

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, November 11, 2023

5:30PM Maureen & Tim Lyons Memorial

Sunday, November 12, 2023

9:00AM Mary E. Boudreaux 5th Anniv.

11:30AM Emilia Tarbi Memorial

Monday, November 13, 2023

7:00AM Albert Haag Memorial

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

7:00AM Dr. Richard Black Month's Mind

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

7:00AM Irene Lund Anniversary

Thursday, November 16, 2023

7:00AM Nancy Doherty 1st Anniv.

Friday, November 17, 2023

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, November 18, 2023

5:30PM Ronald Campanelli 1st Anniv.

Sunday, November 19, 2023

9:00AM Anthony H. Cataldo Memorial

11:30AM Richard Powers, Virginia Donovan and Albert Donnelly 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!



We are now booking Mass Intentions **through June 30, 2024**. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, November 11, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Al & Mary Milligan Memorial

Sunday, November 12, 2023

7:45AM All Who Are Suffering

10:15AM Tom & Mary Walsh Anniversary

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, November 18, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Darche & McCue Families Memorial

Sunday, November 19, 2023

7:45AM Leonard T. Connolly Family Memorial

10:15AM Domenic DeSantis Anniversary

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative



2023 THANKSGIVING DINNER BASKET DRIVE

This year marks our 11th year providing the families of Braintree with a Thanksgiving dinner basket through the Marge Crispin Social Service Center. Throughout the last 11 years, we have provided over 1,600 baskets to families in our community with the inspiring generosity of donors. **Our goal this year is to complete 175 Thanksgiving Baskets**, which will provide a turkey dinner with all the fixings for a complete meal, as well as items to be enjoyed after the holiday.

We are accepting monetary donations in lieu of food donations again this year. **Each basket costs approximately \$75**, but every dollar counts – no donation is too small.

This year we are dedicating our Thanksgiving Basket Drive in memory of Al Milligan, Mare (McDonough) Milligan's husband. Al passed away unexpectedly on September 8th, 2023. Along with Mare, Al was a big part of our drive from the very first year.

We would appreciate donations before November 17th but will gratefully accept them afterward as well.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with joy, love and bountiful blessings.

Marty and Paula McDonough and Family

Checks should be made payable to made out to: St. Clare Parish and placed in an envelope marked Thanksgiving Dinner Drive.



Many thanks for your continued prayers and remembrances to the Lord on my behalf. I am recovering nicely. I don't know if there's a schedule for recuperation. No one mentioned any bench marks. However I am feeling stronger each day and hopefully will be returning to the rectory very soon.

As you well know, the month of November is dedicated to the memory of those who have died. The first day of November is the Solemnity of All Saints then the feast of All Souls on the second day. Along with these important days, the month of November itself concludes the liturgical year of the Church (although this year because Christmas is on a Monday the year ends on December 2 with the new year beginning December 3). Given that it's the end of the year, the Scripture readings at Mass focus our attention on the end of time. Case in point, the Gospel reading this Sunday is the parable of the ten virgins who await the return of the bride-groom connoting that sense that we have to be ready for the big "whenever".

Thinking about death is generally not pleasant, be it of a loved-one or our own. I suppose the mere thought makes us face the uncertainty of what we believe. I've been thinking of death a bit more in recent weeks as there's nothing like general anesthesia to make you face such a reality. Although it's hard to imagine anesthesia and surgery being safer than it is today, there is still that risk, albeit a small one for the most part. I will share with you a thought that came to mind in the hours before surgery. It was this: that no matter the outcome, I would have a personal and radically intimate encounter with Jesus Christ. Be it a successful surgery or otherwise, Christ was the ultimate conclusion. As I pondered that reality, it never occurred to me that there would be an alternate outcome, say like nothing. I was convinced that Jesus Christ is real and active through the power of the Holy Spirit in all that was happening that day. Now, such thoughts did not take away my anxieties, but they did provide a framework in which to prepare myself for the surgery. When I realized surgery was over (I don't remember waking up per se) I was relieved and also consoled with the sense that the Lord was with me, or better said, that I was with the Lord.

While reflecting on this in recent days I happened to be reading a meditation by Father Romano Guardini about Eucharist and death.

Our ancient Jewish ancestors held Saturday as the Sabbath, that is, a day of rest and the day of right worship of God. Their theology came from the story of creation in the book of Genesis in which God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. The Sabbath, therefore, was a sacred time to look backward in time so as to recognize in nature the power of God.

The early Christians took the Sabbath and moved it to Sunday, the first day of the week. Like the Saturday Sabbath, Sunday was a day of rest but also the day of the Eucharist, since it was the day of Resurrection. Notice the big shift in the significance of Sabbath: originally when on the last day of the week its focus was on what was in the past. By moving it to Sunday, the first day of the week, its focus is what lies in the future. Yes, looking forward to the week ahead, but more significantly to what lies beyond everything. Although Eucharist is an act of thanksgiving for all God has done, it propels us to the future for what lies beyond, namely, death. What lies beyond death? We don't know, do we? The Eucharist, with its place in the first day of the week, makes us consider that there is something more. We don't know the details (oh, only if we did!). Nevertheless it does say to us and to the world that Christ is radically in the beyond.

Although I don't think any of us want to know the details anytime soon of what comes next, it is important to work into the fabric of our beliefs that no matter the what, where or when, there is an intimate and radically personal encounter with the Risen Christ at the end of it all.

Fr. Bob



November is the month of Remembrance. The display boards at the front of each of our churches bear crosses with the names of all of the people who were buried from that church from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. A special Mass of Remembrance for all of these people will be held on Tuesday, November 21st at 6:30PM in **St. Clare Church**. Invitations were mailed to members of all of these dearly departed this past week. Please keep the deceased and their loved ones in your prayers.





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Christ is coming! Today's Gospel calls him the Son of Man, but we can call Him the Bridegroom, the Son of David, the Son of God, or any other title we have for Him. The point is – He is coming. We just don't know when.

I think in order to understand the story of the foolish virgins we have to have some historical and social background. In the first century the groom would travel to the home of the bride's father. After working out the details of the dowry and getting dad's blessing the groom would then bring the bride to his own house. No one really knew how long this would take, it may be days or weeks.

At the groom's house there would be virgins making ready for his return. The home had to be kept, a meal needed to be ready, and most important if the return occurred at night, they would go out with lamps lit ready to brighten the way for the happy couple. Today, although the duties are different, we might think of these virgins as bridesmaids.

Probably we all have heard of or experienced bridesmaids that were lax in their duty. They don't help the bride with planning a shower or a bachelorette party or anything else. Despite all that, they will certainly show up for the reception ready to have their pictures taken with the bride, sit at the most important table have their name announced as they enter as though they were some sort of celebrity. They'll dance through the night, fill their bellies with food and drink and have a wonderful time they did little to deserve.

Of course, there were wise bridesmaids as well. They did all the planning, helped out at every turn and were there for the bride at moment's notice. To be fair, in this day and age, we could also be talking about groomsmen.

This parable of the wise and foolish virgins is a warning to us and all Christians to be ready for that day when the bridegroom (Jesus) comes again. For some Christians it will be that day at the end of time but for most of us it will be that day when we breathe our last.

How are we to be prepared? What does having plenty of oil for the their lamps have to do with us? We aren't going to be carrying lamps at the end of time or at the hour of our death. What is the "oil" we must have? What fills us with light, the light of Christ, if not grace.

Like those wise virgins we need to have the fuel that keeps our lives aglow with the light of Christ. Grace, the free gift of God, that both gives us the strength to live the Christian life and that makes us holy. And holiness is what we are called to.

The Lord said to Moses:

Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy. (Leviticus 19:1-2)

Jesus Himself exhorts us to Holiness.

Be Holy as your heavenly father is Holy. (Matthew 5:48)

Holiness is what gets us into heaven. Simply being good isn't enough. Like the Blessed Mother we need to be filled with God's grace. We cannot make ourselves holy. Only God Himself, with our cooperation, can fill us with the grace of holiness. And He wants to do it.

The foolish virgins thought they could get oil "grace" from the other virgins. But if grace only comes from God the wise ones were not even capable of sharing. We can't get the grace to be holy from anyone except from God. It's not like going next door for a cup of sugar.

We should be like the wise virgins. First, we need to ask for grace and then we have to find it in those places that Jesus gave us in prayer, in Scripture and in the Sacraments especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

In our lives we can stay awake and do those things that bring us closer to Christ and so be ready when He comes in glory – the wise choice. Or we can sleep through life seeking our own pleasure, ignoring the needs of others, and putting God and faith on a back burner think there is plenty of time – the foolish choice.



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 November 4th at 9:00 A.M. in Saint Francis Church Hall. This year we are studying the Gospel of Mark. Newcomers are welcome to join our group (see the group picture below).

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!



Grades 1-8

Classes the week of Sunday, November 12th

No classes Sunday, November 12th

Classes meet Tuesday, November 14th and Thursday November 16th.

All classes meet at St. Clare

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation Classes for **Grades 10** meet THIS Sunday, November 12th 4:45PM at St. Clare

Confirmation Classes for **Grade 9** meet NEXT Sunday, November 19th 4:45PM at St. Clare

Classes are followed by the 6PM Mass. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Mass.

Super Saturday Confirmation Workshop is scheduled to next Saturday, November 18th from 11-5 at St. Clare.



November 12 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to "stay awake" by taking time to seriously look at ourselves, the priorities of our lives, and how we are growing spiritually.

Ask yourself "What would Jesus Christ do?" and then put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box so that those who are suffering will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is NEXT weekend, November 18-19. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. Some of the **Seasonal** needed items are: **stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes/yams, canned vegetables, bread mix (i.e pumpkin, banana, etc.), pie filling, chicken or turkey broth.** However, we are grateful for anything you wish to donate. If you forgot or prefer not to shop, please read the St. Vincent DePaul paragraph to learn how you can help.

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.**



Mass will be celebrated at 8:00AM on Thanksgiving morning in BOTH parishes.

The Annual Thanksgiving Toy Drive will be conducted at the 8:00AM Mass at ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 23). Please bring a new/unwrapped toy or game which will be presented during the offertory. These gifts will be distributed to needy children in our community.



St. Clare

Joseph V. Sheehan

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.

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
- **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.
- **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.



notes of interest

From the Archdiocese of Boston

November 12 ~Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The parable in today's gospel points out the missed opportunity that results from being unprepared. The pressures of daily life can often lead us to push aside for another time our spiritual lives and of faith commitments. Can we learn a lesson from the unwise virgins in today's gospel? Consider adopting the practice of taking five minutes before Mass begins to ask for openness to the ways God will come to us in word and sacrament at this Eucharist. The invitation in today's readings is clear ~ don't put off being prepared for Christ! We may even meet him where we least expect.

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.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE AND HEALING FOR PREGNANCY & INFANT LOSS—The Pro Life Office and Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston will sponsor this Mass on Wednesday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Bethany Chapel in the Pastoral Center (66 Brooks Drive, Braintree). Celebrant and homilist will be Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, Secretary for Health & Social Services of the Archdiocese of Boston. A light reception and opportunity for Confession will also be available after Mass. A special invitation is extended to parents, grandparents and siblings who grieve the death of children as a result of miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion or early infant death. These losses may be recent or extend over many years. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100. or help@projectrachelboston.com.

A token of thanks for a lifetime of service

Religious sisters have been influential in so many areas within our Church and here in Greater Boston. Certainly, we know of their impact in Catholic education and health care services, but we have also seen them working and advocating at the forefront of challenging societal issues such as homelessness, immigration, environmental responsibility, and social justice. Together, they share a beautiful commitment to prayer, community, and ministry- and a humble obedience to the Holy Spirit.

Next week's **second** collection helps provide for the needs of our nearly 1,500 Retired Sisters who have dedicated their lives to serving the Greater Boston area. This collection helps to provide for their needs, including health care and retirement expenses that are not covered by social security benefits. Every gift impacts the lives of these wonderful women and allows them to journey forward knowing they are blessed with the support and care that they need.

Next week, please let your hearts be guided to generously support them for their many years of service to Christ, to our communities, and to the greater Church.

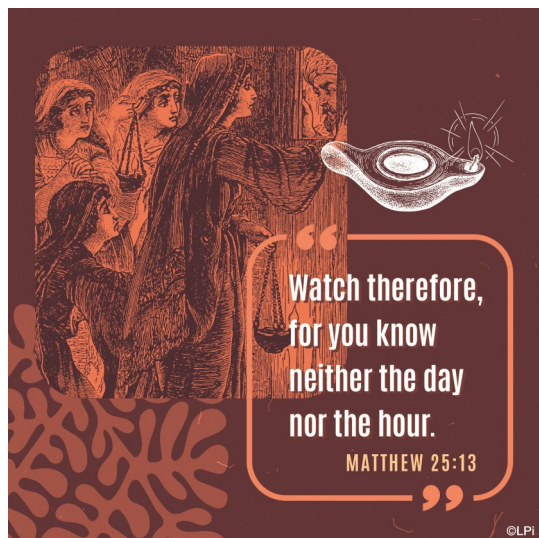
"The bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'" - Mt 25:10b-12

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of November 12, 2023

- Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (2b)/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/ Mt 25:1-13
- Monday: Wis 1:1-7/Ps 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10/ Lk 17:1-6
- Tuesday: Wis 2:23—3:9/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/ Lk 17:7-10
- Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11/Ps 82:3-4, 6-7/Lk 17:11-19
- Thursday: Wis 7:22b—8:1/Ps 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175/Lk 17:20-25
- Friday: Wis 13:1-9/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5ab/ Lk 17:26-37
- Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43/Lk 18:1-8
- Next Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1a)/1 Thes 5:1-6/ Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21





November 12, 2023 - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lately I've been enjoying the deep meaning of Eastern icons. I love how they express a tapestry of meaning in a way that can surpass the written or spoken word. Today's parable of the ten virgins from Jesus is a good example. Try googling "wise and foolish virgins icon" and you'll see an image of how our Christ meets our heart's deepest needs if we attend to him with the proper attitude.

I'm serious. Take a moment to google and look at it. See how it depicts the risen Jesus behind a closed door with the five wise virgins with lighted lamps. He gazes with them toward the five foolish and lamp-less virgins, symbolizing the outward looking of divine love for the lost. Moreover, the wedding feast is no ordinary one. It takes place in a walled city and garden, indicating it's a new Jerusalem and a return to Eden. The table isn't typical, either. It's a Eucharistic feast. Now we see that the door in Jesus' parable is the way into the church, where Christ is the new light burning amidst the dark midnight of this world.

The richness continues. We notice, too, that the foolish virgins look *exactly* the same as the wise ones in their clothes, hair, and expressions. The only difference is they departed to buy oil and now they are sadly excluded. We often act like consumers in the marketplace to fulfill our need for love and mercy. We'll *always* end up disappointed if we shop around. Jesus sums up the moral of the story this way: **"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."** Watch, remain, don't spiritually shop. It is *always* better to quietly remain close to the Eucharistic community of the Church, even if we feel like our oil has run out. This week let's consider placing the icon of the wise and foolish virgins on our phone lock screen or computer desktop to help us remember to stay close to him, especially when life feels dark.

— Father John Muir, ©LPI



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

VIRGINS
LAMPS
FOOLISH

WISE
OIL JARS
BRIDEGROOM

WEDDING
DOOR
WATCH

A V I R B Y G N O S U
L D O O R M W A T C H
E P S F I L S H L O W
S W E D D I N G A E F
A I L J E R A S M I O
B S U R G U D E P G O
I E V I R G I N S E L
R O M E O W E D U N I
U G Y D O I L J A R S
O A R I M A W T C A H
Y H V A R O I G Y N S

MISSION

As a family, go through your closets and drawers. Take out all the clothes you don't wear anymore. Then donate them to charity.



Sharing the Gospel

Make sure your heart is ready for Jesus. One day Jesus will come back. If your heart is empty and dark - without love - you will be left out. But if your heart is filled with God's love for other people, Jesus will bring you into heaven with him forever.

Prayer

God, fill my heart with your love. I want to be ready for Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself helping your parents set the table because you love Jesus.

Mission for the Week

As a family, go through your closets and drawers. Take out all the clothes you don't wear anymore. Then donate them to charity.