



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John



Sunday

March 21, 2021

The Fifth 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 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

Mon. March 22

8:00 a.m. *Marie Pedro* by Joanne Menard

Tues. March 23

8:00 a.m.

Wed. March 24

8:00 a.m.

Thurs. March 25

8:00 a.m.

Sun. March 28

9:30 a.m. *Hubert and Menard families* by Joanne Menard
Carl Lopes by his wife

11:00 a.m. *John & Lillian Carpenter* by family
Domingos Soares by Wife & Sons
Rev. Manuel Andrade by Sister, Alzira
Lorraine Fernandes by Mary Ann Tuttle
Alice Morrissette, Kenny Santos, and Ted Silva by Annette
Jerome Mendoza by Wife, Paula
Michael Viveiros by Daughter, Kimberly Oliveira & Family
Aires da Cunha 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 Fifth Sunday of Lent

This is the Sunday for those who are afraid of success. Here, as the Lenten fast nears its completion and the high holy days of the paschal feast are in sight, some people falter, believing that they will drop the baton in the last leg of the race. This is especially true for those involved in preparing the Easter feast, whether at home or at church. With so many distractions, it is easy to forget the journey that the safe ship Church began on Ash Wednesday. Now is the time, with all the preparations coming to a fever pitch, now is the time to keep our focus, to remember that Christ is the reason for all the preparations for Easter, all the effort of the Lenten season, and all the sacrifice that has made up our lives this week.

Perhaps the image of Saint Irenaeus of Sirmium (today called Sremska Mitrovika in Serbia), who was martyred on March 24, would be good for us to consider. The authorities brought all kinds of distractions to him in his prison, including his wife and his children, hoping that they might be able to deter him from keeping the faith. The holy saint kept his focus and, even through torture, was able to hold to his convictions to the end of his life. Perhaps his example and intercession can help us make it to the end of Lent.

The ominous prayer texts and antiphons of this day make keeping focused on Christ easier; they all speak of the impending Passion and the price that Christ was willing to pay for us. As Lent draws to its close, this is perhaps the best motivation of all for us to keep the faith and keep our focus. *Reflection taken from Liturgy.com, OCP*



Thursday, Mar 25
7 PM - 8 PM

Featuring
Birmingham, Greater Lowell, Boston

Join us for the five nights as we bring together young people from across the Diocese to launch a challenge in being hope in Southern Massachusetts!

Can you help spread hope in 2021?

Register at
but by increasing hope

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



St. Francis Collections - March 14th

Budget: \$1673.00
Catholic Relief Services: \$327.00
Diocesan Assessment: \$260.00

Next weekend, the March 28th the second collection is for Repairs & Restorations.

St. Dominic Collections - March 14th

Budget: \$1724.00
Catholic Relief Services: \$371.00

Next weekend, the March 28th 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:

Vivian Talbot

Winner for March 14, 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.

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit for Comfort

Holy Spirit, You are God. I praise you because you are holy, and I thank you for dwelling in my heart. Thank you for working in my life. You guided me into salvation, renewed my dead spirit, and you opened my eyes to the Truth. Thank you.

Help me to see you more clearly – to recognize your movement in my life. Make me more sensitive to you so I can follow you more closely. Still, I know that I am selfish and rebellious. I need you to help me be obedient when I recognize your leading. I need you.

I ask you for your help and comfort today. You know my pain and anxieties very well. Thank you for praying over me. Help me to rest in your comfort today. Help me to walk in you, the Spirit of God. Grow good fruit in my life. You are the one who produces these in me: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I cannot live out these things on my own; I need you. Amen

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Jesus is getting closer and closer to his end. That is what we see in this weekend's gospel. Part of the tip-off is that Greeks have come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, and we know that Jesus met his end on the eve of the Passover. These particular Greeks want to see Jesus, and when Philip along with Andrew approach Jesus, he answers with what was to become a very recognizable quote.

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.”

In this, he was indicating that he would in fact fall to the ground and die, but that his resurrection would produce much fruit, especially for those who believe in him.

Jesus follows this with a particularly human response to his own impending suffering. He says that he is troubled now, but continues, “yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.” While Jesus is God and understands the necessity of offering a fitting sacrifice to the Father, he is nonetheless also man and dreads the prospect of human suffering. Even though Jesus as the Son of God is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus as son of Mary could only guess at the brutality and sadistic horrors that would be heaped upon him. And I suspect that what he endured went far beyond anything that he would have witnessed at the hands of the Romans during his own thirty-three years. The sadistic torture that Jesus endured went beyond the norm, even for the Roman guards.

Towards the end of our gospel passage today, Jesus also adds that when he is lifted up from the earth, he will draw everyone to himself. It would seem that Jesus is letting his disciples know that regardless of what is about to happen to him, and eventually to any who carry their own spiritual crosses, when all is said and done, Jesus will be raised to glory and give life to those who are willing to be drawn to him.

St. Paul in our second reading from the letter to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus learned obedience from what he suffered and that when he was made perfect, that is resurrected with his glorified body, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

What does St. Paul mean by Jesus' learning obedience from what he suffered? I think it means that though Jesus would have preferred that “this cup” pass by, by accepting the cup of suffering he was putting his complete trust in the Father's love for him. His suffering was no picnic - let us be honest. But because he trusted that the Godhead knew the total picture, Jesus' human side learned that obedience to the will of God did not end in destruction, but rather into the fullness of eternal glory. He learned that even though obedience might not have been easy or even be leading to something horrific, God does not abandon us and will give us more than we could possibly imagine.

The sufferings that Jesus endured are important for our reflection for a few reasons. First, it shows to us the unconditional love that Jesus has for all people of all times. Without prejudice, Jesus willingly undertook the cross so that all might be drawn to him and have the promise of eternal life that is in fact God's will. In that, his example of sacrificial love should prompt us to make sacrifice for others, particularly in those moments when we might not be in the mood. No sacrifice that we make for another will even come close to the magnitude of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

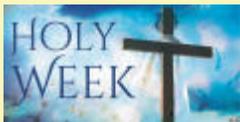
Secondly, the sacrifice of Jesus shows to us that closeness to God does not magically protect souls from temptation or suffering. Jesus is one with the Father. You cannot get closer than that! Yet, as man, Jesus nonetheless underwent a terrible suffering for our sake. And in this he learned obedience, according to St. Paul.

The command of God, particularly as we learn it from Jesus, is to love God with all of our being and then to love one another. Love is not always easy. In fact, sometimes, it is downright difficult. Loving family, friends and strangers always has its good days and its bad days. If we are obedient to the command of God, then we love others to the best of our abilities with the same love with which God loves us. And let us be honest! There are times when our love for another is simply out of obedience to God's law, because if it were up to us, we would choose not to love. Those moments can be moments of suffering because we are not doing what we might have chosen to do. We are almost forcing ourselves to act lovingly toward those who may not be loving in return. But if we learn obedience through these sufferings, what does it get us??? What it gets for us is a greater closeness to God who in fact is love.

Our relationships with God are always unique to ourselves. Each of us will have a different relationship with God. So, as we continue our Lenten journey, it is appropriate to ask ourselves a few questions. Are we willing to trust God even in the midst of our own sufferings, just as Jesus did? Are we willing to love with God's own love even if this love might bring us suffering as it did for Jesus? Are we willing to understand that obedience to God is obedience to love both in good times and in bad? The humanity of Jesus shows us that it is possible, and his divinity shows us the reward - for he will draw everyone to himself. Closeness to the sufferings of Jesus is closeness to Jesus, and closeness to Jesus is closeness to love, and closeness to love is closeness to God. What better reward could there possibly be than this for obedience God's commands?

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.

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.

MASS SCHEDULE

WE HAVE A CHANGE COMING!!

BEGINNING SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH

A 4PM SATURDAY MASS WILL BE ADDED TO ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE.

THIS MASS WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH AND RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE MADE IN ORDER TO ATTEND.

THE SUNDAY MORNING MASS AT 9:30AM WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD IN THE PARISH HALL.

So what are RICE BOWLS and how is the money used you ask?

Lenten alms go to alleviate hunger and poverty in communities overseas and in the U.S.: seventy-five percent of gifts support CRS' humanitarian programs around the world .

Some examples include:

[Agriculture projects help farmers improve harvests](#)
[Water and sanitation projects bring clean water to communities](#)

[Microfinance projects support small businesses](#)

[Mother and child health projects offer health and nutrition services](#)

[Education projects provide resources and training](#)



25 percent of gifts remain in each U.S. diocese where they are given to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in those communities.

Pick up your Rice Bowl at the entrance of St. Dominic's Parish Hall.


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