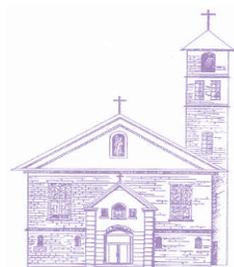


SAINT FRANCIS *of* ASSISI CHURCH

325 Cambridge Street • Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

Telephone: 617-876-6754 • Fax 617-547-1505

Email: st_francis_42@yahoo.com



Parish Staff:

Very Reverend Walter A. Carreiro, V.F.

Administrator

Email: fr.waltcar@zoho.com

Reverend Jim Darcy

Reverend Cristiano G. B. Barbosa

Betty Saccoccio

John Ciampi

William Mahaney & Jane Hardy

Senior Priest / Weekend Assistant

Daily Mass Assistant

Director of Religious Education

Acolyte

Cantor and Organist

Mass Schedule:

Sunday	9:30 a.m.
Monday	7:00 a.m.
Tuesday	12:10 p.m.
Wednesday	7:00 a.m.
Friday	7:00 a.m.
Saturday	4:00 p.m. at Saint Anthony Church

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday	3:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m. at St. Anthony's
Monday & Friday	following Mass
Tuesday	after Mass

Devotions:

Following the daily mass as follows:

Tuesdays	Saint Anthony of Padua
Wednesdays	Saint Jude the Apostle

Rectory Office Hours:

The Office is located at 400 Cardinal Medeiros Ave.

Monday – Thursday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday	Closed

Sacrament of Baptism:

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of each month (except the season of Lent) at Saint Anthony Church. A preparation class is required for parents and godparents on the 2nd Sunday of each month prior to the baptism. Please call the parish office to arrange for the baptism at least a month in advance

Sacrament of Matrimony:

Please contact a priest at least a year in advance to schedule your wedding

Pastoral Care of the Sick:

Please contact the parish office at (617) 876-6754 or one of the priests for a loved one to receive a visit and the Sacrament of the Sick.

Welcome to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

We welcome you to our celebration today. If you wish to register as a member of the parish, please complete the following form and return it to us:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Mass Intentions	
December 14 · Sunday	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
4:00 p.m.	<i>Saturday Vigil Mass at Saint Anthony Church</i>
5:00 p.m.	<i>Saturday Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church</i>
9:30 a.m.	Pacifico and Giuseppina DeGuglielmo
December 15 · Monday	Advent Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Intentions of the Parishioners
December 16 · Tuesday	Advent Weekday
12:10 p.m.	Deceased members of the Aoki and Rizzuto Families
December 17 · Wednesday	Late Advent Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Deceased priests of the Archdiocese
December 18 · Thursday	Late Advent Weekday
	<i>No Mass scheduled</i>
December 19 · Friday	Late Advent Weekday
7:00 a.m.	
December 21 · Sunday	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
4:00 p.m.	<i>Saturday Vigil Mass at Saint Anthony Church</i>
5:00 p.m.	<i>Saturday Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church</i>
9:30 a.m.	Deceased Members of Miano & DiClement Families

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays at Saint Francis of Assisi Church

All are welcome, invited and encouraged to pray at the chapel at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish each Tuesday morning from 9:00a.m. – 12:00 Noon for Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Following benediction at Noon, daily Mass is celebrated.

Thursdays at Saint Anthony Parish

THERE WILL BE NO EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY. ADORATION WILL COMMENCE ON JANUARY 8TH.

Our Weekly Offerings for December 14

Offertory \$ NA- due to early print date

Upcoming Special Second Collections:

December 25 – Clergy Benefit Trust
The Flower Donation Envelope, marked Dec. 7, can be made anytime during the month of December!

Thank you very much for the gifts & weekly offertory donations which are signs of your faith & your commitment for the financial well-being of our parish community. God bless you with His grace & most precious gifts!

Christmas Collection

This collection supports the health and well-being of our priests. Our priests have dedicated their lives to serving the Catholic faithful. Now, it is our turn to help fulfill the promises made to care for them in their time of need. Please give generously to the Christmas collection, which will directly benefit the 628 active and senior priests whose health and well-being are cared for through the Clergy Health and Benefit Retirement Trust. All are invited to make a gift online at www.clergyfunds.org or use the in-pew envelopes that will be provided. Thank you in advance for your prayers and generous support for this critical effort.



**Christmas & New Year's Day
Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve

11:30 P.M. ~ Carols
12:00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9:30 A.M. ~ Mass

**New Year's Day
Mary, Mother of God**

9:30 A.M. Mass



**ST. PAUL CENTER
FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**

By Dr. Scott Hahn

The Mystery Kept Secret

4th Sunday of Advent (Cycle B)

Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16/Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29
Romans 16:25-27/Luke 1:26-38

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9).

Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see Isaiah 7:13-14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible.

Mary is hailed as the daughter Jerusalem, called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (see Zephaniah 3:14-17).

The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High" - an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18-19).

He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God, "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end.

He is to rule over the house of Jacob - the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see Exodus 19:3), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see Isaiah 2:1-5).

Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today, to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too, must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience - that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

*A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
www.SalvationHistory.com*

The 4th Sunday of Advent

As a teacher I would remind my students that class ended when the bell rang, not a few minutes beforehand. Students anticipated the end of class and began packing up their things, just when the I was making the most important point or assigning homework. Patience, even in the classroom, is a virtue.

The readings remind us that God fulfilled His promise to David when Gabriel announced to Mary that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Her response to the heavenly messenger was so simple, yet reflects a great faith and hope: "Let it be done to me as you say." It's a line that will be repeated thousands of times in Christmas plays, and in Advent hearts that want to do God's will.

Christmas is so close, but there is still time. Don't jump the gun and lose these last few days. Keep on preparing, searching for the special gift of grace that only comes this time of year. Find the way that you can also respond to the invitation given to you at Baptism, to be a person of faith, a child of God, and a witness to the power of the Gospel. Let it all be done to you as God said!

+++++

Last summer, some friends took their kids to the shore for the day. When they arrived, it had started to rain and the clouds were ominous. They decided to get something to eat and wait and see what happened. Sure enough, after a couple of hours, the sun finally came out and they enjoyed the day. One of the younger kids said, "I am really glad we waited for a while."

Israel has waited for many years for God to fulfill His promises. At moments when Kings and people would get impatient, the prophets would remind them to wait, to anticipate the Lord, but not try to rush Him. Mary, too, has to trust in the word of the angel and wait for the birth of Jesus. God works in His own way and in His own time.

Most of the preparations are probably complete, though there are always the last minute chores to do. Don't rush the season. Use every possible moment and opportunity to prepare. Read the Bible, pray with your family, talk about the meaning and celebration of Christmas, or do some good for others. These final hours can be the most fruitful of the whole season of Advent.

~James Gaffney, © 2008 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing

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