

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 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 4, 2024

5:30PM Albert Varraso 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:00AM Elisabetta Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, May 6, 2024

7:00AM Frances Murphy Whalen Memorial

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

7:00AM Edward & Robert Corbo Memorial

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Thursday, May 9, 2024

7:00AM Alice Beaulieu Anniversary

Friday, May 10, 2024

7:00AM

Saturday, May 11, 2024

5:30PM Heather, Kathleen and
Garrett Fitzgerald Memorial

Sunday, May 12, 2024

9:00AM Kitty Lezynski Memorial

11:30AM All Mothers Living and Deceased

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, 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

Saturday, May 11, 2024

8:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

4:00PM Ruth Driscoll 3rd Anniv.

Sunday, May 12, 2024

7:45AM All Mothers Living and Deceased

10:15AM Catena Napolitano Anniversary

6:00PM All Mothers Living and Deceased

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 Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered to the 10th graders of our parish this Friday evening and Saturday morning. I am delighted to welcome Fr. Bob Connors, the Cardinal's episcopal vicar for the parishes in the South region. We have 70 parishioners who will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church by virtue of their confirmation. They have prepared well this past year for this moment of grace.

I thought this would be a good occasion to take a look at the Sacrament of Confirmation. We don't seem to talk much about it except as a moment in the life of a teenager. Starting with the name of the sacrament: Confirmation. What, exactly, is being confirmed? The person receiving the sacrament is being confirmed in the faith into which he/she was baptized. Why does this faith need to be confirmed? Don't we "confirm" it each time we confess the Creed and receive Holy Communion? Indeed we do. It is helpful, if not all out necessary, to reflect on the story of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Blessed Mother and Apostles. We read in the Acts of Apostles, chapter 2

When the time of Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire which parted and came to rest on each one of them, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit!

By their reception of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were confirmed in their faith of the Risen Christ. This is to say that by the power of the Holy Spirit their communal and individual experience of the Risen Christ is reassured. Without such reassurance, their memory of the encounter would fade and thus their faith would wither. Furthermore, when they were confirmed in the faith, immediately they became the Church. Reception of the Holy Spirit makes us full members of the Church. Actually, it's the reception of the three Sacraments of Initiation that makes us members of the Church: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. And yes, that is the ideal order. Some dioceses confer the sacrament in that order with children receiving Confirmation at the age of reason then receiving First Holy Communion at the same Mass. In more recent history, Confirmation was separated from the other sacraments and conferred when a child was older. The downside of this was a misunderstanding that Confirmation makes a person an "adult" in the Church and thus able to decide for him/herself

whether to continue practicing the faith. No surprise, the majority of teenagers who are confirmed do not practice the faith after receiving Confirmation.

You may be aware that Cardinal Sean has mandated that the age of Confirmation in the Archdiocese is lowered from tenth grade to eighth grade. This, of course, will take some time to implement. Fr. Kevin has been designing a new program to prepare seventh and eighth grade students for Confirmation.

Some important things to know about the Sacrament of Confirmation:

It is a "character" sacrament. This means that the very substance of a person is altered by virtue of receiving the Holy Spirit. Like Baptism, the Sacrament creates something radically new. The person is more configured to Christ. So powerful is the Sacrament of Confirmation that a confirmed person can never be "unconfirmed", in the same way a baptized person can never be "unbaptized". The change of the Sacrament is for all eternity. It does not end with natural death. (The other "character" sacrament along with Baptism and Confirmation is Holy Orders.)

Confirmation bestows the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge and fear of the Lord. Interestingly these are not found in the New Testament but come from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 11:1-2. The prophet used them to describe the way that God would empower the future Messiah. Consider for a moment your own Confirmation: God gave to you the same gifts of the Holy Spirit that He gave to Jesus so that He could do the Father's Will! These gifts are given to you so that you likewise might do God's Will.

St. Thomas Aquinas recognized that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are intended to help a person grow in virtue.

- The gift of wisdom corresponds to the virtue of charity.
- The gifts of understanding and knowledge correspond to the virtue of faith.
- The gift of counsel (right judgment) corresponds to the virtue of prudence.
- The gift of fortitude corresponds to the virtue of courage.
- The gift of fear of the Lord corresponds to the virtue of hope.
- The gift of reverence corresponds to the virtue of justice

As we grow in virtue the Lord reveals in us and through us the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness and self-control.

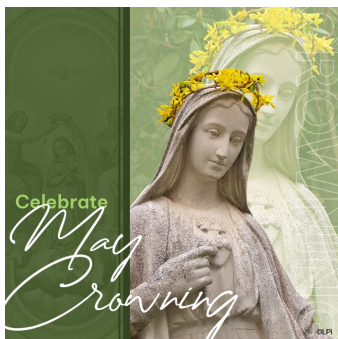
Confirmation, therefore, is not so much about receiving something as it is about being prepared for something: authentic discipleship. As a sign of this, candidates for Confirmation are invited to choose an additional name (not

MAY 5, 2024

required) as an outward sign of taking on a new purpose. In biblical times when someone was asked by God to do something new, God gave that person a new name: Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah, Simon becomes Peter, Saul becomes Paul.

If you or someone in your family has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation for whatever reason, please let Fr. Kevin or myself know. We would be very happy to figure out the best way to prepare you for the sacrament.

Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension. This is one of the central mysteries of our Catholic faith. To emphasize this necessity of Christ's Ascension in our lives the Church asks us to participate in Mass on that day and so has designated it a "holy day of obligation". (I like to think of it as a holy day of opportunity!) The schedule of Masses is elsewhere in the bulletin.



Next Sunday, on Mother's Day, the parishes will hold the Crowning of the Blessed Mother at the conclusion of the 10:15 and 11:30 Masses. Those who have (or will) received First Holy Communion this year are invited to participate wearing their First Communion attire.

Fr. Bob



ASCENSION THURSDAY

Thursday, May 9 is The Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule for the collaborative of St. Francis /St. Clare of Assisi is:

St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, May 9 7:00AM, 12:10 and 5:30PM

St. Clare

Wednesday, May 8 Vigil 4:00PM

Thursday, May 9 9AM



Grades 10+ - Final Class meets THIS Sunday May 5th.



Congratulations to the 27 children who received First Holy Communion last weekend. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

St. Francis

Samuel Amato
Elizabeth Breslin
Stella Buccini
Sean Donovan
Kinley Duffey
Jake Fisher
Oisin Fitzgerald
Libby Garvey
Kadence Guttierrez
Ben Haugh
John Levangie
Madeline Mackey
Siobhan Moran
Ali Nieters
Kendrick Tran

St. Clare

Dylan Brown
Frank Demmerly
Camden Hallahan
John Hickey
Luke O'Leary
George Romeo
Gianna Seckinger
Brayden Spencer
Felicity Stellman
Luca Strano
MiKaela Teixeira
Kevin Weeks



St. Clare

Francesco Boncaldo
Kevin Collins

St. Francis of Assisi

James Cozzo
Rita Piasecki
Margaret Murray
Joan Marie DeBernardino

Archdiocese of Boston

Fr. Charles Salomone

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.



Steven Mann & Meghan McLaughlin I

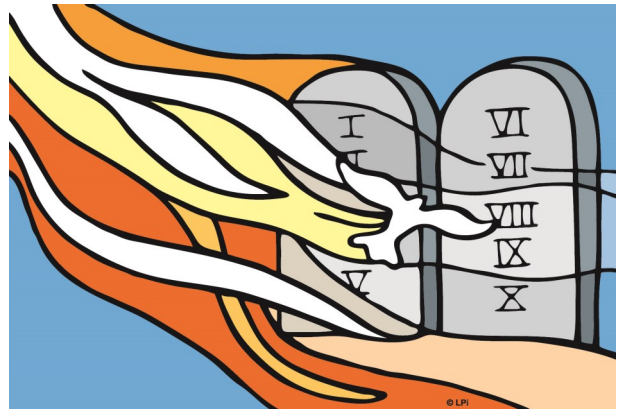


May 5 - Sixth Sunday of Easter:

In the Gospel today, Jesus says to us, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you...You are my friends if you do what I command you."

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you fulfill this commandment.

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.**



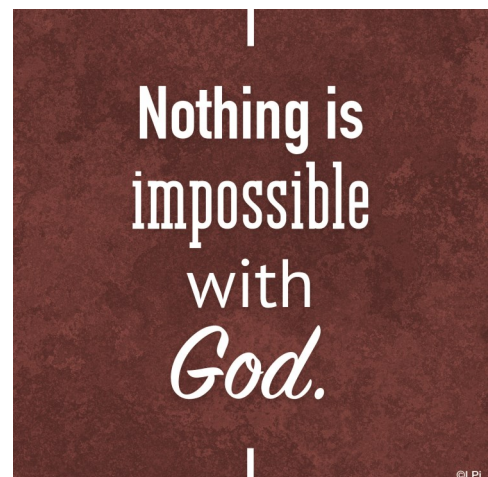
"If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete."

Jn 15:10-11

Readings *of the* Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of May 05, 2024

- 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
- Monday:** Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26—16:4a
- Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11
- Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
- Thursday:** Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/ Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
- Friday:** Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23
- Saturday:** Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28
- Next Sunday:** Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 (19a)/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19





From the Archdiocese of Boston

May 5 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today's Scriptures place great emphasis on love – God's love for us and our love for one another. "This is my commandment, love one another." The love that we share is not our own, rather it is the love God has for us. Love is a powerful means of evangelization. The way we live, and love as faithful disciples will draw people to Jesus Christ. So, let's take the scripture to heart this week and extend the love of God to others.

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.

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.

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**



May 5, 2024 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Once a man came to the Vatican and asked to see Pope John Paul II, claiming that they had been friends in Poland. When told of the man, the Pope said, "He is mistaken about our friendship. I don't recall ever having suffered with him." As it turned out, the man had never known the Pope. Now, I'm not sure if the story is totally factual. But doesn't the juxtaposition of *suffering* with *friendship* sound exactly like JP II? He understood that the deepest and most lasting friendships are forged in the fires of shared suffering. No suffering, no friendship. Amazing.

This week we hear Jesus say to the apostles and to us, "**You are my friends if you do what I command you**" (John 15:14). In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God entered the world of human suffering and transformed it into an avenue of friendship with Himself. Following His command — to love, to lay down our lives for others — will always entail suffering. But this suffering only deepens our friendship with Him. His suffering is ours; ours is His. We have become friends of God.

This week, how might you share your suffering with the Risen Jesus? How might he be sharing his suffering with you, in the lives of those around you? Be attentive to that, and you'll find that you are indeed a friend of God, because you've suffered together a great deal.

Father John Muir ©LPI





PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

vine
joined
branch

Father
pray
fruit

honored
gardener
clean

inev

v i n e

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.



PUZZLE

Find the matching heart.



MISSION

I will love my family and friends as much as Jesus loves me.



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.

