

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 8, 2025

5:30PM Gordon Morrissey Memorial

Sunday, March 9, 2025

9:00AM Thomas Kelly Memorial

11:30AM Kathleen Crimmins Healing

Monday, March 10, 2025

7:00AM John & Joseph Odenweller Memorial

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

7:00AM

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

7:00AM Gilmartin Spec. Intent.

Thursday, March 13, 2025

7:00AM Evelyn Capodilupo Memorial

Friday, March 14, 2025

7:00AM Sally Healy 2nd Anniv.

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

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 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

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

The Bread & Wine for the week of March 8 through 14th have been donated in loving memory of George O'Brien, Jr.. The Sanctuary Light will also burn in George's Memory.

Info and events of note

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry Open Thursdays at St. Francis from 10AM-12NN.** If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need.
- **Collaborative Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the parish prayer line, please call the Collaborative office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is deployed and you would like their info to appear on the blue board in the church, please call or email the parish office.
- **AI-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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



We **begin Masses this weekend** by calling on the Saints to intercede on our behalf as we start out in this holy season of Lent. As their names are called out we remember that they are part of the Church: those members who have achieved our common goal of eternal life with Christ. Like us, they too were sinners. What made them saints, though, is their willingness to undergo a conversion.

The Church has long used the Greek word *metanoia* which we translate as repent. The word literally means to change your mind. A conversion to Christ means a change of the mind, that we think differently about how we do things. The ancient disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving help us to think differently and make choices that will deepen Christ's life in us.

During the Sundays of Lent we will be using "option B" for the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass. We are most familiar with "option A" (I confess to Almighty God and to you...) and option C (Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.) Option B is very simple. The priest invites us to call to mind our sins which we do in a moment of silence and then the cantor will chant

Have Mercy on us, O Lord

Then we respond

For we have sinned against you

Then the cantor again

Show us, O Lord, Your mercy

Then we respond

And grant us your salvation.

We're using this option to change things up a bit. The newness of it will reinforce the importance of remembering that we are sinners so that we can be brought to conversion. You should know that Deacon Joe composed the musical setting we will be using for the Option B.

Also during the Masses of Lent we suppress the "Alleluia". This is an acclamation that Christ has been raised from the dead. We don't use it during the weeks of Lent so that when it emerges on Easter Sunday it has a more robust feel to it.

On Monday evenings of Lent at St. Francis Church, the collaborative will be sponsoring a **Scriptural Rosary** beginning at 6:45 and conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament about 7:15. During this same time period there will be a priest available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Church.

On Tuesday evenings of Lent I will be offering a **mini-course on the Nicene Creed** in St. Francis Parish Hall 7:00 -8:15. If ever you wanted to learn about the Creed we use at Sunday Mass, this is your opportunity! You need not go all of them. Each week we will begin with a review of what we covered previously.

Next weekend is the kick-off for the **Annual Catholic Appeal**. This is a very important endeavor as we reach out to the whole of the Archdiocese asking for financial and spiritual support for our common mission. Those who have given previously should have already received a letter asking for your participation. More information will be given next week.

Fr. Bob



St. Francis of Assisi

Joseph R. Campbell

Rita M. Lore

St. Clare

John Harkins

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.



St. Francis of Assisi

Patrick O'Toole, IV



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.

MARCH 9, 2025



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

It's the time of ashes. It's a time for fasting. It's a time of prayer. Lent is a time when the Lord asks us to rend our hearts. But what does that mean? I went to the dictionary to find out. It means to tear apart violently and to tear one's garments in grief or rage. An example of this can be found when Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin and said that they would see "the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God and coming on the clouds" effectively saying that he was in fact God. It was then that the high priest in a fit of anger at the perceived blasphemy tore or rent his garments.

When Jesus tells us to rend our hearts and not our garments, he's asking us to do something that goes against our nature. Like Adam and Eve, who in the garden hid from the Lord because of their sin, we too hide within our hearts and minds the sin we don't want anyone to know about. We hide it from our neighbors, we hide it from ourselves, and we even try to hide it from God. Our sins are closely guarded secrets.

The Lord asks us to become angry at our sinfulness; to be grief stricken by the broken relationship with him that it causes. Like a cancer or infection growing within us it needs to be excised. We need a kind of open-heart surgery where Jesus is the physician, but he doesn't force it. He won't do it without our consent. We have to make the first painful incision. It takes all the courage we can muster because our hearts have been closed for so long. It takes a spiritual tearing apart that comes from our own grief and anger at how closed we have become to God's love.

Let's rend our hearts this Lent and allow the Lord to enter. Now we can reveal those things that, by fear, have kept us apart. Jesus is the wounded healer, and he knows well the wounds that we suffer. That's why he came to suffer them with us and took them to the cross with him on Calvary. May we always let Christ into our hearts to heal the wounds of sin and remove the obstacles that distance us from His divine love.



CORI Time

March is not only the month in which Lent begins, it is also CORI month for parishes in the South Region.

Every year all Clergy, Employees and volunteers must have a new CORI submitted in order to continue in ministry. I know that some of you may have done a CORI since last March, maybe only a few months ago. It doesn't matter. March is our designated month and we all have to re-do it for FY2025.

On the weekend of March 22-23, there will be someone available after every Mass to help you complete and submit the form. Please be available that day or come to the rectory and complete it there.

Thank you for your cooperation. *Deacon Joe*

What are you doing for Lent?

Scriptural Rosary—Mondays, March 10, 17, 24 and April 7 and 14—6:45 at St. Francis of Assisi church

Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration—Mondays March 10, 17, 24 and April 7—6:30-7:15PM in St. Francis church

Catechesis on the Creed with Fr. Bob—Tuesdays, March 11, 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.



March 9: First Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. **Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.**

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.**

Many thanks to all who donated hats, gloves, scarves, socks and other warm items to our “Cold Hands – Warm Hearts” project! Over 200 items were delivered to local facilities along with some beautiful cards made by the RE students. We packed up all the items in bags and said a prayer for all the people who will receive them to stay warm, healthy, and blessed!



8th Grade students from Xaverian Brothers School in Westwood came to St. Clare Church recently for a day of service. The students cleaned the church, church hall, and parking lot. Then they wrote letters to our 8th grade RE students and prayed the Rosary together.



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



Children's Choir UPDATE!

The children's choir will begin to sing at the 10:15 Mass in late March! 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!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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!



March 9, 2025 - 1st Sunday of Lent— Luke 4:1-13

One of the most fascinating moments in American history is when George Washington could have become the king of the newly liberated United States and didn't. At the height of his power and fame, on Dec. 23, 1783, he resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief, and went home. The astonished King of England remarked that in doing so, Washington was “the greatest man in the world.” Greatness is often defined by what we could do but don't. Greatness is measured by the temptations we overcome.

Jesus' greatness is revealed in his victory over temptations, too. The three offered him by the devil contain, we might say, all potential possible temptations: food, power and fame. They correspond to the triple human needs of body, soul and spirit. In overcoming these three, he says “no” in essence to every and even the greatest temptation. We see that every desire of his humanity — body, soul and spirit — is perfectly united to God, to love. This is a power available to each member of his body. It is the path to true greatness. How can we, who so easily fall into even small temptations, find the power to overcome large ones? By entering into the great dynamics of Jesus' temptations.

Lenten challenge: This first week of Lent, list some concrete ways you can overcome temptations that correspond with your desires. For example, you may give up snacks between meals, choose not to participate in an activity of which you are an expert, and decide to reduce social media posting by 50%. It may not seem like much, but by saying “no” to the tyranny of food, power, and fame (in this example), you'll discover true greatness. — Father John Muir - ©LPi



The devil said to him, "All this will be yours, if you worship me." Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve."
Lk 4:6a, 7-8

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of March 9, 2025

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
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next 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



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)

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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!



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



PUZZLE

Help Jesus to avoid the devil by staying on the path that leads to God!



MISSION

God has given you special talents to share with others. If you enjoy drawing, make a picture for someone else. If you enjoy singing, sing songs that make God smile.



Sharing the Gospel

Jesus was powerful, and the devil knew it. Jesus could have used the power he had selfishly, to get whatever he wanted - food, land to rule, or even angels to come running. Instead, Jesus chose to save his power to do what God wanted.

Prayer

Dear God, help me not to be selfish. Help me to be more like Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw Jesus praying to God in the desert.

Mission for the Week

God has given you special talents to share with others. If you enjoy drawing, make a picture for someone else. If you enjoy singing, sing songs that make God smile.