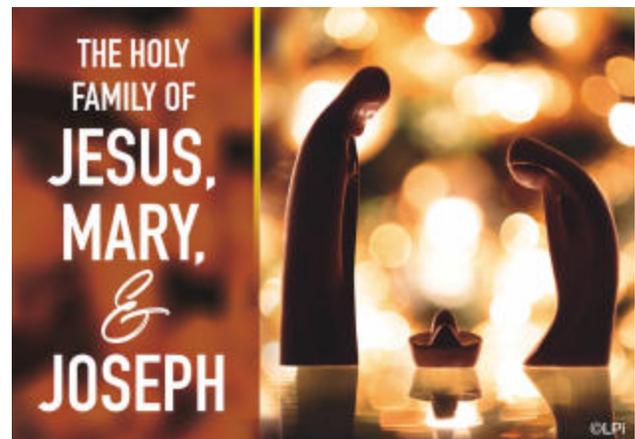
This is also the FIDES of Mary who said "yes" to the impossible and trusted that God would make it happen.

A question we often hear from our evangelical brothers and sisters is "Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?" It is an important question because there is no faith, no FIDES, unless we have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

God has already established this relationship but we have the choice of what to do with it. We can accept it as Mary and Joseph did or we can ignore it and let it perish. It's sad enough when members of families sever ties: A brother that never speaks to a sister or a child to her parents. How much more heartbreaking when one severs ties with the Author of Life, the Redeemer of Souls, and the very definition of Love.

My prayer this Christmas season and on this Feast of the Holy Family is that more and more people will come to accept the relationship that God extends to us, and that it grows through prayer, scripture and sacrament, until it consumes us with love and devotion for God and each other.

Happy Feast Day.



A Prayer for the Family

Composed by St. Mother Teresa

Heavenly Father, you have given us the model of life in the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Help us, O Loving Father, to make our family another Nazareth where love, peace and joy reign.

May it be deeply contemplative, intensely eucharistic, revived with joy.

Help us to stay together in joy and sorrow in family prayer.

Teach us to see Jesus in the members of our families, especially in their distressing disguise.

May the eucharistic heart of Jesus make our hearts humble like his and help us to carry out our family duties in a holy way.

May we love one another as God loves each one of us, more and more each day, and forgive each other's faults as you forgive our sins. Help us, O Loving Father, to take whatever you give and give whatever you take with a big smile.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Holy Guardian Angels, be always with us, guide and protect us.

Amen.



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

Archdiocese of Boston

Fr. Leo Cormier

Fr. Maurice O'Connor

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



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.*



From the clergy and staff of the Collaborative of St. Clare and St. Francis of Assisi

The parish office will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2021.

Have a happy and safe New Year!
We pray that 2021 will bring happiness and blessings to all!

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.



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> (regular weekend Mass)

Phone Booking

- Dial 781-843-1332 and Press 3 for Regular Masses or
- 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 27, 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

***“For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.”***

• Lk 2:30-32

Readings for the week of December 27, 2020

- Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2,
3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or
3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
- Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/
Mt 2:13-18
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6
[11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/
Lk 2:36-40
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/
Jn 1:1-18
- Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
[3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
- Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
[cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

December 27

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

In today's Gospel, Simeon and Anna make a startling prediction about Jesus and the life that awaits him, a life that would hold both joy and suffering. Mary and Joseph hold in their hearts all that they hear and still remain faithful to all that God has asked of them as parents. St. Paul gives us a strong recommendation for how to imitate the Holy Family – "Put on kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another." This is what Jesus, Mary and Joseph modeled for us. Pray for your family asking for the grace to help them grow in these beautiful virtues.



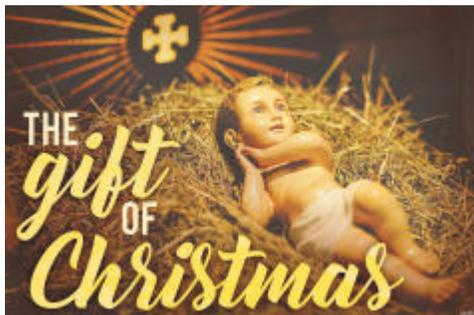
Let Your Voice Be Heard – Again "Say No to ROE"

The state legislature has extended the session until January 5th, 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!

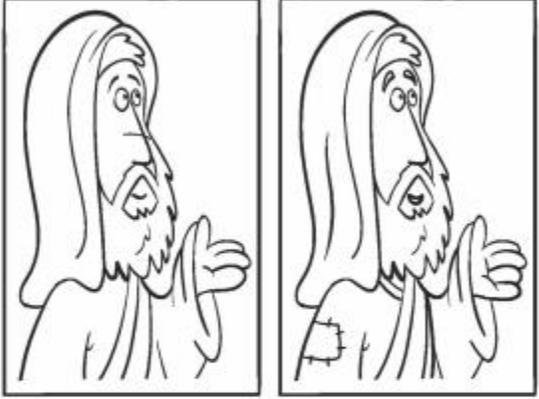
Remember these bills would remove:

- 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.



 **PUZZLE**
Find 8 differences.



 **MISSION**
Jesus belonged to God. Look up the word "belong" in the dictionary. Thank God that you are his child, too.



Sharing the Gospel

Mary and Joseph went to the temple and presented the baby Jesus to God. Two older people recognized that Jesus was the Messiah. They gave him special blessings. They thanked God for this child. Just like Mary and Joseph, your parents gave thanks to God when you were born. They were very happy God gave you to them. They had you baptized in church, and presented you as a gift to God, too.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for bringing the baby Jesus into my life.

Something to Draw

Draw Mary and Joseph carrying the baby Jesus to the altar in the temple.

Mission for the Week

I will offer everything I do for you, Lord, Jesus Christ.

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REMEMBER THE NEEDY!

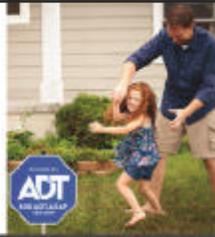
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