

# 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](http://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](mailto:parish@sfab.org).

# Mass Intentions

## St. Francis of Assisi

### Saturday, March 16, 2024

5:30PM Barbara & David Harrington Anniversary

### Sunday, March 17, 2024

9:00AM Marjorie Broughton Memorial

11:30AM Dianne McCarthy-McKinnon 2nd Anniv.

### Monday, March 18, 2024

7:00AM Louis & Catherine Luccio Memorial

### Tuesday, March 19, 2024

7:00AM Daniel Crimmins and  
Louis & Josephine Anzaldi Memorial

### Wednesday, March 20, 2024

7:00AM Spec. Intent. for Healing

### Thursday, March 21, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

### Friday, March 22, 2024

7:00AM Spec. Intent. for Healing

### Saturday, March 23, 2024

5:30PM Jaen & Arthur Dalton Anniversary

### Sunday, March 24, 2024

9:00AM Giuseppe & Clemetina Gallo Memorial

11:30AM Debra Canale Anniversary

**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 THIS Wednesday, March 20th at St. Clare Church beginning at 7:00PM.**

# Mass Intentions

## St. Clare

### 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

### Saturday, March 23, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Maria Dalomba 10th Anniv.

### Sunday, March 24, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Marisa Federico 8th Anniv.

6:00PM Mary E. McDonald 20th ANniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of March 9th through 15th were donated in loving memory of **Irene Barone** [CORRECTION]. The **Sanctuary light** also burned in **Irene's** memory.

The Sanctuary Light for the week of March 16-22 will burn in memory of Mary Rose Brady.

*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.**



For those who love Church trivia: St. Patrick gets bumped from the liturgical calendar this year. Solemnities, feasts, memorials and commemorations are arranged in a hierarchy. As happens quite often, feasts of saints and other commemorations land on the same day. This is because feasts of saints are ascribed a fixed date on the conventual calendar while major solemnities and feasts are arranged on a day in relation to the date of Easter that particular year. As is the case today, March 17, feast of St. Patrick, falls on the fifth Sunday of Lent. The Sundays of Lent and Easter take precedence over the feasts of saints. Ergo...no St. Patrick this year. This, of course, is a technicality, of interest only to those like myself who get easily fascinated with how the Church has kept the calendar over the generations. Regardless, the celebrations of the patron saint of all things Ireland, as well as the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Boston, will commence as usual.

We had a great St. Patrick dinner last Saturday evening! The food from Fasano's was worthy of any Irishman. Music by the Last Hurrah kept the evening festive and the craic (Irish for a good time) was had by all. My thanks to all who worked so hard to provide the collaborative with a great evening!

One saint who does not get bumped this year is Joseph. Tuesday is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Mother and foster father to our Lord. There is so little known about his man, yet he is the patron saint of the universal Church. Only Matthew and Luke make mention of him in the infancy narratives. He appears again in Luke's Gospel at the time the boy Jesus is lost in the Temple. He is never heard about again. Much is taken from what is not said. Namely, he does not appear at the wedding at Cana, nor is he at Jesus' crucifixion indicating that he must have been deceased by that time. Had he been living, the responsibility of what to do with Jesus' body would have been his. What we can extrapolate from the Gospels, though, is that in order for Jesus to have grown into the learned and wise man, who was so sensitive to the plight of human suffering, who was so compassionate and empathetic, must have had a very strong influence in His young life. When you consider that Jesus was able to accept Baptism, reject temptations, teach in the

Synagogues, and expose Himself to the cruel fate of Roman crucifixion, someone must have shaped His image of God and instilled in Him a deep faith. You can say that He was God, therefore He possessed divine wisdom and power. Yes, however, given His human nature, such wisdom and power came to light in the context of a maturing faith in His Heavenly Father. We give that credit to Joseph. AND, of course, he accepted Mary as His wife even though she was carrying a child that was not his. Can you imagine the level of trust he must have had in God in order to do that? At that time in history, in that culture he was exposing himself and his family to great shame by taking her as his wife.

For all of this, the Church has looked upon him as an example of true discipleship and venerated his fidelity as husband and father.

To celebrate Joseph in the life of the Church, there will be Mass, of course, on Tuesday morning at 7:00 followed by a "St. Joseph breakfast" in the Church hall.

I am grateful to all who have participated in the Annual Catholic Appeal of the Archdiocese. This is such an important initiative. Without it, our parishes could not survive. It's by creating a large staff of generous, faith-filled and highly talented people that we can provide for the shared needs of our parishes. The goal this year is not so much a dollar amount but rather to increase significantly the number of people participating. Though the proceeds have increased over the past couple of years, the number of participants has decreased. As I mentioned at the Masses, St. Clare and St. Francis Parish benefit from the number of pledges received. Last year the collaborative received \$35,500 as a share in the collection because of what was collected from our parishioners. Many thanks.

On Wednesday evening this week our collaborative will host a Lenten Penance Service. Fr. Denis Nakeeren from the faculty at St. John Seminary will preach during the service in which we reflect on our lives and ask God to heal us of the wounds caused by our sins. There will be a number of priests available for individual confessions. This is a great way to prepare for Holy Week.

Holy Week begins next Sunday on Palm Sunday. Palms will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses. Also we will hear St. Mark's version of the Passion. Please encourage your family to make the liturgies of Holy Week a priority. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are the highlights of the entire Church year. Set this time apart for yourself and your family to commemorate the central mystery of our Christian faith. Please see enclosed schedule. *Fr. Bob*

MARCH 17, 2024

Pictures from St. Patrick's Dinner held last week



From  
Deacon Joe MacDonald

The Testimony of Simon of Cyrene Part 2

Jesus still moved slowly, no surprise given the extent of his wounds, and at this point I was always several steps ahead of him. I then heard a single voice cry out "JESUS!" I turned to see what was going on. There was another woman running toward him. I heard him call "Mother." She dropped to the ground, landing hard on her knees when she saw him. You could hear her gasp. I'm sure she didn't expect him to look like this even on the way to his execution. You could see the tortured look on her face. She could not have been more wounded than if a Roman soldier had run a sword through her own heart. He whispered to her "It has to be." And as she wept, she nodded as if to say "Yes, I know. But I don't have to like it." I learned later that her name was Mary.

I wondered what could make men so cruel.

We continued on and Jesus continued to stumble and fall. I was now ahead of him by a longer distance. As I climbed the actual hill, I could see he was a few minutes behind me. I just wanted to be done with this. When I reached the top of the hill, I realized that the executioners were looking at me. "Oh no." I thought. "I'm carrying the cross. It's the condemned that carry the cross. They think I'm the one to be crucified and Jesus isn't here yet." They grabbed me and began to strip me. My heart began to beat as though it would come through my chest. I could feel the blood rush from my head. Everything turned white for an instant. It was blinding. I cried out "No. No. No. Not me!" I was about to pass out when I heard his voice. "I am the one you want. Let him go free." He saved me.

The guards tossed me aside like garbage. I landed on my back and my tunic which they already had been taken off landed on top of me covering my face. Someone nearby, a man named Joseph, who was from Arimathea, helped me to my feet. I wanted it to be over. I wanted to leave that place – but I couldn't. Now I was drawn to it like an insect to the light of a flame. A few years ago, there was a fire on one of the ships in the harbor of Cyrene. Like everyone else I was drawn to it and watched it burn for hours. It was a disaster, but I guess human nature likes a good disaster from time to time. It was something like that for me, but also something more. I felt that after carrying the cross for him, I had to see it through to the end.

They stripped him naked. The Romans didn't want you to have any semblance of dignity. They wanted you dead, but they wanted you dead in the most terrifying way possible. The wounds on his back re-opened as they tore his

garments away. You could see in his face that it hurt terribly. They took the vertical beam out of the ground and laid it down, attaching to it the cross beam which I had carried.

They laid him on it, his arms stretched out on the beam. One of the guards picked up a "nail." It was bigger though, more like a spike. After all, it would have to bear the weight of a hanging man. They positioned it on his wrist and raised the hammer. I closed my eyes but as I heard the hammer strike, I jumped and looked. He moaned and took a deep breath in and then another. His body trembled. Everything repeated when they nailed the other hand to the cross, the moans, the trembling, the deep breathing. It seemed worse when they drove the nail through his feet. His hands were tied with ropes so that his hands wouldn't break free from the nails as they lifted it upright.

As the cross was hoisted, he shuttered and moaned every time the rope was pulled. Nearly upright the whole thing fell back into the hole in the ground. I shudder to think how excruciating that drop was and how the sudden stop must have felt in his hands and feet as the nails held him firm.

His eyes closed and I wondered, along with others, if he had already died. But in a few moments, they opened again. He tried to say something but couldn't get it out. Then I saw something I never expected. He pushed up on his feet and pulled up on his arms scraping the wounds on his back against the cross and dropped back down. I could tell it was excruciating. I could almost feel it myself. I wondered out loud, "Why do they do that?"

A nearby soldier must have heard me. He was obviously well acquainted with the workings of crucifixions, and he answered, "With their arms outstretched like that it's hard for them to breathe. So, they lift themselves to get a deep breath." He chuckled, "It must hurt like hell." Eventually they get so tired they can't raise themselves anymore and they suffocate. Sometimes, if we're in a hurry, we break their legs to move things along. Sometimes we do it just to watch them struggle as they try to lift with just their arms. It's very amusing."

I thought to myself, "You people must be possessed by demons."

After he filled himself with a deep breath, he looked up and spoke. "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing."

What? After all they had done to him, he responded not with a curse but with forgiveness. It was unheard of. Again, he didn't think of himself, but of others, even those who were responsible for all his agony. I didn't know if he was who they said he was, but he was certainly an extraordinary man.

With all that was going I hadn't noticed, but the beautiful blue

sky that perfect day had vanished as though a veil had covered the sun. The sky darkened and it became darker still. Though it was dark as night there was no light from the moon or from the stars either. It was eerie. It was the darkness of an angry god, or so it seemed.

Sometimes it would take days for the condemned to die. By design it was a cruel and torturous way to end life. It was a statement by Rome that they were not to be opposed. It was obvious to most that it wasn't going to take Jesus that long to die. He was practically dead when he got there. In fact, it took no more than a few hours. Much of it was silence except for the moans of the condemned, a murmur from the crowd and the guards casting lots for their victim's clothes.

At first, when I saw the Pharisees, scribes and other leaders of the people, I thought they had come out in support of Jesus. After all, he was said to be a teacher, a preacher and healer. I couldn't fathom any other reason for their presence. But as I heard them talking among themselves as they moved around in the crowd, I quickly figured out that this was not the case. In fact, they were the ones who instigated the entire affair. They were the ones who handed over one of their own, a holy man by all accounts, to our enemies from Rome. I was outraged. They were traitors in my mind – like tax-collectors – or worse.

A long silence was broken by one of the criminals who hung next to Jesus on his left. This one was angry at the world. He had cursed the Romans; he cursed the Jews who had come out to witness the execution and he cursed the Lord God. He turned his head as best he could toward Jesus and snarled, "If you are the Messiah, then save yourself and us." The one on his right came to his defense. "Have you no fear of God, even if you are under the same sentence of death." He painfully raised himself with his hands and feet to take another breath and then asked Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

What is this blasphemy? Did he really think that this Jesus was actually God or had he lost his mind from what he suffered?

Then Jesus spoke, "This day you will be with me in Paradise."

Who could promise such a thing except God himself? Was he a blasphemer? Is that why the Pharisees condemned him? Of course, if he did claim to be God, he deserved death – unless it could actually be true.

The condemned were becoming much quieter. Their strength was ebbing. But Jesus cried out "I thirst." Someone from the crowd dipped a reed into sour wine and gave it to him to drink. But he shook his head and didn't take it. It was quite a lot of effort to go through for a drink you wouldn't even taste. I stood confused.



**Grades 1-8**—Classes meet on Sunday, March 17 ONLY this week.

**Grades 9—10+**

Confirmation classes for Grades 9 **AND** 10 meet **THIS** Sunday, March 17th. Followed by the 6PM Mass.



Please join us on Good Friday, March 29th, for a Children's Service of the Cross at 11:00AM in St. Clare Church.



**St. Clare**

Judith Ann O'Connor

**St. Francis of Assisi**

William J. Holland, Sr.

*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 17 - Fifth Sunday of Lent:**

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me." When we help the poor, we are truly followers of Jesus, servant of the poor.

**As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul blue envelope, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them Easter hope and joy.**

**FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY** is THIS 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.**



*Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24*

**Readings of the Week**

**Readings for the week of March 17, 2024**

- 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
- Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11
- Tuesday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
- Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56
- Next Sunday:** Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

**EVENTS SCHEDULE**

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

**Collaborative Penance Service**—Wednesday, March 20—7:00—**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 22—7:00PM—**St. Francis of Assisi Church**

**Men's Prayer Group**—Saturday mornings, 8:30AM at St. Clare parish hall.



## From the Archdiocese of Boston

### March 17 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus presents us with an amazing paradox in today's Gospel. He tells us that only by death comes life; only by spending our life do we preserve it; and only through service will come greatness. In this Gospel, Jesus calls us to live in a way that goes counter to what the world preaches. We will find life if we live by his word. In the remaining days of Lent, pray for the grace to make the necessary changes in your life to live in imitation of Christ.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



### PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

grain  
suffer  
give

wheat  
glory  
life

dies  
voice  
serve

raing      g r a i n

wehat      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

desi      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

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fusfer      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

glyro      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

oicev      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



### MISSION

Look for ways to be helpful in your family. Help set the table. Take the trash out. Put away your toys and books without being asked. When your family notices you being so helpful, tell them you are trying to follow Jesus' example.



BECAUSE VIBRANT  
CHURCHES MATTER

### Sharing the Gospel

When you act bossy, selfish, or rude, no one will want to spend time with you. You will be lonely and unhappy. Follow the example of Jesus instead. Be strong in your faith. Do all that God asks you to do, even when it is not easy. Be honest. Be kind. Share what you have been given. Be helpful. Forgive. Show everyone what God is like. When you follow Jesus' example, you won't be lonely. When people around you see that your faith is real, they will come to you for help. They will want to know what makes you different. Then you can point them to Jesus.

### Prayer

God, help me to follow Jesus. I want to show everyone how great you really are.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself sharing your lunch with a friend who has no food.

### Mission for the Week

Look for ways to be helpful in your family. Help set the table. Take the trash out. Put away your toys and books without being asked. When your family notices you being so helpful, tell them you are trying to follow Jesus' example.