

BRAINTREE CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

ST. CLARE PARISH

1244 LIBERTY STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 02184

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

856 WASHINGTON STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 02184



OUR PARISH STAFF

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert M. Blaney, Pastor
Rev. Kevin P. Leaver, Parochial Vicar
Msgr. Robert W. Oliver, Priest in Residence
Rev. Gerald Nebo, Priest in Residence
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Permanent Deacon/
Director of Music
Rev. Mr. James Waldron, Permanent Deacon
Rev. Mr. Michael J. Cavanaugh—Senior Deacon

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager
Miss Patty Kinnally, Office Manager
Mrs. Karen Lane, Director of Religious Education
Mr. Bob Muldoon, Facilities Director

MASS SCHEDULE

ST. CLARE

Saturday Evening: 4:00pm
Sunday: 7:45, 10:15am and 6:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Saturday Evening: 5:30pm
Sunday: 9:00 and 11:30am
Monday - Friday: 7:00am

CONTACT US

COLLABORATIVE PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 781-843-1322 | Fax: 781-848-0976
www.braintreecatholic.org
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

BULLETIN DEADLINE

All requests must be submitted to the Collaborative Office by Monday at 1PM. Email to parish@sfab.org

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 8:30am at St. Clare
Saturday: 12:30 - 2:00pm at St. Francis
Other times by appointment

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

A minimum of six months notice is required.
Please call the Collaborative Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a hall. 781-843-1332

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

2nd Sunday of the Month at St. Clare at 1:30PM
3rd Sunday of the Month at St. Francis at 1:30 PM
Please call the Collaborative Office to register.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK & COMMUNION CALLS

Please notify the Collaborative Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness 781-843-1332

Mass Intentions

St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, September 23, 2023

5:30PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Sunday, September 24, 2023

9:00AM Broughton & Dorgan Family Memorial

11:30AM Ellen White Anniversary

Monday, September 25, 2023

7:00AM

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

7:00AM Aurelio San Jose 32nd Anniv.

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

7:00AM Antonino Parlavecchio Memorial

Thursday, September 28, 2023

7:00AM Jessie Nowak 1st Anniv.

Friday, September 29, 2023

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, September 30, 2023

5:30PM George Reardon Month's Mind

Sunday, October 1, 2023

9:00AM Marie Reis Memorial

11:30AM Frances Salvucci 1st Anniv.

If you are interested in the Online Giving option for either parish to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the collaborative office.

Please remember our parishes when planning your estate. Thank you!



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, September 23, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Anna Buttaro 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, September 24, 2023

7:45AM

10:15AM Patrick Doherty 13th Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, September 30, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Susan Gagne Memorial

Sunday, October 1, 2023

7:45AM

10:15AM Rees Irvine 1st Anniv.

6:00PM

The Bread & Wine for the week of September 23rd through 29th have been donated in loving memory of Patrick Doherty. The **Sanctuary light** will also burn in Patrick's memory.

Info and events of note...

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry Open Thursdays at St. Francis from 10AM-12NN.** If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need.
- **Collaborative Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the parish prayer line, please call the Collaborative office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is deployed and you would like their info to appear on the blue board in the church, please call or email the parish office. Thank you.
- **Al-Anon ...** Tuesdays at 10:30 in St. Clare Church Hall
- **Boy Scout Troop #138 ...** Wednesdays at 7:00PM in St. Clare Church Hall.—Contact John Collier at 781-843-3330
- **Braintree Catholic Women's Club...** Second Wednesday of the month at 1:30PM in St. Francis Church Hall. Contact Carolyn Puleo 617-834-0726.
- **Braintree Knights of Columbus Council 1462...** Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church Hall.



As I've written before, the most important thing we do as a parish is render worship to God through the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the source of our identity, motivation and inspiration. At the same time the Eucharist is the summit of all our activity: caring for the sick, supporting grieving families, helping to provide food for those who are hungry, etc., etc. Since this is our first priority, then we should do it well as it ultimately is what impacts our relationship with God and shapes our parish community.

The second most important thing we do is pass on faith to our children. We teach them many things about Jesus and the Church. Most importantly, though, is to introduce them to Jesus so that they have a personal relationship with him. It does them no good if they know all kinds of things about Jesus but do *know* Jesus. Such an introduction comes best from parents/grandparents. The collaborative **Religious Education Program** begins a new year **this weekend**. My thanks to **Karen Lane** for getting us organized and leading the program. She has recruited a number of parishioners to help catechize the children (we still need more!). We have excellent classes planned for them. However, our program should first and foremost be a resource for parents to introduce their children to Jesus Christ. Hopefully, our program can do that. If any parents have ideas of how we might do this more effectively or have any questions, please don't be shy about asking Karen, Fr. Kevin, Deacon Joe, Deacon Jay or myself. We are here to support you!

Our Jewish brothers and sisters begin their observance of **Yom Kippur** tonight (Sunday) through Monday night. This is the holiest of days in the Jewish calendar as those of that faith reflect on their relationship with God and perform acts of penance for sins committed. As Christians, it is worthy of us to remember them in prayer as they were the first to receive God's covenant.

For those **liturgical ministers** who were not able to join us on Saturday morning for the training updates, there is another opportunity on Wednesday night at St. Francis at 7:00.

Altar Server
TRAINING

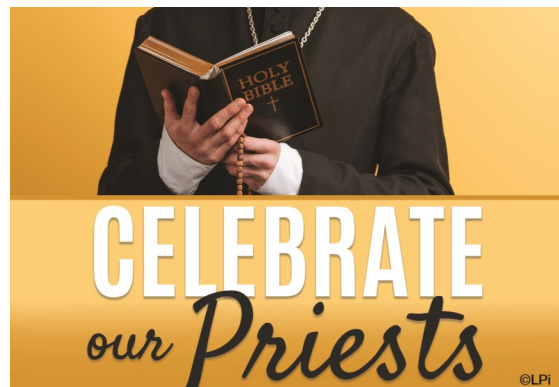
Calling all altar servers or those who aspire to be!

Training meeting (for both parishes) will be held next Sunday, October 1 at St. Clare Church following the 10:15 Mass.

Upcoming Surgery

I want share with you that I have to undergo a surgical procedure next month. I was born with a narrowed aortic valve in my heart which now needs to be replaced. I had surgery in 1969 at the age of two (on the day Armstrong walked on the moon!) to enlarge the valve with the idea that when I was a few years older it would be replaced. A few years went by and the valve was functioning well. More years went by and still it was working fine. All along, though, I was told that nature would eventually take its course and the valve would begin to narrow again. Such is the case for me. My annual heart check-up this year revealed that I am at the threshold of when the procedure ought to be done. They can measure the size of the valve and the increased pressure with such precision. The idea is to intervene before the narrowing becomes a problem. I do not have any symptoms and heart function is good overall. AND I am looking to keep it this way! This particular procedure will require invasive surgery which is scheduled for October 17. As you might expect the recuperation is many weeks. After several days in the hospital, I plan to go to Regina Cleri, the retirement home for priests in Boston (behind MGH). Hopefully after a couple of weeks there I can come back to the rectory.

I have spoken with the Cardinal and diocesan officials, and, of course, the parish staff. Fr. Kevin has most generously offered to take responsibility for the parish while I am recuperating. Likewise, Msgr. Oliver and Fr. Gerald have been quick to offer assistance. So many of you have been through all kinds of medical procedures or have cared for a sick family member and are familiar with the anxieties that come from all the uncertainties. Health care is such a big part of parish life: we intercede for each other before God. Please remember me in your prayers these coming days. *Fr. Bob*



This Sunday, September 24th is Priesthood Sunday. When you see Fr. Bob, Fr. Kevin, Msgr. Oliver and/or Fr. Gerald, please be sure to express your appreciation for their service.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

As you know, our friend and parishioner Jay Waldron was ordained by Cardinal Sean as a Permanent Deacon. Jay, like many others before him, has spent the last four years studying a variety of academic disciplines including theology, scripture, and liturgy to name a few. We at the Braintree Catholic Collaborative are blessed to have Deacon Jay assigned to our parishes. As we welcome Deacon Jay in his new role as a member of the clergy at Saint Francis and Saint Clare, I thought it might be a good time to cover some of the history of the diaconate and what the role of the deacon is today.

First, let us look at the word deacon itself. It comes from a Greek word *diakonos* which means minister or servant. And so, the role of deacon is to serve. He is to be an icon of Christ the servant, the one who came not to be served but to serve. How did this need for an order of servants come about? We read in the Acts of the Apostles:

At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So, the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. (Acts 6:1-6).

These seven were the first deacons ordained by the apostle by the laying on of hands, something that has been handed on over the centuries and is still used at the ordinations of deacons, priests, and bishops. It wasn't long before we would see deacons performing other kinds of ministry. In just a couple more verses Stephen is preaching in the synagogue where he is accused of blasphemy, defended the faith and preached to the Sanhedrin and was promptly stoned to death, becoming the first Christian martyr. (Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-60)

In Acts 8, we read that Phillip, who was also one of the original 7 deacons, went to Samaria and preached the Messiah to those people. There he healed many and drove out demons. Moved by the Spirit of God he met up with an Ethiopian who was a court official of Queen Candace. Phillip

taught him the meaning of the scripture he was reading and then baptized that official.

In just three chapters we find deacons serving at table, preaching, dying, and baptizing. Since that time there have been many famous deacons including Saint Lawrence, who I wrote about a few weeks ago, and of course our own Saint Francis of Assisi.

Over the centuries the Order of Deacon became more of a steppingstone to the priesthood. Men were not being ordained to be deacons permanently anymore. but it became a transitory step to the priesthood. We have often received a transitional deacon, one moving on to priesthood, doing parish work in our collaborative.

It was the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) that reestablished the permanent diaconate as a proper and permanent rank in the hierarchy of the Church. In 1968 the Church in the United States sought and received permission from Rome to restore the Permanent Diaconate here and we have never looked back.

One might ask how a deacon functions in the 21st century? Just as in the beginning the deacon serves at table. He serves the table of God's Word by proclaiming the Gospel at Mass and breaking open the Word for the faithful in the homily. The deacon also serves at the table of the Eucharist, assisting the priest, and distributing communion. He is an ordinary minister of communion, particularly the precious blood of our Lord. In addition, the deacon can baptize, officiate at marriage, preside at wakes, burials, and funerals outside of Mass, Preside and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction as well as other functions.

Deacons serve as chaplains in prisons and hospitals, oversee charitable organizations, and hold important positions at the Pastoral Center. They lead RCIA programs and Baptism and wedding preparation programs. Often, they work quietly behind the scenes helping to make parish life better for all.

Here are some additional things you might want to know. At Mass, it is often difficult to differentiate between the priest and the deacon because they often wear similar or matching vestments. The main vestment of a deacon at mass is called a dalmatic while the main vestment of the priest is called a chasuble. Without getting into too much detail you can tell a deacon from a priest because his dalmatic has sleeves and a priest's chasuble is one piece without sleeves.

Outside of Mass both deacons and priests usually vest with a white Alb and stole. The difference is that a priest wears his stole over both shoulders, and it hangs in front. A deacon wears his stole over the left shoulder and it drapes across the front and hangs on the right side.

Many times, people are confused about how to address a deacon. We know a priest is called “father” but what about the deacon? It is very simple. You address a deacon as “deacon.” So, when you see our new deacon, please address him by the title he earned by years of hard work and dedication – Deacon Jay.

BIBLE STUDY—Saint Jerome once said that “ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ.” We certainly always want to know Christ better. Deacon Joe’s bible study will resume on Saturday September 30 at 9:00 A.M. in Saint Francis Church Hall. This year we are studying the Gospel of Mark. We had a good crowd last year and hope to see even more of you this year.

CHOIR:

The Collaborative Choir will continue practicing Thursdays from 6:30 -8:00 PM. We will meet in the choir loft at Saint Francis. Please enter by the elevator doors.

As always we welcome new members to the choir. We especially need a few new men. Don’t be shy and remember singing is praying twice!



"He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." - Mt 20:13-16

Readings for the week of September 24, 2023

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)/
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/
Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab,
4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/
Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/
Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/
Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/
Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/
Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32



Information regarding Religious Education, including online registration, for all grades is now available on the collaborative website www.braintreecatholic.org - Faith Formation page. For online registration click on RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SIGN-UP GRADES 1-10 and it will take you directly to the registration form.

Grades 1-8

There will be a kick-off event THIS Sunday, September 24th following the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare (see below).

Classes begin the week of October 3rd at St. Clare.

Catechists are needed. Please email Karen Lane (klane@sfab.org) if you are willing to help.

Please see the welcome letter and class schedules on the Faith Formation page of the collaborative website.

Grades 9-10 (plus)

Orientation for students and parents will be held THIS Sunday, September 24th at 5PM in St. Clare Church, followed by the 6PM Mass. Further details to follow.

Braintree Catholic Collaborative RE Kickoff!

When: Sunday, October 1 at 11:15 a.m.

Where: St. Clare Church Hall



Did you know that St. Clare and St. Francis were friends when they lived in Assisi?

Come learn about and celebrate our patron saints!

Bring a stuffed toy for a Blessing of the Animals

Hear some stories and learn some fun facts

Crafts and activities

Talk to some special people:

Our priests, some RE teachers

maybe even the saints themselves!



September 24: 25th Sunday in Ordinary

Time:

On **September 27**, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, who knew that "God had sent him to bring good news to the poor." Together with

your gifts, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continue his work and mission in our parish.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to "bring good news to the poor," by assisting families, providing food, assistance with utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

Pantry donations can be dropped off at the Collaborative office during normal business hours (M-F 9-4). **Blue envelopes are in holders on the back inside wall of the church. Please use them for your cash, check (written to St. Vincent DePaul with SFA on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot. Thank you.**



St. Francis of Assisi

William Joseph Cawthron

Adeline Amelia Doherty

William Francis Sheridan



St. Francis of Assisi

Paulin Lusha

Thomas J. Colligan

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.



The Annual Blessing of the Animals in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi will take place **next Sunday**, October 1 at 1:00PM at St. Clare and

1:30PM at St. Francis. (There will also be a Pet blessing at the Religious Education Kick-off Event after the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare.) Owners, pets, and pet-lovers are welcome to attend. In the interest of safety for all please keep your pets restrained or contained.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

July 30 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
In our first reading we hear that God appeared to Solomon telling him to ask for whatever he wanted. Take note, Solomon does not ask for riches or a long life or an untroubled life. Solomon asks for an understanding heart! Consider - would your answer be like that of Solomon? To help us be clearer about what is important, Jesus gives us two short parables, the pearl of great price and the hidden treasure that is sought after and found. Do you think about of your faith as a pearl of great price, or a treasure to seek after? These readings give us much food for prayer ~about what we value, what we seek after, and whose we want to be!

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats

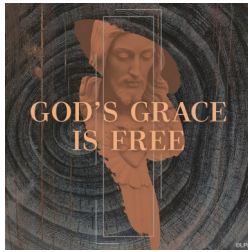
"Project Rachel led me to a place of forgiveness and mercy. During the retreat, I realized the lasting impact of forgiveness. I knew God had forgiven me, and now I needed to forgive myself."

The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a "Come to the Waters of Healing" one-day retreat. Upcoming dates are September 23 and November 11 from 9 AM to 5 PM. Locations are confidential. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass - All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries are invited to join Cardinal Seán O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap. on Sunday, October 29th at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. The Mass includes a vow renewal and special blessing by the cardinal. Family and friends are invited to attend. Couples can register or find more information at bit.ly/WeddingAnnivMass.

Walking with the Saints—Who doesn't love a good saint story? Join us every other week for "Walking with the Saints" - a video series where priests and religious from around the Archdiocese of Boston share about a saint they've come to know. Watch now on the Evangelize YouTube Channel – [YouTube.com/EvangelizeBoston](https://www.youtube.com/EvangelizeBoston).

Worldwide Marriage Encounter God calls you. Come experience a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience where God will work all things out for the good. The dates are: August 11-13, 2023 in Storrs, CT ; August 25-27, 2023 in Vermont; September 22-24, 2023 in Huntington, NY; and October 20-22, 2023 in Vermont. Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Joe & Ginny Vatile at 978-870-5646 or <https://www.mema.org/>.



September 24, 2023 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Once I gave my three-year-old niece a certain toy for Christmas. When she opened it, she was happy. Shortly thereafter her five-year old sister opened another present from me: the same toy, along with some play jewelry. The three-year-old cried out: "That's not fair! Why'd she get the jewelry, too?!"

Let's face it: there's something about God's grace in our religion which bugs us. We love to look at others' blessings and cry out: "That's not fair!" Catholicism is not fair in the sense that it is a religion founded on God's grace which is *unmerited* favor. God pours his mercy, love, and divine life upon us not because we're good but because He is infinitely good.

If you think the "not fair" quality of grace is easy to accept, consider how typically angry we get when we hear the parable of the workers who get paid way more than they deserve. The hyper-generous landowner says to the indignant hard workers, "Are you envious because I am generous?" Well, yes, they are, and so are we! Therefore, we *have* to reckon with this painful truth in order to move into the divine sphere of gifts, which is the world of Christ and his Church. Then we are able to move beyond a tit-for-tat world and into one where gifts are poured forth on those who don't deserve it — namely, upon us. *Father John Muir* ©LPi

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The Carmelite Nuns of Boston invite you to join them for A Triduum of Masses Celebrating St. Therese's 150th Birthday. Friday, September 29th at 7:00PM; Saturday, September 30th at 2:00PM and Sunday, October 1st at 2:00PM. All Masses will be celebrated at the Carmelite Monastery Chapel, 61 Mount Pleasant Street, Boston, MA 02119. Blessed roses will be distributed on October 1st.

High School Open Houses

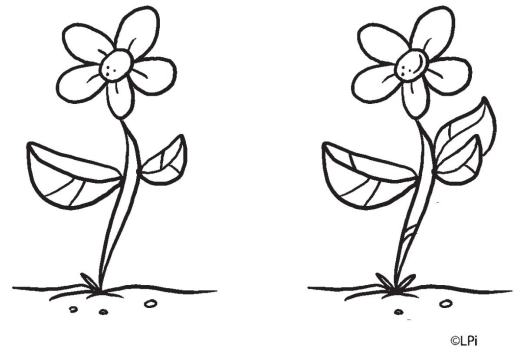
Cardinal Spellman High School, 738 Court Street, Brockton—Co-ed Grade 9-12. **Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 6 PM. Families are asked to register at spellman.com/openhouse.**

St. Sebastian's School, 1191 Greendale Avenue, Needham—Boys Grades 7-12. **Thursday, October 5 at 5:30PM.** Please visit www.stsebs.org/visit for event registration and details.



PUZZLE

Find 8 differences.



MISSION

Say a special prayer for each person in your family.



Sharing the Gospel

Whether you work for God your whole life, or whether you just got started, God will reward you in heaven. God doesn't want you to compare yourself with other people. God just wants you to love him with your whole heart.

Prayer

God, help me to be ready when you ask me to work for you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself telling a friend at school about Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Say a special prayer for each person in your family.