

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 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.

Monday, January 27, 2025

7:00AM St. John Seminary

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

7:00AM Adrio Pietrantozzi Memorial

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

7:00AM

Thursday, January 30, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, January 31, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, February 1, 2025

5:30PM Daniel Barselou Memorial

Sunday, February 2, 2025

9:00AM Marks Family Memorial

11:30AM Maria "Cathy" Leitao 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 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

Saturday, February 1, 2025

8:00AM Rev. James Lerner Memorial

4:00PM Arduino DiCenso 6th Anniv.

Sunday, February 2, 2025

7:45AM

10:15AM Gerald Ridge 10th 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.



I preached my first homily 33 years ago today (Sunday) and it happened to be on the same Gospel passage from today's Mass. *Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21*. The actual date coincides with the cycle of readings this year. The homily was given at my deacon parish, St. Camillus in Arlington. It was a sunny but cold day. Though I remember the day pretty well, I don't recall the actual words. Nevertheless, I thought this to be a good occasion to write a word or two about the homily.

The **homily** is an important part of Catholic worship, primarily at Mass. My experience has been that it has long been a misunderstood part of the Mass. Many people think of it as a talk on the readings, an explanation, if you will. Often, it is presented as a recapitulation of the Gospel reading just proclaimed. Some preachers see it as their duty to explain or interpret the Gospel or other readings. Although, there may very well be some great insights presented or life lessons offered, this is not its purpose. The purpose of the homily is to connect the Scripture readings to the Eucharist. In other words, to show the people the link binding the *Word of God to the Sacrament of the altar*. That is the ideal, of course. You can determine how well that happens at any given Mass. I confess, it is a tricky goal to accomplish and I often fail.

Another way to think about it is that the homily helps make each of us better disposed for an encounter with Jesus Christ. There are all kinds of ways for this to happen. Hopefully, a homily will give you something to think about and move you *toward* a resolution of action: to do something differently to help build up God's Kingdom, if only in the tiniest of ways.

Most homilies are forgotten. I don't think they are intended to be remembered in detail actually, but as stated above, to move us toward an encounter with Christ. In a similar way, I don't remember the specific dinners my mother cooked while we were growing up. I know there were certain dinners that I enjoyed more than others. And there were certainly foods I didn't like (but was forced to eat under duress!) What I do remember, though, is that over the years my mother cooked many dinners, that were good. I was well nourished, cared for and loved. The meals were one that I experienced as a child. It's also the place where we were formed as a family: telling our parents about our day, fielding their questions about school, learning about family events,

etc.

Homilies are meant to nourish and form us in a similar kind of way. We don't necessarily remember them after Mass, but hopefully recognize that we connect with God in a life-giving way. I know. It doesn't always work out that way. Sometimes the homilies do that. Other times not.

How long should a homily be? That depends on the culture. My friend has spent many years as a missionary in Jamaica. She has said that if a homily doesn't go at least 30 minutes, then the people feel cheated. Not the case here! In our culture, generally speaking, a Sunday homily should go 7-10 minutes. It will take at least that time to build a context for the message. Longer than ten minutes, people's minds begin to drift. Mine does, anyway. Where did we come up with the 7-10 minute guide? Most of us grew up in a culture where our daily routines involved television. There was time for news, weather, prime time, games shows, dramas, soap operas, etc. Seven to ten minutes was the average time between commercial breaks. Our minds were trained to process information in blocks of 7-10 minutes. That's not the case today. With on-demand television, YouTube and social media, our attention spans have grown shorter. This will certainly re-shape preaching as many priests are using such media for preaching.

Next Sunday is the feast of the **Presentation of the Lord**. Though celebrated every year, it's only every so many years it falls on a Sunday. This feast marks the presentation of Jesus by Mary and Joseph in the Temple in Jerusalem, faithfully keeping the law and custom of the Jewish people. It is a day that has long been associated with light and marks the half-way point of winter. As such, it is the day on which candles are blessed, which is connected to the **Blessing of Throats**. We will have the blessing of throats after all the Masses next weekend.

Request for financial help

Archbishop Henning has asked all the parishes here to help the parishes in Los Angeles whose parishioners have been devastated by the wildfires. We are going to take a up a **second collection** here next weekend, February 1 and 2. The proceeds will be sent to Catholic Charities in Los Angeles which provides direct support to the people who have been so traumatized by the fires.

This past Tuesday was the memorial of St. Agnes. She was a fourth century martyr of the Church who stood up to the threats of the emperor and was tortured and put to death for it. Archbishop Henning wrote a beautiful reflection about her in last week's Pilot. There is a tradition on her feast that two lambs are brought to the Pope who

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blesses them. Their wool is used to make the pallia, vestment worn by the pope and archbishops around the world. The significance this year is that Archbishop Henning will receive the pallium from the wool of these sheep at the end of June directly from Pope Francis. I will write more about its history and significance when that time comes. Just thought it was worth a mention given our local connection to this long-time ritual.



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

To understand what is happening in today's Gospel, the fourth chapter of Luke, it would be wise to take a look at what happened just prior to this event from chapter three of Luke. Just at the end of chapter three Jesus is Baptized by John in the Jordan and as He came out of the water the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove.

Then immediately in chapter four the same Spirit led Him into the desert to fast and pray but also to be tempted by the devil. However, because Jesus was filled with the Spirit, He was able to defeat the devil. Remember the devil had used Scripture to try to entrap Jesus, but He used His own knowledge and understanding of Scripture is what defeated the devil.

Which brings us to where we are today. The Lord came home to Nazareth and went to the Synagogue where he read from the Prophet Isaiah which spoke of how God would care for the poor, the downtrodden, the grieving, the oppressed and the blind.

When He was finished reading, He rolled up the scroll and handed it back to the attendant. The people were waiting with bated breath to hear what Jesus would say. It must have been a dramatic moment, like waiting for a verdict to be read in a courtroom. You might recall that in Matthew's Gospel the Sermon the Mount lasted for three chapters, but what Jesus does this time might have been His shortest sermon ever. He looked out at the congregation and spoke these nine words "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

In a few short words Jesus proclaimed that He was the fulfillment of the prophets, that He was the One they were waiting for. He wasn't just another prophet He was THE prophet.

Today's Gospel ends here but if we were to read on, the people start to reject Him. "Isn't He Joseph's son? Who does He think He is?" It was a small town and they may have remembered him as that "weird kid" or the "awkward teen." In the end, they drove Jesus out of town and tried to throw him off a cliff. Here He was the one they had been waiting for, and they were going to throw him off a cliff, it would be like kids throwing Santa off a cliff on Christmas Eve.

What do these events in the life of Christ mean for us today? Let's look at that first line from Isaiah. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because He has anointed me, He has sent me..."

Looking ahead...

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

We are also hosting a **St. Patrick Dinner** on Saturday evening, March 8. Stay tuned for tickets.

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)

Just like Jesus, we have been Baptized, and we received the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the Lord God is upon US. At our Baptisms were anointed with oils by the priest or deacon. We were indeed made children of God. We were made members of the Church, the mystical Body of Christ. As such we are also sent. Jesus Himself gave us our marching orders, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." For what are we sent? The same things Christ was sent to do.

*"He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
release to the prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God.
To comfort all who mourn.
to place on those who mourn in Zion.
a diadem instead of ashes,
To give them oil of gladness instead of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a faint spirit. (Isaiah 61:1-3)*

So, we've been baptized, we've been anointed, and we have been sent. Taking our lead from Jesus we should also be praying (and fasting). And the very next thing Jesus did after he was baptized and prayed, was that he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. Scripture tells us that this was His custom. We might say it was His habit. If we are going to follow in the footsteps of Christ then it should be our habit, or custom to attend Mass on Sunday. It's what baptized Catholics are called to do not because it is required, but out of love for God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

At the end of each Mass, we are commissioned to go forth. "Ite missa est" is the Latin phrase we use at the end of Mass. Missa is where we get our word for Mass. Quite literally Mass means to "go forth." It is a sending forth to be the people and prophets that our Baptisms call us to. "Go forth and announce the Gospel" It is then that we say "Thanks be to God," not because this tedious thing we've been subjected to is over but because we have been strengthened by God's Word and nourished with the Bread of Life so that we can go forth and announce the Gospel, so that we can proclaim the Gospel by our lives so that we can go out and be Christ to the world.



Knights of Columbus Fraternal Benefits Night in our district. Presentation and discussion on Knights of Columbus Financial Planning and Insurance Benefits.

This is informational only with no obligations. Light refreshments will be served. Open to all men of the parish.

Tuesday January 28 at 7pm at St. Paula's Hall located at St. Jerome Church, Bridge Street, North Weymouth

Class Schedule for the Week of January 26, 2025

Grades K-6 meet Sunday, January 26 at 11:15AM and
Tuesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 30 at 4PM
Grade 9 Meets THIS Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 4:45PM.
Grades 7 & 8 meet Tuesday, January 28 and
Thursday, January 30 at 5:15PM



Our First Communion classes received their First Penance this week! The kids discussed how Jesus is our shepherd and will always be there for us. The kids colored individual sheep to represent their unique qualities. Jesus says, "I know my sheep, and they know me"



The students learned different ways to examine their conscience before making a confession. As kids offered suggestions for things to say, books were taken out of heavy backpacks to symbolize the weight that is lifted from us when our sins are forgiven!

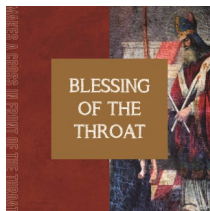


PRAYER BUDDIES - Our Confirmation students and First Communion students are praying for each other as they prepare for their special days! Please keep all of the students in your prayers.



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!

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



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.

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 next Week, 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.



***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free.***
• Lk 4:18

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of January 26, 2025

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
Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Mk 4:21-25
Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32



St. Francis of Assisi
Drew Katherine Kelly
Hayes Patrick Ellis
Nicholas Hanna
Cameron James Monti



January 26: Third Sunday in Ordinary time

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of scripture: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to

bring glad tidings to the poor."

In the month of January, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing food, assistance with utility and rent, bills, etc. Thank You!

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.**



St. Francis of Assisi

Kevin M. Waldron
Adrio Pietrantozzi

St. Clare

Judith F. McNamara

Archdiocese of Boston

Rev. John U. Paris

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 10 may be reserved with payment in full of \$350.00. 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.