

THE PARISH OF SAINT CLARE

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

www.braintrecatholic.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. Valanarasu Newton-Williamraj
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: 781-848-7481

For Grades 2 and 10 Only

Music Director:

Deacon Joe MacDonald

E-mail: deaconjoe.sfasc@gmail.com

Collaborative Office Manager—781-843-1332

Patty Kinnally—pkinnally@sfab.org

AI-Anon:

Meets in Parish Hall - Tuesdays at 10:30AM

Help for the Poor:

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

Braintree Catholic Women's Club:

Second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM in the St. Francis Parish Hall (as of 12/14/22)

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 you can do so online at www.braintrecatholic.org. Or if you prefer, you can also 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 21, 2023	
8:00AM	Souls of the Unborn	
4:00PM	Genevieve McDonough	18th Anniv.
Sunday	January 22, 2023	
7:45AM	Carol Dunphy	Month's Mind
10:15AM	Marilyn Cavallaro	7th Anniv.
6:00PM	Rita A. MacDonald	6th Anniv.
Saturday	January 28, 2023	
8:00AM		
4:00PM	Linda Varroso	1st Anniv.
Sunday	January 29, 2023	
7:45AM	Gerald Ridge, Sr.	8th Anniv.
10:15AM	Joseph & Mary Kelly and Joseph Kelly, Jr.	Memorial
6:00PM		

Please see the inserted Financial Statement for December, 2022.

The **Sanctuary light** will burn in loving memory of Ruth L. Barkowski.

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



*St. Francis of Assisi
Margaret Grondell
George Picewick
Joana Baptista*

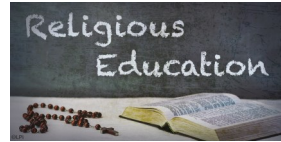
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Beginning Saturday February 4th at 9:00 A.M. we will begin a deep dive into the Gospel of Matthew. We will delve into many aspects of this important work and break open its meaning so as to increase our understanding and our faith. Until we know approximately how many people will attend the exact location is still to be determined.

All you will need is a bible that you don't mind marking up and a pencil or pen and a pad for taking notes.

Please email me at deaconjoe.sfasc@gmail.com to enroll. Please put "bible study" in the subject line and include your full name and phone.



Grades 1-6

Information can be found on the Collaborative website—www.braintreecatholic.org.

Regular Classes resume this week, (January 22, 24 and 26) for Grades 1-6

Grade 9-10

Classes meet this week, Sunday, January 22nd.

Grade 9 — 5-6PM at St. Francis of Assisi

Grade 10 — 5-6PM at St. Clare followed by the 6:00PM Mass. Parents are welcome to attend the Mass



Baby Care Collection for Friends of the Unborn.

The Braintree Knights of Columbus will be collecting Baby Care items on NEXT weekend (January 28th and 29th) at all Masses at Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Clare Parishes.

There will be a designated area at the front of each sanctuary for items to be placed.

Although all baby care items are most graciously received, the following items are noted as being particularly needed. Diaper sizes 3, 4 and 5. Newborn clothes, Vaseline, Aquaphor and backpack diaper bags.

For the moms there is a need for standard twin size pillowcases. For general supplies for the Friends of the Unborn Maternity Care shelter, there is always a need for TP and paper towels. Monetary donations are also welcome.

The Braintree Knights of Columbus will **pray the Rosary on the 5th Sunday January 29th** at Saint Francis of Assisi, after the 11:30AM mass in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

The Braintree Knights of Columbus Council #1462 **next meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2023.



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2022 please call the collaborative office at 781-843-1332.

In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner who has made a **single** contribution of \$250 or more. If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or EFT/online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the collaborative office.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

In writing his Gospel Matthew is careful to lay out just who Jesus is. He starts his story not with an attention-grabbing scene but with the Lord's genealogy. Ho-Hum. Without getting into too much detail, the point of a listing of these relatives of Jesus was to proclaim Jesus as the long-awaited successor to King David. (Ask me if you want more detail on that.) Jesus was the expected King and Messiah. He was the one that was supposed to rise up and defeat their enemy and oppressor – Rome.

If this were the case one would think that Jesus would have immediately gone out and recruited an army, but that's not what happened. Instead, he went out into the desert to do battle with a greater enemy. An enemy more dangerous than even the Romans – the Devil himself.

Jesus went into the desert for forty days and at the end of that time when Jesus was most tired and vulnerable then Satan comes calling. Jesus is faced with the same tests that Israel faced while wandering the desert for forty years. The first of these was hunger, for which God provided Mana to eat. Then instead of trusting God's providence they panicked over water and tested God's patience instead of trusting God. Finally, they fell and worshiped a false god – the golden calf.

In all of his own temptations, Jesus conquered where Israel had failed. The new Messiah and King had won his first victory over the real enemy.

By the time Jesus came out of the desert, John was imprisoned. Today's Gospel uses the word "arrested." Other translations say John was "handed over." It seems a subtle difference but later in the Gospel that phrase "handed over" would show up again – this time in reference to Jesus. A bit of foreshadowing on Matthew's part.

It was upon hearing of John's arrest that moves Jesus toward Capernaum where, like John, he would preach repentance. Indeed, it seems that Jesus was picking up where John had left off – preaching truth in the face of opposition. There is one difference though. Where John had preached repentance, Jesus preached repentance because the Kingdom was at hand. Christ's coming had begun the new Kingdom of God.

Now Jesus is ready to build his "army" and he begins by calling out four ordinary men from their ordinary lives with their ordinary jobs. They were given the grace to give up everything to follow him.

The gospel tells us that Peter and Andrew left their nets behind. It's an interesting detail to include.

If we think of how fishing nets are used, what they do, and what happens in them, we might find a message for our own lives. These nets were dragged along the bottom of the sea with the hope that fish would be caught up in them. And all kinds of things would be caught in the nets, not just fish but all kinds of foul, useless, diseased, and disgusting things.

Now, if you've ever had a fish tank you know what's at the bottom; it's where the dung falls and you know what the bottom dwellers eat. Everything in the net was either dead, going to die, something useless or something you didn't necessarily want to touch.

We're all carrying these nets around us with, filled with all the stuff that weighs us down. They're too heavy. We can barely move ahead. We've been trolling the bottom with them our whole lives.

They're filled with our own sinfulness; our selfishness; our addictions and compulsions; their filled with our anger and resentments; our grief and losses; they're filled with the abuses and violence we've lived through but Jesus calls to us "come follow Me, abandon your nets, live a different kind of life. You don't have to carry that burden"

Saying yes to Christ demands that we change. Not in the sense that we are coerced or forced kicking and screaming into something we don't want to do. WE aren't asked to do something that's not natural to us, after all the Apostles were still going to fish. When called by Christ we change in the sense that pregnancy demands birth or that a young couples love for each other calls them to marriage. We change into what God made us to be.

When we change, when we repent when we turn around, - our actions will show it. Not so that God will know we changed (he knows our hearts) but so that others will notice and might by our actions feel called to repentance and faith and freedom. In turn, their new way of living will impress others as well so that they too will come to the light until Christ has reached every dark corner of our world – and IT is changed.

"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before all, that they may see the good that you do and give glory to God." (Mt 5:14-16)

It's all about that: Repentance leads us to faith and faith leads us to give glory to God.

QUESTIONS



ASK DEACON JOE

Send me your questions about faith, Church Teaching, Scripture or any other Church related topic and I'll do my best to answer them in a future column. Send you queries

to askdeaconjoe@gmail.com.