

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, December 16, 2023

5:30PM Christine DiMartinis 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:00AM Hester Family Memorial

11:30AM Elizabeth "Betty" Turner Memorial

Monday, December 18, 2023

7:00AM Patricia Roche Anniversary

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

7:00AM John & Joseph Odenweller Memorial

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, December 21, 2023

7:00AM Jake Parker Memorial

Friday, December 22, 2023

7:00AM Francis Harvey

Saturday, December 23, 2023

5:30PM Marilyn McGourty 1st Anniv.

Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:00AM

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, December 16, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Patrik Finnerty Anniversary

Sunday, December 17, 2023

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Arthur Gillis Memorial

6:00PM Deceased Members of the Moore Family Memorial

Saturday, December 23, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Richard & Margaret Keane Anniversary

Sunday, December 24, 2023

7:45AM

The Bread & Wine for the week of December 16th through the 22nd have been donated in loving memory of Arthur Gillis.

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.



Going to Confession

Along with everything else that you need to do in preparation for Christmas, may I encourage you to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**? (Confession) Such a major solemnity as Christmas pushes us to consider how we are with God *and* how we are living our Christian faith. Many people compare the thought of Confession with going to the dentist. (Many have said they prefer the dentist.) John the Baptist, who is featured in today's Gospel, encouraged people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah by acknowledging their sins. In such a spirit, I thought it would be helpful to review the Sacrament.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, or officially the **Rite of Penance**, has four parts:

The first part

Confession Begin your confession by telling the priest approximately the last time you went to confession. This may seem like a moot point, but knowing this actually helps the priest guide you in making a good confession. Having done this, simply tell the priest your sins. You don't need to give much detail or backstory or explain why. Simply state the sins. Don't worry if you are not sure if something is a sin. Add it in anyway. It all gets sorted out. The priest may ask you a question or two for clarification if need be. He then may offer a word of encouragement or insight.

The Second Part

Penance The priest assigns you a penance: something you do that demonstrates to God your regret for sin and desire for forgiveness. This may take the form of a prayer but could include some act of charity. If the penance he offers doesn't seem appropriate or doesn't seem that it can be done in a timely manner you can ask for a different penance.

The third part

Act of Contrition. The Rite of Penance clearly states that a penitent must declare aloud sorrow and regret for committing the sin(s). Usually this takes the form of a prayer we learned at the time of our first penance. There are several versions out there. The penitent is free to use any Act of Contrition, even one that is spoken spontaneously from the heart. It can be as simple as "I am sorry for my sins". Another option is that the priest can ask you if you are sorry for your sins. A simple yes covers it. Acts of Contrition can be made in any language as many remember

one they learned in childhood in another country.

The fourth part

Absolution Having confessed your sins, expressed sorrow and received a penance the priest offers absolution using the words

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the church may God grant you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

He typically makes the sign of the cross over the penitent at which the penitent should bless himself/herself.

After thirty-one years of hearing confession, I find that people go differently. Some people like to go anonymously while others prefer face to face. Some like confession to be formal, others informal. The rule of thumb is to go in a manner you are most comfortable.

The priest is there in the person of Christ. Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders the priest is commissioned by the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive sins in the person of Jesus Christ. This to say, when you confess your sins to a priest, it's not the priest but Christ with whom you are speaking. Also the priest is there to help you make a good confession. If you are not sure what to say, or what comes next, or if something qualifies as a sin, the priest will gently guide you.

The Seal of Confession is placed on the priest and is binding. It means that the priest can never, under any circumstances, reveal what he has heard in Confession. Many priests have gone to their death for refusing to reveal something he heard in the sacrament. On several occasions the Seal of Confession has been pushed into our court system. So serious a sin is breaking the seal, that a guilty priest must ask the pope himself for absolution. Why all the fuss? The seal is in place to give the penitent total anonymity and freedom to say anything without fear of others finding out.



Times for Confessions this week:

Tuesday, 7:30am-8:00am (or as long as it takes) at St. Francis Church.

Wednesday, 6:30pm-8:00 at St. Francis Church

Saturday, 8:30am-9:00am (or as long as it takes) at St. Clare Church and 12:30pm-2:00pm at St. Francis Church.

Fr. Bob



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

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.



John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



Mass Schedule

For the weekend of December 23-24, 2023

Saturday, December 23	St. Clare 4:00PM St. Francis of Assisi 5:30PM
Sunday, December 24	St. Clare 7:45AM (ONLY – NO 10:15) St. Francis of Assisi 9:00AM (ONLY – NO 11:30)

Christmas Masses - 2023

Sunday, December 24, 2023	St. Clare 4:00PM and 6:00PM St. Francis of Assisi 4:00PM and 11:00PM
Monday, December 25, 2023	St. Clare 7:45AM and 10:15AM St. Francis of Assisi 9:00AM and 11:30AM

Please Note there is NO 6:00PM Mass on Christmas Day

Solemnity of Mary

Sunday, December 31, 2023	St. Clare 4:00 PM (HOLY DAY) (NO 6:00 Mass)
Monday, January 1, 2024	St. Clare – 9:00AM St. Francis – 7:00AM

Confessions

Saturday, December 16	St. Clare – 8:30AM St. Francis - 12:30 – 2:00PM
Tuesday, December 19	St. Francis – 7:30AM
Wednesday, December 20	St. Francis – 6:30 – 8:00PM



Grades 1-8

No Classes this week. Classes resume the week of January 2, 2024

All classes meet at St. Clare.

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation Classes for **Grades 9 AND 10** meet this Sunday, December 17th 4:45PM at St. Clare. Classes are followed by the 6PM Mass. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Mass.



Come share in the birth of our Savior! Experience the magic of that most special night with the Religious Education students as they perform a short Nativity play after the 10:15 Mass on December 17 at St. Clare Church.

After the pageant, please join us in the church hall!

- Enjoy some Christmas music, cookies and juice
- Make Christmas cards for local Nursing Home residents
- Play some games

Please bring a nonperishable food item for the Food Pantry!



St. Clare

Beau Thomas Traft



St. Francis of Assisi

Genevieve McCarthy

Stephen Teliszewski

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.



December 17 Third Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, December 16-17. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry Some of the needed items are: soups; paper towels; toilet paper; kleenex; personal care items (deodorant, toothpaste; toothbrushes) **paper shopping bags with or without handles.** 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.**



From the
Archdiocese of Boston

December 17 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

The Scripture readings of this third week of Advent are filled with thanksgiving, encouragement and joy, attitudes that are so needed in our lives. As you listened to the Scriptures today consider, what words reassured you, encouraged you, or gave you hope? Whatever words caught your attention, God intended them for you! Take those words to heart, and realize that, as St. Paul states in the second reading, “The One who calls you is faithful” and will do what he says!

Mental Health Matters: A Workshop to Empower Parents

On Wednesday Jan. 24th at 7 PM join Dr. Mookie Manalili, a Catholic psychologist from Boston College; retired psychologist and pastor, Father Jim Ronan, and mental health clinician, author, and parent Suzanne Muldoon for a Zoom panel discussion on how parents can best support and care for their children and themselves in the midst of mental health concerns. The panelists will address diagnoses, recommendations, and how faith impacts healing. The complimentary workshop is sponsored by Family Life. For questions, call Emily Elliott at 617-746-5756. To register: <https://bit.ly/MHMtoParents>

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)



December 17, 2023 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We’ve never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we’ve never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John’s Gospel we hear: **“There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.”** The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a *pattern* at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God’s promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist’s spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let’s commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

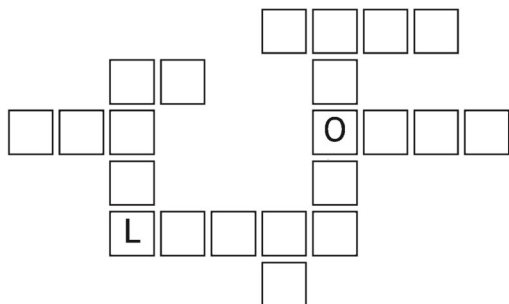
Father John Muir ©LPI





PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:
He came only to tell about the light.



MISSION

Ask a friend if he or she is ready to meet Jesus.



Sharing the Gospel

People noticed John the Baptist. He loved God, and he used words honestly. He really wanted to help people change and grow closer to God. He stood out as someone really different and special. People came from all around to hear him and learn about him. When people asked him questions, he pointed them to Jesus.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to be different because I love you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself being honest and kind with your family.

Mission for the Week

Ask a friend if he or she is ready to meet Jesus.



PUZZLE

Circle the picture that is facing the **wrong** way.
Then color in all the pictures.



MISSION

I will forgive others and ask them to forgive me when I hurt them.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

GROWING 
WITH THE *Gospel*
CYCLE B



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



3rd Sunday of Advent • John 1:6-8,19-28