

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 20, 2024

5:30PM Janet Meliconda Anniversary

Sunday, April 21, 2024

9:00AM Pasquale & Benedetta Compagnone Memorial

11:30AM Lucy Campo Memorial

Monday, April 22, 2024

7:00AM Marie Sainte Octavius 4th Anniv.

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

7:00AM Julia Zampine Anniversary

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

7:00AM Brandon Maguire 5th Anniv.

Thursday, April 25, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Friday, April 26, 2024

7:00AM Marie Sainte Octavius Memorial

Saturday, April 27, 2024

5:30PM Charles Zec 10th Anniv.

Sunday, April 28, 2024

9:00AM Lilla Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM Michael Anthony Varraso 2nd 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!



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.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

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

Saturday, April 27, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Dante Varrasso 7th Anniv.

Sunday, April 28, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM John J. Clougher Memorial

6:00PM Patricia Moran 10th Anniv.

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.





The **fourth Sunday of Easter** has been given the name "**Good Shepherd Sunday**" as the Gospel is always taken from the tenth chapter of St John in which Jesus compares Himself to a shepherd. During the second part of the Easter season, in which we are now, believe it or not, the Gospel readings are taken from St. John. Not so much a storyteller as Matthew, Mark and Luke, John uses imagery to express a high Christology, that is to demonstrate who Jesus is as the Word of God made flesh.

The Easter season runs a traditional fifty day from the Easter Vigil until Pentecost. (Pentecost means "fifty") The reason for a season is, quite simply, because the meaning of Easter is so rich and its impact on human history so great that its celebration cannot be contained into one day. Truth be told, it can't be contained into one season either, hence the need for the Eucharist every Sunday. The length of the season comes from the Tradition that Jesus Ascended to His Heavenly Father forty days after the Resurrection and additional nine days until the Blessed Mother and Apostles received the Holy Spirit. The number forty is significant in biblical literature. Think of how forty is used in designating time in the Scriptures: Noah in the ark for forty days, Israelites wandering in the desert for forty years, Moses on Mount Sinai for forty days, Jesus in the desert for forty days. Since we measure time differently than our ancient ancestors, we can't think of forty days as forty twenty-four hour periods, or for revolutions around the sun. Forty days indicates a long period of time of many weeks; forty weeks indicates many months, and forty years is a couple of generations.

The Easter season is marked by the burning of the **Paschal Candle**. This is the tall candle that stands in the sanctuary of every Catholic and Orthodox Church (and several Protestant Churches as well). It was blessed at the Easter Vigil (we blessed two, one for St. Clare and one for St. Francis) and leads the procession into a darkened Church. Only by the light of the Paschal Candle are the faithful led into the darkened Church, much in the same way that the Israelites were led to the Promised Land by the pillar of flame at night and cloud during the days. The flame of the candle represents the light of Christ who has been raised from the dead. That light is then shared with everyone, who lights their own candle. The darkness of the Church soon dissipates as it gives way to the light of Christ which, by this

time, has been shared with everyone. There is a felt sense that Christ overpowers the darkness! As we celebrate Easter for fifty days, we burn the candle as a constant reminder that in Christ there is no darkness!

Some interesting things about the paschal candle. It is usually very tall, like a pillar, and quite ornate. It is marked with the cross, the symbol by which the Baptized identify themselves. Of course it is by the cross that we are set free from the power of evil. The cross is marked by five "pins". These are actually grains of incense. Incense usually represents a sacrifice to God. In this case, however, the incense represents God's sacrifice for us! The number five represents the five wounds of the Crucified Jesus: one in each hand and foot, as well as the piercing of his side. Above the cross is the Greek letter "Alpha" and below is the Greek letter "Omega" the first and last letters of the alphabet. Christ is the first and last of all things. He is the beginning and the end of all time. Around or near the cross are the numbers of the current year: 2024 A.D. (Anno Domini, Latin for *in the year of the Lord*) Inscribing the year on the candle tells that the Risen Christ is present among us in this time and in this place. The candle is made out of beeswax, or at least most of it is comprised of beeswax. (That's why they are so expensive! Bees don't work cheap!) Bees were an ancient symbol for the Blessed Mother and so beeswax represents her fruit, namely Christ. Beeswax is pure, as is, of course, Mary's Son!

Aside from the Easter season, the Paschal Candle is also lit at Baptisms and Confirmations as during those Sacraments the candidates (or godparents in the case of an infant) renounce the darkness of sin and confess faith in Christ the light of the world. For the same reasons, the Paschal candle also burns during funerals, often at the foot of the casket or near the remains.

St. Francis Church is acquiring a new organ! As many of you well know, the current pipe organ is, I believe, original to the Church, making it over 100 years old. As such it is requiring constant maintenance which is very costly. Fr. Clifford had been talking about the need for a new organ for several years and even purchased a used pipe organ for \$1 from a closing Church in New Hampshire. The cost to install that organ, however, is now pushing \$500,000, which we simply cannot afford. And it seems no one else can either as all of our attempts to sell it or give it away are futile. As it is, we have spent close to \$9000 over the past couple of years just to store the organ in a nearby warehouse. Good stewardship dictates that we get rid of the stored organ and consider other options. Such was our intention, when Deacon Joe was offered an opportunity to purchase a "showroom" model at a reduced price. The organ company in Worcester has been sold and the new owners do not want the

showroom model. The current owner needs to move it by the end of this month. The new organ will cost us roughly \$73,000. (the sticker price for a new model is well over \$100,000). It is not a pipe organ in the traditional sense, but rather a digital instrument with state of the art features, including an option to play it by simply using an app on my iphone! (Deacon Joe does not like that feature!) I brought this opportunity to the collaborative pastoral council who, after a thorough discussion, whole-heartedly and enthusiastically supported the initiative. The finance council of St. Francis parish likewise support the initiative as it will save us tens of thousands of dollars in the coming years. We will be receiving the organ on April 30 and will initially keep it in the Church hall as we prepare electrical wiring and such for the console and speakers.

My understanding is that a **fund** was started some years ago for the installation of a **new organ**. We have the money, which I would like to put toward the new organ. If you are so inclined to give to this fund, please, by all means!...we could use the assistance!

In the coming weeks Deacon Joe will explain in detail the intricacies of this new instrument. Please feel free to ask him any musical questions about it. I am very grateful to him for securing this opportunity for us. This is a significant find and we would not have been able to take advantage of it without his expertise.

Heartfelt congratulations to our parishioners who received **First Holy Communion** this weekend! Some of our children received the Sacrament for the first time at a 10:00 Mass at St. Clare on Saturday morning and another group at the 9:00 Mass at St. Francis this morning (Sunday). We have two more groups next weekend: 10:00 on Saturday morning at St. Francis and 10:15 next Sunday at St Clare. There are a few children who, for a variety of reasons, were not able to be here for either weekend so will receive the Sacrament for the first time at one of the parish Masses during the month of May. My thanks to **Mrs. Karen Lane** and her able assistants for preparing the children for this moment of grace.

Fr. Bob



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*

Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of an event that happened in the previous chapter. If you recall, Peter and John were heading to the temple for the three o'clock prayer. They came upon a man who was crippled from birth who would go to the gate of the temple every day to beg. Of course, the man asked them for alms. But Peter responded with a line I have always loved. "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ rise and walk." (Acts 3:6)

The man began to walk, and many witnesses began to gather around the two Apostles. They were amazed and gave glory to God. Now, usually when Peter spoke in the Gospels, he often ended up putting his foot in his mouth. On one occasion Jesus actually referred to him as Satan! "Get behind me Satan!" he said. But all that was before the resurrection and before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Now we see a brand-new Peter. He's not a man that hides behind closed doors. Nor is he a man that would deny even knowing Jesus. Now Peter speaks courageously. He won't be denying Christ anymore in fact he proclaims Him boldly and without hesitation.

We have all heard the phrase "no good deed goes unpunished." Before he could even finish speaking the priests, the temple guards, and the Sadducees (pronounced sad-you-sees) came and arrested them. Why? Because they proclaimed that Jesus rose from the dead and that the resurrection of the dead for all came only through Jesus.

You can see why the priests were upset, after all this flew in the face of their own power. But why were the Sadducees upset? They were from a sect of Judaism that didn't believe in the resurrection. Once you're dead, that's it! Lights out! That's why they were so "sad-you-see."

Having taken them into custody, the next day they brought them before the Sanhedrin, (like their supreme court) the big shots, the high priest, and his ilk. I'm sure they thought these upstarts from a backwater town with little or no education would be intimidated by their power and status, tremble in fear and go away quietly.

That's not quite what happened. Peter, again filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke truth to power. He told them how they themselves had failed, proclaimed Jesus as the source of life and salvation for the whole world.

The elders were taken aback by his boldness and

demanded that they never speak of Jesus again. Peter and John were not about to change. "Should we obey God or you?" The authorities wanted to punish them further but were afraid of the crowd that was still praising God for the healing they had witnessed.

If any of this sounds familiar the same kinds of things happened to Jesus. They didn't like him curing people, forgiving sins, proclaiming truth to power. They seized Jesus too. They brought him before the Sanhedrin as well. They were afraid of the crowds then too and made sure He was arrested in the cover of darkness. They beat Him; scourged Him; covered His head with thorns; they humiliated him and crucified him as if He were a criminal.

Peter and John had seen all of that play out and at first, they were terrified that it might happen to them – and with good reason.

Jesus warned them: "Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also."

And it would come to pass. They were persecuted and Peter was eventually crucified. But they were no longer afraid. They didn't just believe in the resurrection they preached it, they knew it.

We also have to keep in mind that we, as servants of Christ, will also face persecution. For most of us that persecution might take the form of being mocked or not taken seriously for our faith. I know a few people who have actually been spat upon for their faith. It didn't stop them.

There are my friends, brothers and sisters around the world who face much harsher treatment, who face the danger of death because they have the courage to follow Christ and to proclaim their faith in the midst of it all.

Are we like Peter in this story from Acts or are more like Peter hiding behind closed doors? We have all been Confirmed and received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Why are we sometimes so timid? Why are we afraid of letting others know that we follow Christ or that our faith is not left at the church door on Sunday and means nothing the rest of the week. We just can't believe we have to know.

We all need to show more courage when it comes to expressing our faith outside the four walls of the church even if it makes us feel a little uncomfortable. The more we put ourselves out there the easier it will become. Remember this:

God has not given us a spirit of fear but power and love and a sound mind. (1 Timothy 1:7)

New Organ for St. Francis

You may remember that several years ago we had started to raise funds for a new organ here at St. Francis. The Covid lockdown and other factors put that plan on hold. Recently it became obvious that to install a new pipe organ here would be too expensive and we began looking at other options. I am happy to announce that we have entered into an agreement with G. Paul Music to purchase and install a new 3 manual digital instrument by Allen Organs. It will be delivered by the end of the month but will be a few more weeks before it is installed and ready for use.

I'm confident that the beautiful sound of this instrument will be edifying and will be enjoyed by us here now and future generations for decades to come.

I'll be talking more about this new addition in the weeks ahead.

Deacon Joe



St. Clare

Luke William Cleggett



Archdiocese of Boston

Fr. John W. McElroy

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.



Brian Doran & Chantelle Dominique Fernandes



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 THIS

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 21 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

"I am the good shepherd, I know mine and mine know me." We can take comfort in these words of Jesus from today's gospel. Jesus knows every one of us, and cares for and about us, but what about the second part of that statement? Do we know him as well as he knows us? Are we committed to developing/nurturing our relationship with Jesus? Knowing Jesus and recognizing his voice takes a discerning heart. Through our friendship with him, we realize that he companions us in all that we do. We have the promise of Christ's presence as we go out to others and share the "Good News." Take time this week in prayer to listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd and ask for the grace to be responsive to His call.

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.

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.

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.

Moving Forward in Faith... Together

The Catholic Appeal is a way that we help the many ministries and services that serve thousands across the Archdiocese. We are so grateful to all of you who have helped launch a successful 2024 Catholic Appeal campaign here in the collaborative. To date, we have raised \$45,829/St. Clare and \$54,752/St. Francis. Thank you for responding in faith, hope, and charity by making a gift to the 2024 Catholic Appeal. We are stronger together and your generous participation is greatly appreciated! If you have not had a chance to do so, please consider making your gift to the Appeal today by picking up an envelope at the back of the church or make an on-line donation at www.bostoncatholicappeal.org. **Participation from every household in the collaborative is important.** Thank you.



"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again." - Jn 10:16-17

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of April 21, 2024

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 (22)/Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14
Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 (26a)/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8



QUINCY CATHOLIC ACADEMY EARLY CHILDHOOD FAIR OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, May 5
1:00 to 3:00 pm**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

Discover QCA's Early Childhood Program
Preschool, K1, and K2



**Meet the teachers
Tour the classrooms
Touch-A-Truck
Face Painting
Balloon Animals
Fun and Games
Meet New Friends**

370 Hancock Street Quincy, MA

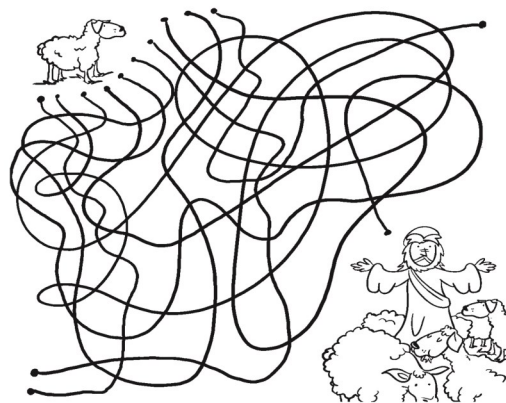
617-328-3830

Kids Corner



PUZZLE

Help this lamb find his way into the sheep pen with Jesus.



MISSION

Learn as much as you can about Jesus, so you can follow him. Read a Bible story with your family every night before bed.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

Without a good shepherd to lead them, sheep would get lost. Without a good shepherd to protect them, sheep would get hurt. A good shepherd would even die, just to keep his sheep safe. Jesus is your good shepherd, and you are his precious little lamb. When you get lost, Jesus comes to find you. When you are in danger, Jesus comes to comfort you. Listen to the voice of Jesus. Spend time reading the Bible every day. He wants to lead you to life with God. He wants to protect you from sin. Jesus gave up his life just to save you. Jesus is your good shepherd.

Prayer

God, help me to always follow Jesus, my good shepherd.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself as a little lamb and Jesus as your good shepherd.

Mission for the Week

Learn as much as you can about Jesus, so you can follow him. Read a Bible story with your family every night before bed.