

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: **12:30-1:30PM**

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
Msgr. Robert W. Oliver, 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 **1:00PM**
3rd Sunday of the month at St. Francis at **1:00PM**
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, February 3, 2024

5:30PM Ronald & Frances O'Brien and Mary Ferrazzi Memorial

Sunday, February 4, 2024

9:00AM Robert Hester 10th Anniv.

11:30AM James Daly 1st Anniv.

Monday, February 5, 2024

7:00AM

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

7:00AM

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, February 8, 2024

7:00AM

Friday, February 9, 2024

7:00AM

Saturday, February 10, 2024

5:30PM Daniel Barselou Memorial

Sunday, February 11, 2024

9:00AM Marks & Conlon Family Memorial

11:30AM Charles McKinnon 3rd 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!

Schedule Change

Effective February, 2024 Saturday Confessions times at St. Francis of Assisi will be 12:30-1:30PM.

Also effective February, 2024—Baptisms will begin at 1:00PM on the 2nd Sunday of the month at St. Clare and the 3rd Sunday of the month at St. Francis.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, February 3, 2024

8:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

4:00PM Arduino DiCenso 5th Anniv.

Sunday, February 4, 2024

7:45AM Maria Tempesta 9th Anniv.

10:15AM Thomas Schuck and Brian Bartlett Memorial

6:00PM Abdallah J. Khnaizir Anniversary

Saturday, February 10, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Pauline O'Brien Memorial

Sunday, February 11, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Wadi Bitar 2nd Anniv.

6:00PM Gerald Ridge, Sr. 9th Anniv.

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.





BLESSING OF THROATS

After all the Masses this weekend we will offer the Blessing of Throats, a devotion attributed to Saint Blaise.

Blaise was a bishop in Armenia during the fourth century. There is a legend that whilst on his way to prison, he cured a young boy who was choking. It seems that somewhere around the eighth century Christians called upon his name to intercede for the sick. At least since the early seventeenth century there has been the custom of blessing throats while invoking his intercession. Why the throat? In ancient and medieval times the throat was considered the opening to the inner body. Any ailment or disease was thought to originate in the throat regardless of what part of the body was affected. Therefore blessing the throat was a logical way to protect the body from any illness.

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL

There is an open collaborative meeting for both parishes on Wednesday evening, February 7 from 7:00-8:00 to talk about the new Collaborative Pastoral Council. So significant is this council that the Cardinal wrote into the document assigning me here as pastor that I was to have an advisory council that would help in leading the two parishes. I am envisioning this council to be comprised of 15-18 members from both parishes who would meet with me regularly to pray, consider the spiritual and temporal needs of the two parishes and figure out strategic ways to meet those needs. The council is not so concerned with tasks as it is in discerning where the Holy Spirit is guiding us.

At the meeting on Wednesday, I will go over the expectations of the council from the Archdiocese as well as my vision. I will offer some reflection questions and criteria to those who are interested in serving and ask them to pray about this for a period of nine days. At the end of this time period, I would like to talk with them about their thoughts on the council. This method has worked well for me in the past and hopefully will here in the Braintree Collaborative as well.

SACRAMENTS

We are in the midst of celebrating with our second grade parishioners their **first Confession** in preparation for First Holy Communion. I am most grateful to Karen Lane and those assisting her for the time they have given the children in getting them ready for this Sacrament. Incidentally, there will be four **first Communion** celebrations this year during

during the Easter season: two at each parish.

Saturday, April 20, at 10:00 at St. Clare

Sunday, April 2, at 9:00 at St. Francis

Saturday, April 27, at 10 at St. Francis

Sunday, April 28, at 10:15 at St. Clare

Confirmation will be celebrated here on

Friday, May 10, 7:00pm at St. Francis

Saturday, May 11, 11:00am at St. Clare

So that we may better provide pastoral and spiritual support to young parents, I am asking those who have asked to have their **baby Baptized** to meet with one of the priests or deacons prior to setting a date for the Baptism. It has become obvious to Deacon Joe, Deacon Jay, Fr. Kevin and myself that many of the families presenting a child for Baptism lack a basic understanding of their faith in general or Sacraments in particular. Many are not in a sacramental marriage. We would like to be of help and provide a warm welcome to this faith community.

Heartfelt congratulations **Bishop Cristiano Barbosa** who was ordained a bishop yesterday (Saturday) by Cardinal Sean at the Cathedral thus receiving the fullness of the **Sacrament of Holy Orders**. Bishop Barbosa is originally from Brazil and landed in Boston some years ago to pursue graduate studies at BC. In my last assignment in Clergy Personnel I had the fortune to work with the new bishop and know him to be a delightful man and holy priest. In his new role he will serve as the auxiliary bishop for parishes in the central region of the Archdiocese as well as the Cardinal's secretary for evangelization and faith formation.

Several people pointed out the typo in last week's bulletin about the **time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation** at St. Francis Church on Saturday afternoon. The correct time is 12:30-1:30. It used to be 12:30-2:00. We have found that generally there are rarely confessions after 1:30. However...the priest will stay to hear all the confessions should they go beyond 1:30. We are not in any rush!

MINI COURSE ON THE EUCHARIST

I will be offering a five week mini-course on the history, theology and spirituality of the Eucharist during the Monday evenings of Lent beginning February 19. You need to come to all as each week will begin with a review of what has previously been covered. If you are looking to learn more about the Mass or how Catholics believe that a piece of bread can be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ please consider coming.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

I will be meeting with all the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy

Communion on

Tuesday, February 6, 7:00pm at St. Francis **or**
Saturday, February 10, 9:00am at St. Clare.

This meeting will go over the logistics of serving as Extraordinary Minister at Mass and bringing Holy Communion to the sick.

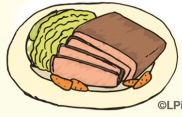
The information will be the same at both meetings so you can go to either one regardless of which parish you serve.

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I will meet with lectors in March.

Fr. Bob

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER



The Collaborative will host a St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday evening, March 9 at 6:30 at St. Francis Parish Hall. We will have a corned beef buffet with plenty of boiled root vegetables to satisfy and Irish palate! In order to gauge the feasibility of this event, sign-up forms are available at the church entrances. If you are interested in attending please either complete this form and return it to us or email pkinnally@sfab.org at your earliest convenience. Tickets are \$25 and will be available in the coming weeks. Space will be limited.



This is the beginning of the Season of Lent.

The following is the schedule of Masses/Services for the Braintree Catholic Collaborative:

St. Francis of Assisi Masses at 7AM, and 12:10PM
Prayer Service with ashes at 6:15AM

St. Clare Masses at 9AM
Prayer Service with ashes at 4:00PM



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Let's take a quiz and see how well you do. It only has one multiple choice question. Do not continue reading this week's article until you take the test. Please. Here's the question.

Who, at Mass, is the primary musician or music minister?

- A. The Cantor
- B. The Choir
- C. The Organist
- D. The Priest or Deacon
- E. Folk Group
- F. None of the Above

The correct answer will come later, but a couple of weeks ago I was asked the question, "Why don't we get to participate in the Gloria anymore? The cantor sings it and the rest of us are left out." This misunderstanding might be my fault. Perhaps, I didn't make it clear when we started that the Gloria is meant to be sung by everyone! We did practice it for a few weeks before Mass and we did put the number up on the hymn boards so everyone could find it. It's possible that wasn't enough.

Here's the thing. The Church wants us to have "full, active and conscious participation" at Mass. (from the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) The question is participation in what? We are to fully participate in the sacrifice of Christ's passion, death and resurrection made present to us again at Mass. As the old song asks "Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when He rose up from the dead?" We can answer "yes" every time we go to Mass.

It may appear that during parts of the Mass the congregation isn't participating. Take for example during the Liturgy of the Word, a reader comes to the ambo, announces the reading, and then proclaims a passage from the old and new testaments. It seems that the rest of us aren't doing anything but that is far from the truth. At least it should be. While the readings are being proclaimed the rest of us should be actively listening and taking in every word.

Everything we do and respond to is there to help us better enter into and participate fully in the Sacred Mysteries, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Let's answer our little quiz. Who is the primary music minister at Mass? If you answered A through E, you'd be wrong. The correct answer is F, none of the above. Actually, to be more accurate

another option might be given – G all of the above.

Everyone's participation in the songs and sung responses during Mass lead us to better participate in Christ's passion, death and resurrection. "But Deacon Joe" You might say, "I can't sing!" or "I don't have a good voice." Well, I can assure you EVERYONE can sing. They may not have a "good" voice and they may sing out of tune, but they can still sing. And when we give God back the voice He gave us, freely and courageously I can assure you that it is the most beautiful voice in the Church to the Lord regardless of how out of tune it might be.

You might not have a cantor voice or choir voice or even a karaoke voice, but everyone has a congregation voice and God wants us to use it.

I have a friend, a deacon that was ordained with me, in fact my best friend. When we were first ordained, he asked me to help him learn to sing the Exultet at the Easter Vigil. After three weeks I had to tell him "Steve, you really shouldn't attempt to sing that." Notice I didn't tell him not to sing at all but to not sing the Exultet. I've stood next to him many times at Mass and can hardly hold onto a tune myself when he's beside me but to God, his voice is more beautiful than mine in those moments. I would never try to quiet him or anyone else for that matter.

Let's get back to that Gloria question. We haven't taken anything away from the congregation because everyone in the church should be singing it. The Gloria comes from the song the angels sang to the shepherds on the first Christmas. It's always been a song and songs are meant to be sung. Psalms were the Jewish hymnal in the first century, they are meant to be sung. Truth be told, we aren't asked to sing at Mass, we're asked to **sing the Mass**. And so, we sing the Kyrie, the Gloria, the Responsorial Psalm; the acclamation before the Gospel; the Holy, Holy, Holy; The Mystery of Faith; The Amen, the Lord's Prayer, and the Lamb of God. We sing antiphons or hymns for the entrance, offertory, and communion processions.

God wants us to sing! God wants us to sing not because he needs it, but because we do.

Research has shown that singing can be good for you on many levels. Singing relieves stress; stimulates the immune response; singing releases endorphins which help create positive feelings and helps us better cope with pain; it may improve snoring and improve lung function; it develops a sense of belonging; enhances memory for people with dementia; it helps us deal with grief; singing improves mental health and helps with speaking abilities. One of the best things about singing is that you don't have to be good at it to reap the rewards. (Healthline Nov 10, 2020)

With the exception of snoring all of these positive results from singing put us in a better position to fully participate in the Mass. God wants us to sing and He wants us to sing for our own good.

Some of you might remember an old 1960's sitcom called Gomer Pyle USMC. Gomer of course was a well-meaning country bumpkin who hardly ever got things right. His drill instructor, Sergeant Carter, would address the platoon and they would forcefully reply but over and over again Sergeant Carter in a loud voice would say "I can't hearrrrrr youuuuuuuu." As an organist and music director it can be discouraging at times when I can't hear 150 people singing loud enough to be heard even minimally. I don't want to feel like Sergeant Carter. So, for the good of your own souls, for the good of our faith community, and especially for the love of God, let's raise our voices in a glorious way in worship of our God who is all good and deserving of all we have to give.

Deacon Joe's Bible Study will resume on Saturday January 20th at 9:00 A.M. in Saint Francis Church Hall. We will begin studying the Gospel of John. We always welcome new people to our group. It doesn't matter if you can't come every week. Come and join us.



Grades 1-8—Classes on Sunday this week. No classes on Tuesday or Thursday.

Grade 2 ONLY—First Penance Services will be held on Wednesday, February 7th at 7PM at St. Clare (**final service**).

Grades 9—10+

Classes for Grade 9 meet THIS Sunday, February 4th at 4:45PM followed by the 6:00 Mass.



Our second graders are preparing for their First Holy Communion! If anyone has a suit, dress, shoes, or other items that they do not need anymore and would be willing to donate, please bring them to either church. There will be boxes for the donations. Many thanks!

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. Francis of Assisi

James Gleason

Robert C. Bonigli

Anne Lamir

Archdiocese of Boston

Fr. Albert J. Sallese

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.

Grand Annual Update

The following is the results of our Grand Annual Collection as of Wednesday, January 31st:

St. Clare - \$43,185

St. Francis \$56,750

Thank you to all who have contributed.



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2023 please call the collaborative office at 781-843-

1332. If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the collaborative office.



February 4 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel today, we find that Jesus would rise very early before dawn and go to a deserted place to pray and then he went out to preach and to heal.

Please pray for the poor and suffering, knowing that you are bringing the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.

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.**

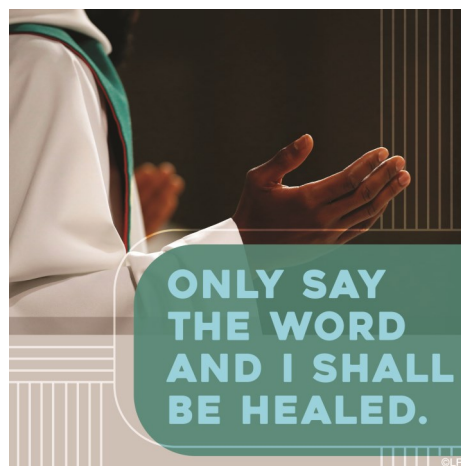


He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee. - Mk 1:38-39

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of February 4, 2024

- Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
(see 3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/
Mk 1:29-39
- Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/
Mk 6:53-56
- Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and
10, 11/Mk 7:1-13
- Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/
Mk 7:14-23
- Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and
40/Mk 7:24-30
- Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab,
12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37
- Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab,
19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10
- Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 (7)/
1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45





From the Archdiocese of Boston

February 4 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel recounts "a day in the life" of Jesus. His activities included visiting the home of Peter, where Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law. Then as word spread of his presence, the whole town brought those who were sick with various diseases, as well as those possessed with demons to be cured. After taking time to heal all who came to him, Jesus then took time for prayer. Each day we face a variety of activities and demands, how willing are we to be present when a listening ear, a healing touch, or a caring smile is needed? Do we follow Jesus' example and daily take time in quiet prayer? Let today's gospel be a mirror for a "day in our lives."

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, Cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. The topic will be "Learning about Religious Life as part of a Contemplative Community, Monastic Community, Apostolic Community and Missionary Community." If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

A Short Course in Christianity - www.bostoncursillo.org

The Cursillo is a "short course in Christianity" that begins on a Thursday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon. Each Cursillo weekend is an encounter with Christ in the Catholic tradition in a small community of the Church, in order that Christ's love and grace can be brought to every aspect of our daily Catholic life. The Boston Cursillo Weekends will be held at The Notre Dame Spirituality Center 30 Jeffrey's Neck Rd, Ipswich MA 01938. For more information go to: www.bostoncursillo.org or call: Chris Graf 617-332-5548.

The dates for the Cursillo Weekends are:

Women's Weekend February 8-11, 2024

Men's Weekend March 7-10, 2024

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>



PUZZLE

Which Piece of the puzzle is missing?



MISSION

When you get home, choose a special quiet place where you can talk to God every morning. Tell your family about your special place. They may want to join you in spending quiet time to pray.



Sharing the Gospel

Think about how you get ready for a busy day. You eat a healthy breakfast. You wash up and brush your teeth. Then you get dressed and comb your hair. There's one more thing you could do to start your day off right. Pray. Find a quiet spot where you can be alone to talk to God. That's what Jesus did.

Prayer

God, help me to start every day with you in prayer.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself praying to God in a quiet place.

Mission for the Week

When you get home, choose a special quiet place where you can talk to God every morning. Tell your family about your special place. They may want to join you in spending quiet time to pray.