## 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 ar 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.

## BMass Intentions

Saturday, May 14, 2022		
5:30PM	Albert Donnelly	Anniversary
Sunday, May 15, 2022		
9:00AM	William Pinola	Memorial
11:30AM	Kathleen Crimmins	Spec. Intention
Monday, May 16, 2022		
7:00AM	Margaret "Marge" Varraso	4th Anniversary
Tuesday, May 17, 2022		
7:00AM	Harriette Burke	90th B'day Memorial
Wednesday, May 18, 2022		
7:00AM	Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi	
Thursday, May 19, 2022		
7:00AM		
Friday, May 20, 2022		
7:00AM		
Saturday, May 21, 2022		
5:30PM	John Reid	Anniversary
Sunday, May 22, 2022		
9:00AM	Fr. Philip Zingarelli	Memorial
11:30AM	Josephine & Louis Anzaldi	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 PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!



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



Jesus said, "My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another." - Jn 13:33a, 34a

#### Readings for the week of May 15, 2022

Sundays: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/

Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/

Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/

Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/

Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/

Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/

Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/

Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29





## From Deacon Joe MacDonald

Coming to a theater near you.

Over the past few weeks, we have been reading from the Acts of the Apostles. One of the themes seems to be how the Apostles were harassed and persecuted.

This week we are told that It was necessary for them "to undergo many hardships to enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (Acts 14:22)

Two weeks ago, we were told that after a bitter confrontation the Apostles left the Sanhedrin "rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name." (Acts 5:41)

In a couple of weeks, we will read about the death of Saint Stephen. He was the first Martyr and one of the first deacons. The polemic between the religious leaders and the early Church had reached a pinnacle and after all the veiled threats, harassment, vitriol toward the believers, violence against them seemed inevitable. And so, Stephen was dragged outside the city and stoned to death praying "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Last week a brief was leaked from the Supreme Court of the United States. Something I personally find outrageous though not unexpected in these times.

Immediately there were protests at the Supreme Court building. Then the home addresses of the justices were publicized. Something I also think is reprehensible. The protests then spread to their homes, posing threats to not only the justices but to their families in order to intimidate the judges into changing their minds on a case before the court. This by the way is prohibited by Federal law. (18 US Code 1512).

And now, these "protesters" are attacking Catholic Churches and Pro-life offices. Just this week a molotov cocktail was thrown at the offices of Wisconsin Family Action, a pro-life organization. Graffiti on the wall outside read "If abortions aren't safe neither are you." That's not even a veiled threat. I think legally it might be called a terrorist threat. Graffiti was also discovered at other nearby pro-life offices in Denton, Texas.

Last Sunday, Mother's Day, protesters entered Catholic Churches around the country spewing all kinds of

venomous, anti-Catholic and abhorrent speech. Protests were held at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles. At Old Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, they shouted "Thank God for abortion" and "God killed His Son why can't I kill mine?" Vulgar it is, but did they also admit that abortion is killing?

The group calling for protests at churches also vowed on Twitter to "Burn the Eucharist." Apparently, a call to commit hate crimes on Twitter will not get you suspended.

As a result, vandals tried to remove the tabernacle from Holy Rosary Church in Houston and attempts were made to desecrate the Eucharist at St. Bartholomew and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Churches.

As Christians and particularly as Catholics this should not surprise us. Jesus promised us eternal life and happiness but He never said it was going to be an easy road to get there. He always promised us the Cross however that might come to us. Jesus was very pointed when He said, "If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also." (Jn 15:20)

I hope we are ready for this. The time is at hand now. There will be more and more lies and hatred being thrown at the Church and like the death of St. Stephen, it is not hard to see how violence can not only follow but be tolerated, and in some circles, celebrated.

"The hour is coming," says the Lord, "when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God." (Jn16:2)

What are we to do? First of all, we need to continue in steadfast prayer for the safety of parishioners and clergy. Secondly, we must pray for a change of heart and mind in those who hold us in such disdain, ask the Lord not to hold this sin against them and that the Lord will grant them the salvation purchased by the Blood of Christ.

Thankfully, nothing has happened here in Braintree, but it might at some point. What should we do if protesters come and interrupt our worship? We should be charitable and peaceful in our response and not respond in kind. I think that if a church full of good Catholics pulled out their rosaries and all prayed those Hail Mary's together it would be more powerful than any brute force on their part or ours. Eventually the offenders would leave in the knowledge that we could not be moved and that God's purpose will not be thwarted.

And when all is said and done, we will rejoice as Peter did that, we too were found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the Name of Jesus.



St. Francis of Assisi Vivianne Margaret Anderer

> **St. Clare** Dolores Marie Tran Jacqueline Rose Tran



St. Francis of Assisi James Holland Katherine Holland Anabelle Houton

St. Clare
Alexander Chandler
Alexander Cole
Rory Cole
Lily Gniadek
Grace Leahy
Robert Leahy
Emerson O'Brien
Caleb Parker
Mila Chizauskas
Evelyn Dellascio
Connor Hulke
Kendall Pitts



St. Francis of Assisi Rita Miele

St. Clare Claire Pannier Richard K. Murray

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.



May 15: Fifth Sunday of Easter In the Gospel today, Jesus says "I give you a new commandment: love one another.... This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you show that you have love for one another, especially those suffering and poor, and that indeed you are the disciple of Jesus.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, May 14-15. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry Some of the needed items for this month are

individual snack packs, small bottles of water, canned fruit, pasta, Knorr's or Lipton Sides (rice); soups; crackers; tea bags/coffee, cleaning products; paper products, personal care items (i.e. adult diapers and wipes). However, we are grateful for anything you wish to donate. If you forgot or prefer not to shop, please read the St. Vincent DePaul paragraph to learn how you can help.

Donations can also 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.

**Early Bird Special -**Boston & South Shore Men's Prayer Gathering—**Saturday, May 21, 2022—7:00-8:30 AM**Prayer; Coffee and refreshments; Presentation and discussion

"Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound" No not Superman, but the Holy Spirit!!!

On Sunday, June 5, we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Jesus breathed on the apostles, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Come and listen to a presentation by our own Arthur Cassidy on those 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord and how these gifts turned cowering Apostles into fearless champions of Christ. The presentation is based on a series of weekly audiences Pope Francis gave in 2014.

Join us as we prepare for this Pentecost moment and come ready to share how Holy Spirit has worked in your life!!!

St. Mary of the Hills Lower Church 29 St. Mary's Road (off Brook Road), Milton 617-696-3170 for more information



#### 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 15 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

In today's Gospel Jesus gives a simple command but one that we often find difficult to lie by. "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." Notice Jesus' words. We can't be content with being nice to others, simply saving that we love others. No, our love must go further - we are to love others in the same way as Jesus loves, with mercy, forgiveness and compassion! That is where the difficulty often lies for many of us. Yet, this is the mark of a disciple - loving as Jesus loves! Imagine what life in your family, in your parish and in our world would be like if you were to take this command to heart.

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 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, at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

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 Rachel 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 date is 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 15, 2022 - 5th Sunday of Easter

"It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God." Many folks really work very hard to circumvent difficult situations. We prefer the easier way around something, rather than risk inconvenience, hurt or prolonged suffering. It's no wonder euthanasia is rapidly becoming acceptable around the world. Through purely human eyes, there is no issue bypassing the inevitable, taking control and bringing things more swiftly to a place of peace. If this is the way God sees things, then why does Jesus make such a big deal helping us understand the experience of suffering and embrace it? God's wisdom clearly takes us in another direction.

Imagine if we were able to eradicate ALL hardship and suffering. Where would we be? As we look at our own journeys, many of our solid more growth producing life lessons have been born of suffering, disappointment, inconvenience, darkness, and despair. There is something sacred about all of these experiences as God uses them to create something new. Envisioning a life without hardship and suffering brings us to a vision where everything is flatlined and dull. As much as hardship and suffering are difficult crosses to bear, not taking them up runs the risk of us becoming shallow, empty, and lifeless. Helen Keller remarks that, "a happy life consists not in the absence but in the mastery of hardships." What an incredibly wise insight! Many really successful people and saints were brought to their station in life because they suffered. Suffering teaches us about what's important and propels us to search the depths of our souls for resources and strength we never would have known before.

This is especially true when we love as Jesus asks us to love. Love, perhaps above any other experience, can cause us great hardship, pain, and suffering especially when it's authentic and unconditional. While it can thrust us into an incredible experience of God and life on one hand, it can bruise and wound us deeply on the other. Mastering the art of love is the secret to living life well, walking in the presence of God and investing in the joy of the Gospel. Love and suffering walk hand in hand. Compromising one will compromise the other. Maybe that's why Jesus spent so much time convincing us to accept both.







#### **Sharing the Gospel**

Jesus gave his disciples a new rule. He told them they had to love each other, just like he loved them. What did Jesus mean? Jesus was very patient with his friends. He forgave his friends when they let him down. Jesus comforted his friends when they were afraid. Most of all he helped them grow closer to God.

#### **Praver**

Dear God, help me to love my friends like Jesus did.

#### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself talking to a friend who is afraid.

#### Mission for the Week

I will follow Jesus and forgive those who have hurt me.

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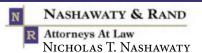
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