

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
Mr. Cecil O'Brien—Facilities
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, September 14, 2024

5:30PM Mary Sawyer Anniversary

Sunday, September 15, 2024

9:00AM Joseph P. Mont Memorial

11:30AM Mary Dentino Memorial

Monday, September 16, 2024

7:00AM Josephine & Louis Anzaldi Memorial

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

7:00AM John & Joseph Odenweller Memorial

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

7:00AM Robert & Edward Corbo Memorial

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7:00AM

Friday, September 20, 2024

7:00AM Dick Hamel Memorial

Saturday, September 21, 2024

5:30PM Paul Agnew, Sr. 1st Anniv.

Sunday, September 22, 2024

9:00AM Edward Marks Memorial

11:30AM William O'Sullivan 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!



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*St. Clare
Chloe Abigail Wasil*

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, September 14, 2024

8:00AM Stephen Browne Memorial

4:00PM Timothy Croke Memorial

Sunday, September 15, 2024

7:45AM Joan Palmer 10th Anniv.

10:15AM William Blake 7th Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, September 21, 2024

8:00AM Daniel Gillis 50th Anniv.

4:00PM Charles & Dorothy Edgerly and William & Barbara Lane Memorial

Sunday, September 22, 2024

7:45AM

10:15AM John F. Sullivan Memorial

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



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I am happy to share with you the new logo for the Braintree Catholic Collaborative. It was designed by Ben MacDonald, Deacon Joe's son. As you can see, it has the outline of the two Church buildings, Saint Francis and Saint Clare, blended together. Above them is the outline of the San Damiano Cross. This crucifix is distinctive and is associated with Assisi. Saint Francis was praying before this particular cross in the convent of San Damiano when he heard the voice of Jesus call out to him to rebuild His Church. Years later, Saint Clare had founded a community of cloistered nuns who lived at that very convent. Given the importance of that particular crucifix in the life of Francis, she and the sisters carried the cross with them when they moved to Assisi. Given that this crucifix is particular to both Francis and Clare, it seems most appropriate to include it in our collaborative logo. The whole image is set against the backdrop of a rising sun which is an image of the Risen Lord. In all that we do in the two parishes we are moving toward Christ.

Continuing on with happy announcements: we have a **tenant for Saint Clare Rectory!** **Archbishop Richard Henning**, the newly appointed archbishop of Boston, will be moving into St. Clare's once he is formally installed on October 31. For the better part of a year the Archdiocese has been looking for a suitable place for the new archbishop to live, whenever that time would come. Bp. O'Connell, the vicar general, asked me if the parish would be open to providing a place to live for whoever would be named as archbishop. I asked the provisional council (which we had before formal pastoral council) as well as members of the finance council of both parishes what they thought. There was consensus that this would be a good thing for the parish. I didn't hear anything further until a few days after the announcement of the new archbishop. Archbishop Henning himself called me to ask if we would be willing to host him. Having received the support of the provisional council and finance council I told him that we would be honored to welcome him to the parish and provide a place

for him to call home.

The house itself has not had a regular occupant since Fr. Shugrue left. As many of you know, Fr. Clifford would often stay at St. Clare rectory so that there would be some presence there. As you would well imagine, the house needs a lot of work. The heating and electrical systems are antiquated. The carpeting was quite worn and musty. Same with curtains. The archdiocese has arranged and is paying for a makeover of the house. Rooms will be painted, floors sanded, bathrooms updated and a small chapel installed. The archdiocese will lease the house from St. Clare parish. The details of such a lease are still being worked out as we need to figure out what exactly is included in the lease. Not as simple as I thought. Given the very public persona of the Archbishop of Boston it is understandable that security is of the utmost importance. I am not sure yet what security will look like just yet.

Archbishop Henning said that this is not to be considered the Archbishop's residence or house. The archdiocese is not taking over the property but simply leasing it from the parish. He sees himself as living at St. Clare rectory. It may sound like semantics but it is an important distinction. The rectory belongs to the parish which he is using as opposed the archdiocese buying it from the parish. Fr Paul Wargovich, his secretary, will be living there as well. I expect that they will move in sometime around the time of the installation.

In case you are wondering, Cardinal Sean O'Malley lives in the cathedral rectory and has done so since he sold the Archbishop's residence on Commonwealth Ave in Brighton in his early years. He is going to continue living and working from there in his retirement. (It is customary for a retired bishop to retire in his diocese). The cathedral simply couldn't house the Cardinal, his secretary, the new archbishop and his secretary as well as the priests who care for the cathedral parish.

Properties around the archdiocese were considered as possibilities as a home for the new archbishop. St. Clare's was available and is close to the Pastoral Center on Brooks Drive in Braintree where the Archbishop's office and his staff are located.

It will be a pleasure to have Archbishop Henning living in our collaborative!

On Tuesday night this week the collaborative will host a presentation on the **Catholic Faith and Presidential Elections**. Attorney **Fran O'Connor**, general counsel for the archdiocese, will speak on this timely topic and provide some context as to why the Catholic Church does not endorse a candidate or political party. I have heard him speak on this subject several times and am delighted that he will share his insights with the collaborative. It will be held at

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

St. Francis Hall, Tuesday, 7:00-8:30.

Given the transition of a new archbishop, I thought it might be helpful to have a **presentation on how the Church is structured**, looking at questions like: did Jesus found the Church?; what is the difference between a bishop and archbishop?; how are cardinal's chosen?. This will be held at St. Francis Church hall on Monday, September 30, 7:00-8:30pm.

The **Safety and Security committee** met last week which it will do on a monthly basis for a while. They are in the process of doing a thorough safety/security assessment of both properties, one during the day and another at night. The assessments will be discussed at the next meeting in October and used in putting together a comprehensive security plan for both parishes.

I hope you are able to come to the **Collaborative Picnic** next Sunday after the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare's. Ticket's are available at the back of the Churches after all Masses this weekend or call the parish office. *Fr. Bob*

This week's special collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you.

CHURCH PICNIC

**Braintree Catholic Collaborative presents its first
COLLABORATIVE PICNIC
Sunday, SEPTEMBER 22nd
11AM-3PM at
Saint Clare Church, 1244 Liberty Street.**

Join us for an afternoon of fun (relay games), food (Grilled BBQ by Fasanos catering), fellowship and faith honoring our patron Saints Clare & Francis of Assisi.

Tickets will be available for purchase after all masses this weekend. \$15 per person and kids under 5 FREE.

NOTE - this is a gathering for people only (Please keep your pets home. We look forward to welcoming them at our upcoming Blessing of the Animals event in October). Any questions ask a Parish Picnic Planning Member or call Lisa at 781-983-3628. We will also be having some fun raffle prizes!

We are VERY grateful to our sponsors helping to make this happen. . .

Quirk Motors, Frank Marinelli Esq., The Leaver Family, Cartwright Venuti Funeral Home, Blue Hill Cemetery, SouthSide, Rockland Trust, Braintree Rug, Toyota of Braintree and a few generous ANONYMOUS donors too!



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Someone once asked me a question. "Why did we take away the prayers that we always said and give them to the singer instead?" I was a little baffled and asked, "Which prayer?" He was referring to the Gloria.

Well, the fact is that we never took that prayer away from anyone. It is still everyone's prayer. But what we did do was to put it in the form in which it was meant to be prayed – in song. The cantor or leader of song as we sometimes call them, are there to assist us in that song, not replace us.

The Gloria is the song sung by the angels to the shepherds tending their sheep on that first Christmas morning. It is the prayer sung by the angels perpetually before God's throne. By singing the Gloria at mass we are joining our voices with those in Heaven. It is pleasing to God, and it is good for us.

I know some of you may think you don't have a good enough voice to sing out loud. I can assure you that even if you have a "humble" voice, if you use it to praise the Almighty it is the most beautiful voice in the room to God. For some reason many of us are afraid to sing. We don't want our voice to stand out. But if everyone is singing, if we are all doing the work of liturgy then no one is going to stand out. Some time ago I wrote a column about Liturgy. I think it might be a helpful reminder to re-post it today. It follows...

Are the Fenway faithful better at doing liturgy than we are?

"Wait!" you say, "There's no liturgy at a baseball game."

It looks like liturgy to me. Let's look at the definition of liturgy. It comes from two Greek words that literally mean a public work. What is the work of baseball? To entertain the public, to distract us for just a little while from our humdrum lives, to live vicariously through the athletes and share in their victory.

Baseball (and other sports) have their "clergy" too. The athletes are the priests and umpires the bishops. There are servers, like the batboys or batgirls, coaches of various kinds. And finally, there is a congregation, 37,000 strong. Even this "congregation" partakes in the work. There's a reason why there is a home field advantage.

There is chanting at our baseball liturgy. "Let's go, Red Sox. Let's go, Red Sox." "We want a hit. We want a hit." And nary a voice is silent.

Baseball is full of rituals. There are preparatory rites. The players go on to the field and stretch, take swings with the bat, and play catch in preparation for the main event. There is a ceremonial first pitch and a kind of procession as the

players run onto the field. There is an opening hymn that everyone sings with gusto. (The Star Spangled Banner) and finally the home plate umpire calls out "Play ball!"

There's also liturgical posturing at the game and everyone knows when to do each one. For example, everyone knows to stand for the National Anthem. Everyone knows to take their hats off and place their hands over their hearts as it's sung. There is standing at the crack of the bat and sitting between hits. In the seventh inning everyone stretches. More hymns are sung: "Take me out to the ball game" "God Bless America" and everyone's favorite "Sweet Caroline."

I must admit, it is electrifying to take in a game at Fenway Park. But we can leave there disappointed when they lose. Sometimes it's devastating because it's not just a loss for the athletes – we take it personally – it's a loss for us. Sometimes the home team is defeated.

When we enter the Church to attend the Sacred Liturgies what do we mean? In this context the Church defines Liturgy this way: "The people of God participating in the work of God."

Unlike what happens at Fenway or Yankee Stadium we need to know that our team (the Church), led by Jesus Christ, NEVER loses. We may take a few hits, we may stumble and fall and strike out, but the victory is still assured.

We should be more excited, more hopeful, more joy filled, more expectant of miracles, more thankful when we enter the church than when we walk up the ramp at Fenway and see that beautiful green field.

What happens at Mass? God himself speaks to us in Scripture, we miraculously participate in the Last Supper when Jesus gave us the gift of His Body and Blood. We stand with Mary at the crucifixion where her son Jesus took our place on the cross and suffered and died for our sins so that we could live free of the sin that condemned us. It is the place where we mystically join in the liturgy of heaven with the angels and the saints.

This is what happens at Mass. Sure the priest may not always give a great homily (well ours do) and the organist may not always play the right note or the right song. The cantor may not always sing in tune. But it's God's work that is being done. God will accomplish it regardless of our flaws.

I have a unique vantage point in the choir loft. I see everything. I notice a lot. As a deacon and a liturgical musician, I have a particular perspective. Liturgy is something I love. It breaks my heart when I notice that some people don't know how to bless themselves or genuflect. There are those among us that don't know the proper way to receive Communion. I've noticed people texting during the readings. We frequently say our common prayers like the Gloria, the Creed and the Lord's prayer robotically as if we

don't know what's coming out of our mouths. Blah, blah blah.

Please do not get me wrong I am not condemning anyone. If you're at Mass, you are responding to God's love and doing His will, and I applaud you. As Peter once said, "It is good for us to be here." But if we don't know how to genuflect or make the sign of the cross or know when to bow or strike our breast. It's not our fault. If we sit there at mass wondering "what for" it's the Church's failure to instruct the faithful properly. Let's see if together we can better instruct each other not just in what we believe but in how we express that belief in Liturgy.

I hope I live to see the day when we sing our Liturgical prayers of praise with all the gusto of Sweet Caroline. Christ won a real victory for us and we, by grace, share in that victory, not just for a fleeting moment but for eternity. Shouldn't we, God's faithful people, do liturgy even better and more joyfully than the Fenway Faithful.



CHOIR:

The Collaborative Choir will begin practicing Thursday, September 19 from 6:30-8:00PM. We will meet in the choir

loft at Saint Clare [**change of location**].

As always we welcome new members to the choir. We especially need a few new men. Don't be shy and remember singing is praying twice!

I am looking forward to seeing the tried and true choir members from last year as well as new faces from both parishes in the collaborative.

See you on the 19th.

Our weekly Bible Study will resume on September 21 at 9:00 in St. Francis Church Hall. The first week we will have a summary discussion on the book we read last spring "What Happens at Mass"

The following week we will begin our study of the Gospel of Luke and then the Acts of the Apostles.

Please bring a bible and a pen or pencil.



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Clare

John L. Sullivan

St. Francis of Assisi

Lucy Hession

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.



So sorry for the technical difficulties with RE online registration!! If you are not already registered members of the parish, the My Own Church set-up cannot be completed at this time. If you could please email me at klane@sfab.org and give: child's name, grade, parent's name, phone number and email address, then please let me know what day you'd like for class (Tuesday, Thursday, or Sunday). When the system is fixed, I will assist with online registration before and after classes. Many thanks for your patience!



We hope to see you all at the Collaborative Picnic!

(9/22 after the 10:15 Mass)

This is a collaborative wide event, (not a Religious Education event) so if you are planning to attend, please purchase tickets (\$15 per person, kids under 5 are free) There will be great food, crafts, activities, games and prizes!!! If any high school kids would like to help out with the games and activities, please email klane@sfab.org. Many thanks, and looking forward to a GREAT event!



Mark your calendars! RE Classes start soon!

The first classes of RE will be as follows:

Tuesdays K-6 (4:00) and grade 7-8 (5:00) - September 24

Thursdays K-6 (4:00) and grade 7-8 (5:00) -

September 26

Sundays K-6 (11:15) and grade 10 (4:30) - September 29

Sundays grade 9 (4:30) - October 13



At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but

as human beings do." He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Mk 8:33-34

Readings *Week* ©LPI

Readings for the week of September 15, 2024

Sunday: Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9)/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/ Mt 9:9-13

Next Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/ Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37



Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul...we want to help!

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. We are grateful for anything you wish to donate. 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 De-Paul with BCC on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot. Thank you.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

September 15 ~ Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel passage is one we know very well because of the question Jesus asks his disciples "Who do you say that I am?" It is a question we have no doubt answered several times. While Peter answers enthusiastically, "You are the Christ" his enthusiasm wanes when he learns that suffering, and death are part of being a disciple. Those words of Jesus are less appealing than his image as a triumphant Messiah. The temptation to take an easy path in following Jesus moved Peter try to convince Jesus not to talk about the cost of discipleship. As you consider Jesus' question today, *who you say he is* - recall these words from this same Gospel, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats (9/28, 11/16) - *Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion?* The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat (9 am – 5 pm). Fall dates are Saturday, September 28 and Saturday, November 16. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

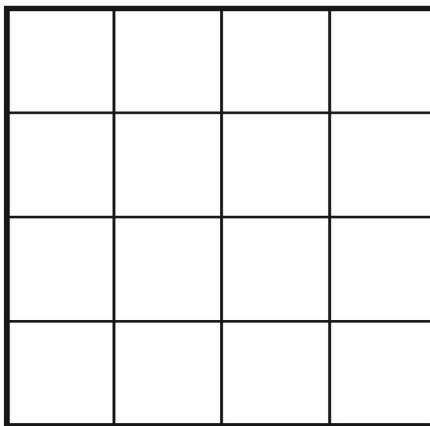
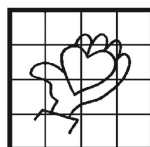
Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass - All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries or another special milestone are invited to a celebratory Mass on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. Couples will renew their marriage commitment and receive a 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.



PUZZLE

Enlarge the picture square by square.



MISSION

With your family, talk about what you would enjoy if you were a king or queen. Tell how Jesus was different from other kings.



Sharing the Gospel

Jesus was the king, the Messiah that God's people had been waiting for. In today's Gospel reading, the disciples were confused. If Jesus was the king, why was he saying he would die soon? Jesus' friends did not understand yet that by dying on the cross, Jesus would save them from their sins.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for coming to save me from my sins.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus carrying his cross.

Mission for the Week

With your family, talk about what you would enjoy if you were a king or queen. Tell how Jesus was different from other kings.