



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John



Sunday
April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter



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-193026010775744>

PARISH BULLETIN ONLINE:

<https://www.parishesonline.com/find/st-dominic-/bulletin>

St. Dominic's Liturgical Celebration:

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. AND Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Weekdays: Private Mass - No Congregation

PREVIOUS MASS SCHEDULE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Masses at St. Dominic's are on Saturday at 4:00 pm and

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, Sat. 4:00 p.m. & 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 Congrega-
tion)

Sat. April 17

4:00 p.m. *Joseph Grant* by Tom Grant

Sun. April 18

9:30 a.m. *Barbara Machado* (6th Anni.)

by Madeleine Carvalho

Johnny Carvalho (6th Anni.)

by Madeleine Carvalho

11:00 a.m. *Donna J. Pacheco* by Husband, Mike

Frank Crook Birthday Remembrance by Kathy &
Bill Sullivan

Henry Reis by Courville Family

Mon. April 19

8:00 a.m.

Tues. April 20

8:00 a.m.

Wed. April 21

8:00 a.m.

Thurs. April 22

8:00 a.m. *Manuel & Maria Andrade* by Daughter, Alzira

Sat. April 24

4:00 p.m. *For a Special Intention*

Sun. April 25

9:30 a.m. *Roger Menard* by Joanne Menard

Horacio, Irma & Fernando de Brum

By Mr. Horacio de Brum

11:00 a.m. *Deceased of Desrosiers & Michaud Families* by

Colleen & Ronald

Jose Ricardo by Fran & Mike Kelley

Domingos & Louisa Andrade by Sister, Alzira

Dennis Leonardo, Sr. by Kathy & Bill Sullivan

Important Announcement:

We were recently notified that calls have been made to some parishioners that claim to be verifying information for the church. Know that no one associated with either of our parishes is doing this, please do not give out any of your information. Please be cautious, this is a potential scam. Be aware that any parish staff member will always identify themselves anytime they are calling you. Stay safe.

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.

Third Sunday of Easter

Today's liturgy highlights both the truth and the ramifications of the resurrection. In the Gospel passage, Jesus demonstrates the reality of his risen body; the same Jesus who was crucified is now risen, and we respond with a joy that compels us to ask God to bring us "forth into the light of day to stand in your presence until eternity dawns" (alternative opening prayer).

Our Easter joy comes with Easter duty, however, and Peter's sermon in the first reading reinforces this charge. Christ's death and resurrection has opened the mystery of God's saving plan to us; now we must answer Christ's call, choosing life over death, love over hate, hope over fear. Our Sunday liturgy and our Christian lives must give witness to our Easter faith. The baptism we share joins us in a great vocation: to look forward in hope to eternity's dawn, and to live today as children of the world to come.



In Loving Memory

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

Sanctuary Lamp:
Noel & Exirina Peloquin by Wanda



Altar Candles:
Louis Furtado by Family

Tabernacle Candles:
Bryan Kelley by Parents

Crucifix Candles:
Pat Guerriero & Opie Lovejoy by Family

St. Dominic's memorial candle burn in April for : Carl Lopes by his wife

50Week Club Weekly Winner



Contact Info: Bill & Kathy Sullivan
Telephone: 508-493-9064 or 508-674-8511

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

As our club is now in the final stages with only one more month 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, 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. **Payments should be made payable to: St. Francis of Assisi.** 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 Collections - April 11th

Budget: \$2348.00
Diocesan Assessment: \$258.00
Special Offering: \$504.00
Repairs & Restorations: \$1222.00
Donations: \$945.00

Next weekend, the April 25th the second collection is for Repairs & Restorations.

St. Dominic Collections - April 11th

Budget: \$2145.00
Diocesan Assessment: \$144.00

Next weekend, the April 25th second collection is for Fuel & Energy offering.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



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.



Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Normand Dupere and Janet Arruda

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Saint Peter addresses us in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. When we listen to his words, it is important to remember that while he was addressing first century Jews, his words are in fact addressed to all people of all times and places. "You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead."

All too often we tend to shrug off responsibility for the death of Jesus, failing to recognize that our own sin contributed to the weight of the cross in a very real and personal way. I suspect that part of the reason why we do not invest ourselves totally into a role of guilt is because the events that led to Jesus' death took place two thousand years before we were born. Nonetheless, Jesus is not simply son of Mary, but also the eternal Son of God who died for the sins of ALL mankind. In other words, he died for the expiation of all sin committed prior to his birth, those committed during the thirty-three years of his earthly life, and every single sin committed since - including each and every sin that we have committed and have yet to commit. The notion of "all sin" of "all time" is a rather overwhelming one if one truly meditates on weight of its full meaning. It is a notion that should truly horrify us, but unfortunately does not because we fail to think about it seriously. Too often, we let the stories of Jesus life and passion pass simply as nice stories, rather than events in which we play a part - and yet we do!

I suspect that if any one of us were to strike and kill an animal while driving our cars, we would feel terrible. I suspect that the feelings would be compounded hundreds of times if we were responsible to a motor vehicle fatality, particularly if we knew that the accident was our own fault and that it could easily have been avoided. Yet how do we approach the death of Jesus? Do we, or can we, acknowledge our own culpability and feel real regret? Often-times, it is our own "spiritual vehicles", carelessly maneuvered, that wound others and in doing so wound the person of the Christ. Sin kills the soul, and our sin wounds the Christ. We cannot say that we had no part in the death of Christ, but the fact is that we did, and continue to do so every time we approach God or another living soul with an absence of love in our hearts. Sin is the opposite of love, and hence failure to love is to commit sin.

This realization on our part should spur us on to acts of reconciliation with God by encouraging us to love always with God's own love, but it should not paralyze us. That is why our first reading today is accompanied by the second reading from the First Letter of St. John. St. John, the beloved disciple, reminds us that if we do sin, and he knows that we're bound to at times, we have an "Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is the expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world."

This knowledge that Jesus is the expiation of sin for the whole world is what can sometimes cause complacency. It is easy to think that if Jesus died to overcome all sin, then I have a "free pass". This would also be a wrong spiritual approach. The thought of our sinfulness should not paralyze us AND the thought of Jesus overcoming all sin should not cause us to see sin as being of no consequence.

The challenge of discipleship is to try our best each and every day to balance our spiritual lives between acts of penance and acts of praise: Penance for the wrong that we do that contributed to the Cross; Praise to give glory to God for his love that assures us of forgiveness and salvation.

This past Lent, I suggested that in our Lenten penance, rather than "giving up" something - penance that borders on punishment - we might focus on penance where we "do" something loving for God or for another person. How we approach acts of penance in our lives can make all the difference in the world. Punishment is counterproductive. But if our acts of penance are loving and other-centered, then our penance does not become paralyzing but freeing. At the same time, our recognition of Jesus being the expiation of sin does not become a free pass, but rather another opportunity to love God and neighbor in a thanksgiving of praise to God. For the mature Christian, penance and praise easily go together if both are rooted in love, because acts rooted in love are rooted in God.

If we, as disciples of the Risen Christ, are to be rooted in God, then we have to be deeply rooted in the Risen Christ who we claim to acknowledge as Lord. That means that our prayer lives have to have real substance. It means that we have to approach the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, with proper preparation and reverence. We have to train our ears, eyes, hearts, and voices to be prepared to meet and reverence Christ in those with whom we come in contact regardless of appearance. Sometimes may not seem as easy as it sounds, but honestly, it is not as difficult as some may suspect - especially if we try to focus on penance and praise equally rooted in love. If we love God with our whole being, then our prayer life becomes a joy. If we love God with our whole being, then we reverence Christ in the Blessed Sacrament whenever we come into his presence and as we receive him in the Eucharist. If we love God with our whole being, then loving others is simply an extension of loving God. So, in the end, discipleship comes down to love: the love God first has for us, and our response to that very same love!

**Diocese of Fall River
Office of Safe Environment
Mt. Hope Catholic Community**



St. Francis of Assisi & St. Dominic

Our Parishes are committed to providing a safe place for all the faithful. Therefore, we follow a strict policy of The Essential Three for all who minister, work or volunteer in our parish. We ask for your cooperation and support. The safety of our community depends on all of us doing our part. Please visit the Diocesan Safe Environment page for more information:

<https://www.fallriverdiocese.org/office-of-safe-environment/>

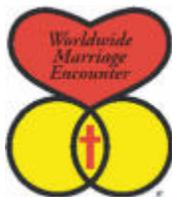
Victim Assistance

Anyone who has suffered abuse by a priest, or someone affiliated with the Diocese of Fall River, is urged to call Carolyn Shipp, Diocese Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 508-985-6508 or visit the Safe Environment page of our website (web information listed above). Be assured that your voice will be heard.

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://wwmema.org/>.



Like in the gospel today, sometimes our minds need to be opened to know what God has done for us, and what he wants for us in our marriage.@nbsp; Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience (in English) on

Mondays/Thursdays May 3-24
Thursdays/Mondays Jun 3-24



In observance of Patriots' Day, the Mt. Hope Catholic Community parish offices will be closed on Monday, April 19, 2021



The Holy Spirit Society will be holding a weekly rosary/prayer service in St. Dominic's Church Parish Hall beginning Friday, April 9th at 6:30 pm for 7 weeks, concluding on May 21st.

Please feel free to join us and bring your petitions.



NOTICE TO SVDP MEMBERS

Some of you have received CORI forms that need to be completed and returned to the Rectory as soon as possible.

They need to be processed through and sent to the Diocesan office to be recorded.

If you have any questions, please call the rectory at 508-675-7206.

**OPEN POSITION AT
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11.30PM - 7.30AM
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If interested, please apply to
Lisa Breton at :

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At the Shrine in Attleboro for more info.


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