

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 1:00PM (as of 2/2024)
3rd Sunday of the month at St. Francis at 1:00PM (as of 2/2024)
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 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.

Monday, January 22, 2024

7:00AM Gordon T. Smith Memorial

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

7:00AM Maureen Watson Memorial

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, January 25, 2024

7:00AM

Friday, January 26, 2024

7:00AM

Saturday, January 27, 2024

5:30PM Genevieve McDonough 19th Anniv.

Sunday, January 28, 2024

9:00AM Brian Sampson Memorial

11:30AM Frank Hynes, Marion & Patrick Hynes and John Glab 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!

Schedule Change

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

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, 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

Saturday, January 27, 2024

8:00AM John B Passalacqua Memorial

4:00PM Joseph, Mary, Joseph, Jr., Kelly and Patricia Roche Memorial

Sunday, January 28, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Joseph Santoro 2nd Anniv.

6:00PM William Callahan 4th Anniv.

The Sanctuary Light will burn in loving memory of Ruth Barkowski from January 20-26, 2024.

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.



A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about Blessings, particularly how they could be bestowed to an individual or to a group. Sin can work in a similar way. We typically think of sin as a personal offence against God. However, there is also a communal nature to sin in that a group of people or a community or a society can commit sin. Some examples of this are contributing to a culture that permits abortion or benefiting from an economy that deprives other groups of people nutritious food or other basic necessities. You can think of other examples, I'm sure.

Many in our collaborative will recall a time in which Catholics did not eat meat on Fridays. This practice was a communal penance, something everyone did as a means of reparation for communal sin. Meatless Fridays was very much part of American culture up until the 1960's being mentioned in movies, TV shows, etc. When that practice changed to abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, I think we lost a sense of communal penance. The US bishops have designated January 22 as a day of prayer and penance for the sin of abortion. The date is significant as it was on this date in 1973 that the Supreme Court allowed states to legalize abortion. Abortion is a painfully sensitive subject in our culture. My point in bringing it up here is that we are all part of this culture and thus share its blessings and also its sin. Though we may not be guilty of this, or any particular sin, we are called to support each other which includes personal and communal reparation for sin.

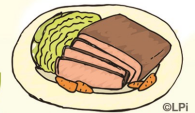
May I encourage you to offer some kind of penance tomorrow, Monday for the sins that we all bear? Some suggestions: a rosary, chaplet of Divine Mercy, Stations of the Cross, abstaining from meat or a favorite food, attending Mass, making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. St Francis Church will be open from 7:00am-8:00pm for anyone who would like to make a visit and spend some quiet time in prayer.

This is a good place to mention again that if there is anyone who is struggling with a pregnancy or past abortion, the Lord Jesus Christ has tremendous mercy and compassion for you expressed through the ministry of the Church. The priests and deacons are most willing to offer confidential support. Another resource is Project Rachel which you can call at 888-456-4673 or our pro-life office at the Pastoral Center 617-746-5860. We often think that it is only mothers who are impacted. Over thirty years of priesthood has shown me that it impacts just as many

fathers, and also grandparents or siblings who were part of obtaining the abortion. We are here to help and show God's mercy.

Speaking of prayer...this week also happens to be the week of prayer for Christian Unity. The great scandal of the Church is that it is divided: Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Baptists, etc., etc, etc. This was not the intention of our Lord. The 17th chapter of St. John's Gospel recalls a prayer Our Lord spoke at the Last Supper in which he prayed that "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you. I pray that they may be one in us!" One of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council was a recognition and renewal of Christ's mandate to be one Church, meaning a united community of faith. There have been many efforts over the past 50 years to heal the divisions in the Church that have taken place over the centuries. At each of the daily Masses in the parish this week we will pray intently that the Church may be healed of all that keeps it divided and that all Christians may be able to worship God at one altar.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER



There seems to be some interest in a St. Patrick's Dinner! I am grateful to those who have volunteered to help with such an endeavor. It will be on Saturday, March 9 at 6:30 at St. Francis Church Hall. More information to follow.

Friday nights during Lent

During the Friday nights of Lent we are thinking about having Evening Prayer on Fridays at 7:00 preceded by a light supper at 6:00. We need some folks who would be willing to organize the suppers. If you are willing to consider doing this, please let me know.

Fr. Bob





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

At First glance, we might think that today's readings reflect perfect discipleship, those who hear God's word and immediately follow through. But that's at first glance.

It seems, as we listen to Jonah's story, that Jonah heard God's voice and immediately ran off to Ninevah to do His will. Well, not quite. We pick up the story in the third chapter but if we go back to the first chapter Jonah wants no part of this mission. And like the old Snagglepus cartoon, if God wanted him to go to the right Jonah said, "Heavens to Murgatroyd, exit stage left."

Not only does he take the first stage out of town, or rather boat, he tries to get as far away as possible, someplace with no extradition treaty, maybe one of those tiny Caribbean islands would be nice.

But God had his own extradition plan. While sailing peacefully to his new hide-a-way the Lord sent a terrible storm and everyone was terrified. The crew realized that it was all Jonah's fault for disobeying God, and they tossed him overboard. At that very moment, the sea became calm again. That's not the end of Jonah's trouble then a big fish swallowed Jonah and held him in his stomach for three days. Jonah must have given that fish a sour stomach and we are told that the fish vomited Jonah back on land (right where he started.) This is where today's reading begins. God gave Jonah a "mulligan." That's a golf term, it means he got a free do-over.

Jonah probably thought to himself, "I don't want to go through **that** again. I better do what I'm told." And he does, and Ninevah is saved. Hooray!

But Jonah isn't happy with that outcome. He's so angry that God saved the city he wanted to die. I guess, in Jonah's mind, they weren't worthy of God's mercy. Spoiler alert! None of us are worthy; it's all about God's gifts of grace, love, and mercy.

Now compare this to the call of the Apostles. What was their response? They dropped everything and followed Christ. There was no exit stage left or cruise to the French Riviera. They followed Jesus because they wanted to do God's will. Did they do it perfectly? No. But their hearts were in the right place. In fact, they ran off too when the going got tough, but they repented and it made them more aware that we all need God's forgiveness and grace, it's not about who deserves anything. Unlike Jonah they were going to be compassionate.

All of this begs the question what kind of disciples are we? Are we the exit stage left kind or the drop everything and go kind? Likely, we're a little of both, willing - yet apprehensive; dropping everything but looking back. But like both Jonah and the Apostles we are all sent to be prophets announcing God's love, that His Kingdom is at hand and that we all need to repent and believe the Good News. Unlike Jonah we, we aren't sent to save just a city. Like the Apostles we are sent to a nation - to all nations. We are sent, not as judges, but as ambassadors of God's love. We are sent into the whole world, which is desperate to hear God's voice. May we, with every breath we take, strive to be that voice.

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.



Grades 1-8—No Classes this week.

Grade 2 ONLY—First Penance Retreat on Tuesday, January 23rd and Thursday, January 25th. Penance Retreat on Saturday, January 27th at 2PM at St. Clare followed by a Penance Service at 2:30. First Penance Services will also be held on Wednesday, January 31st at 7PM at St. Francis and Wednesday, February 7th at 7PM at St. Clare.

Grades 9—10+

Classes for Grade 10 meet THIS Sunday January 21, 2024 at 4:45PM followed by the 6:00 Mass.

Do you have First Communion Dresses, Suits, Veils and/or shoes that you no longer need? If you would like to donate these items, please keep us in mind. Donation boxes will be placed in the back of both churches in the next few weeks to collect these items. Thank you for your consideration.

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.



From St. Clare
Matthew Francis Lavoie, Jr.
Chase Raymond McDonough



St. Francis of Assisi

Deborah Pacitti
 Ralph J. Reed
 Albert Aniello
 Susan Ruffini
 Joseph MacKinnon

St. Clare

William D. Burke

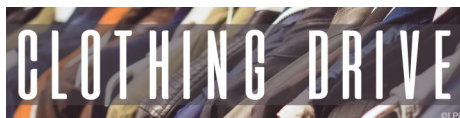
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Grand Annual Update

The following is the results of our Grand Annual Collection as of Tuesday, January 16th:

St. Clare - \$42,125
 St. Francis \$55,000

Thank you to all who have contributed.



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!



January 21 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." As disciples, we are called to continue God's work on earth. Taking care of God's poor is indeed living gospel values.

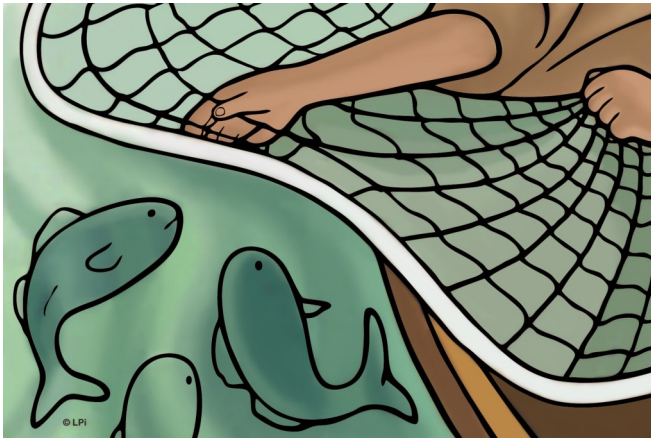
This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing food, financial assistance with utilities, rent and other bills. May God Bless You!



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.





As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Mk 1:16-17

Readings Week of the

Readings for the week of January 21, 2024

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/
1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/
Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/
Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/
Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/
Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18

Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a,
2b-3, 7-8a, 10/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13,
14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/
1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28



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. In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner who has made a single contribution of \$250 or more. 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.



January 21, 2024 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

We start telling lies around the age of three, the experts tell us. It's understandable. Lying is a god-like power. Whatever I want, I need only say it, and the world rearranges itself accordingly. It's amazing at first. But soon reality snaps back and I'm faced with a dilemma. If I remain committed to my lie I start to fracture into pieces. My words and reality drift apart, and I find myself lost in a lonely world of further falsehoods and fear of being found out.

How marvelous, then, that Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming: **"Repent!"** We tend to think it means "stop doing bad things" but it doesn't. It literally means "go beyond the mind you have." Think in a new way. It's painful to admit, but some portion of my mind is addicted to lie-telling, usually to protect my ego or make life easier. To repent means to admit this tendency, to say, "I'm done lying," and to move beyond my split mind into a complete commitment to the truth. Perhaps that's why at Mass we together proclaim, "I have sinned in my *thoughts*, and in my *words*..." Repentance and truth-telling work together.

Those who know the twelve-step process of addiction recovery know this process well. The fourth step requires radical truth-telling: listing our moral defects. This isn't being scrupulous. Rather it is freedom from falsehood, and entrance into the real world. This week, I invite you to join me in this practice. Get your phone or piece of paper. Answer the question: what are your true moral defects? Write them down. Remember, the Lord knows them already and loves you. We have a sacrament where this truth-telling is celebrated: Confession. Perhaps it is finally time to go beyond our childish lies. *Father John Muir* ©LPI

*Celebrate Catholic Schools Week with
The Partnership Schools
of the South Shore!*



Sacred Heart School
Pre-K3 y- Grade 4

75 Commercial Street, Weymouth



**Saint Francis Xavier
Middle School**

Grades 5 - 8

234 Pleasant Street, Weymouth

sacredheartschoolweymouth.org | sfxschoolwey.org



From the Archdiocese of Boston

January 21 ~ Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Today's gospel gives us another version of the call of the disciples. Again, it starts with an invitation. Jesus invites the disciples to "come after him" that is, to come to friendship with him and imitate him. They did just that and therefore were able bring others to Christ. What Jesus did with those first disciples, he does for us, if we are willing to come to friendship with him. Now, the challenge before us is - will we take the next step, to share our friendship with Christ with others. It's time to put aside our lack of confidence and to hear what Jesus says to us today, "come after me and I will make you fishers of men [and women]" How will you respond? What action will you take?

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

Mental Health Matters: A Workshop to Empower Parents

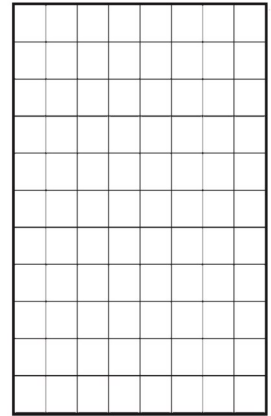
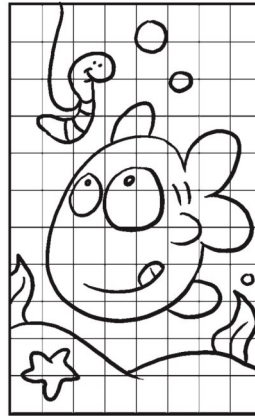
On Wednesday Jan. 24th at 7 PM join Dr. Mookie Manalili, a Catholic psychologist from Boston College; retired psychologist and pastor, Father Jim Ronan, and mental health clinician, author, and parent Suzanne Muldoon for a Zoom panel discussion on how parents can best support and care for their children 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/MHMTtoParents>

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

Copy the picture square by square.



MISSION

Jesus wants you to come to his home in heaven. Make a party invitation from Jesus to you. Use this invitation as a bookmark in your Bible.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

There's a colorful envelope addressed to you on the kitchen table. You see it's from your friend. You open it and find a party invitation inside. You parents say you can go! When Jesus invited Peter, Andrew, James and John to come along with him, they were just as excited to go. Jesus was the Savior and a good friend. They couldn't wait!

Prayer

Jesus, I thank you for inviting me to spend time with you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus smiling and waving to you.

Mission for the Week

Jesus wants you to come to his home in heaven. Make a party invitation from Jesus to you. Use this invitation as a bookmark in your Bible.