



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John



Sunday

March 7, 2021

The Third 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 mes-
sage 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. 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*

Mon. March 8

8:00 a.m. *Available*

Tues. March 9

8:00 a.m.

Wed. March 10

8:00 a.m. *Available*

Thurs. March 11

8:00 a.m.

Sun. March 14

9:30 a.m. **Ben and Helen Levesque (Anniv.)** by *family*
Rev. Henry Dahl

Elizabeth Hurley (Anniv.) by *Ann Fennessey*

Elizabeth Bray (Birth. Rem.) by *Ann Fennessey*

Steven Hubert by *Joanne Menard*

11:00 a.m. **Joseph S. Azevedo** by *Wife, Alzira*

Donna J. Pacheco by *Husband, Mike*

Mark Demarco by *Kathy & Bill Sullivan*

Stephanie Ann Oliveira by *Mom, Gilda*

Lorraine Fernandes by *Kathy & Bill Sullivan*

Hank Amaral by *Christel Amaral & Family*

Manuel Silveira 1st Anniversary by

St. Vincent de Paul Society

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 of Lent

If you are celebrating the first scrutiny at your Mass today, please go to that celebration summary. If not, the baptismal character of these days of Lent should still be a part of your preparation for this day.

This can be easily done by letting the strong message of the readings and prayers come through. The loneliness of sinners, cut off from the love of God by their actions, is made even more poignant by the clear choice that God offers in both the readings and prayers. The commandments are not onerous and the love of God not easily contained, as the cleansing of the temple makes clear. And yet, these simple truths of the paschal mystery, of Christ crucified, Paul labels as a challenge. The prayers for this day focus on the need to be aware of our sinfulness, aware of our need for God's forgiveness in Christ, and truly aware of the help that God offers us in our time of penance.

It is not complicated, not rocket science as they say, and this should give us hope. It makes it possible to dwell for a time on our sinfulness and need for forgiveness, confident that we can change with God's help. Do not try to obscure the need to think about sin, commandment and change. At the same time do not let the celebration be without hope, for the one who cleansed the temple of all that was corrupt is the same one who will offer his life for our salvation.

Reflection taken from Liturgy.com, OCP

Year of
ST. JOSEPH





In Loving Memory

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

Sanctuary Lamp:
Rose & Dina Ripanti by Joseph Ripanti



Altar Candles:
Edward Gendreau by Mary Anne

Tabernacle Candles:
Louis Furtado by Family

Crucifix Candles:
Deceased Holy Union Sisters by Norma & Brian McNally

St. Dominic's memorial candle burn in March for : Healing for Fr. Pat



St. Francis Collections - February 28th

- Budget: \$3090.00**
- Repairs & Restorations: \$907.00**
- Diocesan Assessment: \$824.00**
- Donations: \$584.00**
- Special Offerings: \$405.00**

Next weekend, the March 14th the second collection is the Diocesan Collection for Catholic Relief Services.

St. Dominic Collections - February 28th

- Budget: \$ 4,085.00**
- Building and Maintenance: \$520.00**

Next weekend, the March 14th the second collection is the Diocesan Collection for Catholic Relief Services.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Pro-Life Quote

"The fight for the right to life is not the cause of a special few, but the cause of every man, woman and child who cares not only about his or her own family, but the whole family of man."

Dr. Mildred Jefferson

50Week Club Weekly Winner

Congratulations to:

Fred Scrivo

Winner for February 28, 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.

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

As our club is now in the final stages with only *one* 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.

MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Book of Exodus provides us with the first reading today as it recounts for us how the Lord God of Israel gave his law to the newly freed Egyptian slaves - the remnant of Israel, descendent of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who had been enslaved well after the death of Joseph of the multi-colored coat, but who are now free. The law, or if you will, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses so that he might explain to the people God's expectations from them as they renew the covenant of old. The list is pretty cut and dry! It also spells out some serious punishment for those who are foolish enough to disobey.

To obey is pretty straight forward. DO worship God and put him first above all things; DO honor your parents; DO NOT do a whole list of things that God knew they would be tempted to do. Follows these things to the letter and all will be well.

The gospel today is taken from St. John and recounts Jesus with the money changers in the Temple of Jerusalem. The scene is a familiar one to us since the dramatic scene is somewhat epic and hard to forget. Jesus is mightily ticked off and shows it with a display of anger that we rarely see. "Take these out of here and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." These words of course were backed by action, notable the turning over of tables along with making a whip out of cords so as to drive out the sheep and oxen that were there for sale.

The place where this exchange took place was not inside the "Holy of Holies" which was off limits to all but the priests. It would have been in the courtyard immediately outside. Nonetheless, this type of goings on within earshot of that one particular spot that housed the Ark of the Covenant was for God-in-Jesus a desecration that needed to be addressed and stopped! But what was the response of the Jews who were there making the sales? "What sign can you show us for doing this?" What sign indeed!!!! To their mind, they were doing no wrong, or at least nothing specifically forbidden in the Commandments. They were not working on the Sabbath. They were not abusing God's name. They were not selling souvenirs but rather animals to be sacrificed to God. So ... in their minds, if it was not strictly forbidden then they should be able to get away with it. Their reaction to Jesus is also what St. Paul writes about in our second reading.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul wrote that "Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified." And in the gospel, the Jews did just as Paul says. They demanded a sign. What sign can you show us for doing this? Of course, the response that Jesus gives goes right over their heads because their hearts were hardened to him and his message.

When Jesus does give the answer about destroying the temple of his body and it being rebuilt in three days, they are oblivious to its meaning. In foretelling the resurrection Jesus is likewise here telling us that this "new" temple will in fact supersede this present one where he was standing. Hence the new covenant in his blood will replace the old covenant which was signed in the blood of doves, sheep, bullocks, and goats. A new covenant! A new sacrifice! A new way of looking at the law!

Most of the commandments given at Mt. Sinai were written in the negative - Thou shalt not! ... so, it would stand to reason that so long as you do not do anything wrong to another, then you must be on solid ground with God. However, when Jesus was asked about the law, he reframed it in the positive. Love God with your whole being and then secondly, love your neighbor as yourself. Upon these two the whole law is based, he says. So, it stands to reason that for disciples of Jesus, it is not enough "not to do harm". Rather, one must "do good" to actively love God and to love others.

Quite frankly, the way that Jesus framed the law does seem like foolishness to "the Greeks", or if you will, those who are not disciples. And to those who think like Old Testament Jews, where is the sign?

The sign that should mark a disciple of Christ is exactly what the first century Christians were accused of. See these Christians! See how they love each other! That is the sign! Imagine what a world it would be if each and every person on earth was to love God with all of their being and then love each and every person that they met with a similar type of love! Unfortunately, it does not happen too often, and when it does happen, those "guilty" of loving in this manner are often ridiculed. But St. Paul reminds us that those who do love in this manner do so with Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Hopefully, these readings will help and encourage us as we venture forward in our Lenten journey. They should, in one way, act as an examination of conscience for us. Do we respect the Holy of Holies - for us, Christ in the tabernacle and the space around it? Or do we treat it like a "marketplace"? Are we satisfied simply to "do no harm" without giving any consideration to actively "doing good"? Do we seek some earth-shattering sign as a reason to put God first above all things, or do we worship and praise him solely out of love? Do we love others to the absolute best of our abilities - time/action/voice/resources/prayer - or do we simply see it as foolishness as the world often sees it? Our gospel passage today ends with a most interesting observation on the part of St. John. He writes Jesus "did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well." In other words, Jesus knew that human nature is weak; human nature is sinful; human nature will often take the "path of least resistance". However, for the disciple of the risen Christ, the path of least resistance is not the path of the Cross. Jesus told us to pick up our cross daily and follow him.

Picking up one's cross may sound off-putting. Jesus though tells us that his cross is easy, and his burden is light. Again ... foolishness to non-believers. Yet for those marked with the sign of Christ through baptism, and who wish faithfully to follow the Master, the cross and burden are indeed light if we try to always see them through the lens of faith which is the lens of love. Sure, some days will be tougher than others! No doubt about it. But when we act solely out of love in dealing with others, we honor God, we serve the person of Christ himself and we draw ourselves closer to the Triune God of our salvation. The path of the cross may at times seem like a less intelligent choice than the path of least resistance, but for those who walk the path of Christ, the view has scenes of great beauty, the road is patrolled by the angels and the saints, and most importantly, the road leads us through the empty tomb of Easter and into the glory of the fulness of Sainthood in heaven. So, let us remove the stumbling block of the Jews by throwing off the yoke of slavery to sin, and the foolishness of the Gentiles by not looking only for ourselves, and become fools for Christ - simply by loving God first and then others as ourselves!

Our Hope Catholic Community
of St. Francis of Assisi &
St. Dominic

Holy Week and Easter Schedule



Holy Thursday - 7:00PM, St. Dominic (hall)

Good Friday - 3:00PM, St. Francis of Assisi

Holy Saturday - 7:00PM, St. Dominic (church)



Easter - 9:30AM, St. Dominic (hall)
11:00AM, St. Francis of Assisi

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 Com-
munion is on April 10, 11, 17 and 18**

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

February 26, 2021

by Communications

There has been much discussion of late over the COVID-19 vaccines becoming available to the public as a means of bringing the pandemic under control. For Catholics in particular there has been much discussion and debate about moral and ethical questions around the development of the vaccines in regards to their use of morally compromised cell lines created from two abortions that occurred, one in the 1970s and one in the 1980s.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans, in light of guidance from the Vatican, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and The National Catholic Bioethics Center affirm that though there was some lab testing that utilized the abortion-derived cell line, the two vaccines currently available from Pfizer and Moderna do not rely on cell lines from abortions in the manufacturing process and therefore can be morally acceptable for Catholics as the connection to abortion is extremely remote.

It is under the same guidance that the archdiocese must instruct Catholics that the latest vaccine from Janssen/Johnson & Johnson is morally compromised as it uses the abortion-derived cell line in development and production of the vaccine as well as the testing.

We maintain that the decision to receive the COVID-19 vaccine remains one of individual conscience in consultation with one's healthcare provider. We also maintain that in no way does the Church's position diminish the wrongdoing of those who decided to use cell lines from abortions to make vaccines. In doing so, we advise that if the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine is available, Catholics should choose to receive either of those vaccines rather than to receive the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine because of its extensive use of abortion-derived cell lines.



Our Hope Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic - Confirmation News

Confirmation with Bishop da Cunha will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:00PM at St. Francis of Assisi.

Rehearsal at St. Francis of Assisi will be held on Monday, April 5, 2021 from 6:30-7:30PM. Candidates and sponsors must attend.



**Congratulations to Mia Grace Carvalho
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Carvalho**

**Mia Grace was Baptized at St. Dominic's Church
on
Wednesday, March 3, 2021**

May God Bless Mia Grace and her family!

SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

SVDP SOCIETY - Wednesday, March 10th at 6:30 PM.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, - Thurs., March 11th 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.


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