

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, April 12, 2025

5:30PM Mary Hill Anniversary

Sunday, April 13, 2025

9:00AM William O'Sullivan Anniversary

11:30AM Ryan Steber and Peggy Proctor 2nd Anniv.
30th Anniv.

Monday, April 14, 2025

7:00AM Jane & Kathleen Coakley and Brooke Sorrento Memorial

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

7:00AM Sharon Silvia Anniversary

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

7:00AM Kathleen Crimmins Healing

Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025

7:00AM No Mass

Good Friday, April 18, 2025

7:00AM No Mass

Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025

8:00PM Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

9:00AM Alleluia!

11:30AM He is Risen



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, April 12, 2025

8:00AM Anita Walsh Durigan Memorial

4:00PM Kathleen O'Leary 5th Anniv.

Sunday, April 13, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM John J. Clougher Memorial

6:00PM Parishioner of the Collaborative

Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025

8:00AM No Mass

4:00PM No Mass

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

7:45AM Alleluia!

10:15AM He Is Risen

6:00PM No Mass

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.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



Holy Week

As you well know, today begins the most important time in the Church's year. During Holy Week we commemorate and celebrate the events in the life of Jesus Christ that brought salvation to the world.

I want to encourage you to use this time to reflect on the events in the life of Christ. There are so many books, devotionals, movies, videos, podcasts and this like that can help engage our imaginations to enter into the Paschal Mystery: Christ's dying and rising.

An important part of reflecting on these events is to participate in the Sacred Liturgies. The liturgies for Holy Week are, by their nature, somewhat long. They engage the senses to a richer experience of the meaning of what Jesus did by accepting death.

Today the Church recalls Christ's entry into Jerusalem. He went there on the occasion of the Passover. It was during this festival that he was betrayed, arrested, tried, condemned and ultimately put to death on the cross. In our tradition, we mark this day by blessing of palms recalling the greeting Jesus received as He made His way into the city. We place the palms somewhere in our homes as a constant reminder to welcome Christ.

Tuesday, Archbishop Henning will preside at the annual Chrism Mass with all the priests and deacons. At this Mass he blesses the oils that will be used in the celebrations of the sacraments. These oils are then distributed to all the parishes in the Archdiocese and used throughout the coming year. Also at the Chrism Mass the priests renew the sacred promises they made at their ordination. This custom links the priests to the Last Supper in which Jesus instituted the priesthood. The faithful are most welcome to participate at the Mass which is held at the Cathedral beginning at 11:00.

Lent ends and the Sacred Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday. This Mass includes the *Mandatum*, the washing of feet. We do this ritual every year as Jesus said to His Apostles "what I have done is to give you an example. What I have done for you, you must do for each other." At the conclusion of the Mass the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession to an altar of repose in the Church. All parishioners are encouraged to remain in or visit the Church following the Mass for a period of quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. St. Clare Church will be opened until 9:15. The Blessed Sacrament will also be reposed at St. Francis Church from about 9:00-11:00. You may be looking for an

opportunity for some quiet time to reflect on the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Know that the Church will be open during these times for this purpose. Fr Kevin will lead Compline or Night prayer at 10:45. It is a very brief service which concludes the period of solemn adoration. Please consider spending a period of time on Thursday evening to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

On Good Friday, there will be a special children's liturgy of the Passion at 11:00 at St. Clare Church. Though the service will be geared to children, adults are most welcome to participate too. It will last about 40 minutes and include the telling of the passion story, veneration of the cross and intercessory prayer. Both St. Clare Church and St. Francis Church will be opened all day on Good Friday for those wishing to make a visit for their own prayer. Formal Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 12:10 on Good Friday at St. Francis Church. The solemn liturgy of the Lord's Passion will be held at each Church: 3:00 at St. Clare and 7:00 at St. Francis.

The most important Mass of the year is the Easter Vigil which begins at 8:00 on Saturday evening. The Mass itself will be about two and half hours long. It begins, however, with the lighting of the Easter fire outside the Church then a procession into the darkened Church where individual candles are lit and the ancient proclamation of Christ's Resurrection is proclaimed. As the vigil is typically the time to welcome new adult members in the Church, we will baptize and confirm Mirela DiGiocomo and Sean Zanon-Haslett, as well as welcome into the Church Steven Mann who is already baptized though will join the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Fr. Bob



APRIL 13, 2025



*"Blessed is the king who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest."
Lk 19:38*

Readings Week of the

Readings for the week of April 13, 2025

Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/
Lk 22:14—23:56 or 23:1-49

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/
Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27/Rv 1:5-8/
Lk 4:16-21

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:*
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 (see 1 Cor 10:16)/1 Cor 11:23-26/
Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 (Lk 23:46)/Heb 4:14-16;
5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday: *Easter Vigil:* Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/
Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or
Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/
Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/
Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15—15:1/
Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/
Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/
Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/
Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/
Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 (12a)/
Rom 6:3-11/Lk 24:1-12

Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/
Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12



Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

Regular Sunday Schedule

Monday – Wednesday, April 14-16, 2025

7:00AM Weekday Mass St. Francis

Monday, April 14, 2025

6:45PM Scriptural Rosary and St. Francis

Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

6:30PM Confessions and Exposition St. Francis

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

11:00AM Archdiocesan Chrism Mass

Cathedral of the Holy Cross—1400 Washington St. Boston

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

6:30 – 7:30PM Confessions St. Clare

Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025

9:00AM Morning Prayer St. Francis

9:20AM Confessions St. Francis

7:00PM Mass of the Lord's Supper St. Clare

8:30-11PM Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Francis

10:45PM Night Prayer St. Francis

Good Friday, April 18, 2025

9:00AM Morning Prayer St. Francis

9:30AM Praying with Scripture – Fr. Bill Sheehan

St. Francis

11:00AM Good Friday Children's Service St. Clare

12:10PM Stations of the Cross St. Francis

3:00PM Solemn Service of the Lord's Passion

St. Clare

7:00PM Solemn Service of the Lord's Passion

St. Francis

Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025

9:00AM Morning Prayer St. Francis

8:00PM Easter Vigil St. Francis

Note: There is no 4:00 or 5:30 Mass on Holy Saturday.



Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

7:45AM St. Clare

9:00AM St. Francis of Assisi

10:15AM St. Clare

11:30AM St. Francis of Assisi

Please Note there is NO 6:00PM Mass on Easter Sunday



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

I was visiting my mother at the nursing home a number of years ago and we were having a very nice time together. Although it was beginning to get difficult to hold much of a conversation with her, on this day she seemed particularly lucid. I told her what my children had been up to, how Kate was doing in college and how Ben had made an appointment to get his license. She really enjoyed hearing it all. Then she looked at me and asked, "Now who do you live with?" Either she didn't recognize me at that moment or she didn't recognize the names of my children.

A couple of weeks later mom was taken to the hospital with chest pain. My older sister Annemarie and I were there in the Emergency Room. My younger sister Julie was home with a sick child. Mom kept calling Annemarie and I her "good children" because we were there. We knew she was angry at our missing sister but we kept explaining that her little boy was sick and still, 5 minutes later Mom would ask why the other one wasn't there. Then after about three hours together Mom asked "Now where is that Annemarie – doesn't she care?" My sister and I looked at each other and then at Mom and I pointed to the other side of the bed and said "Mum, THAT'S Annemarie." "Oh"

Luanne and I went out to dinner and while we were eating a woman came up to us and started to chat. We had a nice conversation – very cordial and polite. She knew who I was. But I didn't have a clue who she was. She looked familiar and I knew I should have recognized her – but I was at a loss.

My mom didn't recognize my sister or me not because she was bad; she didn't recognize us because she's sick. She had Alzheimer's disease.

I have difficulty recognizing people when I see them in unfamiliar settings and forget names even in familiar settings not because I'm bad or I don't care but the part of my brain that recognizes and remembers those things doesn't work that way very well. It's because I'm "sick" in a way. Maybe it's ADD. Who knows?

So too, it wasn't necessarily that the people of Jerusalem were bad or evil that they failed to recognize Christ. They were sick too. Their sickness is one we all share – it's called sin.

Its symptoms are hideous. It blinds us. We become deaf to the voice of God and others. It makes us desire more than we need when those around us don't have enough. It makes us apathetic and mute in the face of injustice and tyranny and often it looks good, feels good, sounds good

and smells good, but it isn't. It always has the potential to be fatal.

But there is an elixir; there is a vaccine of sorts: there is ONE cure. It comes to us from a broken, bleeding, abandoned man who hung on a cross for only one purpose – to free us from the grasp of this deadly disease of sin and raise us to a new life like his own.

And if we accept this new life, this life that is like His, then we no longer have the luxury to be blinded to the face of Christ in our neighbor or even our enemies. We can no longer be deaf to the cry of the poor; silent in the face of human tragedy; or so caught up in ourselves and what we want and how we feel, that we exclude others, sometimes even those we love dearly.

So, when we get to a point in our lives when we feel like we didn't get the cure or that we're having a relapse we shouldn't be afraid to approach the divine healer and ask for a booster shot or a second or third dose of His love. It's available in the sacraments, and the prayers and the love we offer each other.

Why don't we get better together? Let's take the cure. Accept the Lord Jesus into our lives anew, and live not in the darkness of a tomb but in the refreshing light of life in Christ.



St. Clare

Robert C. McDermott

St. Francis

Mark Downing

James Rooney

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. **Please note there is no meeting on Holy Saturday, April 19th.**

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

Religious Education News

The Holy Week Family Faith Gathering was terrific! There was plenty of food and fellowship, followed by some meaningful activities that taught the children the significance of this most special time.

The children listened to a book called Resurrection Eggs, which tells the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, His arrest, death, and resurrection.



For each part of the story a child opened a plastic Easter egg that contained a symbol of the story, like a donkey, a chalice, a crown of thorns, a linen cloth.



The last egg was empty, because when the women came to Jesus' tomb, they found it empty - Jesus was not there, because He had risen!



The children made Holy Week Wheels, to remind them of the important events of Jesus' Passion.



Some of the Confirmation students led the younger kids through the classrooms in a Children's Stations of the Cross.



Children's Choir

The children's choir made their debut at the 10:15 Mass on April 6, and they did a wonderful job! It is never too late to join, and no commitment is necessary (no worries if your child cannot be there every week.) All that is required is a positive attitude and a desire to have fun and participate more fully in the Mass! Rehearsals are at 9:45 on Sundays in the St. Clare Church Hall.



Class Schedule for the Week of April 13, 2025

Grades K-6 Sunday, meets April 13 after the 10:15 Mass.

Grade 9 classes resume Sunday, May 4

There are no Tuesday or Thursday classes this week.



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!



April 13: Palm Sunday

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life. **As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul blue envelopes, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who carry their cross of suffering and pain.**



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, April 19-20. 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; 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.**



"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>



From the Archdiocese of Boston

April 13 ~ Palm Sunday

Our readings today launch us into Holy Week. While we know how the story ends it is important to listen and ponder the events of Christ's suffering and death as if hearing for the first time. Notice the length to which Jesus was willing to go to save and redeem us. To what length are we willing to go as his disciples to return such love? Participate in the liturgies of Holy Week, consider the meaning of each aspect of those last days of Jesus' life that are celebrated in those liturgies: the washing of feet, the veneration of the Cross, waiting for the Resurrection at the tomb of Christ. What return will you make to the Lord for such a love as this?

Mass with Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf (4/27)

In celebration of Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope, the Archdiocese of Boston invites you to a special Mass honoring persons with disabilities and the deaf community. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Richard Henning on Sunday, April 27th at 1:30 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. This Mass will include sensory-friendly space, ASL interpreters, Braille and large print worship aides, and a designated drop and pick up location. Participants and their families have an opportunity to serve at the liturgy. For more information or to register, contact Family Life Consultant Emily Elliott at 617-746-5756 or visit <https://bit.ly/JubileeMWPWD-DC>.

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats (5/10)

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.

Our Lady of Sorrows Feast Day Masses (9/15)

In response to Pope Francis' call to console the sorrowing on September 15, we will celebrate Our Lady of Sorrows Feast Day Masses all over the Archdiocese for the intention of "those who need consoling."

For an updated list of Mass locations, see bit.ly/OLSorrowsMass. This event is hosted by the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents.

For more information, visit <https://www.emfgp.org/events/2025-be-a-pilgrim-of-hope/> or contact Diane Monaghan.