

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 30, 2022

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

Sunday, May 1, 2022

9:00AM Francis Zingarelli Anniversary
11:30AM Daniel Crimmins Memorial

Monday, May 2, 2022

7:00AM Jane & Kathleen Coakley and Memorial
Brooke Sorrento

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

7:00AM

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

7:00AM Albert "Al Varraso 1st Anniv.

Thursday, May 5, 2022

7:00AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Friday, May 6, 2022

7:00AM Frances Murphy Whalen Memorial

Saturday, May 7, 2022

5:30PM Lauren Dyer Memorial

Sunday, May 8, 2022

9:00AM Eleanor Kelley Memorial
11:30AM Jose & Mina Blandon Memorial



Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. - Jn 21:12-13

Readings for the week of May 01, 2022

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

Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69

Next Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 [3c]/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

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!



Please join us **THIS Monday** night (and again May 9, 16 and 23) at 6:45PM, as we pray the Rosary in honor of our Blessed Mother. We will meet at St. Francis of Assisi church.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

It's been said that repetition is the mother of all learning. Many of us, of a certain age, will remember learning the "times table." We would repeat this table of numbers over and over again. 1 times 3 is 3, 2 times 3 is 6, 3 times 3 is nine, etc. By the end of the year, after many repetitions, your teacher could ask anyone something like "what is 9 times 9" and nearly everyone could immediately respond 81.

Young piano students, in addition to learning enjoyable pieces of music are required to learn and to play scales – up and down for three or four octaves, at different tempos and rhythms. By constant repetition in practicing those scales, the student knows what it is expected to sound like and muscle memory infused into the hands and fingers brings the player to the point that when you saw a scale in a piece of music, even if it looked difficult, it wasn't a problem because you didn't have to think about it. It came naturally; you knew it deep inside.

But there's also a certain confidence that is needed in any endeavor, even when you know something very well. If you don't have a sense of confidence, the outcome can still be disappointing. You can know something in your head but not be convinced of it in your heart.

At the end of John's Gospel, which we heard today at Mass, Jesus takes Peter aside and asks a simple question. "Do you love me?" Of course Jesus already knew the answer but he asked it of Peter three times. I'm sure that it saddened and frustrated Peter.

You'll hear all kinds of people saying with some self-assurance that Jesus asked three times because Peter denied him three times. Jesus was giving it back to Peter; twisting the knife a little; getting even for the betrayal.

That doesn't sound at all like the Jesus of the Gospels. The one who taught us to forgive and to do what is good to those who hurt us. It wouldn't benefit Jesus at all to remind Peter of his failings. So why ask three times? If Jesus didn't need to keep hearing the answer, who did?

It's true, Peter denied that he even knew Jesus three times and when the cock crowed he immediately recognized his sin and regretted it. He was the Lord's choice to lead the others and he failed.

He was sorry. He was forgiven. Jesus got over it. but Peter didn't.

I once learned about the Jesus Prayer, an ancient rosary prayed on 100 beads. "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." This prayer is repeated on every bead. Boring, right? I was told that by repeating the prayer, eventually it would not just be something I repeated with my mind, but that it would enter my heart and eventually, with my heart, I would come to really know the mercy and love of God. It's true because it bore itself out in my own life.

I think Peter loved the Lord with all his heart but his confidence was broken by his failure the night Jesus was arrested. Jesus didn't need to hear that Peter loved him. Peter needed to hear it! He needed to hear it in his heart.

Because of his denial he doubted the strength of his love. He needed to say "I love you. I love you. I love you. I love you." over and over again until he was convinced in his heart that he did.

Peter carried the burden of his denial even after he repented, even after he was forgiven. I think that many of us are like that too. We often carry around a burdensome memory of something that was said or done or something left unsaid or undone. We carry that weight unnecessarily for years on end. We're truly sorry for it. We've confessed it. We've been forgiven. We just don't believe we're worthy of it. That's the Devil's tool, making us think we aren't worthy. The thing is – it's not about what we do, it's about God's grace and love for us. Maybe we need to hear *that* over and over again.

That's what Jesus was doing for Peter today and what he wants to do for you and for me. He wants us to know that our sin is not bigger or more powerful than His love. It just isn't.

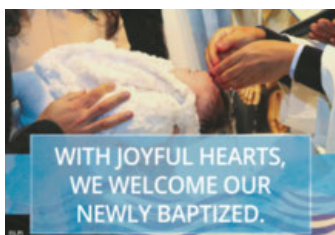
Maybe it's time we started to repeat the Jesus Prayer until deep in our hearts we too come to know the height and depth, length and breath of God's mercy and love and lay the weight of our burdens at the foot of the cross.

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." 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.



St. Francis of Assisi
Abel Patrick Rico
Leah Sullivan

St. Clare
Matilda Flowers Fleming
Grayson Ford Yerkes



St. Francis
Dean Best
Emma Crowley



St. Francis of Assisi
Kathryn Coady-Wright

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.



Deacon Jerry Kleponis' final week in the collaborative is next weekend (May 7-8, 2022). Please join us, after the 9 and 11:30AM Masses at St. Francis, as we say goodbye and wish Deacon Jerry well as he goes on to become Father Jerry.



May 1: Third Sunday of Easter

In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples in their struggle finally recognize Jesus and proclaim, "It is the Lord!" **Have you considered answering the call to "help the poor recognize the Lord in their life" by joining**

the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

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.**



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

May 1 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

In today's gospel, we are listening to an intimate exchange between Jesus and Peter. Jesus knows Peter and does not want his act of denial to define him. Rather Jesus wants Peter to express his commitment with heartfelt love. Do you hear the conviction in Peter's response to Jesus? "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." That expression of Peter's love and commitment to Christ is starkly evident in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, in which we hear Peter being ordered "to stop teaching in that name." That is, he was to stop teaching about Jesus. His commitment to Christ gave him the courage to persevere despite the trials and sufferings that may come. How willing are you to speak with conviction about your relationship with Christ?

Retrouvaille 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. Retrouvaille 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.

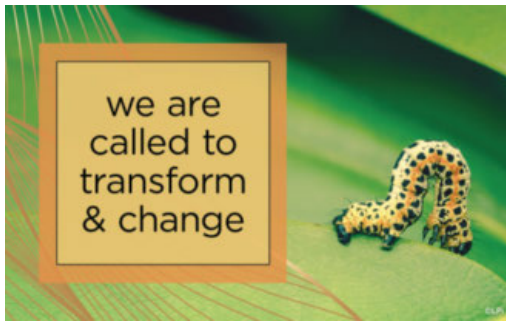
St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries a Congregation Ministry of The Sisters of St. Joseph warmly invites you to an Open House at our new Spirituality Center, 71 Walnut Park, Newton on May 7th, 2022 from 2-4 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Our Center offers mornings and afternoons of prayer, respite 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





May 1, 2022 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Could it be that God’s image has become so soiled and distorted that it is hard for us to see it? Our self-serving agendas have done a great job twisting God’s image into what profits us. We want our agenda to be God’s agenda and use prayer as the convincing leverage we need. Worse still, our success and egocentric agenda often erases God’s image completely, replacing it with our own. St. Oscar Romero instructs us that the Son of Man “dies on the cross to cleanse God’s image, which is soiled in today’s humanity, a humanity so enslaved, so selfish, so sinful.” Striving to preserve control of our destinies at all costs, we fail to see the risen suffering servant, the Christ, standing right beside us.

Jesus, who suffered and died on a cross and was raised from the dead, corrects our soiled image of God. He shows us God as God is, not who we want to make God to be. God is the God of the poor, the weak, and the marginalized. He is the God who tenderly caresses us when we are suffering and hurting, assuring us that all will be safe and well. He is the God of equity, peace, justice, and compassion who wants happiness for each of His children, desiring their wellbeing and success. God goes where men and women are afraid to go, sitting with the lost, the broken, and the sorrowing. St. Oscar Romero challenges us to illuminate with “Christ’s light ... even the most hideous caverns of the human person: torture, jail, plunder, want, chronic illness. The oppressed must be saved.” The resurrection calls us to be God’s microphone, a messenger, and a prophet (St. Oscar Romero).

Using eyes that see beyond the limited constructs and desires of our world, we can see the true and real Jesus standing before us, calling us to transformation and change. Asking us more than once, “do you love me?” We are beckoned to give an answer. Answering in the affirmative, it is now our task to feed the sheep and the lambs who belong to God. In short, equipped with the power of the resurrection and a corrected image of God our task is to make things better, brighter, holier, more life-giving, and just for all of God’s children. Considering our choices, our interactions, our philosophies, and aspirations, how can we do this?

©LPi

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today’s Gospel:

FISHING	JUMPED	CHARCOAL
CATCH	DRAGGED	APPEARED
BOAT	BREAD	RAISED

J E S U L B R E A D T

R C A T C H A R T R O

I H S D P L E A S A L

N A G F I S H I N G H

E R T S H O R S O G F

L C K E J T I E B E R

B O A T U O S D I D M

N A P E M R T H O A S

T L H A P N I L F R O

M A P P E A R E D C A

N J E S D N J O N H E

MISSION

Invite a friend over to eat dinner with your family, so you can share food just like Jesus did.



Sharing the Gospel

After Jesus rose from the dead, he must have looked very different. Jesus helped his apostles catch a lot of fish, just as he had done before. Jesus invited his friends to eat with him, and he still broke his bread to share it in the same way he always had. The disciples still recognized Jesus by the things he did.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to always recognize Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus cooking fish for his friends.

Mission for the Week

Invite a friend over to eat dinner with your family, so you can share food just like Jesus did.

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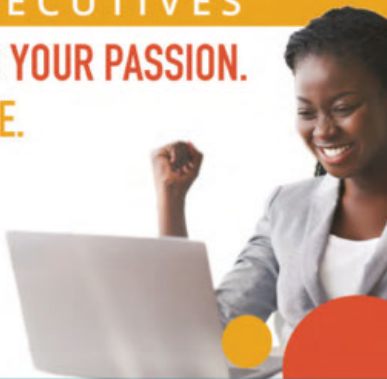
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