

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, February 1, 2025

5:30PM Daniel Barselou Memorial

Sunday, February 2, 2025

9:00AM Marks Family Memorial

11:30AM Maria "Cathy" Leitao Memorial

Monday, February 3, 2025

7:00AM Patricia Egan 5th Anniv.

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

7:00AM Robert Hester Memorial

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

7:00AM Edward Pacino Memorial

Thursday, February 6, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, February 7, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, February 8, 2025

5:30PM Stephen "OB" O'Brien 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, February 9, 2025

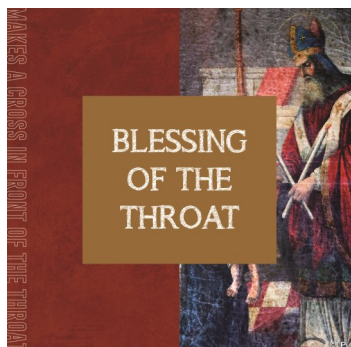
9:00AM James M. Daly 2nd Anniv.

11:30AM Albert Aniello 1st Anniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of February 1 through 7th have been donated in loving memory of Kevin and Jim Daly.

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!



BLESSING
OF THE
THROAT

A special blessing of the throats will be given at all of the Masses THIS Weekend, February 1 and 2, in commemoration of St. Blaise. All are welcome to come forward for this blessing at the conclusion of Mass.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, February 1, 2025

8:00AM Rev. James Lerner Memorial

4:00PM Arduino DiCenso 6th Anniv.

Sunday, February 2, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Gerald Ridge 10th Anniv.

6:00PM Margaret "Peggie" Sweeney Month's Mind

Saturday, February 8, 2025

8:00AM Deceased Priests & Religious Memorial

4:00PM James O'Donnell Memorial

Sunday, February 9, 2025

7:45AM Pauline O'Brien Memorial

10:15AM Abdallah Khnaizir & Wadi Bitar Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

The Bread & Wine for the week of February 1 through 7th have been donated in loving memory of Patrick Munroe.

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 is the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**. This is one of the oldest feasts in the Church dating back to the fourth century. The feast recalls the time when Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice for Him. It was the Jewish Law that if the first born of human and animals were male, a sacrifice was to be offered to God. The ascribed sacrifice was two turtle doves (sound familiar?) The event commemorates the prophesy of Simeon who said that Jesus would be the rise and downfall of many in Israel. He was also given the particular grace to recognize that the child was in fact the Savior of the World.

The feast falls forty days after Christmas, February 2, which also happens to be Groundhog Day. The significance is that the day marks the halfway point of winter at which time there is a noticeable increase in daylight. Though the days are still short, they are not as dark as at the time of Christmas. If Christmas marks the darkest time of the year, then the Feast of the Presentation shows a significant increase in daylight. The point of that observation is that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. In Simeon's words "a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel"

Because the image of this feast is increasing light, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is the day on which candles are blessed. Some will recall that the other name for this feast is Candlemas (the Mass of the candles). We certainly use candles in Church and in our home for ambiance. Up until a couple of generations ago, candles were absolutely essential for daily life. Think of how much people depended on candles. It was the way to provide light in the darkness of evening. And in the winter, when the nights are longer than day, people used up huge amounts of candles. It made sense to connect the need for candles with Christ who is the light of the world.

In the old Church calendar, when Epiphany was an entire season, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord was the concluding day. Many people still have the custom of leaving their Christmas creche scene up or wreaths on the door until after this feast.

At the Masses this weekend, small candles will be blessed and distributed to each household. And with blessed candles we will be blessing throats at the end of all the Masses. The day after Candlemas is the Memorial of St.

Blaise. It has been a long tradition in the Church to ask for his intercession on his feast day for the grace of health. Since it was the throat which was thought to be the means by which disease entered the body, the Church blesses throats using candles which represent the light of Christ.

Cremation in the Catholic Church

Several times over the years, people have commented to me how much they are moved by the rites of a Catholic funeral. Not surprising. When done well, our rituals are able to communicate something of God that words simply cannot capture. There is an important part of the Catholic funeral ritual that is worth a moment of consideration: *the committal*. As Catholics we place a great emphasis on the internment or burial of a loved-one who has died. This is a "given" when it comes to interring someone's remains in a casket which is then buried in the ground or placed in an above-ground vault. However, when it comes to cremation, there seems to be some ambiguity.

Cremation is allowed in the Catholic Church. For a chunk of history, it was not however. Then it was allowed but not encouraged. Now the Church permits cremation as there is an appreciation that cremation brings immediately what nature does over a long period of time. Either way, the remains are to be interred in some kind of a mausoleum or buried in the ground. The reason for this practice is that at the core of our faith we believe that each of us who have accepted salvation are destined for Resurrection. This means the rising of the body to an incorruptible state. The human body is sacred. Even when a person has died, we still show great reverence to the body. In the Nicene Creed which we recite each Sunday, we say aloud, "I look forward to the Resurrection of the Body and life everlasting." We bury the body of our loved ones as a gesture of faith that Christ will come again to raise up the dead. We don't know how this will work or what it will look like. Nevertheless, burial is tied directly to Resurrection. Scattering of ashes is, in a sense, a denial of Resurrection. It is a gesture which says that this person is gone forever. Not only scattering of ashes, but doing anything with ashes other than internment ought to be avoided. Interestingly, internment also includes burial at sea for a body or cremated remains. The cremated remains must be interred in the ocean in some appropriate vessel so that they remain as unified. Again, as a gesture of hope for Resurrection. Some will argue that if God can raise up remains that have naturally decomposed, then God can raise up the person whose ashes that have been scattered. To this I respond with what I said at the beginning of this section *When done well, our rituals are able to communicate something of God that words simply cannot capture*. If anyone has questions about this and is

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

considering plans for a funeral I am most happy to help.

New Snow Policy

If school is cancelled due to weather conditions then the 7:00 daily Mass and Religious Education Classes will be cancelled.

Looking ahead...

Our collaborative will be hosting a night for **young adult Catholics** on Tuesday, February 25 [CORRECTION] at 7:00 in St. Francis Parish Hall. Fr Joe Ferme will offer a presentation on "why bad things happen to good people".

Fr. Bob



Boston Catholic Men's Conference

A Man After God's Own Heart
Human & Holy

March 22, 2025 from 8:30—5:30 with a closing Mass.

The Boston Marriott Quincy
1000 Marriott Drive, Quincy MA

Speakers

Fr. Larry Richards, Founder and president of The Reason for our Hope Foundation and host of the "Anchored in Hope" podcast

Chris Stefanick, Founder and President of Real Catholic Life

Jim Wahlberg, Author of "The Big Hustle" and Executive Producer of "Mother Teresa: No Greater Love"

Dan Donaldson, Vice President of the Catholic Men's Leadership Alliance

Mother Olga, Foundress and mother servant of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth

Deacon Larry Oney, Permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, serving at Divine Mercy Parish in Kenner, Louisiana

Presented by The Men of Divine Mercy & The Flatley Foundation

Tickets are \$70 and include coffee, pastries and a boxed lunch

For more information or to purchase tickets visit
www.bostoncatholicmen.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

Class Schedule for the Week of February 2, 2025

Grades K-6 meet Sunday, February 2 at 11:15AM and
Tuesday, February 4 and Thursday, February 6 at 4PM
Grade 9 Meets THIS Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 4:45PM.
Grades 7 & 8 meet Tuesday, February 4 and
Thursday, February 6 at 5:15PM



Last week, Father Bob taught us that the purpose of a homily is to give us hope and to inspire a resolution to act. At class we talked about how it has been a cold winter, and that we want to help those in need stay warm. We decided to collect gloves, mittens, hats,

and scarves to be donated to the Marge Crispin Center as well as local assisted living facilities.

There will be baskets in the back of each church for any donations through Sunday, February 16th. Thank you!



The Baptismal ritual states that parents are the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. Mom and baby groups can provide many benefits, including support for new parents, opportunities for socialization, and help with child development. If anyone is interested in being a part of a group here in the Collaborative, please click on the QR code below to participate in a short survey.



Exciting news! We will be offering our very FIRST Vacation Bible School at St. Clare Church Hall July 14-18! More details to follow, so please save the date and stay tuned!





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

The Death of Telemachus

There was a fourth century monk, Telemachus. He was from the east, most likely from what is now Turkey. Some say he was simply traveling through Rome, others that he was led there for a purpose he didn't understand. Whatever the reason, he saw a crowd entering the Coliseum and followed them in. He was appalled by what he witnessed. Moved by the senseless slaughter of the gladiatorial matches that flew in the face of God's love, he leaped into the arena, stood between the two warriors, and cried out three times "In the name of Christ, stop!"

What happened next? The crowd was so enraged by this presumptuous little monk who dared to interrupt their blood-lust entertainment that they stoned him to death.

Some would say he was foolish, that he wasted his life, that he should have kept his mouth shut. If he had any brains at all he should have seen it coming.

But the story doesn't end there. The emperor, Honorius, was so moved by the courage and dedication of what Telemachus had done, that he ended the gladiatorial games forever.

The martyrdom of one un-assuming monk, moved by the Holy Spirit, gave his own life that others may live. One little monk stood in the face of evil and changed the Roman Empire. Saint Telemachus is my kind of hero.

The world could use people like Saint Telemachus today. People who would cry out in the wilderness, "In the name of Christ, stop!"

"In the name of Christ, stop the killing."

"In the name of Christ, stop the hating."

"In the name of Christ, unchain his people."

"In the name of Christ, put the needs of others first."

Jesus was asked "What is the greatest commandment in the law?" The answer isn't rocket science. "Love the Lord your God with your whole heart and with your whole mind, and with your whole strength. And then he linked another commandment to the first, "love your neighbor as yourself."

Saint Telemachus loved God totally, and in the end loved his neighbor even more than himself. We should not do any less.

Let us pray,

Father,

Through the intercession of Saint Telemachus,
Help us to be poor in spirit that we might be made rich by the
outpouring of your love.

Make us hunger and thirst for righteousness, to be merciful,
and to have pure hearts.

Let us be called your children by bringing peace to a world
that is desperate for the peace only you can give.

Like Saint Telemachus May we do this regardless of the cost.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and
ever. AMEN.

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION

The enormity of the tragedy that has unfolded in Southern California as a result of the wildfires is heartbreaking. The wildfires have killed 28 people with the expectation that number could increase. More than 15,400 structures have been destroyed. 40,000 acres have been impacted. There have been many injuries, homes and businesses destroyed, and entire neighborhoods wiped out. Thousands of brave firefighters and other first responders have been working around the clock to contain and put out the fires.

Recognizing the immediate and growing needs, Catholic Charities USA is seeking assistance for relief efforts in response to the wildfires. In the spirit of solidarity, Archbishop Henning is asking pastors to consider a special collection to support Catholic Charities relief efforts. A Special SECOND Collection will be taken at all Masses THIS weekend, February 1-2. Checks should be made payable to St. Francis of Assisi OR St. Clare with LA Wildfires Relief in the memo line. We will then forward your contributions to the Archdiocese for processing and sending to Catholic Charities USA.

We are confident our brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles would welcome our support.

On behalf of the Archbishop, thank you for your attentiveness to this important collection and expression of our solidarity with those who are suffering.

If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2024 please call the collaborative office at 781-843-1332. **In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner who has made a single contribution of \$250 or more.** If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the collaborative office.



Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."
Lk 2:34-35

Readings *of the* Week DLPI

Readings for the week of February 2, 2025

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11



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)



February 2: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Gospel today, Jesus show us that we are called to place gospel values before any other values and to be willing to put our lives on the line for them. Taking care of God's poor is indeed living gospel values.

Is God is calling you to join the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

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.



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Francis of Assisi

Grace C. Kelly
 Edward Pacino
 Rita Barnett
 Antoinette Cook

St. Clare

Elvira "Sis" Munroe

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.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

The Second Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025 in the St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall at 6:30 p.m.. A traditional corned beef and/or ham dinner will be served and lively entertainment provided by the incomparable **The Next Hurrah**. As the time draws near we will sell tickets after Masses if necessary but for now please call the Collaborative Office for tickets at 781-843-1332 beginning Monday, January 27th. The cost per ticket is \$ 35.00. Tickets are first come first served. We sold out last year so don't wait. Tables of 8 [CORRECTION] may be reserved with payment in full of \$280.00. Let's get together and have some craic! 🍀



From the Archdiocese of Boston

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.

Webinar on Responsible Parenting - Join Family Life on Tuesday, February 11 from 7:30 -8:30 PM for a webinar on responsible parenting within the home and the Church. Certified Catholic fertility care practitioners, Christen and Brandon Fitts and Monica and Victor Bergeron will share their witness and offer helpful information and resources related to responsible procreation, authentic fatherhood and motherhood, and the importance of nurturing the family as the domestic Church. Visit bit.ly/ResponsibleParenthood2025 for more information or to register.

Mental Health Matters: A Virtual Workshop for Adults

February 25 at 7 PM. Join Catholic psychologists Dr. Greg Kolodziejczak and Dr. Christine Williams, and LICSW Michael Drahos for a workshop examining how traditional mental health treatments, support, and faith play a role in healing. Q&A will be offered and resources provided. Sponsored by Family Life. To register, visit bit.ly/mentalhealthadults or call Emily @ 617-746-5756.

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.



PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

present	doves	Spirit
peace	light	glory
parents	child	Simeon

persnet p r e s e n t

clihd _____

lgith _____

Smione _____

devos _____

pernat _____

goryl _____

Siprit _____

pecea _____

MISSION

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how special Jesus is.



Sharing the Gospel

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they dedicated Jesus to God. An old man named Simeon was also in the temple that day. As soon as Simeon saw and held baby Jesus, he praised God. He knew that Jesus was going to bring God's love to all people, including you.

Prayer

God, I thank you for sending Jesus to save all people from sin.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of the old man Simeon happily holding baby Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how special Jesus is.