

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, 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

Monday, March 4, 2024

7:00AM Jack & Nellie McDonough Memorial

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

7:00AM Joseph Odenweller Memorial

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

7:00AM George W. Whalen, Jr. Memorial

Thursday, March 7, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Friday, March 8, 2024

7:00AM Rizalina Ittler Memorial

Saturday, March 9, 2024

5:30PM Francis Zingarelli Anniversary

Sunday, March 10, 2024

9:00AM Ann Picewick 2nd Anniv.

11:30AM Mario Libardoni 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!



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, March 2, 2024

8:00AM Stephen Dooley and
Departed Family Members Memorial

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

Saturday, March 9, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Deborah Harding Memorial

Sunday, March 10, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Michael & Nellie Naughton Memorial

6:00PM Mark S. Wrobel Mark P. Wrobel Memorial

The Bread & Wine for the week of March 2nd through 9th were been donated in loving memory of George O'Brien, Jr.. The **Sanctuary light** will also burn in George'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.



The **third Sunday of Lent** this year has us listening to the promulgation of the **Ten Commandments** from the book of Exodus. Though we tend to think of these in terms of things we are forbidden to do, we easily forget they are part of the covenant that God established with His chosen people. The covenant is the bond between God and the people Israel, of which we are descendants. It was first established with our father in faith Abraham, and renewed again with Moses. Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land where the people would be free to live out the covenant. They were not able to do this in Egypt. Of course in the Sacred Scriptures Egypt is a metaphor for sin (the nation of Egypt today should not be linked to this metaphor however!). Escaping Egypt is the moral equivalent of being set free from sin. Since it was God who was able to carry out this exodus, it is to God, therefore, that we are bound. How often this bond was weakened or broken over the generations because of disordered affections, or as we would say today, bad choices.

The lure of sin is something we all have to deal with throughout our lives. Sin is attractive to us for all kinds of reasons. This is captured in the story of the Israelites marching to the Promised Land when many complained to Moses of how hungry, tired, thirsty, bored, frustrated they were. They went so far as to say that they wanted to return to Egypt because at least there they had onions to eat! Even when we acknowledge a particular behavior of ours as a sin, we still find it alluring. You can appreciate the need for the Commandments: clear boundaries of what could be considered acceptable behavior and was not acceptable behavior. It was by keeping the Commandments that the Israelites showed themselves to be in a covenant with God.

As we all know too well, no one acts in accord with these Commandments all the time. The Book of Leviticus proposes various sacrifices that could be offered to God to seek forgiveness for various sins. None of them, however, were ever able to re-establish in a permanent way the covenant which God has begun. The Christian faith proclaims that in Jesus Christ God has taken the initiative to offer the sacrifice for our sins. No longer dependent on our initiative, God mends the broken covenant once and for all. In the Eucharist we participate in the one saving sacrifice of Jesus.

It's easy to slip into thinking like the Corinthians that because of Christ's death and Resurrection that God has

already forgiven the sins we haven't committed yet. You can see how such thinking really complicates our lives! God is willing and wanting to forgive and heal of us of our sins, but we need to be willing to receive it. The asking and granting of God's forgiveness comes to us through the Sacraments, primarily through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As we grow in our Christian faith, the Sacrament of Reconciliation becomes more and more part of the foundation. As Holy Week and Easter approach, I thought this would be a good time to go over the **parts of the Sacrament**.

First: Confession. We go to the priest who, through Holy Orders, is given the authority by Christ and the Church to absolve sins. The confession begins by telling the priest approximately the last time we went to confession (if we don't remember, simply say that). Then we tell the priest our sins. Simply state them. You don't need to explain them, give the context or a lot of detail. Just say what they are. If the priest feels that he needs clarity on anything you said he will ask. Keep it simple and straight forward.

Second: the priest will give you a penance. A penance is something the priest will ask you to do that expresses your intention for conversion of heart. Often the penance will come in the form of some kind of prayer. It may also be an act of charity. It should be based on what you confess. Many people are not aware that if you feel the penance is unrealistic or for some reason you cannot complete it, you can simply ask the priest for another one. Penance is meant to help you grow in faith.

Third: Act of Contrition. The Sacrament requires that you say out loud that you are sorry for your sins. You may remember one you were taught as a child, read one that is available in the confessionals, read one from a book or app, make one up or simply say "I am sorry for my sins".

Fourth: the priest will absolve your sins using the ancient formula

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

You say Amen and bless yourself. That's it. The priest is there to help you make a good confession. If you forget how to make a confession, or just don't know what to say, let the priest know. He will help you. Remember, priests have to go to confession, too.

Confessions will be available this week on Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 at St. Clare Church, after the 8:00 Mass on Saturday morning at St. Clare's and on Saturday 12:30-1:30 in St. Francis Church. It is a great

way to prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

It's the time of year for the **Annual Catholic Appeal**. This is a critically important initiative to help raise funds for the central ministries of the Archdiocese of Boston. We could not possibly be a parish or collaborative alone. We are part of a wider Church, under the leadership of a bishop (Cardinal Sean) which shares multiple resources. Your participation benefits the wider Catholic community in Boston, the other parishes and St. Francis and St. Clare, too. If we are able to reach our assessment then there are significant financial benefits that get deposited in our respective bank accounts. I have already submitted my pledge for the year. May I ask you to do the same next week.

We certainly have some interest in a **men's spirituality group**. There is a small group that has been meeting on the Saturdays of Lent at 8:30 in St. Clare Parish Hall. This is an informal gathering which uses the Sunday Gospel to focus conversation and prayer. To the men of the parish: if you are looking for a way to further enhance your faith, this might be helpful. You are most welcome.

I hope you can join us on Friday night for the Lenten Simple Supper. Information elsewhere in this bulletin. The supper is followed by an Evening Prayer Service lasting about twenty minutes.

Fr. Bob



History and Theology of the Holy Eucharist with Fr. Bob—Monday, March 4, 11 and 18—7:00PM in **St. Francis church Hall**.

The Light Is On For You - Confessions and Adoration - Wednesdays, 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—Fridays, March 8, and 22—6:00PM—**St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall**

Evening Prayer—Friday, March 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, 8:30AM at St. Clare parish hall.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

As I was leaving the Church parking lot last Sunday I noticed an envelope under my windshield wipers. My first thought was that it was some kind of advertisement that I neither cared about nor wanted. Frankly, I was hoping it would just blow off the car so I wouldn't have to deal with it. When I got home my curiosity got the better of me, so I opened the envelope and read it.

What I read was disturbing. And it didn't take me long to dismiss the whole thing. But I was worried that some people would read this and take it on face value.

The first thing I noticed was that it was given out anonymously. If someone can't put their name on a document that is usually a clue for me that something is wrong with it.

The next thing I noticed was that in one paragraph it speaks about Fr. Rodrigue and then in the next it seems to quote him, although without quotation marks. The document is also riddled with many other typos. Another clue that there is nothing official about it.

Although the document claims that it doesn't mean to frighten anyone we read things in boldface, like; The end times; two thirds of humanity will die, troubled times that will be managed by the devil; The collapse of global financial markets; apparently the devil will have some kind of hypnotic power over people's minds; There will be a one world government and its leader will be the antichrist; we'll be hunted down like the Nazis in Germany; and among other things there will be nuclear war. All of this under the guise of a prophecy. The thing ends with an alleged message to Fr. Michael from "the Eternal Father."

If you found one of these envelopes on your car last week, I would caution everyone not to put any credence in it and certainly do not be frightened by it. Remember, if we are being faithful to Christ then we are always ready for whatever may happen. "God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love and a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

This might be a good time to talk about revelation, what we must believe as opposed to what we don't have to believe.

The Church speaks of two kinds of revelation, private and public.

Public revelation includes all of Sacred Scripture as being inspired by God. It also includes Sacred Tradition, that is the deposit of faith those teachings and dogmas handed down

from the apostles through the ages by the Church. These are public in the sense that they are meant for everyone. We are obligated as Catholics to believe these.

Private revelation on the other hand is given to an individual. It may be meant only for that person to increase their own faith and walk with Jesus. Or it might need to be shared but that would come from discernment by the Church. It is also possible that such revelations are deceptions or that they come from someone unstable in mind or spirit. If this kind of revelation is distributed among the faithful the Church would have to discern that it contains no errors and that it is good for the edification of the faithful. Even then, the faithful are not obligated to put faith in such things. Everything that we saw in that document on our cars last week fell into this category.

67 Throughout the ages, there have been so-called "private" revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the Magisterium of the Church, the *sensus fidelium* knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church.

Christian faith cannot accept "revelations" that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfilment, as is the case in certain non-Christian religions and also in certain recent sects which base themselves on such "revelations". (Catechism of the Catholic Church 67)

This is the only paragraph in the Catechism that talks about private revelation, we might surmise by this how little weight the Church puts upon it.

As far as I have been able to find, the Church has not given any authenticity as to what is contained in the document.

Finally, I went to the website of the Apostolic fraternity of St. Benedict Joseph Labre and found nothing on their website that confirmed anything contained in this envelope came from them. One would think that if they were so concerned about getting this "message" out to as many people as possible then they would have posted it on the web for the whole world to see.

I'll close with this quote from Jesus himself. "You have faith in God, have faith also in me." And so, let us place our faith where it should be, in Christ and in His Church, and not on some propaganda about the end of the world we find on our windshields.

CORI Forms—As mentioned a couple of weeks ago, March

is the South Region's time to submit annual CORIs. Everyone who serves as a volunteer or is employed by the parish must complete one. In addition, the diocese also wants us to get a volunteer application from everyone. This is a one and done application. You won't be asked for one again.

To meet these obligations there will be a volunteer or two after each Mass to hand out and collect materials. Please fill out both forms, sign them and return them immediately to the CORI volunteers.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Grades 1-8—Classes meet on Sunday, March 3, Tuesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 7 this week.

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation classes for Grade 9 meet THIS Sunday, March 3rd. Followed by the 6PM 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!



St. Francis of Assisi

Robert R. Sacchetti
Arthur O'Donnell

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.



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.





March 3 - Third Sunday of Lent:

In today's Gospel Jesus is asked "What sign can you show us?" Every day we can see signs of how God has visited us in the blessings of our lives. Let us be a sign of God's love by being a blessing to others.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can be a sign of God's love to the suffering and poor.

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.**



Baby Care Collection for Friends of the Unborn.

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.

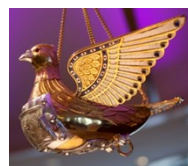


And to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me. - Jn 2:16-17

Readings Week of the

Readings for the week of March 3, 2024

- 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
- Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3,4/Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/
Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/
Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
- Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14
and 17/Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/
Lk 18:9-14
- Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6
(6ab)/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21
Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



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

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 Oblates 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.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

March 3 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel, Jesus may come across as harsh. Jesus knew well the wrongs and injustices that were prevalent in some temple practices. His action is meant to highlight those who made it difficult, if not impossible, for people to feel welcome in the house of God. Are our attitudes or ways of behaving as church or as parish seen as snobbish or impersonal or unwelcoming? In our efforts to be a welcoming and evangelizing parish, it is important that each of us examine our attitudes and work to change what might keep people from feeling at home with us. During these Lenten days let us make it our mission to make our parish a place where everyone has a place, and no one feels excluded.

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. The topic will be "A Lenten Reflection on Religious Life." If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

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 Men's Cursillo Weekend is March 7-10

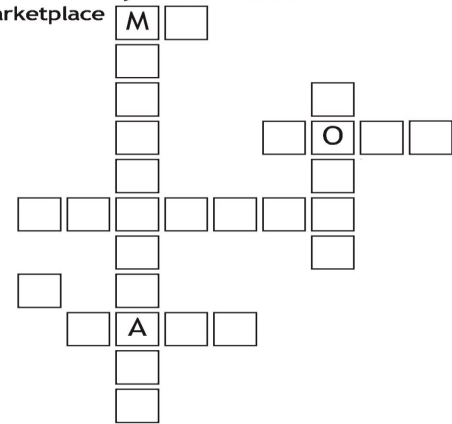
Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats—Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Spring dates are Saturdays, March 23 and 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

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Don't make my Father's house a marketplace



MISSION

Read John 2:13-25 with your family. Ask God to help you keep your church clean. Church should never be a store or a barn. It should be a special place to pray.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

Imagine coming to your church to pray. All around your church, you see people selling animals. It smells like a barn. The animals are loud. The people are shouting. You cannot even pray with all the noise and activity going on around you. That is what Jesus found in today's Gospel. It broke his heart and made Jesus angry. God's house is not supposed to be turned into a barn or a store. It should be special place where people can meet with God and talk to him. Jesus cleaned out his Father's house. He turned it back into a place of prayer.

Prayer

God, my church is a place for prayer. Help me to remember that always.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of people singing and praying in your church.

Mission for the Week

Read John 2:13-25 with your family. Ask God to help you keep your church clean. Church should never be a store or a barn. It should be a special place to pray.