



# Mt. Hope Catholic Community

## Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

**Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel**

**Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John**



Sunday

February 28, 2021

The Second 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](mailto:stfrancisswansea@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stfrancisswansea.com](http://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](mailto:religiouseducation@stfrancisswansea.com)

Confirmation 1 & 2 Directors: Joy & Joe Vivieros

Tel: 508-674-0024 Email: [joyann56@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:saintdominicparish@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stdominicswansea.org](http://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](mailto: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 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

#### Mon. March 1

8:00 a.m. *Marie Pimentel* by Laura Bernardo

#### Tues. March 2

8:00 a.m. *Armand Desrosiers Birthday Remembrance* by Daughter, Colleen

#### Wed. March 3

8:00 a.m. *Eugene Hubert* by Joanne Menard

#### Thurs. March 4

8:00 a.m. *Alzira Azevedo Birthday* by Daughter, Louise

#### Sun. March 7

9:30 a.m. *Manuel Faria & family,*  
*Maria dos Reis & family,*  
*and Jose, Tony & Domingos Batista* by  
The Jacome Family

*Maria & Jose Pimentel* by Laura Bernardo

*Holy Souls in Purgatory* by Laura Bernardo

*Mary and Silvesta Motta* by Natalie Little

*Alexandria Claire Little* by Natalie Little

*Mary J. Denault (18th Anniv.)* by Marie Prior

11:00 a.m. *George Defoce* by Family

*Joseph S. Azevedo* by Wife, Alzira

*Joseph Pacheco* by Rose Pacheco

*Paul Flanigan* by Mary Ann Tuttle

### Great News - Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and some span multiple weeks on a given weekday. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call at or visit them at <https://wwwmema.org/>.



### 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 Second Sunday of Lent*

Well begun is half done. By now, on this Second Sunday of Lent, we have a pretty good idea of how our Lent will be. Is this a good Lent for us? While we can set impossible goals for ourselves, this Sunday asks whether we have set our sights too low. Now is the time to adjust our thinking, and to do that, the Second Sunday of Lent presents us with some of the most challenging images and words in all of Scripture. Joined with the prayers of this day, Christians will hopefully leave the liturgy thinking that they can indeed do all things well.

The celebration presents us with the image of Abraham, willing to offer his total future in the life of his son, combined with the huge Pauline challenge to have confidence that God is with us. These are further combined with the transfiguration of Christ and the psalmist's promise to be faithful to God and fulfill all our vows. All of this shows us that we can do it all, we can succeed in coming closer to God, and we can be transfigured! We need to be open this challenge.

The reason for us to embrace the almost impossible has nothing to do with buying our way into heaven. Rather, it is a means for us to become acquainted with the life of the divine, that exuberant, holy, awesome, graced existence that is the goal of this life and the reward of heaven. We need to be found worthy of the gift that is our salvation which Christ has purchased in the paschal mystery, and this Sunday of Lent offers us a chance to embrace a larger portion of the light of Christ. Faith tells us that as big as we dare is the measure of grace this season can bring. *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**

## 50Week Club Weekly Winner



**Congratulations to:**

**Lorraine Fernandes**

Winner for February 21, 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 - February 21st**

**Budget: \$2049.00**

**Catholic University: \$225.00**

**Special Offering: \$309.00**

**Diocesan Assessment: \$376.00**

**February Online Giving: \$730.00**

*Next weekend, the March 7th the second collection is for Diocesan Assessment.*

### **St. Dominic Collections - February 21st**

**Budget: \$ 2760.00**

**Catholic University \$ 134.00**

*Next weekend, the March 7th the second collection is for Fuel Offering.*

**Thank you for your generosity and support!**

## **Mt. Hope Catholic Community**

**of St. Francis of Assisi & St. Dominic**

**2021-2022 Registration Information for  
Grade 7 Students Entering Grade 8 in the Fall**

Dear Parents,

Information about Confirmation Registrations for students entering Grade 8....we will be holding registrations on Sunday Evenings from 6-7:30pm. **during February and March at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall.** The fee is \$30.00 for one child and \$60.00 for two children.

God Bless,  
Joy & Joe Viveiros  
Confirmation Directors

**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.*

## MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The gospel for this second Sunday of Lent recounts the story of the Transfiguration which took place atop Mount Tabor. Jesus, with his apostles Peter, James and John have retreated to this secluded spot to rest and to pray when both Elijah and Moses appear. Just before these two Old Testament figures appear, Jesus is “transfigured” before them, and “his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.” In a very real sense, Jesus was allowing the apostles present to have a glimpse of a “Risen Christ” prior to his own sacrifice on the cross. Elijah and Moses were not so much interested in meeting with the son of Mary as they were in meeting with the Christ who they already knew - the Son of God.

Elijah and Moses had, in their own lives, communicated with the God of Israel. And as we know through the prologue of St. John’s Gospel, Jesus is that word through whom God created all things, as well as the word through whom God communicates with his creatures on earth. Elijah and Moses then already had a relationship with the Son of God and so their presence on the mountain top confirms for us just who this Jesus is. Jesus is the word of God, the Son of God, the eternal God who is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is one with the God of Israel, and now both Elijah and Moses come forward to give witness to this great mystery within which we have our hope. Jesus and the Father are one!

Scripture scholars through the years have explained to us that the presence of these two particular Old Testament figures has great significance. The Prophet Elijah represents the Old Testament teachings and prophecies found within the sacred texts which came to us through all of those called to be prophets by God, while Moses represents the Law of God which was given to him upon leaving slavery in Egypt and which had been codified within the Ten Commandments and then further expounded upon within the various Old Testament books. In other words, Elijah and Moses represent the original covenant between God and his chosen people Israel.

The top of Mount Tabor was a sacred spot in biblical times. Because of its remoteness and the difficulty in reaching it, Elijah used it as a base of operations and retreat, so to speak, when not at Mount Carmel and before he was taken in a whirlwind with a fiery chariot into heaven. After him, the prophet Elisha likewise spent great periods of time there too. It should come then as no surprise that Jesus would likewise retreat there from time to time, sometimes with his disciples.

In today’s gospel scene, it is important for us to note that Jesus, the son of Mary and the rabbi of Peter, James, and John, did not climb the mountain to meet with the biblical figures. Rather, the biblical figures came down from heaven to this particular place to meet with Jesus the Son of God because that is where he was, and they recognized him. The fact that they come to him gives further testimony to sacredness of Jesus’ person. Saints in heaven do not give homage to men. The saints in heaven give homage to God, and Elijah and Moses do just that by coming to meet Jesus as his glory shone as dazzling white. While their conversation was with Jesus Son of God, their conversation is meant to give witness to those sons of Israel, sons of the law (bar mitzvah) that this person with whom they are speaking is in fact the fulfillment of Gods promise to his people of a coming savior! While they do not say so plainly, or at least the gospel does not recount it, they are by their presence proclaiming Jesus as Lord, Jesus as the Christ, Jesus as Messiah, Jesus as the Hope of Israel! And their presence likewise proclaims that both the teachings of the prophets as well as the laws of Israel do not bind Jesus, but rather that Jesus is Lord of the teachings and likewise Lord of the Law. All things are subject to him. And so, because the son of Mary is now known too as the Son of God, particularly with the Father’s voice of recognition, we can know that Jesus has authority not given to him, but the authority of the Son of God who is one with the Father. Jesus is Lord and hence Jesus is the Christ!

St. Paul, in our second reading from his letter to the Romans asks a question that for some reason has been found difficult for many Christians over the years. He asks: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” He goes on to state quite bluntly that it is God who acquits us! The God who struck Saul of Tarsus from his horse and who revealed to him the gospel that he was to preach to the gentiles is a God who acquits, not a god of damnation. He is a God of love and not a god of spitefulness. He also goes on to state what has been revealed to him. Jesus, who was raised from the dead and who also is at the right hand of God indeed intercedes for us. JESUS INTERCEDES FOR US!!!

Over the years, we have been taught to avoid sin, to confess our sin and to make amends for our sin. All of these teachings are good and true. Since sin is the absence of love, sin is likewise the absence of God. So, it is only natural and right that if we separate ourselves even in the slightest way from the love of God, we should recognize the need to correct what we have done wrong and amend our wrongdoing. But our reasons for making amends need to be done thoughtfully and for the right reasons. We make amends to show God that we in fact love him even when we fail to love properly. We do NOT make amends simply because we are fearful of reprisals. We do NOT make amends simply because we are afraid of being damned. Fear of God in this way shows that we do not understand the God of the New Covenant.

Jesus, who Elijah and Moses show is Lord of the Scriptures and the Law, is a compassionate judge who in fact intercedes for us. Because of this, we need not fear judgement for our sins. Will we be judged? Of course, we will be. But Gods justice should NOT be confused with human justice. There is no death penalty in God, only life. This understanding then needs to guide our Lenten journey since Lent is a penitential season. So then ... how do we do penance in Lent? Should it be self-punishment? No! If God is not against us, then we should not be against ourselves.

Since sin is an absence of God and an absence of love, then I would suggest that our Lenten penance be focused on those directions. Jesus told us that his yoke is easy and his burden light. So too should be our Lenten observance. Our penance then should be to make extra sure that we pray, worship and praise God as we ought, and not as we normally do since we can all use improvement. Our penance should be to make extra sure that we love others with God’s own love; another area that we can all use work on. Lent should be a season of renewed love recognizing that it is a lack of love (sin) that causes the weight of the Cross which the Savior bore. If it is truly our aim to lessen our sins, and thereby the weight of the Cross, then the penance, since it often times escapes us, is to love at all times with Gods own love, and to be Gods own love to those we meet. A blessed and loving Lent to all!

**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**



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**FACE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 49TH ASICS FALMOUTH ROAD RACE AUGUST 2021**

We are excited to announce the Foundation to Advance Catholic Education (FACE) will participate in the ASICS 2021 Falmouth Road Race. FACE will be part of the Numbers for Non-Profit Program with six (6) entries. There will be a fundraising goal for each participant as we try to raise important scholarship dollars for students attending Catholic schools.

Each year runners enjoy the beautiful scenic views along the 7-mile seaside course from Woods Hole to Falmouth Heights. The race is a favorite that attracts thousands of elite runners and recreational runners from local areas as well as from around the world visiting the Cape Cod Town of Falmouth, which is part of the Diocese of Fall River.

Last year, FACE volunteer, Cassandra Robin, participated in the First Falmouth Road Race At-Home Edition and raised \$3,660 for FACE.

FACE provides critical scholarship support to children in need of financial assistance to attend Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fall River.

If you are interested in participating and would like more information, please contact Jane Robin at [jrobin@catholicfoundationsema.org](mailto:jrobin@catholicfoundationsema.org) (e-mail) or 508-380-7521.

**FIRST PENANCE AND FIRST COMMUNION**

**SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL PARENTS OF FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN.**

*First Penance is on March 3rd and 10th and First Communion is on April 10, 11, 17 and 18*



**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.**



**Congratulations to Priya Rose Poulin**  
**Daughter of Paul Richard Poulin, II and**  
**Megan Lynn Villella**

**Priya Rose was Baptized at St. Dominic's Church**  
**on**  
**Wednesday, February 24th, 2021**

**May God Bless Priya and her family!**

**Pro-Life Quote**

**"All that is required for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing."**

**Edmund Burke**

  
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