

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 27, 2024

5:30PM Thomas Glynn Anniversary

Sunday, July 28, 2024

9:00AM Joe & Mary Monti, Joseph Monti, Jr. Memorial
Paul Monti, Rita Monti-Hammersted,
Jared Monti, SFC and Jack Riley

11:30AM Patrice McAndrew Kelly Memorial

Monday, July 29, 2024

7:00AM Irene Gallant and Henry Connor Memorial

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

7:00AM Lauren Coughlan 5th Anniv.

Thursday, August 1, 2024

7:00AM 2nd. Anniv

Friday, August 2, 2024

7:00AM

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.

If you are interested in the Online Giving option for either parish to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the collaborative office.



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, July 27, 2024

8:00AM Helen Doran Memorial

4:00PM Bill Fennell Memorial

Sunday, July 28, 2024

7:45AM Peggy Folan Memorial

10:15AM Thomas H. Byron 3rd Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

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

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.



Bread of Life Discourse

Starting today, and for the next four Sundays, the Gospel reading is taken from the Bread of Life Discourse which is found in the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel. As many of you are aware, the Sunday Mass readings are on a three year cycle, A, B and C. We are half-way through the cycle and the Church pauses the sequence to insert the Bread of Life Discourse. The discourse serves to lay out the underlying theology of the Eucharist, that is, what are we doing when we gather to celebrate the Mass and why do we do it.

The discourse begins with John's version of the feeding of the multitudes. John wrote the Gospel sometime between the years 90-100. He was of advanced age at this point, being the only original Apostle who was not martyred. At the time of the writing, John was living in the Greek city of Ephesus. Ephesus was a relatively large city with a population of around 55,000. It was a cultural center, home to schools, libraries, theaters, etc. When reading the discourse, or any part of his Gospel, it is important to keep in mind that John is writing for a Greek audience. Not only did they have a different language from Palestine, but a different way of thinking. For this reason, John does not make reference to King David, Jewish practices or even the genealogy of Jesus. His audience would not be familiar with Jewish references, unlike Matthew's Gospel which was written primarily for a Jewish audience.

Greek philosophy of the time, which highly influenced people's understanding of reality, held that there were two "worlds": the visible and the invisible. What is invisible was reality, the truth. What was visible was kind of only a shadow of reality therefore only had glimpses of truth. God, of course, was invisible in an visible world. For one to live in reality, a person had to be close to God.

With that understanding, John presents Jesus as the invisible-made-visible. This is what John means by the incarnation. Remember how his Gospel begins: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. So, in Jesus we "see" God. The miracles of Jesus, which John calls "signs", are windows into the invisible world. When you look at one of the miracles you are able to see how God is working.

The Bread of Life Discourse begins with the miracle of feeding thousands of people with just five barley loaves and a couple of fish. You and I, naturally, would be asking

"how can such a thing happen?" John's audience would not concern itself with such details. Instead, they would be asking "what does this mean?" The meaning of the miracle is explained by Jesus in the discourse.

Essentially, the discourse articulates Jesus' teaching that in order to have eternal life a person must eat Bread from Heaven. That's a concept that would appeal to John's audience. When Jesus states that He Himself is that Bread, they are not quick to accept.

There is a detail in today's Gospel that is worth noticing. John mentions that this miracle happens around the Passover. Those who were part of this miracle were likely on their way to Jerusalem for the feast. Hundreds of thousands would travel to Jerusalem for the feast on any given year. By mentioning the timing of the miracle, John implies that the people are on the move for salvation. In the same way that the feast of Passover recalls the escape of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and wandering for forty years in search of the Promised Land, the people following Jesus to the other side of the lake demonstrates that they are moving toward the source of salvation. This sentiment is replicated when the faithful process up to the altar to receive Holy Communion.

In the Church's calendar, this past Friday was the memorial of Saints Ann and Joachim, the grandparents of the Lord Jesus. They lived in Nazareth where Mary was raised in a very devout home. Their memorial is an occasion for us to remember our own grandparents. Some remember them well while others never knew them. Regardless, they are a big part of God's transmission of life. We honor all our grandparents at our Masses this weekend.

All parish volunteers, in whatever capacity, are required by the United States Conference of Bishops to complete a training a session of child protection and safe environment. We are fortunate that both Karen Lane and Deacon Joe MacDonald are certified to offer the training. We have scheduled two more training sessions: Wednesday, August 7, 12:30-3:30 and Thursday, September 9, 6:00-9:00. Please see Deacon Joe's Column about registration. No one can be employed by or volunteer in our parishes until this training is completed.

Wednesday is the memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola, one of my favorites. He was gifted in his ability to articulate concrete ways in which to grow closer to God and a deepening faith. I highly recommend his autobiography. It's not very long and beautifully tells his story of discovering how God was operating in His life. Worth the read!

Fr. Bob



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

We seem to live in the age of superheroes. Marvel Comics, DC Comics, and others have made their mark not just in comic books but on the big screen and the small screen, in live action and in animation. Everyone has their favorite. My grandson loved Batman for the longest time. In some ways we all long for a superhero to come along and change what we find wrong with the world, to right all the wrongs. Iron man is pretty cool, and Superman isn't bad either. But there have been real life superheroes.

There was a 4th century monk, Telemachus. He was from the east, most likely from what is now Turkey. Some say he was simply traveling through Rome, others that he was led there for a purpose he didn't understand. Whatever the reason, he saw a crowd entering the Coliseum and out of curiosity followed them in. He was appalled by what he witnessed. Moved by the senseless slaughter of the gladiatorial matches that flew in the face of God's love, he leaped into the arena, stood between the two warriors and cried out three times "In the name of Christ, stop!"

What happened next? The crowd was so enraged by this presumptuous little monk who dared to interrupt their blood-lust entertainment that they stoned him to death.

Some would say he was foolish, that he wasted his life, that he should have kept his mouth shut. If he had any brains at all he should have seen it coming,

But the story doesn't end there. The emperor, Honorius, was so moved by the courage and dedication of what Telemachus had done, that he ended the gladiatorial games forever.

The martyr of one un-assuming monk, moved by the Holy Spirit, gave his own life that others may live. One little monk stood in the face of evil and changed the Roman Empire. Saint Telemachus is my kind of hero.

The world could use people like Saint Telemachus today. People who would cry out in the wilderness,

"In the name of Christ, stop!"

"In the name of Christ, stop the killing."

"In the name of Christ, stop the hating."

"In the name of Christ, unchain his people."

"In the name of Christ, put the needs of others first."

Jesus was asked "What is the greatest commandment in the law?" The answer is not rocket science. "Love the Lord your God with your whole heart and with your whole mind, and with your whole strength. And then he linked another

commandment to the first, "love your neighbor as yourself."

Saint Telemachus loved God totally, and in the end loved his neighbor even more than himself. We should not do any less.

Let us pray,

Father,

Through the intercession of Saint Telemachus,

Help us to be poor in spirit that we might be made rich by the outpouring of your love.

Make us hunger and thirst for righteousness, to be merciful, and to have pure hearts.

Let us be called your children by bringing peace to a world that is desperate for the peace only you can give.

Like Saint Telemachus May we do this regardless of the cost. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. AMEN.

Protecting God's Children

The Archdiocese of Boston considers the safety and well-being of children and other vulnerable persons as one of its highest priorities. To accomplish this, many layers of safety have been established. For example, each year every member of the clergy, church staff and all volunteers must complete a CORI background check.

Another layer in this process is a program called "Protecting God's Children" It is a requirement that all staff and volunteers complete this three-hour program that helps us recognize warning signs of inappropriate behavior, grooming and abuse.

Any volunteer who works directly with children, for example Religious Ed teachers, must attend a "Protection God's Children" session before they begin teaching.

The Diocese provides many opportunities to attend a session. Saint Francis will hold two sessions in the coming months:

1. Wednesday August 7 from 12:30 – 3:30 PM
2. Thursday, September 9 from 6-9 PM

These sessions are open to the whole Diocese and fill up fast. So sign up early.

All participants must register online. There are no walk-ins.

To Register:

- You MUST register online. To do this go to:
- <https://www.virtusonline.org/>
- Click the link labeled "First Time Registrant."
- Click "Begin the registration process."

- From the organization drop down box choose – Boston MA (Archdiocese)
- Create a username and password. It is suggested to use your email for the username.
- If you do not have an email address you can obtain one free by going to mail.yahoo.com or any other free email service. This is how your VIRTUS coordinator will contact you. If you unable to obtain an email address use noaddress@virtus.com. This will alert your VIRTUS coordinator that you can't be reached by email.

If you can't gain access to the internet, contact Deacon Joe at the collaborative office for assistance.

- Select your organization drop box – choose Boston MA (Archdiocese)
- Answer “no” to the question “have you ever registered with Virtus before?”
- Create a user ID and Password
- Fill in your data (Name DOB etc.) Include your middle name or initial, it will make you easier to find if someone else has the same name.
- From the next drop box choose your parish
- ON the next page choose your role.
- Continue to follow the prompts.

When registration is complete, and you are signed in look at the second box and choose “register for training” look for Saint Francis and follow the prompts.

If our sessions are full, please find another time and location. Thanks for all you do and for getting this done.

Peace,

Deacon Joe



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Francis of Assisi
David Godfrey

St. Clare
Ralph S. Boynton, Jr.

Archdiocese of Boston
Fr. Thomas P. Donohoe

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.



July 28 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel, Jesus supersedes both the apostles' and the crowds' expectations: with little he feeds many...Jesus is the sign of God's lavish presence and love.

Your donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is indeed a sign of God's extravagant love to the lonely and the poor. **This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing food, and financial assistance with utility, rent and other bills. God Bless You!**

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.



St. Clare
Simon Joseph Seseske





“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?” Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. - Jn 6:9, 11

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of July 28, 2024

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18 (see 16)/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15
 Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Ps 32:18-19, 20, 21/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
 Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Mt 13:36-43
 Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/Mt 13:44-46
 Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Mt 13:47-53
 Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58
 Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 14:1-12
 Next 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



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.



*From the
Archdiocese
of Boston*

July 28 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We hear the familiar story of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Andrew did not know what he was doing when he brought the young boy to Jesus that day, but in doing so, he made the miracle possible. We never know what possibilities we are initiating when we bring someone to Jesus. The message in this gospel is obvious – Give to Jesus what you have, not matter how small or insignificant it may seem. If we humbly lay ourselves at his service, there is no saying what he will do with us and through us. Ask for the grace this week to be willing to give the “little” we have, remembering the boy in the gospel whose little became much in the hands of Christ.

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.



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!**



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

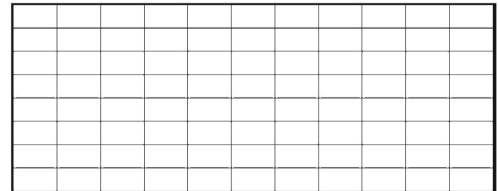
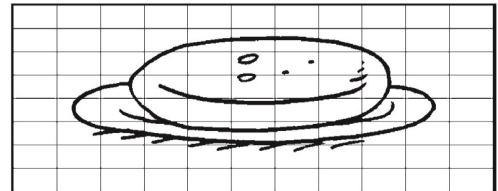
43rd Annual Lawn Party to benefit Seminarians

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

Try to draw the same bread by following the grid.



MISSION

The boy in today's Gospel shared his lunch. You can share food, too. Bring boxed and canned food to a food pantry in your neighborhood, and ask God to bless the people who eat it.



Sharing the Gospel

Jesus seemed to be surrounded by crowds a lot, didn't he? That's because no matter where he went, he helped people, he healed them, and he taught them about God. In today's Gospel reading, one crowd was following Jesus all day, and now they were getting hungry for dinner. Instead of sending them back home, Jesus showed everybody's God's amazing power. Jesus took a boy's lunch and made more than enough food for everybody to eat.

Prayer

Dear God, help me always to remember that you have the power to give us more than we need. Amen.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of two fish and five loaves of bread.

Mission for the Week

The boy in today's Gospel shared his lunch. You can share food, too. Bring boxed and canned food to a food pantry in your neighborhood, and ask God to bless the people who eat it.