



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John



Sunday
February 21, 2021
The First Sunday of
Lent



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. February 21

9:30 a.m. **Ronnie Medeiros** by Edith Corville
Carl Lopes by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Amaral
11:00 a.m. **Donna Pacheco** by Diane Tremblay
Eileen Boucher by Kathy & Bill Sullivan
Paul Flanigan by Fran & Colleen
Oracelia Souza by Cousin, Helena

Mon. February 22

8:00 a.m.

Tues. February 23

8:00 a.m.

Wed. February 24

8:00 a.m. **Delia Menard** by Joanne Menard

Thurs. February 25

8:00 a.m.

Sun. February 28

9:30 a.m. **John Fennessey (Anniv.)** by Ann Fennessey
11:00 a.m. **Theresa A. Ryan** by Colleen & Ron
Judy Santilli Packhem by Sarah Cabral
Edward S. Suleski by Wanda
Jose Ricardo by Fran & Mike Kelley



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY

We want to take this opportunity, to let you know that we continue to receive your contribution envelopes. During these challenging times it is heartwarming to see the support you are giving us, to maintain our parish buildings. You are always in our prayers. Although we may be apart at this time, our prayers for each other will always be as we are one and together.

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 First Sunday of Lent

The image of Christ in the desert from today's Gospel has inspired many a liturgist to haul tons of sand into churches all over the country, to fill fonts with it, and more....but perhaps Noah should be our patron and model for Lent. Living a life of personal holiness in the midst of a world that was falling apart may not seem like the most exciting way to live, but it has a relevance that is more than striking to us today. His forty days of courage in the face of storm and impossible tasks are not unlike our own Lenten pilgrimage. The quiet saint: the letter of Peter speaks of this, Saints Frances of Rome and Dominic Savio knew of it, even the prayers of this day call us to reflection and just such a holy life. So forget the sand, let's look for music that helps bring people to an awareness of their call to holiness, let's pray for a deeper life of prayer and preach for the conversion of our own hearts so that we might live in service to God and neighbor. In short, let Noah be our patron and guide this Lent.

How might that impact upon the decoration of the naves (named for their boat-like appearance) of our churches? How can we communicate this notion of quietly working for the kingdom even when everything around us seems so desolate? What support can we give people so that they can hope to complete this voyage of Lent? It seems that the celebration of the sacraments, penitential celebrations, and aids to home prayer should be among these supports.

Reflection taken from Liturgy.com, OCP



In Loving Memory

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

Sanctuary Lamp:
Louis Furtado by Family



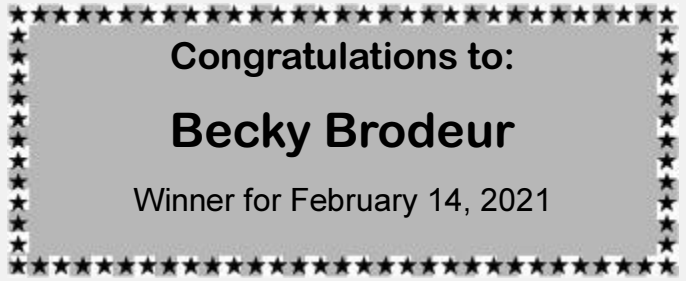
Altar Candles:
Donna Pacheco by Fran & Mike Kelley

Tabernacle Candles:
Edward & Collette Bryda by Niece, Colleen

Crucifix Candles:

St. Dominic's memorial candle burn in February in remembrance of: André Corbin

50 Week Club Weekly Winner



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 - February 14th

Budget: \$1541.00

Diocesan Assessment: \$380.00

Repairs & Restorations: \$693.00

Special Offerings: \$489.00

Next weekend, the February 28th the second collection is for Repairs & Restoration.

St. Dominic Collections - February 14th

Budget: \$1200.00

Fuel Offering \$278.00

Next weekend, the February 28th the second collection is for Building and Maintenance.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

REMINDER TO ALL ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI 50 WEEK CLUB MEMBERS

As our club is now in the final stages with only two 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

As always, if you are in need of help with utilities, rent or groceries, we are here to help. Call the rectory and you will be put in touch with a member who would love to assist you.

MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The response between the first two readings for this First Sunday of Lent is a wonderful Lenten meditation for the start of our season: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant. In the first reading from Genesis, we hear the story of the Lord with Noah's family after the flood. The waters have receded, and renewed life begins again. The Lord likewise renews his covenant with Noah and his family and vows to never again wipe the slate clean, so to speak.

Our second reading is not from St. Paul, but this week from the First Letter of St. Peter. In this passage, Peter reminds us that the suffering that Christ endured for our sins was so that he might lead us to God. He likens it to the flood in that just as the flood wiped away those who were sinful, that is, disobedient to God, Jesus' suffering wipes away sin so that all might have the ability to remain faithful to God. In fact, Peter likens the waters of the mighty flood to the waters of baptism. Both destroyed sin. Both reestablish God's relationship with his people: first through Noah and now through those who are baptized into Christ Jesus.

Because the power of sin has been destroyed through the sufferings that Jesus endured for us and his resurrection, we now have the power to resist sin whenever sin tries to corrupt us. And if sin is absent from our lives as faithful disciples, then the love and truth of God, which are his ways, does in fact live through all of those who follow God's ways. It seems pretty simple, doesn't it? Nonetheless we, being who we are, do have what sometimes seems such a natural ability to screw things up!!! And as a result, we sin ... sometimes small and sometimes big and sometimes bigger!

Because we have in the person of Jesus both Jesus - truly God and Jesus - truly man - we have not only our way to the Father but also the examples of what works best to achieve the relationship that we want to have with God, and more importantly, the relationship that God wants for us to have with him. That is why we need to also consider the example that Jesus presents to us in this weekend's gospel passage from St. Mark. Jesus led by the Spirit - and that of course would be the Holy Spirit who we refer to as the third person of the Blessed Trinity - ventures into the desert by himself for forty days: a prefigurement of our forty days of Lent.

This period of forty days that Jesus is entering is recounted in the very first chapter of Mark's gospel which indicates for us that it was at the very start of his public ministry. The period for Jesus is not necessarily peaceful as we see. He is tempted by Satan, but also as the gospel points out, he was among wild beasts. Nonetheless, angels ministered to him.

Now Jesus is among wild beasts. What exactly were the wild beasts that he was among? From a literal point of view, it would have been whatever scavengers were able to eke out a living in the Judean desert where Jesus spent those forty days. From a spiritual point of view, it was evil spirits/the devil/temptation to sin - all of those things which we have to face in our own trials. Since Jesus is truly human, he would have been subject to every temptation that we still face in our own lives.

St. Mark also tells us that angels ministered to him. What was that about? It would be easy to imagine that because Jesus is also truly God, angels were there to cater to his every whim. While it is easy to imagine, it would also be wrong! The angels were there to watch over him in exactly the same way as our own guardian angels watch over us. The angels were not there to magically protect Jesus from temptation. That would have taken away from his humanity. And if that is the situation, then why is his being in the desert an example for us?

The reason why Jesus' time in the desert for forty days is important to us is that it shows us that Jesus as man, like all of us, needed to spend time with God in prayer to strengthen his spiritual resolve. It was important, and indeed necessary, for Jesus to maintain the closeness of his relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit so that his humanity would remain one with them in the purity of truth and love which are hallmarks of the Persons of God. His time in the desert is a reflection of the response of our psalm, because by maintaining God's way, through prayer and fasting, he was able to remain in the love and truth that identify those who are party to the covenant between God and his people.

Now if Jesus is truly man, and likewise truly God, how does the example of his forty-day desert experience relate to our own discipleship? A lot of the answer has to do with the fact that the time there was marked with events and happenings that are often likewise part of our own lives. Jesus was first of all tempted by the devil. Let us be honest. We are tempted by the devil all the time whether we are perfectly conscious of it or not. How? Simple! There is not one of us who is truly loving in our thought, words, action or works twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week every week of the year. It is not possible! Those times when we are perhaps less than loving or are tempted to be less than loving are those "devil"/temptation moments that are akin to the temptations that Jesus faced during his forty day. But Jesus is able to resist temptation because he stays close, through his prayer life, to the other members of the God-head! Likewise, if we, through our own prayer life stay close to God, then the grace to resist temptation will likewise be available to us, should be chose to us it.

I would like to point out at this point that this forty days of Jesus is not the only time in the gospels that Jesus retreats from daily life to put himself into a posture of prayer. The gospels show us that particularly when Jesus has something "big" coming up, he retreats to spend time with God in prayer.

This period of Lent in which we now find ourselves is a gift that the Church gives to us every year to remind us that if Jesus needed to take time out of his own busy life to strengthen his relationship as a man to the God of Israel through acts of sacrifice, prayer and fasting, then how much more necessary it must be for us as disciples! Jesus, for us is the Master! We are the disciples! Could we possibly think that we might be more spiritually advanced than the Master? Trust me! That temptation would be a sin! We can never be more than Jesus, because aside from being like us in all things but sin, Jesus is also one in being with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, if the Master needs to offer sacrifice, prayer and fasting to maintain the strength of his relationship with God, then so must we!

For disciples, the notion of fasting is pretty much straight forward, according to the Lenten discipline of the Church. Prayer is also something that we should be pretty good with if we come to church on a regular basis. As for sacrifice ... there are plenty of options. Chose whatever sacrifice you might want - giving something up for Lent / doing something special or extra for Lent / resolving to be kinder or more patient and tolerant - but something that will show to God your love, your gratitude for his goodness, and the praise and glory due his name. Devils will be warded off ... and Angels will minister to you. And most importantly, you will be walking in the in the model of the Master!

**Virtual Women & Men's Conference
"A Father's Healing Touch"
Save the Date**



Date: Saturday, March 20, 2021
Time: 1 to 5 p.m.
Featuring: ValLimar Jansen

The Event will include: Presentations, Prayer, Music, Q & A with Bishop da Cunha and will conclude with Mass at 4 p.m.

Registration information will follow soon. Watch the bulletin for more information



Give the gift of hope to homeless children.

Volunteer to play with young homeless children at a Horizons for Homeless Children Playspace in one of more than 90 family shelters state. We have a high need for volunteers in Fall River & New Bedford. A commitment of 2 hours a week for 6 months and orientation are required.

Upcoming online volunteer orientation:

Saturday, February 27th, 9:30 – 11:30 AM
Or Tuesday, March 2nd, 6 - 8 PM

To find out more, view other orientation dates, or to apply, call 508.510.3250 or visit www.horizonschildren.org/playspace

**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



RICE BOWLS

**ENCOUNTER LENT and
BE COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY**

PRAY— to encounter Christ in your life and in every member of our human family.

FAST— to encounter the obstacles that keep you from serving God and your neighbor.

GIVE— to encounter God's love, and share it with our brothers and sisters in need.



PICK UP YOUR RICE BOWLS AT ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH AND BE A SMALL PART OF SOMETHING BIG!



**ST. DOMINIC CHURCH
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10TH
AT 6:30 PM.**

**ST. DOMINIC - SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
EASTER FOOD DRIVE**

Due to Pandemic stipulations still in place, we ask that if you wish to donate to our Easter Food Drive, please place your donation in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket.

**SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH
HOLY SPIRIT SOCIETY
OUR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
FEBRUARY 25 AT 6:00 PM
IN THE PARISH HALL**




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