

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
Deacon Patrick Bruen, Seminarian Intern
Mrs. Karen Lane, Director of Religious Education
Ms. Patty Kinnally, Office Manager
Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager
Mr. Cecil O'Brien, Facilities
Mrs. Karen Whitney, 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, November 30, 2024

5:30PM David Ringius 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, December 1, 2024

9:00AM Genevieve McCarthy 1st Anniv.

11:30AM Joseph Stanton 9th Anniv.

Monday, December 2, 2024

7:00AM Barbara J. Leaver Memorial

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

7:00AM Francis Harney Memorial

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

7:00AM Mary "Kathy" Starck Month's Mind
Jerry Starck 19th Anniv.

Thursday, December 5, 2024

8:00AM Billy Greene, Bobby Donovan and Peg Pyne Memorial

Friday, December 6, 2024

7:00AM Charles Beaulieu Anniversary

Saturday, December 7, 2024

5:30PM Richard & Margaret Keane Anniversary

Sunday, December 8, 2024

9:00AM Francis H. Nehiley, Sr. 5th Anniv.

11:30AM Elizabeth "Pat" McGrath Anniversary

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!



We are now scheduling Mass Intentions through June 30, 2025. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, November 30, 2024

8:00AM

4:00PM Anna Buttaro and Frank Buttaro 3rd Anniv
1st Anniv.

Sunday, December 1, 2024

7:45AM Bernard John, Marie, Bernard James and Glenna Bishop Memorial

10:15AM John Keaveney 4th Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, December 7, 2024

8:00AM Philip Fontana Memorial

4:00PM Anna Tempesta, & Deceased 5th Anniv.
Members of the Tempesta Family

Sunday, December 8, 2024

7:45AM George Kippenhan 20th Anniv.

10:15AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

6:00PM Jarrod Petrilli Memorial

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.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.



The Church begins a **new liturgical year** today on this first Sunday of Advent. Unlike most calendars that mark *from* a certain point, the Church calendar marks time *toward* a certain point. That point, of course, is the coming in Christ in glory bringing about the fullness of God's Kingdom. It is a unique way of measuring time, no doubt. Nevertheless, it provides the proper context for the way the Church understands time. What we don't know, obviously, is when Christ will come again. If you recall from the writings of St. Paul, early Christians believed that Christ would come again during their life time. No one thought that the Church would be here 2000 years later! As they assumed that Christ would be coming back any moment, we assume that Christ will not be coming back any time soon. So much have we distanced ourselves from that sense of an imminent return, that we have shaped our thinking that the second coming of Christ is merely some kind of a metaphor for the end of the world, whenever that may be.

The Gospel passage for today is filled with imagery of Christ's coming. Honestly, it is not presented as something to which we look forward with eagerness. The message is clear, nonetheless. Regardless of the how, what, and when, we are to be ready. Our life leading up to that great event is a time of preparation. The Church's calendar, therefore, is laid out in a way that is meant to foster our preparation: seasons, feasts, fasting, repentance, recollection, conversion. Whether it be Christmas, Good Friday or the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the liturgies and prayers of the Church are intended to help us in our preparation for an encounter with Christ.

With the beginning of a new year, the cycle of readings shifts now to St Luke's Gospel. As you know, the Sunday Scripture readings rotate in a three year cycle. Today begins year "C". Throughout the year, with exceptions in Lent and Easter seasons, the Sunday Gospel will be from Luke. There is much to say about his Gospel, which I will address in a future column. For now, however, it's worth noting that Luke did not accompany Jesus during His time of public ministry. And, given the fact that the Gospel was written some fifty years after the Resurrection, the entirety of the Gospel relies on Oral Tradition: the stories and teachings of Christ that had been handed down for that first generation. The Holy Spirit guided that whole process and guides us as we work through it in the coming year.

I would like to meet with lectors and extraordinary ministers this week and have invited them to a meeting on Tuesday at 7:00pm at St. Francis or Saturday 9:00am at St. Clare. This will be a time to focus again on the importance of these roles in the life of the parishes as well as address any concerns that have arisen.

On Wednesday, December 18, we will have a **collaborative-wide Penance service** at 7:00pm at St. Clare Church. As we start thinking Christmas, I encourage all of us to partake of the grace of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Fr. Bob



St. Francis of Assisi

Peter Ostopowich
Catherine Thompson

St. Clare

Susan Callahan
Jean Rush

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.



Out of courtesy to Archbishop Henning and Fr. Wargovich, please avoid parking in or blocking any of the driveways by the rectory or garage at St. Clare. Two spaces by the garage will be reserved for Deacon Joe, providing music, and the priest saying the Mass who are shuttling between the two Churches.

Also, please be sure that all parish/collaborative mail is sent to 856 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184.



DECEMBER 1, 2024



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

I was about 8 years old, maybe 10. I was in the Weymouth Town Farm league playing baseball for the B-Hawks. They had me playing left field, not so much because I was the most capable player in that position but because as they told me years later – I was kind of out in left field anyway.

As anyone who's ever been to one of these games can tell you, not much ever makes it out to left field (not on purpose.) So, there I was, kicking the sand, watching the dog along by the fence, the ice cream truck in the parking lot... I was keeping track of everything except the game. It was boring out there. I can vaguely remember hearing the sound of a bat hitting a ball, but it wasn't something that grabbed my attention... until everyone and their mother started shouting at someone...catch the ball. I started to look around to see who they were shouting at. It was me!! I put my glove in the air....and the ball landed about fifteen feet to my right. It was a missed opportunity.

Be vigilant and ready.

Some thirty years later I'm at another game. This time it's my son out in left field. You know how it is at those things. First team up scores 10-12 runs mostly on throwing errors. Then the next team gets up and does the same thing. It's hard not to be distracted, so I was chatting with one of the other parents. I can vaguely remember the sound of the bat hitting the ball and everyone and their mother shouting "HEADS UP!" That got my attention... but too late I got beamed off the head with a foul ball. Landed in the E.R. for a couple of hours.

We can miss opportunities, or we can get hurt when don't watch and when we're not ready. Jesus warned us.

And that's what Advent is all about. It's a time to prepare, to get ready, to watch, but for what? For most of us, especially for the kids, we're getting ready for the day that signals the end of Advent – Christmas. But the birth of Christ happened some two thousand years ago, and we weren't there. We really can't experience the birth of Christ any more than we can experience Lincoln delivering the Gettysburg Address. We can read about it and study it. We can enter into prayer with it but we aren't going to experience the nativity as Mary, Joseph and the shepherds did. It was a unique moment in history, and we weren't there. We can't get ready for something that's already happened.

Certainly, we can get ready for Christ's second coming and we should. But again, that's something that'll happen sometime in the future. It's hard to wrap our heads around

that.

But there is a third coming of Christ that we sometimes neglect. It's the coming of Christ every day of our lives. The Lord calls us every day in the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. He beckons us to follow him daily in the Sacred Scripture. He calls us to spend time with him in prayer. We need to watch for those invitations and be ready to respond.

Although we are getting ready to celebrate, in a liturgical way, the beginning of Christ's life, today's Gospel comes toward the end of His life, on the way to Jerusalem and the cross.

"Be vigilant - be ready." That's what he told the people on his way to the cross.

The sad part of is, The Son of God was there walking among them. The Messiah that they'd waited generations for was among them and the people didn't recognize Him. They weren't ready for the Son of God to be a carpenter. They weren't watching for the Messiah to come from Nazareth. There were all kinds of reasons but because they didn't recognize him, he was beaten, whipped, ridiculed, abandoned, and put to death.

"Be vigilant - be ready."

St. Paul was like that. When he was still called Saul, and certainly before he was a saint, he was on the road to Damascus. He was going to persecute the Christians there. Suddenly, he was knocked to the ground and heard a voice call to him "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you, Lord?" "I am Jesus whom you persecute." Notice what Jesus said, "I am Jesus whom you persecute." He didn't say "I am Jesus and you're persecuting my people" or "I am Jesus and when you persecute them it's like persecuting me." He said, "You are persecuting me!" This was the beginning of Paul's understanding. When we are baptized, we are baptized into Christ. As Paul would say later in his life, "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me."

We are made in God's image and likeness. I am – you are. We need to see God, see Christ in each other. We will, if we're watching, if we're ready, if we can shed our preconceptions and prejudices.

We have to be ready to see Christ.

- in the disheveled, alcoholic reeking of urine asking us for spare change.
- The elderly dementia patient in the nursing home who thinks she's at the bus stop.
- The mentally ill person claiming to be Julius Ceasar.
- The immigrant who doesn't look like us, talk like us or live like us.
- The death row inmate living without hope.

Every single day Jesus Christ comes to us, if we're watching, if we're ready, if we're paying attention. But how often we don't see that he's here among us – we just have to look. It may be difficult to respond to people like the ones I just mentioned. Jesus was homeless. They thought He was crazy. He didn't think he was Julius Ceasar, but he claimed be the Son of God. He had that funny Galilean accent. He was on death row.

Not easy to love someone that smells or someone we can't understand or that hurts us. But if we can just see someone made in the image of God as we are; if we can see a child of God that's been injured by life; broken by illness; beaten down by an uncaring world, like us, if we can see others like that - it can make a world of difference, perhaps we'll begin to see the face of Christ in new and amazing ways. We'll watch for Christ in our daily lives, and we'll be prepared to respond.

The people we run across in life are not like Christ to us – they are Christ. That's what Paul learned on the road to Damascus. That's what Jesus told us in Matthew's Gospel...

"For I was hungry, and you gave **me** food, I was thirsty, and you gave **me** drink, a stranger and you welcomed **me**, naked and you clothed **me**, ill and you cared for **me**, in prison and you visited **me**." Whatever you did for one of these, the least of my people, you did it for **me**."

We can't go on living our lives saying "I am made in the image of God, but not HIM – not Her – not THAT ONE.

Let's not be the one out in left field never paying attention, never recognizing our opportunities. Let's not get beamed off the noggin because our head isn't in the game. Most of all let's not let anyone else get hurt, or go hungry, unvisited, or unwanted because we don't recognize who it really is that really needs us.

When we care for the least of God's people – that is Advent; that is preparing for the coming of Christ. And it doesn't matter which coming of Christ we're talking about, because we will be ready to celebrate Christmas and we will be ready whenever Christ comes again, and with Christ we can say from our hearts, "Rejoice the Kingdom of God is among you."



Troop 138 Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

All proceeds go directly to fund activities for the Scouts.

Wreaths are assembled by our scouts and volunteers.

Wreaths will be on sale after all Masses THIS weekend November 30—December 1.



As we prepare the start of Advent, we are continuing to focus on gratitude. This week the students brainstormed things they are grateful for – trying to find things that start with each letter of the alphabet! We discussed how a grateful heart is a happy heart!

Class Schedule for the Week of December 1st

Grades K-6 Sunday, December 1st at 11:15AM

Tuesday, December 3rd and

Thursday, December 5th at 4:00PM

Grade 10 Sunday at 4:45PM

followed by the 6:00 Mass.

Grades 7 & 8 Tuesday, December 3rd and

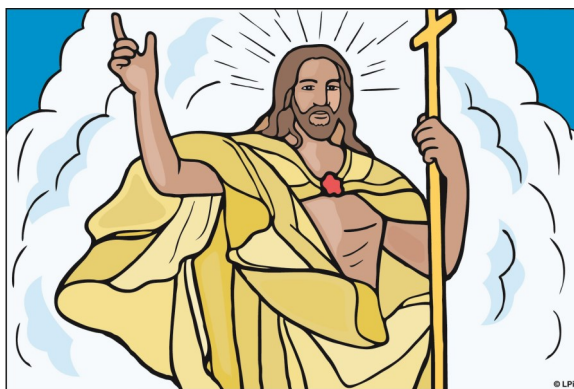
Thursday, December 5th at 5:15PM



Our Advent Giving Tree begins THIS Weekend (November 30-December 1) at St. Francis of Assisi. **Gifts should be returned no later than December 15th** for distribution. When considering your gift please keep in mind the following:

- * If you take a tag from the tree, please **look at it before you leave church** to be certain that you are willing and able to purchase at least the gifts listed there. If not—simply return it to the tree and take a different card that more suits your mindset and your budget. If someone has listed a basketball, please do not substitute a board game. (Seriously—this happens!) **Please be aware, you are not obligated to buy all items listed on the tag.**
- * Please check to see if the organization sponsoring the card has requested that you wrap the gift(s). If the tag says **do not wrap**, you can still help everyone involved in sorting and organizing by placing your purchase in a gift bag so that our volunteers can easily check the contents.
- * Please **securely attach the tag** you take from the tree to the outside of the bag or package. The tags are coded by color and number and we need them back so that your gift reaches the correct organization and recipient.

If you choose not to shop, **[do not take a tag]** gift cards (Target, WalMart, Amazon, Gas Stations, Game Stop, Movie Passes, Fast Food Restaurants, etc.) and monetary donations are always a good option. These can be used for any last minute requests for assistance that we receive (even after Christmas Day). Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:27-28

Readings *of the Week*

Readings for the week of December 1, 2024

- Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
(1b)/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/
Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21,
25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/
Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6



Braintree Collaborative Bereavement Group meets every Saturday at 10:30 at St. Francis. This hour-long meeting will help you bring your suffering to the Lord and get to know others who are going through something similar. No sign-up, no commitment, just come and find comfort. Please note the Group will NOT meet on Saturday, November 30th.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)



December 1-First Sunday of Advent:

As we begin Advent we are called to "wait" in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. **Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul blue envelope will help the poor celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.**

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 Braintree Catholic on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot. Thank you.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Liturgical Ministers Meeting with Fr. Bob

THIS Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00PM at St. Francis
Saturday, December 7th at 9:00AM at St. Clare
All EMHCs and Lectors are asked to attend on of these session.

Advent Rosary

Please join us on the Mondays of December 2, 9, 16 and 23 as we pray the Rosary at 6:45 in St. Francis of Assisi Church.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th

- 4:00PM at St. Clare
- 4:00 PM at St. Francis
- 6:00PM at St. Clare
- 11:00PM at St. Francis

Wednesday, December 25th

- 7:45AM at St. Clare
- 9:00AM at St. Francis
- 10:15AM at St. Clare
- 11:30AM at St. Francis

Please note there is NO 6:00 Mass on Christmas Day.



From the Archdiocese of Boston Diaconate Inquirer Program—The

Archdiocese of Boston is beginning its Inquirer Program for men interested in becoming deacons with over a dozen meetings across the Archdiocese. For more information, please go to BostonDiaconate.org and click on the “News” tab.

CURSILLO - An Opportunity to Deepen Your Faith Men's and Women's Weekends. Cursillo is a short course in Christianity. It is an encounter with Christ in a small community of the Church, in order to deepen your own faith and strengthen your ability to be witnesses of Christ in the world.

Men's Weekend: December 5 - 8, 2024

Women's Weekend: February 27 - March 2, 2025

Men's Weekend: April 3 - 6, 2025

The weekends run from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon and are held at the Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich, MA. For information and registration, please check the Boston Cursillo website: www.bostoncursillo.org or email at bostoncursillo@gmail.com.

Witness to Life Trip (1/23-1/25)

Join Boston pilgrims at the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January. We will depart the archdiocese at approximately 10 PM on Thurs., Jan. 23 and arrive at Life Fest at 7:30 AM on Fri., Jan. 24 and then head to the March. We will return to the archdiocese at 12:15 AM on Jan. 25. The cost is \$80 and includes bus, Life Fest ticket, driver gratuity, and boxed lunch. Visit bit.ly/WitnesstoLife2025 to register.

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.

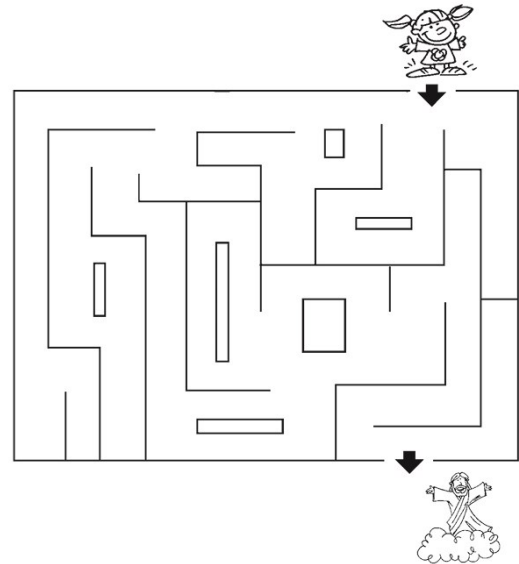


PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



PUZZLE

Help this child find the path to God.



MISSION

Write down one thing that scares you. Tell God about it, and ask him to help you to be brave.



Sharing the Gospel

One day Jesus will come back to take us home to live with him in heaven. So when scary things happen around us, we do not need to be afraid. We can stand up tall, because we know heaven will be so much better than this world.

Prayer

Dear God, when I am afraid, help me to be brave and trust in you. I know heaven will be wonderful.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus coming back in the clouds, ready to take you to heaven.

Mission for the Week

Write down one thing that scares you. Tell God about it, and ask him to help you