



# Mt. Hope Catholic Community

## Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

**Pastor: Rev. Philip N. Hamel**

**Deacon: Rev. Dr. Gary M. John**



Sunday  
May 2, 2021  
Fifth 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](mailto:saintdominicparish@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stdominicswansea.org](http://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](mailto: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. 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

#### Mon. May 3

8:00 a.m.

#### Tues. May 4

8:00 a.m.

#### Wed. May 5

8:00 a.m.

#### Thurs. May 6

8:00 a.m. **Joseph Azevedo** by Wife, Alzira

#### Sat. May 8

4:00 p.m. **Nelson Mateus** by Jacome family  
**Irene Perry** by Lorraine Medeiros  
**Ann Lenon (1st Anni.)** by Elizabeth Smith

#### Sun. May 9

9:30 a.m. **Maria dos Anjos Pimentel** by Laura Bernardo  
**A Special Intention** by Joanne Menard  
**Adelino Rodrigues** by Sue Lopes  
**Licia Rodrigues** by Sue Lopes  
**Louis, Gilda & Susan Travers** by Louis &  
Lorraine Travers  
**Catherine P. Fox** by Pat Fox  
**Maria J. Bernardo** by Laura Bernardo  
**For All Mothers**  
11:00 a.m. **Normand Fontaine** by Brother, Ron  
**Dennis LaChance** by Fran & Colleen  
**Joseph Azevedo** by Wife, Alzira  
**Jerome Mendoza** by Wife, Paula  
**Janet Arruda** by Kathy & Bill Sullivan  
**For All Mothers Living and Deceased**

#### Pro-Life Quote

"Our consciences must be formed according to the Gospel and according to the teachings of the Church. We must listen to that, and then our works will become good, and they will bring light," *Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver*

### 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.

### *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

It is relatively easy to identify with the disciples in today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles. In their very recent memory, this individual, who had been "breathing murderous threats" (Acts 9:1) against them, was now trying to join their number. How very much Saul must have seemed to be the "wolf in sheep's clothing." Looking back, we know that Saul's conversion was genuine. Nonetheless, it is hard to discount the disciple's initial fear of he who would only later prove himself to be the equal of Peter within the Church.

Paul was such a successful disciple, in part, because he embodied a Johannine theology of discipleship. The essence of Christianity, according to 1 John is found both in belief in Christ, and love for one another. Whoever keeps these two commandments "remains in him, and he in them," and thus Christ remains at the center of their life and ministry: the branches require the vine to produce fruit. To believe without love, or love without belief is fruitless. At the center of Paul's theology was Christ, the one "through whom all things are and through whom we exist" (1 Corinthians 8:6), and Paul became "all things to all" (1 Corinthians 9:22) in order that they might be saved. But perhaps more importantly for us, Paul was allowed to become such a successful disciple because those leading the Church recognized that they were not the vine, but were, instead branches. They feared Saul, yet they welcomed him, because he testified to belief in Christ. Christianity demands relinquishing reliance on ourselves, and instead, boldly embracing the unknown. Indeed, Christ is so often found in the places we least expect to find him.



# In Loving Memory

**St. Francis of Assisi memorial candles burn in May in remembrance of:**

*Sanctuary Lamp:*

**Stella Penkala** by Daughter, Wanda

*Altar Candles:*

**Eunice & Bartholomew McNally** by

**Norma & Brian McNally**



*Tabernacle Candles:*

**Varanese Family** by Family

*Crucifix Candles:*

**Louis Furtado** by Family

**St. Dominic's memorial candle burn in**

**May for : Adelino & Lucia Rodrigues** by Sue Lopes

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

As our club is now in the final stages, and we are at the 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 25th**

**Budget: \$1927.00**

**Repairs & Restorations: \$1790.00**

**April Online Giving: \$745.00**

**Donations: \$590.00**

*Next weekend, the May 9th the second collection is for Repairs & Restoration.*

### **St. Dominic Collections - April 25th**

**Budget: \$1994.00**

**Fuel & Energy Offering: \$416.00**

*Next weekend, the May 9th second collection is for Fuel & Energy offering.*

**Thank you for your generosity and support!**



*Pray for the Repose of the Souls of Leonard Mello and Elaine Bento*



**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 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM – St. Francis of Assisi**

**Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## MESSAGE FROM FR. HAMEL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In this weekend's gospel from Saint John, Jesus uses the analogy of the vine grower and the vines. Jesus is the vine; God the Father is the vine grower. The vine grower takes away every branch of the vine that does not bear fruit so that the vine might produce more fruit, and the branches that are pruned off are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. It all sounds so threatening! If we do not produce good fruit, then we will be cut off, gathered up and thrown into the fire! But is this an accurate reading of what Jesus is saying? And the answer is a resounding NO!

Because of our baptism, we ARE a part of the body of Christ, which in turn means that we are part of the vine itself. So, if this is the case, what is it that is going to be pruned away and destroyed? And the answer to that is easy. What shall be pruned away is simply SIN! Or if you prefer, anything that does not have its roots in love.

Because the mystical body of Christ is both human and divine, the vine is susceptible to the disease of sin. Why? Because as parts of the Body of Christ, we remain sinful beings because of our human condition and free will. Sometimes we chose to love and do good; other times we chose to sin and do what is not right in the eyes of God. We are sinners. We know it. God knows it. And it is because God knows it that he's willing to prune the vine so that the vine, or if you will, the mystical Body of Christ - the Church - might produce not only more fruit, but more good fruit and produce it in abundance.

The idea of being "pruned" may sound somewhat disconcerting since tools used for pruning are sharp and cut. For human flesh, cuts are painful, and since there is no way of helping a vine not to feel anything, we might naturally assume that when we are pruned, it will be with a sharp, painful instrument that naturally will cause us suffering, to which we might feel entitled due to our sinfulness. However, it is important to remember that it is God the Father who is doing the pruning, and since God is love, the instrument that he uses will not be to cause pain and suffering, but rather an instrument that is gentle and loving which in turn helps to promote even greater love. The results of the pruning however often depend on how we, and our own particular "branch", chose to respond to being pruned by love.

Often, for those of us who might be a bit older, the whole notion of this pruning might be a bit distasteful since a good many of us were brought up to see the means of pruning - i.e.: Confession - to be burdensome. To be honest, most of us were brought up to see Confession as a time to admit our sins and accept whatever punishment, as severe as it might be, that might be deemed appropriate by the priest who was hearing our confession. Simply put, it was about crime and punishment ... emphasis on the punishment!

For good or bad, we are fifty years out from the ending of the Second Council of the Vatican which tried to help us see the sacrament less as "crime and punishment" and more as "forgiveness and reconciliation". God loves us and wants to restore our closeness to him while helping us to love more. He does not want simply to lord his authority over us and punish us so that we learn to "tow the line." And yet too many people, priests included, still see it as crime and punishment.

Our first reading this weekend from the Acts of the Apostles gives us the movements of St. Paul (still known as Saul) after his conversion on the road to Damascus. Completely healed of his "old" self (a life of sinful opposition to the Lord, lacking in love for all Gods people) he sets off to Jerusalem to join in with other disciples of Christ. The believing community in Jerusalem was rightfully fearful of Saul because of his treacherous former ways. However, they eventually came to see a real convert and a strong advocate for the person of the Risen Christ. And how did this change come about in Saul/Paul? It happened because God the Father pruned the vine (Jesus) and took the dead wood that produced no fruit (the hatred that resided in Saul's heart) and burned it away by the "fire of the Holy Spirit." Did God the Father punish Saul? or lord his authority over him? or punish him severely? No ... Saul was simply asked by Jesus the vine "why do you persecute me?" And while Saul was temporarily blinded, the treatment that was accorded him was gentle and compassionate, even for one who violently persecuted those who "followed the new way." God's "pruning" of Saul gave us St. Paul who is without question the greatest theologian that the church has ever produced. God took a notorious sinner, and with a little pruning, produced a branch so strong that the influence of St. Paul after two thousand years is second only to the influence of Jesus himself! Spiritual pruning is not intended to be painful - for St. Paul or for us!

Because we are parts of the Mystical Body of Christ, we should ask ourselves when we examine our consciences if we are in fact willing to be "pruned" for the betterment of the whole body? Do we want the body of Christ, of which we are part, to be healthy and strong, loving with Gods own love? If in fact we do, then we need to accept God's help (i.e.: his grace in our lives) to always be trying to be better today than we were yesterday, with a lively resolve to be better tomorrow than we are today! Gods pruning grace in our lives however is not magical. His grace, because of our free will, calls us to cooperate willingly and lovingly. But examining what this grace did for Saul/St. Paul and what it has done to numerous saints through the centuries, we must understand that it can do great things for us and through us - growing vine branches of such strength so as to produce, not only good fruits, but the best spiritual fruits - all for the glory of God the Father!





“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](http://www.givefrdiocese.org/2021).

**Support the Annual Catholic Appeal!**

**MOUNT HOPE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

**MOTHER’S DAY**

**BAKE SALE**

**All Proceeds to benefit the Youth Council**

**5/8 4pm St. Dominic**

**5/9 9:30am St. Dominic**

**5/9 10.30am St. Francis of Assisi**

**Cash or Venmo**

**Donations welcome**

**MOUNT HOPE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
ST. DOMINIC CHURCH HOLY SPIRIT SOCIETY  
WILL BE HOLDING THEIR DRIVE-THRU ONLY  
HOLY SPIRIT FESTIVAL MEAL  
ON SUNDAY, MAY 23RD FROM 12-2pm  
IN SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH PARKING LOT.**

**MEAL INCLUDES**  
**SANDWICH—(choice of CHOURICO or CACOULA)**  
**PORTUGUESE SOUP**  
**SWEET BREAD and**  
**SWEET RICE**



**TICKETS ARE \$6 AND WILL BE AVAILABLE  
FOR PURCHASE BEGINNING MAY 9TH  
AFTER ALL MASSES AT SAINT DOMINIC’S CHURCH  
AND ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
TICKETS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FROM ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS AND  
AT ST. DOMINIC’S RECTORY.**



On May 3, 2021 at 7pm, General Agent, Joseph DiCalogero will be holding a Fraternal Benefits Night titled “Stress Free Retirement Planning” featuring Joe Jordan. This presentation is for all Knights of Columbus members, family, friend’s or any other interested person. For additional information or to register Please contact Ed Hubbard.

Ed Hubbard  
Knights of Columbus Field Agent  
[Edward.Hubbard@KofC.org](mailto:Edward.Hubbard@KofC.org)  
781.351.9805

Day of Priestly Discernment for Men On Saturday, May 29th there will a Day for Discernment for any young men who are trying to discern their vocation, in particular if they are sensing a possible calling to the priesthood. The Day of Discernment will be from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Seekonk, MA. If you are interested in participating, please contact Fr. Jack Schrader at [firschneider@fallrivervocations.org](mailto:firschneider@fallrivervocations.org)

  
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