



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Sunday, November 1, 2020



ALL SAINTS

“Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be
great in heaven.”
- Mt 5:12a

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

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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

Website: www.stfranciswalsea.com

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

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Email: religiouseducation@stfranciswalsea.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-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. November 1

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

Tues. November 3

8:00 a.m. *Jose DaCosta by Daughter*

Thurs. November 5

8:00 a.m. *For the Souls in Purgatory by Alzira Azevedo*

Sun. November 8

11:00 a.m. *Joseph S. Azevedo by Wife, Alzira
Gaston Plante, Sr. by Daughter, Pauline
Jo-Elizabeth Fontaine by Kathy & Bill*

St. Dominic

Sun. November 1

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

Mon. November 2

8:00 a.m.

Wed. November 4

8:00 a.m.

Sun. November 8

9:30 a.m. *Manuel Faria & Family
Oliveira & Azevedo Families
Jose Pimentel (Birth.)
All Souls in Purgatory
Frank & Dorothy Oliveira
Michael Lima*

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.

All Saints Day

Living the Paschal Mystery

Holiness and sanctity can seem so out of reach when we have as examples those whose lives are so different from the vast majority. Sanctity is not a prize given to those who complete a marathon, something most people cannot do. Instead, sanctity is something each of us is called to do. Holiness is something each Christian can live. It is nothing more than living the paschal mystery, a daily dying to self so that we put others before us. Family members practice this daily! (Or at least they have many chances to practice this each day.) When parents sacrifice their own wants for the sake of their children, or when siblings put the needs of their brothers or sisters before their own, these are acts of sanctity. It is through such acts that we live the gospel passage today as "peacemakers." Division and strife are not marks of sanctity; unity and peace are. Let us live the gospel message today and, in so doing live the paschal mystery into our own sanctity.

Living Liturgy 2020 –Liturgical Press, Collegeville MN



In Loving Memory

Our memorial candles burn in November in remembrance of:

Sanctuary Lamp:
Anna & Leon Menard by Family

Altar Candles:
Pearl Gray by Wayne & Marita

Tabernacle Candles:
Robert Peloquin by Wife, Wanda

Crucifix Candles:
Herman & Mary Costa by Granddaughter, Mary Anne



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!



Parish Support

Collected October 25th

Budget: \$2925.00

Repairs & Restorations: \$825.00

Next weekend November 8th the second collection is for Diocesan Assessment.

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



50 Week Club Weekly Winner

Congratulations to:

Anthony Serdyski

Winner for October 25, 2020

SAINT DOMINIC'S WOMEN'S GUILD
WILL BE HOSTING THEIR
ANNUAL MEAT PIE SUPPER
CURB-SIDE PICK UP ONLY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
FROM 4-6 PM

TICKETS ARE \$10 AND CAN BE PURCHASED
FROM MEMBERS AND/OR AT THE RECTORY

Bishop Connolly High School Virtual Open House



Bishop Connolly High School will host two Virtual Open House 2020 events for prospective students and families: Tuesday, November 10 at 6 p.m., and Sunday, November 15 at 1 p.m. Learn more about our college preparatory curriculum and talk one-on-one with our faculty and students! Placement exams for Grade 8 L.E.A.P. and Grade 9 applicants will be held on Saturday, December 5 & 12; please register by November 20. For details and online registration for all events, please visit BishopConnolly.com.

Prayer for Elections

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one an equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom. We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

-Elaine Rendler-McQueeney

Reprinted from the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Newsletter.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

From Fr. Hamel: It has come to our attention that budget envelopes that have been dropped in the collection in one of the parishes of the Somerset/Swansea Catholic Collaborative (St. Thomas More / St. Louis de France / St. Patrick) are not being returned to either of our parishes. One of our parishioners asked because he was concerned. Because his family donated via a personal check, the envelopes, while opened, still had the checks in them since the other parish could not cash them. (One of the checks went back to August!) The checks were not returned to us until we inquired about them. They were the only envelopes returned. Knowing that parishioners from St. Dominic and St. Francis of Assisi are attending Masses on the other side of collaborative divide, should be aware that if you are using budget envelopes, they are not being returned to your parish, nor will you be receiving a tax benefit as we would have no way of knowing if, or what you may have contributed to the church. If your intent is to support your parish, but for some reason are attending Mass elsewhere, I would ask you to kindly drop your parish support off at the rectory or drop it in the mail.

MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The prophet Malachi is the “author” of our first reading this weekend. I put his name in quotes because more than likely, Malachi is not a proper name of a biblical person but rather a title of sorts given to whomever is the author of this particular book of scripture. Malachi means “my messenger” and the prevailing thought is that this particular book of teachings is by “my messenger”, or if you prefer, God’s messenger. The words of this prophet, like the words of the other Old Testament prophets, are a communication from the God of Israel to his people. So, this is presented by a messenger from God, plain and simple.

It is important for us to locate Malachi in time. This author is writing about 450 years before the birth of Jesus at a time when the people of Israel have returned to the Promised Land from their exile, and the “second temple” is built. The first temple, the Temple of Solomon had been destroyed by the forces of King Nebuchadnezzar at the time of the Babylonian Captivity. Now that the people have returned to their “promised land”, Israel is in the process of being restored along with her temple!

While the nation of Israel has been restored, although the wall of Jerusalem is yet to be built, the people, perhaps because of being away in a foreign land and adopting foreign ways, fall short in terms of their observance of the covenant that they have with their God. The law of Israel, summed up in the Ten Commandments and the Torah (the scrolls of the scriptures) clearly outline the responsibilities of those on both sides of the covenant: God’s role to be their God, and Israel’s role to be his people. The covenant, as they saw it, clearly sets out what the people are to do and how they are to live it. They are to worship God alone; they are to offer God the best of their livestock (unblemished) and their crops; they are to give back to the Lord ten percent of what they have since it has first been given to them (by the Lord); they are to be kind and loving to widows and strangers. However, in their return home to the promised land, the People of Israel have been less than faithful to their part of the covenant - and God is not amused!

Malachi, or “my messenger” goes after the priests in the passage that we have this weekend. The sacrifice that is prescribed as an offering in the Temple of Jerusalem is either an unblemished animal (usually a lamb or a kid or a calf) or for the poorer folk, a pair of turtle doves. During this time, however, the priests of the temple were unfaithful to God. They were not adhering to the requirement that the sacrifice be unblemished. They would offer any sacrifice with the attitude that it was “good enough”. And in other areas, they were unfaithful in teaching the law to the people ... and God threatened them severely.

While our passage, which is simply a brief excerpt of the book, goes after the priests, Malachi goes after the people too. They are failing to observe the Sabbath, they are divorcing their Israelite wives to marry foreigners, which in the law was taboo as it weakens the nation and risks the worship of false gods. The people of Israel were also failing badly in terms of tithing (giving ten percent of their income) to the Lord. They were failing to support the temple properly so that the temple in turn could provide for the needs of those less fortunate. God was keeping his part of the covenant, but the people were not, and so Malachi is raised up to deliver a message of repentance to God’s chosen people. The attitude of “good enough”, in fact, is not! The people cannot be considered faithful to the covenant if they only give what they consider “good enough” back to the Lord in terms of their personal generosity, their worship, their time, or their talent. Good enough is not good enough! The covenant requires us to give our very “best” and only our best to the Lord!

Although this particular book of scripture was written about 2,500 years ago for a people of a different time and different culture, it still has applications for us today in our world and in our church. While the prophet, who was a man of his times, warns of the “evil” that God will do if the nation doesn’t straighten itself out, we recognize, being people of the New Covenant, that God isn’t about cursing people or inflicting pain and suffering on people. The God of Israel who has been revealed to us through the person of Jesus, the unblemished lamb of the New Sacrifice, is a God of perfect love, mercy, and compassion. He does not threaten to curse people or to make them contemptible. Nonetheless, we do have a covenant with God, ratified through the blood of Jesus Christ, which lays specific responsibilities on those who are baptized into the covenant. Our priests are to offer worthy worship; they are to teach faithfully; they are to see to the widow and the stranger. The people are to be faithful to their prayer life and Sunday worship; they are to be generous to the Lord in their support of the Church; they are to live lives of loving service both to God and to their neighbor. For priests and people of the New Covenant, good enough still is NOT good enough. We are called to give our very best, imperfect as that might be.

In the Church today, we see priests and bishops who fail the Lord. They challenge God’s earthly Vicar, clinging rigidly to medieval concepts, delighting in the “costume” of clericalism, and steadfastly refusing to allow God’s wisdom to guide the Church through the sciences that have God as their author and creator. As Jesus warned, they love the trappings, but place burdens on the shoulders of others, individuals, and families, while doing nothing to lessen the burden. Likewise, we have people who buy into the same rigidity, creating a god in their own image, rather than searching prayerfully for the God who invites us to make ourselves into his image.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, we have those who claim to be Catholic but consistently refuse to worship as God directs us. They consistently refuse to give back to God by their contributing to the life of the community, or if they do contribute, they give only the minimal which they consider “good enough”. They see the support of widows and strangers a burden that they prefer not to think about, and so they ignore it. For them, God in the face of a stranger is a fallacy, and so they look but they do not see. Malachi might as well be preaching to the Church today! We are suffering from the same collective sins that once weakened the Covenant of ancient Israel.

Jesus reminds us that those who have ears ought to hear! Do we listen to the prophets of our scriptures and the prophets of our time? Do we work diligently and prayerfully to separate the prophets of the New Covenant from the false prophets who might dress the part but fall short on the merciful love of God. In Malachi, the priests of the temple sniff at the altar of God in a contemptuous manner, and so the Lord spreads the offal of their sacrifices on the faces of these priests. Today, many of the “priestly” class do pretty much the same, although the Lord sees the sin of their spirituality without marking their faces. But do we honestly and prayerfully try to distinguish.

Jesus promised to remain with the Church till the end of time. Through his Vicar on earth we trust in him. While past Popes have been men of their time interpreting God’s word through the available wisdom and sciences, God’s word to us constantly evolves. Our understanding of God’s creation is constantly expanding, which means our understanding of God’s goodness and majesty and acceptance are likewise constantly expanding. Let us then pray for ourselves, our priests, our families and neighbors, our Church and our world, that through the Malachi’s that God sends to us, we might hear his word, act on his word, love his word, and proclaim his word - because that word is Jesus and he calls us to be like him, and not to try to make him to be like our sinful selves. If we try to be good like him, that is good. If we try to make him like us, that is not good enough ... that is worship of a false god, one of the sins against which Malachi preached!


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