

# THE PARISH OF SAINT CLARE

1244 Liberty Street, Braintree, Mass 02184  
Collaborative Office Telephone: 781-843-1332  
www.stclarebraintree.org Collaborative email: parish@sfab.org

Parish Hall is accessible to Handicapped via elevator



## Parish Mission Statement

May the Lord bind us together as a community of faith filled with His love. Let us go forth and spread His Good News as St. John preached: "Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth." 1 John 3:18

## Pastor

Rev. Paul T. Clifford  
Email: pclifford@sfab.org

## Parochial Vicar

Rev. Shawn Carey  
frshawn@bostondeafcatholic.org

## Deacon

Michael J. Cavanaugh

## Finance and Operations Manager

## Sunday Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00 PM  
Sunday: 7:45 AM, 10:15 AM, & 6:00 PM

**Daily Mass:** 8:00 AM Saturday

**Holy Days:** 4:00 PM Mass on the Vigil  
9:00 AM & 5:30 PM

## Sacrament Of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 8:30-9:00 AM  
Anytime by Appointment

**Sacrament of Baptism:** 2nd Sunday at 1:00 PM

## Sacrament of Marriage:

A minimum six months notice is required. Couples must participate in a marriage preparation program.

## Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls:

Please notify the Collaborative Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness, handicap or age.

## Religious Education: 848-7481

Debbie Clancy, Grades 1-5  
E-mail: FaithFormation4K25@verizon.net  
Anne Marie Tranfaglia, Grades 6, 7, 8  
E-mail: FaithFormation4628@verizon.net  
Ronna Petrilli, Grades 9 & 10  
E-mail: rpetrilli@sfab.org

## Music Director:

Deacon Joe MacDonald  
E-mail: deaconjoemac@gmail.com

## Collaborative Office Manager—781-843-1332

Patty Kinnally—pkinnally@sfab.org

## Fr. Bill's Place:

First Tuesday of the month  
Mary Glynn

## Al-Anon:

Meets in Parish Hall - Tuesdays at 10:30 AM  
**(Suspended due to Coronavirus)**

## Help for the Poor:

**Pine Street Inn Society:**  
Brenda Flood 617-786-0402

## Holy Name Society: **(Suspended due to Coronavirus)**

Second Sunday of the month at the 7:45 AM Mass

## Boy Scout Troop #138:

Wednesday 7:00 PM  
John Collier 781-843-3330

## Family & Tots Program: **(Suspended due to Coronavirus)**

Karen Mc Brine 961-3460  
E-mail: karensmusicklass@aol.com

## Prayer Shawl Ministry: **(Suspended due to Coronavirus)**

First Wednesday of the month  
Lucille Barton 848-0626

## Braintree Catholic Women's Club:

### **(Suspended due to Coronavirus)**

Second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM in the  
Parish Hall Carolyn Puleo 617-834-0726

## Bulletin Deadline:

All notices must be submitted to the Parish House  
by Monday 1 PM. You may email them directly to  
stclare1@verizon.net

**Welcome To New Parishioners.** We want to know and serve you. If you are not registered, please fill out this form and present it to one of the priests or bring it to the rectory or place in the collection basket.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street/City/Zip

Do You Wish to receive Offertory Envelopes? Yes

Prayers are requested for the Parishioners of St. Clare Parish, for those who are hospitalized, for our deceased relatives and friends, and for the following intentions:

- Saturday**      **January 9, 2021**  
 8:00AM  
 4:00PM      Parishioners of St. Clare  
**Sunday**      **January 10, 2021**  
 7:45 AM      John E. Barton      Memorial  
 10:15AM  
 6:00PM  
**Saturday**      **January 16, 2021**  
 8:00AM  
 4:00PM  
**Sunday**      **January 17, 2021**  
 7:45AM  
 10:15AM  
 6:00PM

**WE ARE THE STEWARDS ...**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$3,323.00</b>
<b>Online giving</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,323.00</b>

If you are interested in the Online Giving option to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the parish office or visit our web site.

As always, we thank you for your ongoing generosity. The offertory is our primary means of meeting our Parish weekly operational expenses.

**The Altar Breads & Wine to be used at all Masses for the week of January 2-16, 2021 have been donated in loving memory of John E. Barton. The Sanctuary light will also burn in loving memory of John.**



*From*  
**Deacon Joe MacDonald**

A young man I know was getting married out of state. We had talked for some time about having me go down to preside at the ceremony. As with all weddings there were a few things that had to be done for the church. For one thing there'd be the paperwork that all engaged couples need to fill out before a Catholic marriage and because he was marrying a non-Catholic and the ceremony would be in a church of another denomination certain permissions from the local bishop needed to be obtained – no problem. As the day drew closer, I mentioned to him that time was getting short and they needed to do these things soon and offered to find a priest or deacon down there that would guide them through the process. I kind of sensed some reluctance and finally got out of him that he was just going to let the minister marry them because he thought the Catholic Church just makes people jump through too many hoops.

He didn't want to jump through hoops. How do you argue with that?

In today's Gospel we find the Son of God being baptized by John. The one who in fact was sinless accepted a baptism that was a sign of repentance for sin. And he was baptized by one who was admittedly inferior to Jesus.

Why would Jesus do that? For that matter why did he have to be circumcised? Or fast and pray? Why did he need to be tempted or learn scripture? Why suffer and die? Why become human at all?

Why did the Son of God have to jump through all those hoops?

When I first began to play the piano, my teacher had me practice scales and arpeggios all the time. I'd have to play them for one octave, then two, then three then four – every time in different rhythms and different keys. It was tedious - boring and pointless. One day I'd just about had enough so I went to my teacher and said "Why do I have to keep doing these stupid scales – what's the point? Can't I just play some Bach or Mozart?" Why was he making me jump through all those hoops?

So, he told me to start practicing a Mozart Sonata. Thank you! I started to play it... it was beautiful and it was ALL scales. I was able to play that piece because I had practiced those scales over and over again. By jumping through scale-hoops I prepared myself to play all kinds of music.

Athletes jump through hoops too.

A ball player that takes batting practice and catches ground balls finds himself ready to play in the big game. By skipping rope, hitting a bag and sparring, a boxer conditions his body and mind for the main event.

Jesus jumped through all those "hoops" to condition his humanity to do those things his divinity would require. He was in effect preparing for the main event. By humbling himself, becoming a baby, and by being baptized by John,



*#GivePintsForHalfPints*

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BLOOD DRIVE** 

January is National Blood Donor Awareness Month  
 Commit to Donating in 2021

Saturday, January 16, 2021 ~ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. AND  
 Friday, January 22, 2021 ~ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 St. Francis of Assisi Church  
 856 Washington Street  
 Braintree, MA 02148

In Memory of Charlotte Rose



To make an appointment visit:  
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 use sponsor code: STFRAN.

For more information contact Deirdre Shea  
 at 617-429-4941.

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Jesus gave himself a taste of what it would be like to be humbled before Pilot.

He who was sinless underwent a baptism of repentance knowing he would become sin for our sake and endure the cross for us. Jesus studied scripture so that when temptation came, he had a weapon to defend himself against the tempter and when he found himself abandoned on the cross, he could still lift his mind and heart to the Father by praying the psalms.

Jesus underwent circumcision, obeyed the dietary laws, underwent ritual cleansing and everything else because that's what God asked good Jews to do – and Jesus was a good Jew.

A Jewish man I know, when asked about dietary laws, said that Jews don't refrain from eating pork because there is something inherently bad about pork. Jews refrain from eating pork simply because God said not to. In the practice of their faith, they **practice** obedience to God.

It was through human disobedience (that of Adam) that our relationship with God was broken and nothing we could do for ourselves could ever repair that. It was only through the obedience of Jesus that our relationship with God could be restored.

Musicians, ball players, boxers and others all jump through hoops because they know they aren't perfect. They know that they won't be ready when the time comes for them to put up or shut up unless they're prepared.

And we are practicing Catholics for the same reason because we aren't perfect either. We need to be in constant training. We need to practice our faith even when we think it's tedious and pointless.

We fast not only as a form of penance, but because some day there might be a time when we may have to give up something we want – something we want dearly – for the sake of Christ and His Church, maybe our own lives.

We sing in church, even if it's uncomfortable for us and we're afraid of what someone might say about our voices, not only because it gives praise to God but because it's a way of practicing courage. Courage for the day when we may be required to raise our voices in a public way for Christ, or against some grave injustice and we'll be prepared because we've practiced courage.

We pray; attend mass; study scripture; obey the laws of God and the Church so that when the time comes, when we're confronted with our own main event, finding the Lord and following him won't be foreign to us. It will come naturally - as it did with Christ, tempted in the desert, and suffering on the Cross.

Jesus trusted God his Father to such a great extent that He was willing to have himself nailed to the wood of the cross where he would hang humiliated on a hill within sight of the temple where he ought to have been paid homage. He learned that trust through prayer, scripture, and obedience to the traditions of his Jewish faith. In doing so left us an example.

Everything he ever did he did for our sake.

That leaves us with a challenge - to find some time for ourselves over the coming week and reflect on that example and through our prayer discover ways in which we can make the trust of Christ, the obedience of Christ, the sacrifice of Christ and the work of Christ our own.



**Sunday Masses continue** with limited seating to provide safe social distancing for all in attendance. We remind you: You must **book a seat(s) for the Mass** you want to attend. There are two methods for booking a time. You may only book times for yourself and members of your household.

**On-line booking** is found at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a45a5a722a4f49-braintree>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/>

**Phone Booking**

• Dial 781-843-1332 and Press 3

• Follow recorded instructions

• Provide your Name, Phone#, Church, Mass Time and the total # of household members coming to Mass. Hang up after you are done with your message

**The cut-off times for Mass Reservations are as follows:**

2:00PM Saturday for the Saturday evening Masses

10:00PM Saturday for the Sunday morning Masses

2:00PM Sunday for the Sunday evening Mass

**You are required to wear a mask at all times** in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 31. You do not have to wear a mask if you have a medical or disabling condition that prevents this. Children under 2 do not require a mask; Children ages 2-5 is up to parental discretion.



Please remember in your prayers the following people who have gone home to the Lord in the past week:

**St. Clare**

Robert A. MacGillvray

**St. Francis of Assisi**

Frederick Wescott

*Thank you*—We thank the Braintree Knights for their recent generous donation to both St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare Parishes. We also thank you for all of your good work.





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