

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 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

Monday, January 29, 2024

7:00AM James Buglio 1st Anniv.

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

7:00AM Ronnie Fallon Memorial

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, February 1, 2024

7:00AM Special Living Intention

Friday, February 2, 2024

7:00AM Maria "Cathy" Leitao 2nd Anniv.

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.

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 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.

Saturday, February 3, 2024

8:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

4:00PM Arduino DiCenso 5th Anniv.

Sunday, January 28, 2024

7:45AM Maria Tempesta 9th Anniv.

10:15AM Thomas Schuck and Brian Bartlett Memorial

6:00PM Abdallah J. Khnaizir Anniversary

The Bread & Wine for the week of January 27th through February 2nd were been donated in loving memory of Patrick Munroe. The **Sanctuary light** also burned in Patrick's memory.

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.



Collaborative Council

Having completed six months as pastor of St. Clare and St. Francis Parishes, it is time to establish a Pastoral Council for the Collaborative. This is a group of parishioners from both parishes who will meet with me regularly to discuss the various aspects of the collaborative.

The purpose of the Collaborative Pastoral Council (Council) is to assist the pastor in exercising his responsibilities of leadership in the parishes of the collaborative. It accomplishes this by working as a body of advisors who meet regularly with the pastor to pray, discern and discuss the life of the parishes.

The goal of the council is to foster a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. Through such a community parishioners grow in their faith, draw spiritual nourishment from the preaching of God's Word and celebration of the Sacraments, and exercise their vocation. Parishioners participate with the grace of the Holy Spirit to build up God's Kingdom by exercising charity and virtue.

The work of the Council is to listen to the needs of the people, assess the available resources, discern collectively the direction of the Holy Spirit and then advise the pastor on strategies to meet the needs.

The values of the council are rooted in the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church. It strives to reflect Christ in all of its discussions and decisions. Given that the parishes come under the pastoral care of the Archbishop of Boston, the council will act in accord with all the precepts and guidelines of the Archdiocese of Boston.

The Council will be comprised of around fifteen members who should represent the make-up of the parishes with an equitable number from each parish. There should be consideration for ages, gender, ethnicity and geography. They will be chosen by a discernment process.

Parishioners may nominate themselves or another parishioner and can do so by letting me know. There is a **meeting on Wednesday, February 7**, at 7PM in St. Francis church hall, for anyone who is interested in serving on the council or would like to learn more about the council. At this meeting we will go over the expectations of the council and then I will ask you to pray for a period of nine days about whether you should be on the council. At the end of this period I would like the chance to talk with you about your thoughts about the Council.

Criteria for membership for your consideration:

- A fully-initiated Catholic, having received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Prays daily
- Has a general understanding of and publicly supports Church teaching and precepts
- If married, then married in the Catholic Church
- Regularly participates in Sunday Eucharist
- Financially supports the parish
- Registered in the parish
- Is concerned for the welfare of others
- Strives for a virtuous life

I have worked with parish councils for over thirty years and have come to rely on their guidance for my role as pastor as well as the work I did for the Archdiocese in Ministerial Personnel.

St Patrick's Dinner March 9

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. If you would be willing to help with this event, please let me know or give Patty a call in the office.

Music at 6:00 Mass

I am pleased to tell you all that we now have music at the 6:00PM Sunday evening Mass at St. Clare's. Mr. David Wanner, who lives in the parish and leads music at the Hingham Catholic Collaborative on Sunday mornings has graciously offered to lead song on Sunday evenings.

Confirmation Program

Perhaps you heard that Cardinal Sean has moved the age of eligibility for the Sacrament of Confirmation to 8th grade. Although this is effective immediately, it will take parishes a few years to work into a new program. If I may boast for a moment: Fr Kevin's schema to transition the program to 8th grade was used as a prototype at the presentation to the priest council last week. He will present to the new Collaborative Council in the Spring then to the whole parish. He really has thought this through and has come up with a model that will be helpful to us.

Extraordinary Ministers

I would like to meet 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 Ministers 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.

I will meet with lectors in March.

Adult Education during Lent

During the Monday evenings of Lent (February 19, 26, March 4, 11, 18) I will be offering an adult catechesis on the Eucharist: history, theology, spirituality, etc. These will be held at St. Francis Parish Hall from 7:00-8:00. Each session will begin with a review of what had been covered before so come to any of the ones you are able.

Men's Prayer Group

Fr Kevin and I have been wondering if there is interest in the collaborative for a men's prayer group. If you are interested, let's meet Saturday morning February 17 at 9:00 at St. Clare Church.

Fr. Bob



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Today's readings are all about God's voice. It's a powerful voice. It's the voice that spoke the Word that created the universe. It is at the same time strong and tender. It is a voice wrought with authority. It is the prophetic voice of Christ.

The Father promised this prophetic voice to the Hebrew people through His servant Moses toward the end of his life. But God added a warning "Whoever does not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it." Listen to him or else.

There is a similar sentiment in the Psalm (95). "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." The people who hardened their hearts at Meribah and Massah never made it to the promised land.

Over and over, time after time, the Father would call his people Israel and as often as not they wouldn't listen. They had Moses and all the prophets speaking God's Word to them and it didn't make a difference. So, God sent His Son, the Word made flesh and He lived among us.

What we read into today's Gospel from Mark occurs at the very beginning of Christ's ministry. It is the first miracle that Mark shows us. The people of Israel in the first century were awaiting the arrival of a Messiah who would defeat their enemies and at that time it was Rome. The messiah was going to raise up an army and send Rome packing.

The first miracle in Mark's Gospel is not changing water into wine, or walking on water, or anything else. Mark has Jesus cast out a demon. His first miracle was an exorcism. Any exorcism in the Old Testament would have included some kind of ritual prayer and touching of some kind. But that's not how Jesus did it. He simply speaks. "Quiet! Come out of him." That was all it took. Just as in the beginning when God Said "Let there be light" there was light. With just a word Jesus frees the possessed man from that which held him captive.

Mark is very clever. Yes, the Romans were their worst nightmare, at least at that time. But there had been others, like the Babylonians. They would always have enemies. Recent history attests to this. What Mark was telling them is that the Messiah, Jesus, would indeed defeat their enemies. But Rome wasn't their worst enemy. There would always be another Rome. Any evil that Rome was able to employ came from an even worse enemy. Jesus came to defeat the one who is most vicious, most deceptive. The one who keeps us enslaved to sin and death. This miracle wrought only by His spoken word demonstrated who the real enemy of humankind is and that this enemy is defeated.

Some witnesses saw this and recognized that Jesus had unique authority. But there were others who were still being deceived and whose hearts were still hardened.

What's the lesson for us? Christ is calling us – each of us to follow Him. It doesn't matter what baggage we're carrying. The sins we have committed can be forgiven. Our addictions, predilections, every weakness of flesh and spirit can be healed by calling on the name above every other name. The victory for us has already been won if only we would hear and listen to his 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.

Due to the First Penance Service THIS Wednesday, (January 31st) Eucharistic Adoration will be cancelled.





*From St. Francis of Assisi
Greyson James Lyons
Colleen Carol Riley*



St. Clare
Robert Clougherty
Kenney Rowan
Joanne H. 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 Wednesday, January 24th:

St. Clare - \$42,350

St. Francis \$56,550

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 **both churches** 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!



Grades 1-10 - Family Faith Event after the 10:15 Mass THIS Sunday. Please see enclosed flyer.

Grades 1-8—Classes on Tuesday and Thursday this week.

Grade 2 ONLY—First Penance Services will be held on Wednesday, January 31st at 7PM at St. Francis and Wednesday, February 7th at 7PM at St. Clare.

Grades 9—10+

No Classes THIS week. Classes for Grade 9 meet next Sunday, February 4th.



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.

*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



January 28 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel today we read that because Jesus spoke with authority his reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. As his disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into actions by helping the poor and suffering.

Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

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.**



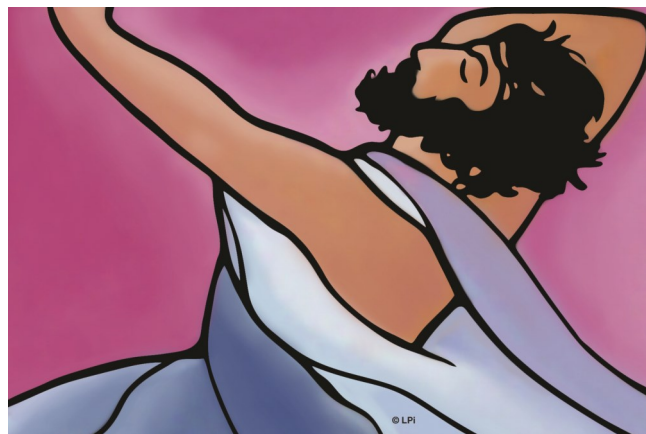
January 28, 2024 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie “Nefarious” features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like *multiple* persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel *fake* sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, **“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?”** Notice the plural, *us*. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man’s identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, **“Quiet! Come out of him!”** Jesus’ word has the power to restore the man’s singularity — *him* — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

— Father John Muir ©LPi



All were amazed and asked one another, “What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.” His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee. - Mk 1:27-28

Readings of the Week ©LPi

Readings for the week of January 28, 2024

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/
1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3,
4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/
Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/
Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab,
11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9,
10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13,
14/Mk 6:30-34
Next 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



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.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

January 28 ~ Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Mark makes clear in today's Gospel that Jesus spoke with a different kind of authority, an authority or confidence that arose from his own prayer and personal relationship with the Father. Everything Jesus did, his words, his deeds, his response to those in need, all sprang from that relationship. This gospel gives us a little push to reflect on our own words and actions. During this coming week take time to speak to Christ about his relationship with the Father and to consider whether what we say and do arises from our relationship with God. Ask for the grace to speak with the confidence of Christ about his/our Father!

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

Unscramble words from today's gospel

quiet
teaching
amazed

spirit
Jesus
Holy One

shook
shout
obey

quiet	<u>q</u> <u>u</u> <u>i</u> <u>e</u> <u>t</u>
Jsuse	_____
amzeda	_____
oybe	_____
Hylo nOe	_____
shuto	_____
sipirt	_____
soohk	_____
tachenig	_____



MISSION

Make a new label for your family's stain pre-treatment bottle. Trace around the bottle, write Mark 1:21-28 in big letters, and decorate your label with a picture of Jesus. Tape your new label to the bottle so you and your parents remember how strong Jesus is.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

Grass stains. Tomato sauce. Brightly colored fruit drinks. When these nasty stains stick to your clothes, it is tough to get them out. Regular soap won't work. You need something stronger. Jesus is really strong, too. In today's Gospel, a nasty evil spirit screamed when it saw Jesus. Jesus was so powerful, he cleaned that evil spirit right out.

Prayer

God, you are much stronger than evil. Nothing is too hard for you to clean.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus on a super-powerful stain-fighting laundry soap.

Mission for the Week

Make a new label for your family's stain pre-treatment bottle. Trace around the bottle, write Mark 1:21-28 in big letters, and decorate your label with a picture of Jesus. Tape your new label to the bottle so you and your parents remember how strong Jesus is.