

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 15, 2025

5:30PM Gordon T. Smith Anniversary

Sunday, February 16, 2025

9:00AM Benjamin Venuti Anniversary

11:30AM Daniel Crimmins Memorial

Monday, February 17, 2025

7:00AM Margaret Varraso Memorial

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

7:00AM Elizabeth & Roger Hester Memorial

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

7:00AM

Thursday, February 20, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, February 21, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, February 22, 2025

5:30PM Anzaldi, Bevilacqua, Brady and Crimmins Families Memorial

Sunday, February 23, 2025

9:00AM Edward Marks Memorial

11:30AM Robert R. Sacchetti 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!

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. 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*! 🍀

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, February 15, 2025

8:00AM Amy Healing

4:00PM Maria Tempesta and Deceased Members of the Tempesta Family Memorial

Sunday, February 16, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Richard Ryan Memorial

6:00PM John Young Memorial

Saturday, February 22, 2025

8:00AM Robert & Joan Anthony Memorial

4:00PM Chris Ghiloni 4th Anniv.

Sunday, February 23, 2025

7:45AM Deceased Members Tran Family Memorial

10:15AM Domenic DeSantis Anniversary

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

The Bread & Wine for the week of February 15 through 21 have been donated in loving memory of Arlene McDonough.

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.
- **AI-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 the priests on the seminary faculty was preaching at Mass on Ash Wednesday one year and began the homily with, "Lent in the Seminary. Now that's redundant." The implication, of course, was that Lent was kind of a time of denial and self-imposed drudgery which was mimicked by seminary life. Funny, that has stuck with me all these years. Something about that statement rings true, though. Not the seminary, but of Lent. Part of me, to tell the truth, looks to Lent as a time of drudgery and denial. There are elements of it that are like that but there is so much more.

Lent begins two weeks from Wednesday, March 5. As is often the case, the day catches us off guard. I encourage you not to let that happened this year but instead be intentional about how you will keep the weeks of Lent as holy time. These are just a few thoughts:

Lent makes sense only in light of Easter, which, by the way, will be on April 20 this year. (My dad would say "it's on a Sunday this year!") Whatever we do for Lent should anticipate the great celebration of Easter. In other words, we don't voluntarily take on penance for the fun of it. It is always in preparation for Easter. If you were planning to go to a favorite restaurant for dinner, you likely would not eat beforehand so that you could enjoy the meal more. Same idea when it comes to "giving up" something for the weeks of Lent. By depriving ourselves of something we enjoy, we anticipate its return as part of celebrating the Lord's Resurrection. In the coming weeks I will write something about the importance of fasting in the Christian life.

There are traditionally three things the Church asks us to do during Lent: Pray. Fast. Give to the poor. These are important disciplines in general, however during Lent they take on a significant importance. Go into Lent with a plan in place as to how you will pray more, how you will fast (what you will give up) and how you will care for the poor. If you have a plan ahead of time, then the season of Lent (a little more than 6 weeks) will be more impactful for you.

Next Sunday, February 23, there is a **Faith Festival** for the children of the parish following the 10:15 Mass. Mrs. Lane has put together a number of fun activities that will teach the children about Lent. While the kids are involved with that, I will be hosting a **discussion for the parents, and any other adults, on the history of Lent** and a brief explanation

of what we do and how we do it. That will be in the meeting room at the back of St Clare Parish Hall. There will be coffee and refreshments.

There will be a **collaborative wide retreat for Lent** on March 31, April 1 and April 2. I encourage you to set those evenings aside now so that you are able to participate. Lots of details to follow.

During Lent, I will be offering a mini-course on "The Nicene Creed" we say together at Sunday Mass. This June marks the 1700th anniversary of its acceptance into the Universal Church. These will be on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:15 at St. Francis Parish Hall.

My thanks to all who contributed to the **second collection** two weeks ago to support the work of Catholic Charities in Los Angeles who are assisting those whose lives were devastated in the horrific fires. Our collaborative raised well over \$17,000!

A week from Tuesday, on February 25, Fr Joe Ferme from the faculty at St. John Seminary will offer a presentation for **young adult Catholics** (21-39) on the question of "why bad things happen to good people" There will be a light supper served. We will ask for a nominal contribution of \$10 to help with the food. This will be at St. Francis Parish Hall beginning at 7:00.

Fr. Bob



An evening with Father Joe Ferme

For Young Adult Catholics
St. Francis Parish Hall
Tuesday, February 25
7:00-8:30

A light supper will be served



History of Lent

An overview for parents (and any other adults)
Sunday, February 23
Following the 10:15 Mass
St Clare Parish Hall
Light refreshments

FEBRUARY 16, 2025



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Fake News?

We are all familiar with “The Sermon on the Mount” from Matthew’s Gospel which begins with the Beatitudes. All of a sudden, in today’s Gospel from Luke, we again see the Beatitudes but this time it’s called “The Sermon on the Plain.” So, which was it? Was Jesus on a mount or a plain? These kinds of discrepancies are troubling to some people and are used by those with the desire to do harm to the Christian faith as reasons not to believe in Sacred Scripture and therefore not believe in Christian teachings. In today’s parlance we might say they call it “fake news” or “misinformation.” For people, whose faith is not strong it might lead to apostasy. I’d like to give you a few reasons why we can still have confidence in Scripture even when they don’t often agree exactly. Since today is the “Sermon on the Plain” I’ll explain a few reasons to have confidence in what we read.

First, what difference does it make? Isn’t it more important to know what was said than where exactly it was said?

Second, why can’t both be true? I’ll give two possible reasons for this. I’m sure we’ve all been to Mass and as the priest or deacon delivers his homily we think, “haven’t we heard this before?” You know why? Because priests and deacons sometimes repeat their homilies or at least repeat themes and stories that are important. So, isn’t it possible or even probable that Jesus repeated portions of the Sermon on the Mount when he was actually standing in a plain or even elsewhere that isn’t recorded. I’ve given the same homily in various places where different people will hear it. Preachers do this all the time if not exactly the same each time – but the thematic materials are still there.

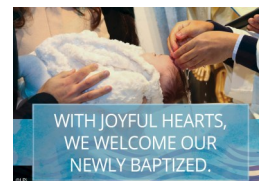
Still another way to look at this dichotomy of Biblical accounts is to look at the definition of a plain. They are an expanse of flat land, sometimes small, sometimes gigantic in size. There can be some small rises in the terrain. Plains are also found in the valleys between mountains. The difference between Matthew’s version and Luke’s could all be about perspective. Let’s say that Jesus was standing on a plain and there was a hill. If the people sat on the hill, they could say it was the sermon on the hill (Mount), but they could also say Jesus gave His sermon on a plain. After all, today’s Gospel does indicate that Jesus raised His eyes before giving His sermon. The opposite could also be true Jesus stood at an elevated portion of land and the people sat below Him on the plain.

Finally, and only because space is short, people in the first century did not write history the way we do today. It was a

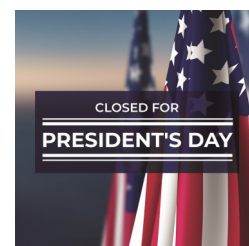
particular genre of writing. The people of the time understood this. They knew what to expect. Someone might write more or less along a timeline whereas someone else might write the same thing but take the material and organize it by theme. Authors of ancient histories were also writing to diverse cultures about the same person or thing. In this case they might add material that would be specific to their audience or leave things out that didn’t matter to them. It doesn’t make it false or an error. There are many books written about WWII, each taken from a unique perspective. They tell the same story but at the same time they are all different. Some might concentrate only on Pearl Harbor for example. That doesn’t mean that the Battle of the Bulge didn’t happen. Because a history of the Battle for the Atlantic didn’t mention the Holocaust it doesn’t mean that it didn’t happen or that it wasn’t important. My point is that there are many legitimate reasons why Scripture doesn’t always agree on specific details but is still inerrant (without error). We can have faith in God and faith in His Son and have confidence in God’s word found in Sacred Scripture.



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.



*St. Clare
Calvin James Healy*



The Collaborative Office will be closed on
Monday, February 17, 2025.
Have happy and safe long weekend.

Religious Education News



Coming soon – Children's Choir!

St. Augustine is credited with saying, "To sing is to pray twice." We will be starting a children's choir that will sing at the 10:15 Mass! More details will be forthcoming – email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org if your child is interested!



Please save the date for our very FIRST Vacation Bible School at St. Clare Church Hall July 14-18! More details to follow, so please stay tuned!

There are no Religious Education classes this week due school vacation week



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"

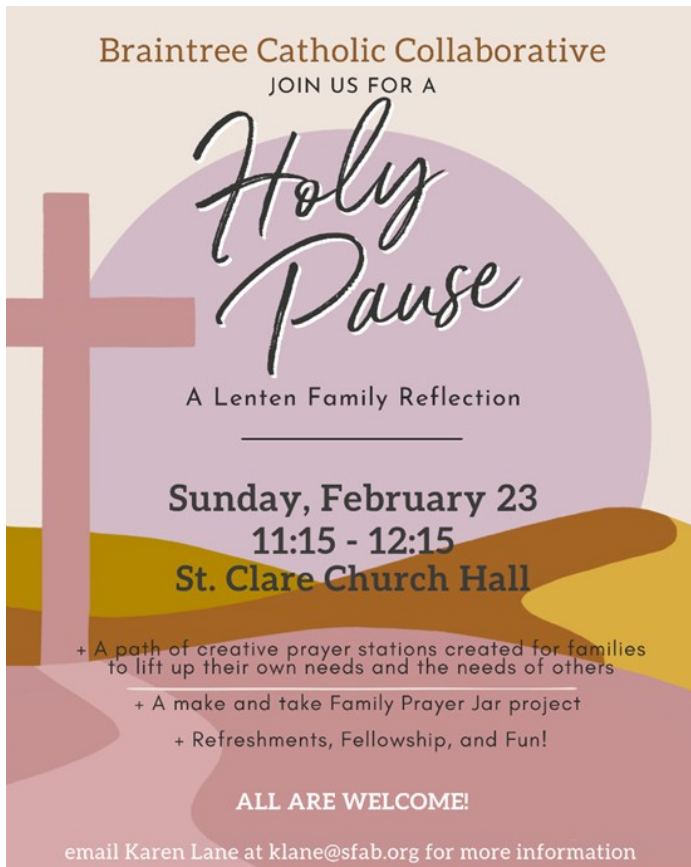
Dan Donaldson, Vice President of the Catholic Men's Leadership Alliance

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



Looking forward to our Family Faith Lent Gathering on February 23! If any students in grade 7-10 are able to volunteer to help with activity stations, please email Mrs. Lane at klane@sfab.org. Many thanks!



****Update: We will extend the collection through Sunday, February 23****

The RE students are collecting gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves to be donated to the Marge Crispin Center as well as local assisted

living facilities. There are baskets in the back of each church for any donations. Thank you!





***"Blessed are you who are now hungry,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who are now weeping,
for you will laugh."
- Lk 6:21***

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of February 16, 2025

Sunday: Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a)/
1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26
Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17,
20-21/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2,
3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15,
18-19/Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and
22-23/Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/
Mk 8:34—9:1
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/
Mt 16:13-19
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/
1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38



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 16: 6th Sunday in Ordinary time

In the Gospel today, Jesus gives us the blessings of serving the poor, hungry and weeping people, for you will then rejoice and leap for joy. But Jesus also teaches us the decisiveness of choice: blessing or woe. **Choosing to help those who are suffering will fill your heart with the blessing of Jesus and indeed your reward will be great in heaven.**



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is

THIS weekend, February 15-16.

Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. Some of the much needed items

are Pop-Tarts; Canned Chicken; Instant Potatoes; Pasta Sauce; 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

Steven A. Righini
Jane MacGillivray
Antoinette Cook

St. Clare

Kha Ho
Robert M. Farrell

Archdiocese of Boston

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.

New Snow Policy

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



From the Archdiocese of Boston



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.

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats

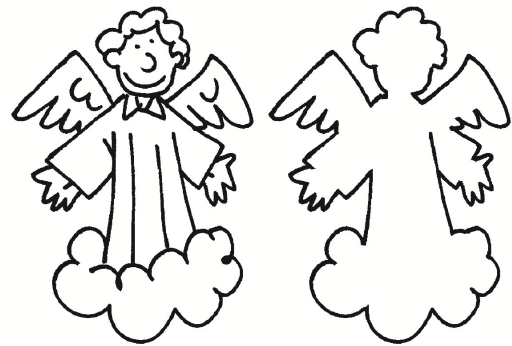
Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The *Project Rachel* ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat. Spring dates are Saturday, March 15 and Saturday, May 10. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact *Project Rachel* at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

A Morning of Reflection for Those Impacted by Divorced & Separation

The Family Life team invites all those impacted by divorce and separation to a Morning of Reflection at the Pastoral Center, Braintree on Sat., April 5 from 8:45 AM to noon. Psychologist Christine Williams, PhD, will speak on the power of prayer and ways to alleviate stress. The program features a light breakfast, witness talk, small group sharing, Mass, and Confession. For more information, call Emily Elliott at 617-746-5756 or visit bit.ly/ImpactedByDivorce.

PUZZLE

Can you draw this angel from heaven identical to the first drawing?



MISSION

Are any of your neighbors lonely? Go out of your way to show Jesus' love to those people.



Sharing the Gospel

One day in heaven, God will reward you for all the loving things you do. When you clean up the dishes without being asked, God sees. If other people are mean to you because you love Jesus, God sees. God will be so happy to see you in heaven!

Prayer

Dear God, help me love you with my whole heart. Help me do things that will make you smile.

Something to Draw

Draw yourself playing with a classmate who does not have many friends.

Mission for the Week

Are any of your neighbors lonely? Go out of your way to show Jesus' love to those people.