

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 29, 2025

5:30PM Garrett, Heather & Katleen Fitzgerald Memorial

Sunday, March 30, 2025

9:00AM Jean McPhee 3rd Anniv.

11:30AM Debbie Canale Memorial

Monday, March 31, 2025

7:00AM Nancy Jordan Memorial

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

7:00AM Antonio & Eleanor Corbo Memorial

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

7:00AM John J. Twomey Month's Mind

Thursday, April 3, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, April 4, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, April 5, 2025

5:30PM Eric Fairbanks 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, April 6, 2025

9:00AM Dorothy Banks Anniversary

11:30AM Philip Walling, Sr., Mary Tricomi, Rosemarie Roche and Roseanne Walling Memorial Healing



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



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, March 29, 2025

8:00AM Thomas Targonski 1st Anniv.

4:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

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

Saturday, April 5, 2025

8:00AM Tom Larnier, Sr. Memorial

4:00PM Anna DiCenso Memorial

Sunday, April 6, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Francesco Boncaldo 1st Anniv.

6:00PM Sheila & Michael Lydon Memorial

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.



Next Saturday, April 5 we will hold a **Mass of Anointing of Sick** at 11:00 at St. Francis Church Hall. The Mass will be followed by lunch. The Mass will be held in the hall, as opposed to the Church, for the simple reason that there will be many infirmed persons coming for whom getting up and down is difficult. This way they can have Mass and lunch in the same seat. Hopefully this will allow for parishioners who are not typically able to come to Sunday Mass to have the opportunity for Mass and the Sacrament of the Sick. Reservations are necessary so we know how to set up the hall and plan for lunch.

Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven Sacraments of the Church. The biblical foundation for this sacrament is found in the fifth chapter of the Letter of St. James:

Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the priests of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up.

This sacrament is intended to bestow God's healing grace upon those in need. So much of Jesus' public ministry was spent with those who were sick. Caring for the sick is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy (Matthew 25) and thus one of the primary ministries of the Church given its mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Who should receive this Sacrament?

Elderly

Sick

Anyone facing surgery or medical treatment

What age constitutes "elderly"? I wouldn't dare suggest a number! That is to be determined by the individual.

How sick do you have to be? Again, that is best left to the discretion of the one asking for the Sacrament. I wouldn't recommend the Sacrament of the Sick for a cold, flu or something like that. However, a serious or chronic condition warrants the Sacrament. **The Sacrament is not limited to those who are physically ill, but also emotional, psychological, or spiritual.**

Under surgery I wouldn't include a root canal or removal of a mole, but certainly anything invasive. For medical treatment I would include any chemo-therapy or radiation.

Hopefully you have noticed that I have not mentioned anything to do with dying. Anointing of the Sick and Last Rites are not the same thing. Last Rites most likely will include the Sacrament of the Sick, but is also the ritual to

prepare someone for impending death. Last Rites may include other sacraments such as Reconciliation, or Holy Communion. I have Confirmed someone on his deathbed and even married a couple when one of them was dying.

Sadly, so many people avoid the Sacrament of the Sick because it is associated with death. The Sacrament of the Sick is to help someone bear the illness, provide healing grace and draw someone closer to Christ.

Twice in the past month someone has called the rectory asking for "Last Rites" for a family member. We couldn't get to them in a timely manner because of Masses here. Sadly they died before we could grant them Last Rites. PLEASE don't wait until someone is about to die to call the priest! Call us anytime the person is seriously ill, has taken a turn for the worse or is in the process of dying.

This column began with announcing the Mass of Anointing on Saturday. However, you can receive the Sacrament of the Sick whenever you need it. It takes only a couple of minutes. You can ask the priest at Mass for the anointing which he can easily do after Mass. You can call the office and we will try to see you ASAP.

There is no limit to the number of times you can receive the Sacrament of the Sick. If the person recovers and becomes sick again in the future, he/she can receive it again. If the condition worsens, it can be received again as well.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me or email.

The Collaborative Lenten Retreat is this week! I hope you can come for part or all of it. Note well that confessions will be available after the service on Tuesday. Please see the info elsewhere in this bulletin

We are at the half-way point of Lent! This is a good time to recommit yourself to the disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. If you have been lackadaisical about Lent this year or haven't even started, you can jump in now! Don't not take on Lenten practices simply because you haven't started anything yet.

Many thanks to all who participated in the Annual Catholic Appeal. We had an excellent rate of participation thus far. It's not too late to jump in! There are envelopes in the pews which you can fill out and simply leave it in the collection basket at a weekend Mass. We will be happy to mail it in for you.

Holy Week is in just two weeks beginning on Palm Sunday. Please plan your schedules so that you are able to join in the solemn commemorations of our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Fr. Bob

MARCH 30, 2025

What are you doing for Lent?

Scriptural Rosary—Mondays, March April 7 and 14—6:45 at St. Francis of Assisi church. **Please note that this will not be held this week due to the Collaborative Retreat.**

Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration—Mondays April 7—6:30-7:15PM in St. Francis church. **Please note that this will not be held this week due to the Collaborative Retreat.**

Catechesis on the Creed with Fr. Bob—Tuesdays, April 8—7:00—8:15PM in St. Francis Church Hall. **Please note that this will not be held this week due to the Collaborative Retreat.**

Stations of the Cross—Fridays at 12:10PM



3-NIGHT LENTEN MISSION

THIS 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.** The speakers and topics for each nights are:

Monday—Jackie Regan

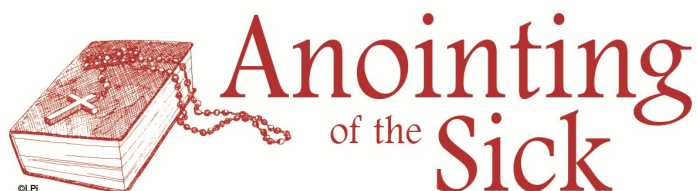
“Hope does not disappoint.” Contemporary Evening Prayer and Talk—Jackie is the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at Boston College’s Clough School of Theology and Ministry. Along with raising her family she spent most of her working life in Catholic Education and has long been sought out as a Spiritual Director, mentor and retreat speaker.

Tuesday — Bishop Mark O’Connell

“Christ is my hope.” - Liturgy of the Word, Talk and time for Sacrament of Reconciliation.— Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston in 1990, Bishop Mark spent many years living at St. Francis of Assisi while working at the Tribunal for the Archdiocese. In 2016, Pope Francis named him Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese. He currently serves as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia.

Wednesday—Deacon Dan O’Toole

“Hope is everlasting.” Evening Prayer, talk and Light refreshments to follow in the church hall.— Deacon Dan is a retired Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy and is a former trial and appellate court judge. He and his wife, Anne, are members of Mary Queen of Martyrs Parish (St. Peter’s Church) in Plymouth.



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.



St. Francis of Assisi

Peter LeRoy
Abbey O’Connell

St. Clare

Joseph Knoll
Charles Kelley, 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.



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

In today's Gospel we read the parable of the prodigal son. But earlier in the chapter there were two other parables. The first was that of the lost sheep. You might recall that the shepherd left the other ninety-nine and went out to seek the one that was lost. When he found the sheep, he called together his friends and neighbors to share his joy. The other was about a woman who lost a coin and searched high and low until she found it and when she did, she called her neighbors and friends to rejoice with her. Those two parables are about both losing and finding. The parable of the prodigal son is also called the parable of the lost son.

In this parable we have a bratty young man who wants his share of his father's inheritance. When does somebody usually get an inheritance? When someone dies. It is like this kid is saying: "I can't wait for you to die." I don't think he really wanted his father to die but it could be taken that way. He got his way and off he went. He had a jolly good time for himself, – until the money ran out. The text tells us he spent money "freely." The young man was out of control. He became like an addict and hit rock bottom. It got so bad for him that he had to slop pigs for a gentile. But it got worse he became so hungry he wanted to eat what the pigs ate. He had separated himself from his father and had fallen just as far as he could from the Jewish community. It was a kind of self-excommunication. Finally, he came to his senses. He knew where to go – to his father.

Imagine how we might react if we do something egregious, and we have to face someone because of it, perhaps even someone we love. We might practice in our minds what we were going to say, and this is exactly what he does. He practices his Act of Contrition. At first, he might not have been all that contrite but just hungry. But, by the time he got home it had penetrated his heart, and it was sincere.

The word prodigal means lavish or extravagant. And this young man certainly lived that way when he was away from this father. But there is another prodigal character in this story, someone whose love was extravagant.

Can't you just picture the father standing at the door every day looking out to see if this son would come home. The father was longing for his child and when he saw him a far way off, he was filled with compassion. He ran to meet his son and embraced him and kissed him. He had the fatted calf killed for a feast and put lavish clothing on him. He had found his son and like the other parables wanted to celebrate with those closest to him. It must have been something to behold with music and dancing and wine poured freely. Everyone was rejoicing – well, not everyone.

The brother that had stayed behind would have no part of it. He was after all the good son. He was the one who "slaved" for his father. He complained "This son of yours..." He couldn't even call him his brother. Nobody knows what the prodigal son had spent the money on, but his angry brother had no problem accusing him of spending it on prostitutes. It might have been gambling or alcohol. But, he had associated with sinners, (the same thing the pharisees said about Jesus.) We should be careful how we judge. This good son refused to enter the feast. This son complained that his father never even gave him a goat (goats were cheap and plentiful) to share with his friends but the other son gets a feast with a fatted calf (extremely expensive and rare). Notice he didn't want to share with his father but his friends. Even though he was the one who stayed behind and worked for his father there were still some ways he was separated from his father as much as the son who strayed.

His father gently corrects this son's attitude. There was no yelling or screaming or ordering. He laid out the facts. "Your brother (parental correction) was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found. We have to rejoice!" The Pharisees were always complaining that Jesus associated with sinners and tax collectors. They failed to see God's compassion. They failed to see that the sinners they shunned were their own brothers and sisters. They refused to enter the feast. They couldn't get over themselves.

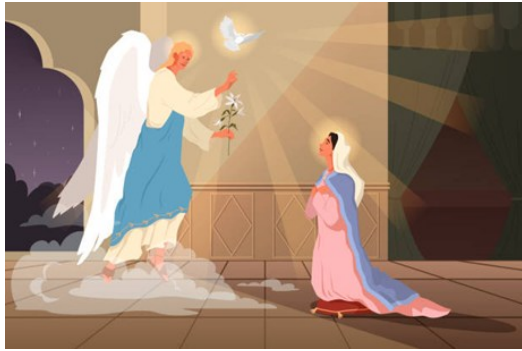
We are a lot like these two brothers. We often stray and sometimes we stray pretty far. Our sins get the best of us, and we hit spiritual as well as physical rock bottom. But we can always go home. We can always call upon our father with repentant hearts. "A humble and contrite heart, O Lord, you would not spurn." (Psalm 53:19)

Like the older brother we can be quick to judge and slow to forgive. We forget that those who hurt us or fall away from God are also part of God's family, and that our Prodigal Father in Heaven is forever seeking them out, too. Jesus told us that the way we judge will be the way we will be judged. I don't think I want that. He also said that we would be forgiven as we forgive. Our love and mercy for our brothers and sisters must be as prodigal as is the Father's love for us.

Let nothing keep us from seeking the Father's love and mercy. Like the shepherd who lost and found his sheep, the woman who lost and found her coin, and the father who lost and found his son "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance." (Luke 15:7)



**PRAY FOR
VOCATIONS**



This week we talked about the Annunciation of the Lord. We discussed how Mary must have felt when the Angel Gabriel told her that she would be the mother of Jesus! We prayed to be open to God's will, and to the grace He offers. We asked God to help us to say "Yes" to his plan for our lives.

Family Faith Gathering



Come learn about Holy Week!

Sunday, April 6 at 11:15 - St. Clare Church Hall

Holy Week commemorates the seven days leading up to Easter. It begins with Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We remember the Last Supper on Holy Thursday which leads to the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, and his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday!

We will have discussions on how families can talk about and celebrate these events with their children, and activities for the children to "Walk with Jesus" during this special time.



All are Welcome!



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!

Class Schedule for the Week of March 30, 2025

Grade 9 meets this Sunday, March 30 at 4:45 followed by the 6:00 Mass

Grades 7 & 8 meet Tuesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 3 at 5:15

There are classes for Grades K-6 this week.

"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>

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.



"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'" - Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of March 30, 2025

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

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/
Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/
Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/
Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/
Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



**Baby Care Collection for
Friends of the Unborn**

**Sponsored by Braintree Council 1462
Knights of Columbus**

April 5th and 6th

**After all Masses at Saint Francis of Assisi and
Saint Clare Churches**

Collecting baby care supplies and monetary donations

**Members of the Knights will be distributing information on
needed items after all Masses this weekend.**



March 30: Fourth Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel the prodigal son repents and finds mercy in the heart of his father. Know that your penance during Lent can give the poor the grace of finding the merciful heart of God the Father.

In the month of March, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing food, and financial assistance for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

Pantry donations can be dropped off at the Collaborative office during normal business hours (M-F 9-4). **Blue envelopes** are in holders on the back inside wall of the church. Please use them for your cash, check (written to St. Vincent DePaul with Braintree Catholic on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot. Thank you.



**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 your?

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!



Alliance Health at Braintree is looking for volunteers with an artsy/crafty background. Volunteers would be working with the residents to create a special project for National Nursing Home Week. The theme is "Tapestry of Life". Please contact Kara Perkins, Activity Director if you are interested. (781) 848-2050 ext. 253.