

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 31, 2024

5:30PM Mary Mochen 3rd Anniv.

Sunday, September 1, 2024

9:00AM Genevieve McCarthy Memorial

11:30AM Daniel Crimmins Memorial

Monday, September 2, 2024

7:00AM Nancy Nicosia Memorial

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

7:00AM

Thursday, September 5, 2024

7:00AM Giles Parker Memorial

Friday, September 6, 2024

7:00AM Deacon Henry Welch 5th Anniv.

Saturday, September 7, 2024

5:30PM Gennaro & Elizabeth DiLillo and
George & Louise O'Rourke Memorial

Sunday, September 8, 2024

9:00AM Felice Zampine Anniversary

11:30AM Louis & Catherine Luccio and
Louis Luccio, Jr. 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!



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Francis of Assisi

Daniel Grant

Michael Graziano

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.

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.
- **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 Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church Hall.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.

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.



*From the desk of
Fr. Kevin Lever*

Although we return today to the Gospel of Mark after a 5 week break to meditate on the Bread of Life Discourse in John 6, the powerful words of the second reading are worth our attention. St. James writes in today's Second Reading that *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world."*

On the surface, we might be tempted to think that St. James is contradicting what Jesus says in the Gospel when He condemns the Pharisees' emphasis on the outward appearances of religion. Jesus asserts clearly and forcefully that what matters more is the interior, the heart of a person. St. James seems to be doing just the opposite, placing emphasis on our exterior actions while seemingly neglecting interior attitudes. St. James must be wrong then, right? No. In fact, **both** Jesus **and** St. James are right! This is what we as Catholics refer to as a "both and". Examples are that the Blessed Virgin Mary is **both** virgin **and** mother; that Jesus is **both** fully God **and** fully man.

So, since **both** St. James **and** Jesus are correct, then what might be thought of as a contradiction is really only an *apparent* contradiction. (NB: This is one reason why it's so dangerous to try and interpret individual verses or sections of the Bible on our own.)

Both St. James and Our Lord are emphasizing the same truth, but they are doing it from *different angles*. (Think about when we're watching a sporting event at home, and we see a replay from different angles of the camera.) Today the truth that both St. James and Jesus' emphasis is that following Jesus means obeying His teaching with our whole person: heart, mind, and body, not just going through the motions, not just putting on appearances. Both sinfulness and holiness have their roots in our hearts, their branches in our attitudes, and their fruits in our freely chosen actions.

This is exactly what St James is getting at when he writes: "Be *doers* of the word, not hearers only." When we make an honest effort to follow Christ wholeheartedly, not just pretending, then we become powerful witnesses and instruments of God's saving grace, and others take notice. In the early years of the Church, when it was illegal to be a Christian, it was this kind of authentic witness that opened people's hearts to the Gospel. When soldiers, senators, and slaves saw the courage and tranquility of the Christians in

the face of violent persecution and even torture, they became convinced that Christianity had something going for it.

The same has happened throughout the whole history of the Church. Thursday of this week the Church will celebrate the feast day of St. Teresa of Calcutta, whom many of us know simply as "Mother Teresa." She is an example to us today of someone who lived her faith from the inside out. She did not put on a show to make people believe she was doing good, she was **both** a *doer* of the Words of Scripture **and** a *contemplator* of It. Mother is for us today the embodiment of the words of our Responsorial Psalm: **"The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord."** **St. Teresa of Calcutta, Pray for us!**



Mother Teresa's Tomb, Motherhouse, Kolkata, India



*Nirmal Hriday (Home of the Pure Heart) Kalighat
Kolkata, India
Mother's First Home for the Dying and Destitute*

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

In today's Gospel, Jesus is bumping up against the authorities again. As usual it's the Pharisees. But these Pharisees must have been real big shots because they came from Jerusalem. Whenever they come across Jesus, they always have to find something to complain about as they smugly stick their noses way up into the air.

This time they took a shot at the disciples who were eating without observing the ritual washing of hands and asked Jesus "What's up with that?" Notice that although it was the disciples who had done wrong in their sight the Pharisees went to Jesus with the complaint. We, as disciples of Jesus, have to realize that everything we do or say, whether for good or ill, reflects on Jesus. If we say we are following Christ and then act in ways that would discredit Him, people will put our poor behavior on Him. It becomes just another reason for them to reject God and to reject His Son.

Jesus returned the serve and put the ball back in their court. Just as He had used scripture to battle with Satan in the desert so too He uses the same technique against the Pharisees quoting Isaiah:

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
In vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines human precepts.' (Isaiah 29:13)

Jesus pulled no punches. He exposed them for what they were hypocrites. Interestingly the word comes from the Greek *hypokrites* which means to act, to make believe, and to pretend.

Then Jesus turned to the crowd and spoke to them with the truth. Nothing that comes from outside can defile a person, only the things that come out. He reminded them that it is that which comes from the heart (in the first century the heart is the core of the person where every decision comes from). Let's think about that the next time someone cuts us off in traffic – what comes out of us? Remember everything we do or say reflects on Christ either in a good way or a bad way. Let's think about that the next time we use racially targeted language or are lustful or express anger in an inappropriate way. All of it reflects back onto Christ.

If we want our actions to reflect positively on Christ we must always act in love, because God is love. Saint Paul defines love this way:

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not

pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **Love never fails.**

A message from Fr. Valan's Parents

Dear St. Francis of Assisi/St. Clare Parishioners

We are so happy to meet you in person. Valan always talk about you. Thank you for your love and support!

Our prayers and wishes are with you.

Newton & Catherine



Prayer for Students

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of learning!

I want to grow closer to you
in everything I do at school.

In math and science, help me to see
your beautiful plan in the world.

Help me to discover new stories
and values as I read and write.

In arts and music, help me to be creative.

In sports, help me to treat my teammates
and my opponents fairly.

Help me to learn new skills
in technology.

Jesus, you are the perfect teacher.

Help me to listen with open ears,
an open heart, and an open mind
to all my teachers at school.

Help me to treat my classmates
with care, kindness, and respect.

Thank you, Jesus, for school!

Amen.





Back to School Blessing!



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

It's time for a new school year...
which means it's time to send the students and
teachers off with a very special blessing!

**Bring your backpacks and book bags to Mass to
be blessed!**

When: Sunday, September 8

Where: St. Francis Church, during the 9:00 Mass
St. Clare Church, during the 10:15 and 6:00 Masses

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 are available for purchase after all Masses THIS weekend.



September 1 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time:

The gospel today hits home closer than we may think. What traditions do we blindly cling to? Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Mass on Sunday? Do we keep the letter of the law and miss entirely the spirit of the law. Interior righteousness means a heart turned to God. Purity of heart is expressed in righteous living: self - giving for the sake of others.

As you give your gift to the poor through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in your heart you also will find the good news of God's love.

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.**



He summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.” - Mk 7:14-15

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of September 1, 2024

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

Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100,
101, 102/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11,
12-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21/
Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
Lk 5:1-11

Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28,
39-40/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21/
Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1B)/
Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37



The Collaborative Office will be closed on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

Have a safe and happy long weekend!



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



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

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

A Prayer for Labor Day

O God, creator of the world, of sun and moon and stars, you chose to fashion us as your own, your handiwork of love. Indeed, we are your hands' own work, and yet into our hands you give the care of every living thing.

In more ways than we can count, our work builds up—or tears apart—what came as gift from you.

Keep us faithful in preserving all you've given lest we harm the smallest part of all you've made.

Give us good and honest work to do and rest at each day's end. Let a just and fair day's wage be paid for a good day's work well done.

Give us work that nurtures and sustains the ones who serve and those they serve. Let those who labor work in peace, in freedom, without fear. Give those in need a job to do, and to the tired, well-earned rest.

Let all our toil and labor, Lord, give glory to your name.
Amen.

From The Word Among Us



From the
Archdiocese
of Boston

September 1 ~ Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel, Jesus points to the fact that performing religious acts and practices doesn't necessarily mean we are doing them for the right reason/motive and encourages his followers to an honest self-examination. We might consider asking ourselves - do our words and actions align with those of Jesus? Do we really listen to and accept God's word? The malice/evil Jesus describes in the gospel come from a heart that is not aligned with Christ and certainly isn't who we want to be. Saint James words in the second reading give us another way of approaching the invitation to self-reflection - "Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves." A daily examination of conscience is one religious practice that we can count on to lead us to right relationship with God and others.

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.

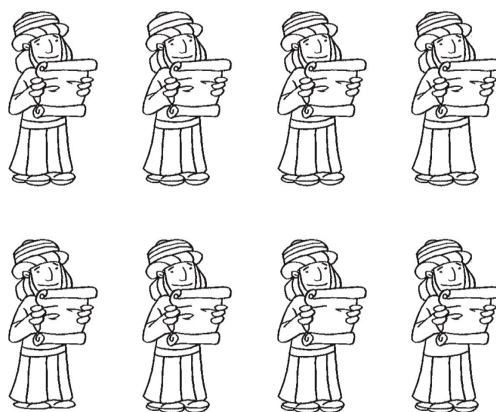


PRAY FOR
VOCATIONS



PUZZLE

Find the matching pair.



ANSWER: three and six

MISSION

The next time you wash your hands, thank God that he made rules to keep us all safe, healthy and happy.



Sharing the Gospel

Wash your hands before you eat! Did you know that rule came from God, so that we would stay healthy? In today's Gospel, the Pharisees liked to wash their hands and follow God's rules, only because they liked to show off. Don't be like those Pharisees. When you follow God's rules, do the right thing out of love for God.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to keep my heart clean, full of love for you and other people.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself cleaning up the dishes after a meal.

Mission for the Week

The next time you wash your hands, thank God that he made rules to keep us all safe, healthy and happy.