

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

856 WASHINGTON STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 02184

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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. 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, May 28, 2022

5:30PM John Reid Anniversary

Sunday, May 29, 2022

9:00AM Giovanna & Giovanni D'Amato Memorial

11:30AM Crimmins & Brady Family Memorial

Monday, May 30, 2022

7:00AM Fallen Soldiers

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

7:00AM Nathan Watson Memorial

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

7:00AM Thomas Woods Anniversary

Thursday, June 2, 2022

7:00AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Friday, June 3, 2022

7:00AM

Saturday, June 4, 2022

5:30PM Maddalena Leccese Anniversary

Sunday, June 5, 2022

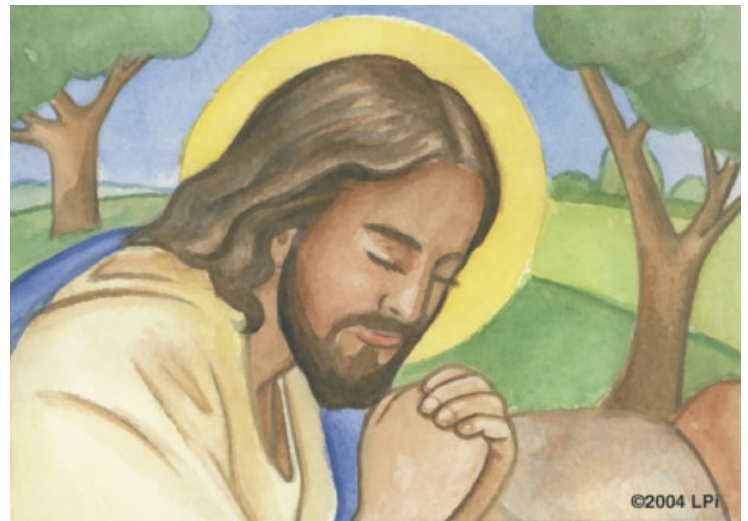
9:00AM John & Teresa Allen Memorial

11:30AM Patricia Hanson Anniversary

Please see the inserted Financial Report for April, 2022.

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!



Jesus prayed saying: "Holy Father, I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me." - Jn 17:20-21

Readings for the week of May 29, 2022

Sunday: *Seventh Sunday of Easter:* Acts 7:55-60/
Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9 [1a, 9a]/Rv 22:12-14,
16-17, 20/Jn 17:20-26

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3,
4bcd, 5-6/Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a,
35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8,
9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12,
19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: *Morning:* Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5
and 7/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday: *Vigil:* Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or
Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/
Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30/
Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31,
34/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/
Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26



If you plan to travel this summer or have the opportunity to sneak away for the weekend, here is something to place in your suitcase or your smart phone. To find the Mass closest to your location, visit www.masstimes.org. When you make your reservations, please remember to reserve some time for the Lord. Summer blessings! **Be sure to call the parish you plan to attend to verify their Mass times. Be safe!**



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Today we read about Saint Stephen. It is significant for me as a deacon because Stephen was a deacon. In fact, he was the very first deacon and the first person to be martyred for the faith. If you drive by many Protestant churches you might see on the sign outside the title or theme of that Sunday's sermon. If I were to give a title to this homily it might read:

"No good deed goes unpunished."

Here we have Stephen, a good, holy, Spirit-filled man, faithfully following Christ. Stephen's life and his death were both imitations of Christ's own life and death. We are told in Acts 6 that he was filled with grace and power. That he had a ministry to the hungry and the he worked many signs and wonders among the people. In coming to know Christ it was as though Stephen had won the lottery. He had everything he needed and would want for nothing ever again. And he shared as a gift that prize with anyone who would listen. It was his longing, his heart's desire, that all might know salvation through their acceptance of Jesus Christ.

He wasn't trying to start an argument with the so-called Synagogue of the Freed-men (the ones who brought him before the Sanhedrin). They were his brother Jews and he wanted to tell them the good news so that they too could walk in true freedom as adopted Children of God, through Christ Jesus. But they didn't want to hear it. Their minds were made up. They had their own agenda.

Let's look at the ways Stephen's life and death were like Christ's:

- Like Christ, Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit
- Stephen fed the hungry – like Jesus fed the 5000
- Stephen, following Christ's example, worked signs and wonders among the people
- Like Jesus he proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom.
- Stephen was brought before the Sanhedrin, as was the Lord.
- He was falsely accused and put to death.
- They both asked the Father to forgive their murderers

In every possible way, Stephen followed Christ in life and in death.

Now, Stephen was given a great gift at the moment of his death. It's very unique, as far as we know he is the only one to have this experience. Remember when Jesus was before the Sanhedrin?

The high priest asked Jesus "Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?"

And Jesus answered, "I am; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

Stephen is the first to witness that prophecy's fulfillment. But he, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Now here is the really cool thing.

Imagine a family, perhaps your family, and a son or daughter or husband or wife has been off at war – gone for a very long time. You may be sitting on the sofa doing a crossword or watching TV. Suddenly that son or daughter who has been away for so long is at the door. What do you do? You stand up, you go to them, offer them your hand or a warm embrace. You welcome them home; feed them; shower them with affection.

This passage from the Acts of the Apostles is the only place you'll see Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Everywhere else, EVERYWHERE, he is seated at God's right hand. Not here. Tonight, Jesus stands to welcome his brother home from battle, ready to take him into his arms, to welcome him into the eternal banquet and to love him beyond our capacity to understand.

Stephen was the first to witness that vision but he is NOT the last to experience its reality. A time will come for each one of us, faithful servants, to come before the Lord. We don't want to meet him sitting down in judgment but standing ready to take us, his brothers and sisters, into his arms having come home from a life of spiritual warfare to receive that good which no eye has seen, what no ear has heard and what has been impossible for us to even conceive of in our minds.

Like Stephen we are filled the Holy Spirit; with grace and power. We have won the lottery! Where are our signs and wonders? Is our invitation to our family and friends to accept Christ on our lips? Are we out there sharing the prize with the people we meet or are we keeping our experience of Christ a closely guarded secret - locked up like our own private treasure? That's not our calling. Our calling is to go out and make disciples. What we receive as a gift we should give as a gift. Invite! Invite! Invite! Pray! Pray! Pray! Our calling is to send out the invitation; the RSVP is not up to us. It may be slow in coming but don't despair - God's love is stronger than anyone's stubborn heart.

Parish Info and events of note.



St. Francis of Assisi
Connor Patrick Cahill-Bryant
Lyla Ann Melchionda

St. Clare
Simone Grace Campbell



St. Francis of Assisi
Michael Stout
Olivia Stout
Matthew Dodge
Daniel Keke
James Mulcahy
Ryan O'Leary
Evelyn Squires

St. Clare
Giuliana Fratto
Rylan Gaughan
John Piccozzo
Anna Cass
Rhyder Caulfield
Jack Cushing



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Archdiocese of Boston
Fr. Thomas B. Corcoran
Fr. Thomas J. Powers

St. Francis of Assisi
Christine Carrington
Mary Cody
Thomas Rountree

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. 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.



May 29: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Today are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples...and now through us.

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and into the hearts of those who are poor.

Pantry 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.**



The collaborative Office will be closed on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.

Have a safe and happy long weekend.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

May 29 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter

In today's Gospel we hear part of Jesus's final discourse to his Apostles. Jesus speaks from his heart, giving instructions and encouragement to his closest friends and then turns to pray to his Father. Listen to his prayer. It is his prayer for us: "...I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me..." Take time this week to reread this gospel as Jesus' prayer for us. What feelings does his prayer evoke in you? How will you respond to Jesus in your prayer?

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 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.



Dear Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare Parishes,

Greetings from Pennsylvania! Just a quick note of thanks for your hospitality this year during my assignment in

Braintree. As one of my classmates said to me earlier this year, "You have the best assignment." And he, of course, is right! Special thanks to Father Paul Clifford (Best Pastah Evah!) and his team. You have helped me so much in my formation as a future Priest of Jesus Christ.

I also wanted to thank you all for the cards and gifts that I received during my final weekend with you. These will be acknowledged personally later, but for now, I am busy attending Ordinations of my classmates, as well as preparing for my own Ordination. My Ordination is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. It can be viewed on the Diocese of Harrisburg YouTube channel: youtube.com/hbgdiocese. My first assignment will be announced near the end of the Mass. Please pray for me!

Peace, Deacon Jerry Kleponis



Portincula Chapel, a National Shrine at Cardinal Cushing Centers, Route 53, Hanover, MA is offering the Following:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet and Rosary— 3:00—6:00PM on First Fridays, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2 and October 7 2022.

Candlelight Vigil Rosary to Honor Our Lady of Fatima every 13th pf the Month; May through October, 2022—7:00-8:00PM. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Roary—Benediction.

Please come to experience the Blessings for this special devotion as we join together with others to offer thanks to our Lady of Fatima for mediation for the whole world through God's Grace.

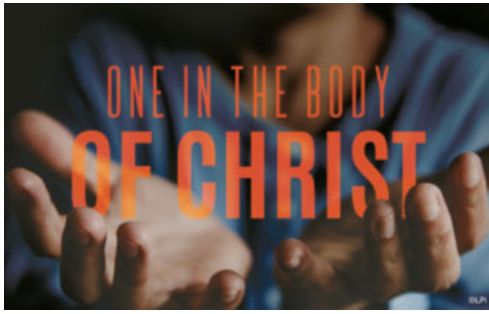
Devotions sponsored by St. Mary of the Portincula & Mary Queen of Peace Orders of Franciscan.



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://wwmema.org/. Jesus prays to his Father, "and they know that you sent me." Make the journey with your spouse. Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences: June 24-26 in Huntington, NY (Long Island)



Gracious God, On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace. In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe. We ask this through your name. Amen.



May 29, 2022 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Unity and diversity can exist together. Our western minds have a grave difficulty seeing unity without conformity. We tend to believe that unless everyone believes the same thing, assents to the same body of truths, styles, and opinions, unity is not possible. Jesus, in today's Gospel, expresses a tenderness and an intimacy that the disciples actually can witness. This same tenderness and love are also reflected in his desire for unity and oneness. Jesus passionately wants all to be one. It is very clear that the success of Jesus' mission and the advance of the Gospel rises or falls with whether this unity is achieved. And it is a unity that is achieved around a person and not particulars.

Our church is extremely divided. These divisions all center on various theologies, philosophies, structures, and styles. We allow these particular concerns and interpretations, valid as many can be, to drive wedges between us and put us at odds with each other. They enrage us and cause us to lash out at other members of the Body of Christ. Differences are bound to exist in any group. We are unique and diverse people. Staunchly clinging to particular agendas and ideologies while waving the "we're right, you're wrong" banner as we forge ahead in battle does little to advance the real mission of Christ. We are perceived as weak, fractioned, self-focused and serving, and lacking empathy and love. How can the work of salvation be accomplished like this? We sacrifice our credibility. For what?

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." These words describe exactly who the glorified Christ really is. Jesus wants us to see this glory! Believe this! This is the unifying principle that draws the Body of Christ together as one, not our particular preferences of worship! We give too much power to our preferences, and all too easily forget that the real mission of Christ is much more than that! If we can work at truly loving each other as members of Christ's Body despite the differences that can so quickly divide us, then maybe we'll be a bit more convincing to those who do not believe. The Risen Christ comes to us through the Eucharist. It doesn't matter where or how. Gather wherever you can and receive. We cannot substitute Jesus' passion with our own. We are one.

©LPi

 **PUZZLE**
Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

My followers know that you sent me.

K				
S				

 **MISSION**
Plan a service project with children from another Christian church in your area. Collect food for a food pantry, or sing songs to the grandmas and grandpas in a nursing home.



Sharing the Gospel

If pieces are missing from a jigsaw puzzle, you cannot see the whole picture. If keys are missing from a piano, you cannot hear a whole song. When Christians do not work well together, the world cannot see how great and loving God is. Jesus prayed that all of us would stay close to God and to one another. Do your part. Encourage other Christians.

Prayer

God, I want the world to see how good you are. Help me to be good and loving to all Christians.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of you and other children from your church collecting food for the poor.

Mission for the Week

Plan a service project with children from another Christian church in your area. Collect food for a food pantry, or sing songs to the grandmas and grandpas in a nursing home.

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