

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, April 13, 2024

5:30PM Daniel & Madeline Wilson, Memorial
Willian Hudson Anfield, Jr. and
John B. Christian

Sunday, April 14, 2024

9:00AM Francesco & Antonio Candelieri Memorial
11:30AM Mary Hill Anniversary

Monday, April 15, 2024

7:00AM Michelle Costelloe Memorial

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

7:00AM

Thursday, April 18, 2024

7:00AM Carlie Irwin 20th Anniv.

Friday, April 19, 2024

7:00AM

Saturday, April 20, 2024

5:30PM Janet Meliconda Anniversary

Sunday, April 21, 2024

9:00AM Pasquale & Benedetta Memorial
Compagnone
11:30AM Lucy Campo Memorial

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 Office will be closed on Monday, April 15th in observance of Patriot's Day.

Good luck and God speed to all who are running (or working at) the 2024 Boston Marathon.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, April 13, 2024

8:00AM Anita Walsh Durigan Memorial
4:00PM Kathleen O'Leary 4th Anniv.

Sunday, April 14, 2024

7:45AM Sharon Ellsworth 3rd Anniv.
10:15AM Thomas Eggers 1st Anniv.
6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, April 20, 2024

8:00AM Sean O'Donnell Months' Mind
4:00PM Arthur Gillis 7th Anniv.

Sunday, April 21, 2024

7:45AM Betty Ann & Bob McBride Memorial
10:15AM Leo & Mary Donahoe Memorial
6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative



- 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.





Retrojection

Retrojection is the process used by Christians to read the Sacred Scriptures. Specifically it means reading our faith *into* the Scriptures. In other words, we don't read the Scriptures the same way we read a novel with the anticipation of finding out what happens next. Not only do we already know what happens next but we read (or listen) within the context of a personal faith in the Resurrected Christ. Today's Gospel passage from St. Luke recalls the appearance of the Risen Christ to the disciples after the encounter on the way to Emmaus. With faith in the Risen Christ we read the story. We don't have to be convinced. We are already convinced! We read the story, therefore, because God's Word is alive! We encounter the Risen Christ in the very act of reading the story. Another way to think of it is where would we be without the Scriptures? My sense is that we would be nowhere as the awareness of the Risen Christ would dissipate. It's not that we would forget the facts of what happened, but we would forget the person. Think of a close friend. The relationship depends on communication in whatever shape it takes. If we are deprived of God's Word, then our relationship with God kind of fades away. St. Jerome said that ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ. St. Augustine told of his conversion to the faith because of reading the Scriptures.

This is a good place to mention that as Catholics we are not *sola scriptura*, that is our faith is not based on Sacred Scripture alone. We also rely on Sacred Tradition: what has been handed down to us through the generations. Most of us came to a sense of God and of faith before we were able to read. And for generations the majority of people over the centuries were not able to read or write, yet they were able to develop a strong faith. How? Through Sacred Tradition, the Truth of God that is passed from one generation to the next. In fact we believe that God reveals Himself to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition: the Word written and the Word proclaimed. If you think about it, the Gospels were not written for some 40-60 years after the Ascension of Christ. What were Christians doing during that time before there were written Gospels? They were repeating the stories about Jesus. One of the tenants of our faith is that the Holy Spirit guided the process of handing on stories of Jesus until they were written down. Even then we say that the Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible. And more so, the Holy Spirit guides us as we read the Sacred

Scriptures.

First Holy Communions begin on Saturday! This is a happy time in any parish and really gives us a sense of the joy to be experienced in the reception of the Sacraments. For most of us, the reception of Holy Communion has become routine, as it should. However, seeing children being admitted to this Sacrament of initiation for the first time stirs up something in us of the awesome privilege being a regular part of the Sacrament. This year there will be a First Communion celebration on two Saturday mornings and two Sunday mornings:

Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 at St. Clare
Sunday, April 21 at 9:00 at St. Francis
Sunday, April 27 at 10:00 at St. Francis
Sunday, April 28 at 10:15 at St. Clare

In addition there are some children who, for whatever reasons, are not able to be at any of the above times so they will be receiving First Communion at a regular parish Mass in May.

Fr. Bob



Beginning **9AM Monday, April 22nd** we will begin booking Mass Intentions **through December 31, 2024**. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.



Grades 1-8—Classes meet Sunday, April 14th this week. Classes for Grade 1 and 3-8 resume Tuesday, April 23rd.

Grades 9—10+

NO Confirmation classes THIS Sunday, April 14th. Final Class for Grade 9 meets Sunday, April 28th at 4:45PM. Final Class for Grade 10 meets Sunday May 5th.



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Sometimes we hear someone say something like this, “Oh that’s just your Catholic Guilt.” Or “That’s just your Jewish Guilt or Irish Guilt or Italian Guilt.” As though guilt were something evil and as though the purpose of the Church or religion in general is to instill guilt so that people will somehow be enslaved by the institution. Nothing can be further from the truth. Scripture points this out, “Repent, don’t sin, but if you do you have an advocate.” (1 John 2:1) “Preach repentance for the forgiveness of sin throughout the world.” (Luke 24:47)

My friends, the truth is that the Church does not exist to make us feel guilty but to take our guilt away. And don’t let anyone else tell you differently. That’s the whole point of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

But guilt gets a bad rap in today’s society. Guilt is not necessarily a bad thing. Guilt naturally occurs when people do something they know in their hearts is wrong. Guilt is the barometer of spiritual and moral distress. We don’t like the way guilt feels and so we avoid doing those things that make us feel guilty. It’s like the pain we feel when we hurt ourselves, like getting a splinter or breaking an arm.

We’re late for work and tell the boss we had car trouble when in reality we stopped for a cup of coffee and muffin. As soon as the words leave our lips – OWWW – it’s like that splinter, it’s going to bug us later. But, if we cheat on our spouse, embezzle client funds, strike someone in anger, that’s more like a compound fracture and we’re going to feel THAT. We need to feel that guilt more.

We need guilt the way a child needs to know that the stove is hot so as to avoid getting burned, but sometimes they need to get burned once to learn that lesson. Guilt leads to repentance and repentance to forgiveness and forgiveness removes the guilt that haunts us.

There is a physical disorder called CIPA, Congenital Insensitivity to Pain with Congenital Analgia. People with this disease are actually unable to feel pain. You might think that if you had a toothache this might be a good thing. But if the pain doesn’t alert us to underlying infection – that infection can spread and be fatal. Sometimes we need to feel pain and sometimes we need to feel guilt.

Do you know what kinds of people never feel guilt? – Psychopaths. They can lie, cheat, steal, maim, kill, and never feel remorse.

Make no mistake about it; guilt is not in and of itself a bad thing. I thank God I can feel guilt. It reminds me when moving away from Christ; away from the light and the source of life itself.

On the other hand, sometimes guilt can work against us. Sometimes we make it more than it is. We feed it and make it stronger. We carry it around like a heavy weight and it seems to get bigger and more oppressive. It’s the opposite of not feeling the pain. It’s like spiritual hypochondria.

The day my father was dying we were all at his side. I said a lot of things to him that day. I told him what a good dad he had been. But there was one thing that I regretted not saying to him. I carried the guilt around with me for years. I never told him I loved him. I couldn’t – it hurt too much to say at that moment. And the pain, the guilt, of not saying it grew stronger. What kind of man am I not having the courage to tell my father I loved him? I became convinced that this one weak moment defined who I was. I became convinced that I was terminally flawed; that I was a terrible person; that I wouldn’t be there when my mother needed me. I wondered what this said about me as a husband and father.

Eventually through prayer, sacrament, Scripture, and spiritual direction I came to understand that my father didn’t hold anything against me. Neither did God. And that if I looked more deeply at myself, I’d discover that this one moment of weakness didn’t define who I was, and it certainly didn’t keep my dad or the Lord from loving me.

That kind of guilt is not natural. That kind of guilt is the Devil’s guilt. It’s the kind that overwhelms us and tells us that God can’t possibly love or forgive us because we aren’t worthy of His love and forgiveness. Turn away from that. RUN don’t walk. That’s exactly the way God’s enemies want us to feel. They want us to feel so bad that we won’t go to Him – so that the infection will fester and grow and eventually consume us.

Did the man lowered through the roof on a stretcher say thanks but no thanks when Jesus told him his sins were forgiven? Did the woman caught in adultery prefer to be stoned rather than forgiven? When Jesus offered the good thief paradise he didn’t say “no thanks, I’d rather go to hell today.” No, they all accepted God’s forgiveness and healing and so should we.

The disciples themselves, the first bishops and the first pope were far from perfect. Peter denied Christ not once but three times. Thomas doubted. They all ran away. But Jesus did not abandon them. They came back and accepted his forgiveness and were released from their guilt. We need to go back to Christ too and accept, not refuse His forgiveness.

Saint Paul asked this question: "What can separate us from the love of Christ?" (Romans 8:31) The answer – nothing!

"For I am convinced" he wrote, "that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 5:38-39)

Our sin is not greater than God's love! Period!

The apprentice TV show is not our model for our relationship with the Almighty. When our response to God's call is flawed, Jesus is not going to point his finger in our face and tell us we're fired! He's going to continue to call us. He took Peter and the others with all their weaknesses, and their inability to give 100%. And it's the same with us. Jesus takes us wherever we are, with all our baggage and there's nothing He's going to hold against us. We just have to go to Him.

My friends don't let anything on this earth keep you from Christ. Don't let anything you've done or haven't done; anything you've said or haven't said; or anything you've thought keep you away from Him. Don't let anything someone says that might make you feel guilty, or inferior keep you from Christ because you aren't inferior, you're like everyone else – not perfect yet, but still made in His image. Jesus died so that we can take our guilt to Him and find forgiveness; and so live in freedom not bondage; in joy and not distress and in friendship with God.



St. Clare

Cody Kenneth Murphy



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Francis of Assisi

Patricia Danehy

Natalie Vitagliano

Frederick Hanson

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.



April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter:

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus explains that the meaning of the scriptures. Like the disciples, when we offer and receive forgiveness our hearts burn because we encounter the risen Christ within us.

Have you considered answering the call to "help the poor find forgiveness and healing in their life" by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

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.**



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, April 20-21. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. Some of our needs are:

Hamburger Helper; instant potatoes; Knorr's or Lipton sides; Chef Boyardee; baked beans; canned chicken; mayonnaise; jelly; salad dressing; toilet paper; cleaning products and laundry detergent. However, 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.**

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. 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.



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!



*From the
Archdiocese of Boston*

April 14 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

Jesus asks the disciples in today's gospel, and he asks us, "Why are you troubled?" We may want to respond, "Don't you see the problems that exist all around us?" After the resurrection, the disciples needed to be reminded that hiding in the upper room only kept them in a place of fear and confusion. Jesus' words are a reminder to disciples of every age, that suffering and hardship did not destroy him, nor will it destroy us. We are challenged to take the words of Jesus to heart, "You are witnesses of these things." Let us not be held back by any fear, doubt or anxiety, rather, boldly share the good news of the resurrection.

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. The topic will be "The Call to 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.

Redemptoris Mater Seminary is pleased to announce the 12th Annual Gala Dinner, to be held on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 5PM, at the Boston Marriott Quincy, Quincy. The dinner will honor the Auxiliary Bishop of Boston, His Excellency Cristiano Barbosa. For reservations or to buy space in the Ad Journal, please visit www.rmsboston.org/events. You may also call the seminary at 617-879-9813 or email seminary@rmsboston.org. The gala dinner is the Seminary's main yearly fundraising event and an opportunity to promote vocations to the priesthood. You can help either by attending the dinner, sponsoring a seat or a table at the dinner, or by making a contribution to the Seminary.

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 Lias, and prayers for healing. For more information or to register visit <https://bit.ly/LetAnyoneWhoThirsts> or call Emily Elliott (617) 746-5756.

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.

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day." - Lk 24:45-46

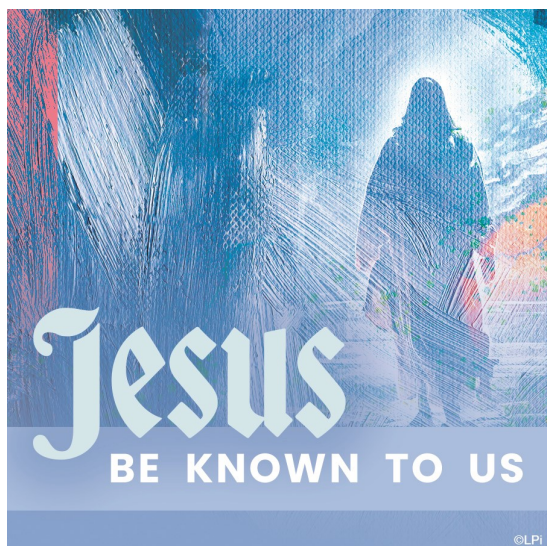
Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of April 14, 2024

- Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 (7a)/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
- Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29
- Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35
- Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40
- Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
- Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59
- Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69
- Next Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 (22)/Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2023 please call the collaborative office at 781-843-1332. If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the collaborative office.



April 14, 2024 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

When I was a kid, a friend at my home parish told me, “If you get to Mass by the Gospel reading, it counts!” As a lifelong late-arriver, it’s something I have told myself many times, especially in my earlier years as a Catholic. If the “it counts” is justifiable on a pathetically minimal scale of liturgical legalism, then the Gospel reading today shows how insanely wrong-headed it is, and how helpful it is to re-think the Mass in its light.

The famous “Road to Emmaus” story recounts, on that first Sunday of the Resurrection, the basic two-fold structure of the Mass: *Word*, followed by *Eucharist*. Jesus spends a significant period of time with two dismayed disciples, as he connects a wide swath of the Hebrew scriptures with his own suffering, death, and resurrection. They would later report that this Liturgy of the Word touched their hearts with an inexplicable fire. This Word-induced flame alone is what leads the two disciples to discover Jesus’ presence in the “breaking of the bread.”

With this in mind, how can we possibly think that the Liturgy of the Word is unnecessary or incidental? The two disciples needed the Scriptures explained to them in order to experience Jesus alive in the eucharistic breaking of bread. Sure, we say, but they had the Risen Jesus. But that’s precisely the point: Jesus is risen and accompanies us in both parts of the Mass. Imagine how much our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist would deepen if we (preachers and listeners) took even more seriously that Jesus himself sets our hearts ablaze with his Word so *that* we know him in the Eucharist. That Word-induced fire counts, too!

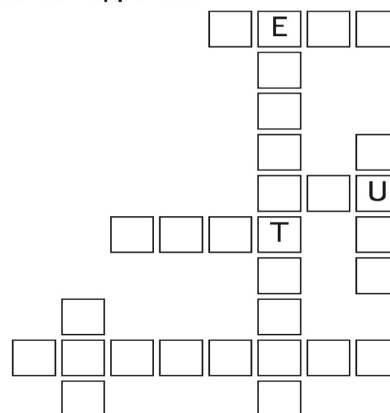
Father John Muir ©LPi



PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

You must tell everything
that has happened.



MISSION

Send a letter to the missionaries your church supports. Ask them how your family can help them spread God’s love with other people.



Sharing the Gospel

When Jesus came to his friends after Easter, they could hardly believe he was real. Jesus told his friends it was okay to touch him. Jesus had bones. He had muscles. He had scars from the cross. Jesus even ate a piece of fish to show that his stomach worked okay. Yes, they had all seen Jesus die, but God raised him to life. Moses and King David and the prophets had all written about the Savior. The Scriptures all came true through Jesus. He really is alive. If you believe in Jesus, don’t keep it a secret. Tell your friends that Jesus is their savior, too.

Prayer

God, give me the words I need. I want everyone I know to follow you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself telling your friends about Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Send a letter to the missionaries your church supports. Ask them how your family can help them spread God’s love with other people.