

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 Ronald & Frances O'Brien and Mary Ferrazzi Memorial

Sunday, January 19, 2025

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

11:30AM Angela Kelly Memorial

Monday, January 20, 2025

7:00AM

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

7:00AM

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

7:00AM Bernadette "Lucy" & Joseph Forti Memorial

Thursday, January 23, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, January 24, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, January 25, 2025

5:30PM Rita Currie 1st Anniv.

Sunday, January 26, 2025

9:00AM Sr. Margaret Louise, CSI and Sr. Aniceta Anniversary

11:30AM Lorraine Letteney 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, 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

Saturday, January 25, 2025

8:00AM Maureen Rocks Birthday

4:00PM Joseph & Mary Kelly, Joseph Kelly, Jr. and Patricia Roache Memorial

Sunday, January 26, 2025

7:45AM Deceased Members of the Tran Family Memorial

10:15AM Joseph F. Santoro 3rd 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.



One of our young and very astute parishioners asked me last weekend why, at St. Clare Church, the cantor crosses the sanctuary to sing the Psalm at the lectern where the lectors offer the Scripture readings? From the mouths of babes! This happens at both Churches actually, but at St. Francis Church the cantor stand is located close to the lectern. The lectern is properly called an *ambo*, by the way. A lectern is a stand on which is placed a book or notes for a speaker. When it is used to proclaim the Word of God in Sacred Scriptures, however, it is called an ambo.

The reason the cantor moves to the ambo for the Psalm is that the Psalm *is* Sacred Scripture. Where the first and second reading and the Gospel are recited, the Psalm is often sung (it can be recited, however). The Psalms were written as songs, thus we often sing them in Catholic worship. There are 150 Psalms. Some are songs of praise, while others are of sorrow or repentance. Some are songs of supplications and others of thanksgiving. A particular Psalm is chosen because of its link to the first reading. The proper language is to say that the Psalm is a *response* to the first reading. Because of that, the Psalm often ties into the Gospel as well.

At Mass, a Psalm is generally broken up into parts with a sung or spoken refrain which is repeated after each part. The refrain is intended to be sung by the entire congregation whereas the parts of the Psalm are proclaimed in song by the cantor. Because the Psalm is part of Sacred Scripture, the cantor proclaims it from the ambo.

Other uses for an ambo: Prayers of the Faithful (intercessions), preaching and the Easter Exultet.

I love the **presidential inauguration** on January 20 every four years. I consider it a very important moment in the country. It's not simply about the oath taken by a new or incumbent president, but more about the enactment of handing on executive power called for by the Constitution. The fact we are able to do this faithfully every four years at a precise time on a precise date speaks to the power of the Constitution and the nation which it governs. Regardless of the person who is taking the oath as president, I appreciate the importance of the ritual. Many countries, as you well know, could only dream about such a transfer of executive power. Their situations are either unstable or, sadly, corrupt where power is held indefinitely by one person or a few

people. On the occasion of any presidential inauguration, some people are celebrating, others lamenting, and still others with no reaction one way or the other. Into whichever of these groups we may fall, we have a spiritual obligation to pray for our president, the administration, all elected officials and civic leaders. Our prayers make for a greater reception of God's grace in any and every situation.

Wednesday, January 22, is the anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in 1973 of legalizing abortion. The bishop's of the United States have called for this to be a **day of prayer and penance** each year for the reparation of the sin against the dignity of the human person. Though the actual decision has been overturned, we still keep the day as a time for intentional prayer for the **sanctity and protection of every human life** and the conversion of our culture. **On Wednesday night this week, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 6:00 at St. Francis Church with the Rosary at 6:45 followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.** May I invite you to participate in this important time of prayer for the conversion of a culture which supports abortion.

This is a good place to mention **Project Rachel**. If anyone is suffering the consequences of abortion, there is help and support. You can call Project Rachel at 508-651-3100. Their website: projectrachelboston.com.

Next Saturday morning, January 25, the collaborative's **Men's group** is hosting a presentation by **Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI** on the characteristics of prayer. This will take place around 8:30am in St. Clare Parish Hall, after the 8:00 Mass.

Fr. Bob



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)*

JANUARY 19, 2025



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

The Wedding Feast at Cana

I think we have all been in the position when someone asks us to do something. It may be a boss, a teacher or a parent. And even if we don't feel like doing it, we do it anyway. Sometimes though we are asked to do something difficult. It's going to be hard to accomplish but because we have a relationship with the boss or teacher or parent we do the hard thing. We trust them. But what if it was something crazy?

This is the exact position the servants in today's readings find themselves. There is a real disaster looming at this wedding – the wine has run out. They just can't run out to the liquor store and buy some. It didn't work like that. And then a nice lady came by with her son and they overheard them discussing the situation. It was obvious she wanted him to do something about the wine problem. They thought to themselves "what does she expect him to do?" But his response was just weird. "My time hasn't come." Time? Time for what?

Now Mary, knowing a lot more about her son than the servants did, asked them to do something. It was simple "Do whatever he tells you." Sage advice for them and even more so for us today.

When it's our boss or teacher or parent that tells us to do something it's someone, we have a relationship with, someone we've come to trust even if we don't understand the why of it. Those poor servants didn't know Mary at all, but they were going to humor her or at least entertain her request. So, they turned to Jesus, who they didn't know from Adam, and waited for instructions. Maybe Jesus knew where some extra wine had been stashed. But that's not what happened Jesus told them to take six 30-gallon stone water jugs and fill them with water. That would mean that those jugs once filled would weigh about 250 pounds each for total of about 1500 pounds not counting the stone jugs themselves. They didn't have a spicket with a hose to fill them with. They had to drag these things to the village well, fill them with buckets, and then drag them back to venue. For what?

Well, it must have seemed ridiculous, unnecessary and just plain crazy. Talk about being asked to do something hard without a good reason, frankly I'm surprised they did it. But they did, because Mary told them to do what ever Jesus said. It was good that they listened to her, that they put their trust in a woman they didn't know and man who told them to do something crazy. Because they did what was hard without and without question, they saved the day. The feast

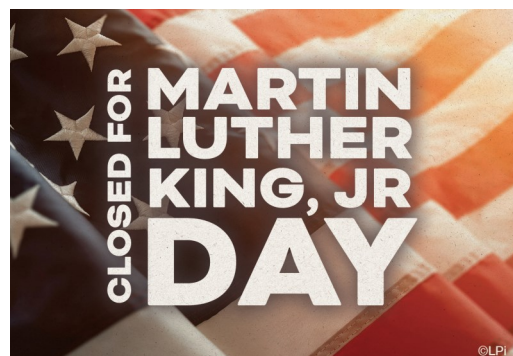
continued uninterrupted.

But something else happened. It was something more important than turning water into the best wine ever. His disciples began to believe in him. Faith was ignited. The story is not about wine and wedding feasts. Its about Mary directing us toward Jesus and the wonders that occur in people when we do what he tells us. I'm sure the servants also began to believe.

Sometimes Jesus asks us to do little things and sometimes he asks us to do hard things. He might ask us to do something that appears crazy, like carrying our crosses or forgiving 70 x 7 times, losing our life to save it. But when we do what he tells us, whatever it is, we can be confident that something great will come of it whether we see it or not. Let's always listen to the Lord and follow Mary's advice, "do whatever he tells you."



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.



The Collaborative office will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2025 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Class Schedule for the Week of January 19, 2025

Grade K-8 **No** Classes this week

Grade 9 Meets THIS Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 4:45PM.

Grade 2 First Penance Retreats—Tuesday, January 21 and

Thursday, January 23 at 4:00PM; and

Saturday January 25 at 2:00PM



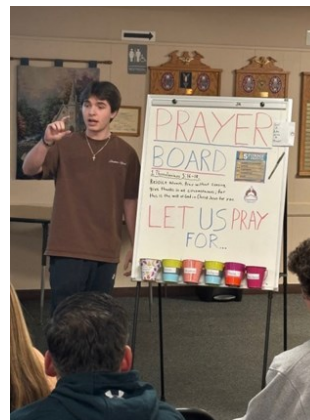
As we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord last week, we talked about how baptism makes us an adopted child of God and welcomes us as a member of the church. It cleanses us of original sin, and leaves a spiritual mark on our soul. We discussed the special symbols of water, oil, a candle, and a white garment that are part of this most beautiful sacrament. Even though most of us don't remember our own baptisms, we can recall our baptism every time we enter the church by blessing ourselves with holy water! At the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare, Father Kevin helped us to renew our Baptismal promises in a very special way. The water he used to bless us was from the Jordan River, the very place where Jesus was baptized!



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!



The Collaborative Safety Committee has recommended that for the safety of our children, the back door ("Religious Education Door") of St. Clare Church must remain closed at all times. Given the noise in the hall after classes have begun, we don't always hear people knocking. Therefore, we are in **need** of volunteers to be a door monitor. The person would stay (inside) by the door to let people in at the beginning of class as well as during classes (in case someone comes in late or needs to be picked up early) If you are able to help out for the 4:00-5:00 or 5:15-6:15 class on Tuesdays or Thursdays, or the 11:15-12:15 class on Sundays, please email Karen Lane for more information at klane@sfab.org. Bring a book and I'll provide a nice chair and a cup of tea!



Confirmation classes are going great!. The students are reflecting on their journey of faith and their relationship with Jesus. Jackson Garvey, who was confirmed in May 2024, is now a catechist in the program. He is an inspiration to the students as he shares his faith in many ways. Last week he prepared a prayer board for the students and encouraged them to connect with Jesus every day through the many types of prayer. What a wonderful example of evangelization!



Braintree Collaborative Men's Group
invites the men of the parish to a presentation of
The Characteristics of Prayer given by
Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI
on **Saturday, January 25** in **St. Clare Parish Hall** following
the **8:00 Mass**.



There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." - Jn 2:1-3

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of January 19, 2025

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

Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/
Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and
10c/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/
Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10,
17/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12,
13-14/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/
Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18

Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15
(see Jn 6:63c)/
1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/
Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21



St. Clare
Amelia Katherine Bernato
Wade Patrick Gavin



January 19: Second Sunday in Ordinary time

In the Gospel today, at the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus reveals himself to his disciples and they began to believe in him. Everyday, God also gives us signs of his love and so we also can respond in faith and trust.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul becomes a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them reason to believe and to trust.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS 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

Margaret "Peggy" Sullivan
Mary E. Berard

St. Clare

Kent Frazier
Virginia Cox
Patrick Preston
Anna DiCenso

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

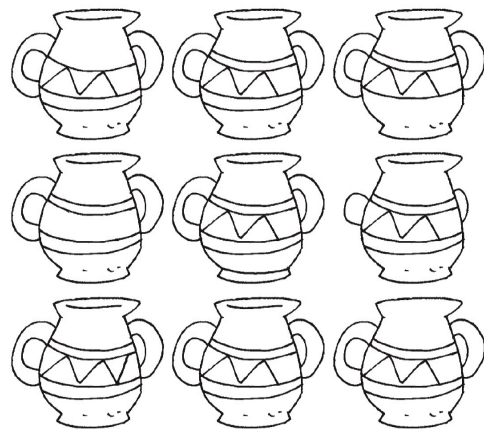
Men's Weekend: April 3 - 6, 2025

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 the two identical jars.



MISSION

What does Jesus tell you to do in his word, the Bible? Find out by reading the Bible for 15 minutes a day with your family. You could start by reading Luke.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

Mary had great faith in God. She also knew that God could do anything. So when the wedding servers ran out of wine, she knew Jesus could help. She said, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do." That's the smartest thing any of us can do.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to do everything you say. I know you can do anything.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of the wedding servants listening carefully to Jesus.

Mission for the Week

What does Jesus tell you to do in his word, the Bible? Find out by reading the Bible for 15 minutes a day with your family. You could start by reading Luke.