

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, 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

Monday, December 9, 2024

7:00AM Albert Varraso Memorial

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

7:00AM Terry, Maureen & Rona Gallagher and Johnny McHugh Memorial

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

7:00AM Kenneth Tocci 3rd Anniv.

Thursday, December 12, 2024

8:00AM Ann Fallon Healing

Friday, December 13, 2024

7:00AM Maria, Patrick & Matthew Neenan Healing

Saturday, December 14, 2024

5:30PM Marilyn McGourty

Sunday, December 15, 2024

9:00AM Christine DiMartinis 3rd Anniv.

11:30AM James Quinlan 1st Anniv.

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, 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

Saturday, December 14, 2024

8:00AM Robert Blaney Anniversary

4:00PM Patricia Roche Anniversary

Sunday, December 15, 2024

7:45AM Ellsworth Rice Anniversary

10:15AM Sean O'Donnell Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

The Bread & Wine for the week of December 14th through 20th were been donated in loving memory of Arthur Gillis.

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 role of a prophet

This year during Advent the first reading of Sunday Mass comes from excerpts of the minor prophets. Today is from Baruch, next Sunday is from Zephaniah and the fourth Sunday of Advent is from Micah. There are twelve minor prophets. Their books are relatively short and they are not often used in Christian liturgy, unlike the major prophets of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. Old Testament prophecies can be difficult to understand and thus we tend to avoid them. They use different styles of writing and have various purposes throughout history. When quick to dismiss a reading from the prophets I remember St. Jerome's teaching: "ignorance of the Old Testament is ignorance of Christ". His point being that all Sacred Scripture is ultimately about the Incarnation of God, namely Jesus Christ.

Given that we acknowledge the relationship between the Old Testament and Christ it is easy to think that the Old Testament in general, and the Prophets in particular, are foretelling the future. As Catholic Christians we immediately want to say that they were foretelling Jesus Christ. This is not the case. A prophet is someone who, under the power of the Holy Spirit, relays God's message. As Catholics, we certainly profess that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophets, however it is not a fulfillment in terms of someone of old predicting the future. Rather they were inspired to speak God's message to a particular group of people, in a particular moment in history, under particular circumstances. To say that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecy implies that the message, regardless of context, ultimately will lead the faith-filled person to Jesus Christ. Yes, the message, in the immediate sense, might be about the reestablishment of Temple Worship, for example, however when brought to its ultimate meaning, leads to Christ when you follow it through history.

Prophets, of course, are not limited to ancient times. There are prophets in our current time, men and women who, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, speak aloud God's message of salvation. Usually, the prophetic message takes the form of a warning of consequences for continued bad behavior or shedding light on an injustice. Often these persons are quickly labeled as trouble-makers and are dismissed for being so out-of-touch with the main stream. The risk, of course, is that we can easily miss

God's message because the messenger comes across as too radical, or the words too harsh or politically incorrect. Perhaps most Bible-based prophecies could be summed up by saying "beware of the status-quo"!

How are we to tell the difference between a God-inspired prophecy and someone's own call to action? As I consider the roll of the prophet in Scripture and in the world today, these points come to mind:

God-inspired prophecies...

- Acknowledge the Incarnation, namely that God became human to save us from sin.
- Identify and avoid injustices
- Challenge us to abandon harmful behaviors and to practice virtue
- Encourage us to be reconciled with God and one another.
- Always embrace Christ's passion and death
- Lead us to the Sacraments, particularly Eucharist and Confession.
- Support the dignity of every human person from the moment of conception until natural death.

Speaking of prophecies, this is a natural place to encourage all parishioners to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas. Responding to a prophecy always requires a conversion of sorts. And conversion, of course, means reconciling with God and the Church in order to move forward. There will be a collaborative-wide penance service on Wednesday, December 18 at St. Clare Church beginning at 7:00pm. Fr. Paul Soper will offer a reflection to prepare us for the Sacrament. Elsewhere in the bulletin is a list of other opportunities for Confession.

Tomorrow, Monday, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It is typically on December 8 (nine months before the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8) however, since the 8th falls on the second Sunday of Advent this year, the solemnity is transferred to Monday. This solemnity proclaims and celebrates the miracle of Mary's conception within the womb of her mother Anne. The Gospel for Mass that day is always the story of the Angel Gabriel's visit to young Mary of Nazareth and thus we mistakenly think that the feast is about the conception of Jesus.

Mary was conceived without the stain or impact of original sin in which all of us are conceived. Original sin is the condition of being self-centered and thus is the foundation of all sin. By a particular divine grace, Mary was not impacted by this condition. As such she was unhindered in responding to the Holy Spirit by which she conceived the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception is an important mystery in our faith and thus we are called to participate in the Eucharist on this day. The schedule of Masses for

DECEMBER 8, 2024

Immaculate Conception is found below.



Monday, December 9th is The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Mass schedule for the St. Francis /St. Clare Collaborative is:

St. Francis of Assisi

Monday, December 9 7:00AM, and 12:10PM

St. Clare

Monday, December 9 9AM and 5:30PM

The Collaborative Council will meet on Wednesday of this week. We had a day of recollection in early November so it has been a couple of months since we had a regular meeting.

Our collaborative will celebrate the full initiation into the faith at the Confirmation of the 10th graders of the parish this coming Friday night and Saturday morning. You may recall that we had confirmations here back in May, and will again next May. The extra confirmations are necessary as we move Confirmations from 10th grade to 8th grade.



Saturday, December 14, 8:30-9:00, St. Clare Church

Saturday, December 14, 12:30-1:30, St. Francis Church

Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 Collaborative

Penance Service, 7:00pm, St. Clare Church

Saturday, December 21, 8:30-9:00, St. Clare Church

Saturday, December 21, 12:30-1:30, St. Francis Church

Monday, December 23, 7:30am-8:00am, St. Francis Church

Monday, December 23, 6:00-7:30, St. Francis Church



St. Francis of Assisi

John C. O'Connell

James McCarthy

Florence Morrissey

St. Clare

Deborah Moffett

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.



Advent Rosary

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

Collaborative Penance Service

Wednesday, December 18th—7PM at St. Clare



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.

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



Benedict Eugene Polio

Religious Education News

The Advent Family Faith Gathering was wonderful - many thanks to all that attended! Using the lyrics of some well-loved Christmas songs, we learned about the season of Advent and meaningful ways to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming.



From the songs "O Christmas Tree" and "Angels We Have Heard on High" the kids made a collaborative Christmas tree by decorating green triangles, and brought home paper fan angels for their trees at home.



The kids decorated houses to go on the wall to create "O Little Town of Bethlehem (Braintree!)"



Everyone cut out a construction paper handprint to create an Advent Wreath that we will use each week in class to say a prayer and "light" each candle.



There is an empty manger and stable on display on the side altar in St. Clare Church, that like us, is waiting for Baby Jesus to arrive. It does not look very comfortable, so **we are going to prepare a cozy bed for Jesus with acts of kindness!** The kids made Countdown to Christmas paper chains to bring home. Each day they take off a paper loop, and on the paper they write a random act of kindness that they have done. Each week they will fold up the papers accordion style and place them in the manger.

We would like to invite the whole Collaborative to participate in this project! There are slips of paper and pens in baskets on the altars at both churches (by the Giving Trees) Feel free to take some papers home with you or fill them out at church, then place them in the manger at St. Clare or the basket at St. Francis (and we will bring them to the manger for you). By Christmas, Jesus will have a very cozy bed to rest in and our hearts will be ready to celebrate his birth!

Class Schedule for the Week of December 8th

Grades K-6	Sunday, December 8th at 11:15AM
	Tuesday, December 10 and
	Thursday, December 12th at 4:00PM
Grade 10	Sunday at 4:45PM
	followed by the 6:00 Mass.
Grades 7 & 8	No classes this week



***"Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."
- Lk 3:5-6***

Readings Week of the

Readings for the week of December 8, 2024

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

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12,
13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or
Lk 1:39-47

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b,
15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/
Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18



December 8-Second Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. **Is there a family in our community you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.**



FOOD COLLECTION SUN-

DAY is next weekend, December 14—15. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. Some of the **Seasonal** needed items are: **gravy, canned sweet**

potatoes/yams, canned pumpkin, bread mix (i.e pumpkin, banana, etc.), bottled juices (cranberry, apple). We are also in need of paper products (towels, toilet paper, etc. and laundry detergent. However, we are grateful for anything you wish to donate. If you 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.



Our Advent Giving Tree continues THIS Weekend in BOTH parishes. **Gifts should be returned no later**

than December 8th for Marge Crispin Center (Red Tags from St. Francis Church) and December 15th (for all others) 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 **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.



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.

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

Circle these words from today's Gospel:

BAPTIZED
FORGIVEN
ISAIAH

JOHN
DESERT
STRAIGHT

CROOKED
SMOOTH
ROUGH

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

MISSION

When you catch yourself being selfish, not following directions, or using hurtful words, stop. Say you're sorry, ask for forgiveness, and then try again.



Sharing the Gospel

Have you ever played a game where you asked for a "do-over" so you could try again? When John told his neighbors to be baptized, he wanted them to have a second chance, A "do-over." He wanted to give them a fresh, clean start with God.

Prayer

Dear God, when I find myself doing or saying things that you would not like, help me to stop and start over.

Something to Draw

Draw John washing someone in a river.

Mission for the Week

When you catch yourself being selfish, not following directions, or using hurtful words, stop. Say you're sorry, ask for forgiveness, and then try again.