

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, January 13, 2024

5:30PM George Picewick Anniversary

Sunday, January 14, 2024

9:00AM Angela Kelly Memorial

11:30AM Stephen O'Brien 1st Anniv.

Monday, January 15, 2024

7:00AM Mary O'Reilly Memorial

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

7:00AM Mary F. Diauto Anniversary

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, January 18, 2024

7:00AM Michael Corcoran 4th Anniv.

Friday, January 19, 2024

7:00AM Genevieve McCarthy Memorial

Saturday, January 20, 2024

5:30PM Robert Kerr, Sr. & Paul Kerr Memorial

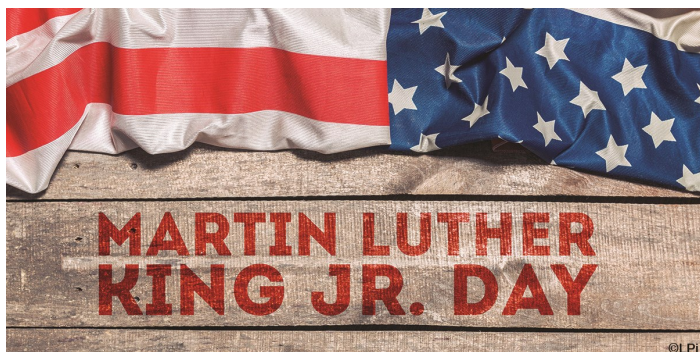
Sunday, January 21, 2024

9:00AM Louis Napolitano and David Napolitano Anniversary

11:30AM Nancy Jordan 5th 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 15th in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, January 13, 2024

8:00AM Richard Manning Memorial

4:00PM Special Intention Living

Sunday, January 14, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Marilyn Cavallaro 8th Anniv.

6:00PM Bernadette Lucy & Joseph Forti Memorial

Saturday, January 20, 2024

8:00AM Ruth Barkowski Anniversary

4:00PM Patrick J. & Mary F. Colbert Memorial

Sunday, January 21, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Linda Varroso 2nd Anniv.

6:00PM Daniel Crimmins 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.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.





Having completed the Advent and Christmas cycle, the Church begins “Ordinary Time” the longest of the liturgical seasons. It lasts for thirty-four weeks and is in two parts: the first, now until the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 14), and the second, from the day after Pentecost (May 19) until the beginning of Advent on December 1. In Ordinary time there is no particular mystery of Christ which is commemorated but rather the whole of the mystery of Christ. We associate ordinary with something that this “not special”. In the Church’s sense, ordinary means the proper sequence of things. The readings of Mass will be read sequentially, for the most part over the thirty four weeks of Ordinary Time. The color of vestments for the priest and deacon is green. If you think of it, green is the primary color of what is seen in nature in terms of grass, trees, vegetation, etc.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day gives me pause each year to consider the mandate of the Gospel that Christ is for all people. This truth was not originally accepted by the Apostles in the years following Christ’s Resurrection and Ascension. They were of the mind-set the Redemption was only for a certain group of people namely those of the Jewish faith. In fact, in order to be Baptized, a man first had to be circumcised according to the law of Moses. It was St. Paul who fought hard against, eventually convincing Peter and the other Apostles that the mystery of the Cross and Resurrection was so powerful that it could not be contained for one group of people. The Apostles held the Church’s first council in Jerusalem in the year 49 at which membership in the Church was hotly debated. You can read “the minutes” of the council in the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. All of which is to say, the Church came to realize early on that its mission was to embrace people of every walk of life and bring them “tidings of great joy” or good news, God has saved us from the power of evil by taking on human nature in the person of Jesus.

Sadly however, the Church has often been seen as limiting its membership to certain groups of people. During the period of slavery in our country, and the years following, black people (African and Caribbean) were not welcome in many Catholic parishes. And for those parishes where they were welcome, they had to sit in segregated seating. Fortunately, that is not our situation today, however there are people who do not feel welcome in the Catholic Church for one reason or another. It seems to me that

whatever we are doing in our collaborative ought to reflect the way we wish to be perceived, namely a welcoming faith community.

As you are likely aware, the collaborative has had as many as 18 funerals come in during the first nine days of the year. I am grateful to the staff and volunteers in our parishes who have been so attentive to working with our grieving families to plan out the funeral liturgies. Please be mindful that there are many grieving families in the parishes as this new year begins.

I am wondering if there is interest in the two parishes for having a St. Patrick’s Day event such as a dinner? I believe that in the past there was a dinner at St. Clare Parish. In asking if there is any interest I am really asking if there are folks who are willing to help run the event? There may be some among us who like to plan parties and would be willing to work with others in planning this one. Please let me know.

Fr. Bob



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Bible Study 

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.

**“The time is always right
to do what is right.”**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Grades 1-8

Classes meet Sunday, January 14th. There are no Tuesday, or Thursday classes this week..

Grades 9—10+

No Confirmation classes this week. **Classes for Grade 10 resume on January 21, 2024.**

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

John "Sean" Sullivan
Marie St. Pierre
Lorraine Letteney
Jacqueline McTernan
Fred MacDonnell
David Tesoro
Angela Healy
Dorothy Fitzgerald

St. Clare

Rose M. Murphy
Frank J. Drogo, Sr.
Richard Caruso

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.



January 14 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel today, Jesus asks "What are you looking for?" Often, we are looking for happiness in very selfish ways, but we find that when we look for ways to make others happy, it is then that we truly become happy.

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul blue envelope, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and to trust.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, January 20-21. 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 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.**



Boy Scout Troop 138: Clothing AND Book Drive

Need to clean out your closet? The Troop will have bins available at **St. Clare church** all month to drop off clothes, coats, shoes and other fashion accessories as well as books and media. Final drop off time is Saturday January 27 from 8am-10am. Thank you in advance for your support of our troop!

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; Men's Weekend March 7-10

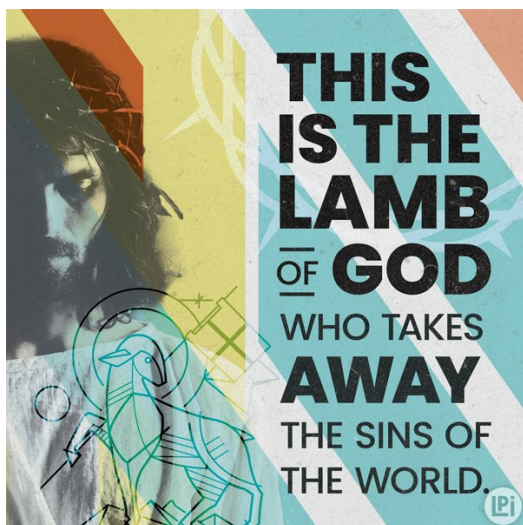


John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. - Jn 1:35-37

Readings Week of the

Readings for the week of January 14, 2024

- Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42
- Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28
- Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
- Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12
- Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19
- Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21
- Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20



From the Archdiocese of Boston

January 14 ~ Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

People often ask for an example of a “best practice” to understand what evangelization looks like. Today’s gospel sums it up clearly – one-on-one relationships. Andrew, not only heard about Jesus, he spent time with Jesus to get to know him. He was so moved by his encounter with Jesus, he went to Peter and tells him about Jesus and brought Peter to meet Jesus. Peter’s discipleship came about through his brother, Andrew – in conversation and because of their relationship. What is your story – how did you come to know Jesus? Was it through a friend or relative or did it happen over time or while in prayer? Disciples are always encouraged to “go and make disciples” one person at a time. Who are you being called to bring to Jesus?

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>

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Early Bird Special -Milton & South Shore Men's Prayer Gathering

Saturday, January 20, 2024 - 7:00-8:30 AM

Prayer; Coffee and refreshments;

Presentation and discussion

Topic—From Iraq to Milton - Ryan Farrell, Youth Minister

Men, come hear the story of Ryan Farrell, youth minister at Milton's Visitation Parish. Ryan is a convert to Catholicism and attended Christendom College in Front Royal, VA. After graduating in 2021 Ryan took a position teaching religion in Iraq, at the Mar Qardakh International School of the Chaldean (Catholic) Diocese of Erbil.

Ryan has been the youth minister at the Visitation Parish since September. He will share with us his faith journey and story, as well as answer all questions.

All men are invited to join us for this session and please bring a friend!

St. Mary of the Hills Lower Church
29 St. Mary's Road (off Brook Road), Milton
617-696-3170 for more information

JANUARY



**ENROLLING ALL GRADES
(Age 3 to Grade 8)
FOR THE
2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

Join us
for these upcoming events to learn more:

Jan. 15, 2024 @ 7PM
Virtual Information Session

Jan. 28, 2024 @ 10:30AM – 12PM
Open House

To reserve your place,
please scan the QR code
or contact Renalyn Te at
renalyn.te@stagathaparish.org.



ENCOUNTER GOD'S LOVE

January 14, 2024 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

As a priest, I'm amazed how happily married couples remember the tiniest details of their earliest encounters. They effortlessly report things like: "he wore a blue shirt," "we ordered brussels sprouts," "her hair was up in a bun," and "he spilled shrimp cocktail sauce at my family's open front door when it was ten degrees below zero," (that one's courtesy of my mom). We delight in remembering and speaking of when our new life of love began. The little details are glorious reminders that it's all *real*.

It's similar for John the Apostle. He tells us of the two disciples who followed Jesus into his house, "**...they stayed with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.**" Why does that tiny detail matter? Because *that's the time of day when they encountered the love of Jesus the Messiah in their lives*. Our religion is not primarily about abstract truths about God, no matter how true or sublime. It is about God meeting and saving us in our human nature. It's about a *human* relationship.

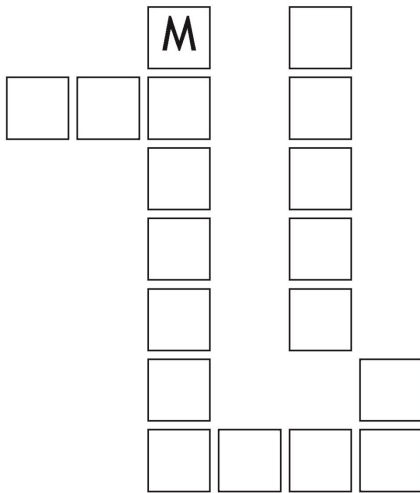
What was the time of day when you first recall encountering Christ and his Church? Who was there? What did you feel? How did things look and smell? What happened? Take some time to recall it in detail. For me, it was inside an old, rickety church on a hillside in Jerome, Arizona. It was about 9 p. m. on a Saturday evening. I was with my friends Jenny, Brad, and Laura. We were praying, singing, and laughing. When was it for you? Remembering the details isn't empty nostalgia. It reminds us now that God's love for us in our humanity is real.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares.

We have found the Messiah.



MISSION

Ask your family if you could include Kings' Cake in your holiday celebrations next year.

PUZZLE

Circle the picture in each group that has more. Then color all the pictures.



MISSION

I will tell others about how God has been good to me.

Sharing the Gospel

Mexican families share a special treat called a Kings' Cake on January 6th. Hidden inside the cake is one tiny little doll shaped like the baby Jesus. If you find Jesus in your piece of cake, you tell everyone. In today's Gospel, Andrew met Jesus for the first time. Andrew was so excited to find the Savior, he ran to tell his brother he had found Jesus.

Prayer

Jesus, help me tell my family and friends about you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself telling a friend about Jesus' love.

Mission for the Week

Ask your family if you could include Kings' Cake in your holiday celebrations next year.

