



# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

530 GARDNERS NECK ROAD  
SWANSEA, MASSACHUSETTS  
02777

December 17,  
2017

## Liturgical Celebrations

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.  
Sundays: 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.  
Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m.  
Civic Holidays: 9 a.m. only

## Contact:

Parish Office: 508-673-2808  
Parish fax: 508-672-6241  
Email: [stfranciswanssea@comcast.net](mailto:stfranciswanssea@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.stfranciswanssea.com](http://www.stfranciswanssea.com)  
Religious Education: 508-673-2808 or 508-674-0024  
Email: [religiouseducation@stfranciswanssea.com](mailto:religiouseducation@stfranciswanssea.com)  
St. Vincent de Paul: 508-673-2808  
Youth Ministry: 508-673-2808  
50 Week Club: Bill & Kathy Sullivan  
508-493-9064/508-674-8511

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Michael A. Ciryak  
Maintenance: Tony Roderigues  
Faith Formation/Office: Christine Patota (Grades 1-9)  
Finance/Office/Notary: Fran Kelley  
Music Director: Ada Simpson  
Cantors: Allison Messier, Mike Moniz  
and Christine Patota  
Youth Ministry: Justin & Amanda La Croix  
Parish Council President: Wayne Gray

## Parish Address:

Church: 530 Gardners Neck Road  
Office/Rectorry: 270 Ocean Grove Avenue  
Swansea, MA 02777  
Office hours: 9:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.  
or by appointment



**Parish Mission Statement:** In the spirit of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi, we dedicate ourselves as living stones to building our parish family with Christ as our foundation. Enlivened by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves by sharing God's transforming love with our families, our community and our world.

### 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 3:15PM to 3:40PM or call the rectory for an appointment.

**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.

**Church is handicapped accessible.**

### Saint Francis of Assisi Memorial Fund and End of Year Tax Deductible Donations

Consider enrolling your deceased loved ones in the Saint Francis of Assisi Memorial Fund. Relatives and friends who donate to the fund in memory of a deceased receive a thank you card from the parish, and another card is sent notifying the bereaved of the gift. The gifts are charitable contributions and may be a supplement or a substitute for flowers. Those whose names are enrolled in the Saint Francis of Assisi Memorial Fund are remembered in the Masses and prayers of the parish. A special Mass is celebrated once a year for all the souls enrolled.

**As 2017 winds down, please consider a tax deductible donation to your parish.**



## Mass Intentions for the Week

**Sat., Dec. 16 - Third Sunday of Advent**

**4:00 p.m. Joseph Fonseca** by wife

**Sun., Dec. 17 - Third Sunday of Advent**

**8:00 a.m. Edwina Moniz** by family

**9:30 a.m. Lois Ann Thomson (6th Anniv.)** by husband Joseph and family

**11:00 a.m. Joey Gonsalves III** by parents

**Don "Butch" Hyland** by family

**Eugene & Theresa Gauvin** by family

**Mon., Dec. 18**

**9:00 a.m. David Patota** by the Patota family

**Tues., Dec. 19**

**9:00 a.m. Br. Juniper O'Connor, Miriam Dolan & Sr. Claire Andre O.S.F.**

**Wed., Dec. 20**

**9:00 a.m. Katie L. Fleet** by mom

**Thurs., Dec. 21 - St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church**

**9:00 a.m. William & Irene Mello** by daughter

**Sat., Dec. 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**4:00 p.m. Joseph & Jean Ciryak,**

**Eileen A. Keating** by Brian Keating

**Geraldine Kadlec** by Stanley & Brenda Kadlec

**Sun., Dec. 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**8:00 a.m. Manuel Pacheco and David & Emily De Medeiros** by Rose Pacheco

**10:00 a.m. Grand parents and great grandparents of Dorvalino & Luisa Carreiro**

**Sun., Dec. 24 - Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord**

**4:00 p.m. Our loved ones, living and deceased**

**8:00 p.m. Our loved ones, living and deceased**

### REJOICE

Be filled with joy. Pray constantly. Give God thanks because the Lord expects us to give thanks and praise in Christ Jesus. Jesus comes with good news to free us and to clothe us with salvation. With the bridal cloak to shield us, the church helps us witness to the bright divine light of the Lord in our lives. Each event in our life is part of the coming of the Lord; John the Baptizer announces Jesus' arrival. Will we receive him-with his cross- joyfully?

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## Third Sunday of Advent

# Faith FORMATION

### Schedule for December

**Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Pageant at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments in the hall following.

**Tues., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>** - Class for grades 3, 4 & 5 at 4:30 p.m.

**Thurs., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>** - Class for grades 1 & 2 at 4:30 p.m.

**Dec., 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>** - NO CLASS/Christmas Week

**Christmas Flower donations** can be made in memory of a loved one who has passed away. Your generosity is allowing us to decorate our sanctuary beautifully this Christmas season. Thank you!



A special thank you to Tony & Judy Roderigues and all the hard working women who decorated our church for Christmas. We are all blessed by your talents!

### Calendars Are Here!

2018 calendars are available at the entrances to church. Please support the sponsors of this years calendar: **St. Dominic's Credit Union, Waring-Sullivan Home of Memorial Tribute and Richard Smith Plumbing and Heating.** Their generosity means we can give our parishioners these calendars free of charge.



Our devoted and talented members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will take a break from meeting until after January. In the meantime they would like you to know that there are many beautiful (and blessed) prayer shawls available for you to bring to a loved one. How nice would it be to give one as a Christmas gift? Please call the rectory, or come into the sacristy before or after Mass to pick one up. Many recipients of the knitted and crocheted items have expressed what solace the lap robes and prayer shawls have brought them. Our sincere thanks to the members of this club.



My Church is composed of people like me.  
*I can help make it what it is.*

*It will be friendly, if I am friendly.*

*It will be holy, if I am holy.*

*Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.*

*It will do great work, if I work.*

*It will be prayerful, if I pray*

*It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.*

*It will bring others to worship, if I invite and bring them.*

*It will be a Church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.*

*Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my Church to be.*

### **Do Catholics have to go to confession at least once a year?**

Paragraph #1457 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us "each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year." This is part of the minimum requirements to practice faith as found in the precepts of the church.

If one practices the faith sincerely, receives the sacraments, prays daily, strives to be holy, and is unaware of any serious sin, one would not be obligated to go to confession. Paragraph #1458 encourages people, however, to confess venial sin and to view the sacrament as another tool in the struggle to grow in faith through the formation of conscience.

Like any exercise, when we get out of habit, it is more difficult to return to the practice. The regularity helps more than just occasional activity. In the same way, the regular practice of one's faith makes it easier to develop a deeper relationship with God.



**Monday, December 18  
7:00 p.m.**

**St. John of God Church  
996 Brayton Ave  
Somerset, MA 02726**

The pastors of the parishes of Swansea and Somerset invite you to encounter the healing, strength and forgiveness of our loving God through the sacrament of reconciliation this Advent. Let us make our hearts ready for the Christ Child.



Christmas Pageant

Today at 2:00 p.m. please come to enjoy a special nativity play. This production will be lovingly performed by our faith formation students.

Join us following the pageant for refreshments and fellowship in the church hall.

Thank you to Megan Alves, our Director, for all her hard work and devotion to this endeavor. Thanks also to Ada Simpson for her help with music and our catechists who devoted some of their precious class time to rehearsing for this event.



4th Sunday in Advent

Sat., Dec. 23 - 4:00 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 24 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Sun., Dec. 24 - 4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Mon., Dec. 25 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family

Sat., Dec. 30 - 4:00 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 31 - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Mary, Mother of God

Sun., Dec. 31 - 4:00 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 1 - 9:00 a.m.



**There is nothing sweeter than the sound of children singing traditional Christmas hymns. We are blessed by these young ones and their families. Their joyful exuberance and innocence makes this season even more special.**

**Christmas Blessings to all!**

**Christmas Pageant today at 2:00 p.m.**