



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John



Sunday
April 25, 2021
Fourth 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 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 Lonardo, Sr. by Kathy & Bill Sullivan

Mon. April 26

8:00 a.m.

Tues. April 27

8:00 a.m. *Anne & Robert Zygiel* by Trish & Linda

Wed. April 28

8:00 a.m.

Thurs. April 29

8:00 a.m. *Manuel & Maria Conceicao Medeiros* by
Granddaughter

Sat. May 1

4:00 p.m. *Manuel Faria & son,*
Maria dos Reis & family
Jose, Tony & Domingos Batista by Jacome's
Gregory Martin (health & healing)
by Claudette Martin

Sun. May 2

9:30 a.m. *Juliette Thivierge* by Louise
11:00 a.m. *Donna J. Pacheco* by Husband, Mike
Lorraine Fernandes by Fran & Mike Kelley
Giuseppe Weber by Ada Simpson
Charles Viens by Family

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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today's readings are seemingly disparate in their description of the shepherd, the cornerstone, and us, as God's children. They all, however, articulate the message that Christ is the source of our salvation. Peter proclaims the message of today's psalm, that "there is no salvation through anyone else" except for Christ, the cornerstone. John describes Jesus as the good shepherd, who "lay[s] down [his] life," in the certainty of the resurrection, by which we are all saved. And because of God's love for us, the Father sent his only Son among us, so that we might "be called children of God" not by adoption, but through a change of substance, for "we shall be like him." God thus promises the restoration of the created order; we who were made in the "image of God" are made more completely in God's image through Christ. Thus, what is accomplished in Christ will be accomplished in us as well.

This reality seems to suggest dazzling possibilities regarding our contribution to the liberation and restoration of the world. Through baptism we are commissioned to act as Christ in the world - priest, prophet, and king. Yet the metaphors of Christ as cornerstone and shepherd entail a rather unflattering portrait of us. If Christ is the cornerstone, then we are the rocks—living stones, perhaps, but nonetheless, rocks. And if Jesus is the Good Shepherd, then we are sheep: stubborn, uncomprehending and easily misled. We, ourselves, are incapable of providing a firm foundation or leading ourselves. Peter clarifies that our accomplishments are, first and foremost, the accomplishments of Christ. Thus, for our ministry to be fruitful we must acknowledge our reliance upon Christ. We are vessels, through which the love and salvation of Christ is poured out.

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life and societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.


WORLD DAY of
PRAYER for
VOCATIONS



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

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.



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 - April 18th

Budget: \$1946.00
Repairs & Restorations: \$968.00
Diocesan Assessment: \$780.00
Donations: \$325.00

Next weekend, the May 2nd the second collection is for Diocesan Assessment.

St. Dominic Collections - April 18th

Budget: \$1820.00
Building & Maintenance: \$608.00

Next weekend, the May 2nd second collection is for Diocesan Assessment

Thank you for your generosity and support!



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.



MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

St. Peter, in the passage that we have from the Acts of the Apostles ends today's first reading by telling us that "There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved." Of course, he has just told the people that it was the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean. Only through Jesus can people be saved! This was true when Peter first said it. It remains true today. It will be true until the end of time. Only through Jesus Christ crucified can any human person be saved! Period!

Down through the years, many people have made what they saw as a natural conclusion that if you adhere to a religion that does not have Jesus as its foundation, then you cannot be saved. Hence, if you were Jewish, or believed in the Prophet Mohammed, or the Buddha, or one of the Hindu gods, or follow a nativist religion of any sort, or any other type of religious practice, then there is no salvation for you. Many have believed that if you do not believe in Jesus, then there is not even a hope of salvation for you. It is a wrong interpretation, but one that has had a foothold in the minds of many Catholic, and indeed other non-Catholic Christians, over the centuries.

Some of our more senior parishioners may recall the name of Fr. Leonard Feeney, a priest who preached in Boston during the tenure of the late Richard Cardinal Cushing. Fr. Feeney and his followers were excommunicated by the Church for precisely this belief. Fr. Feeney preached that ONLY Catholics who died in the state of grace would go to heaven. If you were not a baptized Catholic in good standing, then there really was no hope for you. What rightly awaited you would be the eternal fires of hell.

The Feeney crowd, as they started to die off, began to worry about their own salvation since they had been excommunicated. By their very beliefs, they knew (according to their own faith) that they did not have a snowball's chance since they were "outside" of the church. Fortunately, during the tenure of the late Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, and the help of the late bishop of Worcester, Bishop Bernard Flannigan, the remainder of the group was reconciled with the church. But that still leaves us with the question of what St. Peter was getting at and just what exactly did he mean.

We know, as St. John tells us in our second reading that we are in fact God's children now and that when we eventually get to heaven and see God face to face, that we shall become like him. St. John would almost seem to be echoing an "us" and "them" scenario because "they" do not know "us" and "The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him", Jesus! And so, we have another passage that can cause confusion and/or lead to a wrong conclusion about who can and cannot be saved!

This weekend is often referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday (Weekend) in the Church's calendar since the gospel of the 4th Sunday of Easter always has Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In today's gospel, Jesus describes just what exactly a good shepherd is, and by his own description, we can see that Jesus matches the description perfectly. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. But in the passage, Jesus also tells us quite clearly that he has other sheep that do not belong to "this fold". They "will" hear my voice he says, and eventually there will be one flock.

This particular teaching of Jesus should not be surprising to those who have listened to his teaching. When the Apostle was somewhat aghast when someone, who was not of their number, was trying to heal using the name of Jesus, what was Jesus's response? Quite simply, if they are not against us, then they are with us! Even those who do not seem to be part of the "fold" or "flock" are nonetheless children of God and redeemed by the blood of Christ - even if they are unaware of it.

We as Catholics need to realize that the gift of our Catholic faith is exactly that - a gift. It is not something that we chose. Rather, it was God reaching out to us for whatever reason that God might have. And we will not know the reasons until we are in heaven with God. But because God is the creator of all, then we know that he created those persons who he knew ahead of time would not, for whatever reason, have the ability to know Jesus. And because God is love, he cannot condemn those of his creation who have not been given the gift of Christian faith, but rather another type of faith. And likewise, because God is love, those who are not believers in Christ, but who nonetheless are able to love to have, by their ability to love, God within them.

The fact that Jesus has sheep who are not of this fold who nonetheless belong to him, it becomes important for us as disciples to love and respect not only those who are in our own "particular" fold, but all "sheep" of every fold.

Since the mid 1960's with the conclusion of Vatican II, the church has had a renewed effort in the area of ecumenism. Jesus as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep of our fold, as well as the sheep of his other folds, is the savior of all. His life's blood was shed for all people of all times. For this reason, it is incumbent upon us to love all people, to respect all people, to encourage and help all people, to welcome all people because like us, they are the Lord's. It is important too to remember that we still belong to different folds and likewise to respect those differences and to respond strongly to the measure of faith that we have been called to as Catholic Christians. Because we know that we have the Church that Christ built on the foundation of his Apostles, we know that we have a special faith. When dealing with those of different faiths or no faith at all, we are called in love to share our faith with those open to it, and still to respect the place where others may be, trusting that one day we shall all be one-fold in heaven. And Christ the Good Shepherd with pasture us all as one flock in one-fold!



“Time to Gather, Time to Heal, Time to Love” - The 80th Annual Catholic Appeal begins May 1. Since 1942, the Appeal has helped people in all phases of life – from children, to youth, to parents, to the elderly. Your support sustains the numerous agencies, programs, and ministries providing food and shelter, educating children and adults, and meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of thousands. We encourage you to support the Appeal as generously as you can. You can make a one-time gift, or, a pledge with convenient payments throughout the year. You can give by mail, use a contribution card located in church, or make your gift or pledge online at: www.givefrdiocese.org/2021.

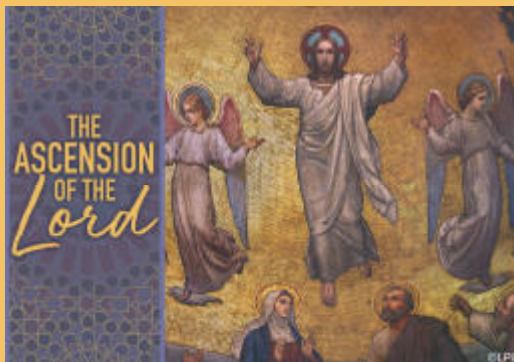
Support the Annual Catholic Appeal!

**Mt. Hope Catholic Community
of St. Francis of Assisi & St. Dominic**

The schedule for the Mt. Hope Catholic Community on Ascension Thursday is as follows:

- Wednesday, May 12th at 6:00 PM – St. Francis of Assisi
- Thursday May 13th at 8:00 AM – St. Dominic’s (church)

Reservations must be made to attend these masses. Please contact the church rectory of the church you plan to attend. We will be accepting reservations starting May 3, 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.

**ST. DOMINIC MASS SCHEDULING
INFORMATION**

***AS WE BEGIN OUR NEW MASS SCHEDULE
WHICH NOW INCLUDES***

SATURDAY AT 4PM IN THE CHURCH,

***THIS IS A REMINDER THAT SPACE IS LIMITED
DUE TO BUILDING OCCUPANCY WITH COVID RE-
STRICTIONS IN PLACE.***

***YOU MUST CALL BY THURSDAY AT NOON TO
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS.***



Please join us with an offering of congratulations and blessings to all our children who received their FIRST COMMUNION these past weeks.

May they remember that God’s love will always be there to comfort them, guide them, and bless them.


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