

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 4, 2023

5:30PM Paul O'Reilly and
Joseph & Anna Dunlea Memorial

Sunday, November 5, 2023

9:00AM Marks & Conlon Family Memorial

11:30AM Chester Daiute Anniversary

Monday, November 6, 2023

7:00AM Patrice McAndrew Kelly Month's Mind

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

7:00AM

Thursday, November 9, 2023

7:00AM Lauren Dyer 2nd Anniv.

Friday, November 10, 2023

7:00AM Antonino Parlavecchio Memorial

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

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!



Beginning Tuesday, November 7th we will begin 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 4, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM James O'Donnell 1st Anniv.

Sunday, November 5, 2023

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Loretta Barron, Clara Columbus Memorial
David Ferraro, Caz Sudowski and
John Gabriel

6:00PM Kathleen Foley Anniversary

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



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.



*From the desk of
Fr. Kevin Lever*

Brothers and Sisters,

I visited Fr. Bob at Regina Cleri the Friday before All Saint's Day and brought your well wishes and prayers. He was in great spirits and seems to be making strides in his recovery, praise God! We continue to pray for Fr. Bob's smooth recovery each day, and look forward to having him home! I will be visiting him again soon and will provide another update after that visit.

Last week as we were preparing to celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, I mentioned that all those who are in heaven are known as *The Church Triumphant (Victorious)*, and that I would expand this week on the other two "states" of the Church. Traditionally, these three states have been referred to as the Church Militant, Church Suffering (also known as Church Penitent or Church Expectant) and Church Triumphant. A basic summary of the three states can be:

Church triumphant: The Church in heaven; these are saints known by the Church as well as those saints known only to God;

Church militant: The Church as it exists on earth (the baptized members of the Church who are fighting the battle of the Christian life)

Church suffering: These are the souls in purgatory, awaiting entrance into heaven.

It is the **Church Suffering** that I want to reflect on this week. For some people, even the mention of the word *purgatory* can seem, on the surface, abrasive and cruel. "Why would a loving and merciful God not welcome me directly to heaven after I die?" Yet, when we look at what the Church teaches as well as what Scripture says on the matter, we begin to understand what purgatory truly is, a state that exists **because of** God's love and mercy, which will ultimately lead us to heaven. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (CCC 1030 & 1031).

In Scripture, there is evidence of the concept of an after-death purification from sin and the consequences of sin stated in the New Testament in passages such as 1 Corinthians 3:11–15 and Matthew 5:25–26, 12:31–32. The doctrine of purgatory, or the final purification, has been part

of the faith since before the time of Christ. The Jews already believed it before the coming of the Messiah, as revealed in the Old Testament (2 Macc. 12:41–45) as well as in other pre-Christian Jewish works. Orthodox Jews to this day believe in the final purification, and for eleven months after the death of a loved one, they pray a prayer called the *Mourner's Kaddish* for their loved one's purification. It was not until the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century that anyone denied this doctrine, which is partly why many in our culture today want to "canonize" our loved ones as soon as they have passed away.

On Thursday, we celebrated the feast of **The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)**. We honor the souls of those who have gone before of us for their fidelity to Christ and His Church during their earthly lives, as well as pray for them, since they are being purified before entering the All Holy Presence of God. As Revelation 21:27 says of the Heavenly Jerusalem, "... nothing unclean shall enter in."

It is always so important that we pray for the souls in purgatory. The Church even teaches that it is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for the souls of the faithful departed, especially as **none of us** knows a person's final judgement by God at death. However, the month of November is particularly devoted to praying for the souls in purgatory. (You can learn more at this link: https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/11_1.cfm) In the 13th Century, our Lord appeared to the mystic St. Gertrude (Feast Day November 16.), who had a particular devotion to praying for the holy souls in purgatory. She asked Our Lord how many Souls His mercy would release, He answered: "My love urges Me to release the Poor Souls. If a beneficent king leaves his guilty friend in prison for justice's sake, he awaits with longing for one of his nobles to plead for the prisoner and to offer something for his release. Then the king joyfully, sets him free. Similarly, I accept with highest pleasure what is offered to Me for the Poor Souls, for I long inexpressibly to have near Me those for whom I paid so great a price. By the prayers of thy loving soul, I am induced to free a prisoner from Purgatory as often as thou dost move thy tongue to utter a word of prayer!" Our Lord then gave St. Gertrude a particular prayer to pray for those in purgatory. It is believed that each time this prayer is devotedly prayed that 1,000 souls are released from purgatory. The prayer goes:

Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for all sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

Throughout the month of November we can make it a goal of ours to pray for all the holy souls in purgatory, whether they be our loved ones or "just" other brothers and sisters in Christ. When they make it to heaven, they become our intercessors until we get there, God willing, one day! We're all in this together.

Praised be Jesus Christ...

...now and forever.

Fr. Kevin



Dear Friends

Many thanks for your prayers during my recent heart surgery. I write this on day 15 post-op and can report that all is going well. A check-up back at the hospital yesterday shows that everything is in proper order. As

some of you know I am recuperating at Regina Cleri the retirement home for our priests. It's in Boston's West End, tucked in behind Mass General Hospital. We have 56 priests living here and keep a few beds available for priests who are recuperating from surgery, or are in need of respite care. I've been here for just over a week after having been discharged from the hospital. I'm thinking of staying a couple of more weeks before returning home to Braintree.

I am confident that the success of this surgery was in large part because of the prayers of so many. How often do the Sacred Scriptures show that healing comes from the prayer and care of a faith community? I am richly blessed by you and was so happy to offer my first Mass after surgery for the people of St Francis and St Clare Parishes.

Life is slowly returning to normal in terms of sleep, walking and appetite. Isn't it amazing what the body can endure? Please be assured of my continued prayers. I look forward to being home with you soon.

Fr. Bob



The Collaborative Office will be closed on Friday, November 10th in observance of Veterans' Day.



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Practice what you preach.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 23:1-12) we might find it odd that Jesus is telling both the crowds and his own disciples to do whatever the scribes and the Pharisees tell them to do. These were the very ones that opposed Jesus at every turn. Any chance that would present itself, the scribes and Pharisees would use to trick Jesus into saying something that would turn the crowd against Him.

Why would Jesus do this? Because they had "taken their seat on the chair of Moses." The chair of Moses represents their authority. Rabbis, when teaching their students, would sit, and so to sit on the chair of Moses gave them the authority of Moses. Similarly, the popes have authority from the chair of Peter, passed on from one to another.

Now Jesus knew that the scribes and Pharisees were not trustworthy, and he lays out his case against them.

- They lay heavy burdens upon people but do not help them.
- They do good works to be seen.
- They make their phylacteries larger to be seen (small wooden boxes containing small parchments of Scripture placed on the left forearm or on the forehead during prayer)
- They lengthen their tassels - again to be seen for attention (a pious Jew would wear tassels on the four corners of their cloak as a reminder of the law.)
- They sought out places and titles of honor.

The Lord exhorts his followers (you and me) to be different. We shouldn't be looking to be honored and praised. We shouldn't be looking for high and mighty titles. We shouldn't be laying burdens on people. Jesus tells us to be humble, to be servants, to act like brothers and sisters who love one another. If we follow Christ and want others to follow Him, too, then we must practice what we preach.

Jesus, unlike the Pharisees and the scribes, was not a hypocrite. He didn't ask his followers to do anything He himself was unwilling to do. He expects the same from us. One of my favorite Scripture passages describes Jesus in this way:

Have among yourselves the same attitude as Christ Jesus,

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he **emptied** himself, taking the form of a **slave**, coming in **human** likeness; and found human in

appearance, he **humbled** himself, becoming **obedient to death**, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus is not just another teacher among many, He is THE teacher, and we are his students, his disciples. We are here to proclaim His message to the world. But we have to live what we believe, or the world will look upon us with disdain and unbelief.

I recently read an article I found online that demonstrates what happens when we don't live up to our Christian ideals. In the article a Christian woman invited her atheist friend to come to church with her and the friend happily accepted the invitation. It must have come up that she was an atheist and another "good" Christian promptly pronounced that she was going to hell! She must have missed the part where Jesus tells us not to judge.

How do you think that woman felt after being told that she was damned? How would we feel? Would we want to go back to that church? Probably not.

My friends, if we want to be authentic Christians then we must follow Christ's teachings. We can't be hypocrites we must practice what we preach in our daily lives. Jesus has the ultimate seat of authority, not the chair of Moses but He is seated at the right hand of God the Father.



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 meet Sunday, November 5th

No classes Tuesday, November 7th or Thursday, November 9th

All classes meet at St. Clare

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation Classes for **Grades 9** meet THIS Sunday, November 5th 4:45PM at St. Clare

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

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



November 5—31st Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel today, we hear the good news that when we keep our focus on God and serve one another, God exalts us!

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Blue envelopes, please say a special prayer for the poor who have no one to pray for them.

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.**

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 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.



Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice." Mt 23:1-3

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of November 5, 2023

Sunday: Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10/Ps 131:1, 2, 3/
1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13/Mt 23:1-12

Monday: Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/
Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/
Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9/
Lk 14:25-33

Thursday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22

Friday: Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Lk 16:1-8

Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5,
10-11/Lk 16:9-15

Next 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



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.



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

Donna Sacchetti

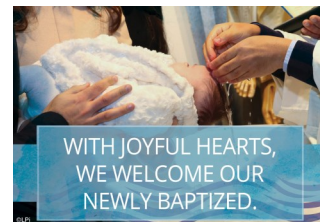
St. Francis

Anne T. Reardon
June Bregoli

Archdiocese of Boston

Rev. Thomas F. Oates

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
Sloane Mia Delaney

OPEN HOUSES

Two Schools, One Community
Sacred Heart & Saint Francis Xavier
The Partnership Schools of the South Shore



Tuesday, 11/14, 6:00-7:00pm
Sacred Heart School
Pre-K 3y - Grade 4
75 Commercial Street
Weymouth Landing



Wed. 11/15, 3:30-5:30pm
St. Francis Xavier School
Grades 5 - 8
234 Pleasant Street
South Weymouth



From the Archdiocese of Boston

November 5 ~ Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus scolds the Scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel for making religion a burden rather than an opportunity for service. Jesus wants our faith to lift us up not weigh us down to give us joy, not be a load to be carried. When we put ourselves in humble, loving service of others we are living in imitation of Christ himself. It is this same message we hear in the letter to the Thessalonians, "we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well." What Jesus asks of us is to allow the Word of God to be at work within ourselves, to be humble and loving servants, knowing that if we follow the example of Jesus we will not be led astray.

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: msgr.fay@psjs.edu or 781.899.5500 ext.134. www.psjs.edu

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats—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.

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



PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

teachers	honor	Father
law	important	greatest
obey	brothers	servant

tecahesr t e a c h e r s

hnoro _____

sarvetn _____

bortehrs _____

oyeb _____

getarest _____

miportatn _____

lwa _____

Ftahre _____



MISSION

Look up the words "humble" and "proud" in the dictionary. When you remember that everything you have is a gift from God, it is easier to be humble.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

Some people think that they know everything that there is to be known about God. They think they are better and smarter than other people, too. Watch out if you think you are acting that way! Tell God you're sorry. Ask God to help you change your attitude, and serve others.

Prayer

God, help me to follow you with a humble heart.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself showing off. Draw another picture of yourself helping a friend. Circle the picture that makes God happy.

Mission for the Week

Look up the words "humble" and "proud" in the dictionary. When you remember that everything you have is a gift from God, it is easier to be humble.