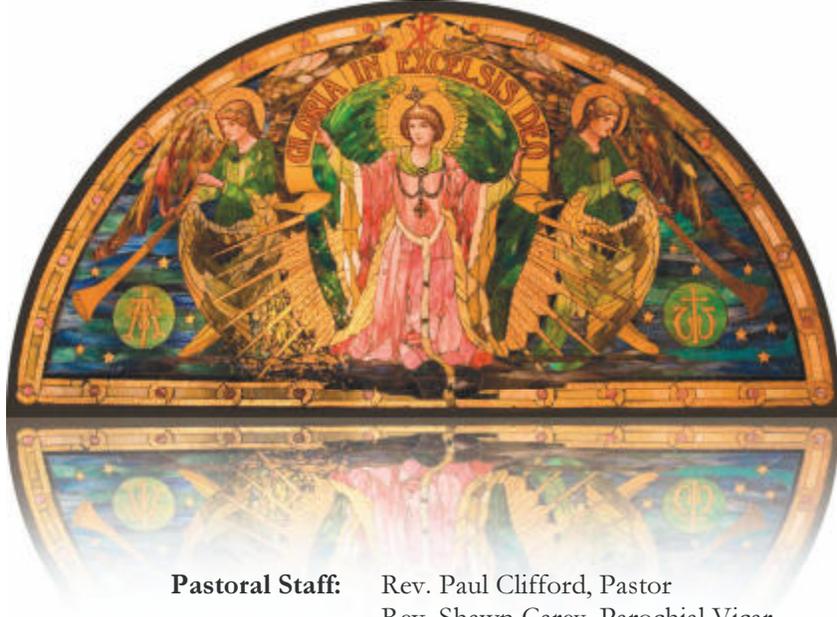


ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

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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, January 9, 2021

5:30PM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday, January 10, 2021

9:00AM John B. Passalacqua Memorial

11:30AM The Whalen Family Memorial

Monday, January 11, 2021

7:00AM Tanya Christine Dominico Annivesary

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

7:00AM

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

7:00AM

Thursday, January 14, 2021

7:00AM

Friday, January 15, 2021

7:00AM

Saturday, January 16, 2021

5:30PM

Sunday, January 17, 2021

9:00AM Virginia Foley Anniversary

11:30AM Theresa Baldwin Memorial

Thank you for your offerings for the last weekend:
Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT 70%.

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 1,719.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 1,540.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,807.67
Total Offertory	\$ 5,066.67

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



It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." - Mk 1:9-11

Readings for the week of January 10, 2021

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/ 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/ Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42





*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

A young man I know was getting married out of state. We had talked for some time about having me go down to preside at the ceremony. As with all weddings there were a few things that had to be done for the church. For one thing there'd be the paperwork that all engaged couples need to fill out before a Catholic marriage and because he was marrying a non-Catholic and the ceremony would be in a church of another denomination certain permissions from the local bishop needed to be obtained – no problem. As the day drew closer, I mentioned to him that time was getting short and they needed to do these things soon and offered to find a priest or deacon down there that would guide them through the process. I kind of sensed some reluctance and finally got out of him that he was just going to let the minister marry them because he thought the Catholic Church just makes people jump through too many hoops.

He didn't want to jump through hoops. How do you argue with that?

In today's Gospel we find the Son of God being baptized by John. The one who in fact was sinless accepted a baptism that was a sign of repentance for sin. And he was baptized by one who was admittedly inferior to Jesus.

Why would Jesus do that? For that matter why did he have to be circumcised? Or fast and pray? Why did he need to be tempted or learn scripture? Why suffer and die? Why become human at all?

Why did the Son of God have to jump through all those hoops?

When I first began to play the piano, my teacher had me practice scales and arpeggios all the time. I'd have to play them for one octave, then two, then three then four – every time in different rhythms and different keys. It was tedious - boring and pointless. One day I'd just about had enough so I went to my teacher and said "Why do I have to keep doing these stupid scales – what's the point? Can't I just play some Bach or Mozart?" Why was he making me jump through all those hoops?

So, he told me to start practicing a Mozart Sonata. Thank you! I started to play it... it was beautiful and it was ALL scales. I was able to play that piece because I had practiced those scales over and over again. By jumping through scale -hoops I prepared myself to play all kinds of music.

Athletes jump through hoops too.

A ball player that takes batting practice and catches ground balls finds himself ready to play in the big game. By skipping rope, hitting a bag and sparring, a boxer conditions his body and mind for the main event.

Jesus jumped through all those "hoops" to condition his humanity to do those things his divinity would require. He was in effect preparing for the main event. By humbling himself, becoming a baby, and by being baptized by John, Jesus gave himself a taste of what it would be like to be humbled before Pilot.

He who was sinless underwent a baptism of repentance knowing he would become sin for our sake and endure the cross for us. Jesus studied scripture so that when temptation came, he had a weapon to defend himself against the tempter and when he found himself abandoned on the cross, he could still lift his mind and heart to the Father by praying the psalms.

Jesus underwent circumcision, obeyed the dietary laws, underwent ritual cleansing and everything else because that's what God asked good Jews to do – and Jesus was a good Jew.

A Jewish man I know, when asked about dietary laws, said that Jews don't refrain from eating pork because there is something inherently bad about pork. Jews refrain from eating pork simply because God said not to. In the practice of their faith, they **practice** obedience to God.

It was through human disobedience (that of Adam) that our relationship with God was broken and nothing we could do for ourselves could ever repair that. It was only through the obedience of Jesus that our relationship with God could be restored.

Musicians, ball players, boxers and others all jump through hoops because they know they aren't perfect. They know that they won't be ready when the time comes for them to put up or shut up unless they're prepared.

And we are practicing Catholics for the same reason because we aren't perfect either. We need to be in constant training. We need to practice our faith even when we think it's tedious and pointless.

We fast not only as a form of penance, but because some day there might be a time when we may have to give up something we want – something we want dearly – for the sake of Christ and His Church, maybe our own lives.

We sing in church, even if it's uncomfortable for us and we're afraid of what someone might say about our voices, not only because it gives praise to God but because it's a way of practicing courage. Courage for the day when we may be required to raise our voices in a public way for

Christ, or against some grave injustice and we'll be prepared because we've practiced courage.

We pray; attend mass; study scripture; obey the laws of God and the Church so that when the time comes, when we're confronted with our own main event, finding the Lord and following him won't be foreign to us. It will come naturally - as it did with Christ, tempted in the desert, and suffering on the Cross.

Jesus trusted God his Father to such a great extent that He was willing to have himself nailed to the wood of the cross where he would hang humiliated on a hill within sight of the temple where he ought to have been paid homage. He learned that trust through prayer, scripture, and obedience to the traditions of his Jewish faith. In doing so left us an example.

Everything he ever did he did for our sake.

That leaves us with a challenge - to find some time for ourselves over the coming week and reflect on that example and through our prayer discover ways in which we can make the trust of Christ, the obedience of Christ, the sacrifice of Christ and the work of Christ our own.

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
- 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.

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We thank the Braintree Knights for their recent generous donation to both St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare Parishes. We also thank you for all of your good work.



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

St. Francis of Assisi
Frederick Wescott

St. Clare
Robert A. MacGillvray

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



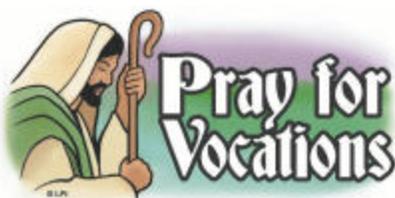
We are now booking Mass Intentions through Tuesday, February 16, 2021 (the day before Ash Wednesday). To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332. ***Please do not leave this information on the Mass Reservation line.***



*From the
Archdiocese of
Boston*

January 10 ~ The Baptism of the Lord

This Sunday's readings focus our attention on the Baptism of Jesus. They remind us of the importance of this sacrament and the effect it has on our lives – not just in the moment of baptism, but throughout our lives – if we are open to its power. Just as "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power" so too we are anointed to go about doing good, to introducing others to Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to reawaken in you the powerful graces of this sacrament.



January 10, 2021

The Baptism of the Lord

We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

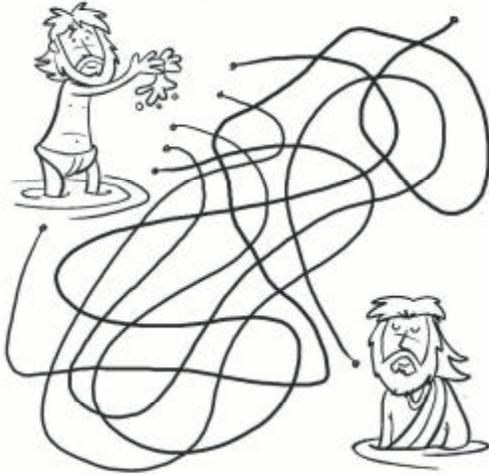
If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?

PUZZLE

Show John the path to baptize Jesus.



MISSION

Be careful to use kind words with your family and friends.



Sharing the Gospel

"Keep trying. You're doing great. I'm so proud of you." Every child should hear words like that. Every child wants to feel God's love. As Jesus grew from a boy to a man, he showed he was ready to live for God. At Jesus' baptism, God told Jesus, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you." God loves you as his child, too.

Prayer

God, I am so glad you love me.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself telling someone special, "I love you."

Mission for the Week

Be careful to use kind words with your family.

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Baptism of the Lord • Mark 1:7-11

PUZZLE

Find and circle the two that match.



MISSION

I will tell my family and friends that I am proud of them.



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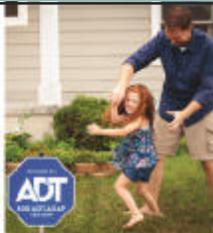
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