

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, Director of Religious Education
Ms. Patty Kinnally, Office Manager
Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager
Ms. Dorothy Hughes, Receptionist
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, August 3, 2024

5:30PM Richard & Margaret Keane and Daniel Barselou Memorial 3rd Anniv.

Sunday, August 4, 2024

9:00AM Joseph McCarthy Memorial
11:30AM Deborah Cerilli 1st Anniv.

Monday, August 5, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

7:00AM Charles Beaulieu Memorial

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

7:00AM

Thursday, August 8, 2024

7:00AM Angelo Zampine Anniversary

Friday, August 9, 2024

7:00AM Joseph Nguyen Memorial

Saturday, August 10, 2024

5:30PM Nancy and Pamela Gorman Anniversary

Sunday, August 11, 2024

9:00AM Francis H. Nehiley, Jr. 19th Anniv.
11:30AM Nora O'Sullivan Memorial

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 Office hours for the week of August 5—9, 2024
Monday through Thursday 9AM-1PM
Friday—CLOSED

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, August 3, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Penny Camara 1st Anniv.

Sunday, August 4, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM George Betza and Bruce Scanga 15th Anniv.
25th Anniv.

6:00PM Vincent Hand Memorial

Saturday, August 10, 2024

8:00AM Luke Conboy Memorial

4:00PM Sheila Timulty Memorial

Sunday, August 11, 2024

7:45AM St. Clare

10:15AM Pauline & Edward Powers Memorial

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.
- **AI-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 Wednesday of the month (July and August only) at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church Hall.
- **Holy Name Society** will meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month following the 7:45 Mass at St. Clare beginning September, 2024.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.



Week II of the Bread of Life Discourse

If you follow the biblical citations for today's Gospel passage you will likely notice that there is an entire section of the chapter that is omitted. Where are verses 16-22? These verses tell the story of the *storm at sea*. You may recall we heard Mark's version of the event a few weeks back on June 23, the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In putting the cycle of readings together, the Church felt it not necessary to repeat that story in the context of the Bread of Life Discourse. Hence, we skip over it.

Today's Gospel picks up the story with many of those who were fed with barley loaves and fish making their way to Capernaum (where Jesus was living at the time) to see Jesus. They were looking for another "sign" from Jesus, what you and I call a miracle. He reminded them that they just had a sign in the feeding of the multitudes. It's worth noting of the thousands who had their fill of bread and fish most did not realize where it had come from, only that Jesus was feeding everyone. Remember, when John writes of "signs" he is indicating a spiritual window in which people can see the reality of God. Appropriately so, the people ask Jesus "give us this bread always". It's the right request anytime we go to the Christ. We do this at every Mass: before we receive the Bread of Life in Holy Communion, we all pray together "give us this day our daily bread".

One of the lessons the Church has learned in 2000 years is that those who do not ask the Lord for the Bread of Life soon forget Him altogether. Historically, whenever communities have been deprived of the Eucharist for an extended period of time for whatever reason, the people eventually forget their faith in Jesus altogether. Perhaps this has been your personal experience? Maybe there was a time when you didn't go to Mass for whatever reason. How quickly the practice of faith ceases! It doesn't take too long before God doesn't factor into your day to day life.

Since the Bread of Life Discourse is intended to help us understand more deeply the mystery of the Eucharist, one important element that is underscored is the necessity of frequent and regular reception of Eucharist. The rhythm of Sunday Mass, and the other sacraments, keep the mystery of Christ ever present to us.

Summer projects

Let me mention a few summer projects in which we have been engaged these weeks. The sacristies of St. Clare and St. Francis have been cleaned out. There was many years worth of stuff packed into drawers, cabinets and closets. I think some materials I discovered dated back to the Eisenhower era! (perhaps a bit of exaggeration) This week we are starting to declutter the basement at St. Clare Rectory. The plaza in front of St. Francis Church has been smoothed-out and hopefully reduces the risk of falls. A few weeks back I put an orange cone over a particularly uneven part of the pavement and then proceeded to fall backwards over the cone! What do they say about good intentions? Karen Lane has been studying the intricacies of the Parish Soft system so we can have an easier way of keeping information about those enrolled in religious education as well as communicating with parents. Speaking of which, registration for religious education classes will begin in the next few weeks.

We are in need of...

Would you have a couple of winged-back type chairs that you are looking to part with? I would like to give the confessional room at St. Clare's a bit of a makeover. A couple of comfortable chairs would help in creating a welcoming atmosphere.

Also, in cleaning out the sacristies, we discovered that neither Church has much in the way of altar cloths. What we have is quite worn, tattered or stained. They would need to be made, of course. Would you be in a position to help defray the cost? Liturgical items are expensive given that they are typically made from high quality materials and often need to be custom made. Such is the case of altar cloths as altars are unique and one size does not fit all. If you can help, you can put your offering in an envelope marked "altar cloths" and leave it in the collection basket or at collaborative office or give to Fr. Kevin, one of the deacons or myself. Many thanks for your help.





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

In ancient times people thought the world was flat and if you sailed too far on the ocean you would fall off. They couldn't believe that the world was round.

Likewise in the 15th century most people still couldn't believe that the world was round until Columbus and other explorers proved that it was.

It really didn't matter what anyone thought. The world was still round though many doubted it.

Over the centuries many things were thought to be impossible but were later proved not only to be possible but normal – human flight for instance.

There have always been doubters. There have always been the “seeing is believing” crowd. One of our early saints, Saint Thomas, was such a person. He will forever be remembered as “Doubting Thomas.” I think that in today's society the story of Thomas might be an appropriate one during these next few weeks that the Gospel has us reflecting upon the Eucharist.

The real presence of Christ, body, soul, and divinity, in the Holy Eucharist is a truth that we Catholics have embraced since the Last Supper. And yet today, there are many Catholics, some perhaps, sitting in this church, who do not believe it. Polls have shown that in the United States more Catholics doubt the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist than those who believe.

But just as the world is round and not flat, just because people don't believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, doesn't mean it's not true.

Why would we kneel at the consecration if what the priest elevated was simply a piece of bread or the chalice merely a cup of wine? Why would we bow before receiving Communion if it's just bread? We don't bow to the bread we receive before dinner at our favorite restaurants, do we? Of course not. And we wouldn't genuflect before the tabernacle, which contains the bread of life, the body of Christ, if all that were there was some left-over bread. In fact, some anti-Catholic protestants accuse us of idolatry for our belief and if it were just bread, they would be right. It would be a grave sin. But it isn't just bread.

I played the organ for a protestant church for about 5 years while in college. They would have a communion service every 6-8 weeks or so. When everyone went home, I would see the

left-over Wonder Bread, cut into cubes, left on dishes in the church kitchen ready to be thrown away.

There is a fundamental difference between what many of our protestant brothers and sisters believe and what occurs in every Catholic Church throughout the world. We take the Lord at His word. “This IS my body. This IS my blood.” (Lk 22:19-20) “Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you will not have life within you.” (Jn 6:53) We wonder how this can be, and this isn't necessarily a bad thing. Reflection often leads to greater faith.

It's interesting that we often have little trouble accepting that water can be made wine; that three can be one; that Lazarus can be raised from the dead; that on Pentecost people miraculously heard Peter speaking in their own native tongues or that Jesus walked on water. Is it also not possible that the one who changed water into something else entirely can do the same with bread and wine, changing them into His body and blood? Of course, He can. “With God, all things are possible.” (Mt 19:26) “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” (Jn 14:14)

Thomas couldn't believe that Christ rose from the dead until he placed his hands into His wounds. But when he saw Jesus, his doubts were cast aside and falling to his knees spoke these words of faith “My Lord and My God.” (Jn 20:28) He learned an important lesson. Seeing isn't always believing – sometimes believing is seeing.

When we approach the Eucharist and the priest or other minister of communion holds up the Eucharist and says, “The Body of Christ” as we answer “Amen” with our lips, may we also answer in our hearts with Thomas, “My Lord and my God.”



**The Collaborative Family Picnic is
scheduled for Sunday, September 22nd
at St. Clare. More details to come in the
following weeks.**



August 4 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

The Gospel tells us "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." By "listening" we are able to *live* the gospel. Gospel living is something so simple as taking the time to listen to those who need to spill out their hearts when seeking help.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you enable the members of the Society to become a "listening heart" to the hungry, the homeless and the struggling poor.

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 BCC on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot. Thank you.**

This August, swing by the Braintree Stop & Shop at 316 Grove Street and grab a Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet for just 10.99. For every bouquet sold, \$10 goes toward the Braintree Catholic Collaborative Food Pantry.



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Clare

Barbara A. Greenwood
Patricia Robertson

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.



If you plan to travel this summer or have the opportunity to sneak away for the weekend, here is something to place in your suitcase or your smart phone. To find the Mass closest to your location, visit www.masstimes.org. When you make your reservations, please remember to reserve some time for the Lord. Summer blessings! **Be sure to call the parish you plan to attend to verify their Mass times. Be safe!**



How are your seeds of faith growing? At our last Religious Education gathering in May, we learned about the Parable of the Sower of Seeds. We planted sunflower seeds to remind us to nurture our faith over the summer. I hope everyone is enjoying the last days of summer vacation, and is getting excited about a new year of school and Religious Education!

There are some exciting changes and events coming:

- The confirmation age has been lowered to grade 8, so we will be working with grades 7-10 for the confirmation program. RE registration details will be coming soon.
- Kindergarten classes will be added on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays!
- I am working to create a library and games room in the St. Clare Church Hall - stay tuned for more details on this project!
- The Blessing of Backpacks is a great way to start off the school year and will be in early September.
- The Collaborative Parish Picnic is on Sunday, September 22 after the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare Church. It will be a super fun event and will kick off our Religious Education year!

More details about all of this will be forthcoming in the bulletin and on the website - See you soon!

Peace to all,
Mrs. Karen Lane





From the
Archdiocese
of Boston

August 4 ~ Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Israelites in today's first reading grumble about their situation. Our reaction might be that for God to give them exactly what they were grumbling about seems undeserving and yet God responds to them out of his love, grace and generosity. In the Gospel, the crowds pursue Jesus wanting more, because he had satisfied their physical hunger with an unexpected and lavish meal. The desire of God and of Jesus in both readings was to satisfy the hunger of the people, not just for food but for truth, for life and for love. Just as God sent manna to feed the Israelites, he sent His Son Jesus to save us and feed us always. This week make a specific effort to avoid grumbling and complaining and instead, take some time to savor Jesus' words "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." *Take and eat.* . . let Jesus satisfy your hunger and sustain you.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass (11/3)

All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries or another special milestone are invited to a celebratory Mass on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. Couples will renew their marriage commitment and receive a special blessing. Family and friends are invited to attend. To register, visit bit.ly/CelebrateAnniversary. For more information, please email Emily Elliott at marriageprep@rcab.org or call 617-746-5756.

A Celebration of Convalidation

If you and your spouse desire holy matrimony in the Catholic Church, you are invited to convalidate your marriage through your parish or at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston during World Marriage Week on Sat. February 8, 2025 at 6PM with Bishop Mark O'Connell and Bishop Cristiano Barbosa. A celebration of convalidation is an opportunity for couples married outside of the Church to enter a marriage covenant in the Catholic tradition. The Cathedral ceremony will be available in the various languages of the couples present. Visit bit.ly/CatholicConvalidation for more information or call Emily Elliott in Family Life at 617-746-5756.



Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." - Jn 6:32-33

Readings of the Week ©LPH

Readings for the week of August 4, 2024

- Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 (24b)/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35
- Monday: Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102/Mt 14:13-21
- Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10
- Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 15:21-28
- Thursday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 16:13-23
- Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41/Mt 16:24-28
- Saturday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9/Jn 12:24-26
- Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (9a)/Eph 4:30—5:2/Jn 6:41-51





Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary encourages prospective candidates between 30 and 60 years to discern a possible vocation to Priesthood.

We host **"First Friday Visits"** where men discerning the priesthood are invited to join the Seminary community for prayer, fellowship, and dinner. These brief and informal evenings begin at 5:00 PM and conclude by 7:30 PM. During their visit here, the men will join the community for Holy Hour and Evening Prayer, followed by dinner with the seminarians and an opportunity to tour the Seminary. If a candidate wishes to speak with a priest faculty member during his visit, we will arrange for that as well. There is also the option to attend virtually via the Chapel live-stream link of evening prayer followed by a Zoom meeting. The Zoom meeting link is available once registered.

Please encourage men that you know to avail themselves of this opportunity. Join us:

Friday, September 6, 2024

If you know of a man interested in pursuing a possible vocation or who may benefit from a visit to Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, please have him reach out to Msgr. William Fay.

Rev. Msgr. William P. Fay
Professor of Philosophy and Theology
Pope St. John XXIII Seminary
Office: 781-899-5500 x127
E-Mail: FirstFriday@psjs.edu

43rd Annual Lawn Party to benefit Seminarians

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston is hosting its 43rd Annual Lawn Party on Wednesday, September 25th, at 6:00 P.M. on the grounds of the seminary. This premiere fundraising event is hosted by His Eminence, Seán Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap. with Mary Anne and Dan Lagan as Chairpersons. The evening will include a reception and dinner with music. The proceeds from the Lawn Party help to keep tuition costs affordable. For ticket information, please call the Pope St. John XXIII Development Office at 781-899-5500, or visit <https://psjs.edu/lawn-party>. You can make a difference and encourage the vocations of these men through your support of the Lawn Party.



PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

FOOD	MANNA	LIFE
THIRSTY	FAITH	HUNGRY
MIRACLE	BREAD	COMES

fodo	<u>f</u> <u>o</u> <u>o</u> <u>d</u>
mriceal	_____
mnana	_____
berad	_____
lfie	_____
cmose	_____
hnurgy	_____
fatih	_____
thritys	_____

MISSION

If you believe in Jesus, you can look forward to heaven one day. Read Revelation 21:3-7 with your family. Heaven will be wonderful!



Sharing the Gospel

Just one day earlier, Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish to feed over five thousand people. In today's Gospel, some of those people came looking for Jesus, hoping to get another free lunch. They didn't understand that Jesus wants all people to believe in him. Through faith in Jesus, you can live forever. In heaven you will never be hungry or thirsty again.

Prayer

God, fill me up with love for Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw Jesus holding your hand in heaven, next to a pretty river.

Mission for the Week

If you believe in Jesus, you can look forward to heaven one day. Read Revelation 21:3-7 with your family. Heaven will be wonderful!