

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 7, 2024

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

Sunday, September 8, 2024

9:00AM Felice Zampine Anniversary
11:30AM Louis & Catherine Luccio and Memorial
Louis Luccio, Jr.

Monday, September 9, 2024

7:00AM Kathleen Crimmins Healing

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

7:00AM Victims of 9/11 Memorial

Thursday, September 12, 2024

7:00AM Antonio & Eleanor Corbo Memorial

Friday, September 13, 2024

7:00AM Vera Sullivan Casey and Memorial
Bill Sullivan

Saturday, September 14, 2024

5:30PM Mary Sawyer Anniversary

Sunday, September 15, 2024

9:00AM Joseph P. Mont Memorial
11:30AM Mary Dentino 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, September 7, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Paddy & Bridie Egan Memorial

Sunday, September 8, 2024

7:45AM Francis X. Ivens Memorial

10:15AM Regina Brazil Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

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

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.





Today, **September 8**, is the **birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Well, better stated, it's the day on which we commemorate her birth. Of course, we don't know the actual date on which Mary was born. Jewish people of that era did not celebrate birthdays as it was considered a pagan practice. It wasn't until the fifth century when the Church acknowledged Mary as the Mother of God (as well as the Mother of Jesus) that there was a growing devotion to honor her. Christians became more fascinated with Mary and wanted to know as much about her as possible. The Gospels did not provide much information about her. There were other ancient writings, however, that did mention Mary. Perhaps the most important was a document called *The Gospel of James*. It was a second century document credited to St. James the Apostle. Despite its title, it is actually not a Gospel, as we think of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In this document the author writes about the life of Mary before she conceives the Lord. We learn of her parents' names Ann and Joachim. The Gospel of James tells a story of Mary's childhood which cannot be historically validated nor is it considered to have been written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, it is an important document in the history of Christianity giving some insight to the life of Mary before Christ.

Interesting to note is the fact that in the Catholic Church we don't typically celebrate the birth of saints but rather their death. Even for those who were not martyred for the faith the day of the death is considered the time in which they entered into the heavenly realm and enjoy the vision of God. Only two saints have their birthdays commemorated in the Church: the Blessed Mother and St. John the Baptist. The reason is that both have a miraculous conception. Mary was conceived without the effects of original sin (the Immaculate Conception which is celebrated on December 8, nine months before today). John the Baptist was born to a mother (Elizabeth) who was known to be beyond her child-bearing years.

The readings and prayers for the Mass today are for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time and not for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is not an oversight but rather follows the Church's hierarchy of feasts. The Conception of Mary is a major solemnity in the Church but her birth is considered a memorial. There are all kinds of reasons for this decision, which could be the topic for another bulletin column. For now it's enough to mention that a Sunday in

Ordinary Time takes precedence over a memorial.

I am very happy to tell you that Cardinal Sean has appointed **Deacon Patrick Bruen** to St. Francis and St. Clare Parishes for the new academic year. Deacon Pat is a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Detroit preparing for priestly ordination at Pope Saint John XXIII Seminary in Weston. He is a widower with three adult children and fifteen grandchildren! During the coming year, he will be with us primarily on weekends and will be involved in the Masses, Baptisms, weddings, Men's group, funerals and whatever else happens on the weekend. It is a delight to welcome him to the collaborative. He will be a great addition to our faith community.

Speaking of the **Men's Group**: it has resumed from its summer hiatus and meets on Saturday morning in St. Clare Church hall following the 8:00 Mass. The meeting revolves around the Gospel reading for the next day. It gives those present a chance to reflect on the passage and share insights. It is open to all men in the parish who have received Confirmation.

This Sunday at the 9:00, 10:15 and 6:00 Masses we will be **blessing backpacks** for students and teachers who embark on a new school year.

There are **two adult education opportunities** happening here in the collaborative during September. The first is a presentation by **Attorney Fran O'Connor**, general counsel for the archdiocese, who speak on our **Catholic Faith in the time of a presidential election**. His talk will give an overview of the relationship between the Church and state and get into the reasons why the Church does not endorse a candidate for a particular office but is so outspoken on social issues. This will take place on Tuesday, September 17, at 7:00-8:30 in St. Francis Parish Hall.

On Monday evening September 30, I will give a presentation on the **structure of the Church**. Given the recent announcement of Cardinal Sean's retirement and the appointment of Archbishop Henning, I thought it would be interesting in to take a look at how the Church is organized: what is a diocese?; what is the difference between a bishop, archbishop and cardinal?; how is a bishop/archbishop chosen?; who has authority to make laws for the Church? Come for what will be an insightful discussion.

The Parish Picnic is just two weeks from today! Be sure to get your tickets.

There will be much spoken and written this week about the atrocities of **September 11, 2001**. Given how the details of the day are forever etched into the minds of those who were alive at the time, it is hard to comprehend how much time has elapsed. I had a parishioner from my first parish and

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

and another from second parish on each of the planes that left Logan that morning. So many of us have connections to the victims of that day. We commend them to the mercy of God and beg for His grace to come upon all those who are victims to war and terrorism. I believe there is a town-wide memorial service at Fire Headquarters on Wednesday morning at 8:30 marking the time of the first crash.

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 and a few generous ANONYMOUS donors too!



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

At this point in the Gospel Jesus was not looking for notoriety. He wanted to stay under the radar a little bit. If He became too famous the people might carry Him off and try to make Him King. Of course, He was a king but not the kind of King the crowds wanted. He had a mission to accomplish being a warrior king was not in the plan.

So, when it came time to heal the deaf man who also had a speech impediment Jesus took him aside – out of sight. He touched the man's ears and spitting, he touched the man's tongue. Obviously pre-Covid.

Don't tell anyone! That was the only thanks that Jesus asked for. But the guy just couldn't keep quiet. He blabbed it all over the place. I'm reminded of a song – of course.

Testify

Well, I said I wasn't gonna testify, but I couldn't keep it to myself.

But I couldn't keep it to myself.

But I couldn't keep it to myself.

Well, I said I wasn't gonna testify, but I couldn't keep it to myself.

What the Lord has done for me.

I won't go through the whole song, but it goes back and forth between the leader and the congregation. It's quite a fun little tune.

Today I'm gonna testify what the Lord has done for me. Of course, the Lord has done so much for me I could write a book, but I don't have the time or inclination to do that.

Some 16 years ago I had just lost a job, and I needed something, anything, even a part-time something to keep my family afloat financially. That year at the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral I ran across Fr. Sepe. "Joe, you play the organ, don't you?" offered me the position as Music director at Saint Francis. I was happy to be doing something I loved and to be serving the Church at the same time. Unfortunately, I started to experience a lot of pain in my hands. I was sent to a hand surgeon. He tested me for Carpel Tunnel Syndrome. It turned out I did indeed have Carpel Tunnel in both hands. It was severe and surgery was required to correct it.

"Well, that's just great!" I thought. Here I was with a brand-new job and the only tools I needed were two working hands. I'd be out recovering for a couple of months at least and there was no telling how long it would take to actually play proficiently again.



Being a good deacon, I went to the Lord in prayer. Actually, I went to the Lord and whined and complained because that's what people usually do when things don't go their way.

I decided to ignore the problem. Like when you hear a strange engine noise in the car and just turn up the volume on the radio. It'll go away. Come on, we've all done that.

I started playing at St. Francis and everything was going well until... I realized that my hands no longer hurt. The pain was gone! There was no reason for it to be gone. The Lord had heard my prayer, imperfect as it was, and had mercy.

To me it was a miracle. I never had the Church investigate it as a miracle but try and tell me that it wasn't. I was healed of severe Carpal Tunnel in both hands and that's a fact. Now I wonder why I didn't do what that song said. How could I keep something like that to myself? My story might have given someone else courage and hope in their struggles.

What has the Lord done for you? Why do you keep it to yourself? Here is a little exercise for you. Find a quiet spot where you can sit and reflect. Bring a piece of paper and something to write with. Think back as far as you can even to your earliest childhood memories. Try to remember some of the things that God has done for you. Maybe you didn't even realize it was God at the time. Go through each stage of your life jotting down all that God has done, be it something small or something spectacular. When you're done, share it with another person or on social media what God has done for you. It's called evangelizing.

Do you know what the best thing that God has done for me (and you)? He sent His Son, Jesus, to redeem us by His suffering, death, and Resurrection. We have the promise of eternal life.

I have to give the deaf guy (formally the deaf guy) in today's story some credit. Even though Jesus told him to keep it on the QT, he went out and shouted from the rooftops. He let everyone know what Jesus did for him. Shouldn't we do the same?



CHOIR:

The Collaborative Choir will begin practicing Thursday, September 19 from 6:30-8:00PM. We will meet in the choir loft at Saint Francis. Please enter by the elevator doors.

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. *Deacon Joe*



Religious Education News

The Braintree Catholic Collaborative is having a **Parish Picnic** on Sunday, September 22! There will be lots of games, crafts, and activities for the kids, so I hope to see you all there! If any high schoolers are interested in volunteering to help, please email klane@sfab.org. Many thanks in advance!

Please consider volunteering to be a catechist. It is a wonderful way to deepen your own faith while helping the children learn. No experience is necessary, and I will provide all necessary materials and support! I know it can be difficult to commit to every class. Perhaps 2-3 parents could form a "co-op" and between them cover all the classes? If you are interested, or would like more information, please email klane@sfab.org.

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!

Religious Education classes will begin the week of September 23. Grades K-6 meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00-5:00 and Sundays 10:15-11:15. Grades 7-8 meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00-6:00. Grades 9-10 meet Sundays at 4:30. All classes meet in the St. Clare Church Hall.



**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**



And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of September 8, 2024

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1B)/
Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37
Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and
9b/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15,
16-17/Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3,
13-14ab, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6,
12/Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37,
38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
(9)/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35



St. Clare
Manuel Dalomba

St. Francis of Assisi
Thomas J. Smith
Stephen Morgan

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.



September 8 - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus "makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!" In living the gospel, we must open our ears to hear and recognize all the everyday opportunities for making God's presence known especially to those who are poor and suffering. On September 9, the Church also celebrates the feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Frederic heard the call of Jesus to love and serve those who are suffering.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can "make God's presence known" to those who are suffering and poor?



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, September 14—15. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. 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 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.**





From the Archdiocese of Boston

September 8 ~ Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Gospel today, we Jesus respond with compassion to the deaf man. He understood that the man's loss of hearing and speech kept him separated from the community. By taking the man aside and healing him, Jesus restored his connection to the community. When we are separated/estranged from the community, from relatives or friends because of our sins or failings, Jesus offers us a way back through the healing and grace of the Sacrament of Confession. The deaf man in the Gospel was encouraged to go to Jesus to restore hi to health. Who encourages you to return to Jesus? Today, let the words of Isaiah speak to you: "Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God...." Jesus is inviting you to be open to his healing grace.

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 (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.



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

GALILEE
DEAF
TALK

TOUCH
FINGERS
EARS

SPIT
TONGUE
AMAZED

O	D	L	A	D	H	M	A	C	D
F	T	O	N	G	U	E	R	O	G
N	A	D	W	A	B	G	I	S	N
H	L	I	N	L	M	D	E	A	F
J	K	S	P	I	T	S	A	U	I
L	E	O	H	L	V	I	R	E	N
A	M	A	Z	E	D	K	S	O	G
W	H	F	B	E	O	B	T	I	E
E	L	T	O	U	C	H	M	L	R
T	M	N	G	S	W	I	E	K	S

MISSION

Go to the library and find out how to say "Jesus loves you" in sign language. On the way home, pretend you cannot hear or speak.



Sharing the Gospel

Imagine what it would be like to be deaf-unable to hear music, voices or anything. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus did something amazing. Jesus healed a deaf man, so that for the first time he could hear and talk clearly. What would you listen to? What would you say?

Prayer

Dear God, you are so amazing. Thank you for healing the deaf man. Help me to use my ears and my voice to praise you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of all the things you like to listen to.

Mission for the Week

Go to the library and find out how to say "Jesus loves you" in sign language. On the way home, pretend you cannot hear or speak.