

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 4, 2025

5:30PM Kenneth Rowan 1st Anniv.

Sunday, January 5, 2025

9:00AM Broughton Family Memorial

11:30AM John T. Cassidy 1st Anniv.

Monday, January 6, 2025

7:00AM Bobby Daly Memorial

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

7:00AM

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

7:00AM Patrick & Mildred MacCurtain and Ethel & Lawrence Fallon Memorial

Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, January 10, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, January 11, 2025

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

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:00AM Louis & David Napolitano Memorial

11:30AM Deborah Cerilli 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 4, 2025

8:00AM John B. Passalacqua Memorial

4:00PM Lawrence Perfetti 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, January 5, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Bashir Khnaizer, Mary George and George Nasir Memorial

6:00PM Ann O'Leary 1st Anniv.

Saturday, January 11, 2025

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

4:00PM

Sunday, January 12, 2025

7:45AM Robert Finn Memorial

10:15AM William Callahan 5th Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

The Bread & Wine for the week of December 28th through January 3rd were been donated in loving memory of Marion Petkiewich. The **Sanctuary light** will also burn in Marion's 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.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Today is the **Epiphany of the Lord**. The name of the feast comes from a Greek word meaning a *manifestation*. Given that the feast has a Greek name indicates that there is an eastern concept to its meaning. In our western way of thinking we commemorate things on their respective anniversaries: birthdays, historical events and such. (I always love to read “this date in history”!) A more eastern thought, however, makes a distinction between when something happens and when something is revealed or made known. Case in point: the birth of Jesus is commemorated on December 25 however the manifestation of His birth is celebrated on January 6 (in the United States Epiphany is celebrated on the second Sunday after Christmas). If you think about it, we often hold off telling others of an event until the right moment. Couples get engaged, but perhaps wait some days before telling anyone. Quite common is waiting to disclose the news of a pregnancy until after a certain amount of time has passed. In recent years, the gender of a baby is often revealed in some kind of a festive way months before the birth. There are all kinds of reasons why waiting to make an announcement is important. In ancient Jewish culture, the name of the child was held until the 8th day after birth.

For many Christians throughout the world, the big celebration is not on December 25th but rather on Epiphany. They commemorate the birth of Jesus on the 25th for certain, but hold the big celebration until the day of manifestation. There are three events in the life of Jesus which are commemorated on Epiphany: the visit of the Magi, Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River and the first public miracle at the wedding at Cana. Because Epiphany comprises the Christmas season (think the 12 days of Christmas) we typically focus on the visit of the Magi. And in our Church calendar, the Baptism of Jesus is given its own feast which this year is January 12, closing out the Christmas season.

There is a small but quite beautiful custom on Epiphany of blessing our homes for the new year. It's done by marking one of the doors in our house using chalk to inscribe initials of the Magi: Casper, Melchior and Balthazar along with the numerals of the new year. So over the commonly used entrance to our home we write in chalk above the door 20 + C + M + B + 25. There is of course a blessing that is prayed as you inscribe the initials. This is similar to the way we bless a new Paschal Candle at the Easter Vigil. On the

candle itself the numerals of the year are etched into the wax along with the Greek letters alpha and omega to indicate that Christ is the beginning and the end of all time.

At all the Masses this weekend chalk will be blessed and available for you to take home to bless your homes. The blessing prayer will be included with the chalk.

Another beautiful custom of Epiphany is the proclamation of all the movable feasts of the upcoming year. In generations past, people had a different understanding of time and so do not utilize advanced calendars as we do today. Therefore they waited for the Church to tell them when holy days, fasts and feasts would be happening. Given that the date of Easter was set according to moon, no one knew from one year to the next when it would be celebrated. Along with that, of course, were many other feasts that were set according to the date of Easter, like Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, etc. On Epiphany it fell to the parish deacon to get up before Mass and tell everyone when all the movable feasts would be celebrated. Of course this was important in terms of planting crops and regulating commerce.

So, here in the midst of Christmas, we look forward to Lent and Easter thus connecting Christ's birth with his Passion, Death and Resurrection. These dates are:

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Palm Sunday, April 13

Easter, April 20

Ascension Thursday, May 29

Pentecost, June 8

Trinity Sunday, June 15.

The Collaborative Pastoral Council will be meeting on Wednesday evening of this week. On the agenda is a discussion about the information collected from the Christmas survey. If you haven't yet responded to this survey you can do so by scanning the QR code below.

Fr. Bob



JANUARY 5, 2025



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

B.O.L.O (Be on the lookout)

Subject is a young Palestinian Jew between infancy and two years. The child allegedly thinks himself a king and is suspected of attempting to seize Herod's Throne. The child is wanted dead or alive. Strike that. The child is wanted dead. Herod's reign will not be threatened for any reason. All males up to two years old are subject to the same condemnation.

It's Christmas time. We're all on the lookout for something and unfortunately it's not always the Christ Child.

Every year it's something! And every year the local news will do a remote broadcast outside some shopping center to interview the consumers who camp out all night in freezing temperatures just to guarantee themselves one of the latest gadgets or snag the newest toy that the kids "must" have. I don't know what it is this year, maybe the Barbie Dream House or Nintendo Switch.

You see the same kind of frenzy outside of Fenway Park or Gillette Stadium at playoff time. It's the length that people will go for something, even if it's only a fleeting craze or momentary glory.

I'm only human. One year, when my daughter was about 13 years old, In Sync was the most popular "boy band" in America and like all girls her age she really wanted to go to the In Sync concert that was coming in January. The tickets were going on sale one Saturday a few weeks before Christmas and I thought it would make the best Christmas present. So, at exactly 9 AM (the time the tickets went on sale) I called. Busy! I tried again at 9:02 and again at 9:05 – still busy. Now I wasn't camped outside in the cold but I was on that phone for nearly 4 hours until I got through and got the best seats I could – in the nosebleed section; the lengths that a Dad would go through to make a merrier Christmas for his little girl.

Today's Gospel is also about people going to great lengths. The Magi went to extremely great lengths in their search for the newborn king.

Think about it. Quite literally they had to travel to the ends of the earth. I imagine they must have endured more than a little ridicule from friends, family, and colleagues. Imagine telling your friends that you're going to follow a star to a far-off land to find playoff tickets or the newest I-Phone.

Imagine the kind of journey they had. These guys couldn't follow Route 95 or plug the address into a GPS. There were

no advance reservations at AAA approved motels and there were no State Police units nearby if they got robbed or attacked. Yet these three wise men did it.

Because seeking Christ takes effort. It takes courage. It takes faith, hope and trust.

That's the question that today's gospel poses to us. What kind of effort do we put into finding Christ? Would we camp out all night in front of the Church in the freezing cold to make sure we got in for mass? Would we walk to another country where they didn't speak our language to receive the Eucharist? How much hardship or just plain inconvenience are we willing to endure so that WE might find Christ?

Christ, God with us, who shares in our humanity so that we might share in His divinity.

Jesus, who shared human suffering and death so that we could share in His resurrection and eternal life!

The anointed one of God – the Eternal Word who unites Himself with us and with each other and with the Father – Why? So that we will never be far from Him, and He will never be far from us.

Our relationship with Christ is no fad. Our faith has nothing to do with a fleeting craze or a temporary encounter with someone else's victory on the field.

What we seek is the real deal. What we seek is Jesus, the Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. My friends when the Magi found Christ Scripture tells us they were overjoyed – we will be too!

The Irony of the story is that everything Herod said to the Magi was right on the money – even though his motivation was all wrong. The apostles couldn't have said it any better, the pope couldn't. Herod said:

"Search Diligently for Christ and when you find him come and tell me that I too may give him homage." Herod unwittingly called the Magi to discipleship. He asked them to do what every good disciple is called to do. Seek Christ and when we have found him bring that good news to others.

We can look into the night sky all we want but unlike the Magi we aren't going to find the light of a star that's going to lead us to Jesus. We can search high and low, near and far and we're not going to find an infant laying in a manger. But we still have an obligation to diligently search for Christ.

- Through prayer and Scripture
- Sacrament and Community
- In each other
- We find him in our own hearts
- We find him on the streets

- In our families
- In our boardrooms, shops, and in our classrooms
- We find Him especially in the ones nobody else wants

When Mother Therese saw the lonely and abandoned laying in the gutters of Calcutta, she saw the SAME Christ who laid in that Bethlehem Manger 2000 years ago. In their suffering she saw the same suffering of Christ on the cross. She recognized the same tears that Jesus shed at the tomb of Lazarus and the same sadness at being abandoned that Jesus felt at Gethsemane.

When we can look into the eyes of someone that nobody on this earth loves or desires or cares about; someone who may be repulsive or dirty or diseased, when we can recognize Christ in them and be willing to give our own lives for their welfare...Then like the Magi our diligent searching will be complete & we'll have found Christ in our hearts and in each other and like the Magi our joy will be so great we will not be able to bear it. We will not be able to keep it to ourselves. It'll spill out. We will have no choice but to bring that Good News to others, so that they too can pay Him homage and that their joy too may be complete and as the psalm says, "all the ends of the earth will see the Glory of God."



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)

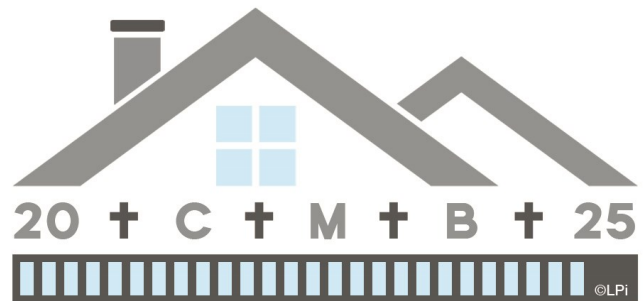


Religious Education News

Class Schedule for the Week of January 5, 2025
 Grade 9 Meets THIS Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 4:45PM.
 Grades K—6 meet Tuesday, January 7th and Thursday, January 9th at 4:00PM
 Grades 7 & 8 meet Tuesday, January 7th and Thursday, January 9th at 5:15PM



The Epiphany of the Lord commemorates the visit of the Three Wise Men to the infant Jesus. What gifts did they bring to Jesus? Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This week we will learn the special meaning of these gifts.



The Epiphany door blessing is a tradition of writing a special inscription on a home's door using blessed chalk to ask for God's blessing on the home and those who live in it. Please take home a Door Blessing kit today, which has the blessed chalk and directions for the blessing. On your front door (usually at the top,) you will write "20+C+M+B+25"

The 20 stands for the first two numbers of the year, C stands for Caspar, M stands for Melchior, B for Balthasar (the 3 Wise Men) and 25 stands for the last two numbers of the year. Wishing all a Happy, Healthy, and Blessed New Year!





January 5: Epiphany

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul blue envelope so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

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

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of January 5, 2025

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next 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

St. Francis of Assisi

John Campbell
Lorraine Brennan
Richard Butchard
John J. Hussey

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. Clare

Maclín Arthur Murray



YOU ARE
Welcome Here



From the Archdiocese of Boston

January 5 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord

Today we celebrate Epiphany, the revelation of Jesus to the Magi who traveled from afar to see the Christ child. Over the past two weeks in parishes throughout the archdiocese people have come from far and near to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Many were people we know and recognize, and many more were people unknown. Yet, it is important for us to remember that like the Magi, everyone who came was drawn by God's grace to see Christ! As you reflect on this Epiphany and Christmas, were all who gathered for the beautiful celebrations welcomed with the same humble spirit as Mary and Joseph welcomed the shepherds and Magi? Let us ask for the grace to welcome and celebrate everyone who desires to journey with us. This journey is always better when traveled with companions.

CURSILLO - An Opportunity to Deepen Your Faith Men's and Women's Weekends. Cursillo is a short course in Christianity. It is an encounter with Christ in a small community of the Church, in order to deepen your own faith and strengthen your ability to be witnesses of Christ in the world.

Women's Weekend: February 27 - March 2, 2025

Men's Weekend: April 3 - 6, 2025

The weekends run from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon and are held at the Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich, MA. For information and registration, please check the Boston Cursillo website: www.bostoncursillo.org or email at bostoncursillo@gmail.com.

Witness to Life Trip (1/23-1/25)

Join Boston pilgrims at the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January. We will depart the archdiocese at approximately 10 PM on Thurs., Jan. 23 and arrive at Life Fest at 7:30 AM on Fri., Jan. 24 and then head to the March. We will return to the archdiocese at 12:15 AM on Jan. 25. The cost is \$80 and includes bus, Life Fest ticket, driver gratuity, and boxed lunch. Visit bit.ly/WitnesstoLife2025 to register.

A Celebration of Convalidation—If you and your spouse desire holy matrimony in the Catholic Church, you are invited to convalidate your marriage through your parish or at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston during World Marriage Week on Sat. February 8, 2025 at 6PM with Bishop Mark O'Connell and Bishop Cristiano Barbosa. A celebration of convalidation is an opportunity for couples married outside of the Church to enter a marriage covenant in the Catholic tradition. The Cathedral ceremony will be available in the various languages of the couples present. Visit bit.ly/CatholicConvalidation for more information or call Emily Elliott in Family Life at 617-746-5756.



PUZZLE

Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

wise men
child
born

king
star
worship

Mary
gifts
dream

wsie mne w i s e m e n

brno _ _ _ _

knig _ _ _ _

derma _ _ _ _ _

cildh _ _ _ _ _

wrsophi _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Mrya _ _ _ _

gfsti _ _ _ _ _

srt a _ _ _ _

MISSION

Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.



Sharing the Gospel

Isn't God amazing? He made all the stars and planets to move, so every night the sky looks a little different. When God created the world, he planned exactly when the wise men would see the star. He wanted them to find Jesus.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for making the planets and stars so the wise men could find Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of stars and planets shining in the night sky.

Mission for the Week

Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.