

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, July 13, 2024

5:30PM Mary T. Sullivan Anniversary

Sunday, July 14, 2024

9:00AM James McCarthy 1st Anni

11:30AM Frances and Eileen Vitale Memorial

Monday, July 15, 2024

7:00AM Mass of Thanksgiving

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

7:00AM

Thursday, July 18, 2024

7:00AM

Friday, July 19, 2024

7:00AM

Saturday, July 20, 2024

5:30PM Katherine & Gus Murphy Anniversary

Sunday, July 21, 2024

9:00AM Joseph McCarthy Memorial

11:30AM James Carey 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!



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, July 13, 2024

8:00AM Mark Fitzsimmons Memorial

4:00PM Arlene McDonough 12th Anniv.

Sunday, July 14, 2024

7:45AM Elzie Rice Memorial

10:15AM

6:00PM Edwina Moscaritolo Memorial

Saturday, July 20, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Antonio, Maria & Anna Tempesta Memorial

Sunday, July 21, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Barbara Medici Memorial

6:00PM Rose Boncaldo 1st Anniv.

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 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.



Godparents

When my brother and sister-in-law had their first child they asked me to Baptize their baby and to be the girl's godfather. What an honor! Interestingly, a priest cannot do both. He can baptize or he can serve as the godfather. The reason is so that the role of godfather is not in anyway diminished by the priest's role in administering the sacrament. In other words, the Church wants to make sure that the godparent role is preserved and publicly recognized as sacred.

It seems that a week doesn't go by without a least one question regarding godparents at baptism. I thought it would be helpful to look at the role of godparents in the Church.

The history of godparents goes back to the 2nd century when infant baptism was begun. An essential part of the Baptism Rite is the profession of faith. Before someone can be Baptized he/she must be able to articulate faith in Jesus Christ. Obviously a baby is not capable of doing this so the Church allowed the parents to do it for him/her. However, for various reasons, another person from the Church was permitted to profess faith on behalf of the child. By the middle-ages the concept of having godparents was in practice. There may have been a time in history where the godparent would assume responsibility for raising the child should the parents be incapacitated. However, today there is no expectation like that, at least by the Church, anyway.

The role of godparent is considered very sacred. It is not simply a ceremonial role nor an honorary title bestowed on a good friend or sibling. Yes, the godparent professes the faith on behalf of the child. More importantly, though, the godparent makes a commitment to the child to be a model of Christian discipleship. For this reason, the choice of godparent is extremely important and dare I say, delicate. How do parents assess who would be a good model of a Christian disciple for their child? What criteria is to be used? The Code of Canon Law outlines the basic criteria for choosing godparents (Canons 872-874)

- Helps the godchild to live a life in harmony with the Church by setting an example of following precepts of the Church.
- Must be fully initiated into the Catholic Church through Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Cannot be the child's parents

- Cannot ever marry the child (more of an issue in middle ages with pre-arranged marriages)

There can be only one godfather and one godmother. You cannot have two of either.

Only one godparent is required and must meet the criteria above. In the case of only one godparent there can be a second "witness" to the Baptism who is a member of a non-Catholic ecclesial community.

If one or both of the godparents cannot be present for the actual baptism, they may be represented by a proxy. The proxy also must fulfill the criteria above. Given advances in technology, I have baptized a baby who was in Sweden and joined us by a video call! (proxy still required)

When choosing godparents I encourage parents to ask themselves whether the godparent will help your child to live in harmony with the Catholic faith? The word harmony appears in Canon Law for godparents. I like it because it acknowledges that none of us lives the faith perfectly and at the same time sets an expectation that we are intentional about integrating our lives with the Catholic faith community. Paul Simon, the singer-songwriter, stated that to create those amazing harmonies with Art Garfunkel they would practice singing face to face and watch how each other shaped his mouth and where he placed his tongue. Harmony in the musical sense, and dare I say, in the faith sense us shaping the part of you that must fit with part of someone else. As we consider the role of the Christian discipleship, how do they shape their lives to fit in with the wider faith community? It implies, identifying areas of tension, becoming knowledgeable about the faith, receiving the Sacraments of the Church, professing the faith as outlined in the Nicene Creed, going to Mass, putting into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

These are some basic considerations for the godparent:

- Does this person believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?
- Does this person have a fundamental understanding of the necessity of baptism for salvation?
- Does this person go to Mass regularly?
- If this person is married is he/she sacramentally married in the Church?
- If the person is estranged from the Church, is he/she willing to be reconciled with the Church before the Baptism of your child?

If the answer to any of these is no then I would question whether this person is disposed properly to make the solemn promise required of godparents at the Baptism liturgy. The requirements may seem to be harsh but this only underscores the sacredness of the role of godparent.

When I explained to my brother and sister-in-law the conflict of baptizing their daughter and serving as godfather they let me choose which I preferred. There was no question: I chose to be the godfather! And I am godfather for their other daughter as well. I feel a very strong connection with my goddaughters, not because they are my nieces, but because of the spiritual bond that exists between us!

I am very grateful to Kate and Deacon Jay Waldron who have taken on the responsibility of working with parents who are preparing to have a child baptized. In order to do this well, Kate and Deacon Jay will set the date and place with the parents as well as meet with them to review the importance in the life of a Christian. Also, they provide a sense to the parents that in Baptism they and their child are welcomed into the wider Church as well as the parish.



Next weekend we will host a missionary who will speak at all the Masses to give us a sense of what is happening in the Church in other parts of the world. I am very happy to welcome Sister Leonore Coan from the Sisters of Notre Dame. We may not think of the Sisters of Notre Dame as a missionary order as they taught in so many of our schools. Their congregation is all over the world and are doing incredible things in the name of Christ the Lord. As is the custom, a second collection will be taken up to support the work of the Sisters of Notre Dame.



St. Francis of Assisi

John McCusker

John MacGillivray

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.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Here we go again! Last week it was Ezekiel, who while minding his own business was called by the Lord God to be a prophet. It wasn't going to be easy because the nation had become rebellious. God wanted to call them back to righteousness.

This week it's Amos' turn. He was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamores. The fruit of the sycamore was something like a fig. It needed to be tended to. The "dresser" would cut a slit in the top of the fruit. This would help it to ripen and also make it sweeter. So, Amos was a simple man who made his living off the land. He had no training or even interest in becoming a prophet. God wanted to call Israel back to righteousness.

The prophet Jeremiah was just a child when he was called to be a prophet. He complained to God that he was too young. God replied, "Don't tell me you're too young!" (Jer. 1:6-7) And he wasn't too young, in fact he is one of the major prophets of the Old Testament, but it was difficult, and he suffered for it. God still wanted to call Israel back to righteousness.

David, also a child, was a shepherd when God called him. Nobody thought he was going to slay Goliath. He had no ambition to become king and never thought he'd author the Psalms. It was from his line that the Messiah would come forth.

Peter, James and John were literally minding their own business – the fishing business. This particular day they didn't catch anything until Jesus told them to cast their nets on the other side where they caught so many fish the boat was taking on water. Jesus was ready to call them but Peter, certain he wasn't going to be good enough, cried out, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." (Lk 5:8) With all of his faults and failings Jesus still had faith in him, more than Peter did in Jesus or himself at the time. He became the first Pope.

Matthew was a tax collector when he was called. Saint Paul was a pharisee and persecuted Christians, holding the cloaks of the men stoning Stephen. (Acts 7:58)

The list goes on but there is a children's hymn in the Episcopal hymnal called "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God." It says a lot about who God calls. Part of it goes like this.

...And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green: They were all of them saints of God and I mean God helping to be one too.

reason no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.
...You can meet them at school, or in lanes, or at sea, in Church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Here's the point. God is calling each one of us – by name! He longs for us to say yes to this call. It may be difficult, but He promises us that He will be there every step of the way. We are called to be prophets, and evangelists and to call the people back to righteousness. It's a calling that belongs to each one of us. We can't say that we're too young; or that we're too old; that we don't have the education; that we're not from the right socio-economic class; or I'm too poor or too rich. There are no excuses. Have faith in God. He wouldn't have called us if He didn't have faith in us.

In Matthew's Gospel there is scene where Jesus invites a rich young man to come and follow Him with the caveat that he sells all of his possessions and gives the money to the poor first. The poor-rich man couldn't do it. He went away sad. (Mt 19:22-24)

We don't have to go away sad. We don't have to be afraid of failing because God himself will bring about the result he wants, even if we can't see it. Even if we suffer for it we won't be sad because Jesus promised that His joy would be within us and our joy would be complete. (Jn 5:11)

Prayer for the Way

Dear Jesus,

As I set out in your name, be with me on every step.
I don't know where you will lead, but I trust that you will be with me and that, for me, that will be enough.
Amen.



July 14 - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel today we see how Jesus sent his Apostles out two by two. From the beginning of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, members visit in pairs "two by two", those who are poor and needy in their homes. It is there, in the family setting, that Vincentians listen, offer humble advice, and render assistance.

Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?



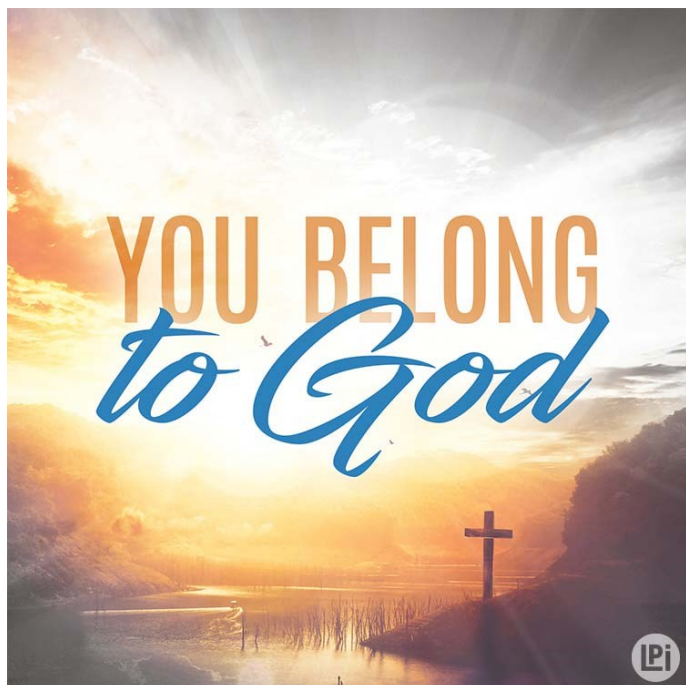
FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, July 20-21.

Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. Some of our needs are: toilet paper; Cereal, canned fruit, Instant potatoes, rice sides, Pop-Tarts, canned chicken. However, we are grateful for anything you wish to donate. If you forgot or prefer not to shop, please read the St. Vincent DePaul paragraph to learn how you can help. 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.**

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



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!**





From the
Archdiocese
of Boston

July 14 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The message in our readings again this week remind us that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. That is, we have what we need to follow Christ and to give witness to him. In our gospel, we hear Jesus sending his disciples off to preach the good news. They aren't to carry "stuff" that will distract them or stand in the way of being among the people to whom they are sent and to what they were sent to do. We are being invited to accept that we have been chosen in Christ and that we already have the blessings needed to bear witness to his love. We took Jesus' words to heart and trusted him. The question is – will we also trust that truth and act on it?

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 summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. - Mk 6:7, 13

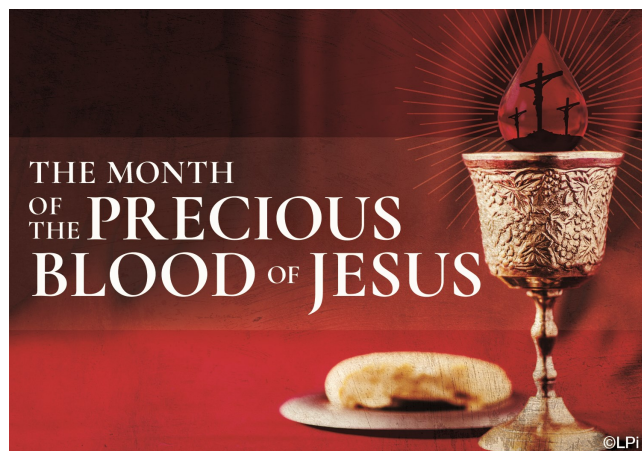
Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of July 14, 2024

- Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13
- Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 10:34—11:1
- Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 11:20-24
- Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27
- Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30
- Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16/Mt 12:1-8
- Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21
- Next Sunday: Jer 23:1-6/Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34



We are now scheduling mass Intentions through December 31, 2024. We have a **very limited number of weekend openings** for the summer, and Fall Masses are filling up quickly.



Early Bird Special - Milton & South Shore
Men's Prayer Gathering

Saturday, July 20th 7:00-8:30 AM
St. Mary of the Hills Lower Church
29 St. Mary's Road (off Brook Road), Milton

Prayer; Coffee and refreshments;
Presentation and discussion

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and Medjugorje cont'd
Fr. Bill Murphy, Priest in Residence at St. Agatha's Parish

Men, come hear Fr. Murphy continue his presentation from last month on visiting some of the top Marian pilgrimage sites in the world. This time he will mainly focus on the pilgrimage to Medjugorje. Fr. Murphy will share stories and pictures. Your presence is a gift!! All men are invited to join us for this session and please bring a friend!

Call 617-696-3170 for more information.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time:

Psalms 85: 8-13: "Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. I will hear what God proclaims; the Lord-for he proclaims peace. The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps:

With the benefits from God, listening, and prayer, He can give you peace and he will prepare you and increase your desire to make your couple relationship greater. Check out a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience today. It will enrich your relationship and teach you tools to love one another. This will transform your marriage. You can find one by looking up WWME.org. Some of the dates to sign up are:

August 2-4, 2024 in Portland, CT
September 20-22 in Huntington, NY
October 18-20 in Sunapee, NH

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call at or <https://www.mema.org/>.



Sharing the Gospel

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus prepared his disciples for a mission trip, where they would help the people in area towns and teach them about God. Before they left, Jesus asked his disciples to travel light-they were to bring no food or clothes or money. They could not survive without God's help. Jesus also asked them to heal people. They could not heal without God's power, either. God provided everything they needed for their mission trip.

Prayer

Dear God, help me always to remember that it is your power that turns people's lives around. Amen.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of two disciples walking together toward a town.

Mission for the Week

Choose one friend you know who needs to hear about God's love. Ask your parents if you could offer a ride to that friend, and invite him or her to church with you.