

# 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](http://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](mailto:parish@sfab.org).

# Mass Intentions

## St. Francis of Assisi

### Saturday, March 15, 2025

5:30PM Frankie Barnes Martin 1st Anniv.

### Sunday, March 16, 2025

9:00AM Ann Picewick 3rd Anniv.

11:30AM John McDonough Memorial

### Monday, March 17, 2025

7:00AM Rizalina Ittler 10th Anniv.

### Tuesday, March 18, 2025

7:00AM Mary Rose Brady 3rd Anniv.

### Wednesday, March 19, 2025

7:00AM Jason & Jessica Spec. Intent.

### Thursday, March 20, 2025

7:00AM

### Friday, March 21, 2025

7:00AM

### Saturday, March 22, 2025

5:30PM Deacon Patrick Bruen Memorial

### Sunday, March 23, 2025

9:00AM Hubert Gray 3rd Anniv.

11:30AM Edwina Moscaritolo 1st Anniv.

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 15, 2025

8:00AM Antoinette Malfa Spec. Intent.

4:00PM Helen Farmer Anniversary

### Sunday, March 16, 2025

7:45AM Mark Jenkins 3rd Anniv.

10:15AM Barbara Wallace and David Wallace 11th Anniv.  
2nd Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

### Saturday, March 22, 2025

8:00AM Deacon Patrick Bruen Month's Mind

4:00PM Donald, Ervene & Deborah Harding Memorial

### Sunday, March 23, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM John, Jackie & Sally Rocks Memorial

6:00PM Catherine M. Connolly 1st Anniv.

## 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.



Lent is well underway, twelve days in to be exact. Easter seems a long way off. The rhythm of the liturgical season is meant to reflect something of the spiritual life. As Easter seems to be far way off, so does salvation. It seems that much of our lives is spent in, what the Salve Regina calls, the vale of tears. How easy it is to become overwhelmed with circumstances to the extent that we lose perspective. For this reason, I suppose, the Gospel on the Second Sunday of Lent is always the story of the Transfiguration. This year we listen to St. Luke's version. Something sensational happened on top of that mountain. So great was this experience that Peter recounted it many years later in his first epistle. He must have spoken of it often as it had a profound impact on his life and future ministry. God gave him, as well as James and John, the experience of the glory of Christ to strengthen them for what would come later in the crucifixion.

God-moments that profoundly impact our lives are intended to be like an anchor that hold us to faith in times of distress. God knew that by seeing the full glory of Christ Peter, James and John would have the fortitude to withstand the suffering that lay in front of them.

When times are tough it's best to recall one of these moments. They may be sensational or ordinary. Even the mere recollection of such encounters with God is enough to help us persevere in adversity.

Most of us tend to look for such moments to be sensational, like the Transfiguration and are sorely disappointed. God does not always come to us in such a way. The usual way is through the simple, ordinary things of daily life. The key is to be sensitive to them so that when they happen we can recognize Christ. It's worth noting here that such moments do not necessarily affect us emotionally so there is no great euphoria. Nevertheless, any and every way we encounter God helps us to pursue our ultimate goal: salvation.

As of this writing Pope Francis is showing improvement battling his illness. Let's continue our prayers that he respond well to the graces the Lord is working through the doctors and nurses who are caring for him.

### **Universal Day of Prayer for Jubilee**

As part of the jubilee year, the Holy Father has called for a universal day of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Catholics all over the world are asked to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on March

28/29. To help us see the unity of the Body of Christ, Archbishop Henning has named eleven Churches in the Archdiocese that will be sites for the Jubilee Day of Adoration to be carried out. St. Francis and St. Clare Parishes have been invited to participate in this world-wide event at St. Patrick Church in Brockton. Both Fr. Kevin and I will be among the priests who will be hearing confessions there for some portion of the day. I encourage you to make a pilgrimage to St. Patrick Church on that day to pray for the sanctification of the world as we celebrate more than 2025 years of salvation in Christ.

**Many thanks to all who worked so hard to provide the collaborative with a fitting celebration of St. Patrick.** The dinner last Saturday was a special time. Those who were there thoroughly enjoyed the food, entertainment and fellowship. My thanks to Kathy Whalen-Giannandrea, Dawn Hamel, Karen Whitney, Karen Lane, Kim Kelley, Jenifer Walsh, Cathy MacCurtain and Lisa Berardinelli who made this such a memorable event.

**St. Patrick's Day** is tomorrow (Monday) of course. He is the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Boston. Wednesday is the **Solemnity of St. Joseph**, the patron saint of the Universal Church. Mass, of course, will be celebrated at 7:00am followed by a proper St. Joseph breakfast in the St. Francis Hall.

The **Collaborative Pastoral Council** will be meeting on Wednesday evening of this week. They will be hearing updates on the plans for the renovation at St. Clare Church; an initiative to provide hot meals for those in need in the community; and hold an ongoing conversation about the possibility of using the school building for an early childhood center.

Speaking of the school building, we have been asked by town officials if a few rooms in the school building could be made available to the Fire Department for training of firefighters. I am very pleased that we are in a position to support the fire department in this way. More details to come as I get them.

### **Anointing of the Sick Mass**

We are holding a Mass for the Anointing of the Sick on Saturday morning, April 5 at 11:00 at St. Francis Church. This is for those who are elderly, infirmed or in need of God's healing grace. The Mass will be followed by a catered lunch served by the confirmation students. Reservations are necessary so please call or email Patty at the collaborative office.

### **St. Clare Church Renovations**

We have discovered a set of architectural drawings for a renovation project for St. Clare Church that were put

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together in 2002. What is so notable is that the plans of 23 years ago are quite similar to what we have been talking about. The architect is now coming up with renderings that will be made available as soon as we get them in the next couple of weeks. This is being driven by the need to replace the floor in the sanctuary. I am eager for you to see the renderings and hear what you think! *Fr. Bob*

## What are you doing for Lent?

**Scriptural Rosary**—Mondays, March 17, 24 and April 7 and 14—6:45 at St. Francis of Assisi church

**Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration**—Mondays March 17, 24 and April 7—6:30-7:15PM in St. Francis church

**Catechesis on the Creed with Fr. Bob**—Tuesdays, March 18, 25 and April 8—7:00—8:15PM in St. Francis Church Hall.

**Stations of the Cross**—Fridays at 12:10PM

**Collaborative Mission**—7:00—8:30PM—Monday, March 31 and Wednesday, April 2 at St. Clare and Tuesday, April 1 at St. Francis.

## Young Adult Catholics Meeting

In preparation for Holy Week join us Monday evening, March 24 for Scriptural Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration in the church followed by dinner in the church Hall. The evening begins at 6:45 and will go to 8:30. All young adults ages 21-39 are invited.



*St. Clare*

*Grady Moore Cooper*

*Emerson Rose Cooper*

*Ayla James Gerry*

*Elbridge Paul Gerry*



**St. Francis of Assisi**

Barbara Curran

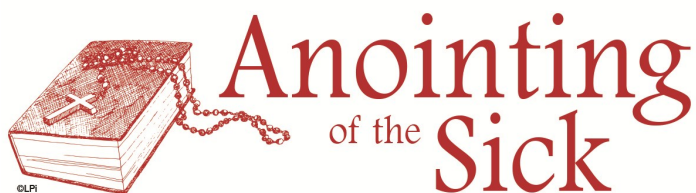
Lois Darden

**St. Clare**

Marie Connelly

Nancy Campagnone

*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.*



*Saturday, April 5, 2025*

You are invited to join us for a Mass of the Anointing of the sick. This beautiful sacrament offers both physical and spiritual healing for those who receive it. The sacrament is for those who are confined to their homes because of illness, infirmity or advanced ages; for those preparing for surgery; for those newly diagnosed with serious illness; and for those with chronic illness who have not received the sacrament within the past 3 months.

Mass will begin at 11:00AM in the church hall and will be immediately followed by a luncheon.

If you plan to attend please RSVP not later than Monday, March 31st. Email [pkinnally@sfab.org](mailto:pkinnally@sfab.org) or call the Collaborative office at 781-843-1332.

If you have any questions please call the office.



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.



**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)*





*From*  
*Deacon Joe MacDonald*

I don't know if any of you have ever been on top of a mountain just as the sun was rising. I experienced it once over half a century ago. Half a century, that does make me seem old doesn't it?

Some friends and I had decided to climb a mountain in the middle of the night. Some might call this foolish – and it was. But foolish or not, we reached the summit just as the sun was rising. We were on top of the world, and I was not expecting to see anything so glorious. The mountain top was covered in mist. Actually, it was high enough that it may have been a cloud. But the vision of that morning with the colors of the morning sun rising over the peaks, the mist slowly burning off revealing the most wonderful landscape (“Godscape”) of towering peaks, rock formations and evergreen trees for miles around us. It was like being there at the moment of creation. It was for me an experience of the presence of God Himself.

Biblically, God often revealed himself on mountains. For example, God revealed Himself to Moses on Mount Horeb in the burning bush; God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on top of Mount Sinai; On Mount Carmel, God revealed Himself through the prophet Elijah during the contest with the prophets of Baal. God answered Elijah's prayer by sending fire from heaven to consume the offering, proving His power and sovereignty. There are other examples but it should come as no surprise that when Peter, James and John ascended Mount Tabor with Jesus that they experienced a great Theophany, that is they had an experience of the Lord's glory – God was revealed to them.

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem to suffer and die. He had been trying to prepare His disciples by trying to explain that this was the plan all along. But this was before they were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and they just couldn't wrap their heads around it. We would say they were in denial.

The Lord knew that His arrest and passion would be crushing blow to the Apostles and all His disciples. What could He do to mitigate the effect it would have on them? He took three of them, His inner circle, up the mountain so that these close friends would have an experience they could call to mind in order to strengthen them in the midst of chaos and confusion. They needed this experience, and God always gives us what we need. Jesus was transfigured before them and they were given a glimpse of His Glorified body, revealing that He was indeed not just a good man, not just a great rabbi, not just a holy man, but also Divine – He was (is) Holiest. They saw His Glory, the

the glory of God Himself and lived. Up to this point it was believed that anyone who looked at God would die. The Israelites had a similar experience when Moses gave them the Law:

But when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, you came near to me, all your tribal heads and elders, and said, “The LORD, our God, has indeed let us see his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice from the midst of the fire. Today we have found out that God may speak to a mortal and that person may still live. (Deuteronomy 5:23-24)

Appearing with Jesus was Moses, the giver of the Law and Elijah the great prophet. Their presence confirmed that Jesus was indeed the fulfillment of both the Law and Prophets as He had said. (Matthew 5:17) Together, Jesus Moses and Elijah discuss the exodus that Jesus was about to experience. We know that the Exodus of Moses led the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt but was this exodus of Jesus? Through His exodus from this life Jesus and His rising, was going to free not only the Jewish people but the whole world from slavery to sin and death to holiness and eternal life.

From the cloud the Apostles heard the voice of God proclaim that Jesus was His Son, His chosen. We have here the presence of the Father, the Son and in the cloud the Holy Spirit. The Blessed Trinity is present there. The Father also gives a command, “Listen to Him.” In Saint Luke's Gospel, he has a continuing motif that compares Jesus to Moses. Moses, toward the end of his life, gave the people a similar command.

A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kindred; that is the one to whom you **shall listen**. (Deuteronomy 5:24)

Peter echoed this prophecy in his reply to the Sanhedrin when he and John were arrested for proclaiming Jesus raised from the dead.

For Moses said: ‘A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kinsmen; to him you shall listen in all that he may say to you. Everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be cut off from the people.’ (Acts 3:22-23)

We have no choice but to listen to Jesus. It's not optional. More than that, we have to listen, believe, repent and live our lives and people of the truth and people of the Resurrection. Like the Lord's own transfiguration our lives too are Transfigured to reflect the Joy and exuberance in our relationship with Christ so as to attract others to come to faith.

It is always wise for us to look at what the Church teaches. Let me

leave you with this excerpt from paragraph 556 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The Transfiguration gives us a foretaste of Christ's glorious coming, when he "will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body." (Philippians 3:21) But it also recalls that "it is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God". (Acts 14:22) CCC 556

### CORI Time

Next week after all the Masses we will have an opportunity to complete CORI forms. Every employee and volunteer must complete one before the end of March no matter how recently you may have already completed one.

Please be sure to have a driver's license or other government issued ID with you as it will be needed to complete the form.

You can also come to the rectory during business hours and complete it with one of the staff members.

### Bible Study

Our Bible Study continues every Saturday at 9:00 in Saint Francis Church hall. We are currently studying the Acts of the Apostles. This week we will be looking at Chapters 5-7. All are welcome.

*Deacon Joe*



*Mrs. Karen Lane*

### Class Schedule for the Week of March 9, 2025

Grade 9 meets this Sunday, March 16 at 4:45 followed by the 6:00 Mass

Grade K-6 meet Tuesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 20 at 4:00PM

Grades 7 & 8 meet Tuesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 20 at 5:15PM

The RE students have been focusing on different ways to pray and fast during Lent. We talked about why we fast and how we can use our fasting as a way to increase our prayer. For example, the time that we would have been spent watching YouTube, could instead be used to pray or read a Bible Story. We talked about who we can pray for, like family, friends, those who are sick, and those who are in need. We also talked about praying to Jesus to thank Him for his sacrifice and for loving us, and to ask for His help to love and help others. We talked about the word repent, and how Lent is a time to turn away from sin and turn TOWARD Jesus!



### Children's Choir UPDATE!

The children's choir will begin to sing at the 10:15 Mass in late March! We are learning the song "Return to the Lord" for Lent. We will meet on Sundays in the St. Clare Church Hall at 9:45 to practice. Please email Karen Lane at [klane@sfnab.org](mailto:klane@sfnab.org) if your child is interested!

Plans are underway for our very FIRST Vacation Bible School at St. Clare Church Hall July 14-18! More details to follow, so please stay tuned!



St. Patrick

Pray for us!





**While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." - Lk 9:34-35**

## Readings of the Week

### Readings for the week of March 16, 2025

- Sunday:** Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/  
Lk 9:28b-36
- Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/  
Lk 6:36-38
- Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21  
and 23/Mt 23:1-12
- Wednesday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,  
27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/  
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/  
Lk 16:19-31
- Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/  
Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4,  
9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Next Sunday:** Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7,  
8, 11 (8a)/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/  
Lk 13:1-9  
*Scrutiny:* Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
(8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15,  
19b-26, 39a, 40-42



March 16: Second Sunday of Lent

Lent is a call not just to "give up something" but more important to "give something for the poor."

Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, March 15-16. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. Some of the much-needed items are Peanut Butter; Jelly; Pasta; Canned Chicken; Instant Potatoes; Canned Fruit; Condiments; Salad Dressing; Hot Chocolate; Paper Towels; 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.



**Massachusetts Citizens for Life  
South Shore Chapter Workshop  
The Challenges to the Sanctity of Life in Massachusetts  
Saturday, April 5, 2025—Noon –4PM  
Resurrection Parish, 1057 Main Street, Hingham, MA**

### Presenters

Linda Thayer—"Pregnancy Options" Education: Coming to a middle school near you?

Joan Bailey—The Sanctity of Motherhood: A faith-based approach to pregnancy help/maternity homes focusing on the value and worth of the mother

Patricia Stewart—Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment: Facts and Traps.

RSVP for refreshments to 508-631-2287. Walk-ins welcome!