

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

Sunday, March 31, 2024

9:00AM **Mass of the Resurrection**

11:30AM **Mass of the Resurrection**

Monday, April 1, 2024

7:00AM

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

7:00AM

Thursday, April 4, 2024

7:00AM Paul Flynn, Jr. Memorial

Friday, April 5, 2024

7:00AM Eric Fairbanks 1st Anniv.

Saturday, April 6, 2024

5:30PM Jean McPhee 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, April 7, 2024

9:00AM Jake Parker Anniversary

11:30AM Ryan Steber 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 30, 2024

8:00PM **Easter Vigil**

Sunday, March 31, 2024

7:45AM **Mass of the Resurrection**

10:15AM **Mass of the Resurrection**

6:00PM **NO MASS THIS WEEK**

Saturday, April 6, 2024

8:00AM Thomas Larnier, Sr. Memorial

4:00PM Rita M. Sullivan 1st Anniv.

Sunday, April 7, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM David Wallace 2nd Anniv.

6:00PM James Moran Anniversary

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.





Is it possible to believe in Resurrection?

Just a few people saw that the tomb where the body of Jesus was placed was empty. Mary Magdalene, and the eleven Apostles claim to have seen him alive on multiple occasions after his Resurrection. The Acts of Apostles mentions that the Risen Lord was seen by an additional 500 people among them were Mathias and another man named Joseph. Though not recorded in the Sacred Scriptures, St. Ignatius makes a convincing argument that the Risen Jesus would have made Himself known as well to His Mother. That's it. Not a long list. Not all the disciples, or the people in the various towns and villages, not the inhabitants of Jerusalem, nor the Romans or Pharisees: none of them saw Him that we know of. You would think that Jesus would have wanted to show Himself to those who doubted Him, ridiculed Him and even tortured Him to death! The only ones that saw Him were those who would give the rest of their lives telling the world what they had seen!

Billions of people throughout history have believed that Jesus has been raised from the dead based on the testimony of others. I suppose I came to believe because my parents believed, who believed because their parents believed. We call this the *transmission of faith*. Although we are almost 100 generations removed from the actual event, we believe and continue to hand on our belief to the next generation. Is the story of Jesus' Resurrection so convincing that we simply can't help but believe? Hardly. Belief in the Resurrection is not simply to accept the story of what happened to Jesus, but a firm conviction that the Risen Christ is very much alive and among us. To accept this is what we call faith: the ability to shape our lives as if it were true.

Of course there are many who do not believe that Christ was raised from the dead. I recently heard a comedian state that he is an atheist, but culturally Catholic. On one level this makes sense, I suppose. He was raised in a culture that openly accepted and practiced the Catholic faith, though he himself does not ascribe to it. What makes such a statement so sad is that he has to reject intentionally what he has been taught and then shape his life as if what he was taught is not true!

Others are simply indifferent. They heard the story of the empty tomb and don't have a strong opinion one way or the other so it does not dramatically impact their lives.

Belief, of course, is a choice. You decide as to whether you are going to accept the story as real. Left on

your own, I don't think you will be able to sustain the belief in a meaningful way. The Risen Lord comes to us through a community of believers who support and encourage each other. More so, the Church administers the Sacraments in the name of Christ. These are outward signs that effect (or cause) grace to happen. For this reason the Church gathers every Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist. The Sacrament, perhaps more than the others, is what keeps the memory of Christ's Resurrection alive in the community and in our hearts! Historically we can see that whenever a person is denied the Eucharist, either because of circumstances or personal choice, the memory of Christ fades away.

Speaking of which, heartfelt congratulations to Jiovani Lopes and Chantelle Fernandes who were received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion! They have been preparing for many months to come to this moment of grace! I am grateful, too, to Fr. Kevin for the excellent work he has done in preparing them.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or would even want to consider becoming Catholic, please let Fr. Kevin or myself know. We would be most happy to talk with you.

What does a Resurrected Body look like? This is the topic for a discussion following the 10:15 Mass next Sunday, April 7. All are welcome. Refreshments provided (well, I hope they will be provided!) We did something like this before Christmas and a number of people said they would like to something similar in connection to Easter. This will be an informal presentation and discussion and will last about 45 minutes.



A warm welcome to **Dorothy Hughes**, who is our new receptionist for the collaborative! Dorothy will be working on a part time basis answering the door/phone and assisting with office matters. In the past few months it's become apparent that this is a busy office; managing two parishes, why wouldn't it be? As you all know, we are so blessed to have **Patty Kinnally** at the helm who keeps the parishes running. Her wisdom and kindnesses are a blessing to the priests, staff and parishioners. The job she does really requires two people (at least!). I am very happy that Dorothy has joined us and am grateful for the able assistance she offers to us.

MARCH 31, 2024

As you may likely know, the collection at all the **Easter Masses** goes to the **Clergy Trust** which provides for the needs of our infirmed and elderly priests. These men have given so much of their lives caring for us as Jesus' own priests. I am proud to beg on their behalf for your financial help. Many of you are aware that I had heart surgery last October which was made possible by the Clergy Trust. I am so grateful to the faithful in the Archdiocese whose generosity allowed me to have this necessary procedure. For myself, and in the name of all the Boston priests I say a humble word of thanks for your help with this collection.

Blessings to you for a happy and faith-filled Easter!

Fr. Bob



*From the Clergy and Staff of
the Braintree Catholic Collaborative*

**The Collaborative Office will be closed
on Monday April 1st.**



St. Clare

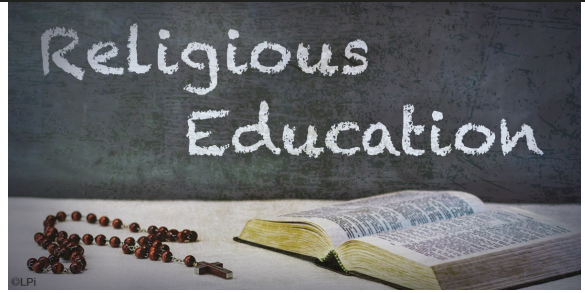
Sean O'Donnell

St. Francis of Assisi

Mary Bynarowicz

Frankie Martin

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.



Grades 1-8—No Classes this week.

Grades 9—10+

No classes this week. Confirmation classes for Grades 9 **AND** 10 meet next Sunday, April 7th at 4:45 followed by the 6PM Mass.



March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, "Oh my God!" Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our "cemeteries" where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter — if we dare — those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

Father John Muir ©LPi



March 31 - Easter Sunday:

Today as we celebrate the feast of Easter we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice which brings new life to

others.

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor 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.

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.**



We are so excited to share that, for the entire month of April, Braintree Catholic Collaborative's St. Vincent DePaul Society has been selected by store leadership to benefit from the Stop & Shop's Bloomin' 4 Good Program, created to fight hunger across

the communities served by Stop & Shop.

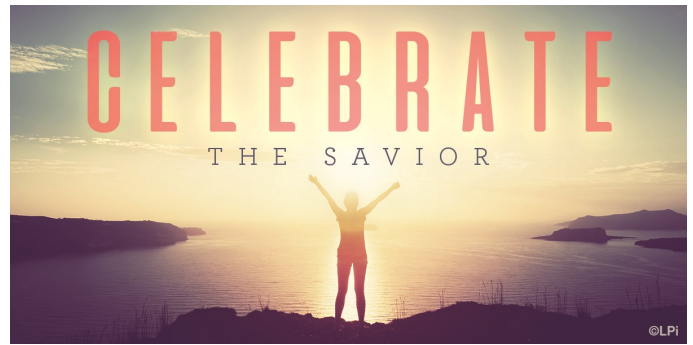
For the month of April, the purchase of a \$10.99 bouquet in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good" from the Stop & Shop at Grove Street will brighten a home or make someone's day while also directing a \$1 donation to our SVDP Chapter.

This is a great way to broaden awareness in the local community and raise donations for our organization to help fight hunger. Since the program's launch in February 2021, more than \$1.2 million has been donated to more than 2,500 hunger organizations.

Let's get started! Share the news with friends and family. Call, send emails, and post on social media. The more bouquets sold, the greater the donation we will receive from Stop & Shop!

To learn more about this program, please visit stopandshop.2givelocal.com.

Welcome
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US
©LPI



As the world sings triumphant cries to heaven over death that You conquered, help us, Lord, tomorrow as well, when the dresses are put away and the candy is all eaten and on with life we go let us not forget.

The celebration of Your Resurrection over death is a celebration of life that should continue well beyond the sunrise service and the music, rehearsed for days prior; it is beyond the sign of spring beyond the lily beyond new lambs grazing in open fields.

Resurrection is a daily celebration over fear; man's greatest and most powerful enemy. Fear of tomorrow, fear of our yesterdays, fear of what shall become of our young our old our unborn. Resurrection is replacing fear with physical action.

This alone, the most touching and profound of Your signs that fear is dead and belief in You brings, not just hope but life.

What better living parable could You have brought? All fear death. All. Even in the garden, You took on our fear if for only moments, it was as real as our fears can be real and You knew then that this single enemy must be destroyed.

And, You sacrificed Your life, leaving those who had been comfort, and follower; You left them behind, to conquer fear.

I shall cling to this now, and the tomorrows given me.

Peace and Thanksgiving lifted unto You.

Amen.





He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7

Readings Week of the

Readings for the week of March 31, 2024

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

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31



SAINT AGATHA SCHOOL Discovery Day

Open House events will include a presentation from administrators and current parents followed by a tour of the school.

Grades 6 through 8
Thursday, April 4, 2024
9:00 - 11:00 AM

Grades K2 through 5
Thursday, April 11, 2024
9:00 - 11:00 AM

Prospective students in Grades 6-8 will have the opportunity to spend a shadow day.



440 Adams Street
Milton, MA 02368
stagatha.org
617-696-3548
admissions@stagathaparish.org



Use the link or scan the QR code to register

<https://stas-ma.client.renweb.com/oa/inquiry.cfm?memberid=13183>



From the Archdiocese of Boston

March 31 ~ Easter Sunday

"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us be glad and rejoice!" Our readings remind us that the message of Easter is one of joy, hope and good news. It is a message that is not to be kept to ourselves. We need to be witnesses of all that Jesus has done for us. Take a moment during Easter brunch or Easter dinner, to speak of your love and gratitude for all Jesus has done for you. Doing so is just one of the ways we carry out Jesus' commission to preach and bear witness.

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.

OPEN HOUSE

Sacred Heart School
Pre-k3y - Grade 4

- Meet our faculty, staff, current students, parents, and alumni
- Explore our school with your child
- Speak with current families and students to learn why they love Sacred Heart School
- Meet with our Admissions Team who will answer your questions



April 11th
6pm - 7pm

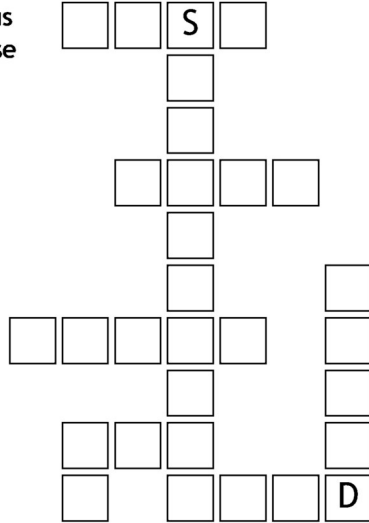
"Let Your Sacred Heart Shine!"

75 Commercial St., Weymouth 781.335.6010



Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

The Scriptures
said Jesus
would rise
to life.



Bake Resurrection Cookies with your family tonight.

You can find the recipe online at
<https://www.aroundmyfamilytable.com/resurrection-cookies/>



Sharing the Gospel

Mary Magdalene was surprised when she found the empty tomb of Jesus. She ran and told Peter and John that his body was gone. Peter and John ran to the tomb. They found no body, just strips of cloth. One piece was the cloth that covered the face of Jesus. Peter and John knew that Jesus was not in the grave, even though they did not understand what it meant to rise from the dead.

Prayer

Jesus, you died and rose from the dead so I can share your life on earth and in heaven. Thank you.

Something to Draw

Draw Mary, Peter, and John looking inside the empty tomb.

Mission for the Week

I will tell someone that Jesus is alive.



Circle the group in each row that has **more**.
Then color in all the pictures.



I will tell someone that Jesus is alive.

