



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John



Sunday
December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of
Advent



St. Francis of Assisi Parish Address:

Church: 530 Gardners Neck Road, Swansea, MA 02777

Office/Rectory: Direct all correspondence to:

270 Ocean Grove Avenue

Swansea, MA 02777

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

BY TELEPHONE ONLY. Closed on Friday.

St. Francis of Assisi Contact Info:

Parish Office: 508-673-2808

Parish fax: 508-672-6241

Email: stfrancisswansea@comcast.net

Website: www.stfrancisswansea.com

St. Francis of Assisi Liturgical Celebrations

Sundays: 11 a.m.

Weekdays: Private Mass - No Congregation

PREVIOUS MASS SCHEDULE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Only Mass St. Francis of Assisi 11 a.m. Sunday –Reservations Required—call/email Rectory no later than Thursday at noon for reservations.

Parish Staff

Property Manager: Tony Roderigues

Office Manager/Bulletin: Colleen Fontaine

Finance Manager/Office/Notary: Fran Kelley

Music Director: Ada Simpson

Faith Formation Director Gr. 5-7: Deb Fontaine

Tel: 508-674-0024

Email: religioueducation@stfrancisswansea.com

Confirmation 1 & 2 Directors: Joy & Joe Vivieros

Tel: 508-674-0024 Email: joyann56@comcast.net

St. Dominic's Parish Address:

1277 G.A.R. Highway, Swansea, MA 02777

St. Dominic's Contact Info:

Parish Office: 508-675-7206 Mon.-Thurs. 9am-2pm

Parish fax: 508-672-4716

Email: saintdominicparish@comcast.net

Website: www.stdominicswansea.org

FACEBOOK ONLINE:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Dominic-Parish-Swansea-19302610775744/>

PARISH BULLETIN ONLINE:

<https://www.parishesonline.com/find/st-dominic-/bulletin>

St. Dominic's Liturgical Celebration:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Weekdays: Private Mass - No Congregation

PREVIOUS MASS SCHEDULE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Masses at St. Dominic's are on Sunday at 9:30am—Reservations Required—call/email the Rectory no later than Thursday at noon for reservations.

Parish Staff:

Property Manager: Peter Urban

Office Manager/Bulletin: Louise Guglielmo

Music Director: Ada Simpson

Faith Formation Director Gr. 1-4: Barbara Domingue

Tel: 508-675-7002

Email: stdominic1277@gmail.com

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

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!



Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Francis of Assisi

Sun. December 6

11:00 a.m. *Deceased of Fontaine & Hebert Families by Ronald & Colleen*

Joseph S. Azevedo by Wife, Alzira

Edward Gendreau 1st Anniversary by Wife, Renette

Tues. December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m.

Thurs. December 10

8:00 a.m.

Sun. December 13

11:00 a.m. *Joseph S. Azevedo by Wife, Alzira*
Alice, Alvila, Ida Lopes & the Medeiros Family by Rose Pacheco

Joseph Pacheco by Mother

Butch Hyland by Carole & Family

Lois Ann Thompson by Family



Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Dominic

Sun. December 6

9:30 a.m. *Manuel Faria & family*

All Souls in Purgatory

Jose & Marie Pimentel

Roberto Andrade (Birth.)

Horacio & Irma DaBrum

Rose Fennessey (Anniv.)

Mon. December 7

8:00 a.m. *Susan M. Medeiros*

Wed. December 9

8:00 a.m.

Sun. December 13

9:30 a.m. *John Albert by Nancy Botelho*

Hubert & Menard Families by Joan Menard

Adelina & Licia Rodrigues by Susana Lopes

James Manton

Paul Medeiros

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 at St. Francis of Assisi

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

A scant eight days into Advent the liturgy brims with hope: "Comfort, give comfort to my people," cries the prophet Isaiah. "Here comes with power the Lord GOD" (first reading). As Isaiah's prophecy continues we hear the familiar Advent call: "In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!"

Still, the liturgy doesn't yet allow us to look toward Bethlehem; Advent still resists our culture's quick transition from Thanksgiving to Christmas. On the contrary, the Gospel reading points us not to Mary's newborn but to the adult Christ through his messenger, John the Baptist. In John we see the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of the one who will prepare God's way, and in John's baptism of repentance we are reminded of our own baptism and, perhaps, our failure to live it fully. Yet we also remember the power of our baptism to make us ready for the Holy Spirit Christ brings.

The second reading, however, directs us to the end of time once more, and we are faced with a classic Christian dilemma: How are we to live today as we await the "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (second reading)? Wisdom and discernment are key, responds the liturgy, as we pray after Communion to "judge wisely the things of earth and to hold firm to the things of heaven," and in the collect "may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste" to meet Christ.

Reflection taken from Liturgy.com, OCP



In Loving Memory

St. Francis of Assisi memorial candles burn in December in remembrance of:

Sanctuary Lamp:
Oscar & Cecile Fontaine by
Ronald & Colleen

Altar Candles:
Masciarelli & Seery Families
by Steve & Ann Seery

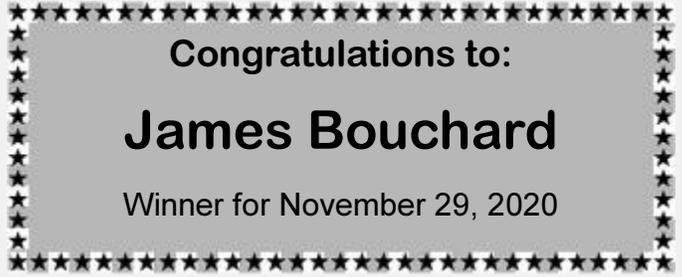
Tabernacle Candles:
Richard Willette by Wanda

Crucifix Candles:
Robert Peloquin by Family



St. Dominic's memorial candles burn in December in remembrance of:

50Week Club Weekly Winner



Congratulations to:

James Bouchard

Winner for November 29, 2020

Contact Info: Bill & Kathy Sullivan

Telephone: 508-493-9064 or 508-674-8511



*Pray for the Repose of the Soul
of Raymond H. Lake, Jr.*

Parish Support

St. Francis Collected November 22nd

Budget: \$2250.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$283.00

November Online Giving: \$815.00

St. Francis of Assisi November 29th

Budget: \$2957.00

Repairs & Restorations: \$619.00

St. Dominic Collected November 22nd

Budget: \$2314.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$180.00

St. Dominic Collected November 29th

Budget: \$1508.00

Diocesan Assessment: \$115.00

December 8th - Immaculate Conception- is a collection for the Poor & Needy. Next weekend December 13th the second collection is for Retirement Fund for Religious.

Thank you for your generosity!



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

With the latest developments in COVID uprising and safety protocols, wrapped gifts will not be accepted as distributing them could potentially compromise the health of our members and families. Each gift tag on the tree will be for gift cards only. Please return your gift with the tag attached. Please make a notation of the amount of the gift card. Monetary donations will be accepted as well and will be used to purchase gift cards for our families in need. All gift cards must be turned in by December 20th.

You may place the gift cards in the box beside the Giving Tree or in the collection basket.

This year has been very difficult for many and reaching out to them is always a heartwarming blessing.

St. Hope Catholic Community Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Masses:

St. Dominic, December 24th Vigil Mass will be held in the Parish Center at 4:00 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi, December 25th morning Mass will be at 9:00 a.m.

Reservations for these Masses will only be taken starting December 1st. You must call the rectory of the church you plan on attending for reservations.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our gospel reading from the beginning of St. Mark's gospel starts by quoting from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah which we heard as our first reading today. As St. Mark starts, he writes - As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* Of course, this is only a small fragment of what we hear in the first reading. Isaiah in the first reading says: *"Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low: the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley."* Sounds incredible, doesn't it? Think of the Grand Canyon! Think of the Rocky Mountains or the Alps! The valleys filled in??? The mountains made low. The rugged land made into a plain. And just how the heck is that going to happen??? We know that the Messiah that Isaiah was talking about is Jesus! There were plenty of mountains, hills and valleys in Israel before Jesus was born. They were there while Jesus walked the earth for thirty-three years. They are still there today! So, what is Isaiah's point? What is he getting at??? Well, we cannot always take the scriptures literally. Sometimes the prophets speak metaphorically, and this is one of those times.

All of us have had periods in our lives that were probably less than easy. It is part of living as a human being. Some days are tough, and some days are tougher than tough - but we survive. But we can sometimes see the tough times as being like mountains to climb and conquer, just to finally get over our problems. Sometimes we feel as though we are in a valley and things are crashing in on us and we feel overwhelmed as though we are being buried alive, figuratively of course. Sometimes we have stretches of time that figuratively seem to be really "rough patches". Thank goodness it is not all the time ... but we have all been there.

By virtue of our baptisms, we all share the "prophetic" mission of Jesus and so are responsible for helping to prepare for his second coming by doing, figuratively, all the things that Isaiah mentions, for ourselves, but sometimes more importantly, for others. Because Jesus has already come to us, and through the sacrifice of the Cross comes to us every time we receive the Eucharist or gather in prayer with another, we have at our disposal the grace to make things happen! We have the grace to "smooth things out" on our pilgrimage to heaven and to make straight the paths. But often enough, we do not see it.

When Jesus told us to love one another, he was commanding us to DO for each other. Just as we have tough moments in our own lives, we know that other people experience tough moments too. Part of our prophetic mission is to help fill in the valleys, level the mountains and hills, and make a straight highway for the Lord. We can do that for others by simply helping them to carry their own loads. Most of the time it is pretty easy too: a supportive word; a listening ear; a little visit; a telephone call; a letter or greeting card, or even a prayer that is hidden and unseen. It is often not too difficult to help people who are feeling the weight of the world on their shoulders to bear their difficulties. Sometimes just letting someone know that another person cares can make the difference between someone feeling as if they are "falling over the cliff" or feeling that they are on solid ground. Sometimes the little things we lovingly do for another helps them to find their direction on our pilgrimage highway. It is not difficult. But it does require an outward love. And it is also a way of loving Jesus in another!

The thought of an individual literally leveling a mountain or filling in a valley is overwhelming. But when we look at it through a spiritual lens, it becomes doable! And when we reflect back to the gospel of the Feast of Christ the King, and the parable of the sheep and goats, we should understand as disciples that just as we need to exercise a prophetic ministry for others, and therefore for Christ, it is likewise important that we allow other disciples to exercise that same prophetic ministry for us and to Jesus within us. The pilgrim way to heaven, and the straight highway in the wasteland for our God, is not meant to be road traveled alone. We need to be there for each other and with each other. And as we prepare to celebrate the advent of the Christ for the first time through the womb of Mary, we should also be preparing for his second coming. If we allow ourselves to "be" community and to help each other in whatever ways seem appropriate, then our journeys will not seem as difficult or lonely. The journeys of others will not seem so bad either. It will be so much easier to walk that highway through the wasteland accompanied by other pilgrims, particularly when Christ returns for us at a time we won't expect and we see ourselves heading straight toward him on the road that we've all worked on and walked on together! We are an Advent people. And so, we pray: Come, Lord Jesus, come!



Catholic Social Services

Giving Tree Program 2020

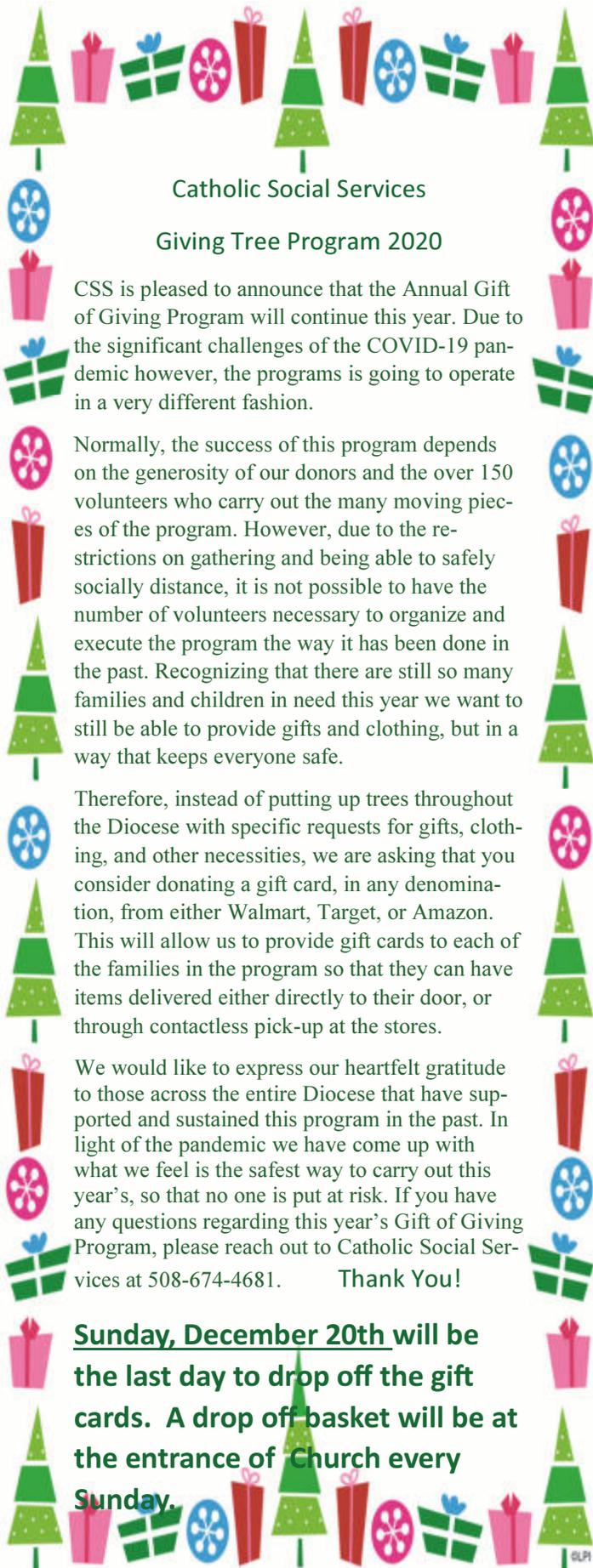
CSS is pleased to announce that the Annual Gift of Giving Program will continue this year. Due to the significant challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic however, the program is going to operate in a very different fashion.

Normally, the success of this program depends on the generosity of our donors and the over 150 volunteers who carry out the many moving pieces of the program. However, due to the restrictions on gathering and being able to safely socially distance, it is not possible to have the number of volunteers necessary to organize and execute the program the way it has been done in the past. Recognizing that there are still so many families and children in need this year we want to still be able to provide gifts and clothing, but in a way that keeps everyone safe.

Therefore, instead of putting up trees throughout the Diocese with specific requests for gifts, clothing, and other necessities, we are asking that you consider donating a gift card, in any denomination, from either Walmart, Target, or Amazon. This will allow us to provide gift cards to each of the families in the program so that they can have items delivered either directly to their door, or through contactless pick-up at the stores.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to those across the entire Diocese that have supported and sustained this program in the past. In light of the pandemic we have come up with what we feel is the safest way to carry out this year's, so that no one is put at risk. If you have any questions regarding this year's Gift of Giving Program, please reach out to Catholic Social Services at 508-674-4681. Thank You!

Sunday, December 20th will be the last day to drop off the gift cards. A drop off basket will be at the entrance of Church every Sunday.



St. Pius X Youth Award

The St Pius X Youth Awards occurred virtually on Tues, Dec 1 at 7 PM with Bishop da Cunha. **Congratulations to Jack Wilson from St. Dominic's Church** and all the other recipients. These students have been recognized for their service to the parishes. Thank you to all these young men and young women that set a good example of sharing their faith.



**Congratulations to Jacob Kenneth Parker
son of Andrew Curt Parker and
Jennifer Marie Parker**

**Jacob was Baptized at St. Francis of Assisi on
Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

&

**Congratulations to Jacob Marshall Brown
son of Gregory and Lyndsey Brown
Jacob was Baptized on Tuesday, December 1, 2020
at St. Dominic Church**

**May God Bless, Jacob Parker, Jacob Brown and both
their families!**



Bishop Stang, a Catholic, college preparatory high school in Dartmouth, MA, will administer the Scholastic High School Placement Test (HSPT) on Saturdays, December 5th and 12th from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. Incoming 9th grade applicants may choose either date for virtual or in-person testing. Visit bishopstang.org for more details or to complete the required pre-registration. Merit scholarship incentives are available.

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