

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 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.

Monday, February 26, 2024

7:00AM Nathan Watson and John McKeough Memorial

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

7:00AM Nicholas DeAngelo Anniversary

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

7:00AM Glenn Lorenzen Month's Mind

Thursday, February 29, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Friday, March 1, 2024

7:00AM John Odenweller Memorial

Saturday, March 2, 2024

5:30PM George Dominico 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, March 3, 2024

9:00AM Arlene & Robert Duffy Memorial

11:30AM Mary & John O'Neil and Genevieve McCarthy 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!



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

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.

Saturday, March 2, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Maggie Campbell Anniversary

Sunday, March 3, 2024

7:45AM Rocco, Massimo & Vincenza D'Alessandro Memorial

10:15AM George O'Brien, Jr. Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

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.



The second Sunday of Lent always draws the Gospel reading from the Transfiguration. This year, of course, we hear St. Mark's version. Matthew and Luke mention it as well as St. Peter in his first Epistle. What happened exactly? We don't know exactly, other than what has been reported by those who were with him: whilst on top of Mount Tabor, Jesus appeared in glory along with Moses and Elijah. Obviously it was a powerful and euphoric experience as Peter wanted to remain there. Who could blame him?

In our sophisticated twenty-first century culture we want details. In a world where we have instant reporting of world events it is frustrating not to know exactly what happened. However, this was not the culture of the first century. Events were reported by word of mouth and thus details were not reliable. Rather than asking "what happened?" our ancestors in faith would ask "what does this mean?" If you were to ask the Apostles what happened on Mount Tabor, you would likely get an answer something like "God visited us and shone His Glory upon us along with Moses and Elijah!" You and I would still be wondering what happened, however the ancients would be elated to receive this news about God.

The preface of the Eucharistic Prayer used on the second Sunday of Lent explains that

"For after He had told the disciples of His coming death on the holy mountain He manifested to them His glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of Resurrection."

Anytime mountains are mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures we should be ready to hear about a Revelation of God. In the story of Transfiguration, the Revelation is that the glory of God is revealed in the suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus. They can't be separated, try as we may. Jesus gave the Apostles this special moment of grace so that when it came time for his crucifixion, having experienced the glory of Christ they might have the fortitude to bear His suffering. In other words, Peter, James and John had a sneak preview of Resurrection and so that they would not be so horrified by the passion.

God gives us special moments where our faith is boosted, so to speak. He does this so that when we fall into tough times we might remember the special moments and be strengthened. Not everyone has those kind of moments or

perhaps do not remember them. However (and this is a big **HOWEVER**) the Church has received the consolation of Christ's glory. When you are suffering or feeling alone in the world, the Apostles teach us to attach ourselves more ardently to the Church. Even though we may not have had a "transfiguration" moment, the Church has. As part of the Church, we benefit from such a moment. I suppose this is why we place the Eucharist at the center of our lives as Catholic Christians. By our participation in the Eucharist, we share in the Transfiguration. God helps us in every struggle by keeping the memory of Christ's death and resurrection alive in our hearts.

We are starting a Men's Spirituality group in the parish. We will be meeting on the Saturday mornings of Lent at St. Clare Church Hall following the 8:00 Mass. After Easter we will assess if this is the best time to meet or if we should look for a week night. If there is interest among the women of the parish for a similar kind of group, please let me know!

For your planning purposes, we are having a collaborative wide Penance Service on Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 at St. Clare Church. Along with Msgr. Oliver, Fr. Kevin and myself we will have some visiting priests. (I know some folks like to go to a priest they don't know!) All the Wednesdays of Lent there will be a priest available for Confessions at St. Clare Church, 6:30pm-8:00.

Holy Week is a short five weeks away. I encourage you to be planning now to participate in the Solemn liturgies of our Lord's Passion: Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday, the Great Easter Vigil. Set the time aside so that you can be part of these important Church gatherings. In fact, they are the most important gatherings of the whole year!

To help prepare for Holy Week, I would like to meet with all the Lectors of the parishes on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 at St. Francis Church OR Saturday, March 16 at 9:00. You need only attend one of them.

As many of you are aware, Pope Francis is in the midst of a two year synod with bishops and Church leaders from around the world. The topic is on "how the Church listens". The Holy Father held the first session of the synod this past October and will have the second session next October. In the in-between he has asked the bishops to talk with their people about two important questions:

- Where have you seen or experienced the success/distress within the Church's structures that encourage or hinder it's mission?
- How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live a community of love and mercy in

Christ?

Fr. Bob Connors, the Cardinal's episcopal vicar for parishes on the south shore will be holding a regional meeting tomorrow night (Monday) here at St. Francis Church hall beginning at 7:00. The meeting should last an hour and half or so. Our parishioners are most welcome. Should be an interesting conversation.



Because of this meeting, the Lenten series on the Eucharist **WILL NOT** meet tomorrow night. The second session will be next Monday evening, March 4, 7:00-8:10.

Fr. Bob



History and Theology of the Holy Eucharist with Fr. Bob—Monday, March 4, 11 and 11—**7:00PM** in St. Francis church Hall. Please note that there is **NO** session this Monday. All are welcome to join us at this time for a **SYNOD** Discussion.

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

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

Evening Prayer—Friday, February 23, March 1, 8, 15 and 22—**7:00PM**—St. Francis of Assisi church

Lectors will meet with Fr. Bob on Tuesday evening, March 12 at 7:00 at St. Francis Church **OR** Saturday, February 16, 9:00am at St. Clare Church.

Men's Prayer Group

Saturday mornings, 8:30
St. Clare Church Hall



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

I'd like to share a couple of things today.

ENTRANCE PROCESSION DURING LENT

First, you may have noticed that last week, as a way to set the season of Lent apart, we began a unique way of expressing our entrance procession at the beginning of Mass. We will do this for all the Sundays of Lent at the 4:00, 9:00, 10:15 and 11:30 Masses. Some of you may have come in late or came in after I made the explanation before Mass began and so I will cover it again in today's column.

You may recall that just prior to the Veneration of the Cross at the Good Friday celebration of the Lord's Passion the deacon holding the cross announces in song from the back of the church "This is the wood of the cross on which hung the savior of the world." All respond, "Come let us worship." The procession proceeds in silence to the center of the church and the deacon proclaims again "This is the wood of the cross on which hung the savior of the world." The people respond as before, and the procession again proceeds in silence to the front of the Church repeating again the proclamation and response.

Likewise at the Easter Vigil the deacon carrying the candle from the back of the Church proclaims in song "The light of Christ." Everyone responds (in song) "Thanks be to God." Just like we did the night before on Good Friday it is repeated halfway down the aisle and again at the front of the Church.

Which brings us to our Lenten procession. Anticipating what we will celebrate during Holy Week the cantor will sing this antiphon from the back of the church. "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand." Everyone then repeats the antiphon. Just as will happen on Good Friday and again at the Easter Vigil, this will happen three times. The cantor or choir will then sing a verse particular to the Sunday of Lent and all will sing the antiphon one more time. "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand."

CORI FORMS

Each year all volunteers and staff of the parish are required, by the archdiocese, to complete an annual CORI background check. Different regions of the diocese have separate times during the year in which it has to be completed. For us, March is CORI month. We have to have them completed and turned in by the end of the month. Since Holy Week and Easter are at the end of the month, we

would like to complete this earlier rather than later. Even if you have filled out a CORI in the fall it needs to be renewed each March.

Also, the diocese now requires each volunteer to complete an "application" in order to serve. Unlike the CORI forms, which are done annually, this is a one and done requirement.

The CORI, the application and the "Protecting God's Children" program are all designed to give layers of protection to Children and vulnerable adults.

In the first two weekends of March, after each Mass, someone will be available to hand out the materials and wait for you to fill them out and return them. We thank all of you for your continued service to the collaborative and for your patience as we move forward with this effort.



Grades 1-8—Classes meet on Tuesday, February 27 and Thursday, February 29 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!



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.

Grand Annual Update

The following is the results of our Grand Annual Collection as of Wednesday, February 21st:

St. Clare - \$44,350

St. Francis \$58,800

Thank you to all who have contributed.



February 25 - Second Sunday of Lent:

Lent is a call not just to "give up something" but more important to "give something for the poor." Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. **Your almsgiving in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.**

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.**



St. Francis of Assisi
Owen Robert Fisher



St. Clare
Mary Reilly

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.



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

Lenten Retreat

Men, we will have a Lenten Retreat on Sat. March 9th from 8:30 to 1:00 at the St. Joseph Retreat House run by the Oblate of the Virgin Mary, at 65 Fr. Carney Dr. Milton, MA. The cost is \$50 as before. Email Phil Plageman at jamet@comcast.net to pre-register.



Baby Care Collection for
of the Unborn.

Friends

The Braintree Knights of Columbus will be collecting Baby Care items on the weekend of March 9th and 10th at all Masses at Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Clare Parishes.

This is part of the Knights of Columbus Aid and Support after Pregnancy Faith in Action Life Program.

There will be a designated area at the front of each sanctuary for items to be placed.

Although all baby care items are most graciously received, the following items are noted as being particularly needed. Newborn infant clothing for spring and summer, Vaseline, Aquaphor, baby bathtubs and fitted sheets for full size cribs, porta cribs and bassinets. Please note that there is no need for diapers, formula or bibs at this time.

For the moms there is a need for socks, standard twin size bed sheets, blankets, pillows and pillowcases.

For general supplies for the Friends of the Unborn Maternity Care shelter, there is a need for TP, paper towels, multi surface cleaners, pump hand soap, laundry detergent and tall kitchen trash bags.

Monetary donations or gift cards to local stores in Quincy like TJMaxx, Marshalls or Target are also welcome.

Please keep these babies and all people involved with their care in your prayers.

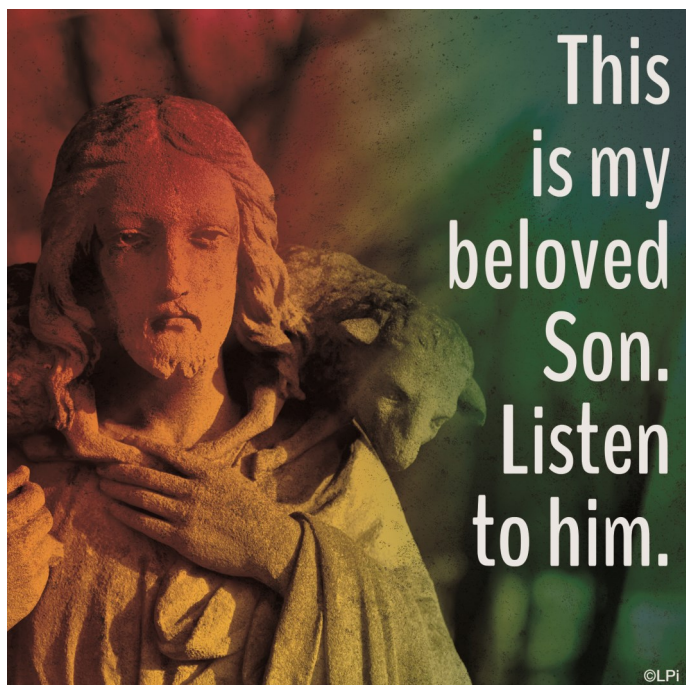


Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. - Mk 9:2-3

Readings *of the* Week

Readings for the week of February 25, 2024

- 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
- Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/
Lk 6:36-38
- Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21
and 23/Mt 23:1-12
- Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/
Mt 20:17-28
- Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 16:19-31
- Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/
Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4,
9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Next Sunday:** Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/
1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
(8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15,
19b-26, 39a, 40-42





From the Archdiocese of Boston

February 25 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

The readings this week deserve to be read and reread and pondered. "God put Abraham to the test." Those words have an ominous sound, ones that sound worrisome. Think about what it feels like to say God put (insert YOUR name) to the test. What might that test look like in your life? How are you tested? How do you respond to difficult situations God asks you to face? In our Gospel, we hear God speak "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." As you begin this second week of Lent, listen attentively to what Jesus speaks to you, or asks of you. The important message in our readings today is that God is faithful no matter the circumstances and trials we face.

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.



PUZZLE

Find the matching shadow:



MISSION

Make some lemonade with your family. Then add food coloring to completely change the way it looks. As you mix the ingredients together, talk about how Jesus was completely changed.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

Start with a pile of blocks. Add your imagination and you can build a castle or a city. You can change that pile of blocks to look completely different and wonderful. In today's Gospel, Jesus was completely changed. He started out looking like an ordinary man. Then, right in front of Peter, James and John, something happened. Jesus glowed brightly like the sun. Even his clothes became bright white. Talk about changing into something different and wonderful! God let Peter, James and John see Jesus as he looks now in heaven.

Prayer

God, I can hardly wait to see Jesus glowing in heaven.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself with Jesus, glowing in heaven.

Mission for the Week

Make some lemonade with your family. Then add food coloring to completely change the way it looks. As you mix the ingredients together, talk about how Jesus was completely changed.