

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 10, 2024

5:30PM Daniel Barselou Memorial

Sunday, February 11, 2024

9:00AM Marks & Conlon Family Memorial

11:30AM Charles McKinnon 3rd Anniv.

Monday, February 12, 2024

7:00AM

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

7:00AM

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, February 15, 2024

7:00AM

Friday, February 16, 2024

7:00AM Margaret Varraso Memorial

Saturday, February 17, 2024

5:30PM Robert & Mary DiMartino Memorial

Sunday, February 18, 2024

9:00AM Benjamin Venuti 42nd Anniv.

11:30AM Hubert B. Gray 2nd 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 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.

Saturday, February 17, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Christopher Ghiloni 3rd Anniv.

Sunday, February 18, 2024

7:45AM Sean Sullivan Memorial

10:15AM Pauline O'Brien Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

The Bread & Wine for the week of February 10th through 16th were been donated in loving memory of Arlene McDonough. The **Sanctuary light** will burn in memory of Domenic DeSantis.

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.



Valentine's Day on Ash Wednesday???

A juxtaposition. Valentine's Day falling on Ash Wednesday is a classic juxtaposition. Valentine's, a day to celebrate love, and Ash Wednesday, a day of repentance. They don't seem to go together. In fact they seem to be in contradiction each other. There is a strong element binding them together, though: resolution! Both the celebration of love and the beginning of Lent call for resolution: the act of determination to carry through on a promise. For Valentine's it's the case of renewing one's pledge of love to the beloved. For the start of Lent, it's an opportunity to renew our ongoing conversion to follow Christ.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The Sunday before Valentine's Day is designated as **World Marriage Day**. It began in the early 1980's in Louisiana and has spread throughout the country over the years. Simply put, it's a chance to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of marriage in our lives.

In the Catholic faith, marriage is one of the seven sacraments. A sacrament, you recall, is an outward sign, instituted by Christ, that brings about a particular grace. The power of Sacrament is that it forms a binding union between God and His people, between Heaven and Earth. Christ is made manifest in and through the Sacraments. The world is sanctified and transformed *through* the sacraments.

The Sacrament of Marriage is a means by which God's covenant with humanity is effected, or brought about, in the world. The secular view is that marriage is a contract: two people, not already married, enter into a public agreement of a common life. This, of course, brings with it many benefits and responsibilities. The Sacrament of Marriage recognizes the contractual nature of marriage, but goes further to say that it is also a covenant, that is, a permanent union that is not dissolvable. The ideal is that a couple in a sacramental marriage reflect the kind of love that God has for his people which is eternal. In order to capture that sense of God's love, the couple in a sacramental marriage are bound in a permanent union. In The Gospels the couple is no longer two, but rather one flesh.

The requirements for a sacramental marriage:

- One baptized man and one baptized woman
- At least 18 years of age
- Not previously married, sacramentally or otherwise

- Not intimately related
- Not forced or coerced into marriage
- Profess vows in front of priest/deacon
- Must have at least two witnesses
- Must express vows that speak of covenant
- And make them inside a parish Church

Since 1969 Catholic marriages have declined almost 70%. When you consider the power of God's grace it is very sad that so many young couples do not avail themselves of the Sacrament of Marriage. There are all kinds of cultural reasons for this, not the least of which is the ease of travel to have destination weddings. There is certainly fear on the part of many when it comes to the notion of a life-long commitment. In many cases, though, couples are ignorant of what a sacrament is and the importance of allowing themselves to be consecrated to the Lord through a sacramental marriage. Still a good number of young couples are opting to live together without the benefits of marriage, civil or sacramental. Somewhere along the way they received a message that marriage is not necessary; nice but not required. As a faith community we ought to give witness to our belief in the power of Sacrament and encourage our younger parishioners to avail themselves of sacramental marriage.

If you (or your children) are married but not in a sacramental marriage, **why not receive the Sacrament of Marriage?** In many cases this is so easy. It need not be an elaborate ceremony. It can be quite simple and intimate. Just give us a call! If there is a previous marriage, there often will need to be a declaration of nullity or possibly an annulment. We are happy to talk about that with you as well. Get good information to make a good decision.

Ashes on Ash Wednesday are not a Sacrament, but rather a **sacramental**. The definition of Sacrament is listed above. A sacramental, on the other hand, can be an object or ritual that enhances our disposition to the effects of Divine Grace. They help us deepen our faith in Christ and express our devotion to him. Other examples of sacramentals: rosary beads, scapulars, crucifixes, statues, icons or medals of saints, blessing of throats, making the Sign of the Cross, etc.

Lent begins with a day of fasting, prayer and wearing ashes on our foreheads as a public display of our intention to embrace a conversion. That is to say, to change our behavior to align with the ways of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel used on Ash Wednesday encourages us to pray, fast and give alms. These three practices are the ancient ways of immersing ourselves into the life of Christ. I encourage you to take these practices seriously. Simply stated: pray more, abstain from something pleasurable and give some of your money to the poor. If you have been

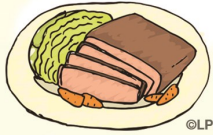
intentional about these in the past you know that they do bring about a change of heart.

Opportunity for Adult Education

May I extend an invitation to you to join me on the Monday evenings of Lent for a time of reflection on the history, meaning and theology of the Eucharist. We will meet at St. Francis Church hall from 7:00-8:10 beginning on Monday, February 19 (I know it's the holiday). Over the 5 Mondays we will cover what happened and meaning of Passover, why our foreparents were so obsessed with sacrifices, what took place at the Last Supper, how bread and wine can become the Body and Blood of Christ, the parts of the Mass and the Catholic Culture of the Eucharist. Each week will begin with a review of what has already been covered so you need not come to all of them.

Fr. Bob

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER



Tickets for the Collaborative St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday evening, March 9 at 6:30 at St. Francis Parish Hall, are on sale this weekend after all Masses. We will have a corned beef buffet with plenty of boiled root vegetables to satisfy and Irish palate! Tickets are \$25. Childrens' meal tickets will also be available for \$10 per person. There will be music and a door prize. Space is 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 at 6:15AM

St. Clare Masses at 9AM

Prayer Service at 4:00PM

Ashes will be distributed at each of these Masses/Services



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

A dozen or so years ago my wife and I were contemplating a move. My daughter came to us and asked, "Why don't we buy a house together?" And so, it began. Along with her husband we started looking for a house that would suit both our needs. Finally, we found our house in Abington. It had an in-law apartment. Most of the time you'd think that an in-law apartment might not be that great, but I have to say this one is pretty sweet. It has more living space than the house we raised our kids in and there is more closet space in our bedroom than in the whole house we owned in Quincy. It was perfect. There was one door that led from "our house" to theirs. They were newlyweds and they needed their privacy, so they wanted to build a wall where the door stood.

"Absolutely not!" we declared. "When we have grandchildren, we want them to come over easily to visit or so that we can make them pancakes in the morning." We won that battle and the door stayed. It only opens one way (and it's not toward their house.) Luanne cooks dinner nearly every night, which is fine since she's Italian and doesn't know how to cook for just two people.

And so, little Norah (age 4) likes to come over and cook with "Nonni" or sit and watch funny cat videos with her. Joseph (age 7) comes over so Papa can make him eggs in the morning. Or he might come over and ask if I'd like to hear a joke or see a magic trick. Sometimes he'll come over and say, "If you want to, we could play a board game." And I answer "Of course I want to" because I love him, and I want to be with him as much as possible and make him happy.

Today we heard the leper say, "If you wish you can make me clean" or as other translations say, "if you want to you can make me clean." The man with leprosy wasn't just ill, he was unclean according to Mosaic Law. He had to live apart from the community, dress a certain way and call out that he was unclean as he approached anyone. People of that time were also convinced that if you had something like leprosy or you were blind or had some other disease or malady it was due to sin. It didn't even have to be your sin. Maybe it was your father's sin. Even the Lord's own disciples thought this way. Consider this scene from John's Gospel:

As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:1-2)

How did Jesus react to the leper's request? The same way I answer my grandson "Of course, I want to." Why? Because Jesus loved him. Jesus moved with compassion reached out

and touched the man. Which, by the way, would have rendered Jesus unclean.

The man was healed immediately. Something else happened at that moment. When Jesus reached out and touched the leper, He bridged the gap between the clean and the unclean; between the Holy and the profane; between Almighty God and the people He created and would redeem.

Of course everyone was amazed, to cure leprosy was as astonishing as raising the dead. And Jesus acted like any other faith healer looking to make for a name for himself – NOT. “Don’t tell anyone,” He said. And the cured man kept his mouth shut – no, he didn’t. He was so overjoyed, so filled with the knowledge of God’s love for him that he just couldn’t keep it to himself. He wanted to share his joy with everyone.

Today, in our society, there are still gaps that need to be bridged. There are still those considered unclean today. If not unclean, then someone who sins differently than we do or someone whose hygiene is repulsive or whose illnesses or limitations make us uneasy to be around or someone whose lifestyle is different from ours, or whose faith is not the same or lacking completely. Sometimes we need to bridge the gaps within our own families: brother not speaking to brother and sister not speaking to sister, parents and children disconnected for years.

Jesus shows us the way in this Gospel. He gives us an example. As His disciples and members of His mystical body the Church, we have the hands that can reach out and bridge the gaps between the clean and unclean; the Holy and the profane; love and hate; fear and courage, God and His people. Jesus was not afraid to touch a leper. Saint Francis of Assisi was also someone who was not afraid to touch a leper. We should not be afraid to touch the outcasts and those on the fringes of our society and so bring the love of Christ to all we meet on our journey.



Beginning next week, the First Sunday of Lent, the choir will begin singing the 9:00 Mass at Saint Francis Church through Lent. The choir will return to Saint Clare for the Easter Season. Choir Practice during Lent will be at St. Francis Church, Thursdays at 6:30.



Grades 1-8—There are no Sunday Classes this week. Classes meet on Tuesday, February 13th and Thursday, February 15th.

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation classes for Grade 10 meet **THIS** Sunday, February 11th 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!



February 11 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel today Jesus moved with pity touched the leper and healed him. Let us pray today for the grace to be generous with our gifts to help those who are suffering.

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you indeed put your faith into action as you bring healing to the poor, hungry and weeping.

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

is next weekend, February 17-18. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. Some of the needed items are: soups; tuna; pop-tarts; instant

potatoes; 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 also 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.**



REMEMBER in your prayers

St. Francis of Assisi

Denise Polli

Barbara O'Brien

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, February 6th:

St. Clare - \$44,100

St. Francis \$57,850

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.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Early Bird Special - Milton & South Shore Men's Prayer Gathering - Saturday, February 17, 2024 7:00-8:30 AM
Prayer; Coffee and refreshments; X Presentation and discussion. Topic—**Getting the most out of Lent**

Gentlemen, Lent is a great time to energize your walk towards Christ. Please join us to hear a few different men share about how they "do" Lent – both giving up things but almost more importantly what new habits they adopt. If we have time, we will have an open "mic" for any and all to share. Come even if you just want to listen, your presence is a gift!! 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



A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." - Mk 1:40-41

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of February 11, 2024

- Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 (7)/
1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45
- Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/
Mk 8:11-13
- Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/
Mk 8:14-21
- Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Ps 51:3-4,
5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 9:22-25
- Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/
Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Lk 5:27-32
- Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/
1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Ash Wednesday Collection for Catholic Charities Boston



Help our neighbors in need this Lent

Together, we can help address the growing humanitarian crisis affecting families in need of shelter and compassionate care in our state. Donate today at ccab.org/donate or by scanning the QR code.



ccab.org/donate

 Catholic Charities BOSTON



From the Archdiocese of Boston

February 11 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Paul's words in the second reading today are clear but not necessarily the easiest to do: "whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." This reading is a good attitude for us as we head into the Lenten season this week. Make it your prayer this week that in all things large and small, in your words and in your actions, your prayer and your intentions will be to give glory to God. Each evening, look back over your day to recall your day. Notice when you were aware of your intention to do things for God's glory and when you were not. Pray for the grace to act with right intentions in the coming day. As Lent begins, try to maintain this practice and notice the positive difference it makes in your life.

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 Weekend is:

Men's Weekend March 7-10, 2024



Prayer for Married Couples

Almighty and eternal God,
You blessed the union of married couples
so that they might reflect the union of Christ
with his Church:
look with kindness on them.
Renew their marriage covenant,
increase your love in them,
and strengthen their bond of peace
so that, with their children,
they may always rejoice in the gift of
your blessing.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

LEPROSY
JESUS
POWER

WELL
WARNED
SHOW

GIFT
HEALED
WALKED

M O S Y T E D A G U R
A L E P R O S Y E W A
N I U O A L I U D O M
S H O W F O E G I F T
E Y I E I J A O U H I
I W A R N E D I V E K
T E O D Y S E B Y A O
O L P A K U N A T L M
H L U N I S O Y A E U
U R E M W A L K E D W
P A C I E N U H P I Y

MISSION

Visit the sick. Make a card. Take a treat to share.
Give them something to read. Pray for them before
you leave. You will brighten their day.



Sharing the Gospel

It is not fun to be sick. You miss your friends at school. You can't go outside to play. On top of being bored and lonely, you don't feel well at all. The man with leprosy in today's Gospel was sick a long, long time. He was really bored, lonely, and feeling awful. There was no medicine for leprosy. Jesus was the only one who could help him.

Prayer

God, you have the power to heal. Help me to trust you, even when I'm sick.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself sick in bed.

Mission for the Week

Visit the sick. Make a card. Take a treat to share.