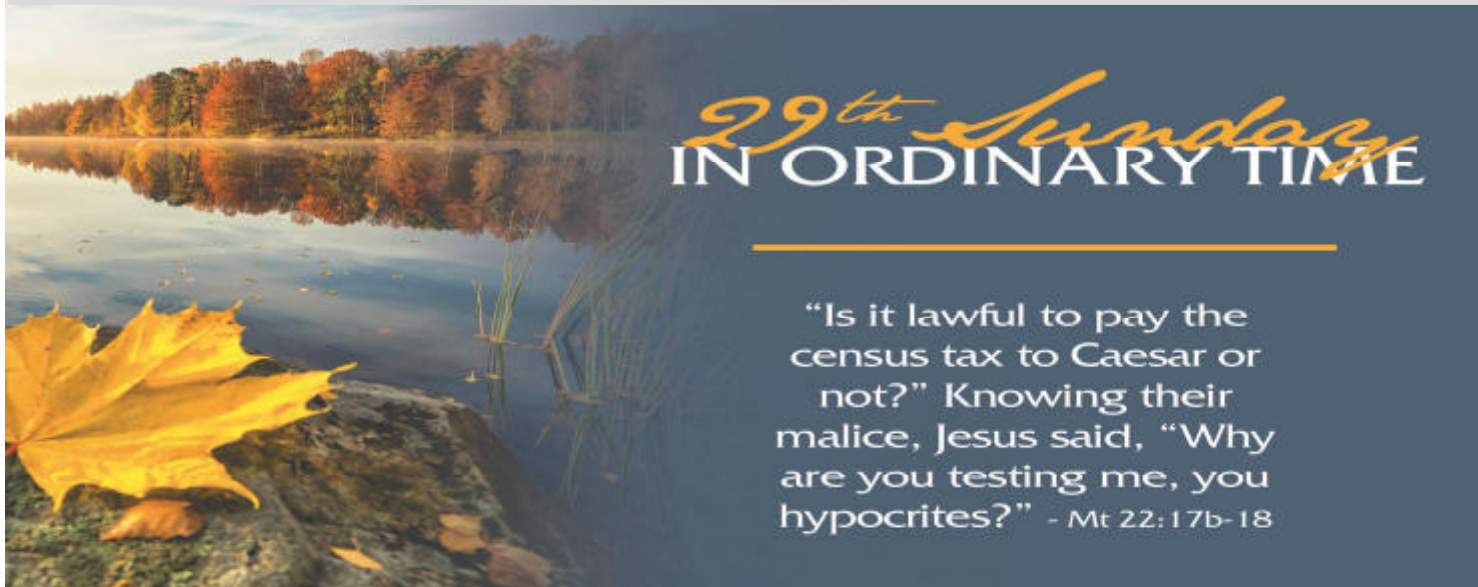




Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Sunday, October 18, 2020



29th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

“Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” Knowing their malice, Jesus said, “Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?” - Mt 22:17b-18

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

St. Francis of Assisi Liturgical Celebrations

Sundays: 11 a.m.

Weekdays: Private Mass - No Congregation

PREVIOUS MASS SCHEDULE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Only Masses at St. Dominic's 9:30 a.m. & St. Francis 11 a.m. Sunday—Reservations Required—call/email appropriate Rectory no later than Thursday at noon for reservations.

St. Francis of Assisi Contact Info:

Parish Office: 508-673-2808

Parish fax: 508-672-6241

Email: stfrancisw Swansea@comcast.net

Website: www.stfrancisw Swansea.com

Religious Ed Grades 1-4: 508-675-7002

Email: stdominic1277@gmail.com

Religious Ed Grade 5-7: 508-674-0024

Email: religiouseducation@stfrancisw Swansea.com

Confirmation 1 & 2 Coordinator: 508-674-0024

Email: joyann56@comcast.net

St. Vincent de Paul: 508-673-2808

50 Week Club: Bill & Kathy Sullivan 508-493-9064 or 508-674-8511

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Gary M. John

Maintenance: Tony Roderigues

Faith Formation Coordinator: Deb Fontaine

Confirmation Coordinators: Joy & Joe Vivieros

Office Manager/Bulletin: Colleen Fontaine

Finance Manager/Office/Notary: Fran Kelley

Music Director: Ada Simpson

Cantors: Allison Messier and Mike Moniz

Parish Council President: Wayne Gray

Parish Address:

Church: 530 Gardners Neck Road

Office/Rectory:

270 Ocean Grove Avenue

Swansea, MA 02777

Office hours: Monday– Thursday 9:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.

BY TELEPHONE ONLY. Closed on Friday.

Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StFrancisSwansea/>

[https://www.facebook.com/St-Francis-of-Assisi-Swansea-](https://www.facebook.com/St-Francis-of-Assisi-Swansea-106809807662959)

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Mt. Hope Catholic Community—St. Francis of Assisi, St. Dominic



Parish Mission Statement: In the spirit of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi, we dedicate ourselves as living stones to building our parish family with Christ as our foundation. Enlivened by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves by sharing God's transforming love with our families, our community and our world.

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Francis of Assisi

Sun. October 18

11:00 a.m. **Gilbert & Manuel Pacheco, David de Medeiros**
by Rose Pacheco
Alice Walsh 4th Anniversary by Family
George LeBreux by Fran & Mike Kelley

Tues. October 20

8:00 a.m.

Thurs. October 22

8:00 a.m. **For Parents, Friends & Benefactors** by Alzira
Azevedo

Sun. October 25

11:00 a.m. **Diane M. Roussel Birthday Remembrance** by
Mom
Lois Green by Kevin & Sarah Cabral
Diane St. Laurent by Kathy & Bill Sullivan
Caroline Roderigues by Tony & Judy

St. Dominic

Sun. October 18

9:30 a.m. **Cory Brescia**
Arthur LeMay (Birth.) & Dorothy LeMay
Jose & Maria Pimentel
All Souls in Purgatory
Carl Lopes

Mon. October 19

8:00 a.m.

Wed.. October 21

8:00 a.m.

Sun. October 25

9:30 a.m. **Edward Olson (2nd Anniv.)**
Walter Laberge (5th Anniv.)
Horacio & Irma DeBrum

Saint Francis of Assisi Memorial Fund

In making funeral arrangements, you may wish to consider enrolling the deceased in the Saint Francis of Assisi Memorial Fund. Relatives and friends who donate to the fund in memory of the deceased receive a thank you card from the parish, and another card is sent notifying the bereaved of the gift. The gifts are charitable contributions and may be a supplement or a substitute for flowers. Those whose names are enrolled in the Saint Francis of Assisi Memorial Fund are remembered in the Masses and prayers of the parish. A special Mass is celebrated once a year for all the souls enrolled. All the monies of this Fund are used to purchase materials needed to make our church more inspiring and beautiful for community prayer and celebrations of the sacraments.

Thank you for considering this beautiful tribute.

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Living the Paschal Mystery

In the modern, rather individualistic world in which we live, there is a temptation to believe that what we have, we have earned. My possessions are mine, a result of my own hard work or that of others, such as family. But today's gospel is a good reminder that all we have is from God. As such, we should not and cannot be hoarders of God's good gifts. Even money itself should not be thought of as ours.

Jesus calls us to an entirely new way of thinking. We return to be fed at the table of his word and at the table of his Eucharist so often in part because we need to be reminded of this way of thinking when we are so immersed in the world with its ways.

Any resources we have are truly not our own. Even what we acquired through our own labor and efforts cannot be taken with us when we pass on from this life. Let us die to the notion of possessions-what is mine versus yours-and let us instead engage in a lifestyle of discipleship, which shares what we have with the least among us. In that way we will be living the paschal mystery.

Living Liturgy 2020 –Liturgical Press, Collegeville MN



In Loving Memory

Our memorial candles burn in October in remembrance of:

Sanctuary Lamp:
Robert Peloquin by Wife,
Wanda

Altar Candles:
Herman Costa by Grand-
daughter, Mary Anne

Tabernacle Candles:
William Bradshaw by Grand-
son

Crucifix Candles:
Bryan Kelley by Parents



Sacraments:

Baptism: Arrangements must be made in advance. Please call the Parish Office to arrange a date and supply pertinent information. Individual Baptismal preparation is required.

Sponsors: must receive from their respective Catholic pastors a “sponsor certificate,” which is the signed word of one priest to another that the proposed godparent is a Confirmed, fully-practicing Catholic who is qualified to be a godparent by living in harmony with our faith.

Reconciliation: Saturday from 4:30M to 5:15PM

First Eucharist & Confirmation: Preparation – two years prior to receiving each Sacrament is mandatory as a registered student in the Faith Formation Program.

Matrimony: Couples are asked to consult with our priest at least six months in advance of the intended date to allow time for marriage preparation, including the Diocesan Program.

Ministry to the Sick: Please notify us if someone you know is homebound and would like to be added to our Communion call list, or would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

Low gluten hosts available: Please let us know before Mass if you have a need to receive this type of host.

WELCOME

If you are a new parishioner please introduce yourself to the pastor after Mass and call the parish office to register. We are so pleased you're here!



Collected October 10th and October 11th

Budget: \$2336.00

Diocesan Assessment: \$280.00

Repairs & Restorations: \$521.00

Next weekend October 24th and October 25th the second collection is for Repairs & Restorations.

Thank you for your generosity!



26th Annual FACE Virtual Fall Scholarship Dinner

The Show Must Go OnLine...

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 7:00p.m.

Please join Bishop Edgar da Cunha, Co-Chairs John Feitelberg—President Hub International and Janna Lafrance—Lafrance Hospitality, Kait Walsh—Emcee and WPRI Anchor for an inspirational evening featuring a virtual performance by Christian recording artist **Matt Maher**.

Matt is a Juno Award winning, nine-time Grammy nominee and four-time GMA Dove Award winner, Maher is a staple in the artistic and songwriting community. His inspirational songs have garnered multiple radio successes, writing and recording songs such as “Lord, I Need You,” “Because He Lives (Amen),” “Alive & Breathing,” and many others.

Matt achieved a career highlight in 2013 when he performed at the Vigil Mass presided by Pope Francis, in front of a crowd of three million people, for World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro. Two years later he performed again for the Pope in downtown Philadelphia as part of the World Meeting of Families, appearing along with The Fray, Aretha Franklin, Juanes, Jim Gaffigan, and Mark Wahlberg, among others.

For more information and to make a donation please visit:

www.FACEfalldinner.org or

Email.events@catholicfoundationsema.org

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FACEhelpkids



50Week Club

Wanted: New Members

With every new club we are looking for new members. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year! \$2.00 per week gives you a chance to win a weekly drawing of \$25.00! Remember, you can't win if you don't join!

We previously announced, that even under the circumstances we are currently enduring, the 2019-2020 profit from the club that was given to the parish totaled \$8500.00. You can be part of the action by joining today!

You can send your registration form directly to Kathy Sullivan, 639 Marvel St., Swansea, MA 02777 or mail them to the rectory. Contact Kathy & Bill Sullivan at 508-493-9064 for more information. **Please make all payment checks payable to: St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

50Week Club Weekly Winner

Congratulations to:

Bryan Alexander

Winner for October 11, 2020



The following children received First Communion this weekend, keep them in your prayers.

Brandon Antunes

Chloe Diogo

Alexandra Fiddler

Edward Pontarelli III

Skylin Tavares

Dylan Tremblay

May God Bless them and their families!

Let Your Voice Be Heard – Again

“Say No to ROE

The state legislature has extended the session until January 5th, 2021. Please remind the members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary that you oppose the expansion of abortion in Massachusetts. Please call the Committee at 617-722-2396 and let them know you are **opposed** to H3320 and S1209 – the ROE legislation. Every telephone call helps! Remember these bills would remove:

The requirement that young girls obtain consent before an abortion

The requirement that efforts be made to save a living baby who survives abortion

The requirement that late term abortions be performed in hospitals

And the bills would allow abortion on demand for all nine months of pregnancy

For more information about how the ROE legislation would expand abortion in Massachusetts, visit www.macatholic.org.

Thank you!

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Our Confirmation date is Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00pm with Bishop daCunha at St Francis of Assisi Church. Candidates should be at the church hall at 6:30pm.

****Due to limited space...Guests can only be...student, sponsor and parents to the ceremony******

Rehearsal Practice... Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30pm at St. Francis Church. Please bring your sponsor to this practice. Robes will be given out after the practice.

*****Mask and Social Distancing required at all times by all****
Please call Joy Viveiros 508-674-0024 or email her at joyann56@comcast.net for more information.

MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Once again, this week we hear from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. He refers to Cyrus as being the Lord's anointed to whom the Lord is speaking. This Cyrus is King Cyrus II, often referred to as Cyrus the Great, the founder of the first Persian (modern day Iran) Empire. As some background, many of the Old Testament Jews were forcibly removed from their homeland during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. In fact, Nebuchadnezzar forcibly relocated citizens of Israel three times during his reign, bringing them all to Babylon. When bringing captives to Babylon, mostly the upper class and craftsmen/smiths, he also took with him costly and precious items from the Temple of Jerusalem, or if you will, the Temple of Solomon: gold vessels, lamps, lamp stands and the like.

It would appear that Nebuchadnezzar, and perhaps too his predecessors, would often force the elite of conquered lands to come to serve him in his capital. While some may have been treated kindly during the extended exile, for example Daniel who could interpret dreams, they were nonetheless a conquered people in a foreign land. For the Jews especially, this would have been a particular burden since Jerusalem is the place where the God of Israel is to be worshiped, and the fact that Israel was a land given to their forefathers by God himself.

When Cyrus conquered Babylon and establish his own Persian imperial dynasty, one of his greatest acts was to allow foreign peoples to leave Babylon and return to their own homelands. Many returned home with the statues of their own gods who had accompanied them to Babylon since their own temples had likewise been looted. Since the Jews do not represent God in images, much like the Muslims, what was returned to them for a return to Jerusalem were the many gold and precious items that had been forcibly taken. But not only did Cyrus allow them to take back what was theirs, he also gave them money to rebuild the temple upon their return. It is for this reason that Cyrus, a non-Jew, and conqueror of Israel since Israel belonged to the Babylonians when Cyrus conquered them, he is considered the "Lord's anointed".

It is rare in the Jewish text to have such a foreigner praised as the "Lord's anointed". Kings of Israel were anointed! Prophets of the God of Israel were anointed! It is unusual for one who is not of the Jewish faith, not a citizen of Israel, not a worshipper of the one true God to be seen in this particular light. But Isaiah recognizes him as such because one who is "anointed" is one who is "set apart".

Pagans were almost always seen as enemies of God by the prophets and priests of Israel, if not always by their kings. The kings of Israel often made treaties with foreign pagan kings and often these treaties involved arranged marriages to unite "royal" houses. As a result, the kings often erected pagan temples to appease their foreign-born wives, to the peril of king and country. These treaties however did not always assure peaceful coexistence and the kings with whom the treaties were made were seldom benevolent neighbors. Ancient treaties for Israel were often no more than a toss of the dice, hoping to avoid invasion.

Cyrus of course is different. He is the Lord's "anointed" in the sense that he has been "set apart" from other rulers, and in particular from Nebuchadnezzar who first deported so many of the Jews. Because of Cyrus' style of rule, and perhaps even because of his own religious views, he allowed the Jewish elite who had been relocated (as well as the elite of other nations) to return home with their possessions and families who had been born in Babylon. The "Lord's anointed" in this sense reminds the people of Israel that the Lord can work through Jews and non-Jews alike. Ancient people often believed that their gods were local and therefore lived locally and thereby their authority and power did not extend beyond the borders. That is why some of the ancient people who were deported to Babylon brought statues of their gods with them. If the image of the god was close by, then his/her power must be as well. But the Jews believed in only one God who is God of all. The Lord's anointing of Cyrus therefore reminds them that God can work wherever he pleases and through whomever he pleases. While none of the ancient Jews who were allowed to leave Babylon would have reason for anything but gratitude toward Cyrus, it would still have seen peculiar that God would exercise his authority and power through one who had no allegiance to the one true God. And yet he did just that through the person of King Cyrus the Great.

In the gospel passage, again from St. Matthew, the Pharisees and the Herodians approach Jesus with the famous question about paying the tax to the Romans. Knowing that they're trying to catch him in a slip up that will put him in a bad light with the Roman authorities, he naturally frustrates them by saying that they should render to Caesar what belongs to him, and to God what belongs to God. It is a reminder to us that faithful citizenship and faithful discipleship are not of necessity opposed to each other. Jesus, like most of the Jews of his day, was not enamored of the Romans. As a faithful first century Jew, Jesus would have held the Roman occupiers, their brutal tactics, their oppressive taxes, and their worship of false gods in disdain. Nonetheless, Jesus always observed the laws of his day. The authority that he sometimes challenged was not the civil authority, but the religious authority who often put the law over the good of the people, especially if doing this was to the benefit of those in authority.

Throughout history, disciples have lived under just about every kind of political system imaginable: some benevolent, others brutal, most somewhere in between. God can work his plan through those who we may not see as obvious choices to be "the Lord's anointed." And while Cyrus was seen as such by the Prophet Isaiah, I doubt seriously that those whose lands were conquered by Cyrus through force saw him in the same light. It is, to be honest, easier to see the "hand of God" through actions that benefit us or in which we find value, ease or pleasure, be they the actions of civil authorities or religious authorities. Nonetheless, God works through both without our knowing it and most often without revealing it to us. It becomes incumbent upon us therefore to work at remaining faithful citizens by first and foremost working diligently to remain and grow in faithful discipleship. We want to render to Caesar what is his. However, Caesar is not a god. God however is! Therefore, it is imperative that we render to God what is God's by faithful discipleship which is rooted in the obedience of faith. Rendering to God what is simply Caesars, or what is socially acceptable and not in accord with Jesus' teaching, just does not cut it. And as always, love of God, with all that it implies, remain the first and greatest commandment, and our ticket to heaven. What belongs to Caesar will not do it! Jesus is God's anointed above all others!


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