



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John



Sunday

March 14, 2021

The Fourth 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. March 14

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

Mon. March 15

8:00 a.m. Available

Tues. March 16

8:00 a.m.

Wed. March 17

8:00 a.m. *Timothy Coppinger, Sr. & Jr.* by Louise

Thurs. March 18

8:00 a.m.

Sun. March 21

9:30 a.m. *Irma DeBrum, Fernando DeBrum and Horacio DeBrum* by Horacio DeBrum

11:00 a.m. *Ceceilia Majka* by Niece, Wanda
Horace & Joanne Campos by Kevin Campos
Rene G. Gagnon by Judy & Tony
Barbara Nunes by Kathy & Bill Sullivan



Pray for the Repose of the
Souls of Barbara Sidok
Dennis Lachance
Stephen Gracia
Jeanne Emard

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 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare, rejoice, be glad. Even though Lent can be challenging for us, even though there is so much work yet to do, rejoice. If Cyrus, king of Persia, could be moved to support the building of the temple in Jerusalem, then we should expect strange and wonderful things from anything that we are trying to build in faith this Lent.

The rejoicing of this day is based on the glimpse what we can make of Easter. Lent is more than half done; we are closer to the end than to the beginning. If we rejoiced at the start of Lent because Easter was coming, this Sunday marks a renewed commitment to joy, to preparing to celebrate the Paschal Mystery with joy.

That Easter is presented as almost dawning upon us this day, reminds us of the continual presence of the offer of salvation. In Lent, as at any time of our lives, God would have us come home. Let this rich message be ours this day.

Reflection taken from *Liturgy.com*, OCP



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 : John & Lillian Carpenter by Family

Parish Support

St. Francis Collections - March 7th

Budget: \$2240.00

Diocesan Assessment: \$642.00

Repairs & Restoration: \$684.00

Next weekend, the March 21st the second collection is for Easter Flowers.

St. Dominic Collections - March 7th

Budget: \$1921.00

Fuel Offering: \$325.00

Next weekend, the March 21st the second collection is for Easter Flowers.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

 Mt. 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.

50Week Club Weekly Winner



Congratulations to:

David Fontaine

Winner for March 7, 2021

Contact Info: Bill & Kathy Sullivan

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



Families of Faith Formation

Grades 5th, 6th, and 7th

The next Faith Formation packet, Unit Four will be available for pickup on Sunday morning, March 14th between the hours of 9:30 to 11 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

The second pickup date has been scheduled, for Tuesday, March 16th between the hours of 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

A gentle reminder, I'll be outside at the rear of the church, near the faith formation door. Be safe.

Sincerely in Christ,

Debra Fontaine, Faith Formation Director, Grades5-7

Home phone: 508-676-7942

Home email: fontfam005@comcast.net



Congratulations to Declan Thomas Talbot son of Bryan Jude Talbot and Jennifer Leigh Williams

Declan was Baptized at St. Francis of Assisi on Wednesday, March 10, 2021

May God Bless Declan Thomas and his family!

MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In Second Chronicles from the Old Testament, we see the cause and ultimately the end result of what we refer to at the Babylonian Captivity. The elite as well as the common folk of Israel were found guilty of infidelity and abominations before the Lord and of polluting his temple. Responding to the threats of punishment, the Lord God of Israel takes actions through the army of the Chaldeans and destroys the temple while at the same time dispersing the surviving people of Israel to Babylon! This is a traumatic event in the history of the nation. Their worship of God is tied to the land. They will be able to pray in their new lands, but the worship of sacrifice to the Lord can only be done in Jerusalem, and at this point, this is not an option for them as a people. The temple is gone! God has punished his people! God has punished his people severely to teach them never to repeat this sin! The wrath of God, the anger of God, the harsh judgement of God, the brutal and total punishment of God has been doled out in great measure! The nation is brought to its knees! God: 1 Israel: 0, for those keeping score.

It is only after seventy long years and the conquest of the Chaldeans by the Persians that Israel may now be rebuilt, and with the nation, the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. Those who were in power in Israel at the start of the exile would be long dead. God in a sense is starting anew as he did with Noah and his family after the flood. Through the instrument of a pagan king, Cyrus of Persia, God lets go of his anger and brings his chosen people home! A new day has arrived!

The first reading in a certain sense has a backing in the words of Jesus that we hear in today's gospel. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but the world might save through him. In the ancient world of Israel, God chose a pagan king, and outsider and a least likely ally, to restore the hopes of Israel. And now in the gospel, God has chosen another outsider if you will - God himself - and an unlikely ally - Jesus who was not politically connected to any ruling family - to restore the hopes of a New Israel with a new covenant.

The God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament while being one and the same, are still nonetheless seen through different theological lenses, if you will. The God of the Old Testament appears to be a vengeful God who does not seem to think twice about bringing about the slaughter of his beloved children. (Talk about tough love!) The God of the New Testament, through the teachings and actions of Christ Jesus, the second person of the Blessed Trinity, sacrificed himself so that his beloved children might be spared both physical and spiritual death.

The words of Jesus addressed to Nicodemus can seem problematic for disciples of a completely loving God. "Whoever believes in him (the Son of God) will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." Will God then condemn some? Perhaps! But it will be a judgement of God's mercy and not a judgement of human emotion or law, so condemnation in that sense still provides for life through God's mercy. God did not create mankind to condemn it but to grant it saving love through Jesus.

The strength of God's love for us comes through quite strongly through the words of St. Paul in our second reading from Ephesians. Paul reminds us that even when we were dead (spiritually) in our transgressions, God in fact brought us back to life with Christ. Why? Because as Paul points out once again, God is rich in mercy! By grace, God has allowed us to be saved through faith which has nothing to do with our willing it, but strictly as a gift from God himself. A loving act of a Father to his children. Paul likewise cautions us not to boast about any of this because it has nothing to do with our goodness, nothing to do with our sacrifices, nothing to do with anything good that we might do. It simply has to do with the love of God.

In many ways, the experience of the ancient Israelites during their captivity can be compared to our forty days of Lent. Their time away from Jerusalem and the Holy Land was definitely a "desert" experience for them and a period of penance and sacrifice. They had to look for new and creative ways to maintain and transmit their faith. It would appear that they were fairly successful in doing this since King Cyrus issued a proclamation which was transmitted both through word and writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belong to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!" King Cyrus would not have done this if the people of Israel in exile did not impress the king with their faithfulness to their God. Their good example moved the heart of a pagan king.

Our forty days of Lent, sometimes seeming like a "captivity" is also an opportunity for us to give good example too. Should our good example be bold so that all can see? Perhaps not! Jesus in the gospels has praise for those who do acts of love and kindness that only the Father can see. But good example can often be most effective in the little things that people do. Small and random acts of kindness are often far more powerful than brash and bold actions. The widow who gave her two mites to the temple gave a far more powerful example than the man who threw in a bucket full of cash. The man who stood back and beat his breast while quietly acknowledging himself to be a sinner gave a far more powerful example than the one who boasted about his own goodness and faithfulness. Our Lenten observance then also does not have to be bold - simply small conscious things that acknowledge our own imperfections before God, small acts that reflect the love of God to those we meet, and private prayer times that allow us to spend time with God "in secret". Will God punish us harshly like he punished the Old Testament folks if we do not do it? No ... God is a God of mercy. And besides, sacrifice and acts of penance that are done out of fear are relatively worthless because they are burdensome. Our acts of sacrifice and penance should be done solely out of love, showing God that despite our occasional wickedness, we do truly love him and are proud to be his own. Acts of this nature, if done out of love and with love as its intention give praise to our God and hopefully joy to our hearts.

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

Note: St. Dominic's will be taking reservations for Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday, and 9:30AM Easter Mass starting March 15, 2021.

Note: St. Francis of Assisi will be taking reservations for both Good Friday service and the 11AM Easter Mass starting March 22, 2021.

Pontifical Good Friday Collection



Pope Francis has asked our parishes to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as witness of peace, supporting Catholics there in parishes and schools, maintaining Christian shrines and caring for refugees in the Holy Land.

PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

Pontifical Good Friday Collection - April 2, 2021 can be found in the contribution envelope mailing for April.



Fall River Diocese Revives Catholic Guild for the Blind

The Fall River Diocese project to revive the dormant Catholic Guild for the Blind needs your help. The working group for the mission created a Needs Survey and has circulated it via email to the churches and parishes in the Diocese. The survey can be found at <https://cssdioc.org>, the Catholic Social Services web site, in a banner near the top. Any parishioner with blindness or vision loss is encouraged to fill it out to help guide the group as it develops services and programs.



SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH
WOMEN'S GUILD WILL HOLD
THEIR MONTHLY MEETING
ON MARCH 17TH 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

4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL BE HOLDING THEIR MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING ON MARCH 18 @7 PM. ALL MEMBERS SHOULD FOLLOW THE LINK PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED.

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 can be made on the Diocese of Fall River website: www.fallriverdiocese.org


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