

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 27, 2024

5:30PM Charles Zec 10th Anniv.

Sunday, April 28, 2024

9:00AM Lilla Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM Michael Anthony Varraso 2nd Anniv.

Monday, April 29, 2024

7:00AM Sharon Silvia Memorial

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

7:00AM

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

7:00AM Antonio & Eleanor Corbo Memorial

Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Friday, May 3, 2024

7:00AM

Saturday, May 4, 2024

5:30PM Albert Varraso 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:00AM Elisabetta Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM All Mothers

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!



We are now 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 27, 2024

8:00AM Special Intention

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.

Saturday, May 4, 2024

8:00AM Pike Family Memorial

4:00PM Philip Fontana 4th Anniv.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Rita I. MacDonald Anniversary

6:00PM Ann O'Leary Memorial

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 Church throughout all of Judea, Galilee and Samaria was a peace." Every time I read those words from the Acts of the Apostles I think to myself "and that's the last time the Church was at peace!" When Luke describes the Church as "at peace" he was referring to the fact that there was not a wide-spread persecution. Most of its history is marked with persecution, even until this present day. In many parts of the world any public expression of Christian faith is met with resistance, oppression, arrest or even death. There are so many instances. In fact, there have been more martyrs for the faith in the past one hundred years than in the previous 1900 years combined! Many righteous and holy people have quipped over the years that if the Church is being persecuted then it's doing something right!

More difficult than external persecution is internal tension. In the first reading of today's Mass from the ninth chapter of the Acts of Apostles in which Luke describes the Church at peace, there is also mention that when Saul (St. Paul) arrived in Jerusalem the disciples of Jesus would not see him. He had a history of persecuting disciples of Jesus before his own conversion. He tried to convince them that he had encountered the Risen Christ and wanted to be part of the community of disciples. It's understandable that the disciples wanted nothing to do with him. However, it was Barnabas who had to be the broker, if you will. You can imagine how delicate that conversation must have been.

By the year 49 there was division among the Apostles as to who could join the Church: anyone or only Jewish people. Peter represented those who wanted only Jewish people as members of the Church and Paul wanted it opened up to non-Jewish people (Gentiles). There was quite a heated debate.

You need only spend a short amount of time on social media to realize how much tension there is in the Church today. Some feel that the Church moves too slowly in addressing itself to a contemporary world. Others feel that the Church has embraced the culture to the extent that it has lost its core values. There are arguments about how it is structured, how decisions are made, and who can and cannot receive the Sacraments. Many feel that Pope Francis has moved the Church forward, while others think he has caused great division. There are stories of bishops challenging each other publicly and in some cases denouncing each other. Some see declining numbers in the

pews, vocations and income as an indication that the Church is failing in its mission or dying all together while others look at the same statistics and see that the Church is being purified and is thus much stronger than in generations past. I've heard many complain about how priests are so caught up in the ceremonial parts of the Church while ignoring the social issues. Others have expressed that if the Church placed greater emphasis on prayer and liturgy then the social issues would work out. Issues on abortion, euthanasia, transgender, sexuality, and marriage make us question our relationship to the faith. Many simply don't feel welcomed in the Church because of these issues or experiences of feeling unwanted.

This is why I feel that the Church is not at peace. I've often wondered, as I know others have, if we really need the Church. In other words, is it possible to connect with the Risen Christ in a life-giving way outside of the Church? So many people try. The thing is, as soon as I reach out to a brother or sister in need in the name of Christ, the Church is present. As the Lord said "whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am in their midst" we read in Matthew's Gospel.

It struck me years ago that what God is asking me is not to serve the Church but rather to serve Christ in the Church. It's a sublime distinction, I admit, but one that has allowed me "to remain on the vine" so to speak. When my focus is on the Church then I get bogged down in the pettiness and dysfunction that is part of human life. However, when I can keep my focus on Jesus Christ then I have a greater freedom to live my life in the Church, despite it all. And it's here that I find tremendous joy in the priesthood.

My mind turns to the last lines of John's Gospel where Jesus and Peter have an intimate moment. After Jesus tells Peter to "feed my sheep", Jesus tells Peter that when he gets older somebody will tie him up and carry him off to a place he does not want to be. Peter responds by asking Jesus what's going to happen to John? Jesus responds by telling him, "what concern is it of yours? You follow me!"

As a priest, I strive to help my parishioners keep their focus on Christ...and then to work out the details.

As I mentioned last week, St. Francis Parish bought a new organ. Life being what it is, it is supposed to be delivered on Tuesday of this week. The question before us is where to put it? Our current organ is still working, though we don't know for how long. Where it is the original pipe organ to the Church it makes sense to leave it, as there will likely be times when we want the big sound. Looking in the main part of the Church, we will remove a few pews on the

right (Blessed Mother) side of the Church and situate the organ console there. This will allow the choir to move down stairs. I am happy about this as we have such a beautiful choir and as I get older, I don't want to lose any members because of the stairs! Aside from removing pews, there is also electrical work that needs to be done as well as installing the speakers in the loft. All this to say, even though it will be delivered this week, I'm not sure when it will be ready to use. If you are in a position to help with the cost of the organ, please let me know. The parish would be most grateful!

Fr. Bob



Grades 1-8—Final Classes meet this Sunday, April 28th.

Grades 9—10+ - Final Class for Grade 9 meets THIS Sunday, April 28th at 4:45PM. Final Class for Grade 10 meets next Sunday May 5th.



Congratulations to the 24 children who received First Holy Communion last weekend. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

St. Clare

Callie Atkinson,

David Burke

Nora Burke

Aidan Chaplain

Kathleen Dellascio

Eleanor Golden

Gerard Gorman

Elora Guevin

Jackson Haws

Mackenzie Hulke

Marguerite Kidd

Andrew Kippenhan

Emma MacCune

Eleanor Morris

Rowan Murphy

Emily Polito

Jonathan Richardson

Isabella Smith

Theresa Welch

St. Francis of Assisi

Jolene Coughlan

Conor Gill

Danielle Thomas,

Maria Timulty

Liam James Werner



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Last week Fr. Bob told you about the new organ that will be delivered (but not fully installed) this week. In this article I want to write about some of the features that make this purchase so exciting.

First, this new Allen Organ model GX335iDK has four divisions, three manuals (keyboards to be played with the hands) and a pedal division which is a large keyboard that is played by the organist's feet. Currently, we have an organ with two manuals and pedal. These three manual divisions give the organist more flexibility to accompany the congregation, the choir, cantors, or soloists and to play preludes/postludes or recitals.

If we had installed the pipe organ which we had in storage for several years we would have one fine instrument, but only one. Because the "pipes" of this organ are digital and not made with metal or wood, we can instantly switch between these other famous types of organs: Aeolian Skinner, Cavaille-Coll, Schlicker, English Cathedral, Arp Schnitger, Allen Classic, Wurlitzer, Morton and Barton. It's almost as if, at the flip of a switch we could replace every pipe and install an entirely different organ. Why would this be an advantage? If I (or another organist) were playing a particular prelude or recital piece that was from the German Baroque School, I could play an instrument that would be more authentic to that place and period in history. Likewise, if I were playing a piece that was from the French Romantic Period the most authentic sound can be produced.

There are other advantages to this instrument that I will talk about in another article but for now I'll show you a picture of the model that is coming. This photo is of a two-toned console whereas our organ will be just one tone – the lighter one.

Here are some features you'll see in the photo:

1. At the very bottom you will notice black and white pedals. This is a big keyboard that is played with heel and toe of both feet. Often, they are the lowest notes but not always.
2. Above the pedal board right in the center you will notice three black pedals. The first two are expression pedals that can make the sound appear quieter or louder. The third one is a crescendo pedal that adds more stops until it is very loud.
3. On the right and left of those pedals are toe stubs. These are used when the organist pre-sets a

registration and when it needs to be changed quickly, simply tap one of these with your toe and voila – registration changed.

4. Moving to the top of the of the console you will notice three keyboards. The one in the middle is called the Great Organ. The one at the top is called the Swell and the one at the bottom is called the Choir. With the use of these three keyboards, each corresponding to a distinct set of stops (rank of “pipes”) the musician can play a solo on one keyboard and accompaniment on another or switch from one to another for creating echo effects among many other purposes.
5. Beneath each keyboard you will see white buttons. These work the same as the toe stubs except as you might expect you work with your thumb or finger.
6. To the left and the right of the keyboards there are a number of black knobs. These are called “stops.” Each of these corresponds to a particular rank or sound of pipes. Pulling them out adds a layer of sound. To add more layers, pull out more stops. This can be done until they are all pulled out and you have a big grand sound. This is where the phrase “pulling out all the stops” Comes from, meaning giving it all you’ve got.
7. Above the keyboards, in the center, is a row of tabs. These are called couplers. They allow you to couple one keyboard to another so that for example you can place everything on the swell division and play that on the great with everything you have on the great. These tabs also control the tremolo and other less important features.
8. Finally, to the left of these tabs are the on/off switch and a USB port to the right is the digital display that controls all the computerized digital features.

We are quite sure you’re going to love it.



St. Francis of Assisi
Cassidy Julia Colarusso
Jacquelin Salado
Kinley Delaney White



St. Clare
Anita Bonvie
Clara A. Clements

St. Francis of Assisi
Anthony J. Lomasney

Archdiocese of Boston
Fr. William T. Pearsall

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 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

Indeed, by helping the poor we can "bear much fruit" and we find that with Jesus we can do everything.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.

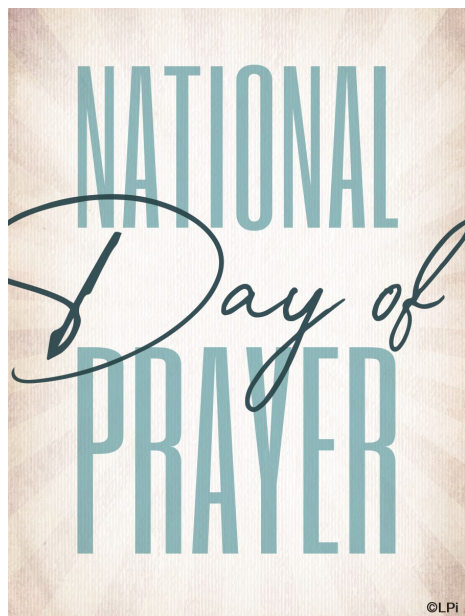
Pantry donations can be dropped off at the Collaborative office during normal business hours (M-F 9-4). **Blue envelopes are in holders on the back inside wall of the church. Please use them for your cash, check (written to St. Vincent DePaul with SFA on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot. Thank you.**



Ending Tuesday, April 30, 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 28 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

Listen again to the words of today's gospel - "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without you can do nothing." The accounts of the church in the Acts of the Apostles make it clear that the disciples took Jesus words to heart. The fruits born from remaining close to Jesus were unity, peace and growth among the members. How might we as a community of disciples answer this question: what are the fruits that are being born from our following of and listening to Christ? During this Easter season, may the example of the early church continue to inspire us to draw closer to Christ and to direct our efforts to bearing fruit that will last!

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.



FORWARD *in* FAITH

Once a year, Catholics throughout the Archdiocese are asked to partner with one another to support their parish and the many outreach ministries by contributing to the Catholic Appeal. I am pleased to share that St. Clare has raised \$46,293 and St. Francis has raised \$58,552 toward our 2024 Catholic Appeal. **More importantly 164 parishioners (92% of 2023 total) from St. Clare and 197 parishioners (83% of 2023 total) for St. Francis of Assisi have participated in our collaborative campaign.** Our heartfelt thanks to all who have helped make our campaign a success so far.

If you have not had the opportunity to support the Appeal yet, I invite you to make your gift today to help us reach our goal. Pick up an envelope at the back of the church or make an on-line donation at www.bostoncatholicappeal.org. **The parish rebates are based on the percentage of donors (2023 vs. 2024.). If we don't reach the participation goal we forfeit out rebate.** Your participation in our Appeal is appreciated by our parish and all those who are served by the ministries funded by the Appeal that moves **us Forward in Faith** in support all of our parishes, schools, and communities. Thank you.



“Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” - Jn 15:4-5

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of April 28, 2024

- Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 (26a)/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
- Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26
- Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a
- Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8
- Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
- Friday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14
- Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
- Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

vine
joined
branch

Father
pray
fruit

honored
gardener
clean

inev	<u>v</u> <u>i</u> <u>n</u> <u>e</u>
Fareth	_____
genarder	_____
chanbr	_____
fritu	_____
lecan	_____
jedoin	_____
rapy	_____
onhored	_____

MISSION

Read Galatians 5:22-23 with your family. Write down the nine different kinds of fruit that will grow from your faith, when you stay connected to Jesus.



Sharing the Gospel

Put a brand new light bulb in a lamp. Turn the lamp on. It shines brightly. Now, unplug the lamp. The lamp goes dark. It might be a nice lamp. It might have a new light bulb. Yet, without being plugged in to electricity, the lamp cannot shine. In today's Gospel, Jesus is the vine and you are a branch. As long as you are attached to Jesus, your faith can grow fruit like love, kindness and gentleness. If you break away from Jesus, your faith will die, and you will not grow any fruit. Stay plugged in to Jesus, so you can shine. Stay connected to Jesus, so your faith can grow fruit.

Prayer

God, help me to stay connected to Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of a tall vine with one branch for every person in your family. Write Jesus' name on the vine, and write the names of your family members on the branches.

Mission for the Week

Read Galatians 5:22-23 with your family. Write down the nine different kinds of fruit that will grow from your faith, when you stay connected to Jesus.



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

