



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John



Sunday
December 13, 2020
Third 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 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*

Tues. December 15

8:00 a.m. *Jose & Maria Azevedo by Daughter-in-law*

Thurs. December 17

8:00 a.m.

Sun. December 20

11:00 a.m. *Joseph Fonseca by Wife
Frank & Maryann Ruggiero by Judy & Tony
Antone & Margaret Roderigues by Tony & Judy
Frank Ruggiero, Jr. by Judy & Tony
Donna Pacheco by Fran & Mike Kelley
Brian Viveiros by Friend
Maria Mello by Sister*



Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Dominic

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*

Mon. December 14

8:00 a.m.

Wed. December 16

8:00 a.m.

Sun. December 20

9:30 a.m. *Arthur and Dorothy LeMay - Birth. Rem.
Cory Brescia
James P. & Catherine G. Fox
Jose & Maria Pimentel
Francisco Nadir and son
Rev. Joseph Viveiros
Deacon Gene Orosz (anniv.)*

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.

Third Sunday of Advent

On this Gaudete Sunday, we are encouraged to "rejoice" no less than four times. The entrance antiphon from Paul's letter to the Philippians encourages us to "rejoice" because of the nearness of the Lord, a sentiment echoed in the second reading. In the first reading the prophet exclaims, "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in God is the joy of my soul." Not to be outdone, the responsorial psalm completes the medley with an excerpt from Mary's Magnificat: "My soul rejoices in my God."

Why rejoice? The beginning of the first reading gives a hint: "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me . . . he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . to announce a year of favor from the LORD." According to Luke's Gospel (4:16-21) Jesus began his public ministry with this is the passage, which he announced was fulfilled in him—surely a cause for joy. The use of this passage today, along with the Gospel's focus on the ministry of John the Baptist, remind us that Advent is as much about preparing to receive Christ the preacher, wonderworker, and suffering Messiah, as it is about his birth.

Still, both the collect and the prayer after Communion begin to point us to Christ's birth, and so we can be forgiven if our preparations for that festival begin to occupy us.

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:
John & Lillian Carpenter

50Week Club Weekly Winner



Congratulations to:

Elaine Farwell

Winner for December 6, 2020

Contact Info: Bill & Kathy Sullivan

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



*Pray for the Repose of the Soul
of Raymond Connors & Paul
Miranda*

Parish Support

St. Francis Collected December 6th

Budget: \$3358.00

Diocesan Assessment: \$502.00

Repairs & Restorations: \$698.00

St. Dominic Collected December 6th

Budget: \$2035.00

Building & Maintenance: \$365.00

*Next weekend December 20th the second collection is
for Repairs & Restorations.*

Thank you for your generosity!

SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

MONTHLY ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

WOMEN'S GUILD - Wednesday, December 16th

4th DEGREE K of C - Thursday, December 17th at 7PM

This meeting will be a ZOOM meeting only.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83618540269>

All members are asked to join in. Thank You.



Diocese of Fall River

The Anchor

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MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We do not want to overlook the Responsorial Psalm on this Third Sunday of Advent. It is actually not a psalm, but an excerpt from the gospel of St. Luke, and it is taken from a scene that was a lead up to that first Christmas. Mary, who has conceived by the Holy Spirit travels to the hill country to visit an older relative who is also miraculously expecting her first child. That relative, of course is St. Elizabeth. When Mary arrived at Elizabeth's home, Elizabeth's baby, in utero, leaps for joy and transmits his joy to his mother. The baby of course is St. John the Baptist. John the Baptist, even though a few months from being born, still recognizes that Jesus is present in the womb of Mary. Elizabeth asks what has become the famous question: And how is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Mary's response is a magnificent hymn of praise to God that we have come to know as the Magnificat. The very first stanza of today's responsorial psalm is the beginning of that prayer: *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed."*

Too often we hear these words and take them for granted rather than reflecting on the person, the times, and the situation within which these words were spoken. Mary was a very young girl of perhaps fifteen or sixteen years of age, and maybe even a bit younger. She was not from a prominent or powerful family of the Jewish aristocracy. She was obviously a very devout young Jewish girl who knew enough about the facts of life to admit that she had never been with a man. She was also a good enough Jewish girl to know that relations outside of marriage was punishable by death by stoning. She was betrothed to an older man by the name of Joseph and she was smart enough to know that he would be able to figure out that if she was in fact with child, that the child was NOT his. Mary, for a first century AD Jewish girl without a powerful family or social position was in a very, very dangerous position through no fault of her own. She was NOT in an enviable position by any stretch of the imagination, and yet her response! *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he had looked upon his lowly servant."* She could be put to death by stoning and yet her soul proclaims God's greatness!!! What an act of faith! What trust in God! What an example for all people of all times!

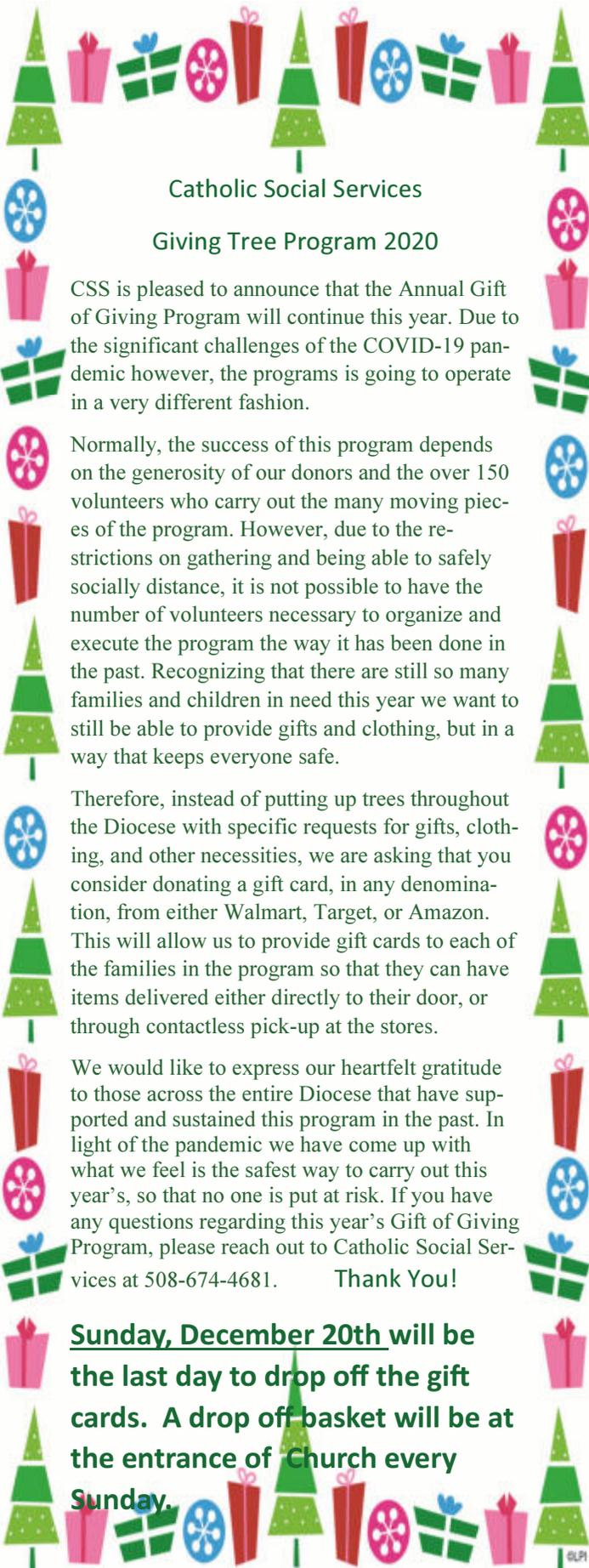
Being a first century citizen of Israel, Mary would also have been made aware of the census that the Romans called for. Being betrothed to Joseph who was of David's line also meant that she would have to leave any comfortable surroundings to travel to Bethlehem with Joseph, not only away from home but also away from her mother and family to help her with her delivery and the care for a firstborn newborn child. And still she trusted!

The next line in the Magnificat that we have today reads: *The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.* In all honesty, Mary here reminds me of the Old Testament figure of Job: The Lord gives! The Lord takes away! Blessed be the name of the Lord! For most of us, giving praise to God is so easy when things are going our way. It is not quite as easy when things are tough. When things get bad or dangerous even, we pray to God asking, or perhaps begging his help, but does the praise come into our prayer too? **Lord, I had a crappy week! Anything that could go wrong seems to have gone wrong. I feel like I have been hit by a bus! There does not seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel. BUT I PRAISE YOU!** ... Most of us would have a VERY easy time with the complaints ... but what about the praise? What about the gratitude that God loves us and promises us salvation? What about glorifying God's name because he gave us Jesus through Mary, and still allows us to this day to receive Jesus literally in the Eucharist? Praise needs to be a part of discipleship both in good times and in bad. Mary is such a powerful example of this because her situation, pregnant with the Messiah, could have meant her tragic and horrific death. Yet she trusted in the Lord and his greatness.

After Mary states that God has looked upon his lowly servant, the next sentence should serve as a personal meditation for us all. She spoke: *From this day all generations will call me blessed.* Why would all generations call her blessed? Well, the easy answer is simply because she gave birth to Jesus. But if we were to think that that was the only reason, then we would be mistaken. She is called *blessed* for all generations not simply because she gave birth to a divine child, but because she lived her entire life in faithful discipleship. She recognized that her own son WAS the messiah and her Lord. She constantly worked on maintaining a relationship with her son and Lord, even when she asked to see him, and he asked "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers and sisters?" and did not jump and run to her. She remained a faithful disciple and did not curse God even when she saw her son unjustly condemned to death and nailed to a cross. Her attitude, like Job, was that the Lord gave; the Lord took away; blessed be the name of the Lord. Remember, she did not know that Easter was coming. No one did but God. And Mary remained faithful even in moments when I am sure she was hurting and did not understand. For this she is a model of faith, but also a sign of things to come for us.

The word saint and the word blessed, and the word holy are all pretty much interchangeable. In the Eucharistic prayer of the Mass we do not say for *Saint* Joseph her spouse, but *Blessed* Joseph her spouse. We pray for the *Blessed* Apostles. It may seem like a bit of semantics, but in this case, we need to remember that if we are faithful to our discipleship, then one day we will be in heaven. One day, future generations will be able to call *US* blessed because of our faithfulness to God and our trust in his word.

Through baptism, God has called us all to be his children as well as brothers and sisters to Christ. For this reason, our souls, like Mary's, should always proclaim the greatness of the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. It is not always easy because life is not always easy. But Mary has been given to us as an example and role model. Life was not always a picnic for her, and yet she maintained her faithfulness throughout all the moments of her life. With her example and the help of her prayers, we can live similar lives of holiness and praise. As we draw closer to the time of welcoming the Christ child at Christmas, let us likewise renew our commitment to being faithful voices of God praise ... for he has looked upon the lowliness of us all and calls us to an everlasting life with the blessed beyond all generations!



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. Hope Catholic Community Christmas
Mass Schedule

Christmas Masses:
St. Dominic, December 24th Vigil Mass will be held in the church hall 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.



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.



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