

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 25, 2023

5:30PM Dick & Mary Hamel Memorial

Sunday, November 26, 2023

9:00AM David Ringius 1st Anniv.

11:30AM Thomas J. Kelley, John M. Kelly, Jr. Memorial
And John M. Kelley, Sr.

Monday, November 27, 2023

7:00AM Vincent Cioffi 6th Anniv.

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

7:00AM Paul Collins, Sr. Memorial

Thursday, November 30, 2023

7:00AM Corinne Fasano 1st Anniv.

Friday, December 1, 2023

7:00AM Connie McEleney Memorial

Saturday, December 2, 2023

5:30PM Franklin Cropley & Steven Lemieux Anniversary

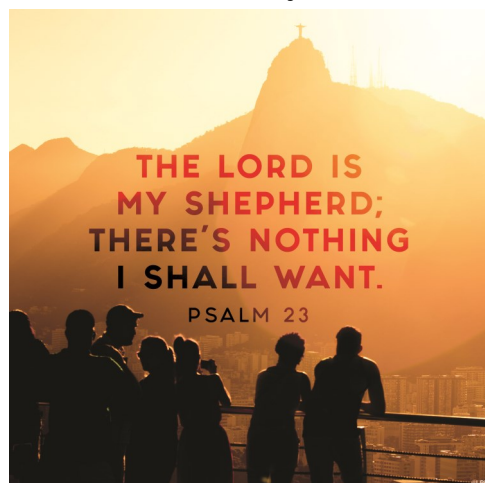
Sunday, December 3, 2023

9:00AM Flaherty Family Memorial

11:30AM Joseph Stanton Anniversary

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, November 25, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Rees Irvine Memorial

Sunday, November 26, 2023

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Julia Downing Memorial

6:00PM Lorraine Memorial

Saturday, December 2, 2023

8:00AM John Keaveney 3rd. Anniv

4:00PM William, Sr., Miriam & Brian Little Memorial

Sunday, December 3, 2023

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Martha Byron 14th Anniv.

6:00PM Jarrod Petrelli Anniversary

The Bread & Wine for the week of November 18th through 24th were been donated in loving memory of the Leonard T. Connolly Family. The **Sanctuary light** also burned in their & Tom'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.
- **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.



This week completes another year in the Church's liturgical calendar. This being the last Sunday of the year is the **Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**, more popularly known as *Christ the King*. This Solemnity has been affixed to the last Sunday of the year since 1970 when Pope Paul VI moved it from the last Sunday in October. By placing it on the last Sunday of the year, Pope Paul wanted to emphasize that all time and events culminate in Christ who has dominion over all of creation.

The actual solemnity was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI who felt a strong motivation to ritualize the Church's recognition of the sovereignty of Jesus Christ. The pope certainly did not just make up the feast because of some inspiration. There was in the universal Church a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Many families throughout the world consecrated themselves to the Sacred Heart. In so doing, they placed themselves under the protection and providence of Christ. Pius XI acknowledged this devotion by making it a foundation of our liturgical practice by instituting this solemnity.

What was going on in the mid 1920's that prompted the Holy Father to make such a major feast? In the years following the first World War, there was a significant cultural shift toward individualism. Populations were less enamored by national or communal identity and focused more on self-autonomy. On the other hand there were philosophical and political movements that idealized the state as the primary focus of society (think communism, facism, Nazism.) Either way, the world was becoming less religious.

In the hopes of teaching the world that we are all creatures of God, and that God is active in history, the feast of Christ the King was meant to *re-order* the way people look at things, specifically recognizing that God is center of all.

Almost 100 years later it seems that not much has changed. If anything, the world is far more secular and that religion is held in contempt. Think about how our lives have been shaped to think of religious ideas a private matter never to be discussed in polite company. Even in our Christian faith we do not talk openly of Christ, faith, grace, Church, etc, even with close friends and family.

In this context Christ the King is a hard concept to grasp. In our American culture, we pride ourselves on shunning a monarchy and any form of government in which

one person has all the power. The idea that anyone person, even God, has total control of my life is foreign to American values. Even those of us who practice our Catholic faith regularly tend to see God as our helper, rather than each one of us being God's helper; God exists to make my life better rather than I exist to give glory to God.

One of the indicators to me of resistance to the notion of Christ as King is polarization in the Church. To be fair, every aspect of our culture seems to be mired in polarizing opinions. In the Church, there are some members who feel that the Church is too slow to embrace changing times, is too rigid or too set in the past. Others think that the Church has moved too far away from the Gospel and is buckling under the pressure to be more acceptable to the masses. Some identify strongly with Pope Francis and others think he has led the Church into sin. It's no wonder why so many members of the Church choose to stay away all together. You might even think to yourself "who can blame them?" and, wonder why you even bother to stay?

I find it helpful to keep in mind that the Church has always been in a state of polarization, that is people believing, thinking, feeling radically different things about God and the Church. In the earliest months and years of the Church there was great controversy over the distribution of food. Greek speaking women were being neglected. Then about 25 years or so after the Ascension of the Lord, the Apostles were caught in a huge fight over who could belong to the Church. Peter and his cohort were insisting that a person had to be Jewish in order to join the Church while Paul and his companions were arguing that being Jewish was not a requirement for Baptism or Christian faith. By the fourth century a good part of the Church believed that Jesus was not really God, but rather adopted by God. Still others were professing that Jesus was not fully human and was only God "disguised" as a human. This led to bitter fights. Around the year 1000 the Church split in two between the east and west, a division still present today because we can't agree on how the Church should be governed. A few hundred years later the Church splintered because there was such polarization represented in the persons of King Henry VIII of England, Martin Luther, John Knox, etc.

Such polarization continues today with some thinking that Mass should be celebrated in Latin, others thinking that priesthood should be open to married men and women, that marriage should be thought of differently, etc, etc, etc. Polarization has a way of silencing our spirit. The poles of public opinion are dangerous places to be. Don't get me wrong. Our opinions matter but to the point where they take Christ out of the center and insert ourselves they can be destructive.

If there is one thing we might take away from today's Solemnity, it's that we worship Jesus Christ, son of the

Living God. He and He alone is Lord and Savior. The Church is not the object of our worship. It is the community, institution, voice, servant and teacher that helps us put Christ at the center of it all.

Next Sunday begins a new year in the Church and is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is very short this year, only three weeks! For those who are interested, I will offer an overview of Advent on Monday, December 4th from 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the parish hall at St. Francis Church. This is an informal overview of the importance, necessity, history, spirituality of Advent.

Fr. Bob



"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 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.'" - Mt 25:34-36

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of November 26, 2023

- Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46
- Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4
- Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11
- Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19
- Thursday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22
- Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33
- Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36
- Next Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

Ancient Israel was a nation unlike any other of its time and it wasn't just because they worshiped the one true God. Unlike the other nations, Israel had no king. It had leaders but it had no king. Do you know why? Because the Lord was their king.

But Israel wasn't satisfied with that. They wanted to be like the other nations. What were they thinking? But they wanted a king and over and over they asked, indeed begged God to give them a king. Hadn't they seen what those other kings were like? God said he didn't think that was such a good idea, but the people persisted, and God finally relented and gave them kings. And for the most part it didn't work out. Most of them were lousy kings. Some of them were downright nasty. Even the good ones were corrupted by the power. Even King David, from whom we get the psalms, sent a loyal soldier to the front lines, making sure that he would die there, just so he could take the man's wife as his own. Kings weren't really working out for them. This is what happens when God is not your king.

In the mid 1700's King George of England began to impose unfair taxes upon the American colonists. British soldiers were given the right to stay in people's private homes, eat their food and use other property as they saw fit. Even the right to a trial by jury had been corrupted. America rebelled. Kings weren't really working out for us either.

And so, I think that we 21st century Americans have a little bit of trouble getting a handle on this whole Christ the King celebration. We aren't used to royalty, and we really disdain the idea of being someone's "subject." We don't want to bow down to anyone. We don't like kings, period!

Which begs the question, what are we celebrating? What kind of king is Jesus?

It's imperative that we know what it means, because when we were baptized, we were baptized into the three ministries of Christ, to be prophet, priest, and king. We have a part in that kingship, and we have a vocation to live out, but we can't unless we know what it means.

There is a passage from Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians that gives us a clue...

Though he was in the form of God
Jesus did not deem equality with God.
something to be grasped at.

Rather he emptied himself.
and took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate,
And it was thus that he humbled himself,
obediently accepting even death, death on a cross.
(Philippians 2:6-10)

Our king, Jesus, though he was in fact God, gave up all the trappings of what it is to be God and became one of us. You might say, "he gave up being God." Maybe we should try that.

He took the form of a slave. Our king, Jesus, became a slave, a servant not because he was forced to but because he wanted to. Our king wants to serve. Our king puts the needs of others before his own.

There is a parable in Luke's gospel about a king coming home late at night and when he arrives his servants were waiting for him. They were ready to feed him and give him a comfortable place to sit and a cool drink. But what does the king do? He saw what faithful servants they were and had the servants recline and he put on the apron, and he waited on them. In his own words Jesus tells us what a king should be like.

Now picture Jesus in today's gospel and we see the extreme to which the Lord takes his service. Standing before Pilate beaten, scourged, a crown made from thorns on his head, anticipating his own execution, facing his own death which he accepts in our place. It was our punishment he endured. By his sacrifice, our death lost its sting, by the stripes on his back (made a centurion's whip) we are healed. That's how much Christ the King put our needs before his own.

That is our King. "Because of this God highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name about every other name, so that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth. And every tongue proclaim to the Glory of God the Father: Jesus Christ is Lord!" (Philippians 2:9-11)

Now we know what kind of king we have. How do we enthrone him? How do we acknowledge him? How do we approach him? Especially since we know that we have a share in his kingship – through baptism.

We acknowledge his kingship by imitating what he did. By emptying ourselves and becoming servants, one to another. By recognizing Christ who is King in the faces of our brothers and sisters, the ones who are hungry and thirsty; the strangers, the naked; the ill and imprisoned. the ones that nobody else likes. The ones that stink and look all messed up - kind of like Jesus did before Pilate.

When we can recognize these many faces of Christ our King and approach them with love and a mind toward serving it is then we live out our baptismal kingship. That's when Christ the King is enthroned in our hearts. That's when kingdom of

the King is enthroned in our hearts. That's when the kingdom of justice reigns. That's when love and peace will rule and that's when His kingdom comes, and his will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

CHOIR:

The choir is preparing for Christmas if anyone would like to join the Choir just for Christmas let Deacon Joe know. Rehearsals will be at 6:30 PM at Saint Clare. Why not give Jesus the Christmas present of your voice.



Family Faith Event for Grades 1-10 THIS Sunday, November 26th at St. Clare

Grades 1-8

Classes meet Tuesday, November 28th and Thursday November 30th.

All classes meet at St. Clare

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation Classes for **Grade 10 next** meet Sunday, December 3rd 4:45PM at St. Clare. Classes are followed by the 6PM Mass. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Mass.



November 26 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe—Today as we celebrate Christ the King, we hear Jesus say: "...whatever you did for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." **Knowing that we find the face of Christ in the poor, this month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to serve families, providing food, Gift Cards for Thanksgiving Dinner, and assistance with utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!**

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society of our collaborative is looking for additional volunteers to aid the poor in the area. The Food pantry is also looking for more help. If this is something you think you can help with please leave your name and contact information at the collaborative office.

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.**



Come join our Pastor, Fr. Bob, Monday, December 4th for an informal overview on the importance, necessity, history, and spirituality of Advent. This event will take place from 7:00—8:30PM in St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall.



St. Francis
Francesca Elaine Fabiano
Marcellus Shikuku Owaka
Aubrey Nicole Pratt
Dax Michael Perziosi
Gianna Patricia Riddell



St. Clare
 Nicole O'Hara
St. Francis of Assisi
 Gerald Ridge
 Margaret Cardello

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.



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.



Our Advent Giving Tree begins next Weekend (November 25 -26) at St. Francis of Assisi. **Gifts should be returned no later than December 10th** for distribution. When considering your gift please keep in mind the following:

- * 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!)
- * Please check to see if the organization sponsoring the card has requested that you wrap the gift(s). If the tag says **do not wrap**, you can still help everyone involved in sorting and organizing by placing your purchase in a gift bag so that our volunteers can easily check the contents.
- * Please **securely attach the tag** you take from the tree to the outside of the bag or package. The tags are coded by color and number and we need them back so that your gift reaches the correct organization and recipient.

If you choose not to shop, **[do not take a tag]** gift cards (Target, WalMart, Amazon, Gas Stations, Game Stop, Movie Passes, Fast Food Restaurants, etc.) and monetary donations are always a good option. These can be used for any last minute requests for assistance that we receive (even after Christmas Day). Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



Boy Scout Troop 138 's Annual Wreath fundraiser

Traditional wreaths \$20 each or 2/\$35
 Premium wreaths \$25 each or 2/\$45

Wreaths will be on sale after all masses at St Clare & St Francis the weekend of November 25th & 26th. For questions please call 617-968-3446 or email stclarebsat138@gmail.com. We can deliver in Braintree if you aren't able to make the sale days. Thank you in advance for all your support over the years.





From the Archdiocese of Boston

November 26 ~ Solemnity of Our Lord

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Today's parable is one of the most vivid parables Jesus spoke. We will not be judged on the knowledge we have accumulated, or the fame that we have acquired, or the fortune we have gained. We will be judged on the way we have listened and been present to others, and in the way we have served Christ in the other. The lesson is crystal clear - God will judge us according to our reaction those in need. This means being willing to be present and helpful to the people we meet every day - to the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the stranger, the prisoner - to Christ himself!

The Spiritual Exercises

The Nineteenth Annotation Retreat of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, An Invitation to Meet Christ in Prayer, arranged by Fr John Sassani & Mary Ann McLaughlin is being offered in a group setting for Catholic adults. The number of participants will be limited.

These Spiritual Exercises extend over the course of twenty-three weeks and are loosely aligned with the liturgical year.

Meetings begin on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 and conclude April 17, 2024.

The group will use the Zoom format to meet on line weekly from 10am to 12:00pm.

Mary Ann McLaughlin and Deacon Dan Burns will direct the Spiritual Exercises.

For further information please call 617-686-2287 or email: maryannmclaughlin2@aol.com

A Celebration of Con-validation

Married couples desiring holy matrimony in the Catholic Church are invited to con-validate their marriage on World Marriage Sunday, February 11, 2024 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston at 3:00 PM with Bishop Mark O'Connell as the celebrant. A con-validation ceremony is an opportunity for couples married outside of the Church to enter into a marriage covenant in the Catholic tradition. For more information, email Emily_Elliott@rcab.org or visit our registration page at <https://bit.ly/Convalidation>

Walking with the Saints

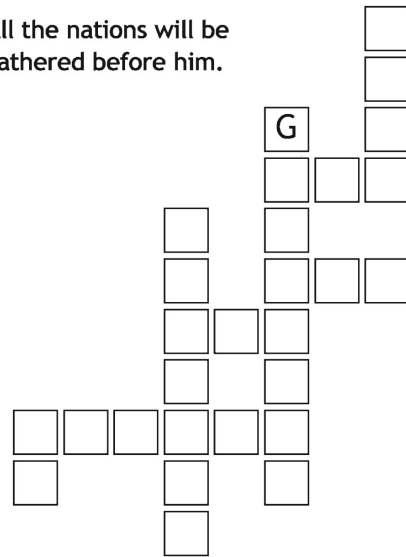
Who doesn't love a good saint story? Join us every other week for "Walking with the Saints" - a video series where priests and religious from around the Archdiocese of Boston share about a saint they've come to know. Watch now on the Evangelize YouTube Channel - [YouTube.com/EvangelizeBoston](https://www.youtube.com/EvangelizeBoston)



PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

All the nations will be
gathered before him.



MISSION

Read Matthew chapter 25, verses 31 through 46 with your family. Decide how you will make a difference. Share as Jesus asks.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

Share food with the hungry. Give clothes to the poor. Visit people who are sick. Share the good news about Jesus with people who have made bad choices. Jesus came to forgive them. God will see the loving things you do. He will reward you one day in heaven.

Prayer

God, help me to share what you have given to me.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself visiting someone in the hospital.

Mission for the Week

Read Matthew chapter 25, verses 31 through 46 with your family. Decide how you will make a difference. Share as Jesus asks.