



# Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

*Sunday, October 25, 2020*



## 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: [stfranciswalsea@comcast.net](mailto:stfranciswalsea@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stfranciswalsea.com](http://www.stfranciswalsea.com)

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

Email: [stdominic1277@gmail.com](mailto:stdominic1277@gmail.com)

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

Email: [religiouseducation@stfranciswalsea.com](mailto:religiouseducation@stfranciswalsea.com)

Confirmation 1 & 2 Coordinator: 508-674-0024

Email: [joyann56@comcast.net](mailto: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-106809807662959>

# 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 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*

**Tues. October 27**

8:00 a.m. *Joseph Ripanti by Son, Joseph*

**Thurs. October 29**

8:00 a.m.

**Sun. November 1**

11:00 a.m. *Frank & Emily de Medeiros by Rose Pacheco*  
*George LeBreux by Colleen Fontaine*

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### St. Dominic

**Sun. October 25**

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

**Mon. October 26**

8:00 a.m.

**Wed. October 28**

8:00 a.m.

**Sun. November 1**

9:30 a.m. *Jose, Tony & Domingas Batista*  
*Maria dos Reis & Family*  
*Frank & Dorothy Oliveira*  
*Michael Lima*  
*Kim Menard*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Don't forget to turn your clock back before you go to bed on, October 31, 2020. Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 2:00 a.m.**

**TURN  
BACK  
THE  
CLOCK**



## 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.

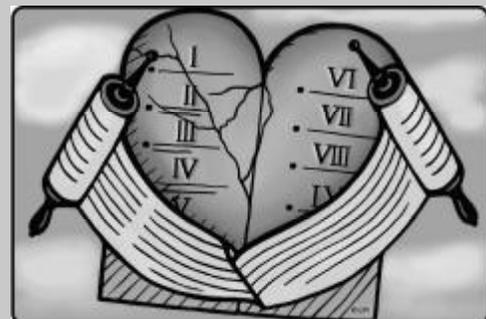
Thank you for considering this beautiful tribute.

## The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Living the Paschal Mystery

Getting to the crux of the matter can be an important exercise. Pruning away extraneous detail to reveal the core issue is essential in many cases. For Christians, we recall that Jesus’ teachings were rooted in Mosaic Law and the prophets. Yet we emphasized or combined aspects of each that made them seem to come alive, or to be read and understood in a new way. It’s certainly true that loving God and loving one’s neighbor were commandments in Mosaic Law. But who had ever combined them like this before? Ultimately, it’s a good reminder of the core of the religious message. All of our actions ought to flow from this twofold love. Loving God and loving neighbor go together, and they cannot be reduced one to the other or one over the other. When we live by this guiding principle, we are 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 18th**

**Budget: \$2005.00**

**Diocesan Assessment: \$245.00**

**Repairs & Restorations: \$200.00**

**Propagation of the Faith: \$195.00**

*Next weekend November 1st the second collection is for Poor & Needy-All Saints Offering.*

**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](http://www.FACEfalldinner.org) or

[Email.events@catholicfoundationsema.org](mailto:Email.events@catholicfoundationsema.org)

**Like us on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/FACEhelpkids](http://www.facebook.com/FACEhelpkids)





## MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

If those of us who have extended family are asked if we love our aunts and uncles - assuming that they're alive, or if we did love our aunts and uncles - assuming that they are deceased, I suspect that the answer to the question would be a resounding YES! Of course, I love/loved them! What a silly question! They are family and you love family! BUT ... if any of us were asked the question differently: Are you (or were you) IN love with your aunts and uncles, then I suspect that the answer would be different. IN LOVE with them??? Are you nuts??? There tends to be a distinction between "loving" someone and being "in love" with someone.

If you love someone in your family, you will help them should they have need and if you have the time, you will speak kindly of them, you will be happy to see them whenever the opportunity presents itself - like weddings and funerals, you will sense a relationship with them that you do not have with strangers. However, if you happen to go for extended periods of time not seeing them or being in contact with them, it does not seem to negatively affect your life. They are a part of your life but certainly not the center of your life - not even close!

If you are in love with someone you will try to anticipate their needs and always be there for them, even if it is inconvenient. You will find the time and make the time to be with the person that you love. You will make sure to keep in close contact with that person and avoid anything whatsoever that might put a strain on your relationship. And if it were possible, you would move mountains for that person simply to prove the extent of your love. The beloved is more than simply a part of your life, the beloved IS your life! Being in love is not the same as simply loving. Being in love takes a full commitment of will, intellect, body, and soul. Being in love does not see putting oneself out for the beloved as burdensome but sees it rather as a welcomed opportunity! Being present in any manner for someone you are in love with is always something that people instinctively relish! Nothing is too much to be asked for someone with whom you are in love! No cost is too great to be paid for someone with whom you are in love, even the cost of one's life! The true lover will give "all" to express his or her love for the beloved! True, genuine love is completely selfless and always has the good of the beloved, as well as the happiness of the beloved, in focus! And that brings us to the gospel of the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time!

In this weekend's gospel from St. Matthew, Jesus is asked by the Pharisees which of the commandments is the greatest. Jesus' answer is perhaps one of the most famous and oft quoted of his teachings: "*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.*"

The first and greatest commandment is to love God with all of your being. And while the second is like it, it is not identical to it, nor is it as important. God comes first at all times and in all things! If this is the case, then it becomes of the greatest importance for disciples to maintain a genuine and complete love of God each and every day of their lives. Love of necessity implies relationship. We have a relationship of whatever sort with the person with whom we are in love. And relationships need to be maintained to grow stronger; otherwise they wither and die and become empty and meaningless. We would never choose to ignore someone with whom we are in love! As disciples, our relationship with God demands the same.

A daily examination of a properly formed conscience helps us to answer the question of how we love God. Do we love God as someone with whom we are in love? Or do we love God as we might love an aunt or uncle, perhaps an aunt and uncle who live out of state? (Out of sight/out of mind - with the exception of occasional get togethers)

With an "in love" relationship, the relationship, if genuine, is two sided and not one sided. The lover and the beloved are there for each other with a self-sacrificing love. It is with this kind of love that God loves us! God has proven that He loves us even to the point of self-sacrifice through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross - Jesus the Christ who is God, co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. God proves his love for us by providing the spiritual necessities needed to follow his Son to salvation. God proves his love for us by allowing us to be called his sons and daughters. God proves his love for us by giving us the sacraments of Church, particularly the Eucharist which is literally the flesh and blood of the Savior! God proves that he dearly wants not only a relationship with us, but a love-relationship with us since God himself IS love. But for this relationship to be strong, both parties need to be working in tandem to help the relationship grow strong. And because God is love, we know that God is always doing his part! So, the question becomes: what are we doing, if we really claim to be and want to be disciples, to maintain the relationship?

Do we honestly put God first? Do we pray daily and regularly *trying* to deepen our faith and relationship with God? Do we put in the amount of time necessary to grow in that relationship with God? Do we honestly believe that nothing is too good for God, or no sacrifice too great to show our love? Do we freely and selflessly give God the very best of *everything* that we have and are? Do we reverence the name of God in our speech and behaviors? Do we reverence God particularly and especially when we are in the presence of God in the Blessed Sacrament? Do we even believe that God is eternal, awesome, omnipotent, all powerful, all knowing and the creator of all that is, all that was and all that will be? We cannot have a genuine relationship with God if we do not bother to know him intimately.

Loving God first is not so cut and dry either, since we know that Jesus is God and we become part of Jesus through baptism. We also know that the Church is the Body of Christ in the world. So the question of how we love God also becomes how do we love God as a Trinity of Persons; how do we love God in the Holy Eucharist; how do we love God in the Church which is the Body of Christ? To love God genuinely, we need to constantly work to love the mystery of the Trinity; we need to constantly work at loving and worshipping the Holy Eucharist; we need to constantly work at completely supporting the Church which is the Body of Christ so that Christ's work, the work of his body, might reach out to all of his loved ones. If we fail in any of these, then the relationship probably is shallow at best. The good news, however, is that because God first loves us, he will give us whatever we need, whatever is necessary to strengthen our "in love" relationship with him. But because true love cannot be one-sided, our active participation is absolutely necessary. And if we can come to genuinely love God with our whole being as best, we can, albeit imperfectly, then, and only then can we begin to properly tackle the second commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. If our relationship with God is not as strong as can be, then love will never be strong within us. And if that is the case, then our love of neighbor will also fall flat. With prayer and patience, and accepting the grace of God, we can grow in our relationship with God so that we don't simply love God like a distant relative, but be *in love* with the God who *IS* love and who loves us unconditionally. He is always there for us to love, hoping that we let him become the center of our lives!

  
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