

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 9, 2024

5:30PM Francis Zingarelli Anniversary

Sunday, March 10, 2024

9:00AM Ann Picewick 2nd Anniv.

11:30AM Mario Libardoni and
Constance Libardoni 1st. Anniv.
Memorial

Monday, March 11, 2024

7:00AM John & Catherine Davis Memorial

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

7:00AM Sheila Timulty Month's Mind

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, March 14, 2024

7:00AM Sally Healy 1st Anniv.

Friday, March 15, 2024

7:00AM Samantha Bursum Memorial

Saturday, March 16, 2024

5:30PM Barbara & David Harrington Anniversary

Sunday, March 17, 2024

9:00AM Marjorie Broughton Memorial

11:30AM Dianne McCarthy-McKinnon 2ns 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 Lenten Penance Service will be held on Wednesday, March 20th at St. Clare Church beginning at 7:00PM.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

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

Saturday, March 16, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Helen Farmer Memorial

Sunday, March 17, 2024

7:45AM Mary Rose Brady 2nd Anniv.

10:15AM Mark Jenkins 2nd Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

The Bread & Wine for the week of March 9th through 15th were been donated in loving memory of Eileen Barone. The **Sanctuary light** will also burn in Eileen'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.



New Collaborative Pastoral Council

My profound thanks to everyone who gave consideration to serving on the Collaborative Pastoral Council. Having gone through a discernment process, I am delighted to share with you the names of those who will serve on the new council:

Linda Muldoon	Clare Burns
Kathleen Whalen-Giannandrea	
Karen Whitney	Joanne McCarthy
Brian Hammell	Jennifer Walsh
Christopher Kelly	Susan Kelly
Philip Berardinelli	Lisa Berardinelli
Patrick Hubbard	Ellen Fitzgerald
Rosemary Doran	Mary Phelan
Jason Kurikose	Francis Ialenti
Kathleen Waldron	Dawn Reynolds

The purpose of the Collaborative Pastoral 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.

Today is the **fourth Sunday of Lent**, known as **Laetare Sunday**. Laetare is Latin for "Rejoice". This comes at the half-way point of Lent recognizing the closeness of Easter, which, by the way, is just three weeks from today. Holy Week begins in two weeks, on Palm Sunday. This is a good time to do a quick assessment on how you are doing with Lenten disciplines. Perhaps you began on Ash Wednesday with good intentions of "giving up" X, or committing yourself to Y and have slipped somewhat and lost that initial enthusiasm. Just a friendly reminder that Lent is not an endurance contest to see how long you can go without your favorite food or whatever. It is about conversion of heart, of letting go of whatever hinders you from following Christ with greater zeal. If you have moved away from your initial Lenten disciplines, this is a good time to recommit yourself to them. Remember, conversion is always an option with God.

Speaking of conversion, I would like to encourage all of us to avail ourselves of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** before Easter. There will be a Collaborative-wide Penance Service on Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00pm at St. Clare Church. Along with Fr. Kevin, Msgr. Oliver and myself, there will be outside priests for those who wish to go to a priest they do not know.

Along with the Penance Service there will be Confessions heard **this** Wednesday evening, 6:30-8:00 at St. Clare, Saturday morning following the 8:00 Mass at St. Clare and Saturday afternoon 12:30-1:30 at St. Francis.

In preparation for Holy Week I **would like to meet with the lectors** of the two parishes. There are two options: Tuesday evening, 7:00 at St. Francis OR Saturday morning at 9:00 at St. Clare.



The Annual Catholic Appeal

In the Monday night Lenten series on the Eucharist, we have been discussing the history of the Mass.

From writings of early Christians, what is so striking is that the collection was part of the Mass from the beginning. Our ancestors in the faith made a connection between the act of giving thanks to God and caring for the community. The Catholic Church in the United States operates on the free will offering of its members. I say in the US because some countries pay for the upkeep of Churches through tax revenue. The money that is collected at Masses is used for the parish (unless otherwise stated). However once a year we are asked to contribute to the local Church in the Archdiocese under the pastoral leadership of Cardinal Sean O'Malley. This annual offering used to be called the "cathedraticum" meaning the chair of the bishop (as in cathedral).

The Cardinal formally makes the appeal to all the Catholics of the Archdiocese this weekend. The proceeds of this annual collection are used to help cover the costs of running the Archdiocese. In addition to this source of revenue, the archdiocese takes a tithe or a tax from the parishes each month. There are also donations, fees, rental income and interest on investments that keep us afloat financially. Having worked at the Pastoral for eleven years I can attest to the fact that the money collected in the annual appeal is used for the good of the local Church. The people who work at Central Ministries are, for the most part, people of faith who give of themselves generously to help our priests and parishioners. They run the programs and services upon which the parishes depend in order to exist. If we didn't have central ministries there is no way we could afford to be a collaborative of parishes. The costs to contract with so many providers would be staggering. Instead, all the parishes and institutions act as one entity to share resources such as property management, legal counsel, financial compliance, canonical matters, office of the Cardinal, Vicar General, chancellor, deacons, priests, religious men and women, religious formation, marriage preparation, tribunal. You get the idea.

The goal this year is not so much a dollar amount as it is participation. Although the money collected has increased in the past couple of years, the number of participants has decreased. I am humbly asking if everyone in St. Clare and St. Francis could consider giving something. Every contribution helps. My thanks to John Collier, Linda Muldoon, John Whitney and Steve Pugsley for their assistance in launching the appeal in our collaborative.

Fr. Bob

EVENTS SCHEDULE

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

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

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

Simple Supper—Friday, March 22—6:00PM—**St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall**

Evening Prayer—Friday, March 15 and 22—7:00PM—**St. Francis of Assisi Church**

Lectors will meet with Fr. Bob THIS 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

The Testimony of Simon of Cyrene - A Short Story—Part 1

My name is Simon. I am a Jew from Cyrene. I am an old man now and the story I am about to tell is true. I've told it many times to others, especially my sons Rufus and Alexander. It is my account of an execution that took place outside the walls of Jerusalem many years ago, long before the destruction of the Temple. I was there and this is my witness.

I had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. It had taken me some 30 days to walk the distance from my home to the holy city. I can assure you that it was not an easy pilgrimage, and I was very tired. In fact, there were times I wasn't certain that I'd even make it in time for Passover.

I was taking the country road into the city and as I came over a small hill, I saw my destination. It was finally within reach. It was shortly before noon and the sun was high in the bright blue sky. It was the kind of day that gladdens the heart, when you could see God's glory all around you.

But my heart sank as I got close. There in the distance were two men hung on crosses atop a hill outside the city. There was a vertical pole between the two, a place for a third man. It was far away enough at this point that I couldn't hear anything but as I drew closer, I could hear their cries. I thought how awful that these poor souls could see such a beautiful day and know it would be their last. The suffering of the crucified was a sign to anyone that passed by: Don't disturb the Roman peace or dare criticize their rule. These men may have been criminals, or they may have just been in the wrong place at the wrong time. It didn't matter to the Romans.

If you lived under Roman rule, crucifixions were not uncommon. They were cruel and bloody affairs and death came slowly. It's the kind of thing that you don't want to be near, so I picked up my pace as I passed. Once it was behind me, I could think about the meal I would have, the cup of refreshing wine and the rest I would enjoy from my exhausting sojourn. Nothing could stop me now or so I thought.

Nearly at the city gate, I observed a crowd approaching, led by Roman soldiers. That was never a good sign. Behind the soldiers a man carrying a cross beam. He was to be the third victim of Roman torture that day. I couldn't get a good look and honestly, I didn't want one. But I did notice he had

fallen and was having a difficult time getting back up. The centurions were shouting at him to get back up and poking him with the blunt ends of their spears. I took a deep breath and wondered what crime he could have possibly committed. There was something very odd about this scene. There was, following this man, a large crowd. It was very unusual for a crucifixion. Not only that, but there were some very prominent citizens there. Men from the Sanhedrin, pharisees, scribes and some temple guards mixed with the commoners. I was curious but something my father taught me years before came to mind. "My son when you see Roman soldiers never do anything to cause them to notice you. Bow your head. Cross the road. Never look at them. Whatever you do, keep walking."

And so that's exactly what I did. I pulled my cloak over my head; looked down at the ground, and hurried past, certain I was not noticed. And then there was a shout "You! Stop!" I froze in my place hoping they weren't talking to me. But as I turned my head, I could see one of the guards coming toward me. "God have mercy" I prayed.

I looked at the Roman guard approaching. My eyes were wide, and I must have had a look of bewilderment. I think the guard was amused by the look on my face. He smirked, shook his head and with one finger motioned me to come to him. "The prisoner is too weak to go on. Carry his cross up the hill." "Me?" I asked as though it could have been a mistake. "Well, you don't expect me to do it?"

And with that he grabbed me by the back of my cloak and tossed me in the direction of the cross. I fell to the dirt and when I looked up, I saw the condemned man. I remembered the words of the Prophet Isaiah "He was spurned and rejected by men. A man of suffering, like one from whom you turn your face." That's exactly what I wanted to do – turn my face; such was the brutality that this man had already suffered. He was a bloody mess. I vomited when I first saw him, and the Romans laughed. When I could finally compose myself, I saw that he had already been savaged. He had obviously been scourged. You could see the crimson stripes seeping through his garments. It was terrible to look at and I couldn't even see the actual injuries. But I could tell that the flesh on his back had been ripped apart. His face was swollen and bruised from an obvious beating, and they had placed thorns upon his head and the blood trickled down his face; the result of wounds made from each individual thorn. They really wanted him to suffer. Around his neck was hung a placard that they would hang on his cross identifying his crime. It read "King of the Jews." That's when I realized that it was a crown of thorns on his head, meant not only to hurt him but to humiliate him. To the Romans there was only one king that mattered – and that was Caesar.

The centurion began to move us along. Just ahead of us

were some women who had come from Jerusalem. They were wailing and weeping and crying out to the man whose cross I bore. It was then that I heard his name for the first time – Jesus. I had heard that name before even in Cyrene. There had been reports of a man named Jesus who was supposed to be a great teacher. Some called him a prophet. Some thought him the Messiah. Rumors had it that he cured the blind; the deaf; and the paralyzed. It was said that he cast out demons and even raised the dead to life. But there had always been rumors about this one or that one who was supposed to be the anointed one. They all came and went, and nothing changed. I thought nothing about this one. He stopped briefly when he got to the women, and I heard him speak for the first time. One would expect someone in his position to cry "Save me." Or "Help me." But that's not what he did. He looked at them with something that resembled compassion and told them not to weep for him but for themselves and their children. He seemed to be more concerned about them than what was happening to him.

The soldiers, of course, were not going to let him stand still for too long and cursed at him as they prodded him on. About halfway up the hill a woman pushed her way through the crowd. She had a damp cloth and before the guards could stop her, she reached Jesus and gently wiped the blood out of his eyes and off his face. One of the guards tried to pull her away but the one who was obviously in charge motioned for him to stop. I assume he thought that if the blood was out of his eyes he could see where he was going and things might proceed faster. To this day I marvel at the courage and compassion that this woman demonstrated in the face of Roman authority.

As we moved on, I wondered what happened to this man's disciples. From what I had heard there were several very strong men who traveled with him. Were they now in prison awaiting their turn on the cross? Or had they run like cowards leaving just a few women to stand by his side?

I could hear rumblings from the crowd and could pick up a few sentences from time to time. I found out that the place of crucifixion was called "Golgotha" or "Place of the Skull." Just the name could strike terror into the hearts of even the strongest men. The Romans would often leave their victims hanging on their crosses for days or weeks after a crucifixion. Vultures and other birds would come and begin to eat their flesh – sometimes before they even died. So, it was fitting that this place would be given the name "Skull" bearing in mind that as you pass by you might actually see the skull of the dead still hanging on their crosses.

CORI Forms—a volunteer or two will be available 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 10, Tuesday, March 12 and Thursday, March 14 this week.

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation classes for Grades 9 **AND** 10 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!



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Clare

Constance Ryan
Carl Vitagliano

St. Francis of Assisi

Robert E. Sullivan

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.



March 10 - Fourth Sunday of Lent:

In today's Gospel, God demonstrates great love for us by sending his Son so that we may believe in him. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing good works: reaching out to others, acting in justice and charity. **Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your dollars are multiplied by those placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul blue envelopes.**

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, March 16-17. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. 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.**



And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. - Jn 3:19-20

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of March 10, 2024

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

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Baby Care Collection for Friends of the Unborn. The Braintree Knights of Columbus will be collecting Baby Care items **THIS** weekend of March 9th and 10th at all Masses at Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Clare Parishes.

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.



From the Archdiocese of Boston



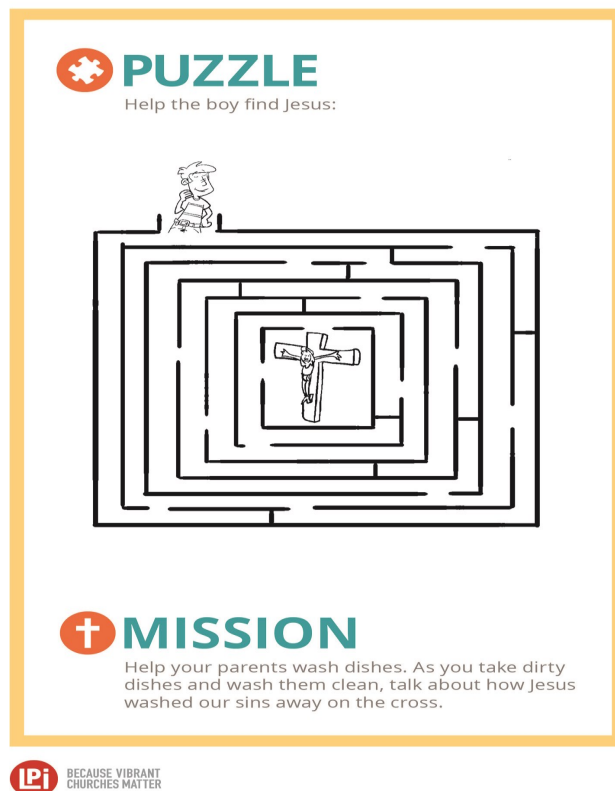
March 10 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Laetare Sunday

Oftentimes at sports events, people hold up a sign “John 3:16” to be shown on a jumbotron! It’s likely that many people do not know what John 3:16 is, let alone what the text says! We’re given that text in today’s Gospel. This text is given to us to remind us of the extent of God’s love, the length to which our God went to convince us of his love. All are included in God’s vast inclusive love. God loves each one of us as if we were the only one in the world to be loved. As Lent continues take a few minutes to ponder God’s all-inclusive love for you. How will you respond to that love?

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.

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.

Let Anyone Who Thirsts, Come to Me: **A Healing Mass for those Impacted by Divorce or Separation** ...will be held April 30th at the Pastoral Center from 6:30-9PM. Hosted by Family Life Ministry, the evening includes Confession, Adoration, a witness talk by divorced Catholic Mark Gioia, Mass celebrated by Fr. Jürgen Liias, and prayers for healing. For more information or to register visit <https://bit.ly/LetAnyoneWhoThirsts> or call Emily Elliott (617) 746-5756.



Sharing the Gospel

When the Hebrews sinned in the desert, snakes came to bite them. Moses lifted up a metal snake in the desert. If God's people looked at the metal snake, their painful snake bites would be healed. Instead of dying from their snake bites, they would live. Our sins are a lot like those snake bites. Sins turn us away from God, hurt us, and hurt other people. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross, he washed our sins away. Jesus gave us healing and forgiveness. We don't need to die from our sins. We can believe in Jesus, follow God with our whole hearts, and live forever.

Prayer

God, thank you for sending Jesus to wash away my sins.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus on the cross. Around the cross, write down your sins in pencil, then erase them. This will show that Jesus has washed all of your sins away.

Mission for the Week

Help your parents wash dishes. As you take dirty dishes and wash them clean, talk about how Jesus washed our sins away on the cross.