

Braintree Catholic Collaborative



St. Francis Church

856 Washington Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:30PM
Sunday: 9:00, 11:30AM

Monday –Friday: 7:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 12:30-2:00PM

St. Clare Church

1244 Liberty Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM
Sunday: 7:45, 10:15AM AND 6:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 8:30-9:00am

Collaborative Staff

Rev. Robert M. Blaney, Pastor
Rev. Kevin P. Leaver, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Joseph MacDonald, Collaborative Deacon/
Music Director
Deacon James Waldron, Collaborative Deacon
Mrs. Karen Lane, Religious Education Coordinator
Ms. Patty Kinnally, Office Manager
Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager
Mr. Robert Muldoon, Facilities Manager
Msgr. Robert W. Oliver, In Residence
Rev. Gerald Nebo, In Residence
Deacon Michael Cavanaugh, Senior Deacon

Contact Information

www.braintreecatholic.org
781-843-1332 | Fax: 781-848-0976

Collaborative Office and Mailing Address

856 Washington Street
Braintree, MA 02184

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00-4:00

Sacrament of Marriage

A minimum of six months notice is required. Please call the Collaborative Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a venue.

Sacrament of Baptism

2nd Sunday of the month at St. Clare at 1:30PM
3rd Sunday of the month at St. Francis at 1:30PM
Please call the Collaborative 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.

Bulletin Deadline

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

Mass Intentions

St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, October 21, 2023

5:30PM Antonino Parlavecchio Memorial

Sunday, October 22, 2023

9:00AM John J. McGrath Anniversary

11:30AM Maureen Barry Memorial

Monday, October 23, 2023

7:00AM

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

7:00AM Paul Agnew Month's Mind

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

7:00AM

Thursday, October 26, 2023

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Friday, October 27, 2023

7:00AM Antonino Parlavecchio Memorial

Saturday, October 28, 2023

5:30PM Anthony Zingarelli Memorial

Sunday, October 29, 2023

9:00AM Michael J. Richardi Anniversary

11:30AM Harold Hamilton Memorial

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, October 21, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Richard Sullivan 22nd Anniv

Sunday, October 22, 2023

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Julie Corcoran 20th Anniv.

6:00PM

Saturday, October 28, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Salvaggio & Quintiliani Families Memorial

Sunday, October 29, 2023

7:45AM

10:15AM Gerald & Terrence Palmer Anniversary

6:00PM

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.
- **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...** meets the 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.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.



*From the desk of
Fr. Kevin Lever*

Brothers and Sisters,

Many of you were able to witness our pastor, Fr. Bob, receive the Sacrament of the Sick last week at the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare. It was a beautiful reminder that, as Catholics, we are always called to be mindful of the sick and suffering members of our families, friends and community. As Fr. Bob recovers from his surgery, we make a commitment to pray daily for his healing as well as that of all the sick.

As I am sitting in Logan waiting to board a flight to make my annual retreat, the *Collect (Opening Prayer) for this 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time* hit me hard. “Grant that we may **always conform our will to yours** and serve your majesty in **sincerity** of heart.” How many times do I try to bargain with God? How many times do I try to make God change his mind, his will, instead of asking him to help me understand and accept his will.

This prayer will help me enter into my retreat with a specific focus, one that I had been discerning as I prepared to leave. I need to ask God to help me always seek his will first. While I am meditating and praying each day, the intention of my retreat will be to come back refreshed and renewed to be able to render to God what is his, my life.

God has called me by name, he has called you by name, and the only way we will find true happiness in this life is to lay aside our own wants, desires and wills, and serve the Lord with everything that we have and everything we are.

Praised be Jesus Christ...

Fr. Kevin



Update on Fr. Bob

Fr. Bob's surgery on Tuesday went well. The surgeon was very pleased with the results. As of Wednesday (when the bulletin went to press) the breathing tubes had been removed and he was awake and alert. As expected he was weak and tired. As you know he has a long road to recovery. Please keep Fr. Bob in your prayers. We'll try to keep you posted in the weeks ahead.



Is God Calling You to Be a Deacon?

The Archdiocese of Boston is forming a new class of candidates for the diaconate.

If you are interested in becoming an ordained deacon in the Archdiocese of Boston, you and your wife are invited to take part in the upcoming 2023 Inquirer Program. The program consists of the following three sessions:

Session I: Who is the Deacon and Am I One Who is Called? Tuesday, October 17th at 7:00 p.m. at Resurrection Church, 1057 Main Street, Hingham.

Monday, October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in St. Maria Goretti Church, 112 Chestnut Street, Lynnfield. (Church basement. Use side door)

Wednesday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m. in St. Michael's Church, 196 Main Street, North Andover

Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m. in St. Agnes Church, 51 Medford Street, Arlington. (Downstairs in Hope Hall. Use side entry door on Chestnut Street.)

Online Session, Tuesday, October 24th at 7:00 pm. If you are unable to attend any of the in-person sessions, we will be holding an online session. Please call the Permanent Diaconate Office at 617-746-5843 for details.

Session II: Application Process, Canonical Questions for Applicants. (Choose one of the two following sessions. Wives are not required to attend this session). This session will be held online. Please call the Permanent Diaconate Office at 617-746-5843 for details.

Thursday, November 9th 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 30th 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Session III: Discernment Day of Prayer

Saturday, December 9th 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (with lunch provided). Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree

Those who are interested in the Diaconate are encouraged to attend all three events, and their wives are encouraged to attend Sessions I and III. Please email the Permanent Diaconate Office at deacon_vocations@rcab.org to receive more information, or call the office at 617-746-5843. The next group to be admitted into formation will begin classes in September 2024.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

It is said that there are only two things that are constant – death and taxes. We don't like either one. But we will die at some point, and we do pay taxes. The thing is our government got wise to things. They don't send us a bill on April 15 demanding to be paid. No, they take a little out every week from our paychecks, so we hardly notice it. We go out to eat and we pay a meal tax and it's just added on to the bill. We buy something at the store, and it's taxed and all we know is the total. Most of the time we don't even check to see what we're paying in taxes. Still, when April 15th comes around there is plenty of anxiety just about doing the paperwork.

It wasn't that way in the Roman Empire. They came looking for their tax and it was paid even if it were under duress.

In ancient Israel there was a group of religious hard-liners called the Pharisees. They believed that to be a good Jew you had to be completely separated from anything pagan, anything unclean, anything "not like us." It was the only way to stay pure. These Pharisees of course would be opposed to paying any tax imposed by the Romans.

Then there were the Herodians. Those were those loyal to the puppet kings that Rome set up – think King Herod. Now these people were beholden to the Romans. Without Rome they would be powerless and even though they were aligned with Rome they understood that their position was precarious. They didn't want anything or anyone to upset the status quo when it came to Rome, least of all a messiah that might unleash violence and war against Rome.

The Pharisees and the Herodians were diametrically opposed to one another however, for different reasons, both groups saw Jesus as a threat. We all know the old adage which proved itself true in this case "my enemy's enemy is my friend."

The Pharisees, who acted kind of cowardly at this point, sent their disciples along with the Herodians to confront Jesus. I suspect that they felt humiliated by their prior contacts with Jesus and didn't want to be embarrassed again. At least, if something went wrong, they could say it wasn't us, it was our rookie disciples, or it was those Herodians.

In any case, they came to test Jesus which was actually a common practice at the time when a new rabbi began to teach. They would test him to see how much he actually knew. But they started with a lot of baloney, a lot of what comes out of the backside of a bull. They begin, "Oh teacher you're so wonderful, you're so truthful, you're so good and smart." They butter him up and try to make him feel at ease

so they can drop the hammer. "Is it lawful to pay the tax to the Romans." They thought they had him over a barrel. If Jesus says pay the tax the Jews would turn on him. If he says don't pay the tax, then the Herodians could go to the Romans and have him arrested. They put him between the proverbial rock and a hard place. They must have been salivating.

But Jesus called them out for their hypocrisy. "Why are you testing me?" It is the same language he used against Satan when he was tempted in the desert after his Baptism, "you shall not put the Lord your God to the test." Yes, go and test other rabbis but don't test Jesus because He is the Lord God! That was a bold statement for Jesus to make and might have put his opponents on their heels.

When Jesus asked for a coin, the Pharisees who wanted nothing to do with Rome or its economy were quick to bring a Roman coin from their purses further demonstrating their hypocrisy. Jesus escapes their trap "give to the emperor the things that are his (the tax) and to God what belongs to God (our hearts).

Does Scripture say anything about Christians paying tax? As a matter of fact, it does. Saint Paul tells us:

This is why you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Pay to all their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, toll to whom toll is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. (Romans 13:6-7)

Saint Peter says:

Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether it be to the king as supreme or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the approval of those who do good. For it is the will of God that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of foolish people. Be free, yet without using freedom as a pretext for evil, but as slaves of God. (1 Peter 2:13-16)

So let us not be like the hypocrites by wearing proudly our religious fervor when in our hearts we lack charity, are quick to judge and to condemn. And let us not put the Lord our God to the test. We might say "Oh, I don't do that." In fact, we do put God to the test when we lack trust in His providence as the Hebrews did in the wilderness. We put God to the test when we refuse to believe unless He gives us what we want. There are many ways that we test God. I'm sure each one of us, if we dig deep enough, will find a time or place where we put God to the test even if we're unaware.

God has provided a way for us to get the grace we need to put these things behind us and to make it less likely we will

repeat them in the future – prayer and sacraments. If we want to be right with God, we must pray, and pray daily. Pray with scripture. Pray the Rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours. Prayer is how we communicate with God and God with us. The Lord has also given us the Sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. I'm sure we all have heard it said, "you are what you eat." If we receive (eat) the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ, frequently in the reception of Holy Communion the more and more we become like Him; conformed more and more to His will which will bring us greater joy than all the treasures that the world could ever provide.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION—Led by Deacon Joe and Deacon Jay—Wednesdays from 7-8PM in St. Francis of Assisi Church. Church doors will open at 6:30PM.

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 continue on Saturday October 14 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 picture above is our expanding choir. There is always room for more. Please consider joining us. The Collaborative Choir practices on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 PM in the choir loft at Saint Francis. Please enter by the elevator doors. For more information please contact Deacon Joe at 781-843-1332 or deaconjoe.sfasc@gmail.com.



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

Grades 1-8

Classes meet this week
Sunday, October 22 at 11:15
No classes Tuesday or Thursday
All classes meet at St. Clare

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation Classes for Grade 10
THIS Sunday, October 15th 4:45PM at St. Clare
Confirmation Classes for **Grades 9 & 10**
NEXT Sunday, October 29th 4:45PM at St. Clare
Classes are followed by the 6PM Mass. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Mass.



October 15—28th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus say: "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

To give thanks for all that God has given to you, have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

Pantry donations can also 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.**



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Francis of Assisi

Lois Murphy
Mary Rita Sullivan
Paul J. Rusconi

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.



St Francis of Assisi
Grace Madison Connolly
Lillian Jean Daly
Olivia Rose Mahan
Cameron Francis Perea
Peyton Julianna Vonnak
James Richard Williams
Lenora Mary Williams



Braintree Knights of Columbus will host a Gathering for Pizza and Informational Only Financial Webinar. Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 PM, Location: Saint Francis of Assisi Lower Church Hall. Learn more from Anthony Minopoli, President & Chief Investment Officer from Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, at this informational only presentation about aligning your financial decisions with your Catholic values. We will start at 7:00 PM with an opening prayer, enjoy some pizza from a local restaurant, conversation and each other's company and then tune in to the virtual webinar at 7:30 PM. All men of the collaborative are welcome and you do not need to be a member to attend.

Braintree Knights of Columbus will pray the Rosary on the 5th Sunday of the month of October. Sunday, October 29th at 8:15 AM – Location: Saint Francis of Assisi Church, outdoors on the side of the church at the memorial to the unborn. All are welcome. In the event of rain, we will meet in the sanctuary.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Swim Volunteers Needed

Swim With A Special Child needs volunteers to swim one-on-one with students with developmental disabilities on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. during the school year. **Free childcare is provided.** Volunteers are welcome for one, two, or all three class sessions. No special skills are required. Training and assistance are provided. Classes are held at the Connell Pool, 220 Broad Street, in Weymouth. For more information, please call Katie Bacon at 339-933-0721 or June Doherty at 781-335-3785.

High School Open Houses



From the
Archdiocese of Boston

October 22 ~ Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Paul writes of his gratitude for the community at Thessalonica in today's second reading. He offers a prayer of thanksgiving for them remembering their works of faith and labors of love. His words of encouragement kept the community engaged in the work of promoting the faith and strengthening their bond of love for one another. Who in this community of faith needs words of encouragement? Will you, like St. Paul, take some time to write a note of encouragement or offer a prayer of thanksgiving for those striving to grow in faith? It may be just what the person needs!

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.

First Friday Visits (11/3)

Consider a Priestly Call...Take a risk for God! Enter the mission field where bold action meets lasting outcomes. Over 750 priest alumni discerned a sacred call later in life. Maturity with God's grace can move mountains. Can you leave it all to follow Christ? Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, Weston, MA is offering the latest in its "First Friday Visits" program on November 3, 2023, at 5:00 pm. Holy Hour and Evening Prayer. Option to attend in person or virtually. In person includes dinner with the seminarians and a tour. Virtual includes a Zoom visit following Holy Hour. Make a resolution to be courageous. Consider a priestly call. Contact: msgfr.fay@psjs.edu or 781.899.5500 ext.134. www.psjs.edu

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 date 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.

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. The topic will be "Entering Religious Life, Changing Relationships with Family and Friends" If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.



"Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." - Mt 22:19-21

Readings Week of the

Readings for the week of October 22, 2023

Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10 (7b)/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21
 Monday: Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 12:13-21
 Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38
 Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Lk 12:39-48
 Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 12:49-53
 Friday: Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/Lk 12:54-59
 Saturday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16
 Next Sunday: Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 (2)/1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40



PUZZLE

Complete the picture of the piggy bank.



MISSION

Take care of God's world. Together as a family, clean up trash that's lying around in your neighborhood.



Sharing the Gospel

When you grow up and earn money, you will have to pay taxes. Taxes pay for many good things that keep us safe and healthy. When you grow up in your faith, you will want to give God some of the money you earn, because all you have is a gift from God.

Prayer

God, teach me to use money wisely so my community and my church can grow.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself putting money in the collection at church.

Mission for the Week

Take care of God's world. Together as a family, clean up trash that's lying around in your neighborhood.