

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 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.

Monday, February 19, 2024

7:00AM

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

7:00AM

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, February 22, 2024

7:00AM

Friday, February 23, 2024

7:00AM George W. Whalen Memorial

Saturday, February 24, 2024

5:30PM Elizabeth Grace Goslin 13th Anniv.

Sunday, February 25, 2024

9:00AM Broughton & Dorgan Family Memorial

11:30AM John McDonough 25th 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, February 19th in observance of President's Day. Have a safe and happy long weekend.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

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

Saturday, February 24, 2024

8:00AM Robert & Joan Anthony Memorial

4:00PM Robert Steele and Lois Perkins 25th Anniv.
30th Anniv.

Sunday, February 25, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Kathleen & Paul Harkins Anniversary

6:00PM Barbara Wallace 10th Anniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of February 17th through 23rd were been donated in loving memory of Pauline O'Brien. The **Sanctuary light** will also burn in Pauline'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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



The word **Lent** means “spring” as in the season. Therefore its use in the liturgical life of the Church is meant to connote *new life*. Lent always begins in winter when skies are gray, there is a chilling northwest wind, and often snow and ice. In other words, hardly a time of new life! The season always ends in springtime, however. You may recall that Easter is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, putting it on March 31 this year. Even by then, despite the calendar, it still feels like winter around here.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, of course, and ends, officially, as Mass begins on Holy Thursday evening. Lent is intrinsically tied to Easter, as it is the Church’s period of preparation for the big feast of Christ’s Resurrection.

To appreciate Lent, it’s important to know a little bit of how early Christians celebrated Easter. In the earliest years of the Church there was not an annual celebration of Christ’s Resurrection. It would not have occurred to early Christians to do this as they felt that every Sunday was a celebration of Resurrection. Secondly, early Christians believed that Christ’s return in glory was imminent therefore the Church calendar was not at all structured as it is today.

Once the Church started the annual celebration of Easter (2nd century) it soon became the day of the year to initiate new members through Baptism. Baptism then was only for adults as the profession of faith was necessary. Those who petitioned for Baptism were required to undergo an intense period of preparation lasting several weeks leading up to Easter. This period evolved into what we know as Lent.

After several centuries, as Christianity became more widespread and the Church started baptizing children and infants, the significance of Lent began to wane as there were fewer Easter baptisms each year. What developed was a spirituality that saw the weeks leading up to Easter as a period of *renewal* of faith. Baptism would be renewed at Easter Mass and thus there was a need for a time of recollection for people to ready themselves for the renewal. The renewal, as you recall, takes place after the homily on Easter Sunday and takes the form of a series of questions the priest asks everyone, such as do you reject sin...do you believe in God...etc. Then the priest sprinkles holy water on everyone to recall Baptism.

The length of Lent has varied over the years from as short as a few days to as long as ten weeks. It was in the

fourth century that it took on the shape we know today: a period of six weeks in which we take on the disciplines of prayer, fasting and **almsgiving**. These disciplines, as recorded in Matthew’s Gospel are intended to help Christians turn their lives so that they are focused on Jesus Christ. To help with this we typically fast (give up something pleasurable), pray more and give money to the poor. Such practices make us more sensitive to the suffering that is around us and thus motivates us to care for those in need. This simple formula shows how the Kingdom is built up by our repentance: those who are suffering receive some relief.

It’s not just individuals who are asked to take on some kind of penance during Lent, but also the Church as a world-wide community. During the Fridays of Lent we abstain from eating meat or meat products. This very simple form of penance is meant to serve as a reminder that we have a responsibility as a universal Church to take on some kind of penance for the salvation of the world.

Lenten Happenings

Join me on the Monday evenings of Lent for a simple course on the Eucharist: history and theology. This will be from 7:00-8:10 on Monday nights in St. Francis Hall.

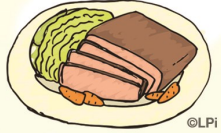
St. Clare Church will be open on the Wednesday evenings of Lent from 6:30-8:00 for those who would like an opportunity for quiet prayer. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and there will be a priest available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In addition to Stations of the Cross on Fridays, there will be Evening Prayer beginning at 7:00 at St. Francis Church. This is a brief service of prayer lasting about 30 minutes. This Friday the service will be preceded by a “simple supper”. Details elsewhere in this bulletin.

Fr. Bob



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER



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A limited number of tickets for the Collaborative St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday evening, March 9 at 6:30 at St. Francis Parish Hall, are still available. Please come by or call the Collaborative Office 781-843-1332 to reserve or purchase your tickets. 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 by the Last Hurrah and a door prize. Space is limited.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

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History and Theology of the Holy Eucharist with Fr. Bob—Monday, February 19, 26, March 4, 11 and 11—6:45PM in St. Francis church Hall.

The Light Is On For You - Confessions and Adoration - Wednesdays, February 21, 28 March 6 and 13—6:30-8PM—St. Clare Church.

Stations of the Cross—Fridays at 12:10PM—St. Francis of Assisi Church

Simple Supper—Friday, February 23rd—6PM—St. Francis Church Hall. All are welcome to partake in this meatless meal.

Evening Prayer—Friday, February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15 and 22—St. Francis of Assisi church



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From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

As I write this article for you it is Ash Wednesday. As you might imagine we are quite busy around here today and so this is going to be a short article.

I'd like to answer a question that I've received from more than a few people. It concerns the difference in the crucifixes at Saint Francis and Saint Clare. The one at St. Francis depicts Jesus with one foot over the other and one nail securing both of his feet to the cross. On the other hand, the crucifix at Saint Clare shows both feet nailed separately to the cross. People are wondering why this is so.

First, let's make it clear that there is nothing in Sacred Scripture that tells us exactly how Jesus was crucified, only that he was. The Romans had a number of ways to crucify their victims. In the art of the Latin Rite (Roman Catholic) Jesus is seen with one nail in each hand and one through both feet. This includes the corpus that is seen on our crucifixes. In the Orthodox Churches and the Eastern Catholic Rites there are two nails, one through each foot.

So, Who is right? The answer is both are right. A better answer might be it doesn't matter. Both represent the suffering that the Lord endured on our behalf and therefore are good for our reflection as we gaze upon them especially during this season of Lent.



The choir will be 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.



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Grades 1-8—Classes meet on Sunday ONLY this week.

Grades 9—10+

No Confirmation classes this week. Classes for Grade 9 resume on Sunday, March 3rd.



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 18 - First Sunday of Lent:

In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

is THIS 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.**



St. Clare

Emma James Crowe



St. Francis of Assisi

Sheila Timulty

John Anthony Kilgarrieff

St. Clare

Assunta "Susie" Barry

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.





After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

Readings of the Week © LPI

Readings for the week of February 18, 2024

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/
1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17,
18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/
Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a,
7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10,
15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/
Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



*From the
Archdiocese of
Boston*

February 18 ~ First Sunday of Lent

In today's first reading we are given a beautiful reminder that every time we see a rainbow in the sky, God is reminding us of his covenant, his promise, to be with us. Like Christ, we will experience times of temptation to ignore the need for prayer, fasting and alms-giving. Our scriptures are meant to help us remember God's promise of fidelity so that we don't succumb to the temptations of ignoring the call to change our ways, or of keeping. To remember God's promise to be with you, place a rainbow in a prominent place to remind that you can overcome any temptation, because God is with you.

Attention Faith Formation Catechists and Volunteers

The Archdiocese of Boston is offering a series of 1-hour Zoom presentations on a variety of topics for any catechist or faith formation volunteer. These presentations are free, and you can choose to attend any or all of them. The next presentation is at 7pm on Tuesday, March 5th. The topic is "Students with Disabilities." For information on these presentations and other event offerings from the archdiocese, please visit www.evangelizeboston.com/events

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



Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats

Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Spring dates are Saturday, March 23 and Saturday, May 11. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.



February 18, 2024 - 1st Sunday of Lent

When I feel down, I sometimes watch the famous “Double Rainbow” video on YouTube to feel better. It’s hilarious. A young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy. “Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!” he announces. Then he starts to weep. He cries out, “What does it *mean*?” Beneath the humor of his glorious overreaction is the deep intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in the sky. This Sunday, God sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us. What *does* it mean?

Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante’s medieval poem *The Divine Comedy* featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of the other. The bow is God’s promise of peace. For Dante, it’s even more: nature’s encrypted image of the Trinitarian God. One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment — but Jesus has made it visible in his glorious body.

Lenten challenge: This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert-dweller will. Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, “Here I am! I will love and protect you, surrounding you in My glory.” This Lent let’s embrace that with confidence, rain, or shine.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

SPIRIT
JESUS
DESERT

FORTY
SATAN
TESTED

ANIMALS
ANGELS
BELIEVE

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



MISSION

Memorize Proverbs 1:3, “You will learn what is right and honest and fair.” Practice writing it and saying it every day, until you know this verse by heart.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

In today's Gospel, Jesus spent forty days in the desert. Jesus stayed close to God, and he followed God's directions every day of his life. When Satan came to test Jesus he was ready. Jesus passed every test beautifully. He said “No” to temptation. When you write spelling words over and over, it is easier to remember them. If you are learning a new language, it helps to make flash cards to practice with. Once you memorize all your words, taking the test is pretty easy. The more you read the Bible and do what God asks in his word, the easier it will be for you to pass Satan's tests, too.

Prayer

God, help me to stay close to you so that I am ready for my tests.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus helping you remember Bible verses.

Mission for the Week

Memorize Proverbs 1:3, “You will learn what is right and honest and fair.” Practice writing it and saying it every day, until you know this verse by heart.