

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 6, 2024

5:30PM Jean McPhee 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, April 7, 2024

9:00AM Jake Parker Anniverary

11:30AM Ryan Steber 1st Anniv.

Monday, April 8, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

7:00AM

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

7:00AM Kathleen O'Leary 4th Anniv.

Thursday, April 11, 2024

7:00AM Eugene Hamel Anniversary

Friday, April 12, 2024

7:00AM

Saturday, April 13, 2024

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

Sunday, April 14, 2024

9:00AM Francesco & Antonio Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM Mary Hill Anniversary

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!



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.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, April 6, 2024

8:00AM Thomas Larnar, 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

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

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.





Today, the **Second Sunday of Easter**, is the **Feast of Divine Mercy**. This feast was established by Pope St. John Paul II in the Jubilee year 2000. Its origins are in a growing devotion to Christ, the source of Divine Mercy based on the spiritual writings of St. Faustina Kowalska who lived in the first half of the 20th Century. She had a series of apparitions in which she had a vision of Jesus with beams of light radiating from his heart. She died at the age of 33 but had a major impact on the Church, calling the faithful of all nations to a deeper devotion to the Mercy of God. Part of this devotion is that it have an annual feast to be held on the Octave (eighth day) of Easter. The traditional Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter is John's account of the Risen Jesus appearing to the Apostles in the Upper Room. In essence this encounter demonstrates the Lord's mercy, in that He offers them peace despite the fact that they abandoned Him in His hour of desperation. An important part of this feast is the reception of Holy Communion and Reconciliation.

Speaking of **Reconciliation**, so many people came for the Sacrament during Lent and Holy Week. It is such a grace to receive these confessions and absolve the sins in the name of Christ. We currently have two scheduled opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday morning following the 8:00 Mass at St. Clare and Saturday afternoon, 12:30-1:30 at St. Francis. I am wondering if there should also be a weekday night included in our schedule? We have been lulled into thinking that people no longer go to Confession, which, anecdotally, has not been my experience. Rare is the Saturday that we do not have many people looking for the Sacrament!

At all Masses during the Easter season the first reading is taken from the **Acts of the Apostles**. This book is attributed to St. Luke as "volume II" of his Gospel. It begins with the Ascension of Jesus and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It then tells the story of the Church in its first days, weeks months and years. What is so striking about their story is how the Apostles and other disciples dealt with various problems and challenges. When you consider all that we are dealing with today and the conundrums, problems and questions that face us as a faith community, you can see that we are in good company. I don't think there has ever been a time in the history of the Church when its leaders and faithful were not trying to figure out a way to do it better.

The book was written about 50 years after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. Of course Luke was not an eyewitness to Jesus but would have learned of His stories through St. Paul. Paul, of course, was a Pharisee who tried to oppress the early Church. After his conversion, he would have spent time with the Apostles learning from them about Jesus. He relayed those stories to his own disciples, among them Luke the Physician, who eventually wrote them down. Luke would also have access to Mark's Gospel which, in many ways, served as a template for his own Gospel of Jesus.

Luke wrote his Gospel and Acts for Greek converts to the Christian faith. It was intended to be read aloud at a Eucharistic liturgy which, in those days, took place in people's homes.

The book was not call Acts of the Apostles until about a hundred years later when it was given that moniker by St. Irenaeus.

It would be worth your time to read the entirety of Acts of Apostles. Most of us hear it only in bits and pieces at Mass. When held as a whole, it is a powerful story of faith that gives great insight into how the Church began.

I wrote last week that there would be an **adult catechetical** session this Sunday following the 10:15 Mass. Spoke to soon. It was part of a family faith event which will be held in several weeks to conclude the religious education year.

The **Collaborative Council** will be meeting this Wednesday. We will be discussing the use of the school building and offertory program.

Fr. Bob



Our Holy Week and Easter liturgies were very well attended and prayerfully celebrated. Thank you to everyone who planned, participated in, and attended these liturgies; Deacon Joe MacDonald, the choir and cantors for the beautiful music; and the volunteers who artfully arranged the plants and flowers that enhance our sanctuaries for the Easter Season.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

It's Easter! Halleluia!

What better way to start an Easter column than with a scene from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." That makes sense right? To make things more vivid I'm going to describe a scene as it has been portrayed in a number of movies.

Picture this. It's toward the end of the story (movie) and the Ghost of Christmas future is taking Scrooge to a number of events that will happen sometime in the future. Now this ghost is a dark character, all dressed in black, we can't see his face except for some menacing red eyes, he is for certain the Grim Reaper. After showing Scrooge a number of disturbing scenes, the Ghost takes Scrooge to a cemetery and points to a grave. Scrooge does not want to look. He is terrified of what he might find. The ghost, with threatening gestures compels Scrooge to look and when he does, he sees himself laying in his own grave. It is a hopeless scene. All is lost. Scrooge, a man without faith, recognizes his fate – death forever, a decaying body, worms devouring what remains leaving only a skeleton that will someday also turn to dust.

Uplifting so far?

Now I'd like to describe a very different scene. At the crucifixion of Christ, there was a righteous man named Joseph of Arimathea. He was a secret follower of Jesus because he was fearful of the authorities. He was also a wealthy man and just like many of us do today he pre-planned his funeral. He had a tomb built, hewn out of rock, that would someday be used for his own burial and probably the rest of his family as well. When Jesus died, he showed great courage and went to ask Pilate for Jesus' body. Having received permission he took Jesus and placed him in the tomb that he prepared for himself.

The following Sunday the tomb was found to be empty. Word had started to spread like wildfire among the Lord's disciples and followers. It was also spreading among the Romans and the Sanhedrin. There can be no doubt that Joseph of Arimathea heard this news, too. Now, what would you do if you buried someone in your tomb and then heard that he is no longer there – that indeed he had risen from the dead?

I know what I'd do. I would run with all my strength toward that tomb, after all it was mine. I'd go as fast as I could; nothing could stop me.

Nothing more is said about Joseph after he left Jesus in the tomb, but we can speculate, and I think that he most certainly went to the tomb to see for himself. Now we have Joseph, a

righteous man, peering into his own grave and unlike Scrooge he doesn't see his rotting corpse, his tomb is empty! This is what I think. Joseph seeing his own tomb empty was among the first to realize that the resurrection of Jesus was something more than the coming back to life of Jesus. He saw the stone that would have sealed his fate rolled away. He recognized what this event meant for him personally and for the whole world, that we are no longer slaves to the tomb because just as the Red Sea was tossed aside so that Moses could lead his people from slavery to freedom, so too the stone that would have kept us captive to sin and death has been tossed aside so that we can live in freedom as children of God, eternally, through the saving act of Jesus Christ.

My friends Christ has died, and He has risen. He has paid a ransom for our freedom and stripped death of its control and because of that the cemetery is not our final address – because that stone has been rolled away.

If death itself has no more power over us, then what can we possibly fear? What can possibly have a hold on us now?

Can the weight of our grief and sorrow? No, because that stone has been rolled away.

Can the darkness of our depression or anxiety? No, because that stone has been rolled away.

Can the chains of addiction? No, because that stone has been rolled away.

Can we be held back any longer by our illnesses, disabilities, or suffering? Absolutely not, because that stone has been rolled away.

Like Jesus, we all must die, but also like Jesus our own graves, darkened by death, will be opened, the stone will be rolled away. We will rise again. Take these words of Saint Paul to heart.

"For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection." (Romans 6:5)





Grades 1-8—Classes meet Tuesday, April 9th and Thursday, April 11th this week.

Grades 9—10+

Confirmation classes for Grades 9 **AND** 10 meet **THIS** Sunday, April 7th at 4:45 followed by the 6PM Mass.



April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter:

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!"

During Mass we turn to each other and say "Peace be with you!" As you put your gift into the St. Vincent de Paul box you say "Peace be with you!" to those who are poor and hungry.

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.

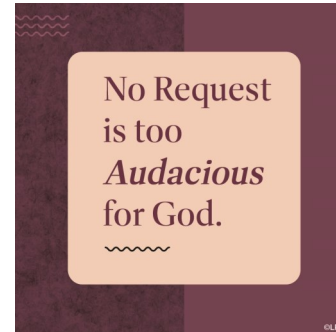
Let's get started! Share the news with friends and family. Call, send emails, and post on social media. The more bouquets sold, the greater the donation we will receive from Stop & Shop!

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



St. Francis of Assisi
Henry McNaught

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 7, 2024 - 2nd Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

A protestant pastor friend of mine was invited to meet Pope Francis with a group of other pastors. He noticed the Pope's chair was especially ornate and set at the head of the group. He somewhat playfully said, "Holy Father, why do *you* get that special chair?" The group chuckled nervously at my friend's audacious chide.

The following year, the group was invited to return. They entered the room to find only simple chairs placed in a circle. Pope Francis entered, sat down in one of the humble chairs and, looking directly at my friend, with a twinkle in his eye, asked, "What do you think of my chair now?" My friend was stunned that the Pope remembered his concerns — and took the time to answer them.

Thomas the apostle was certainly stunned by the Risen Jesus displaying his wounds in person. But he also must have been equally shocked that Jesus knew and answered his particular questions, worries, and even demands related to his faith. How humbled — and perhaps a bit terrified — he must have been to realize God remembers his concerns and cares enough to answer them.

What questions or demands about Jesus do you find in your heart? Like Thomas, will you be bold enough to voice them this week? How wonderful to know that if we do so, God will remember and respond even to our most audacious desires.

Father John Muir ©LPi



Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - Jn 20:26b-27

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of April 7, 2024

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31
Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21
Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 (7a)/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48



Prayer of Entrustment to Divine Mercy

O Lord, our God.

We place our trust in You,
Because you are mercy itself.

We repent of our sins and turn to You for mercy.
We trust You to provide for our every need, according to Your will.

Help us to forgive others as You forgive us.
We promise to be merciful by our deeds, words and prayers.
Though we have fears because of human weakness, we rely on Your infinite goodness and mercy.

We entrust to You the future of our planet, our Church, our nations, our families and all our needs.

With loud cries we implore your mercy on us and on the whole world.

Look upon us, created in your image and likeness.
Form us in the Heart of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit into the living images of mercy.

May all come to know the depth of Your mercy and sing the praises of Your mercy forever.

Amen!

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



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

April 7 ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter, Sunday of Divine Mercy

Our readings today give us clear description of what our parishes are to be and how we are to live as disciples. In the reading from Acts, the author describes the life of the disciples in this way: "The community of believers were of one heart and mind. . . they bore witness to Christ." Does this describe our parish, our community of believers? Is unity a hallmark of our community? Our efforts at strengthening our community and living faithfully as disciples may at times leave us feeling discouraged and doubtful, Jesus words in today's gospel urge us to keep believing in him, even when our faith is weak. May we take comfort in Jesus words, "Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe."

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

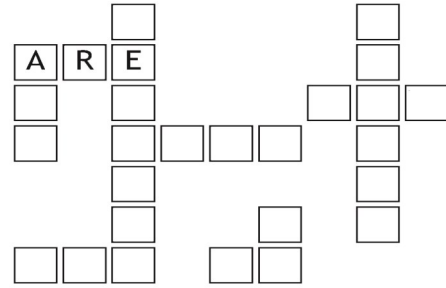
Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats—Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. 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.



PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"



MISSION

Talk to God about a friend who does not believe in Jesus. Ask God to give you the right words to say about Jesus. Then ask God to help you be patient.



Sharing the Gospel

In today's Gospel, Thomas had a hard time believing his friends. Jesus was alive! They saw Jesus! Well, Thomas could not believe it. He needed proof. Thomas wanted to see Jesus for himself. Thomas wanted to touch Jesus' scars on his hands and his side. Once Thomas did that, then he would believe. You may have doubting friends like Thomas. Be patient with them. Do not get angry with them. Love them instead, and gently tell the truth about Jesus. Ask Jesus to open their hearts, so they can believe in him, too.

Prayer

God, help me to be patient with my doubting friends. Show them that Jesus is their savior, too.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself playing with a friend who does not believe in Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Talk to God about a friend who does not believe in Jesus. Ask God to give you the right words to say about Jesus. Then ask God to help you be patient.