



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John



Sunday

January 24, 2021

The Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time



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: religiouseducation@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 (this line does not have voice message. Please call the Rectory line at 508-675-7206 to leave a message for Barbara Domingue. Thank you.)

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

Mt. Hope Catholic Community

St. Dominic: Masses, Sun. 9:30 a.m. Weekday, Mon. & Wed. at 8:00 a.m. (Private Mass-No Congregation)

St. Francis of Assisi: Masses, Sun. 11:00 a.m. Weekday, Tues. & Thurs. 8:00 a.m. (Private Mass-No Congregation)

Sun. January 24

9:30 a.m. **Pamela Arruda** by her husband **Joe**

11:00 a.m. **Joseph Pacheco & Domingos Soares** by **Rose Pacheco**

Jerry Tremblay by Wife, **Diane**

Domingos Soares by Wife & Son

Maria Helen Antao by Sister-in-law, **Alzira**

Mon. January 25

8:00 a.m.

Tues. January 26

8:00 a.m. **Rev. Kevin Harrington**

Wed. January 27

8:00 a.m.

Thurs. January 28

8:00 a.m. **Thomas Sardinha** (1st. Anniv.)

Sun. January 31

9:30 a.m. **Gloria Nadeau Lynch** by former classmates

Ronnie Medeiros by **Edith Corville**

11:00 a.m. **Lucille Plante** by Daughter, **Pauline**

Rev. Kevin Harrington

William Sullivan by **Kathy & Bill Sullivan**

Oracelia Souza by Cousin **Helena**

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.

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel reading returns us to Mark's Gospel, which we will read primarily throughout this year B of the Lectionary. Keeping with Mark's terse style, we hear from the beginning the core of Jesus' message: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." The second reading's warning that "the world in its present form is passing away" lends strength to the Gospel's announcement: the coming of God's reign "is at hand."

This message needs messengers, of course, and we messengers need encouragement, which the first reading provides in the parable of Jonah. Though Jonah's initial resistance to God's call led to an unfortunate stay in the belly of a fish, today's verses recall Jonah's eventual obedience and success among the people of Nineveh. Hearing the call to repentance, the great city turned to God, who, interestingly, "repented of the evil he had threatened to do to them." Would we be so quick to be merciful?

Indeed, that is the heart of our ministry as followers of Jesus, to bring "good works" (collect) to each effort of our life. *Reflection taken from Liturgy.com, OCP*



Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive
You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this
moment receive You
sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite
myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be
separated from You.

Amen.





In Loving Memory

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

Sanctuary Lamp:
Anne Durkin by Family

Altar Candles:
Sr. Eleanor McNally, SUSC by
Brian & Norma McNally

Tabernacle Candles:
For Those Who Have No One To Pray For Them by Brian & Norma McNally

Crucifix Candles:
Dave Tuttle by Wife, Mary Anne

St. Dominic's memorial candle burn in January in remembrance of: Adelino Rodrigues



50 Week Club Weekly Winner

Congratulations to:

Maurice Vidal

Winner for January 17, 2021

Contact Info: Bill & Kathy Sullivan

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



Remembering Your Loved Ones

Mt. Hope Catholic Community of

St. Francis of Assisi & St. Dominic

2021 Mass Book

It is very easy to remember a loved one in our own personal way, but what better way than a Mass or Mass Card. Both are available at St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic's. All you need to do is contact the appropriate Rectory to schedule a Mass or acquire a Mass Card. **Masses are now available in both churches for the 2021 Mass Book through June.** Candles are also available.

Every attempt will be made to accommodate your requests for specific dates, but we cannot promise. Your understanding is appreciated. Please call the rectories during business hours.



St. Francis Collections - January 17th

Budget: \$1827.00

Catholic Communication Campaign: \$283.00

Repairs & Restorations: \$427.00

Next weekend, the January 31st the second collection is for Repairs & Restorations.

St. Dominic Collections - January 17th

Budget: \$1485.00

Catholic Communication Campaign: \$177.00

Next weekend, the January 31st the second collection is for Fuel & Energy offering.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Mt. Hope Catholic Community

of St. Francis of Assisi & St. Dominic

Federal Paycheck Protection Program

This is a federal government program which was offered at the beginning of the pandemic, to enable small business, etc. to continue managing their payroll and other expenses. Both St. Dominic and St. Francis applied and received the loan. Built into this program was a forgiveness (no payback needed) program, which both churches applied for. We both recently received our approval for forgiveness, which means both of these loans are paid in full. With the help of these loans, both churches were able to continue managing our financial needs, with no additional financial impact.

MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend sees us with a passage from the Old Testament Book of Jonah. We do not have passages from this book too often, but when we do, the story always seems familiar since the story of Jonah gives us, in vivid detail, the story of Jonah's journey, and honestly, it is a story that is hard to forget. Let us face it! It has a great story line; it has a dramatic scene at sea where poor Jonah is thrown overboard into the sea during a violent storm; Jonah gets swallowed alive by a whale which eventually spits him up on the shore; and then we have Jonah doing what he was trying to avoid - preaching repentance to the people of Nineveh.

I really like the figure of Jonah, and quite honestly, he is probably one of my favorite Old Testament figures. I usually like to refer to Jonah as the "reluctant prophet". Why? Because God gave him a job to do and he did absolutely everything humanly possible to avoid doing it! Let us review!

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach repentance to the entire city for their wayward lives and Jonah did not want to do it. It probably shows, to some degree, that Jonah was a pragmatic man. Jonah would be an outsider going to tell a city full of strangers who knew nothing about him that if they did not straighten themselves out that their entire city would be completely destroyed within forty days. Sound like fun??? No! And Jonah did not think it sounded like fun either. In fact, his being an outsider preaching destruction would most certainly be met not simply with opposition, but near certain death - and Jonah was aware of it.

Trying to escape this arduous task, Jonah tried to escape by taking a ship out of the area. That is when the first problem arrived. When a violent storm rose out of the sea, the sailors on board automatically assumed that the gods were displeased with someone. When they figured that it had to be Jonah who was the problem, they determined to rid themselves of the problem by ridding themselves of Jonah - and that is when they tossed him overboard into the middle of the sea, during a raging storm. Jonah should have drowned, and in all honesty, he may have welcomed death at that point, but he was not so lucky. He got swallowed by a whale instead.

The book tells us that Jonah spent three days in the belly of the whale. Honestly, I cannot even imagine what three minutes in the belly of a whale would be like much less three days! But fortunately for Jonah, since he was on a mission for God, God preserved him inside the whale which eventually spit him up on the shore very near to where God wanted him to be! I suspect that at this point, Jonah must have been as depressed as can be! It was obvious that nothing was going to stop his appointment with destiny! He was destined to be God's spokesman and there was not much that he could do to change that! ... and so, he gave in and braced himself for whatever suffering that it might cause him.

Many of the Old Testament prophets are rather good at preaching hellfire and brimstone! We cannot tell if this was the approach that Jonah took when finally entering Nineveh, but whatever his style, he managed to have people take him seriously enough because his message quickly made its way to the king who proclaimed an immediate fast and the putting on of sackcloth ... and we can assume the ashes to go along with it. Unfortunately, we do not get to know just what Jonah's response was to this, only the response of God: "he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out." However, since there was no "evil" directed towards Jonah, I have to believe that he was greatly ... no ... very greatly relieved!!! No rocks thrown at him! No threats of death! Nothing bad at all! Thank goodness!!!!

Many scripture scholars tell us that Jonah's three days in the belly of the whale are a type of prefigurement of Jesus' own three days in the belly of the earth. What appears to be death nonetheless results in life and a new beginning. That may be so, but I would like to look at Jonah a bit differently as a model for us in our own lives.

Just imagine for a moment that God asked YOU specifically to go to Los Angeles and to walk through the city proclaiming repentance that if not given would result the total destruction of the city in forty days! Would YOU be excited about it and resolve to go willingly? I doubt that you would! Fortunately, it is not likely to happen! However, what might be some of the things that God DOES ask you to do that are not so monumental? ... be kind to others! ... be forgiving of others without conditions! ... do not be so quick to judge others who might look differently / speak differently / view the world differently than you do! ... be one hundred percent honest in all of your dealings with everyone you meet and do business with! ... be careful of how you speak of others and not only avoid gossip but stop gossip when you sense it is being spread! ... allow people to be humanly imperfect and do not hold them to impossible standards that no one can achieve! In other words, love others as God loves you!

Human as we all are, there is not one of us who lives our discipleship perfectly. And sometimes, we are reluctant to live it as fully as we could because we are afraid of what others might think or say or what the repercussions might be. Oh! That one is holier than thou! Oh! That one would not say it if he/she had a mouth full of it! Oh! Here comes goody two-shoes! ... and on and on! We do not like rejection, and sometimes we give into un-Christlike behavior or attitudes because we want to avoid what we fear might happen to us. We take on an attitude like that of Jonah!

The question that we need to ask ourselves is this: Did Jonah's worst fears materialize? The answer to that is a resounding NO! And not only did they NOT materialize, but things also turned out entirely differently than what he expected. The king immediately ordered a change of attitude! The people were all on board with the change! Jonah was not treated harshly! All ended well, and certainly a whole lot better than Jonah could have imagined! In this, the story of Jonah becomes an inspiration and an example. Too often we "don't do" ... or "do" something because of what "might" result, and that "might" result might not be to our liking. But stop and think of the agony that Jonah could have spared himself of if he had simply trusted in God and done the right thing without being forced into it! He feared that some people may not have wanted to hear the truth! He was wrong! He feared that he and his message would be rejected! He was wrong! He feared that he might be ostracized or worse killed! He was wrong! He feared that he was not the right person to speak God's word to the people! He was wrong again! And we are also wrong if we do not trust that God will be with us and give us spiritual strength if we do the right thing and live according to his law! Jonah was a reluctant prophet. Hopefully, he learned from his mistakes, and hopefully we likewise can learn from Jonah's mistakes. When God asks us to do something, hopefully we will not be reluctant to act! Rather, we will trust that he will make our mission as successful as Jonah's, and because of our willingness, a mission with less drama and suffering!

ONLINE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Due to COVID-19, live sessions are not permitted, however, online sessions are offered on Tuesdays to support you during your time of loss. For your convenience, two sessions are offered, one at 4:30 p.m. and another at 7 p.m.

To join these sessions simply register using one of the following links:

4:30 PM

Register in advance for these sessions at:

<https://bit.ly/SupportGroup4>.

7PM

Register in advance for these sessions at:

<https://bit.ly/SupportGroup7>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the sessions.

***One-on-one sessions can also be arranged, contact information is listed below.

For more information, please call 508-678-9089 or 508-642-0583 or E-mail Rose Mary Saraiva at rsaraiva@dfrcs.org or rosemarysaraiva@gmail.com.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you want to volunteer to be a reader at Sunday Mass at St. Dominic's, please contact Sister Marianne Postiglione, RSM at postigm@gmail.com or by phone at 314-537-3058.

Men, women, young adults are welcome.

GIVE A YUM!



St. Dominic Church welcomes you to CRS Rice Bowl 2021! We are so happy you're joining us on this Lenten journey. When you donate to CRS Rice Bowl, you share your life and your abundance with our global family in need. Your generosity puts nutritious food on their tables and helps them lead healthy lives and reach their God-given potential!

SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH will have the Rice Bowls available beginning this weekend. Please consider participating in this worldly endeavor. Make it a family affair in your home. Every cent counts. Learn more about it in the coming weeks as we present various examples of the life changing moments in the lives of others because of your generous hearts. You may pick them up at the Parish Hall or here at the Rectory.

SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

TAX STATEMENTS



Tax statements for 2020 contributions are now available! You may pick up them up at the entrance to the Parish Hall when you come to Sunday service or you may arrange pickup at the rectory or request them to be mailed to you. Please call the rectory for more information.

REMINDER TO ALL 50 WEEK CLUB MEMBERS

As our club is now in the final stages with only three more months to go, and we draw closer to its conclusion of our 2020/2021 club. It has been a very different year with the pandemic still with us, and our banquet again is uncertain, but we will do the best we can.

Now is the time to take the opportunity to not only *catch up on payments or make additional payment*, to ensure that your club is current. We will keep you informed as we go forward.

As we did last year we encourage you to continue to help us with *new members*. Start spreading the word and assist us in making our 50 Week Club the best it can be. Remember, you can't win if you don't join. Call Kathy Sullivan if you are interested at 508-493-9064. God Bless and stay safe. Thank you.

St. Francis of Assisi

2020 Tax Statements Are In

During this time of COVID -19, please contact the rectory by email or telephone to make arrangements to pick up your tax statement.

Email: stfranciswalsea@comcast.net
Telephone: 508-673-2808



A Prayer for Our Leaders

Dear God,
Would You give our leaders wisdom, discernment, and strength. Keep them healthy, safe, and rested so that they can guide us through this time.
Give our **government leaders** wisdom on how to stop the virus and stabilize our economy.
Give our **spiritual leaders** Your discernment on how to meet people's needs as they glorify Your name and encourage the Church.
Give our **medical leaders** insight into how to stop the virus. Strengthen their resolve and honor their hard work in creating a treatment for COVID-19.
Give our **civic leaders** inspiration, courage, joy, and strength to meet the needs of their communities.
And **help us**, as leaders in our communities, to display courage, hope, generosity, and kindness.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

YouVersion


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