

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 17, 2024

5:30PM	Anne O'Brien	4th Anniv.
	Hazel Hardigan	4th Anniv.
	Denis O'Brien	5th Anniv.

Sunday, August 18, 2024

9:00AM	Anna, Mario & James Berardinelli	Memorial
11:30AM	Andrew and Mary Mann	Memorial

Monday, August 19, 2024

7:00AM	Daniel Crimmins	2nd Anniv.
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Tuesday, August 20, 2024

7:00AM	Harriette Burke	Anniversary
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Wednesday, August 21, 2024

7:00AM	Parishioners of the Collaborative
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Thursday, August 22, 2024

7:00AM	
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Friday, August 23, 2024

7:00AM	
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Saturday, August 24, 2024

5:30PM	David & Marie Parr
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Sunday, August 25, 2024

9:00AM	Joseph Kracunas	2nd Anniv.
11:30AM	Frances Salvucci	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!

Collaborative Annual Report

The Collaborative Annual Report will be coming out in a few short weeks. In past years this report has been mailed to the homes of all registered parishioners. This year the report will only be available in the bulletin and/or on our website www.braintreecatholic.org. Please watch for this report.



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, August 17, 2024

8:00AM	R. Brian Johnson	Memorial
4:00PM	Gordon Thomas Smith	Memorial

Sunday, August 18, 2024

7:45AM	Parishioners of the Collaborative	
10:15AM	Carmela Barone	3rd Anniv.
6:00PM	Thomas McDonagh McDonagh Family	10th Anniv Memorial

Saturday, August 24, 2024

8:00AM	Rev. James Larnier	Memorial
4:00PM	George P. Reardon	1st Anniv.

Sunday, August 25, 2024

7:45AM		
10:15AM	Elizabeth Soares Teixeira	1st Anniv.
6:00PM		

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.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.





Bread of Life Discourse – Part IV

In writing the Bread of Life Discourse, St. John has Jesus using the motif of the Exodus to explain His mission. In short, Jesus' mission is to bring people to eternal life. A quick review of the Exodus story: the Hebrew people are enslaved in Egypt. God hears the cries of their anguish. God raises up Moses who goes to Pharaoh to negotiate their release. Pharaoh resists, through a series of nine plagues. On the tenth plague God sends an angel of death throughout the land of Egypt and strikes down every first-born human and animal. The Hebrew people, however, are instructed by God through Moses to sacrifice a lamb and smear its blood on the door frame of their homes and upon seeing the lamb's blood they would "pass over" that house and spare everyone inside. The Hebrews are not simply set free, but driven out of Egypt. Moses leads them through the parted Red Sea and into the desert where they make their way to the Promised Land. It takes them forty years to reach the Promised Land (though a short distance). During their migration, they are rebellious. God gives them Bread from Heaven (Manna) to sustain them in their journey.

When listening to the Bread of Life Discourse, it's important to keep in mind the notion of a journey to the Promised Land. Once again, John will call this Eternal Life. Matthew, Mark and Luke will call it the Kingdom of God (or Heaven). For John, our lives are a journey of sorts with eternal life as the destination. To sustain us on this journey, God provides, once again, Bread from Heaven. However, this Bread marks the New Covenant which will be sealed in the blood of the cross. This bread is not of earthly substance but rather is Christ Himself.

From this comes our theology that the Eucharist is the flesh and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How is this even possible? Given the limits of the human intellect we will never be able to understand fully this transformation in the same way in which we understand the working of the human body on a molecular level or the rotation of the earth around the sun. However, what we can understand is that things have substances. In the case of bread, for instance, you have ground wheat, yeast, water, etc. Things also have essences, that is the quality which makes a thing what it is, as distinct from something else. In the case of the Blessed Sacrament, the consecrated bread and wine, the substance remains, but by the working of the

Holy Spirit the essence is forever changed. It's the same principle applied in baptism. When a person is baptized his/her essence is changed to be a child of God.

The context for all this is, of course, the Bread of Life Discourse which provide the Sunday Gospel readings for the five weeks this summer. Keep in mind that the heavenly bread is provided for us for the journey, if you will, to eternal life, in a similar way as manna was provided to the Israelites for their journey to the Promised Land. This is what we pray for each time we say the Lord's Prayer "...give us this day our daily bread..."

For those, like myself, who are interested in the minutia of the structure of the Mass, the announcement of Archbishop Henning as the new Archbishop of Boston brings up a question for the celebration of Mass. Which bishop's name is included in the Eucharistic Prayer? You are aware that at every Mass we pray expressly for "Francis our Pope and Sean our Bishop" (or the respective bishop of that diocese). What happens when there is a change in leadership? Not surprisingly, each situation is different. In Boston's case, Cardinal Sean remains the Archbishop until the moment in which Archbishop Henning is installed on October 31, so Cardinal Sean is included in the Eucharistic Prayer. To be installed as the Archbishop, by the way, requires the formal reading of the papal bull from Pope Francis then the new archbishop sits in the cathedra (chair). I will write more about this as the date draws closer. *Fr. Bob*



St. Clare

Ellen Coyle
Irene Supple

St. Francis of Assisi

John P. DeGiso
Eileen T. Aben

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.



St. Clare

Michael Massimo Mullen
Anthony Thomas Pacheco
Callen William Rose
Zoey Eileen Zugale

AUGUST 18, 2024



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Our Protestant brethren do not believe as we do in regard to the Eucharist. Sadly, many Catholics don't understand the teachings of the Church regarding the Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood.

Some Protestant denominations may believe in the "Real Presence" but not in the way that has been handed down from beginning days of the Church. To some, Jesus might be present "in the bread" or "in the wine" but the elements remain the same.

Others believe that the "true presence" means that Christ is present in the community of believers and that the bread and wine are just symbols of that.

Some others just reject the whole thing. Apparently, they think that Christians had it all wrong for centuries until the Protestant Reformation came along and "finally" set things right.

Catholic apologist Joe Heschmeyer put it this way:

If a Baptist pastor got up on Sunday and declared that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ, you could expect that there would be angry letters denouncing him as a heretic, or at least seeking to correct him. That's because Baptists don't believe in the Real Presence.

The fact that we don't see this sort of outcry in the early Church is compelling evidence that the early Christians didn't believe what modern Baptists do about the Eucharist. Rather, they were united in belief about the Real Presence at a time when Christians weren't afraid to squabble with one another over relatively smaller matters.

Why is this important? Because it means that these Protestants are saying not just "I think Jesus' words at the Last Supper are meant to be merely symbolic," but "I think that the entire Church misunderstood one of the most basic aspects of Christianity for centuries." Call this the "everybody got the Gospel wrong" position.

At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "I will not leave you desolate" (John 14:18), a promise not to abandon the Church or to leave us as orphans. Specifically, Christ promised to preserve His Church by sending "the Spirit of Truth," the Holy Spirit, to "teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:17, 26). How is belief in this promise compatible with the idea that the whole Church lost the true meaning of the Last Supper, and that no Christians successfully followed His instructions to "do this in remembrance of Me" (1 Cor. 11:24)?

Belief that the Eucharist was indeed the Body and Blood of Christ is evidenced in the early days of the Church. St. Ignatius of Antioch for example, a disciple of the Apostle John, wrote to the Church in Smyrna, which was in modern day Turkey. He warned the people there about the heretical Gnostics. He wrote that they should "keep aloof," that is to stay away from them. Don't give them the time of day. Don't speak to them "either in private or in public." Why would he say such a thing? "Because they confess not the Eucharist to be the Body of the savior."

This was the well-rooted teaching in the early Church which was passed on to us today.

In the first sentence of today's Gospel Jesus states "the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." Many Protestants would argue that he was speaking in metaphorical language and that it wasn't to be taken literally. The text, however, contradicts this thought because the crowd and even some disciples were taken aback by this statement. "How can He give us His flesh to eat?" They obviously didn't take it as symbolic language, they thought he meant exactly what he said, or it wouldn't have upset them.

Jesus knew what they were grumbling about, but he wasn't a politician who says one thing and then changes position when the wind blows differently. He doubled down. Not only do you have to eat My flesh but "drink My blood."

People are now beginning to leave, even some of His disciples. If he were a good politician, he would have called them back and said that he "mis-spoke" or "just testing you" or "I didn't mean it like that." After all, if you're starting a political movement or inaugurating a new religion having people walk away is not the smartest move. But Jesus let them go.

Make no mistake Jesus said exactly what he meant, and the early Christians took Him at His word as we do today.

Interestingly, there two words for eat in Greek. One refers to ordinary eating. The other refers to something more graphic. It means to chew and to tear the flesh. Saint John uses the latter more animalistic word. One can surmise from this that the evangelist wanted to emphasize the fact that Jesus really means that the bread he refers to is actually his flesh and not just a symbol.

Saint Paul believed it: "I am speaking as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I am saying. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ?" (1 Cor 10:15-16)

Justin Martyr wrote:

"For not as common bread nor common drink do we receive

these; but since Jesus Christ our Savior was made incarnate by the word of God and had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so too, as we have been taught, the food which has been made into the Eucharist by the Eucharistic prayer set down by him, and by the change of which our blood and flesh is nurtured, is both the flesh and the blood of that incarnated Jesus" (*First Apology* 66 [A.D. 151]).

Saint Augustine tells us:

"I promised you [new Christians], who have now been baptized, a sermon in which I would explain the sacrament of the Lord's Table. . . That bread which you see on the altar, having been sanctified by the word of God, is the body of Christ. That chalice, or rather, what is in that chalice, having been sanctified by the word of God, is the blood of Christ" (*Sermons* 227 [A.D. 411]).

These are just a few quotes from the early Church Fathers demonstrating that they early Church certainly held the Catholic teaching regarding the real presence, the actual Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

The Lord isn't going to force us to believe anything. If some of you reading this today don't believe that the bread and wine of the Eucharist actually becomes the Body and Blood of the Lord no one can stop you. But if you want to get it right, at the very least pray that Holy Spirit will lead you toward the truth and be open to His grace.

Jesus looked at His disciples after everyone else had left and asked, "Do you also want to leave?"

Peter, the first pope, speaking for the rest said "to whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." (Jn 6:67-69)

May we all come to believe.



Religious Education Registration News!

Registration for grades K-10 is now open! All registration will be done online through the "**My Own Church**" website. This online tool will help us by having up-to-date records (like sacraments) and contact information, as well as a better way for me to contact individuals, small groups, or everyone by email. Once your family account is created, it is easy to make changes to update information or register for new RE years without completing all new forms! There is also the ability to pay for RE classes online, as well as set up online giving so you don't have to worry about writing checks or bringing envelopes to church!

To register, go to the Faith Formation page of the Collaborative website. It is found at **<https://braintreecatholic.org/faith-formation>**. There is a welcome letter and some links. The first 3 are short vimeo videos that will help you navigate the "My Own Church" website. Then, you can click on the My Own Church (MOC) button to create your family account (or update yours if there is one already) and register and pay for class! Please email me at **klane@sfab.org** if you need any assistance with registration.

The full calendar will be forthcoming, but here are a few dates to keep in mind:

- ✦ Sunday, September 8 will be "**The Blessing of the Backpacks**" after the 9:00AM Mass at St Francis, as well as the 10:15AM and 6:00PM Masses at St. Clare. Students and teachers are encouraged to bring your school bags!
- ✦ **Parent meetings** for Religious Education classes for grades K-6 will be on Thursday, September 12 at 7:00PM and Sunday, September 15 after the 10:15 Mass. Light refreshments will be served and childcare will be available during the meetings.
- ✦ Sunday, September 22 after the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare, we will kick off our RE year at the **Collaborative Picnic**. There will be fellowship, food, crafts, games, and lots of fun activities!

Peace to all,

Mrs. Karen Lane

CHURCH PICNIC

SAVE THE DATE—Braintree Catholic Collaborative presents its first COLLABORATIVE PICNIC on Sunday 9/22 11AM-3PM at Saint Clare.

Join us for an afternoon of fun, food, fellowship and faith honoring our patron Saints Clare & Francis of Assisi.

Tickets will be available for purchase soon.





August 11 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In this Gospel the love that Jesus reveals through the symbol of the cross is: self-giving, sacrificial, healing, forgiving, in solidarity with the weak, confident in the power of God.

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, August 17—18.

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.**



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.

Join us for a Special Evening as we Celebrate what God has done, and how Faithful He has been to this Life-giving Ministry over the past 40 Years!

Thursday Evening, September 12, 2024—5:00 pm. Mass

Celebration at St. Mary's Church, 115 Crescent St., Quincy MA

Followed by Cocktails (cash bar) & Dinner Celebration at 6:00 pm., Granite Links Grand Ballroom, 100 Quarry Hills Drive, Quincy MA



Purchase Dinner Tickets at
ticketstripe.com/Friends40thAnniversary
RSVP by August 22, 2024



Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink." - Jn 6:53-55

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of August 18, 2024

Sunday: Prv 9:1-6/Ps 34:2-3, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (9a)/Eph 5:15-20/Jn 6:51-58
Monday: Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
Next Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69



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

August 18 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repetition is a teaching tool that Jesus makes specific use of in the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel. Again, this week Jesus continues his teaching that, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him [her]." This is a teaching we need to be reminded of over and over. The way we remain in Jesus, is to respond to his invitation to come to the table and receive his body and blood at Mass in Holy Communion. Savor Jesus' words as you receive Communion today. Pray for grace to be strengthened in your belief that Christ is truly present in the Communion you receive. May he increase your desire to remain in him!

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.



Catholic Night is returning to Fenway Park! Please see the link below for information on obtaining tickets.

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Catholicnight2>



PRAY FOR
VOCATIONS



PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel reading:

bread
heaven
people

world
eat
drink

life
true
food

edrba	<u>b</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>d</u>
lfei	—	—	—	—	—
wldor	—	—	—	—	—
ppleeo	—	—	—	—	—
dnkri	—	—	—	—	—
fodo	—	—	—	—	—
hevena	—	—	—	—	—
tuer	—	—	—	—	—
eta	—	—	—	—	—



MISSION

Ask your parents if you can have a snack of grape juice and bread today. Talk about how the Israelites came to get manna every morning. How can you as a family make Jesus a part of your day, every day?



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

Would you like to live forever? Jesus would like you to. God sent Jesus so that one day we could live with him forever in heaven. Remember how the Israelites waited every morning for manna? Do you remember they got so hungry they cried? Well, Jesus wants us to wake up every morning, excited to meet him and talk to him. When we read God's word, and when we pray every day, he wants to come inside our hearts. He wants to be the one to fill every one of our needs.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to keep coming back for more of Jesus every single day. Amen.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself reading the Bible.

Mission for the Week

Ask your parents if you can have a snack of grape juice and bread today. Talk about how the Israelites came to get manna every morning. How can you as a family make Jesus a part of your day, every day?