



# Mt. Hope Catholic Community

## Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 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/>**



**ALL SAINTS**



**"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." - Mt 5:12a**

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1990 CCC

GLPI

**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,

The prophet Malachi is the “author” of our first reading this weekend. I put his name in quotes because more than likely, Malachi is not a proper name of a biblical person but rather a title of sorts given to whomever is the author of this particular book of scripture. Malachi means “my messenger” and the prevailing thought is that this particular book of teachings is by “my messenger”, or if you prefer, God’s messenger. The words of this prophet, like the words of the other Old Testament prophets, are a communication from the God of Israel to his people. So, this is presented by a messenger from God, plain and simple.

It is important for us to locate Malachi in time. This author is writing about 450 years before the birth of Jesus at a time when the people of Israel have returned to the Promised Land from their exile, and the “second temple” is built. The first temple, the Temple of Solomon had been destroyed by the forces of King Nebuchadnezzar at the time of the Babylonian Captivity. Now that the people have returned to their “promised land”, Israel is in the process of being restored along with her temple!

While the nation of Israel has been restored, although the wall of Jerusalem is yet to be built, the people, perhaps because of being away in a foreign land and adopting foreign ways, fall short in terms of their observance of the covenant that they have with their God. The law of Israel, summed up in the Ten Commandments and the Torah (the scrolls of the scriptures) clearly outline the responsibilities of those on both sides of the covenant: God’s role to be their God, and Israel’s role to be his people. The covenant, as they saw it, clearly sets out what the people are to do and how they are to live it. They are to worship God alone; they are to offer God the best of their livestock (unblemished) and their crops; they are to give back to the Lord ten percent of what they have since it has first been given to them (by the Lord); they are to be kind and loving to widows and strangers. However, in their return home to the promised land, the People of Israel have been less than faithful to their part of the covenant - and God is not amused!

Malachi, or “my messenger” goes after the priests in the passage that we have this weekend. The sacrifice that is prescribed as an offering in the Temple of Jerusalem is either an unblemished animal (usually a lamb or a kid or a calf) or for the poorer folk, a pair of turtle doves. During this time, however, the priests of the temple were unfaithful to God. They were not adhering to the requirement that the sacrifice be unblemished. They would offer any sacrifice with the attitude that it was “good enough”. And in other areas, they were unfaithful in teaching the law to the people .. and God threatened them severely.

While our passage, which is simply a brief excerpt of the book, goes after the priests, Malachi goes after the people too. They are failing to observe the Sabbath, they are divorcing their Israelite wives to marry foreigners, which in the law was taboo as it weakens the nation and risks the worship of false gods. The people of Israel were also failing badly in terms of tithing (giving ten percent of their income) to the Lord. They were failing to support the temple properly so that the temple in turn could provide for the needs of those less fortunate. God was keeping his part of the covenant, but the people were not, and so Malachi is raised up to deliver a message of repentance to God’s chosen people. The attitude of “good enough”, in fact, is not! The people cannot be considered faithful to the covenant if they only give what they consider “good enough” back to the Lord in terms of their personal generosity, their worship, their time, or their talent. Good enough isn’t good enough! The covenant requires us to give our very “best” and only our best to the Lord!

Although this particular book of scripture was written about 2,500 years ago for a people of a different time and different culture, it still has applications for us today in our world and in our church. While the prophet, who was a man of his times, warns of the “evil” that God will do if the nation doesn’t straighten itself out, we recognize, being people of the New Covenant, that God isn’t about cursing people or inflicting pain and suffering on people. The God of Israel who has been revealed to us through the person of Jesus, the unblemished lamb of the New Sacrifice, is a God of perfect love, mercy and compassion. He does not threaten to curse people or to make them contemptible. Nonetheless, we do have a covenant with God, ratified through the blood of Jesus Christ, which lays specific responsibilities on those who are baptized into the covenant. Our priests are to offer worthy worship; they are to teach faithfully; they are to see to the widow and the stranger. The people are to be faithful to their prayer life and Sunday worship; they are to be generous to the Lord in their support of the Church; they are to live lives of loving service both to God and to their neighbor. For priests and people of the New Covenant, good enough still is NOT good enough. We are called to give our very best, imperfect as that might be.

In the Church today, we see priests and bishops who fail the Lord. They challenge God’s earthly Vicar, clinging rigidly to medieval concepts, delighting in the “costume” of clericalism, and steadfastly refusing to allow God’s wisdom to guide the Church through the sciences that have God as their author and creator. As Jesus warned, they love the trappings, but place burdens on the shoulders of others, individuals, and families, while doing nothing to lessen the burden. Likewise, we have people who buy into the same rigidity, creating a god in their own image, rather than searching prayerfully for the God who invites us to make ourselves into his image.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, we have those who claim to be Catholic but consistently refuse to worship as God directs us. They consistently refuse to give back to God by their contributing to the life of the community, or if they do contribute, they give only the minimal which they consider “good enough”. They see the support of widows and strangers a burden that they prefer not to think about, and so they ignore it. For them, God in the face of a stranger is a fallacy, and so they look but they do not see. Malachi might as well be preaching to the Church today! We are suffering from the same collective sins that once weakened the Covenant of ancient Israel.

Jesus reminds us that those who have ears ought to hear! Do we listen to the prophets of our scriptures and the prophets of our time? Do we work diligently and prayerfully to separate the prophets of the New Covenant from the false prophets who might dress the part but fall short on the merciful love of God. In Malachi, the priests of the temple sniff at the altar of God in a contemptuous manner, and so the Lord spreads the offal of their sacrifices on the faces of these priests. Today, many of the “priestly” class do pretty much the same, although the Lord sees the sin of their spirituality without marking their faces. But do we honestly and prayerfully try to distinguish.

Jesus promised to remain with the Church till the end of time. Through his Vicar on earth we trust in him. While past Popes have been men of their time interpreting God’s word through the available wisdom and sciences, God’s word to us constantly evolves. Our understanding of God’s creation is constantly expanding, which means our understanding of God’s goodness and majesty and acceptance are likewise constantly expanding. Let us then pray for ourselves, our priests, our families and neighbors, our Church and our world, that through the Malachi’s that God sends to us, we might hear his word, act on his word, love his word, and proclaim his word - because that word is Jesus and he calls us to be like him, and not to try to make him to be like our sinful selves. If we try to be good like him, that is good. If we try to make him like us, that is not good enough .. that’s worship of a false god, one of the sins against which Malachi preached!



**NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 8**

Sunday November 1 Jose, Tony & Domingas Batista  
 Maria dos Reis & family  
 Frank & Dorothy Oliveira  
 Michael Lima  
 Kim Menard

Sunday November 8 Manuel Faria and family  
 Oliveira & Azeredo families  
 Frank & Dorothy Oliveira  
 Michael Lima

The Knights of Columbus are offering their January Surprise Calendar for a donation of \$10. The weekday prizes are \$25; weekend prizes, \$50 and grand prize is \$250. Tickets are available from Knights of Columbus and at the Rectory.



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

**Bishop Connolly High School will host two Virtual Open House 2020 events for prospective students and families: Tuesday, November 10 at 6 p.m., and Sunday, November 15 at 1 p.m. Learn more about our college preparatory curriculum and talk one-on-one with our faculty and students! Placement exams for Grade 8 L.E.A.P. and Grade 9 applicants will be held on Saturday, December 5 & 12; please register by November 20. For details and online registration for all events, please visit BishopConnolly.com.**

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

October 25	Budget	\$ 1920.00
	Bldg. & Main.	\$ 108.00



**FAITH FORMATION  
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Thirteen of our parish children received the Lord in the Holy Eucharist for the first time in the month of October. Our prayerful best wishes and prayers are extended to: **Jacob Oliveira, Gabriella Becker, Masyn St. Pierre, Sebastian Albano, Jayda Whitson, Madelyn Doyle, Emilee Furtado, Cameron Wozny, Andrew Reid, Nicolas Pacheco, Cohen Emard, Emma Cantin and Ava Dunn.**



**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD DRIVE**

**During the Thanksgiving holidays, St. Vincent de Paul supports many needy families. In continuation of these efforts, and recognizing our current COVID conditions, we ask for your consideration of financial and food gift card donations. All funds will be spent exclusively on food market gift certificates. You may mail in your donations to St. Vincent de Paul c/o St Dominic Church or drop them in the collection basket on Sunday or at the Rectory. Please mark on the envelope "St. Vincent de Paul". Many thanks and blessings for your generosity.**



**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**

From Fr. Hamel: It has come to our attention that budget envelopes that have been dropped in the collection in one of the parishes of the Somerset/Swansea Catholic Collaborative (St. Thomas More / St. Louis de France / St. Patrick) are not being returned to either of our parishes. One of our parishioners asked because he was concerned. Because his family donated via a personal check, the envelopes, while opened, still had the checks in them since the other parishes could not cash them. (One of the checks went back to August!) The checks were not returned to us until we inquired about them. They were the only envelopes returned. Knowing that parishioners from St. Dominic and St. Francis of Assisi are attending Masses on the other side of collaborative divide should be aware that if you are using budget envelopes, they are not being returned to your parish, nor will you be receiving a tax benefit as we would have no way of knowing if or what you may have contributed to the church. If your intent is to support your parish but for some reason are attending Mass elsewhere, I would ask you to kind drop your parish support off at the rectory or drop it in the mail.



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