

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 8, 2025

5:30PM Stephen "OB" O'Brien 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, February 9, 2025

9:00AM James M. Daly 2nd Anniv.

11:30AM Albert Aniello 1st Anniv.

Monday, February 10, 2025

7:00AM Sheila Timulty 1st Anniv.

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

7:00AM Joseph & Delia Flaherty Memorial

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

7:00AM Kathleen Crimmins Healing

Thursday, February 13, 2025

7:00AM Evelyn Capodilupo Memorial

Friday, February 14, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, February 15, 2025

5:30PM Gordon T. Smith Anniversary

Sunday, February 16, 2025

9:00AM Benjamin Venuti Anniversary

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!

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 8 may be reserved with payment in full of \$280.00. Let's get together and have some *craic*! ☘

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, February 8, 2025

8:00AM Deceased Priests & Religious Memorial

4:00PM James O'Donnell Memorial

Sunday, February 9, 2025

7:45AM Pauline O'Brien Memorial

10:15AM Abdallah Khnaizir & Wadi Bitar Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

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

The Bread & Wine for the week of February 8 through 14th have been donated in loving memory of Pauline O'Brien. The Sanctuary Light will also burn in Pauline'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.



The Sacrament of Marriage

The Church chose February 14 as the **World Day of Prayer for Marriage**. As much of the western world celebrates Love on Valentine's Day, it seems fitting that our Church focuses on the place of the Sacrament of Marriage as part of God's plan for our salvation. Marriage is one of the seven Sacraments of the Church. This is to say that it is an outward sign, instituted by Christ, that brings about grace. The Sacrament of Marriage is one of the ways, therefore, that God sanctifies the world. It's almost natural to think that the Sacrament of Marriage is about the sanctification of the couple and their children. Actually, the Sacrament of Marriage is for the benefit of the world. Through the Sacrament of Marriage the world has a hint of the kind of love that God has for all people. By this I mean that in Catholic theology, Sacramental Marriage is a covenant. It is a permanent union between a husband and wife and therefore is indissoluble. For this reason, sacramental marriage ends only in death. It is precisely this permanence that reflects the covenantal bond that God has established with us in Christ's death and Resurrection.

I keep writing *Sacrament of Marriage* because there are certainly marriages that are not sacramental. People of other faiths marry. Certainly many people are married civilly. These are marriages in their own right but are not Sacramental Marriages, *per se*. So, what makes for a sacramental marriage? In it's simplest expression, sacramental marriage is the exchange of consent between a baptized man and a baptized woman (at least 18 years old in US) who are free of any impediments. An impediment is something that would prevent or "block" the Sacrament from being valid. Examples of impediments: a current or previous marriage, an external force to marry (shotgun wedding), or a lack of emotional capacity to offer consent. There are other examples as well. Essentially, the husband and wife need to be completely uninhibited to give themselves to the other in a life-long commitment.

The exchange of consent I mentioned is comprised of the marriage vows. The husband offers his consent to his bride and she receives it. Then vice versa. It is the exchange of consent that establishes the sacrament. In the Sacrament of Marriage it is the husband and wife who confer the sacrament on each other. It is not the priest or deacon. They are there as the official witness of the Church. Having said all of this, in order for the Sacrament of Marriage to be valid, the husband and wife must be of age,

not related (up to first cousins), exchange vows that are according to the Rite of Marriage, and pronounce them in a parish Church in front of a bishop, priest or deacon and at least two other witnesses. In the US, marriages performed in a Church are recognized by the state. This is not true in every country. Some countries require a civil ceremony along with a religious ceremony. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that the couple attain a marriage license, which is good for 60 days. The officiant of the wedding must be recognized by the state, however. All bishops, priests and deacons who are residents of Massachusetts are recognized as valid officiants.

Not all marriages that take place in the Catholic Church are good bonds. There are circumstances by which a couple who married in good faith need to separate. No one goes into marriage expecting it to end. This raises the question of annulments, which is worthy of its own column. Needless to say, if anyone has any questions about a struggling marriage or is divorced and would hope to marry in the Church, please see Fr. Kevin, any of the deacons or myself. We are here to support you and explain options.

If there are any married couples in our parishes who, for whatever reason, never entered into a sacramental marriage, please let us know as well. We can explain how your marriage can become a Sacrament.

Why receive the Sacrament of Marriage? The Sacraments are God's ways of configuring us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. Sacraments provide us with the spiritual graces necessary to do all that God asks of us. The Sacrament of Marriage in particular is the way that a husband and wife can share in the ongoing work of Salvation.

I realize that marriage is a sensitive topic in our culture today. People have various ideas of what marriage is or ought to be. My purpose in writing on the Sacrament of Marriage is simply to give an overview of this particular sacrament and offer my support and encouragement to anyone who is married, planning to marry or in a relationship that may raise questions for them or their families.

Young Adult Catholics

Tuesday evening, February 25 Fr. Joe Ferme will lead a discussion on why bad things happen to good people for young adult Catholics. (for the purpose of this event, we are defining "young adult" as 21-39) A light supper will be served. It begins at 7:00pm and will be held in St. Francis Parish Hall.

Priest visits to the homebound

Between now and Easter, Fr. Kevin and I would like to visit our parishioners who are confined to their homes because of health. Please call or email Patty in the parish office with

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your name and telephone number and one of us will be happy to visit for Sacrament of Sick, Confession and Holy Communion.

Those who bring Holy Communion to family members

As pastor, I need to know who is receiving Holy Communion on a regular basis at home. If you regularly bring Communion to a family member, friend or neighbor, can I ask that you fill out a simple card in the sacristy or send me an email at Rblaney@sfab.org. When I hear from you, I can call to explain the new protocols for bringing Holy Communion to the sick or homebound.

Votive Candles

We have been able to acquire electric votive candles for St. Francis Church. They are located in front of the statue of the Blessed Mother on the south side of Church. The lighting of a candle is a long-time beautiful ritual to offer a particular intention to God. It is customary to make a monetary offering when lighting the candle. The proceeds are used for the operation of the Church. We leave the amount of the offering to your discretion.

Preparing for Lent

On Sunday, February 23, following the 10:15 Mass, I will offer an overview on the history and meaning of Lent in the Catholic faith. This will be held in St. Clare Parish Hall. Coffee and refreshments will be available. It will last about 30-40 minutes.

New Snow Policy

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

Fr. Bob

Collaborative Office Hours For the Week of February 9, 2025

Monday, February 10	9AM-4PM
Tuesday, February 11	9AM-3PM
Wednesday, February 12	9AM-3PM
Thursday, February 13	9AM-3PM
Friday, February 14	9AM-12PM



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

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Class Schedule for the Week of February 9, 2025

Grades K-6 meet Sunday, February 9 at 11:15AM

Grade 9 Meets THIS Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 4:45PM.

No Classes Tuesday or Thursday



This week we learned about Candlemas and how the blessing of candles at Mass last week was in honor of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. We talked about how one of the ways we are all presented to the Lord is through the sacrament of Baptism. During Baptism, we receive a candle that represents the light of Christ. We talked about how Jesus is

the Light of the World. Since Jesus shares his light with everyone, the children brainstormed lots of ideas on how we can share our light with others!

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 through Sunday, February 16th. Many thanks!



The Baptismal ritual states that parents are the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. Mom and baby groups can provide many benefits, including support for new parents, opportunities for socialization, and help with child development. If anyone is

interested in being a part of a group here in the Collaborative, please click on the QR code below to participate in a short survey.



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



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

In Today's Gospel, Jesus needed to borrow Peter's boat. The crowd had pressed in upon Him so much and became so large that He had to back away in order to preach. Of course, He could have just walked a few steps on top of the water, but He didn't want to show-off. But in the end Jesus did something unexpected at least for Peter, James, and John.

We hear the familiar trope, "Do not be afraid," to which Jesus adds, "I will make you fishers of men."

Jesus didn't say "Come after me and I will make you farmers," or "I will make you growers of faith." He may have said something like that to Apostles who may have actually been farmers but not to the fishermen. Jesus called ordinary people, like Peter, James and John, people like us, to share a mission, to further proclaim that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Except for Mathew we don't really know what the other Apostles did for work. Some of them could have been farmers, or sheep herders, tentmakers, in the hospitality industry or in the trades. Wherever they came from and whatever they may have been doing, Jesus called them to be what they were and who they were, but do it for God.

The Lord had called me to provide music in service of the Church. He called me to do something that was already familiar to me, something he had given me an aptitude for. And while I served him in this way, as a musician, he developed other aptitudes, so that I could also serve as a minister of the church as a Deacon.

God isn't calling us to be anything but what we already are, but to be that in a different way.

So, if you are a teacher, be a teacher for the Kingdom. If you are a student, use the knowledge you receive to serve God. If you are a police officer, recognize that everyone you arrest or stop for speeding, is someone who is being called by Christ to live a better life and you just might be His messenger.

An accountant or attorney may not see too many opportunities to proselytize but placing a crucifix on your wall or keeping a bible on your desk might just be the nudge a client may need to return to Church or ask a question about faith.

A friend of mine was actually a bouncer before he became a deacon. Turns out he was a great listener. Patrons would

often come to him for advice or just to talk or get things off their chest. He was given opportunities to "preach" in the ordinary activities of his job long before entering into ordained ministry. But those were the skills he brought with him, skills that Christ recognized.

I knew a barber, who practically had a shrine to St. Padre Pio on the mirror by his barber chair. He wasn't afraid of showing his faith in a public way or talking about it in the shop. He was "just" a barber, but he was God's barber.

It doesn't matter who we are or what we do, our call is certain.

I'm sure that Peter, James, and John didn't see themselves as men that had any skills that would be of interest to the Messiah. They saw themselves as ordinary people doing ordinary things. But when Christ called, and they responded He took that which was ordinary and produced something extraordinary from it.

And so, it is with you and me. We may not think we have what it takes to do great things, but Jesus can take our ordinary efforts and bring about extraordinary results.

Continue doing good works and acts of kindness in big and small ways. Offer to buy the homeless guy a burger before you get on the train to come home at night, and when he says, "thank you" reply "no, thank God." Then that good work, that act of kindness is done in service to the Kingdom and the person you feed knows it. It's a little thing but it can make a significant difference in someone's life.

So, in whatever way, with whatever talents you have and with the grace of God, go forth, and proclaim the Gospel by your lives.



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.



Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. - Lk 5:10-11

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of February 9, 2025

Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/
Lk 5:1-11

Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/
Mk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/
Mk 8:1-10

Next 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



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 9: The Presentation of the Lord—In the Gospel today, we learn of the first sword in Mary's heart – the knowledge of her Son's death. Though many would live forever in fear, Mary found courage in faith in the Lord. **Your gift to the poor can bring the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, in loneliness and dread.**



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next 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

Mary E. Lydon
Margaret Corbett
Ernest "Red" Sheehan
Evelyn Capodilupo

St. Clare

Ann E. Jordan

Archdiocese of Boston

Fr. John F. Mulloy, Jr.

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

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.

A Morning of Reflection for Those Impacted by Divorced & Separation (4/5)

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.



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

