



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE– until further notice

St. Dominic Church - Sunday at 9:30am

St. Francis of Assisi-Sunday at 11:00am

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

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

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

Faith Formation Coordinator: Barbara Domingue

Email: stdominic1277@gmail.com

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

Faith Formation Coordinator: Debra Fontaine

Religioueducation@saintfranciswswansea.com

Confirmation 1 & 2 Coordinator: 508-674-0024

Coordinators: Joy and Joe Viveiros

Email: 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

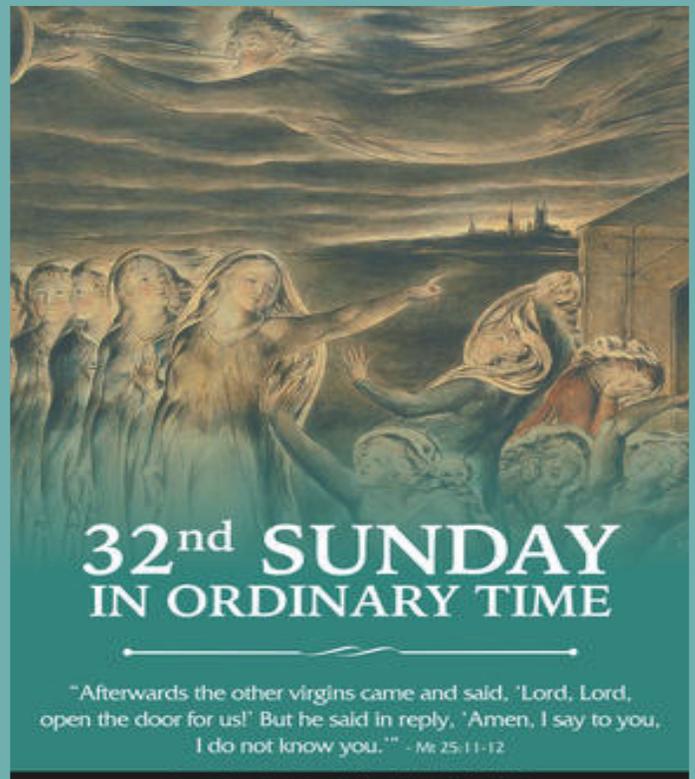
PARISH WEBSITE: www.stdominicswansea.org

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.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Some of you have perhaps heard me talk about my Dad and one of the conversations that I had with him while I was living at home and teaching high school. Dad was working a 3 to 11 shift, and me being young and able to stay up late, I would be awake still when he got home from work. Those were great times actually, because Dad would die suddenly of a heart attack at age 60 while I was still teaching and living at home. But during those late night talks that we'd have, we would talk about all sorts of things and I appreciated being able to tap into his faith, his wisdom and his common sense. One thing that always annoyed me however was his response to me when I would say: Goodnight Dad! See you in the morning. What annoyed me? He would always say: "God willing!". I finally confronted him on it, and so he asked me what I wanted him to say. I said, I want you to say: Yep! I'll see you in the morning. His response to that? ... you guessed it .. he said "Well .. God willing, I will!" ... and I realized that I was not going to win the argument!

Dad didn't let my reaction go without commentary! He said: Listen Phil, I'm in no hurry to go, but if God wants me at any time, my bags are packed and I'm ready." Little did I realize that God would recognize Dad's readiness and come for him so soon thereafter. We were caught off guard because we never suspected that there was anything wrong. From a figurative point of view, Dad was very, very good hearted. From a physical point of view, it turns out, he was not so very good. So, on a very hot evening in August 1980, Dad suffered his first and only heart attack and died while at work. We were stunned while a new saint arrived in heaven!

My Dad was very much like the five wise virgins who await the arrival of the bridegroom in the gospel this weekend. They knew that the bridegroom was going to be coming, but they honestly didn't know exactly when. Nonetheless, they made sure that they were prepared. They got to go in with the bridegroom when he finally showed up because their flasks were full of oil .. or in other words, their bags were packed for the trip. So while Dad didn't put it in the exact words of the gospel, he could just as well have told me: Phil! Don't worry about me. I have extra oil in reserve! .. it amounts to the same thing.

While the gospel tells us that the door to the wedding feast was closed to the five foolish virgins for not being prepared, it doesn't tell us definitely that they were never invited to another wedding. They simply weren't ready to enter at that particular time. Hopefully, they learned a valuable lesson and properly prepared themselves for the next time the opportunity presented itself. Hopefully they had oil reserves .. or if you will, had their spiritual bags packed so as to be ready.

The question that the gospel challenges us on is whether or not our oil supply is good and whether or not our spiritual bags are packed. To use an image from the late Margaret Thatcher, the former British Prime Minister was said to have had a traveling bag always at the ready to jump on a plane to the US if she were to get word that President Regan had died. She didn't want to be caught unaware. From a spiritual sense, we need to take a cue and make sure we have a bag packed for a flight to heaven, ready to leave at a moments notice!

Our second reading today, from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, happens to be the very reading that I did on August 7, 1980 at Dad's funeral Mass. "We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope."

The death of a loved one obviously causes grief. If you don't grieve the death of a loved one, then there is something wrong with you. Grief is a strong and natural human emotion. But do we grieve with hope? The answer to that question helps us to understand just how well our spiritual bags are actually packed. While it is human nature to grieve, it is also human nature to survive and to live. That's one of the many reasons why the death of a loved one hurts so much. But if we truly believe that Jesus has won victory over death for us; if we truly believe that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us; if we truly believe that God, in Jesus, is perfect mercy and compassion, then we can grieve with the hope of those who believe! We grieve with the hope that death isn't the end! We grieve with the hope that the tomb/grave/whatever means of disposition is not the end, but rather the door to the "wedding feast" and the portal to heaven for those whose bags are packed. We grieve with the confident hope that those who have died enjoy the beatific vision. And what is the beatific vision? It's complete immersion into the mystery that IS God. It's complete immersion into perfect love, perfect beauty, perfect happiness, perfect everything, because God is perfection. It is also a full admission into the Communion of Saints, which means reuniting with those who have already died. To use the image of the Eternal Banquet .. it's a party to end all parties! It's incredible!

A few years back, I was the exact same age that my Dad was when he died. I've adopted his attitude of not being in any hurry to die but am ready should the Good Lord want me. I've wondered if I'm still here because I'm not AS ready as my Dad was. But I've come to the conclusion that it's not important why. It's only important that like the wise virgins, that I wait with joyful expectation AND with patience for the Lord to come at a time convenient for him. He's the master ... I am not.

To continue with the image of the "packed and ready travel bag" .. if you packed a bag 15 years ago, would the stuff inside still fit you? Would it still be in style? Would the batteries in your travel alarm still be working? Might you have to replace some of the items that might not still be fresh? The same goes for our spiritual bag of readiness! It should be monitored on a regular basis. We should keep it fresh and pristine. And how do we do that? Just a little work on our part .. the work of discipleship. We need to keep an active prayer life in our bag! We need to keep faithfulness to the sacraments in our bag. We need to keep corporal and spiritual works of mercy in our bag, or in other words, we need to love God with all of our being, and not just with token gestures .. and we need to love our neighbor as best possible, and not with a sour disposition. And like the wise virgins, we need to keep our wedding garments stainless! Some days it may seem like a real challenge, but you know what? It is definitely do-able if you have a mind to do it. And if you do it daily and regularly it becomes so second nature that you hardly notice it at all. But knowing that you have a packed bag that is up to date becomes a source of joy ... not something about which to grieve. The travel might seem off-putting! .. but oh, what an incredible destination awaits!



NOVEMBER 8 - NOVEMBER 15

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

Sunday November 15 George Moniz
 Corey Brescia
 Carl Lopes
 Special Intention

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

November 1	Budget	\$ 1920.00
	All Saints Day	\$ 281.00
	All Souls Day	\$ 62.00

COATS FOR KIDS CAMPAIGN

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. Please drop off new coats with tags attached to 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

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. Therefore, you WILL NOT 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 kindly drop your parish support off at the rectory or drop it in the mail.

The JANUARY SURPRISE CALENDAR RAFFLE offered by the 4th Degree KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS are available. Donation is \$10. Weekly prizes are \$25; Weekend prizes are \$50 and the Grand Prize is \$250. You may acquire them from any Member of at St. Dominic Church Rectory. Thank you for your support.

BISHOP STANG SCHOOL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Bishop Stang, a Catholic, college preparatory high school in Dartmouth, MA, welcomes parents and students of all middle school grades to its Virtual Open House via Zoom on Sunday, November 8, at 1:00 pm and Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 pm. Pre-register for the meeting link at bish-opstang.org. Faculty and students are excited to highlight all that makes Bishop Stang an outstanding faith-based, college preparatory program.



BEGINNING NEXT WEEK YOU WILL SEE A SOMEWHAT NEW BULLETIN , AS ST. DOMINIC CHURCH AND ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH HAVE LINKED OUR BULLETINS.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT WE ARE NOW LINKED PARISHES, MOST OF OUR INFORMATION IS SHARED ON EACH OTHERS BULLETIN. THEREFORE, IN THE INTEREST OF FUNDS AND TO MAKE MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO YOU, IT WAS DECIDED TO INCORPORATE BOTH OF THEM INTO ONE PUBLICATION EACH WEEK.

THANKSGIVING MASS SCHEDULE

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI - NOV. 26—9:00AM

Reservations for this Mass will only be taken beginning November 10th.

Please call St. Francis Rectory at 508-673-2808

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE

**SAINT DOMINIC PARISH HALL
THURSDAY - DECEMBER 24—4:00 PM**

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI— 8:00AM
SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH—10:00AM**

Reservations must be made to attend these Masses and Will only be taken beginning December 1, 2020.
You must call the rectory of the church you wish to attend.



**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

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.



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