



# Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020**

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE— until further notice**

**St. Dominic Church—Sunday at 9:30am**

**St. Francis of Assisi—Sunday at 11:00am**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!**

**call or email the office before Thursday.**

**Contact:**

**Saint Dominic Church**

**P.O. Box 205, Swansea, MA 02777 or**

**1277 G.A.R. Highway, Swansea, MA 02777**

**Parish Office: 508-675-7206**

**Parish fax: 508-672-4716**

**Email: [saintdominicparish@comcast.net](mailto:saintdominicparish@comcast.net)**

**Religious Ed Grades 1-4: 508-675-7002**

**Faith Formation Coordinator: Barbara Domingue**

**Email: [stdominic1277@gmail.com](mailto:stdominic1277@gmail.com)**

**Religious Ed Grades 5-7: 508-674-0024**

**Faith Formation Coordinator: Debra Fontaine**

**[Religioueducation@saintfrancisw Swansea.com](mailto:Religioueducation@saintfrancisw Swansea.com)**

**Confirmation 1 & 2 Coordinator: 508-674-0024**

**Coordinators: Joy and Joe Viveiros**

**Email: [joyann56@comcast.net](mailto:joyann56@comcast.net)**

**Baptism: Please call the rectory to register.**

**Marriage: Call at least 8 months before date of wedding**

**First Communion: After completing a two year program for First and Second Grade.**

**Communion to the Homebound: Please call the rectory regarding communion at home.**

**PARISH STAFF:**

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

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

**Custodian: Peter Urban**

**Office Manager/Bulletin: Louise Guglielmo**

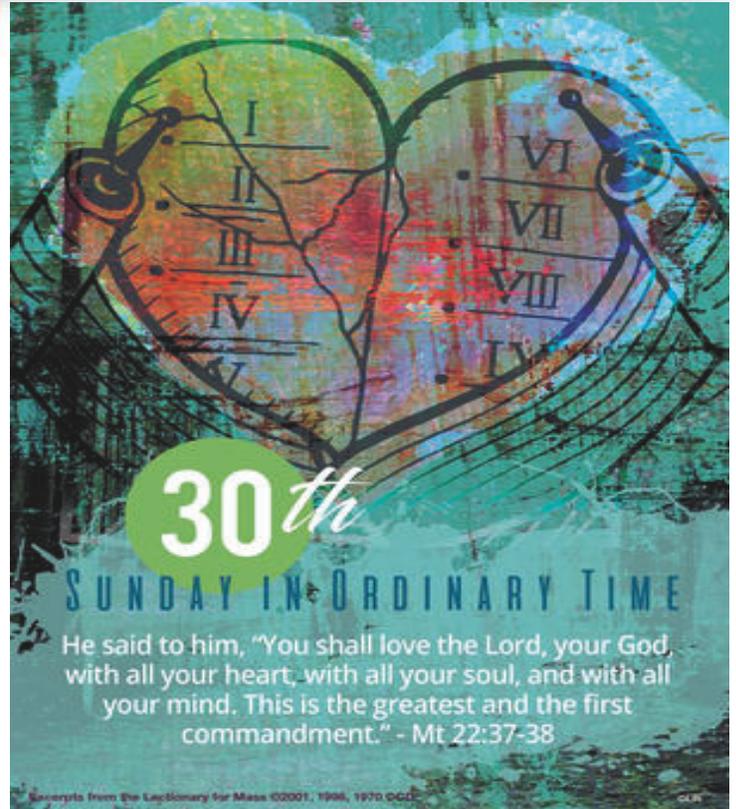
**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stdominicswansea.org](http://www.stdominicswansea.org)**

**PARISH BULLETIN ONLINE:**

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

**FACEBOOK ONLINE:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/St-Dominic-Parish-Swansea-193026010775744/>**



## NEW WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE FOR SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH BEGINNING NOVEMBER 21, 2020



We will be adding an additional weekend Mass at St. Dominic Church, beginning November 21, 2020. Weekly Saturday Masses at 4PM will be held in the Parish Center. Mask must be worn throughout the celebration. CDC regulations are being followed. All parishioners must enter through the front doors. There will be a hand sanitizing station at the front entrance to the Parish Center. Seating will be placed and maintained at 6 foot distancing and chairs CANNOT be moved.

There will be a reservation list and You must call to make reservations prior to attending.

For further information please contact the Rectory.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

If those of us who have extended family are asked if we love our aunts and uncles - assuming that they're alive, or if we did love our aunts and uncles - assuming that they are deceased, I suspect that the answer to the question would be a resounding YES! Of course I love/loved them! What a silly question! They're family and you love family! BUT ... if any of us were asked the question differently: Are you (or were you) IN love with your aunts and uncles, then I suspect that the answer would be different. IN LOVE with them??? Are you nuts??? There tends to be a distinction between "loving" someone and being "in love" with someone.

If you love someone in your family, you will help them should they have need and if you have the time, you will speak kindly of them, you will be happy to see them whenever the opportunity presents itself - like weddings and funerals, you will sense a relationship with them that you do not have with strangers. However, if you happen to go for extended periods of time not seeing them or being in contact with them, it does not seem to negatively affect your life. They are a part of your life but certainly not the center of your life - not even close!

If you are in love with someone you will try to anticipate their needs and always be there for them, even if it is inconvenient. You will find the time and make the time to be with the person that you love. You will make sure to keep in close contact with that person and avoid anything whatsoever that might put a strain on your relationship. And if it were possible, you would move mountains for that person simply to prove the extent of your love. The beloved is more than simply a part of your life, the beloved IS your life! Being in love isn't the same as simply loving. Being in love takes a full commitment of will, intellect, body and soul. Being in love does not see putting oneself out for the beloved as burdensome, but sees it rather as a welcomed opportunity! Being present in any manner for someone you are in love with is always something that people instinctively relish! Nothing is too much to be asked for someone with whom you are in love! No cost is too great to be paid for someone with whom you are in love, even the cost of one's life! The true lover will give "all" to express his or her love for the beloved! True, genuine love is completely selfless and always has the good of the beloved, as well as the happiness of the beloved, in focus! And that brings us to the gospel of the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time!

In this weekend's gospel from St. Matthew, Jesus is asked by the Pharisees which of the commandments is the greatest. Jesus' answer is perhaps one of the most famous and oft quoted of his teachings: "*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.*"

The first and greatest commandment is to love God with all of your being. And while the second is like it, it is not identical to it, nor is it as important. God comes first at all times and in all things! If this is the case, then it becomes of the greatest importance for disciples to maintain a genuine and complete love of God each and every day of their lives. Love of necessity implies relationship. We have a relationship of whatever sort with the person with whom we are in love. And relationships need to be maintained to grow stronger; otherwise they wither and die and become empty and meaningless. We would never choose to ignore someone with whom we are in love! As disciples, our relationship with God demands the same.

A daily examination of a properly formed conscience helps us to answer the question of how we love God. Do we love God as someone with whom we are in love? Or do we love God as we might love an aunt or uncle, perhaps an aunt and uncle who live out of state? (Out of sight/our of mind - with the exception of occasional get togethers)

With an "in love" relationship, the relationship, if genuine, is two sided and not one sided. The lover and the beloved are there for each other with a self-sacrificing love. It is with this kind of love that God loves us! God has proven that He loves us even to the point of self-sacrifice through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross - Jesus the Christ who is God, co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. God proves his love for us by providing the spiritual necessities needed to follow his Son to salvation. God proves his love for us by allowing us to be called his sons and daughters. God proves his love for us by giving us the sacraments of Church, particularly the Eucharist which is literally the flesh and blood of the Savior! God proves that he dearly wants not only a relationship with us, but a love-relationship with us since God himself IS love. But for this relationship to be strong, both parties need to be working in tandem to help the relationship grow strong. And because God is love, we know that God is always doing his part! So the question becomes: what are we doing, if we really claim to be and want to be disciples, to maintain the relationship?

Do we honestly put God first? Do we pray daily and regularly *trying* to deepen our faith and relationship with God? Do we put in the amount of time necessary to grow in that relationship with God. Do we honestly believe that nothing is too good for God, or no sacrifice too great to show our love? Do we freely and selflessly give God the very best of *everything* that we have and are? Do we reverence the name of God in our speech and behaviors? Do we reverence God particularly and especially when we are in the presence of God in the Blessed Sacrament? Do we even believe that God is eternal, awesome, omnipotent, all powerful, all knowing and the creator of all that is, all that was and all that will be? We cannot have a genuine relationship with God if we don't bother to know him intimately.

Loving God first isn't so cut and dry either, since we know that Jesus is God and we become part of Jesus through baptism. We also know that the Church is the Body of Christ in the world. So the question of how we love God also becomes how do we love God as a Trinity of Persons; how do we love God in the Holy Eucharist; how do we love God in the Church which is the Body of Christ? To love God genuinely, we need to constantly work to love the mystery of the Trinity; we need to constantly work at loving and worshiping the Holy Eucharist; we need to constantly work at completely supporting the Church which is the Body of Christ so that Christ's work, the work of his body, might reach out to all of his loved ones. If we fail in any of these, then the relationship probably is shallow at best. The good news, however, is that because God first loves us, he will give us whatever we need, whatever is necessary to strengthen our "in love" relationship with him. But because true love cannot be one-sided, our active participation is absolutely necessary. And if we can come to genuinely love God with our whole being as best we can, albeit imperfectly, then and only then can we begin to properly tackle the second commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. If our relationship with God isn't as strong as can be, then love will never be strong within us. And if that is the case, then our love of neighbor will also fall flat. With prayer and patience, and accepting the grace of God, we can grow in our relationship with God so that we don't simply love God like a distant relative, but be *in love* with the God who *IS* love and who loves us unconditionally. He's always there for us to love, hoping that we let him become the center of our lives!

# MASS INTENTIONS

OCTOBER 25—NOVEMBER 1

- Sunday October 26 Edward Olson (2nd Anniv.)  
Walter Laberge (5th Anniv.)  
Horacio & Irma DeBrum
- Sunday November 1 Jose, Tony & Domingas Batista  
Maria dos Reis & family  
Frank & Dorothy Oliveira  
Michael Lima



## 4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS JANUARY SURPRISE CALENDAR -2021

DONATIONS \$10  
WEEKDAY PRIZES \$25  
WEEKEND PRIZES \$50  
FINAL PRIZE \$250  
31 CHANCES TO WIN

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM 4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS  
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## Coats for Kids

### GIVE A KID A COAT AND SHARE THE WARMTH

The Knights of Columbus Chapter #3669 along with our Saint Vincent de Paul Society are holding their annual COATS FOR KIDS campaign from October 1—November 15. As in every situation, COVID-19 has impacted this campaign as well. We can no longer accept used coats. We are asking for monetary donations in order to purchase new coats for all the children. Should you decide to donate a new coat, please be sure that the tags are attached and drop them off at St. Dominic Church. You may drop your monetary donations at St. Dominic Church / or mail them to us c/o St. Dominic Church, 1277 GAR Hwy., Swansea, MA 02777. Thank you and God Bless

### SAINT DOMINIC'S WOMEN'S GUILD

WILL BE HOSTING THEIR  
ANNUAL MEAT PIE SUPPER  
CURB-SIDE PICK UP ONLY  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH  
FROM 4-6 PM

TICKETS ARE \$10 AND CAN BE PURCHASED  
FROM MEMBERS AND/OR AT THE RECTORY



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO MAKE A DONATION

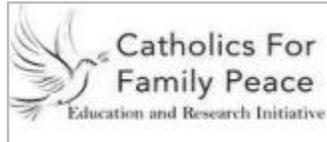
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THIS SUNDAY, OUR FIRST  
COMMUNION CANDIDATES  
WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR  
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.  
PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERFUL  
BLESSINGS FOR THE CHILDREN.



### OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

To learn more about the Catholic response, visit the  
U.S. Bishop's website for their Pastoral Letter,  
"When I Call for Help."

If you, a family member friend needs help now,  
Contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline,  
800-799-7233 (24 hours);

800-787-3224 (TTY), [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Learn more at [www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org](http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org)



October 4 -	Budget	\$1320
	Fuel & Energy Collection	\$ 476
October 11	Budget	\$ 1032
	Propagation of Faith	\$ 136

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