

# THE PARISH OF SAINT CLARE

1244 Liberty Street, Braintree, Mass 02184  
Collaborative Office Telephone: 781-843-1332

[www.braintreecatholic.org](http://www.braintreecatholic.org)

Collaborative email: [parish@sfab.org](mailto: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](mailto:pclifford@sfab.org)

## Parochial Vicar

Rev. Valanarasu Newton-Williamraj  
[frvalan@sfab.org](mailto:frvalan@sfab.org)

## Deacons

Michael J. Cavanaugh  
Joe MacDonald

## Finance and Operations Manager

Kevin Mercier

## 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: Sunday at 2:00 PM

Please call the collaborative office to register

## 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: 781-843-1332

On Hiatus

## Music Director:

Deacon Joe MacDonald

E-mail: [deaconjoe.sfasc@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjoe.sfasc@gmail.com)

Collaborative Office Manager—781-843-1332

Patty Kinnally—[pkinnally@sfab.org](mailto:pkinnally@sfab.org)

## Fr. Bill's Place:

First Tuesday of the month

**(Suspended due to Coronavirus)**

## Al-Anon:

Meets in Parish Hall - Tuesdays at 10:30 AM

**(Suspended due to Coronavirus)**

## Help for the Poor:

Pine Street Inn Society:

**(Suspended due to Coronavirus)**

## 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](mailto:karensmusicklass@aol.com)

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

First Wednesday of the month

Lucille Barton 848-0626

## Braintree Catholic Women's Club:

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](mailto: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:

<b>Saturday</b>	<b><u>November 27, 2021</u></b>	
8:00AM		
4:00PM	Patricia Dailey	Memorial
<b>Sunday</b>	<b><u>November 28, 2021</u></b>	
7:45AM		
10:15AM	Edward Chisholm	Anniversary
6:00PM	Parishioners of St. Clare	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b><u>December 4, 2021</u></b>	
8:00AM		
4:00PM	Lorraine Samarelli	1st Anniv.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b><u>December 5, 2021</u></b>	
7:45AM		
10:15AM	Domenic DeSantis and Fermina DiFonso	Memorial
6:00PM	Jarrold Petrelli	Anniversary

**WE ARE THE STEWARDS ...**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$ Information</b>
<b>Online giving</b>	<b>\$ not available</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ early bulletin</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 Collaborative Giving will appear in the church THIS weekend. **Gifts should be returned no later than December 12th** for distribution. Please keep in mind if you take a tag from the tree, please **look at it before you leave church** to be certain that you are willing and able to purchase at least some of the gifts listed there. If not—simply return it to the tree and take a different card that more suits your mindset and your budget. If someone has listed a basketball, please do not substitute a board game. (Seriously—this happens!) If you are unable to shop gift cards and/or monetary donations can be used for any last minute requests for assistance. Thank you for your consideration.

**Boy Scout Troop 138 Annual Wreath:**

Wreaths will be sold at all Masses at St Francis and St Clare THIS weekend. Traditional \$18 each or 2/\$30 and Premium \$20 or 2/ \$35 . We apologize for those who missed them last year but we have ordered plenty this year !! We can also do pre-orders and delivery, please contact Kathy LaRosee 781-738-5953 [kathy4933@gmail.com](mailto:kathy4933@gmail.com)



*From  
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

I was about 8 years old, maybe 10. I was in the Weymouth Town Farm league playing baseball for the B-Hawks. They had me playing left field, not so much because I was the most capable player in that position but because as they told me years later – I was kind of out in left field anyway.

As anyone who’s ever been to one of these games can tell you, not much ever makes it out to left field (not on purpose.) So, there I was, kicking the sand, watching the dog along by the fence, the ice cream truck in the parking lot... I was keeping track of everything except the game. It was boring out there. I remember faintly hearing the crack of a bat hitting a ball but it wasn’t something that grabbed my attention... until everyone and their mother started shouting at someone... “catch the ball.” I started to look around to see who they were shouting at. It was me!! I put my glove in the air...and the ball landed about 15 feet to my right. Be watchful and ready. It was a missed opportunity.

Some thirty years later I’m at another game. This time it’s my son out in left field. You know how it is at those things. First team up scores 10-12 runs mostly on throwing errors. Then the next team gets up and does the same thing. It’s hard not to be distracted, so I was chatting with one of the other parents. I remember faintly hearing the crack of a bat hitting a ball and everyone and their mother shouting “HEADS UP!” That got my attention... but it was too late. I got beamed off the head with a foul ball – landed in the E.R. for a couple hours. Be watchful and ready.

We can miss opportunities and we can get hurt when we don’t watch and when we’re not ready. Jesus warned us.

And that’s what Advent is all about. It’s a time to remind ourselves to prepare, to be ready, and to watch, but for what?

For most of us, especially for the kids, we’re getting ready for the day that signals the end of Advent – Christmas. But the birth of Christ happened some 2000 years ago and we weren’t there. We really can’t experience the birth of Christ any more than we can experience Lincoln delivering the Gettysburg Address. All we can do is read about it and study it.

We can enter into prayer with the nativity but we aren’t going to experience it the way Mary, Joseph and the shepherds did. It was a unique moment in history and we weren’t there. We can’t get ready for something that’s already happened.

Certainly, we can get ready for Christ’s second coming and we should. But again, that’s something that’ll happen sometime in the future. We don’t know when so we need to be always ready.

But there is a third coming of Christ that we sometimes neglect. It's the coming of Christ every day of our lives. The Lord calls us every day in the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. He beckons us to follow him daily in the Sacred Scripture. He calls us to spend time with him in prayer. We need to watch for those invitations and be ready to respond.

Although we're getting ready to celebrate, in a liturgical way, the beginning of Christ's life, today's Gospel comes toward the end of His life, on the way to Jerusalem and the cross.

"Be watchful and ready." That's what he told the people on his way to the cross.

The sad part is, The Son of God was there walking among them. The Messiah that they'd waited generations for was among them and the people didn't recognize Him. They weren't ready for the Son of God to be a carpenter. They weren't watching for the Messiah to come from Nazareth. There were all kinds of reasons they didn't recognize him. "Be watchful and ready."

St. Paul was like that. When he was still called Saul, and certainly before he was a saint, he was on the road to Damascus. He was going to persecute the Christians who lived there. Suddenly, he was knocked to the ground and heard a voice call to him "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?"

"Who are you Lord?"

"I am Jesus whom you persecute." Notice what Jesus said, "I am Jesus whom you persecute." He didn't say "I am Jesus and you're persecuting my people" or "I am Jesus and when you persecute them it's like persecuting me." No, he said "You are persecuting me!" This was the beginning of Paul's understanding. When we are baptized, we're baptized into Christ. As Paul would say later in his life, "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me."

We are made in God's image and likeness. I am – you are. We need to see God, see Christ in each other. We will, if we're watching, if we're ready, if we can shed our preconceptions and prejudices.

We have to be ready to see Christ.

- In the disheveled, alcoholic reeking of urine asking us for spare change.
- The elderly dementia patient in the nursing home who thinks she's at the bus stop
- The mentally ill person claiming to be Julius Caesar (I actually met this one)
- The immigrant who doesn't look like us, talk like us or live like us.
- The unborn
- The death row inmate living without hope

Every single day Jesus Christ comes to us, if we're watching, if we're ready, if we're paying attention.

But all too often we don't see his presence in this way. However, all we have to do is remember that Jesus was once homeless. People thought He was crazy. He didn't think he was Julius Caesar but he did claim be the Son of God. He had that funny Galilean accent. He was on death row.

It's not easy to love someone that smells or someone we can't understand or that hurts us. But if we can just see someone made in the image of God, as we are; if we can see a child of God that's been injured by life; broken by illness; beaten down by an uncaring world, like us, if we can see others like that - it can make a world of difference and perhaps we'll begin to see the face of Christ in new and amazing ways. We'll watch for Christ in our daily lives and we'll be prepared to respond.

The people we run across in life should not be like Christ to us – they are Christ. That's what Paul learned on the road to Damascus. That's what Jesus told us in Matthew's Gospel...

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Whatever you did for one of these, the least of my people, you did it for me."

We can't go on living our lives saying "I am made in the image of God, but HE isn't – not HER – not THAT ONE.

Let's not be the one out in left field never paying attention, never recognizing our opportunities. Let's not get beamed off the noggin because our head isn't in the game. Most of all let's not let anyone else get hurt, or go hungry, unvisited, or be unwanted because we don't recognize who it really is that needs us.

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ. And it doesn't matter which coming of Christ we're talking about, because if we keep our heads in the game, we'll be ready to celebrate Christmas and we'll be ready whenever Christ comes again, and with Christ we can say from our hearts, "Rejoice the Kingdom of God is among you"



**Advent Rosary Evenings...** begin THIS Monday, November 29 at 6:45PM in St. Francis of Assisi Church. Throughout Advent we will meet weekly (November 29, December 6, 13, and 20). We hope you'll consider making this time a new holiday tradition—for yourself or with family and friends.

**MASSt**  
**INTENTIONS**

**We are now booking Mass Intentions through Sunday, September 11, 2022. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.**