

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

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Website: www.braintreecatholic.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
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli, Religious Education

Collaborative Office: Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager
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 Collaborative 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 Collaborative Office to register.

Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls: Please notify the Collaborative 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)

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 24, 2021

5:30PM Robert Mickiewicz Memorial

Sunday, April 25, 2021

9:00AM Lilla Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM Janet Riley Anniversary

Monday, April 26, 2021

7:00AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

7:00AM

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

7:00AM Kimberly Mahoney Memorial

Thursday, April 29, 2021

7:00AM

Friday, April 30, 2021

7:00AM Joy Corcoran Memorial

Saturday, May 1, 2021

5:30PM Virginia, Albert & Joseph Brosseau Memorial

Sunday, May 2, 2021

9:00AM Joseph Baldassini Memorial

11:30AM Rita I. MacDonald Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for the last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT 93%.

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

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 3,985.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 474.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 2,403.33
Total Offertory	\$ 6,862.33

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



Loving God,
You speak to us and nourish us
through the life of this Church
community.

In the name of Jesus, we ask you to
send your Spirit to us so that men and
women among us, young and old, will
respond to your call to service and
leadership in the Church. We pray
especially, in our day, for those who
hear your invitation to be a priest,
sister, or brother.

May those who are opening their
hearts and minds to your call be
encouraged and strengthened
through our enthusiasm in your service.
Amen.



Deacon Carmine Caruso's final week in the collaborative is the weekend of May 8-9, 2021. Below is a list of opportunities to say goodbye and wish Deacon Carmine well as he goes on to become Father Carmine.

Saturday, May 8 after the 4:00 Mass at St. Clare
Saturday, May 8 after the 5:30 Mass at St. Francis
Sunday, May 9 after the 7:45 Mass at St. Clare
Sunday, May 9 after the 11:30 Mass at St. Clare

Many of you have heard by now that **Fr. Shawn** will be leaving us to become the co-administrator of St. Jude Parish in Waltham sometime in early to mid-June. Fr. Shawn has been a blessing to our collaborative. We will surely miss him. Please join us in wishing him well after the following Masses:

Saturday, May 22 after the 8:00AM at St. Clare
Saturday, May 22 after the 5:30PM at St. Francis
Saturday, May 29 after the 4:00PM at St. Clare
Sunday, May 30 after the 6:00PM at St. Clare

Further details to follow.



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Music and Liturgy

It is said that Music serves the Liturgy and that the Liturgy does not serve the Music. This might seem obvious and if a parish has a music director that has even a rudimentary understanding of Liturgy there is rarely a problem in this regard.

What kind of music serves the Liturgy? I'm not speaking about any particular idiom. Various kinds of music, from folk, contemporary and traditional, can all serve the Liturgy.

Certainly it would be difficult if not impossible to make a case for a "pop" song to be used in Liturgy. We sometimes get requests for popular songs at funerals or weddings, "Wind Beneath My Wings" and "You Raise Me up." Back in the 70's there was a wedding that requested the song "A Whiter Shade of Pale," a song about sea sickness. I'm not making that up.

Someone might make the argument that "You Raise me Up" has religious overtones and that it can be interpreted as a religious song. That's true, but not everyone who hears that song at a liturgy is going to interpret it the same way. When the Beatles came out with "Let It Be" in 1970 the lyric "Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom, Let it be," immediately jumped out at me, a Catholic, as something very Marian. It always led me to the Blessed Mother speaking to the Angel, "Let it be done to me as you have said." That was my interpretation. Although it is still one of my favorite songs of all time, I would not use it in a Liturgy, even on a Marian feast day.

So, does this mean any specifically religious song is also an appropriate Liturgical song? - Not at all! There are several things that help make a song or hymn liturgical. I'll focus on only one today. It is a song for the people. In Liturgy, hymns and songs accompany certain actions. They are the Entrance Procession, the Offertory Procession and the Communion Procession. We can also have a song at the end of Mass although that is not necessary. While these hymns and songs accompany an action that is not their only purpose. The assembly by participating in the singing of the music serves to unify the people of God and point their hearts and minds toward the mysteries being celebrated. If this can't happen, either because the song is technically too difficult for the average singer or because the music is merely "performed" by the rehearsed musicians then it is not a good choice for liturgy.

Even when we have a song that is "Liturgical," it doesn't mean it fits every Liturgy or even every part in a particular Liturgy. For example, we would not sing "O Come All Ye Faithful" on Easter Sunday. Nor would we sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" on the First Sunday of Advent. These songs just don't speak to that particular season or day.

A rousing, strong, mighty hymn or song of praise makes for a good Entrance Procession but not so much a song for Communion when people are more reflective. By the same token, we probably don't want to use a meditative style to begin a Mass.

For the most part, the average church-goer doesn't have to worry about the choosing of music for Mass. It is usually prepared by professional people with at least a fundamental background in both Music and Liturgy. My purpose in this column is to provide a bit of Liturgical Catechesis and guidance for those important celebrations that you may find yourself involved with, such as family weddings and funerals.

I hope you have found this article helpful and informative.



April 25 - Fourth Sunday of Easter:

Today, we **celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on Jesus' care and love of us.**

This month, through your gifts to our collaborative food pantry, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the love and care of Jesus to the poor by assisting families, providing food during our weekly food pantry hours, and gift cards to purchase Easter dinner. Thank You for your continued support!





“I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.” - Jn 10:16-17

Readings for the week of April 25, 2021

- Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18
- Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:1-10
- Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30
- Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50
- Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20
- Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11 ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6
- Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14
St. Joseph the Worker: Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 13:54-58
- Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2020 please call the collaborative 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 collaborative office.

Check out our new collaborative website—www.braintreecatholic.org.



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.



*St. Clare
Anthony J. Catto
Margaret Casey*

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.



Parish Info and events of note...

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry** Open Thursdays from 10AM-12NN. 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 Collaborative 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.



We are now booking Mass Intentions through Sunday, June 27, 2021. 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 St. Francis of Assisi
Owen Phillip Baker
Jackson Joseph Rogers*

*From St. Clare
Wyatt Everard Dixon*

CALLED TO BE CO-WORKERS
Reflections on Lay Leadership and the Fruits of Lay Ministry
May 1 | 7:00PM
SCAN ME
How are you called to serve the Church?
Archdeacon: Sr. Lynn Green, Archdeacon: Rev. Fr. Daniel Agostino



*From the
Archdiocese of
Boston*

Fiat

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on April 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. There will be a Panel Discussion on the Various Stages of Formation. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

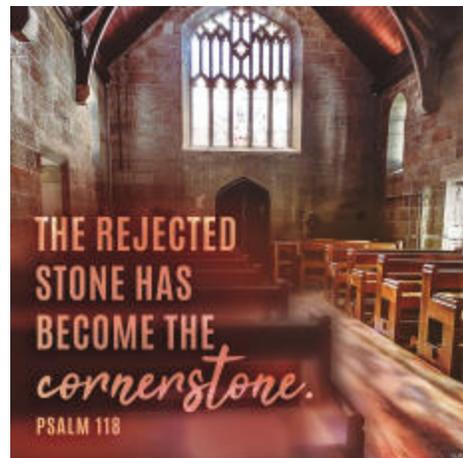
April 25 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

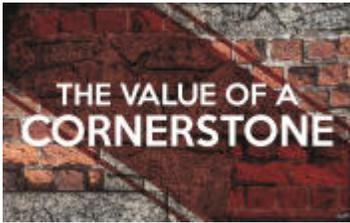
"I am the good shepherd, I know mine and mine know me." These words from today's Gospel hold both comfort and challenge! How well do you know Christ? Do you recognize his voice when he speaks to you? Do you willingly follow him as one of his sheep, as one of his disciples? Following the Good Shepherd takes faith, courage and an open heart. Take time this week in prayer to listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd. Pray for the grace to be responsive to his call to discipleship.



To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call at or visit them at <https://wwwmema.org/>. Jesus is the good shepherd and laid down his life for us that we may have new life. Give your marriage new life by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience (English) on

Mondays/Thursdays May 3-24
Thursdays/Mondays Jun 3-24





April 25, 2021 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines

how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.

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PUZZLE
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MISSION
Learn as much as you can about Jesus, so you can follow him. Read a Bible story with your family every night before bed.



Sharing the Gospel

Without a good shepherd to lead them, sheep would get lost. Without a good shepherd to protect them, sheep would get hurt. A good shepherd would even die, just to keep his sheep safe. Jesus is your good shepherd, and you are his precious little lamb. When you get lost, Jesus comes to find you. When you are in danger, Jesus comes to comfort you. Listen to the voice of Jesus. Spend time reading the Bible every day. He wants to lead you to life with God. He wants to protect you from sin. Jesus gave up his life just to save you. Jesus is your good shepherd.

Prayer

God, help me to always follow Jesus, my good shepherd.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself as a little lamb and Jesus as your good shepherd.

Mission for the Week

Learn as much as you can about Jesus, so you can follow him. Read a Bible story with your family every night before bed.

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