

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 23, 2022

5:30PM Julia Zampine Anniversary

Sunday, April 24, 2022

9:00AM Nunzio & Mary Sbordone Memorial

11:30AM Theresa Baldwin Memorial

Monday, April 25, 2022

7:00AM Robert & Claire Clark and
Helen McHugh Memorial

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

7:00AM Marie Saint Octavius Memorial

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

7:00AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, April 28, 2022

7:00AM Kimberly Mahoney Memorial

Friday, April 29, 2022

7:00AM Mary Bernyce Tebeau-Simmons Memorial

Saturday, April 30, 2022

5:30PM Kathleen Fitzgerald 2nd. Anniv.
Garrett Fitzgerald 10th Anniv.

Sunday, May 1, 2022

9:00AM Francis Zingarelli Memorial

11:30AM Theresa Baldwin Memorial

Please see the enclosed March, 2022 Financial Report.

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 PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!



Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." - Jn 20:28-29

Readings for the week of April 24, 2022

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

Monday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/
Mk 16:15-20

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/
Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18,
19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/
Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/
Jn 6:16-21

Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6,
11-12, 13 [2a]/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19
or 21:1-14



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

I've said this before, and I'll say it again. Saint Thomas gets a bad rap. Imagine being remembered by one mistake or flaw.

In the seventh grade we had a nun who was extremely obese, easily 500 pounds, and the stuff of which reality shows are made. We mockingly called her Twiggy (the name of a very thin supermodel at the time). Kids can be cruel. She had a lot going for her, this overweight nun, but the only thing people knew her for was being fat. She never actually said anything but she must have known about the moniker we hung upon her. I imagine she was quite self-conscious and sad.

There was a man who was arrested for Driving under the influence. It was both stupid and dangerous. Everyone would point to the guy with comments like he was the town drunk. The man had gone to AA and was clean and sober for a number of years but he was always known as "the drunk."

Saint Peter was never called Peter the Denier or Foot in the Mouth Peter was he? Do you think the other apostles would point and say "cock-a-doodle-do" when he walked by? And yet Thomas is called the "doubter" in perpetuity. Sure he had seen the dead raised to life at the hand of Jesus. But the one who raised the dead was now dead himself and no one had ever heard, or even imagined, that someone could rise from the dead by their own power.

So let's cut the guy some slack and remember that when we point our finger at someone we have three fingers pointing back at us. How much do we believe? How open are our own eyes to the truth of Christ's rising? Do we live our lives courageously as people of the resurrection or are we still afraid of death and dying? If the resurrection is real and we know it, then it's the greatest gift the world has ever known. It's not just good news – it's GREAT news. We should want to shout it from the rooftops – "Death is swallowed up in Victory. Death has no sting." (1 Cor: 15:54) We have to start living this way. We can't be afraid. We shouldn't be afraid of our own mortality and when we mourn the death of our loved ones we should do so with a sure and certain hope in the resurrection promised by Christ himself. "I have gone to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be." (Jn 14:2-3)

Christ's dying and rising and our dying and rising with him, is the key tenet of our faith. This is why we celebrate Easter for fifty days. Without Easter there would be no Christian faith. Christmas would be just another day and the cemetery would be our final destination. Therefore the joy of Easter is not something to keep to ourselves. It's transformative for all humankind. In fact it is our duty to spread this news. It is our mission statement, the one given to us at the ascension to "Go out and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Mt 28:19)

Let's not be doubters but believers. Even though we haven't seen with our eyes we can still embrace the resurrection and experience it even now. We need to see death in a new light, not as an ending but as a continuation, as a kind of Passover from the life we know to a life filled with light in union with God himself in Christ.



April 24: **Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday**

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!" Indeed, the mercy of God centers our heart in peace.

In the month of April, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help the poor celebrate the peace of Easter, by assisting families, providing food, gift cards, and money for utility and rent bills. Thank You!

Food donations can be dropped off at the St. Francis of Assisi rectory during normal business hours (Monday through Friday 9-4). **Blue envelopes are in holders on the back inside wall of the church. Please use them for your cash, check (written to St. Vincent DePaul with SFA on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot. Thank you.**



Parish Info and events of note.

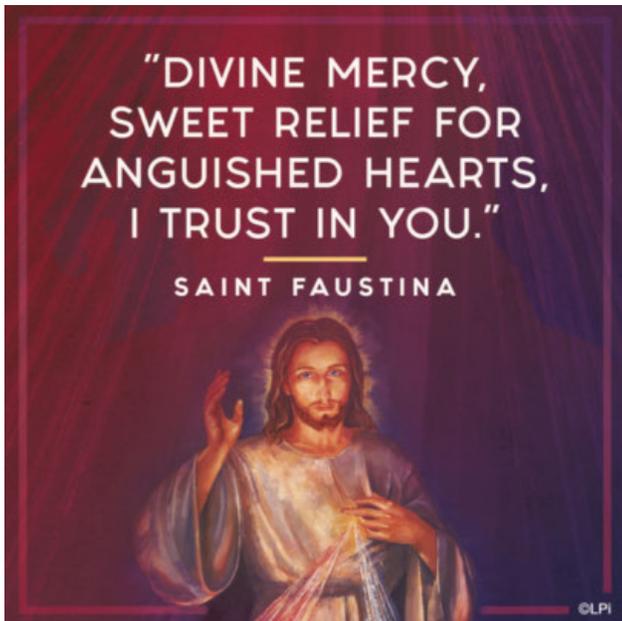
- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry Open Thursdays from 10AM-12NN.** If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **Parish 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
John J. Belcher
Marie Patriarca
Janet E. Meliconda

St. Clare
Robert Gannon

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.



Question:

Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from?

Answer:

If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young woman, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come.”

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“Jesus: ‘My child, life on earth is a struggle indeed; a great struggle for my kingdom. But fear not, because you are not alone. I am always supporting you, so lean on Me as you struggle, fearing nothing. Take the vessel of trust and draw from the fountain of life – for yourself, but also for other souls, especially such as are distrustful of My goodness.’” (St. Faustina No. 1488)



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://wmmema.org/>. Thomas said "My Lord and My God". Do you experience this in your relationship. 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)

Year of the EUCHARIST



JESUS IS HERE

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

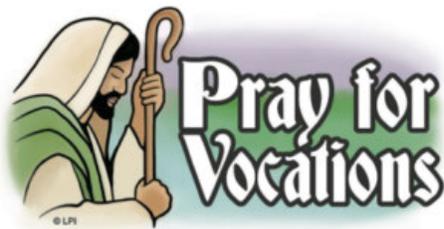
Cardinal Seán O'Malley invites all the Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Boston and surrounding dioceses to join him in closing the Year of the Eucharist with a daylong Eucharistic Congress, Jesus is Here.

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 24 ~ Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) - Listen again to the words Jesus speaks to us in our gospel: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He was speaking not only to the apostles, frightened and afraid as they gathered behind locked doors, but his message extends to each of us. Thomas let go of his fear and disbelief and expressed his faith with the words, "My Lord and my God." How will you express your faith in Jesus? Let that expression of your faith be part of your prayer this week. Hear Jesus hold you up as his disciples in these words: "Blessed are those who have not seen but believe."

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



April 24, 2022 - 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Even Thomas struggles to remove his boulder! Being very pragmatic and determined, he wants to see the risen Christ for himself! Thomas's boulder is heavy with mistrust. Many of ours are too. A certain amount of skepticism is good, as it can save us from being duped or misled. But we can become so skeptical of things that it erodes our ability to trust anything we see or hear. Skepticism can actually be a well-disguised defense mechanism that we use to prevent us from being hurt or perceived as a fool. Having too much ego protection is a real risk. Thomas, because of the boulder blocking his vision, could not even trust the word of his friends.

Boulders are hard to move. It's difficult to seek change or take a risk, especially when we are so afraid to be vulnerable or reluctant to trust another's word. When we are closed minded, overly pragmatic, unwilling to see things in a different way, stubborn or defensive, it is difficult to be surprised by God and stretched. We need to be less guarded, self-assured, and self-absorbed. God cannot break into the ordinary moments of our lives and inspire us when we cling to doubt. If we are going to discover resurrection faith, we have to believe that what the witnesses say is true, especially when they are credible. We also have to trust that the risen Christ is alive in us, too!

While the first witnesses to the resurrection have faded into history, there are many others who have come after them. They continue to inspire by walking the talk of faith. They are the martyrs who offer their lives for the Gospel, the simple holy people in our communities who cling so steadfastly to their faith, those who have touched despair and found new hope and the ones who, even in spite of ridicule, still pursue their hunger and thirst for God. They are our friends, acquaintances, biblical heroes, and saints, and many others who are convinced that they have seen the Lord! The risen Christ may not surprise us with the same kind of visit as he did the first disciples, but God finds other ways. All we have to do is open our eyes, remove whatever is preventing us from seeing and believing and exclaim: "My Lord and my God!" ©LPi



Sharing the Gospel

After Jesus died on the cross, the disciples were afraid people would want to hurt them, too. They stayed together in a room and locked the door. Then Jesus came to his friends, to show them he was really alive again. Jesus changed their fear into gladness. Have you ever been so afraid that you just wanted to hide? Remember that Jesus is with you when you are afraid, too.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being with me when I am afraid.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus next to you when you are afraid.

Mission for the Week

I will talk to God whenever I am afraid.

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