

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: Following the 8AM Mass

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, 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

Monday, March 3, 2025

7:00AM Jesse Hamilton, II Memorial

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

7:00AM Daniel Kenneally 6th Anniv.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

7:00AM Jennifer, Jessica, Carol & LuAnn Healing

12:10PM Lawrence M. Curtin, Sr. & Dorothy A. Curtin Memorial

Thursday, March 6, 2025

7:00AM George W. Whalen, Jr. Memorial

Friday, March 7, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, March 8, 2025

5:30PM Gordon Morrissey Memorial

Sunday, March 9, 2025

9:00AM Thomas Kelly Memorial

11:30AM Kathleen Crimmins Healing

If you are interested in the Online Giving option for either parish to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the collaborative office.



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, March 1, 2025

8:00AM Stephen Dooley & Departed Family Members Memorial

4:00PM John & Jean Sullivan Memorial

Sunday, March 2, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

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

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, March 8, 2025

8:00AM George O'Brien, Jr. Memorial

4:00PM Judith O'Connor 1st Anniv.

Sunday, March 9, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Harold & Cecilia Rocks Memorial

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.



Time for the wearing of ashes

Are you willing to undergo a conversion to Christ? If so, then you can indicate so by wearing the sign of the cross on your forehead on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. For centuries Catholics (and other Christians) begin the holy season of Lent by wearing the cross on their foreheads traced in ash. It is an outward sign of an interior willingness to turn to Christ. Some people have had a very dramatic conversion to Christ, like Saint Paul who was struck to the ground by a great light. Others have a less dramatic and more subtle story of conversion. Regardless, a true saint requires a series of conversions in order to be more perfectly configured to Christ. Regrettably, even after a conversion, we still fail and commit sin. We need to confess our contrition, do penance and undergo the process of conversion again. Wearing ashes on your forehead on Ash Wednesday is a dramatic sign of your intention to undergo that conversion.

Conversion always involves a little death. That is to say when we turn to Christ we turn away from something else. We let it go. At times this can be hard and involve some grief. How often we resist conversion because we want to avoid the grief of letting go of something we like! Participation at Mass, reception of Holy Communion, and frequent confession help with this.

To help with our conversion, the Church gives us three disciplines to practice during the weeks of Lent: prayer, **fasting and almsgiving**.

Prayer: can you go to daily Mass or additional Masses during Lent? (weekdays at 7:00am at St. Francis and 12:10pm at Pastoral Center). Daily Rosary or Chaplet of Divine Mercy or another daily devotion? (Monday nights Rosary at St. Francis Church)

Visit to the Blessed Sacrament in the quiet of the Church (St. Francis Church open daily from 7:00am-12:00pm; Pastoral Center 9:00am-4:00pm)

Fast: depriving yourself of something pleasurable (most often a particular food) so that you experience a hunger for it. This absence of whatever it is you "give up for Lent" helps to make you more sensitive to the needs of those around you and thus yields more compassion.

Almsgiving: caring for the poor. This usually happens in the way of giving money to a charity that assists those in need. The children in the religious education program will be giving alms to Catholic Relief Services, an organization that provides immediate relief in the face of

Some catastrophic event. If you are looking for ideas, our St. Vincent de Paul Society and food pantry are always looking for funds to assist those in our neighborhood who are struggling.

Between now and Wednesday, may I encourage you to ask yourself if you are willing to turn more toward Christ and if so, how will you increase prayer, fast and give alms during the weeks of Lent?

A communal penance for Lent

One of our practices that is so characteristically Catholic is not eating meat on Fridays during Lent. It used to be every Friday of the year. After the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council the compulsory abstinence was reserved for Lent while made optional for the rest of the year. The basic idea behind this practice was to assume a penance that the whole Church could do together. Given that fasting is an important part of Lent, it was a straight-forward way of including everyone in one simple act of penance. The practice wasn't simply to abstain from meat, but also included the money which was saved from not buying meat would be given to the poor so that the sacrifice benefited those in need. Eating fish on Fridays became associated with Catholic culture. Of course this was at a time when fish was relatively cheap! Regardless, of the costs involved, abstaining from meat is one small gesture we can do together. Many people do not eat meat at all. They are encouraged to fast from something else on Fridays to be in solidarity with everyone else.

The Nicene Creed

Starting Tuesday March 11, I will offer a four-part series on the Nicene Creed which we profess every Sunday at Mass. If you would like to learn a bit of the history of how it was constructed and the theology it outlines than please join me on Tuesday nights during Lent at 7:00-8:15pm in St. Francis Church Hall.

Adult and Children Choir

Looking forward to Holy Week (April 13-20)

We need singers to for the adult choir and a newly formed children's choir. For the particulars I ask you to see Deacon Joe for adult choir and Mrs. Karen Lane for the children's choir.

Adult Confirmation

If there are any adults (age 18+) who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, you should know that there will be an adult confirmation celebrated on Monday, April 7 at St. Jerome Church in Weymouth. Please contact Fr. Kevin or myself if you are interested.

I met with an architect last week about the renovation of the sanctuary at St. Clare Church. We talked

MARCH 2, 2025

through the project. He has located the original plans for the Church and is now putting together a rendition of what the sanctuary could look like. I am eager for parishioners to have a look. These will be posted as soon as possible. My hope is to have the work done this coming summer.

Some tickets are still available for the **St. Patrick Dinner** next Saturday night, March 8 at 6:30 in St. Francis Church Hall. Please call the office to reserve yours!

Fr. Bob



St. Francis of Assisi
Michael P. Carloni

St. Clare
Marlene Gunn

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.



The Second Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held **NEXT 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*! 🍀



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.

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.

Religious Education News

The Family Faith Lenten Gathering was a wonderful event! The children discussed the three Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. There were many prayer stations where the kids prayed for family, friends, healing, etc., as well as a special prayer of thanks to Jesus for his sacrifice. The kids also made prayer jars to bring home. Each day of Lent they will pick a stick or two out of the jar that will offer ideas for who and what to pray for. Many thanks to all who attended!



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 March 2, 2025

Grades K—6 meet this Sunday, March 2 at 11:15; Tuesday, March 4 and Thursday, March 6 at 4:00PM

Grade 9 meets this Sunday, March 2 at 4:45 followed by the 6:00 Mass

Grades 7 & 8 meet Tuesday, March 4 and Thursday, March 6 at 5:15PM



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

Although today's Gospel begins with the blind leading the blind, the Lord's message is not about physical blindness but spiritual blindness. We might ask, "who are the blind leaders? – the Pharisees. They are the ones that the people look to for spiritual guidance, yet they are blind to what the law and the prophets are really pointing to. They are the ones leading the people of Israel into a pit. A pit of destruction. The Pharisees are the teachers who were training their disciples to be just like them.

They liked to point out the faults of others without ever taking a look inward. They didn't have a problem noticing the splinter in someone else's eye while they missed the plank in their own eye. They couldn't turn from their sin because they were blind to it.

Twelve-step programs have a lot of wisdom in this regard. They have a phrase they use when someone is being judgmental, "take your own inventory." It comes from the fourth step. "To make a fearless and searching inventory of ourselves." In Catholic parlance we would call it an examination of conscience. Indeed, we are encouraged to make an "examen" of our actions at the end of every day. This is the wisdom of the Church and the wisdom of A.A. It is a wisdom the pharisees were blind to.

In the first century it was a commonly held belief that a person's actions revealed the state of their heart. One would be roundly ridiculed to think that they could conceal the fact that their actions progressed from what was held in their hearts. Hence, the Pharisees were called "hypocrites," coming from the Greek word meaning to act or an actor. The Pharisees were pretending to be holy when in fact they were not. They may have not even known they were acting. They were in denial.

Growing up we had two pear trees in the back yard. The one in the middle of the yard was healthy and the pears were tasty. The other tree was on the border of our yard and the house behind us. This tree, for whatever reason, never did well and the fruit it produced was not good. I don't think we ever ate the fruit from it.

Jesus makes it truly clear that he is not talking about real fruit in this passage. He is talking about either the good or evil that comes from a person's heart. "A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."

The Pharisees were blind leaders who led people who they

also made blind by what they said and did. It is imperative on all of us to make sure that we follow the right leaders, the ones who are not blind. How do we know? Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit would guide His Church and keep it from error. Although there may be some leaders, even in the Church, who attempt to lead people astray or contradict what the Church teaches, most are faithful, and we can be confident in our leaders who follow and teach faithfully the truths that the Church has handed down to us for over two millennia.

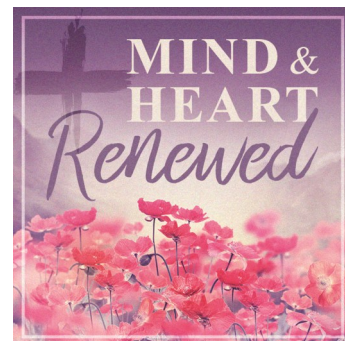
As Lent quickly approaches, we should keep in mind that we are all a mixed bag. We produce a mix of both good and bad fruit. Although we think we can "see" we still suffer blind spots. And although we show ourselves as upright, truthful people there still lie within us those parts we keep hidden. The things we pretend don't exist in the sight of others, which make us all a bit hypocritical.

I know I strive to produce good fruit even though I don't always. I want to see clearly but I know I need help. I don't want to be a hypocrite in any way. I'm sure each one of us feels the same way.

This is where that fourth step comes in, that examination of conscience. It is because God knows we are a mixed bag both struggling and striving that He gave us the great Sacrament of healing, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is the grace of this Sacrament along with the Most Holy Eucharist that we receive the grace to bear better fruit, to see more clearly and to be more fully the people He wants us to be. That's why we are here. Because we want what God wants, to be fully and completely the people He wants us to be.



This week the choir returns 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.





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.



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

Statement of Income For January 2025

	St. Francis	St. Clare
Offertory	\$37,951	\$33,238
Sacramentals	6,370	6,020
Grand Annual	1,550	700
Other	<u>3,637</u>	<u>5,104</u>
Total Income	49,508	45,062
Expenses		
Payroll & Taxes	30,388	27,792
Liturgical	741	1,116
Operating	43,218	19,612
Archdiocesan Tax	<u>8,270</u>	<u>2,854</u>
Total Expenses	82,617	51,374
Other Income / (Expense)	<u>971</u>	<u>578</u>
Oper. Income / (Loss)	(32,138)	(5,734)
Unreal. Gain / (Loss)		
On Investments	<u>11,589</u>	<u>1,536</u>
Net Income / (Loss)	<u>(20,549)</u>	<u>(4,198)</u>



March 2: Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

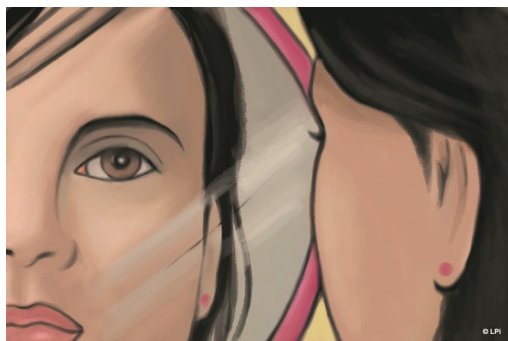
In the Gospel today, Jesus uses images in speaking to his disciples: “Can a blind man act as guide to a blind man?...Why look at the speck in your brother’s eye when you miss the plank in your own?...A good tree does not produce decayed fruit....”

It is true that donations come to the Society because a good person produces goodness from the good in their heart.

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.**



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



From the
Archdiocese of Boston

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. The topic will be "Catholic Sisters Week." If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

24 Hours for the Lord - The Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites in the Archdiocese of Boston will be hosting 24 Hours for the Lord (24 hours of Adoration) on March 28th to 29th. Each site will have opportunities for silent prayer before our Lord in the Eucharist, as well as other ways of praying. Strengthen your hope in Jesus by sitting with him in prayer. He awaits you!

View the schedule for each pilgrimage site <https://bostoncatholic.org/24-hours-for-the-lord>

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.

Men's Weekend: April 3 - 6, 2025

The weekend runs 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.

"How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye." - Lk 6:42

Readings Week of the

Readings for the week of March 2, 2025

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

Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/
Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/
Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and
17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
(see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13



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