

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 30, 2023

5:30PM Regis Bates 40th Anniv.

Sunday, December 31, 2023

9:00AM Dorothy McKinley 5th Anniv.

11:30AM Clougher & O'Keefe Families Memorial

Monday, January 1, 2024

7:00AM Charlotte Rose Kelly Anniversary

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

7:00AM Maureen Watson Memorial

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

7:00AM Domenico Giannandrea Memorial

Thursday, January 4, 2024

7:00AM Joseph Sheehan Memorial

Friday, January 5, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, January 6, 2024

5:30PM Gordon Morrissey 1st Anniv.

Sunday, January 7, 2024

9:00AM Rosemarie Witherspoon Memorial

11:30AM Lucia Campo 17th Anniv.

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!



The Collaborative Office will be closed on Monday, January 1st for the New Year Holiday Weekend. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, December 30, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Edward O'Leary 8th Anniv.

Sunday, December 31, 2023

7:45AM

10:15AM Doran & Kelley Families Memorial

4:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, January 1, 2024

9:00AM

Saturday, January 6, 2024

8:00AM Ruth & Ed Barkowski Memorial

John Avery, Alma Casali and
Geraldine Farrell

4:00PM Lawrence Perfetti Memorial

Sunday, January 7, 2023

7:45AM

10:15AM Claire Cavanaugh and Deceased 6th Anniv.

Members of Cavanaugh and
Hamrock Family Memorial

6:00PM Bashir & Mary Khnaizir and
George Nasir Memorial

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.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Typically a spiritual retreat concludes by making a resolution: a commitment to a new way of doing something. We often associate **resolutions** with the **beginning of a new year**. There will be many resolutions made over the next several days as we begin 2024. Most of them will have to do with physical health: exercise, diet etc. May I suggest a spiritual resolution? That is to say, could you make a commitment to doing something new for your spiritual health? It need not be something heroic or monumental. In fact, it would be better if it were something very simple. You might consider silent prayer for 5-10 minutes a day. It could be spiritual reading or participating at Mass on one of the weekdays. You will be amazed at how such a simple practice will impact your awareness of how divine grace is working in your life and in the world.

The collaborative has been hosting a **"holy hour"** on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 at St. Francis Church. There are about a dozen or so people who come regularly. During this hour the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and the Church is in silence allowing for quiet meditation and devotions. I have been thinking that maybe if we held this at a different time or at additional times more people would be able to come.

By way of reminder: there is a **12:10 daily Mass** Monday-Thursday at the Bethany Chapel at the Pastoral Center, 66 Brooks Drive in Braintree. The public is most welcome. Fr Kevin, Msgr. Oliver and I cover those Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is a cafeteria there on the 2nd floor which is also open to the public.

As you know, **Fr Gerald Nebo** will be leaving us this week. Fr. Gerald has been living at St. Francis Rectory for the past 2 years as he pursued a degree in education at Boston College. He has successfully completed the program and his bishop has asked him to pursue a doctorate so that he could be a resource in education for his diocese at home in Nigeria. As he explores various opportunities for the right program Fr. Gerald has applied for and has been granted an OPT visa which will allow him to remain and work in the US. As such he will be serving as parochial vicar at St. Jude Parish, Norfolk, and St. Edward Parish, Medfield. Our needs for priests in the Archdiocese is great. His assistance in those parishes is desperately needed and will be greatly appreciated. He begins there later this week.

I am very grateful to Fr. Gerald for his many

kindnesses to me since I arrived. He has been incredibly generous with his time offering support to the parishes in the collaborative. He will be greatly missed.

A blessed new year to you and to St Francis and St. Clare parishes!

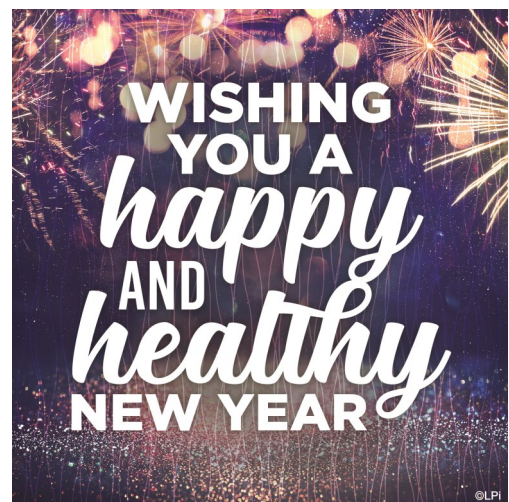
Fr. Bob



Monday, January 1, 2024 is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day. Since it falls on a Monday, it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year. The Mass schedule for the Collaborative of St. Clare and St. Francis of Assisi is as follows:

Sunday, December 31, 2023	4:00PM St. Clare
Monday, January 1, 2024	7:00AM St. Francis
	9:00AM at St. Clare

There is no 6:00PM Mass on Sunday, December 31st.



*From
The Clergy and Staff of
The Braintree Catholic
Collaborative*



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Today's readings speak of faith. The faith of Abraham, the faith of Mary, of Joseph, and the faith of Simeon. But what is faith? For most of us we think of faith as the acceptance of certain beliefs. But is that all it is?

I believe and accept that the world is round but that doesn't change who I am or what my nature is or how I live my life. I believe that if I flip a switch on my wall the lights will come on and it does. Am I a better person for it?

Faith cannot be simply the acceptance of beliefs, because real faith has the power to change lives.

Our word "faith" comes from the Latin "Fides" which has a much richer meaning than what we typically think. Latin was a language spoken in the Roman Empire and in its ancient use meant that two parties could rely on one another. A relationship between two parties couldn't even exist unless there was trust between them. FIDES was always reciprocal and mutual, and implied both privilege and responsibility from both parties, be it between people, governments or businesses. Fides is about relationship.

Faith is a relationship and a gift from God. Belief may not change one's life but relationships will. When I got married, I believed our marriage was good and would last. But I believed because I also trusted Luanne. She trusted too, that I would do the things that a responsible husband would do to grow our love, just as she would. Our lives changed because of that faith, because of our FIDES.

Thinking of faith as FIDES in respect to the Lord can make all the difference to our understanding. Isn't a relationship with God what we're really looking for? Hasn't that been what God has been offering since the beginning? Abraham not only believed what God told him but he trusted that it would happen. God would do what he promised and Abraham would do what God asked of him. A "fides" relationship existed between them.

This is also the FIDES of Mary who said "yes" to the impossible and trusted that God would make it happen.

A question we often hear from our evangelical brothers and sisters is "Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?" It is an important question because there is no faith,

no FIDES, unless we have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

God has already established this relationship but we have the choice of what to do with it. We can accept it as Mary and Joseph did or we can ignore it and let it perish. It's sad enough when members of families sever ties: A brother that never speaks to a sister or a child to his/her parents. How much more heartbreaking when one severs ties with the Author of Life, the Redeemer of Souls, and the very definition of Love.

My prayer this Christmas season and on this Feast of the Holy Family is that more and more people will come to accept the relationship that God extends to us, and that it grows through prayer, scripture and sacrament, until it consumes us with love and devotion for God and each other.

Happy Feast Day.



Whether you worship with us regularly, are here for the first time or are a returnee, we are so happy that you are here. If you would like to learn more about our collaborative family, please do not hesitate to call the office at 781-843-1332 or visit our website www.braintreecatholic.org.



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Toy Drive and "Giving Tree" this year. Your generous response was awe-inspiring. Because of you many children in our community had a very Merry Christmas. We also received many gift cards that can be given to those in need beyond Christmas, for which we are deeply appreciative.

Thank you also to those who donate to our Food Pantry. Your contributions throughout the year has allowed us to keep our pantry operating. We have a wonderful core of volunteers who tirelessly and compassionately give of their time every week to see that we meet the needs of the pantry clients. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts.

And last but not least thank you to all who made our Christmas Masses so special— the elves who decorated the churches, the Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and Altar Servers. And finally Deacon Joe, the choir musicians and cantors who made such "beautiful noise".



Grades 1-8

Classes resume the week of January 2, 2024

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation Classes for Grade 9 resume on January 7, 2024. Classes for Grade 10 resume on January 21, 2024.

Happy New Year to all!

Our collaborative **religious education program** has been going very well this year. If your child is not enrolled in the program, it is not too late! They are most welcome! Simply call the office to get information and sign them up.



St. Clare

Riordan Ze-Lin Cahill



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Francis of Assisi

James Michael Sullivan

James Quinlan

William Walker

Filipina Canale

Marie Cadete

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.



12/31 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may our families “grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them.”

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christmas to the hearts of the poor, by assisting families, providing food, gifts, and assistance with utility and rent bills. Thanks!

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.



**“For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.”**
- Lk 2:30-32

Readings *of the* Week

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

- Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4,
5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or
2:22, 39-40
- Monday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
- Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/
Jn 1:43-51
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34,
36, 38
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
(see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



From the Archdiocese of Boston

December 31 ~ the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph—In today's Gospel, Simeon and Anna make a startling prediction about Jesus and the life that awaits him, a life that would hold both joy and suffering. Mary and Joseph held in their hearts all they heard and remained faithful to all that God asked of them as parents. St. Paul gives powerful recommendation for parents and children alike for how to imitate the Holy Family – “Put on kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.” Because Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived in this way, they are the model for our families. Pray for your family that God will give you the grace to grow in these beautiful virtues.

Witness to Life with Cardinal Seán O'Malley at the National March for Life on January 19, 2024! We begin our journey to Washington, D.C. on the evening of Jan. 18. First thing Friday morning, we will celebrate life with Cardinal Seán and other archdiocesan pilgrims at [Life Fest](#) sponsored by the Sisters for Life before heading over to the March for Life. The 26-hour pilgrimage is \$75 per person and is open to families with children ages 12-17, adults, and small high-school youth groups. Register at <https://bit.ly/MarchforLife2024>

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>



Dear Lord,
We pray that this New Year will bring us closer to You.
May we take the time to get to know You.
Help us to truly celebrate the gifts You have graciously given us and use them to serve You and spread Your word,
May we also see and love you in all the people we meet,
so that in turn, they can see You in us.

We know that all human relations take time
if they are to grow and deepen.
This is also true of our relations with You,
the Father and the Holy Spirit,
which must grow over the course of our lives.

In this new year,
let us realise that every action of ours
no matter how great or small
enables us to be in touch with You.
Let us accept You in our lives,
in the way it pleases You,
as Truth, to be spoken,
as Life, to be lived,
as Light, to be lighted,
as Love, to be followed,
as Joy, to be given,
as Peace, to be spread about,
as Sacrifice, to be offered among our relatives,
friends, neighbours and all people.
Amen.

www.catholicdoors.com





December 31, 2023 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is the baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

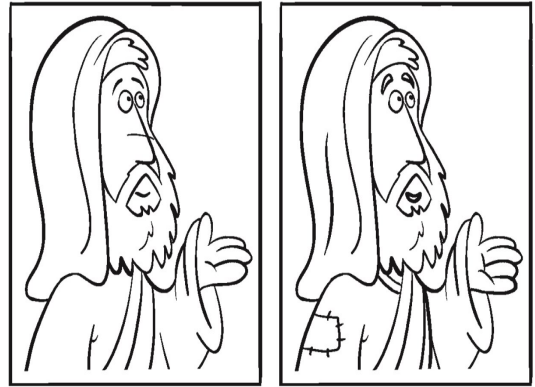
Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

Father John Muir ©LPi



PUZZLE

Find 8 differences.



MISSION

Jesus belonged to God. Look up the word "belong" in the dictionary. Thank God that you are his child, too.



Sharing the Gospel

Mary and Joseph went to the temple and presented the baby Jesus to God. Two older people recognized that Jesus was the Messiah. They gave him special blessings. They thanked God for this child. Just like Mary and Joseph, your parents gave thanks to God when you were born. They were very happy God gave you to them. They had you baptized in church, and presented you as a gift to God, too.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for bringing the baby Jesus into my life.

Something to Draw

Draw Mary and Joseph carrying the baby Jesus to the altar in the temple.

Mission for the Week

I will offer everything I do for you, Lord, Jesus Christ.