

Braintree Catholic Collaborative



St. Francis Church

856 Washington Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:30PM
Sunday: 9:00 and 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 Office 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, May 25, 2024

5:30PM Nicholas & Loretta Cristiani and Memorial
Jack & Joan Daly

Sunday, May 26, 2024

9:00AM Donna Daly 10th Anniv.

11:30AM John Keaveney Memorial

Monday, May 27, 2024

7:00AM Kathleen Crimmins Spec. Intent.

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

7:00AM Louis & Josephine Anzaldi and Memorial
Brady & Crimmins Family

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, May 30, 2024

7:00AM Jane McLaughlin Spec. Intent.

Friday, May 31, 2024

7:00AM Nathan Watson Memorial

Saturday, June 1, 2024

5:30PM Francesco Boncaldo Month's Mind

Sunday, June 2, 2024

9:00AM Nunzio & Mary Sbordone and Memorial
Kay Connolly

11:30AM John & Teresa Allen 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!



The Collaborative Office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe a happy long weekend.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, May 25, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Phyllis & Avanti Quintiliani Memorial

Sunday, May 26, 2024

7:45AM Joseph Dodier & Cleante Ceva Memorial

10:15AM Irene Barone 1st Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, June 1, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Maria Dalomba Memorial

Sunday, June 2, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM John Gately 9th Anniv.

6:00PM

The Bread & Wine for the week of May 25th through 31st were been donated in loving memory of Irene Barone. The **Sanctuary light** will also burn in Irene's memory.

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 Sunday following Pentecost, is **Trinity Sunday**. The prayers and readings of the Mass put before us *Divine Revelation*, that is what God has told us about God. Most importantly, God is completely other than creation. God is not a thing within creation but is the reality beyond creation. God is uncreated. We express that by saying that God always was, always is, and always will be. By God's own nature, God is therefore not subject to any of the consequences of creation. If all life as we know it were to end, God still exists. The question arises how do we know this? St Thomas Aquinas articulated this in a way that has shaped our thinking of this over the centuries. If you are interested in what he wrote, I would encourage you to look it up. It's worth the time. Essentially, Aquinas argues that in order for something to have existence, it must have been brought into existence by something else, in other words everything needs a cause. With that line of thinking, eventually you have to come to something that put everything in motion; something without a cause. Perhaps you heard of the moniker for God as the *un-moved mover*.

It's at this point that my head begins to ache as I consider such matters. The reality is that the human brain can only grasp so much. Even though we only use a portion of our brain's capacity, it has inherent limits precisely because it is part of creation and thus can not think outside of creation. We profess, therefore that God is *mystery*. We know God intimately not because we have figured God out, but that God has freely chosen to reveal Himself to us.

What has God revealed? First and foremost: God is a Trinity of persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. How has God revealed this?; by Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Sacred Scripture, of course, is the written Word of God. Sacred Tradition is what has been handed down to us by the generation before. We believe that the Holy Spirit has guided the process throughout the millennia.

In our modern western way of thinking we like to figure things out. People of other times and places don't necessarily try to figure things out but rather wrestle with the question of what does something mean? There is an implied trust that whatever it means is what ultimately shapes our life. So, if God is a Trinity of persons, then what it means for us is that God is a community unto God-self and therefore those created in God's image and likeness are, by their nature, created to reflect the reality of God as a community. We are communal by nature. To be part of the Church instills within us an acceptance of the God-reality. We call this faith.

As many of you know **Mr. Bob Muldoon** will be retiring on June 30 from his position of caring for the facilities of the parishes. He is such an incredible blessing to St. Francis and St. Clare's! How can we replace him?!?! We are in need of someone to take on this big responsibility! The job description can be found at bostoncatholic.org/employment. Click "parishes" to see our posting.

Yesterday (Saturday) the **Cardinal ordained eleven new priests** for service in the Archdiocese of Boston! Those who watch the ordination trends across the country will no doubt be impressed with such a number! There is a temptation to look back in the years during and following World War II and pine for the days where we were ordaining 50-70 new priests a year. And it's natural to wonder why we can't have those kind of numbers again? Having worked in vocation ministry for several years, I learned that historically the numbers of ordinations in those years were the anomaly. What we have now is more consistent in the context of population and demographic trends. The training these priests have spans 6-8 years on average. They are well trained theologically, spiritually, and pastorally. The challenges ahead of them in parish life are great. But more so is the grace they receive in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Heartfelt congratulations to our new priests!

If my counting is correct, over 1,354,600 American service men and women have lost their lives in defense of our nation since its inception in 1776. I remember learning that the concept of an independent nation contrived by the founders of our country was considered an "experiment" in the way of being a nation. As such, there were varying degrees of confidence that an independent United States could ever work. At times in the past 248 years there has been serious speculation if the experiment could continue. I think it would be naïve to assume that it will necessarily continue indefinitely. This has been a very expensive experiment! I don't mean expensive in terms of dollars but rather in human lives. I think we owe these men and women much gratitude for their ultimate sacrifice. Such gratitude is expressed by remembering them on Memorial Day, of course, but more so by using whatever resources the Good Lord has given each of us to further the cause of justice and ensure peace. God's blessings upon us all this Memorial Day!

Fr. Bob





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

I could talk all day about how three can be one. I can use all the analogies that have been used through the ages, like Saint Patrick's shamrock or I could make up my own. The thing is, that greater minds than mine have tried to explain the Trinity and some have committed heresy in the process. But I have no intention of committing heresy today.

The Trinity is something we have to accept on faith because it's beyond our human experience. We could, and should, prayerfully reflect on this mystery for our entire lifetimes and still there would be room to reflect more because the mystery of God is so vast, so eternal, that our finite minds can never fully comprehend it.

But let me take one line from the First Letter of John. It is one that we've all heard many times, perhaps so many times that we've become deaf to its meaning: "God is love."

Love doesn't exist in a vacuum. There has to be an object of love, someone to whom love is given. God, who existed before all of creation, being the essence of love, must have given that love to someone.

God, who we call Father, loves the Son, who is also God, so completely, that he gave everything to the Son. And the Son, loves the Father so completely that he gives everything back again. The love that flows between Father and Son exists in God the Holy Spirit. God is Love and God is three. God is the perfect communion, the perfect union of persons.

Why is that important? Because we need to understand what the Trinity means more than to understand how it can be? Because we are made in God's image and likeness and if this unity exists in God, then because we are made in his likeness it's something that's natural also to us. It's something within our reach and it's something that we instinctively strive for.

If three can be one - then two can be one in the sacrament of Marriage. Christian marriage reflects the unity of the Blessed Trinity. "What God has joined let no one divide." And just as the eternal love of Father, Son and Spirit spilled over into the marvel of creation, so too marital love has a share in the creative vocation. The love that exists between mothers and fathers produces children. This family, mother, father and child form a kind of human trinity. It's not perfect. But the ideal is there, a love so complete that it empties itself for the sake of the other.

We know that when we receive the Eucharist, the Sacrament of unity, we become one with Christ and Christ with us. What we often forget is that the words of the minister of Communion are somewhat ambiguous. We don't say "the Body of Jesus" or "This is Jesus," we say, "the Body of Christ." In baptism we are baptized into Christ, we are joined to the body of Christ, the church. So, when we say "Amen" at Communion we're saying yes not only to Jesus but to the whole Church and what she teaches. We say "Amen" to each other. If two can be one and three can be one, then so too the hundreds who worship here every weekend are one; millions of Christians throughout the world are one and those who have gone before us in faith or that will come after us are also one. The same unity that exists in the Blessed Trinity exists between all of us through the Eucharist. Young and old are one. Conservative and liberal are one. English-speaking, Spanish-speaking and Chinese-speaking, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, people of every nation, race and tongue are one in Christ and with each other. Holy Communion is not so much about God and me as about God and we.

Jesus himself, on the night of that first Eucharist lifted His heart and voice to the Father with these words: "I pray... that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

Jesus wants humanity to recognize that he IS the one sent to redeem the world and that people will come to recognize and believe in him through our unity with each other and with Him. We are the sign of that unity, that Trinitarian unity. We give it flesh. How the world sees that unity lived out in our faith communities is our shared vocation. Does what the world see in us draw people closer to the Lord or drive them away? Does it draw them toward that perfect union that Jesus prayed for or does our failure to live what we believe so scandalize others that it blinds them to the treasure that God wants them to see?

There is no selfishness in the Trinity – nothing is held back. God, who is Father, Son and Spirit, is not concerned that He will have less if he gives everything away or that he will be less if someone else gets more. What better example of this than the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

This is what the Trinity calls us to, that we live in perfect union with each other and our God; That we love completely; give generously; to become less so others can become more; to live in a way that brings people to faith. When we do this, the word of God from Psalm 149:4 will come to pass - God will take delight in His people. (Ps 149:4)



I want to thank you all for the privilege of coordinating the Religious Education program at the Braintree Catholic Collaborative. It is truly a joy and an honor to be a part of the faith journeys of your children. I am thrilled to be expanding my role as I become the full time Director of Faith Formation. I am so grateful to Father Bob for the opportunity and take this responsibility very seriously, as I believe that helping children to grow in their faith is extremely important. I have many ideas that I am excited to plan for the families of our collaborative. I wish everyone a relaxing and refreshing summer, and look forward to continuing this journey with you all!

Peace to all,
Karen Lane

At the final Family Faith event for the school year the kids planted "seeds of kindness" They learned about the parable of the sower and did a wonderful job decorating rocks as well as planting sunflower seeds to bring home. We hope everyone enjoys our Kindness Garden outside of St. Clare Church. It will be a nice reminder for the kids to continue to watch their own faith grow!



The children, led by some of the First Communicants, participated in a May Procession on Mother's Day. They sang songs, read prayers, and crowned the Mary statues at each church. What a wonderful way to honor our Blessed Mother!



Congratulations to all of the children who received their First Holy Eucharist this year! May they continue to experience with faith and love this encounter with our Lord Jesus in Holy Communion! This is a class quilt that the children made to remember their special day. It is hanging in the church hall at St. Clare.





St. Francis

Thea Anne Coogan
Connor Michael Ferrazzi
Charlotte Susan Wakelin

St. Clare

Jacobi Jess Lopes
Jessenia Paulinha Fernandes



St. Francis of Assisi

William F. Manley
Charleene O'Donnell

Archdiocese of Boston

Fr. Ronald Gomes

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.



May 26 - Most Holy Trinity:

As we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity we also realize the mystery of how much God loves and cares for us each day. Believing in this our lives can then overflow in thanksgiving and praise.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to believe in the mystery of God's love for them.

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.**



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me." - Jn 16:12-14a

Readings **Week** of the

Readings for the week of May 26, 2024

Sunday: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40/Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22 (12b)/Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-20
Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9 and 10c/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/Ps 147 :12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 10:32-45
Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5/Mk 10:46-52
Friday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Lk 1:39-56
Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 11:27-33
Next Sunday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 (13)/Heb 9:11-15/Mk 14:12-16, 22-26



Two electronic car keys were found the weekend of May 11-12.

A Magnificat was found in St. Francis after the 9:00 Mass on Sunday, May 19.

If you believe any of these items may belong to you, or someone you know, please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

May 26 ~ Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Today is a solemn celebration of our belief in the revelation of one God, yet three divine persons. Today, the Church proclaims the truth about God and about us, and that is, that God is love and we are made for this love. With that love comes responsibility. Jesus commissions us in today's gospel to make disciples. . . to baptize. . . and to teach in the name of our Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We don't undertake these tasks alone; Jesus accompanies us. Hear again his encouragement to us - "I am with you always, until the end of the age." Let us take Christ's commissioning to heart and spread the Good News!

Serving the Spiritual Needs of Grieving Parents

The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents serves the spiritual needs of parents whose children of any age have died by any cause. This one-day retreat gives parents the opportunity to concentrate on their individual spiritual journey through the grief and come to know the promise of Jesus and eternal life.

Saturday, June 1st, 2024—9:30am - 7:30pm

Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, St. James Church Hall
(150 Federal Street Salem, MA 01970)

The retreat is open to parents of any age, who lost children at any age and by any means (including abortion, miscarriage, suicide, and overdose). Participants must register and will be contacted by retreat leaders with additional information. To register, visit mqoa.org/emmaus or leave a message for Dr. Christine Williams at 978-594-7780.



We are pleased to share that St. Clare has raised \$46,673 and St. Francis has raised \$59,022 toward our 2024 Catholic Appeal goal. More importantly, 165 St. Clare families (**93% of 2023 total**) and 201 St. Francis families (**84% of 2023 total**) have joined in to support our parish campaign. Thank you to all who have helped make our campaign a success. If you have yet to give, we need your help! **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.**

Please give today to help us reach goal by June 30th. Watch for your letter in the mail or make a gift using the QR code below or by returning an in-pew envelope available at the Church exits. On behalf of Cardinal Seán O'Malley and all who will benefit from your generosity, thank you for your support.



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

AUTHORITY
ELEVEN
DISCIPLES

MOUNTAIN
GALILEE
NATIONS

BAPTIZE
TEACH
ALWAYS

A J E G S U L E T F A
N U D B A P T I Z E R
E R T N E L D O H S D
H O E H M T I W N T I
I S A D O S C L P H S
E N C X U R T D E A C
L Y H E N A I G H E I
E T I N T J E T I H P
V M G P A L W A Y S L
E A C E I M N F T H E
N P O L N A T I O N S



MISSION

When we read the Gospel, Jesus teaches us about the Father. What have you learned so far about the Holy Spirit? Using the concordance found at the back of your Bible, look up "Holy Spirit." As a family, write down the verses, find them in your Bible, and read them out loud. Talk about each verse. If you have any questions, write them down and ask your pastor or teacher for help.



Sharing the Gospel

As the disciples ate with friends, traveled, worked, shopped, and made new friends, they were to have one goal in mind-help more people follow Jesus. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to love God and love each other. Teach them to have mercy and forgive each other. Teach them to be humble. Teach them to pray. Teach them to share. And teach them to tell the people they met how to follow Jesus, too.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to teach my friends how to love and follow you-Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself telling a friend about God.

Mission for the Week

When we read the Gospel, Jesus teaches us about the Father. What have you learned so far about the Holy Spirit? Using the concordance found at the back of your Bible, look up "Holy Spirit." As a family, write down the verses, find them in your Bible, and read them out loud. Talk about each verse. If you have any questions, write them down and ask your pastor or teacher for help.