



*Braintree Catholic Collaborative*

*St. Francis of Assisi Parish*

856 Washington Street  
Braintree, MA 02184

*St. Clare Parish*

1244 Liberty Street  
Braintree, MA 02184

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Greetings to Parents and Families:

This letter pertains mostly to our Grade 2 children and families. (Unfortunately, we do not have an email distribution list by grade level). We are bringing Religious Education back to the collaborative parishes this year with a particular focus on the Sacramental Years, Grade 2 and Grade 10. Once those programs are up and running we will address the needs of families with children in Grades 3-6, then Grades 7, 8 and 9.

Assisting me with coordination of these programs will be Mrs. Karen Lane. Mrs. Lane taught at St. Francis School and is currently a teacher at St. Agatha School in Milton. She also raised her children through the Religious Education program at St. Francis.

First things first: Grade 2 – First Penance and Holy Communion

Last year we had no on-site classes – all preparation was done by parents and children at home. We're still celebrating those First Communions even now. (If you have or know of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader needing to receive, please reach out to us.)

For this year we will still have an abbreviated program (January – April), and will still rely on parents for leadership, but we will also have classes at St. Clare's through the Winter and early Spring.

There are two steps to be achieved in the First Communion Year: First Penance (Confession/Reconciliation) and First Holy Communion (Eucharist). Our program will address First Penance in 5 classes, beginning the week of January 17. First Penance celebrations will then be held after February School Vacation and in early March.

The First Communion classes will be held for 5 weeks beginning the week of March 21 and running through the month of April. First Communions will then be held in May/June. As usual, most of them will be in small groups at Sunday Mass and parents choose the date/time that's best for your family.

We will need help (teachers, at least) from parents and also want to hear from you about how we can help you prepare the children beyond class sessions. We will have a meeting for interested parents THIS Sunday, December 5 after the 9AM Mass at St. Francis and after the 10:15AM Mass at St. Clare; and Thursday, December 9 at 4PM at St. Clare. **These meetings are not mandatory.** Come with your questions and input as we prepare the kids for this grace-filled year in their lives.

If you have a child in grade 2, please reply to this email with your child's full name, your name and phone number.

In His service and yours,  
Fr. Paul Clifford