

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 24, 2024

5:30PM David & Marie Parr Memorial

Sunday, August 25, 2024

9:00AM Joseph Kracunas 2nd Anniv.

11:30AM Frances Salvucci Memorial

Monday, August 26, 2024

7:00AM

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

7:00AM Mary L. Hamel 5th Anniv.

Thursday, August 29, 2024

7:00AM

Friday, August 30, 2024

7:00AM

Saturday, August 31, 2024

5:30PM Mary Mochen 3rd Anniv.

Sunday, September 1, 2024

9:00AM Genevieve McCarthy Memorial

11:30AM Daniel Crimmins 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 24, 2024

8:00AM Rev. James Lerner Memorial

4:00PM George P. Reardon 1st Anniv.

Sunday, August 25, 2024

7:45AM Fr. Cyril "Tom" Fitzgerald Anniversary

10:15AM Elizabeth Soares Teixeira 1st Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, August 31, 2024

8:00AM Special Intention

4:00PM Arduino DiCenso Memorial

Sunday, September 1, 2024

7:45AM Elizabeth and Mary Manning and James Walsh Memorial

10:15AM Gordon Thomas Smith 2nd Anniv.

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.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.





From the desk of Fr. Kevin Lever

A life of Faith, a life of Grace:

Lowering the Age of Confirmation to Grade 8.

When I was assigned Parochial Vicar for the Parishes in July 2023, one of the responsibilities Fr. Bob entrusted to me, due to my years of experience as a high school teacher and youth minister, was to coordinate our high school Confirmation program for the 9th and 10th graders. I spent a great deal of time last summer with some of our Catechists on creating a revised two-year program for our young people that I hoped would expose them to **EEE**: Encountering Jesus, Engaging in their faith and being prepared to Evangelize, that is, witness to the Gospel message to those around them.

In the middle of the Faith Formation year in January 2024, Cardinal Seán announced that, after years of study and discussion, and, upon the recommendation of a study committee, he had decided to lower the age of Confirmation from the current norm of 10th grade to 8th grade (around the age of 13-14). This decision was taken after an extensive consultation on *"How to strengthen the participation of young people and their families in the life of faith in Jesus Christ lived out in our parishes, schools, and communities."* In his letter to pastors issuing this decree, the Cardinal said parishes have 3 years to implement this change and that it is our firm belief that "we will strengthen our 8th graders to handle the demands and challenges of adolescence by making the grace of this great Sacrament [Confirmation] available to them." The Decree went into effect at 12:01 am on May 1, 2024, thus giving a deadline of May 1, 2027, to have lowered the age of Confirmation in their parishes to 8th grade. It is my hope to help you, the parishioners in the Braintree Catholic Collaborative, understand the "why" behind this decree as well as the "how" we will be transitioning to 8th grade confirmation here in Braintree. A more in-depth explanation of the theology of confirmation can be found on the parish website (Faith Formation page).

Sacraments are God's gifts to us. Confirmation is about what God does and how we respond to God. Confirmation seals us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and we receive anointing with the Chrism oil, showing that we have been entrusted with a new mission in our faith life. In the early Church, Chrism oil was used in two sacraments: Confirmation and Holy Orders; both are sacraments in which the person is anointed for ministry. In Holy Orders, a man is

anointed for the ministry of ordained priesthood. Confirmation is an anointing that *completes* baptismal graces and gives someone the supernatural grace necessary to live out the mission given to all believers. Therefore, Confirmation is an anointing for ministry, for work to build the kingdom of God. It is far from being a "graduation" from church.

It is now our hope, and mission, in the Archdiocese of Boston that we would work toward a better understanding of a theology of Confirmation that helps young people understand the importance of this sacrament and not to look at it as an end to religious education, but the beginning of an active faith life in service to God and His Holy Church. Here in the Collaborative this is our plan to comply with Cardinal Seán's Decree to lower Confirmation to 8th grade. This is our plan:

Our 10th grade students, having completed Year I in 9th grade, will do an accelerated Year II program in the fall to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in December 2024.

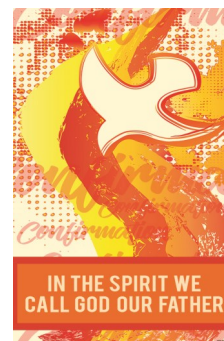
Our 9th grade students will begin Year I of our Confirmation program, however on a modified basis, and will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the end of May 2025, the end of 9th grade.

Our 8th grade students will begin a Year and a half program to receive Confirmation in the late Fall of 2025 (toward the middle of freshmen year of high school).

Our 7th grade students will be the first group to complete the two-year Confirmation Program, Year I in 7th grade and Year II in 8th grade and will be Confirmed in the Spring of 2026, at the end of 8th grade. In subsequent years grade 7 students will do Year I and grade 8 students will do Year II of our Parish Confirmation Program.

If you are interested in helping out as a catechist/small group leader for any grade, please contact Karen Lane (Klane@sfab.org) for grades K-6 and Fr. Kevin (KLeaver@sfab.org) for grades 7-10.

Please see the Religious Education column for information on registration for classes.





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

I thought, since we have been reading the Bread of Life discourses that past few weeks I might write something about the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Eucharistic Prayer is first of all a prayer to the Father. Christ's passion, death and resurrection was one act of worship of Christ to the Father and now, the priest acting in the person of Christ, with the baptized, offer this same sacrifice. It is not a new sacrifice.

It is in the Eucharistic Prayer that the elements of bread and wine literally become the Body and Blood of Christ, a fulfillment of his "Bread of Life" discourse in John's Gospel in which he declares "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you shall not have life within you" and His command to the Apostles as he handed them the Passover bread and wine and declared it to be His Body and Blood, and commanded "Do this in memory of me."

It might be helpful to understand that "memory" in that culture meant more than just recalling something from the past. It meant to make that moment present again. So, during the Eucharistic Prayer we are not making a new offering, we aren't just recalling what Jesus did, but we are mystically present at the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. As the song asks, "Were you there when the Crucified my Lord?" Yes, every time we come to Mass.

And so, as Christ offered himself as a sacrifice to the Father, we too, in the Eucharist Prayer offer ourselves; all that we are and will be with Christ to the Father. All too often during the Eucharistic prayer we let our minds wander and are unaware of the great mystery unfolding before us.

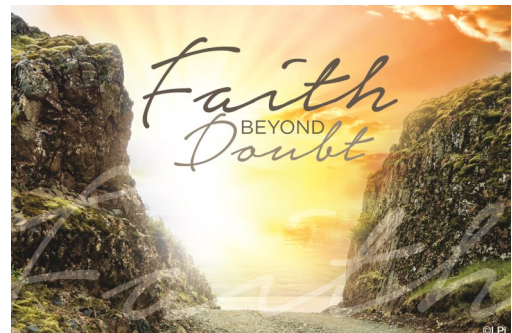
The following excerpt from the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (no. 79) outlines the various elements of the Eucharistic Prayer.

- a. The **thanksgiving** (expressed especially in the Preface), in which the Priest, in the name of the whole of the holy people, glorifies God the Father and gives thanks to him for the whole work of salvation or for some particular aspect of it, according to the varying day, festivity, or time of year.
- b. The **acclamation**, by which the whole congregation, joining with the heavenly powers, sings the *Sanctus* (*Holy, Holy, Holy*). This acclamation, which constitutes part of the Eucharistic Prayer itself, is pronounced by all the people with the Priest.
- c. The **epiclesis**, in which, by means of particular

invocations, the Church implores the power of the Holy Spirit that the gifts offered by human hands be consecrated, that is, become Christ's Body and Blood, and that the unblemished sacrificial Victim to be consumed in Communion may be for the salvation of those who will partake of it.

- d. The **Institution narrative and Consecration**, by which, by means of the words and actions of Christ, that Sacrifice is effected which Christ himself instituted during the Last Supper, when he offered his Body and Blood under the species of bread and wine, gave them to the Apostles to eat and drink, and leaving with the latter the command to perpetuate this same mystery.
- e. The **anamnesis**, by which the Church, fulfilling the command that she received from Christ the Lord through the Apostles, celebrates the memorial of Christ, recalling especially his blessed Passion, glorious Resurrection, and Ascension into heaven.
- f. The **oblation**, by which, in this very memorial, the Church, in particular that gathered here and now, offers the unblemished sacrificial Victim in the Holy Spirit to the Father. The Church's intention, indeed, is that the faithful not only offer this unblemished sacrificial Victim but also learn to offer their very selves, and so day by day to be brought, through the mediation of Christ, into unity with God and with each other, so that God may at last be all in all.
- g. The **intercessions**, by which expression is given to the fact that the Eucharist is celebrated in communion with the whole Church, of both heaven and of earth, and that the oblation is made for her and for all her members, living and dead, who are called to participate in the redemption and salvation purchased by the Body and Blood of Christ.
- h. The **concluding doxology**, by which the glorification of God is expressed, and which is affirmed and concluded by the people's acclamation "Amen."

Hopefully, this little article may help us all be more aware and more attentive to the power, beauty, the promise of the Eucharistic Prayer and the role it plays in our worship and spiritual life.





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.

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



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.

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.



St. Clare
Conall Mark Mannion

St. Francis of Assisi
Theodore Gibbs
Cameron Tucker Hale
Brady James Quinn
James Bennett Tolman



Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, 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

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of August 25, 2024

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

Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 25:14-30

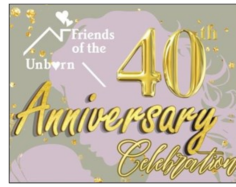
Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



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!**

Upcoming EVENTS



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



A LITURGY OF CELEBRATION will be held on Saturday, September 7, at 4 p.m. at the St. Gregory Parish in Dorchester, Massachusetts, to commemorate the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur's 175 years of an Enduring Legacy of Goodness in New England.

On October 16, 2024, at the Marriott in Burlington, Massachusetts, we will commemorate 175 years of courage, dedication and service to the community. Since the arrival of the three Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Boston in November 1849, their journey has been a profound commitment to making God's goodness known through education and advocacy, especially for women and children. We hope you will join us! Learn more at www.snddeneastwest.org/175NE.

For more information, please call Linda Micciche at 617-387-2500 or email LMicciche@ewsndden.org





From the Archdiocese of Boston

August 25 ~ Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel points out that even some who had personally accompanied Jesus found his teaching too hard, and returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Even today, we see people give up or step away from the demands of being a follower of Christ stating that their faith no longer feels relevant or is too demanding. We too may be tempted to question the teaching of Jesus or feel it takes too much effort and want to walk away. Jesus puts the question to us today that he posed to the disciples, "Do you also want to leave?" Hopefully our response will be like that of Peter, and we will say, "Lord, to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Take time this week with Jesus' question and ask for the grace of perseverance in following 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>

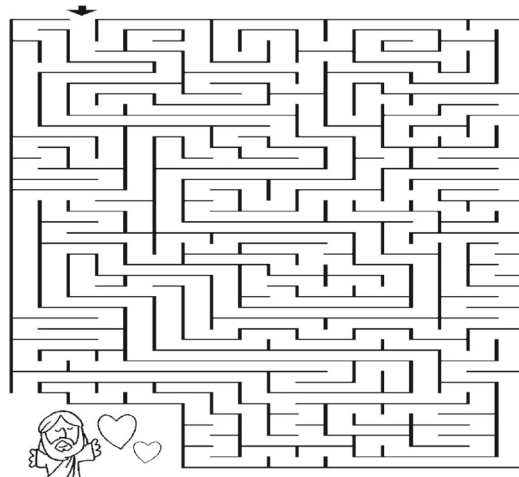


PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



PUZZLE

Find your way through the maze to Jesus.



MISSION

Have you ever learned something about God that was hard to understand? Talk about it with your family, and together pray for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn what God wants you to.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

After Jesus compared himself to manna, and said that he was sent from heaven, many of his followers turned away from him. They just could not accept what Jesus was saying. It was too hard for them to understand. We have something they did not have. We have the Holy Spirit to help us. Sometimes what we learn might be hard for us to understand, too, but we never need to walk away. We can have faith in Jesus. We can ask him to help us.

Prayer

Dear God, give me the faith to trust Jesus always. Amen.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself next to Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Have you ever learned something about God that was hard to understand? Talk about it with your family, and together pray for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn what God wants you to.