

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 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.

Monday, February 24, 2025

7:00AM George W. Whalen Memorial

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

7:00AM Grace C. Kelly Month's Mind

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

7:00AM Nicholas DeAngelo Anniversary

Thursday, February 27, 2025

7:00AM St. John's Seminary

Friday, February 28, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, March 1, 2025

5:30PM Kathleen, Garrett & Heather
Fitzgerald Memorial

Sunday, March 2, 2025

9:00AM Mary & John O'Neil and
Genevieve McCarthy Anniversary
Memorial

11:30AM Daniel Crimmins 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!



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

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

Saturday, March 1, 2025

8:00AM Stephen Dooley &
Departed Family Members Memorial

4:00PM John & Jean Sullivan Memorial

Sunday, March 2, 2025

7:45AM

10:15AM Mark S. & Mark P. Wrobel Memorial

6:00PM

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.



The time has come to address some issues in the **sanctuary at St. Clare Church**, specifically the sanctuary floor (the raised area around the altar). In several places the flooring is giving way and it will be only a matter of time before someone steps through. This, of course, will require taking everything out of the sanctuary, including the altar itself. The altar itself is water-stained from years of leaning flower arrangements against it. The other furnishings are worn and faded as well. Once we start addressing these items the question naturally arises “what else needs to be done?” The sliding glass doors on either side of the sanctuary don’t fit properly and don’t allow for security of the sacristy. The pink drapery behind the crucifix is faded, and the piano is cumbersome where it is located. I then wonder if this is a good moment to rearrange the sanctuary, since we have to tear up the floor anyway. Should the tabernacle be moved to the middle of the sanctuary behind the altar? Should the altar itself be pulled forward a bit? Would it be prudent to take out a pew in the front of the Church to allow more room? Then, while we are at it, what about the carpeting in the aisles? It is starting to fray in many spots. This list goes on and on.

All of this has been brought to the collaborative pastoral council and mentioned to the finance council. I met with an architect who has done extensive work in Churches. He will look over the initial plans for the building and draw up a rendition of what we would like to do. Even to replace the flooring requires much in the way of building codes.

Once we have drawings, I would like to have a parish meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the feasibility of such a project then plan for a realistic approach. I will certainly keep you posted.

This year is the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea which produced the Nicene Creed that we profess at every Sunday Mass. Its history is fascinating and theology is radical. I am going to offer a **four-part series during Lent on the Creed** for anyone who would like to participate. It will be held on March 11, 18, 25, and April 8 (April 1 is the Lenten Retreat) at St. Francis Church Hall 7:00-8:15.

Please mark your calendars for the collaborative-wide **Lenten Retreat on March 31, April 1 and 2**. The retreat

speakers will be Jacqueline Regan from Boston College, Bishop Mark O’Connell, the Vicar General, and Deacon Dan O’Toole from Queen of Martyrs Parish in Plymouth. The theme will be hope, as Pope Francis has made this the theme for the jubilee year.

Speaking of hope, on Tuesday this week we are hosting an **evening for young adult Catholics** (21-39 years old) on the topic of “Why bad things happen to good people”. Fr. Joe Ferme from St. John Seminary will lead the discussion. A light meal will be served and a \$10 donation requested to help with the food.

Fr. Bob

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*. Tickets will be available after some Masses and at the Collaborative Office during normal business hours. 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 may be reserved with payment in full of \$280.00. Let’s get together and have some *craic*! 🍀



St. Francis of Assisi

Terence Kelly
Mary C. Adams
Joan Duffy

Archdiocese of Boston

Fr. Mark L. Noonan

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.

FEBRUARY 23, 2025



*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

That's just crazy talk!

To those who listened to Him while He spoke on the plain, Jesus must have sounded like He came from an alternate universe or some other planet.

It's the poor who are blessed. Those going hungry receive God's favor. Even those who are hated are blessed. That doesn't sound like anything a first century Jew would even consider to be the case. For them rich and well-fed were obviously the ones blessed along with those who were well thought of and admired. It only made sense.

This week's Gospel continues these outlandish pronouncements that must have confused his audience.

Do we remember that we are supposed to love our neighbor? Love of neighbor in the Old Testament law only extended to other Jews. And now Jesus is telling them to love not just their neighbor but their enemies, to do good to those who hurt them and to bless instead of curse. This must have sounded ridiculous to them, especially as they were under the control of a foreign nation. Even if someone should strike you or steal from you, don't retaliate. I'm willing to bet that this sounds just as crazy to many of us. Jesus was telling them as He tells us that as Christians our love has to be different. Don't do what they do to you. Instead, "do unto others as you would have them do to you." This kind of sums up the moral law of the New Covenant. We have a higher calling as Christians and we need to think and act differently than those who have no faith. As St. Paul wrote: "Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good."

In the second century a plague devastated Rome and many people fled the city leaving their sick relatives and friends to suffer and die alone. However, the Christian people stayed behind and cared for their sick, causing some to say, "See how much they love one another." But that's not all. Not only did the Christian people care for their own sick but they also took care of the non-Christians who were left behind to fend for themselves. It was upon seeing that kind faith and courage among the followers of Christ that caused many Romans themselves to turn to Christ. These early Christians loved the way Jesus does and it changed hearts. Can we say the same?

It doesn't matter what fancy language we use or clever proofs we find to convince others to follow Christ if our own lives don't reflect that reality. Jesus Himself warned us not to be like the hypocrites. We can't continue to pray "forgive us our

trespasses as we forgive" but then gossip to everyone about how somebody slighted us. People see those things and think "I don't need to be a Christian they're no better than anyone else." We have to put our money where our mouths are. We have to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. Then we will be blessed, confident that God's blessings overflow more than abundantly.

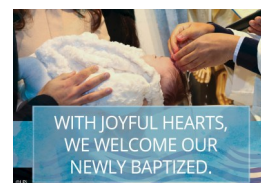
"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap."



Next week the choir will return to St. Clare and sing at the 10:15 Mass. New members are always welcome. If you'd like to "taste and see" how much fun the choir is, try it just for Holy Week and Easter. Practice is Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 because of the winter cold rehearsals will be at St. Francis until further notice. We look forward to seeing 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.



*St. Francis
Sophia Grace Moreno*



Religious Education News



Last month we learned about St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of scholars. We discussed how we are all “scholars” since we are students in school and we learn new things every day. We are also all “saints in training” since we will be saints when we go to heaven. We talked about how and why we recite the pledge of allegiance in school, and we decided to create a pledge for RE classes. The students did a wonderful job brainstorming ideas for our Saints and Scholars Pledge!



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!

Class Schedule for the Week of February 23, 2025

Family Faith Event Sunday, February 23 at 11:15
Grades k—6 will meet Tuesday, February 25 and Thursday, February 27 at 4:00PM
No Classes this week for Grades 7-9



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



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





“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” - Lk 6:38

Readings of the Week ©LPi

Readings for the week of February 23, 2025

Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/
1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/
Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28,
39-40/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172,
174, 175/Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/
Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/
Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
(see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45



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)

New Snow Policy

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

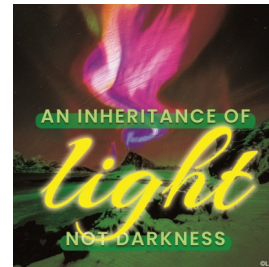


February 23: 7th Sunday in Ordinary time

In today's Gospel Jesus gives us the challenge to: “Love your enemies... Give to everyone who asks of you...Do to others as you would have them do to you...Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

In the month of February, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing food, assistance with for 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.**



February 23, 2025 - 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time Luke 6:27-38

One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled “Stick Season,” he sings of his hope to “cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad.” This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual “inheritance” from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darknesses.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, **“Be merciful just as your Father is merciful”** (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect *that* perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of God's life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance.

Father John Muir ©LPi



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

Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

love
good
bless

pray
give
kind

lend
reward
pity

lvoe

l o v e

gvie

— — — —

ptyi

— — — —

ldne

— — — —

besls

— — — — —

godo

— — — —

pary

— — — —

rwrdea

— — — — —

knid

— — — —



MISSION

When someone hurts your feelings this week, instead of getting even, pray for that person.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Sharing the Gospel

Treat others the way you want to be treated. God doesn't want us to treat other people the same way they treat you. Choose to be kind, even when other people are mean. Choose to forgive, even when someone has hurt you.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to love other people the way you love me.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself helping someone who has hurt your feelings in the past.

Mission for the Week

When someone hurts your feelings this week, instead of getting even, pray for that person.