

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 22, 2025

5:30PM Deacon Patrick Bruen Memorial

Sunday, March 23, 2025

9:00AM Hubert Gray 3rd Anniv.

11:30AM Edwina Moscaritolo 1st Anniv.

Monday, March 24, 2025

7:00AM Patricia Welch Memorial

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

7:00AM

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

7:00AM

Thursday, March 27, 2025

7:00AM St. John Seminary

Friday, March 28, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, March 29, 2025

5:30PM Garrett, Heather & Katleen Fitzgerald Memorial

Sunday, March 30, 2025

9:00AM Jean McPhee 3rd Anniv.

11:30AM Debbie Canale Memorial

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 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.

Saturday, March 29, 2025

8:00AM

4:00PM David Wallace 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, March 30, 2025

7:45AM Deceased Member of Tran Family Memorial

10:15AM Sean O'Donnell 1st Anniv.

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.



The ancient Jewish mind had a presumption that the day God created the world must have been the **first day of Spring**, since Spring is the season of new life. They set their calendars with that presumption. When early Christians wanted to celebrate the birth of Christ, they needed to find a date, since Jewish families did not celebrate birthdays, no one knew the date on which Christ was born. The date they chose was the first day of Spring since it was thought that creation began on that day, March 25 (obviously off by a few days which happened at the time of the shift to the Gregorian calendar in use today). Generations later, when there was a greater appreciation for the science of human gestation, they realized that it's not the birth of Christ that should be commemorated on the first day of Spring, but rather His conception. March 25 became the day of Jesus' conception and, nine months later, December 25 became the day to celebrate His birth.

The greater significance of all this is that the Incarnation (God taking on human nature) happened on Jesus' conception and not his birth. March 25 is therefore the Solemnity of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is the most important of all the Marian feasts as we recognize the essential quality of Mary's consent in God's overall plan for salvation.

Given the Church's teaching on the **sanctity of every human life**, from the moment of conception, it is very significant that the central mystery of the Incarnation of God is linked with human conception. We would say that Jesus was conceived, and thus God became human, at the moment Mary said "yes" to the Angel's invitation. Incarnation, therefore, happened in her womb. I think it's worth pondering this mystery as we consider the many issues before us as a nation in terms of how we protect life.

This weekend is Commitment Sunday for the **Annual Catholic Appeal**. A number of parishioners have already responded to the appeal. This weekend, we are asking that each household fill out one of the pledge envelopes whilst at Mass, even those who have already given and those who have not made any decisions yet. The parishes get credit for each of the envelopes submitted. That credit is what allows for a rebate back to the parishes. St. Francis and St. Clare parishes received almost \$34,000 this year in appeal rebates because of the number of people who participated. More important than the dollar amount is the

number of parishioners who participate. Please give serious consideration to the Annual Catholic Appeal which is used for the shared ministries in the Archdiocese.

Tomorrow night the **collaborative Young Adult** group will be meeting at St. Francis Church at 6:45 for Rosary and Benediction followed by a light meal and discussion in the St. Francis Parish Hall.



Next week is the **collaborative Lenten retreat**. The theme of the retreat is "Hope" given to us by Pope Francis as it is the theme of the jubilee year. The retreat begins at 7:00 each night: Monday and Wednesday night at St. Clare Church. Tuesday will be at St. Francis Church. Jacqueline Regan from Boston College will be the speaker for the first night. Bishop Mark O'Connell will be with us for the second night. Deacon Dan O'Toole from Mary Queen of Martyrs Parish in Plymouth will be our speaker on Wednesday. Confessions will be available after the service on Tuesday night and there will be a light social after the service on Wednesday evening.

As many of you have well noted, **the steps at all of the entrances at St Clare Church are in disrepair**. Over the years winter salt has corroded the cement holding them together. They are crumbling to the point where someone is going to get hurt. We have to replace them as soon as possible. At the time of this writing we are talking with a mason who may be able to start the job in the next couple of weeks. All of the steps need attention. I am hoping that there may be some parishioners who are in a position to help underwrite this project. Please let me know. In the next couple of weeks we should have the renderings of the sanctuary which needs repairs and refreshing as well. I will add the cost of the steps to the cost of the renovation so we can think of this in terms of one budget. In other words, if I am going to ask for your financial assistance, I would rather do it only once, as opposed to asking help for the stairs then the sanctuary.

Fr. Bob

MARCH 23, 2025

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. Francis of Assisi
Cillian Robert Gonzalez
Nova Lilac Larson
Sofia Mary Rivers
Ada Christine Tarr



St. Francis of Assisi
Joan Wood
Anthony Graziano, Jr.
Mary Heirty

St. Clare
Donald Fitzgerald

*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 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

Lent offers a good opportunity to renew one's prayer life. If you're anything like me, your prayer has its ups and downs. Maybe something happens and you aren't able to pray on a given day or it gets interrupted, and you can't finish. Sometimes we fall out of the habit of praying and stay away from it for weeks, months or even years. For some it seems like a waste of time because certain prayers aren't answered. Sometimes our own sin keeps us from prayer. Remember Adam and Eve in the garden after they ate the forbidden fruit? What did they do? They hid from God because they knew they did wrong (Gen 3:10). Staying away from prayer is also a way of hiding from God. Often our prayer seems dry or without benefit, as though we aren't getting through to God or God to us.

How do we fix our prayer life? The first thing to do is what Jesus did, he made it a habit. Listen to what Mark's Gospel talks about how Jesus prayed: "Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed." (Mk 1:35)

Therefore, the first thing we have to do is set a time. Jesus did it before dawn, I like to sleep a bit later than that, but I do like morning the best. There usually aren't many distractions, it's quiet and I'm rested from a good night's sleep. It works for me, but another time might work better for you.

The next thing Jesus did was find a deserted place. He didn't want to be disturbed; he wanted to be quiet. It's in the quiet, in the whispering breeze that we hear God's voice (1Kings 19:12).

Then he prayed.

So, pick a time and place. You can experiment with this a bit if you need to but once you settle on a time do your best to be faithful to it. You're trying to make it a habit.

Next, find your place.

I sit in a recliner, Coffee next me, looking out at the woods in the backyard. Now, although I have a quiet place sometimes my mind hasn't caught up yet. I have two short prayers that I use just to get me into that "prayer-space."

The first gives my day to God. "Lord, I offer you this day with all its pleasure and pain, joy, and frustration. May I serve you always as one made in your image, to the glory of your name, and the welfare of others."

The second consecrates the time of prayer to God. "Father, I consecrate this time to you. I ask nothing in return but the courage to know you and to do your will. And if you give me

anything beyond this, I accept it humbly with a contrite heart (I might say the Jesus prayer here or an Act of Contrition). I offer this prayer for (Pope, Bishop, Pastor, and People you love among others) and for all those for whom I have promised to pray."

This is only what I do, feel free to use these prayers if it helps or let God lead you in some other direction. It's all good with God.

You've heard Nike's slogan "just do it." It's a good slogan for prayer too. Once you find your time and your place, and your mind and heart are in the right place...just pray.

Everyone has their own way of doing it. My father-in-law would get his prayer cards and read the prayers on the back of them. It worked for him.

I start out with the Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer). Why? Well for one thing, I made a promise to God at my ordination to pray the hours. But I used the Liturgy of the Hours long before I even thought of diaconate. The "hours" unite me with people around the world who are also praying them. The hours are a way to pray with scripture, and the Word of God is powerful. "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4)

After I've finished Morning Prayer, I like to refill my coffee and pray the Rosary.

How long should one pray? You have to give it some reasonable time to get a rhythm for it and find a chance for reflection and quiet. If you aren't used to praying, start with little bites. Something like 15 minutes at a time could work and then gradually increase from there. I tend to let the prayer itself decide.

I could be done in half an hour, but that is rare. Typically, with reflection and meditation my morning routine lasts about an hour, sometimes more, sometimes less. For me it's over when it's over.

Pray in whatever way works for you. I suggest using Scripture as part of it. But you can use the Liturgy of the Hours, the Rosary, or simply have a conversation with God.

Remember when you pray not to do all the talking. Let God get a word in edgewise. And it's not always about give me, give me, give me. There is also prayer of praise, prayer of thanksgiving as well as prayer of petition. You can just be still and sit God's presence.

If your prayer seems dry; like you're not getting anything out of it, or God isn't present to you - keep praying, make it your habit and routine. I have those times, too, as do many others including the saints. We aren't always going to be aware of what the Lord is accomplishing in our lives. God put Adam

into a deep sleep while he formed Eve from his side. Adam had no idea that God was doing something wonderful. We plant seeds but we can't see them grow because their development is hidden beneath the soil. Yet we have faith that in time we will see its fruit. Prayer can often be like that. So, don't despair. Don't give up. Have faith. Just do it.

Let's use this Lenten season to get into a new habit of prayer, one that will change our lives, change our direction, fill us with grace and bring us close to the One who is our life.

CORI Time

THIS 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.

Deacon Joe



Mrs. Karen Lane

Class Schedule for the Week of March 23, 2025

Grades K-6 meet Sunday, March 23 at 11:15: Tuesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 26 at 4:00PM

Grade 9 meets this Sunday, March 23 at 4:45 followed by the 6:00 Mass

Did you know that St. Patrick wasn't Irish?? The RE students learned about St. Patrick this week. He was born in Scotland, and is known for spreading Christianity in Ireland as a missionary. The kids enjoyed sharing some of their favorite St. Patrick's Day traditions, like eating Irish soda bread and corned beef and cabbage, wearing green, and making Leprechaun traps. It is said that if you catch a leprechaun, he must grant you 3 wishes or reveal the location of his pot of gold!! Legend says St. Patrick used a shamrock (a three-leaf clover) to explain the Holy Trinity. The kids enjoyed practicing the Sign of the Cross and making Holy Trinity Shamrocks.



Father Bob is hosting two teaching Masses next week for RE students and their families. Teaching Masses are a more informal type of Mass, where the celebrant explains what is happening during each part of the Mass (kind of like a sports com-

mentator) and children are welcome to raise their hands and ask questions. Teaching Masses are a wonderful way to help kids to become familiar with the structure of the Mass, and are a great refresher for parents as well! All RE families are welcome - it is a great opportunity to learn and grow in your faith!

The teaching Masses will be on Tuesday, March 25, and Thursday, March 27. Both Masses will be at 5:00 at St. Clare Church.



Voices needed for our Children's Choir! Rehearsals have begun, and are going great, but the more voices, the merrier! 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@sfab.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!

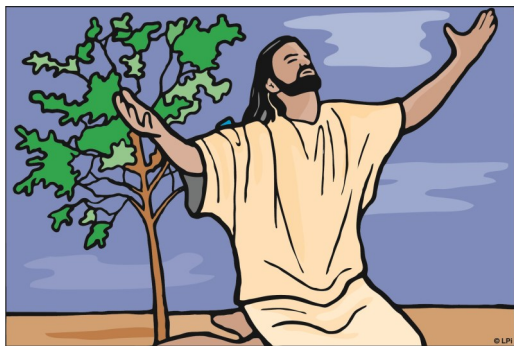


"MERCH"



We are pleased to make available for purchase Braintree Catholic Collaborative Gear! For the time being we have three items: crew neck sweatshirt for \$45, fleece jacket for \$50 and hoodie for \$50, but we hope in the future to have more items available! You can order these items by filling out and dropping off the order form (located at the entrances of the churches or at the link below) at the Collaborative Office or Call Fr. Kevin at the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.

<https://braintreecatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/BCC-MERCH-Order-Form.htm>



Jesus said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”
- Lk 13:2-3

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of March 23, 2025

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

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/
 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/
 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/
 Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/
 Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/
 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/
 Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



March 23: Third Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel Jesus is quite clear in his message: "bear fruit or be cut down." This Lent we are called to cultivate and fertilize our spiritual lives through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your donation is multiplied by the donations placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul blue envelopes.



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!

