

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 23, 2024

5:30PM Jean & Arthur Dalton Anniversary

Sunday, March 24, 2024

9:00AM Giuseppe & Clemetina Gallo Memorial

11:30AM Debra Canale Anniversary

Monday, March 25, 2024

7:00AM Angelo & Jennie Luccio Memorial

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

7:00AM Jane & John Crimmins & Family Memorial

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024

9:00AM Morning Prayer

Good Friday, March 29, 2024

9:00AM Morning Prayer

Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024

9:00AM Morning Prayer

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

9:00AM *Mass of the Resurrection*

11:30AM *Mass of the Resurrection*

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 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.

Saturday, March 30, 2024

8:00PM Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 24, 2024

7:45AM *Mass of the Resurrection*

10:15AM *Mass of the Resurrection*

6:00PM NO MASS THIS WEEK

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.



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



With the blessing of palms today we begin **Holy Week**. This is the highpoint of the Christian year. During this week we commemorate the saving acts by which Christ brought salvation to the world. We do this, of course, at every Mass. During Holy Week, however, we are able to focus on the many individual events that together make up what we call the Paschal Mystery: the dying and rising of Jesus Christ.

It was early in the third century that Christians first began designating the week before Easter as Holy Week. You may wonder why this wasn't done from the earliest days of the Church. People of that time in history were not so interested in anniversaries of events. That simply wasn't in their way of thinking. For this reason, we don't have the kind of details that we like in commemorating something of the past. For starters, we would like to know the dates these things took place. Also, where exactly was the Last Supper, Crucifixion and the tomb? It didn't occur to people to keep those details for the future. Also, you recall, people of the early years of the Church were expecting Jesus to return during their lifetime, or certainly sooner rather than later. Because of this their focus was on being prepared for the fullness of the Kingdom of God and not on archiving the life of Jesus.

From my understanding, the Emperor Constantine mandated that everyone keep holy the week leading up to Easter. He felt that it would help in unifying the empire. At that time there were various creeds by which Christians organized their communities. Quite often they were in conflict with each other. Not good for the empire! By celebrating the events of salvation his hope was that Christians would be united in one belief about Jesus.

Holy Week immerses us in the richness of Catholic ritual and symbol. Today we bless palms as a way of remembering Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem. He arrived in the city for the celebration of Passover. He entered through the Golden Gate riding a donkey. Interestingly, kings would enter a town or a city riding a horse if it were to conquer a place and on a donkey if his purpose was for peace. Seeing Jesus on a donkey would have been understood by the passer-byes that Jesus was intending peace. Such a sight must have stirred up within the locals a desire for peace (remember Jerusalem and environs were under Roman military occupation) As an expression of the peace which they desired they took palm branches which were in abundance and laid them in front of Jesus.

As I mentioned, Jesus is said to have entered the city through the Golden Gate. This portal is on the north side of the city facing the Mount of Olives. Jewish Tradition stated that when the Messiah comes he would enter Jerusalem through the Golden Gate. This gate was not a primary entrance into the city of the people. It was used more for ceremonies in the Temple, usually for the High Priest when he brought in the goat to be used as the scape goat on the new year.

In the ninth century Jerusalem came into the possession of the Muslims who sealed up the gate so that any future Jewish messiah would be prohibited from carrying out his mission. It was reopened in the 12th century and resealed again, which it is to this day.

What is not acknowledged of course is that Jesus had already passed through the gate!



I want to encourage you to participate in the liturgies of this week.

Wednesday: Confessions in **both** Churches from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm at St. Francis Church.

Friday there will be the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 at St. Clare and 7:00 at St. Francis. The great Easter Vigil, the most important liturgy of the entire year will be held on Saturday evening at St. Clare Church beginning at 8:00. The Masses on Easter Sunday will be our usual Sunday morning schedule. There will not be a 6:00 Mass on Sunday evening.

This year I would like to try a Good Friday service for children. It's so important to include children in the liturgies for Holy Week. The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion may be too long and intense for children so I will offer a service that is designed for them. It will be at 11:00 on Good Friday morning and will last about 35 minutes.

Collections during Holy Week:

Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper

The instructions for this Mass state that this collection cannot stay in the parish but must be given to the poor. The proceeds of this collection will be used to support the works of the St Francis and St. Clare St. Vincent de Paul Society which helps those who are struggling to make ends meet.

MARCH 25, 2024

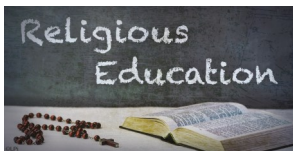
They have done much good this winter and, not surprising, their financial resources are drying up.

Friday: the tradition is that the Good Friday collection go to support the Churches in the Holy Land.

Easter Masses: the collection goes to the Clergy Trust which supports our retired or infirmed priests in the Archdiocese of Boston.

My thanks to all who have participated in the **Annual Catholic Appeal**. It is a very important endeavor as it provides for the collective needs of our parishes. **Please fill out an envelope!** This year we have an assessment on the number of participants. If you already gave, not sure what you are able to do, or even have decided not to give this year, please take a moment to fill out one of the appeal envelopes. We get credit for every envelope submitted. This impacts how much of the proceeds we will get back when monies are allocated to the parishes.

A blessed Holy Week to you and to all those in the Braintree Catholic Collaborative!



Grades 1-8—Classes meet on Tuesday, March 26th and Thursday, March 28th this week.

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation classes for Grades 9 **AND** 10 meet **THIS** Sunday, March 24th. Followed by the 6PM Mass.



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



St. Francis of Assisi

Kevin Devine

Michael Ranieri

Edwina Moscaritolo

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.



Monday, March 25, 2024

6:45PM Scriptural Rosary and St. Francis
Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

11:00AM Archdiocesan Chrism Mass
Cathedral of the Holy Cross
1400 Washington St. Boston, MA 02118

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

6:30 – 8PM Confessions **BOTH Churches**

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024

9:00AM Morning Prayer St. Francis
9:30-10AM Confessions St. Francis
7:00PM Mass of the Lord's Supper St. Francis
Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:00PM
10:45PM Night Prayer St. Francis

Good Friday, March 29, 2024

9:00AM Morning Prayer St. Francis
11:00AM Good Friday Childrens Service St. Clare
12:10PM Stations of the Cross **BOTH Churches**
3:00PM Solemn Service of the Lord's Passion St. Clare
7:00PM Solemn Service of the Lord's Passion St. Francis

Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024

9:00AM Morning Prayer St. Francis
8:00PM Easter Vigil St. Clare

Please Note there are no 4:00PM or 5:30PM Masses on Holy Saturday.



Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

7:45AM St. Clare
9:00AM St. Francis of Assisi
10:15AM St. Clare
11:30AM St. Francis of Assisi

Please Note there is NO 6:00PM Mass on Easter Sunday



From *Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Testimony of Simon of Cyrene—Conclusion

After a while of lifting and falling for each bit of fresh air, Jesus called to his mother who was standing by the cross with a few other women and a young man who seemed to be holding her up. As he looked at her, he said, “Behold your son.” He was referring to the young man at her side. And looking at the youth, he said “Behold your mother.” It was obvious that he was someone Jesus loved.

There was very little coming from the condemned men at this point. When they could muster the strength, they would raise themselves up again, catch a breath and fall back down; their faces contorted by the pain they must have felt as they lifted themselves by their nail-pierced hands. There would be a moan or groan that would use up most of the breath they took in.

After what seemed like an eternity, Jesus spoke again. Looking up towards the heavens he cried out again, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

Some in the crowd thought he was calling on Elijah. Others thought he was calling out in despair. But that’s the moment that I finally understood. He was not thirsting for something to drink – he was thirsting for God! He was praying the Scriptures. He was not despairing or calling Elijah but praying the Psalms and, in both instances, God is triumphant in the end and the one praying is rewarded for their faith. Far from despair, he saw himself the victor.

It was well into the afternoon and still dark, a day of shadows. He hadn’t moved for some time, and I thought for sure he was gone. But this man was always full of surprises. He opened his eyes and calmly declared “It is finished.” Then with surprising strength he lifted himself again, took a deep breath and let out a scream. It wasn’t from pain or anything like that. It sounded to me and to others like the victory shout a warrior would make after a successful battle. He kept himself suspended like that, pushing up with his feet with all the effort a broken body could muster. “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” With that he died.

The earth began to shake with a frightful rumble. Lightning crisscrossed the sky. Many men, me included, fell to the ground. There were bursts of thunder, but no rain. I doubt anyone has seen anything like it before or since. And just like that, the veil was lifted. The sun shone again, and the sky was blue. The earth stood still and no longer shook.

Because the feast was coming, the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies to stay on the crosses. So, true to form, the Roman soldiers broke the legs of the men crucified with

Jesus; first the one on his left and then the one on his right. The sound of the breaking bones was chilling, and it woke the men from any fog they may have been under and they let out shrieks. You could see they were desperate to breathe but were unable to. It wouldn’t be long now for them either. When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead and rather than waste their energy with a blow to his legs they thrust a spear through his side. And blood poured from his side but not only blood, water as well.

Joseph, the man I was standing next to, said, “I’m going to ask Pilate for his body so that we can at least give him a place to rest in peace.” I said, “You must be crazy to go to Pilate with a request like that. He’ll have you killed.” Joseph replied, “Perhaps, but it’s the righteous thing to do. I purchased a tomb for my own burial someday – he can have it.” And off he went. The soldiers began taking the bodies down, letting them drop to the ground with a thud. The young man at his mother’s side carefully lifted the body and placed it in her arms. And Mary wept.

I fell to my knees and sobbed. The whole thing was overwhelming. Everything about it seemed like a dream. The manner in which he died...? Could he actually have been the Son of God?

I don’t know why, but I had stayed long after most of the crowd had left. Joseph returned sometime later carrying the cloth used for the burial. I don’t know how he did it, but he came back alive and got Pilate to release the body. It was a miracle in my eyes.

Then, Joseph and the young man, their eyes red from crying, carefully wrapped the body and took it away, closely followed by his mother and the others who were there with her. As the somber procession passed me, his mother approached me, folded her arms around me and whispered, “Thank you.” She must have remembered me as the one who carried the cross for him. I felt guilty, I didn’t want to carry that cross but in some strange way I was glad I did. I stayed at the top of the hill watching them and saw where they laid the body. They left and so did I.

Over the next few days, I heard some remarkable reports. At the time of his death the curtain in the sanctuary was ripped in two. Another man reported that at the same time people were seeing the dead walking around. I didn’t know what to make of it.

On the first day of the week, I was walking in the marketplace and saw a woman. Our eyes met and we recognized each other. It was the woman who had wiped the blood from the face of Jesus as we ascended the hill. I learned her name was Veronica. She informed me of the most incredible news, “He has risen!” “Who has risen?” I asked. “Jesus. Just like he said he would.” I asked where she heard this nonsense,

and she told me that some women had gone to the tomb to anoint the body and saw an angel who said he was alive. Then his disciples ran to the tomb, and it was just as they had told them. She continued to tell me that even the Romans were abuzz. Although they had guards posted, the body was still gone.

I didn't know what to think. But I remembered where they buried him and went to see for myself. Standing at a distance I saw the Romans looking inside the tomb and then looking all around it.

Then I approached Joseph, the one whose tomb was now empty. He said, "It's true. He has been raised. He lives again. He appeared to Peter and the others."

My life has completely changed since that dark Friday afternoon. I myself became a disciple of Jesus. I stayed in Jerusalem for quite some time after this; meeting with his disciples; praying with them; learning about the Lord Jesus and his teachings. I have come to believe and so, too, my whole family. We have spent these many years proclaiming this good news to our family and friends and anyone who would listen. I write this now, so that you too may come to believe and that your faith may be strengthened. All praise to Jesus, the Christ, who once was dead and now lives.

Deacon Joe's bible study will not meet on Saturday March 30 (Holy Saturday) but will resume the following Saturday.



St. Francis of Assisi
Julie Dorothy Casey Lynch
Milanna Grace Marcelan

March 24 - Palm Sunday:

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life. **During Lent, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the mercy of Jesus into the hearts of the poor, by assisting families, providing food, and assistance with utility and rent bills.**

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.**



Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna!"

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!"**

Mk 11:9-10

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of March 24, 2024

- 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
- Monday:** Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11
- Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
- Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25
- Thursday:** *Chrism Mass:* Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/
Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27/Rv 1:5-8/
Lk 4:16-21
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 (see 1 Cor 10:16)/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
- Friday:** Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 (Lk 23:46)/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42
- Saturday:** *Easter Vigil:* Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/
Ex 14:15—15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/
Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-11/
Mk 16:1-7
- Next Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/
Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7



From the Archdiocese of Boston

March 24 ~ Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

While we know how today's scripture ends, make every effort to listen to the passion narrative as if hearing it for the first time. Pay attention to your feelings as you listen to each reading. What do you hear that you don't recall having heard before? Does the reading from Isaiah call me confess that Jesus is Lord? In response to St. Paul, am I willing to be humble in my service? In response to the passion account, am I ready and willing to share Christ's extraordinary love with others? During this week called "holy" make an extra effort to ponder the paschal mystery – Christ's life, death and resurrection – his saving action for you.

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 date 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.

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.



The Braintree Knight of Columbus will pray the Rosary on the 5th Sunday, Easter Sunday, March 31st at Saint Clare's at 9:30AM. If the weather is dry with a mild temperature, we will gather outside in the grotto at the statue of the Blessed Mother Mary. If it rains or is cold, we will meet in the sanctuary.

ALL are Welcome and are encouraged to Attend.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



PUZZLE

Find and circle ten things that are different:



MISSION

Invite your Grandma over to visit. Ask her to read John 12:12-16 to you.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

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

Prayer

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

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus helping you remember Bible verses.

Mission for the Week

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