

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, January 11, 2025

5:30PM Joseph & Virginia Brosseau and Memorial
Joseph Brosseau, Jr.

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:00AM Louis & David Napolitano Memorial

11:30AM Deborah Cerilli Memorial

Monday, January 13, 2025

7:00AM Richard Manning Anniversary

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

7:00AM Kathy Crimmins Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

7:00AM Richard & Louise McDermott Memorial

Thursday, January 16, 2025

7:00AM John McCarthy Memorial

Friday, January 17, 2025

7:00AM Carol Friedman Healing

Saturday, January 18, 2025

5:30PM Ronald & Frances O'Brien and Memorial
Mary Ferrazzi

Sunday, January 19, 2025

9:00AM Samuel Dentino and 100th B'day
Mary Dentino 4th Anniv.

11:30AM Angela Kelly 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!



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, January 11, 2025

8:00AM Ruth & Ed Barkowski, John Avery, Memorial
Alma Casali, Gerladine Farrell,
Marion Petkiewich and
Sr. Florence Cottreau

4:00PM

Sunday, January 12, 2025

7:45AM Robert Finn Memorial

10:15AM William Callahan 5th Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, January 18, 2025

8:00AM Michael Corcoran

4:00PM Genevieve McDonough 20th Anniv.

Sunday, January 19, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Marilyn Cavallaro 9th Anniv.

6:00PM Gordon T. Smith Memorial

The Bread & Wine for the week of January 11 through 17 were been donated in loving memory of Ruth & Ed Barkowski, John Avery, Alma Casali, Geraldine Farrell, Marion Petkiewich and Sister Florence Cottreau. The Sanctuary light will also burn in their memory.

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.



The Christmas season ends today with the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. You may be thinking, as many do, why is there an additional feast for Christ's Baptism when clearly it is celebrated as part of Epiphany? Epiphany, from the Greek word manifestation, commemorates three events in the life of Christ by which God reveals Him to be the Savior: the visit of the Magi at Bethlehem, the Baptism in the Jordan River, and the first public miracle of changing water into wine. Over the last couple of centuries in the west, the feast of the Epiphany has become synonymous with the visit of the Magi that the Baptism of Jesus was all but ignored. Even the prayers used at Mass on Epiphany don't mention the Baptism. In 1955, so that the Lord's Baptism could be dutifully acknowledged, Pope Pius XII decreed that January 13 would be the commemoration of Jesus' Baptism. Pope Paul VI moved it to the Sunday following the Epiphany where it is today.

There is a significant difference between the Baptism that John the Baptist was offering and the Baptism we have received. The word Baptism means "to wash". What John was offering was a *baptism of repentance* by which a person would bathe in water (in this case the Jordan River) and thus indicate his/her intention to lead a different kind of life, one keeping with the commandments. This was a noble ritual indeed. However, the Baptism we have received is initiation into a radically new life. Until the death and Resurrection of Jesus, access to God was restricted. The introduction of sin into the world left the residue of an abyss between God and people. After the Resurrection, the abyss was closed. The residue of sin, though still present, no longer had the power to restrict us from God.

All this to say Jesus did not need to be Baptized in so far as He had no sin. He was Baptized nonetheless so that there was the possibility of you and I sharing in the glory of Resurrection. The water used in Baptism today has sacramental effect precisely because Christ made it so when he entered the water of the Jordan.

The significance in commemorating the Lord's Baptism, therefore, is to celebrate His identification with sinful humanity and the power He has to take away sin. Our Baptism has the following effects:

- Wipes away original sin, that is reality of sin in the world does not have eternal power over us. Baptism wipes

away all sin and lets us start life anew, hence the term "to be born again."

- Baptism is initiation into the Body of Christ, the Church. We become members of the community of disciples.
- Baptism identifies us as children of God and thus heirs to heaven. So powerful is the Sacrament of Baptism that when God looks upon us he sees only the Christ.

The above raises an important question: why do we Baptize babies? Certainly they are not guilty of sin. True, but they are impacted by sin and are victims to "original sin" that is, the sin committed by our first parents. So that they are not subject to the permanent consequences of sin and have the freedom to choose God, we baptize babies.

Baptism requires that the person make a profession of faith. Of course a baby or child is not capable for doing that so we depend on godparents who speak on behalf of the child while promising to hand on faith to the child. This is why the requirements for godparents are so strict. Obviously a person who is not baptized or not practicing the faith cannot make a promise to do something he/she does not hold to be true or valuable.

I use this as an opportunity to offer the gratitude to **Kate and Deacon Jay Waldron** who have taken on the important ministry of preparing parents for the Baptism of their child. They have put together a program that helps parents think about how best to hand on their faith to their child.

If you or someone you know would like more information about having a baby or child baptized, simply give the collaborative office a call.

Here, too, is an occasion to invite any adult who is interested in joining the Catholic Church or any adult who, for whatever reason, did not receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Confirmation to speak to one of the priests or deacons. We would be very pleased to help you receive the Sacraments.

Speaking of Sacraments, if there are any couples in the parish who were married outside of the Church but would like information on receiving the Sacrament of Marriage, again, please speak with one of the priests or deacons. We are here to help.

Fr. Bob



JANUARY 12, 2025



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

A young man I know, was getting married out of state. We had been talking about having me preside at the wedding for some time. As it turns out there would be a few little wrinkles in that plan. For one thing there'd be the paperwork that all engaged couples need to fill out before a Catholic marriage and because he was marrying a non-Catholic and the ceremony would be in a church of the other denomination certain permissions from the local bishop need to be obtained – no problem. In our last conversation together I mentioned that time was getting short and they needed to do these things very soon and offered to find a priest or deacon down there that would guide them through the process. I kind of sensed some reluctance and finally got out of him that he's just going to let the minister marry them because he thinks the Catholic Church makes people jump through too many hoops.

He doesn't want to jump through hoops. How do you argue with that?

In today's Gospel we find the Son of God allowing himself to be baptized. The one who in fact was sinless undertakes a baptism that was a sign of one's repentance for sin. In addition, this baptism was administered by one who was admittedly inferior to Jesus.

Why would Jesus do that? For that matter, why did he have to undergo circumcision? Or fast and pray? Why bother being tempted? Why learn scripture? Why should he put himself through his passion and death? Why become human at all? Why would Jesus jump through all these hoops?

When I first began to play the organ and piano my teachers would have me practice scales and arpeggios all the time. I'd have to play them for one octave, then two, then three then four – every time in different rhythms and different keys. It was tedious - boring and pointless. One day after I'd just about had enough I went to my teacher and said "Why do I have to keep doing these stupid scales – what's the point? Can't I just play some Bach or Mozart? Why are you making me jump through all these hoops?"

So he had me buy the complete book of Mozart Sonatas and told me to practice Sonata number 1 in C. Thank you! I started to play it... it was beautiful and it was ALL scales and arpeggios, and that piece came more easily to me because I had practiced all those scales for so long. In fact, all music moves in either steps or skips. It's all scales and arpeggios in one form or another. By jumping through scale-hoops I prepared myself to play all kinds of music.

Athletes jump through hoops too. A ball player that takes batting practice and catches ground balls finds him self ready to play in the big game.

By skipping rope, hitting a bag and sparring, a boxer conditions his body and mind for the main event.

I think that Jesus jumped through those spiritual hoops to condition his humanity to do those things his divinity would require. He was in effect preparing for the main event. By humbling himself, by becoming a baby, and by being baptized by John, Jesus gave himself a taste of what it would take to be humbled before Pilate. He who was sinless underwent a baptism of repentance knowing he would become sin for our sake and endure the cross for us. Jesus studied scripture so that when temptation came he had a weapon to defend himself against the tempter and when he found himself abandoned on the cross he could still lift his mind and heart to the Father by praying the psalms. Jesus underwent circumcision, obeyed the dietary laws, underwent ritual cleansing and everything else because that's what God asked good Jews to do – and Jesus was a good Jew.

A Jewish man I know, when asked about dietary laws, said that Jews don't refrain from eating pork because there is something inherently bad about pork. Jews refrain from eating pork simply because God said not to. In the practice of their faith they practice obedience to God.

It was through human disobedience (that of Adam) that our relationship with God was broken and nothing we could do for ourselves could ever repair that. It was only through the obedience of Jesus that our relationship with God could be restored.

Musicians, ball players, boxers and others all jump through hoops because they know they aren't perfect. They know that they won't be ready when the time comes for them to put up or shut up unless they're prepared

And we are practicing Catholics for the same reason because we aren't perfect either. We need to be in constant training. We need to practice our faith even when we think it's tedious and pointless.

We fast, for example, not only as a form of penance, but because there will someday be a time when we may have to give up something we want – something we want dearly – for the sake of Christ and His Church, maybe our own lives.

We sing in church, even if it's uncomfortable and we're afraid of what someone might say, not only because it gives praise to God but because it's a practice of courage. Courage for the day when we may be required to raise our voices in a public way for Christ, or against some grave injustice and

we'll be prepared because we have practiced.

We pray; attend mass; study scripture; obey the laws of God and the Church so that when the time comes, when we're confronted with our own main event, finding the Lord and following him will not be foreign to us but come naturally - as it did with Christ, tempted in the desert, and suffering on the Cross.

Jesus trusted God his Father to such a great extent that He was willing to have himself nailed to the wood of the cross and hung humiliated on a hill within sight of the temple where he ought to have been paid homage. He learned that trust through prayer, scripture, obedience and the traditions of his Jewish faith and by doing so left us an example.

That leaves us with a challenge - to find some time for ourselves over the coming week and reflect on that example and through our prayer discover ways in which we can make the trust of Christ, the obedience of Christ, the sacrifice of Christ and the work of Christ our own.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Class Schedule for the Week of January 12, 2025

Grade K-6 meet Sunday, January 12, at 11:15AM and
Tuesday, January 14 and Thursday, January 16 at 4PM
Grade 9 Meets THIS Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 4:45PM.
Grades 7 & 8 meet Tuesday, January 14th and Thursday,
January 16th at 5:15PM

Happy New Year! It is so good to have the children back in the St. Clare hall for classes! We began our year learning about the Epiphany. We discussed just how special the three gifts that Jesus received were, as they symbolized his kingship (gold) his humanity (myrrh) and his divinity (frankincense) The children were invited to bring a gift for Jesus at the 10:15 Mass last week. They brought in blankets and fuzzy socks to keep him warm, stuffed animals to keep him company, books, toys, and some handmade cards. We said a special prayer for Epiphany that asks us to remember others and continue the spirit of giving all year long!



Reminder: First Penance is this month! (Tuesday, January 21, Thursday, January 23, and Saturday, January 25) Please keep the second graders in your prayers as they prepare for their First Penance.

If you are a Catholic who was never confirmed, or are a non-baptized Catholic and are interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church, we will be starting our preparation for Easter 2025. We will be hosting an information session in the coming weeks to learn more about this process. Please email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org or Father Kevin Leaver at kleaver@sfab.org to express interest. Looking forward to meeting with you all!



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)*



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of January 12, 2025

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/
Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/
Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/
1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



St. Francis of Assisi
Josephine Frances Losi

St. Clare
Nora Kathleen Lawrence



January 12: The Baptism of the Lord

After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words.

As you help those who are suffering, know in your heart the truth of the words "you are my beloved in whom I am well pleased".



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, January 18-19. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. Some of the much needed items are paper products; personal care items (i.e. toothbrushes/toothpaste, deodorant etc.); laundry detergent and soap. However, 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 also be dropped off at the Collaborative office during normal business hours (M-F 9-4).



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Francis of Assisi
John J. Hussey
Joshua Haddad-Logan

St. Clare
Margaret A. Manganello
Ricardo Ricci
Robert Pannier

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.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

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.

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.

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

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JOHN
MESSIAH
BAPTIZING

WATER
POWERFUL
SANDALS

HOLY SPIRIT
FIRE
JESUS

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

MISSION

Find out what makes God happy. As a family, read John 15:9-12.



Sharing the Gospel

Your Dad says, "Wash your hands, please. It is almost time to eat." After you wash your hands really well, your Dad smiles. He says, "That's my boy. You did a good job!" In today's Gospel, it was time for Jesus to be baptized. After his baptism, Jesus talked to God his Father in prayer. Jesus did everything his Father asked. God was happy with his Son and said, "I'm pleased with you."

Prayer

God, I want to make you and my parents happy.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of God telling you, "Good job!"

Mission for the Week

Find out what makes God happy. As a family, read John 15:9-12.