

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

856 WASHINGTON STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 02184

Collaborative Office Phone: 781-843-1332 • Fax: 781-848-0976

Website: www.braintreecatholic.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



Pastoral Staff: Rev. Paul Clifford, Pastor
Rev. Valanarasu Newton-Williamraj, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Permanent Deacon/Director of Music

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 six months notice is required. Please call the Collaborative Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a hall.

Sacrament of Baptism: Sundays at 2:00 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.

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 16, 2022

9:00AM Holy Saturday Morning Prayer

Sunday, January 17, 2022

9:00AM *Alleluia*

11:30AM *He is Risen!*

Monday, April 18, 2022

7:00AM Angelo & Jenny Luccio and Family Memorial

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

7:00AM Souls in Purgatory Memorial

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

7:00AM Helen Trieb Anniversary

Thursday, April 21, 2022

7:00AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Friday, April 22, 2022

7:00AM Leo Whalen Memorial

Saturday, April 23, 2022

5:30PM Julia Zampine Anniversary

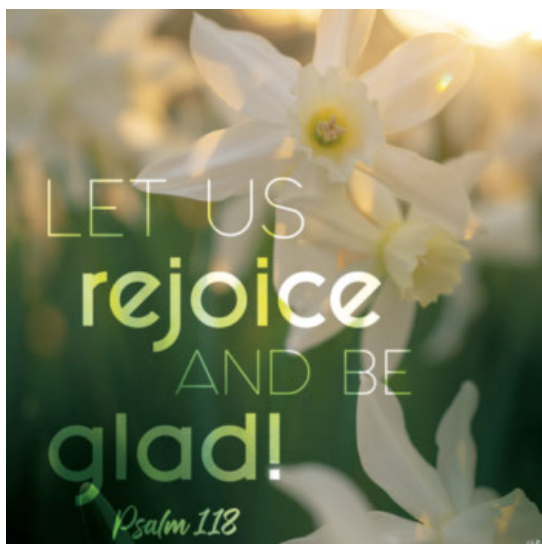
Sunday, April 24, 2022

9:00AM Nunzio & Mary Sbordone Memorial

11:30AM Theresa Baldwin Memorial

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

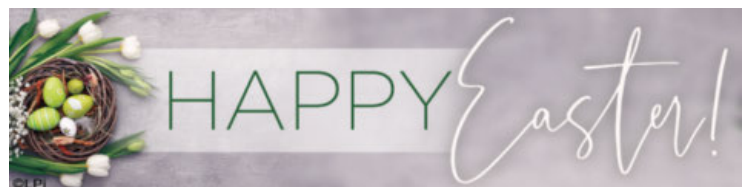
PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH



When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. - Jn 20:6-8

Readings for the week of April 17, 2022

- Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/ Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12 or, Lk 24:13-35
- Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
- Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18
- Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/ Lk 24:13-35
- Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/ Lk 24:35-48
- Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14
- Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15
- Next Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/ Jn 20:19-31



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

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Have you ever watched a movie or a television show and wonder about one of the minor characters? I might be a little weird for this, but I'm the kind of person that would like to get into the head of one of those people. What is their life like when they aren't on screen? I don't mean their real life, the life of the actor, I want to know what their character's life is like. What kind of work do they do? What do they do when they get home from work? Do they have families and what are those relationships like? Do they like to garden or golf? Are they Type A personalities or Type B? For example, sometimes I'd think about Brooks Hatlen from the Shawshank Redemption and wonder about what his life was before prison or what it was like for him in prison, beyond the few onscreen moments that only give a glimpse of his personality.

I'm certainly not the only one who thinks like this. Many writers do as well, look at all the spinoffs. Someone was obviously wondering what the Big Bang theory's Sheldon Cooper must have been like as child and so we have the spinoff, Young Sheldon.

I do the same thing with characters in scripture like the rich young man that went away sad (Mark 10:17-22) or Simon of Cyrene. (MT 27:23, MK 15:21 and Luke 23:26).

This week, Holy Week, Joseph of Arimathea has been in my head. He appears briefly in all four Gospels (MT 27:57-61, MK 15:42-47, LK 23:50-54 and JN 19:38-42) after the crucifixion. We know very little about him except that he was a good and just man; he was a secret follower of Jesus; he was a member of the Jewish Council and did not agree that Jesus should be condemned. He also had some measure of wealth. Oh yes, and he gave his own tomb to Jesus. Other than that, we never hear about him again.

But as I mentioned – he's in my head. I wonder what happened to Joseph in the days after the crucifixion, especially on Easter Sunday.

Of course, the Easter story is a familiar one to us. We know that early on Easter morning the women went to the tomb and found that it was empty. We know that they ran back to tell the apostles who were cowering in the upper room. Peter and John, of course, ran to the tomb to see for themselves. After that, word must have spread like wild-fire among the Lord's followers – including Joseph of Arimathea.

What was going through his head? What did he do? I know what I would do if someone just told me that the guy buried in my tomb had risen. I'd be like Peter and John and run right over there.

There is a scene in "The Christmas Carol" when the ghost of Christmas Future brings Scrooge to a cemetery and makes him look into a grave. Horrified, he realizes that it is his own grave and his own body before him. Scrooge's grave was dark and hopeless.

That is not what Joseph experienced. I think that something particularly remarkable must have occurred to Joseph, because he wasn't just looking into the empty tomb of his friend. Joseph of Arimathea saw his *own* grave – and it was empty! He saw the stone that would have sealed *his* fate rolled away. Imagine looking into your own tomb – and unlike Scrooge, finding it empty. Joseph might have been the very first person to understand fully that Christ's resurrection was not just the return of Jesus from the dead but it was a victory over death for him personally and for all of us. Like Joseph we can look into our own graves and not find the hopelessness of death but an empty tomb filled with light and the sure and certain hope of new life.

That's the beauty of Easter. It's both the promise and the reality of what we celebrate, that death has no more power over us. We are no longer slaves to death because just as the Red Sea was tossed aside so that Moses could lead his people from slavery to freedom, so too the stone that would have kept us captive to sin and death has been tossed aside so that we can live in freedom as children of God, through the saving act of Jesus Christ.

My friends, Christ has died and He has also risen. He has paid a ransom for our freedom. He has stripped death of its victory and because of that the cemetery will not be our final address – because the stone has been rolled away.

If death itself has no more power over us then what can we fear? What can possibly have a hold on us now?

Can the weight of our grief and sorrow – no because *that* stone has been rolled away.

Can the darkness of our depression or anxiety? No, because *that* stone has been rolled away.

Can the pain of rejection and betrayal? No, because *that* stone too has been rolled away.

Can we be held back any longer by our illnesses, disabilities or suffering? Absolutely not, because *that* stone has been rolled away.

The stone that kept us enslaved has been pushed aside. Our own graves have been opened. Stepping out of the tomb into the light is the hard part.

Christ's rising from the dead and our rising with him changes everything. We are no longer "Woe is me people." We are ALLELUIA people. We are "Jesus is Lord" people. We are "shout it from the rooftops" people, because nothing can ever separate us from the Love of God again.

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.



St. Francis of Assisi
Jean McPhee

St. Clare
William R. Cushing, Sr.

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.



St. Francis of Assisi
Noah James Mundia
Danny Robert Fantasia



The collaborative Office will close at 12:00PM on Good Friday, April 15 and re-open Tuesday, April 19.

Good luck and God speed to all who are running (or working at) the 2022 Boston Marathon.



Easter Prayer of Thanksgiving

Good and gracious heavenly Father,
we come before you on this Easter Sunday
with full and grateful hearts for the gift of
the Paschal Mystery that you showed us
in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son,
our brother by adoption, Jesus Christ.

Bless us and all those who profess belief in your saving love.
Bless also those who have yet to profess belief in you.

You are God for all.

We ask all this in Christ's name.

Amen.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples will explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Joe & Ginny Vatele at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://www.mema.org/>.

Rejoice! Jesus has risen. May you experience new life in your marriage. Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences: May 21-22 in East Hampton, CT, and June 24-26 in Huntington, NY (Long Island)

The Braintree Catholic Women's Club has two \$1,000 scholarships available to High School Seniors who are graduating this year (2022). One will be



awarded to a Braintree High School Graduate Senior and the other to a Braintree Senior graduating from a Catholic High School. Notices have been sent to all participating schools. Please contact your Guidance Department to request an application regarding these scholarships, or call Mrs. Margaret Hart, Scholarship Chairperson at 781-849-1755. The deadline for these scholarships is April 22, 2022.

Year of the EUCHARIST



JESUS IS HERE

Archdiocese of Boston Eucharistic Congress
SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022 8:30AM – 6:00PM
TSONGAS CENTER, LOWELL, MA

Cardinal Seán O'Malley invites all the Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Boston and surrounding dioceses to join him in closing the Year of the Eucharist with a daylong Eucharistic Congress, Jesus is Here.

A core tenet of the Catholic faith is that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ is made truly present in the Eucharist. But belief in the True Presence has waned in recent years, even among Catholics. And that's a concern—because as Cardinal Seán teaches, "it is in the Eucharist where we find our true identity." **Jesus is Here** is an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of the mystery of Jesus' presence with us—by listening to powerful talks on the Eucharist, by receiving Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass, and by adoring Him in a time of adoration and worship.

7:30am	Doors Open, Exhibitors Available
8:30am	Welcome, Music, & Celebration of Mass
10:15am	Break & Visit Exhibitors
10:45am	Session 1 – Featuring Deacon. Harold Burke-Sivers & Bishop Daniel Flores
12:15pm	Lunch Break & Visit Exhibitors
1:30pm	Session 2 – Featuring Bishop Robert Barron
2:30pm	Break & Visit Exhibitors 3:00pm Session 3 – Featuring Jackie and Bobby Angel
4:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration & Procession through Lowell
6:00pm	Eucharistic Congress Concludes *

Confessions will be available at the following times: 7:30-8:30am, 10:15am-1:30pm, 2:30-3:30pm.

If you are interested in attending as member of our collaborative, please contact the collaborative office at 781-843-1332 or pkinnally@sfab.org.



From the
Archdiocese of Boston

April 17 ~ Easter Sunday ~ The Resurrection of the Lord
 St. Peter reminds us today that Jesus Christ "... commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God". Who are the people you might speak openly to about your relationship with Christ? Pray for the courage to be like Peter and Mary Magdalen and tell your story – the story of how God has worked and continues to work in your life. This is not just good news; it is **The Good News of Jesus Christ**. Share it!

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. The topic is: "What Do Sisters Do?" 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.

Retrouaille helps Christian couples through difficult times in their marriages. Catholic in origin, the program is designed to provide the tools to help couples get their marriages back on track, giving them the opportunity to rediscover one another and examine their lives together in a new and positive way. Retrouaille has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about the program or to register for their upcoming May 6-8 retreat, visit helpourmarriage.org.

St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries a Congregation Ministry of The Sisters of St. Joseph warmly invites you to an Open House at our new Spirituality Center, 71 Walnut Park, Newton on May 7th, 2022 from 2-4 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Our Center offers mornings and afternoons of prayer, respite days, spiritual direction, professional days for spiritual directors in addition to hosting parish staffs and days of renewal. We hope you will join us. Please email or call if you plan to attend. spiritual.ministries@csjboston.org 781-227-4730

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats

"My spirit was broken and as far as I knew beyond repair. I was consumed with feelings of remorse. During the retreat, I realized the lasting impact of forgiveness. I knew God had forgiven me, and now I needed to forgive myself." – A Project Rachel Retreat Attendee. The *Project Rachel* ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat. Spring dates are May 14 and June 4. Locations are confidential. Limited to ten participants per retreat. For more information, contact *Project Rachel* at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com

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