

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 26, 2025

8:00PM Daniel Crimmins Memorial

Sunday, April 27, 2025

9:00AM Sharon Ellsworth 4th Anniv.

11:30AM St. John's Seminary

Monday, April 28, 2025

7:00AM Galo Livelio 9th Anniv.

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

7:00AM Simon & Elvira Navarro Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

7:00AM

Thursday, May 1, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, May 2, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, May 3, 2025

5:30PM Victor & Angeline Valle Anniversary

Sunday, May 4, 2025

9:00AM First Communicants

11:30AM Michael Varraso 2nd Anniv.



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 26, 2025

8:00AM Special Intention Healing

4:00PM Dante Varrasso 8th Anniv.

Easter Sunday, April 27, 2025

7:45AM Deceased Member of Tran Family Memorial

10:15AM Chris Donovan 20th Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Saturday, May 3, 2025

8:00AM The Pike Family Memorial

4:00PM Philip Fontana 5th Anniv.

Sunday, May 4, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Arthur C. Gillis 8th Anniv.

6:00PM Francesco Boncaldo 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.
- **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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER/DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



The Gospel passage used at the Easter morning Masses tells of Peter and John running to the tomb to see for themselves that it was empty. John arrives at the tomb first, but does not go in. He waits for Peter and allows him to go in first. The apostles deferred to Peter. They recognized that he was the first to identify Jesus as the Messiah and consequentially, was given the “keys to Heaven”. On the day of Pentecost, having received the Holy Spirit, Peter is the first one to go out into the streets of Jerusalem and begin speaking boldly of Jesus Christ. So convincing was he that over 3000 persons were baptized that day. As the Apostles moved beyond Jerusalem and traveled to far off lands to proclaim Christ, Peter ended up in Rome where he was imprisoned and eventually crucified.

A man named Linus took over Peter’s ministry. He was replaced by Cletus, then Clement and so forth. Since the earliest days of the Church, whoever was the bishop of Rome was recognized as the head of the Church precisely because he was a successor of Peter.

Our beloved Holy Father Francis was the 261st successor to Peter. As such, we recognize that he is the head of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. In fact we refer to him as the Vicar of Christ, that is His representative on earth. Given this, his death shakes the whole Church. Though most of us did not know him personally (although a photograph of Fr. Kevin elsewhere in the bulletin might indicate otherwise) his death has the sense that we have lost someone significant. Our faith community grieves the loss of our father. We knew he was seriously ill and that death was likely not that far off, getting the news on the morning after Easter Sunday was a shock. He was so present to the crowds, and to the world, on Easter, that his passing caught the world by surprise.

He accomplished many great things in his time as Pope. More significant, however, was his ability to establish relationships that changed lives for the better. One of his titles was Supreme Pontiff, a name which translates as highest bridge-builder. That title really suits him as he had a unique and powerful way of connecting people to God.

With confidence we commend him to the mercy of God. If you watched his funeral you will have noticed that the rites were the same as any other Catholic funeral.

The Church gives thanks to Almighty God for the precious gift he has been. We pray ardently for the Church and humbly ask God to give us a new Pope who has the heart of Christ the Good Shepherd.

I will be offering an overview of the Conclave process on Tuesday evening, May 6 from 7:00—8:30 at St. Francis

Fr. Bob

Special Memory of Pope Francis from Fr. Kevin



This is a picture from my Second Theology year at the NAC. Pope Francis is receiving/looking at a letter I wrote him (in his native Spanish), as well as a picture of my family, asking for prayers for all of us.

October 12, 2014, Pope Francis celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Peter's Basilica for the canonization of two Canadian saints, Saint François de Laval and Saint Marie de l'Incarnatio

Some Catechists, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and other women from the Collaborative spent some time on Good Friday praying at the outdoor Stations of the Cross at St. Clare Church. It was a beautiful day to pray Mary’s Way of the Cross, a special version of the stations through the eyes of the Blessed Mother.



APRIL 27, 2025



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

This account of Jesus' first appearance to the Apostles is interesting for a number of reasons, it gets us to think.

The Apostles were locked in the upper room cowering in fear. Of course, they were afraid for their lives thinking that the authorities were coming for them next. But this was after the women came and told them that Jesus had risen. Is it possible they were also afraid of Jesus, too? Where were they when He needed them? Peter must have been particularly nervous having denied Him three times. I'm sure at the very least they were expecting a severe scolding.

However, Jesus always did the unexpected. He entered the room, locked door be damned, and what does He say? "Peace be with you." He had to say it twice. But in the end their fear was replaced with rejoicing!

They were probably expecting to be fired but that's not what happened either. He doubled down on His choice of leaders for His Church and continued to send them on a mission. Not only was there no scolding or condemnation but He gave them a gift. It was a gift for them and a gift for us, too. He breathed on them and gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. It reminds us of God after forming Adam out of the earth breathed life into him.

Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7)

"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sin you retain they are retained." He instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation. That was the Lord's mission to reconcile us to God and His Apostles and their successors would continue that mission. What a merciful Lord we have!

Another thing that struck me reading this is that Jesus entered the room and despite the fact that it was all locked up just came in. He left the same way. Doesn't it seem funny (in an odd way) that if Jesus could come and go as he pleased into places that are locked up tight, then why did the stone in front of the tomb need to be rolled away. It makes sense that Jesus could just as easily have exited the tomb with the stone still in place. So why was it rolled away if not to let Jesus out? For the same reason Jesus does everything. He did everything for us. He did it for the women who went to anoint His body, He did it for the two apostles who ran to the tomb, and He did it for us so that we would have witnesses that the tomb was indeed empty.

Sometimes seeing is believing. Which brings us to Thomas.

First of all, Thomas gets a bad rap. He wasn't the only one who doubted. None of them were one hundred percent convinced until they had seen Jesus and yet we call him "Doubting Thomas." We don't call Peter - Peter the denier. Let's give the guy a break and just call him SAINT Thomas. He was after all the one who in Bethany said, "Let us also go to die with him" (Jn 11:16). He wanted to do the right thing.

Now it's true, Thomas was going to be hard to convince or so he thought. He would need to not only see Jesus but touch the wounds on His body. Jesus entered again as before and did the exact same thing – wished them peace. It was then that He offered His wounds to Thomas to touch. But Thomas didn't need to do that after all. He acknowledged Jesus for who He really was, the Lord God Almighty. The Image of the invisible God. John's Gospel starts out this way: "In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God. And the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

The Gospel of John begins with the truth that Jesus is Divine, one in being with the Father and the Gospel comes to an end the same way with Thomas' statement of faith, "My Lord and My God." We would do well to recognize, as Thomas did, with every encounter with the Lord in our daily lives but even more so in the Sacraments that what we are experiencing is nothing less than the Lord our God.



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)*



Please join us **Mondays** May 5, 12 and 19 at 6:45PM, as we pray the Scriptural Rosary and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy in honor of our Blessed Mother. We will meet at St. Francis of Assisi church.



REMINDER for First Communion families:

The First Communion retreats are this week at 4:00 at St. Clare on Tuesday, 4/29, Wednesday, 4/30, and Thursday, 5/1. The children will make their squares for the class quilt, rehearse a song, review the Mass, and practice receiving the host. They will be given the supplies to make their Pew Banner and are welcome to stay in the hall and make their banner after the retreat. Please make sure your child attends one of these sessions.

The Good Friday Children's Service was a wonderful way for the children to learn about Jesus' last day. Father Bob read the Passion from a Children's Lectionary. The children participated by reciting some of the crowd parts as well as providing sound effects, like the rumbling of the earth shaking and the tearing of the veil of the temple!



Then, like in the Passion when Simon helped Jesus, the children helped Father Bob carry the heavy cross to the altar, where they were each able to venerate the cross with a kiss, a hug, a prayer.



Finally, Father Bob showed the kids how incense creates smoke that rises, and helps our prayers go to Heaven! Each child got to sprinkle some incense for their individual prayers. Thank you Father, for helping us to understand the significance of this very special day!



Plans are underway for our very FIRST Vacation Bible School at St. Clare Church Hall July 14-18! Registration will begin in May, so please stay tuned!



We're going on a Road Trip! We will discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. We will "travel" to exciting destinations through engaging stories from the Navigators' Guide (the Bible.) Travelers will dive into timeless tales of faith from the Old and New Testaments. They will experience twists, turns, and excitement as they face new challenges and find strength in God's presence on this unforgettable trip!



Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." - Jn 20:28-29

Readings of the Week ©LPi

Readings for the week of April 27, 2025

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
(1)/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/
Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/
Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/
Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18,
19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/
Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6,
11-12, 13 (2a)/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19
or 21:1-14



REMEMBER
in your prayers

St. Francis of Assisi

Joan Hogan

St. Clare

Joan F. Perkins

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.



April 27: **Second Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy Sunday**

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!"

Indeed, the mercy of God centers our heart in peace.

In the month of April, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help the poor celebrate the peace of Easter, by assisting families, providing food, gift card for Easter dinner, and financial assistance for utility and rent bills. Thank You!

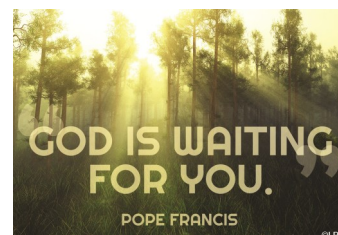
Pantry donations can be dropped off at the Collaborative office during normal business hours (M-F 9-4). **Blue envelopes are in holders on the back inside wall of the church. Please use them for your cash, check (written to St. Vincent DePaul with Braintree Catholic on the memo line), or gift card—and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

"CHURCH 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 27 ~ Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

The scene in today's gospel takes place in a room where the apostles are locked in fear, unclear about what has just happened to Jesus and worried about their lives and future. Upon entering the room, Jesus allays their fears and commissions the disciples, and us, with these words: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." The responsibility is clear, we are to go forth from our places of fear with the confidence that are not alone and to invite people into relationship with Jesus. Remember the words we heard last week, "we are witnesses . . . commissioned to preach." We are being sent to be his instruments of mercy and peace.

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope
Why do we as Christians hope?

"God sent his Son as Redeemer and Savior. In his Son and through him, he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1). We rejoice that God has made us his adopted children. Our hope lies in his infinite love and mercy and promise of eternal life.

"This hope, which transcends life's fleeting pleasures and the achievement of our immediate goals, makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called" (*Spes Non Confundit*, 25).

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

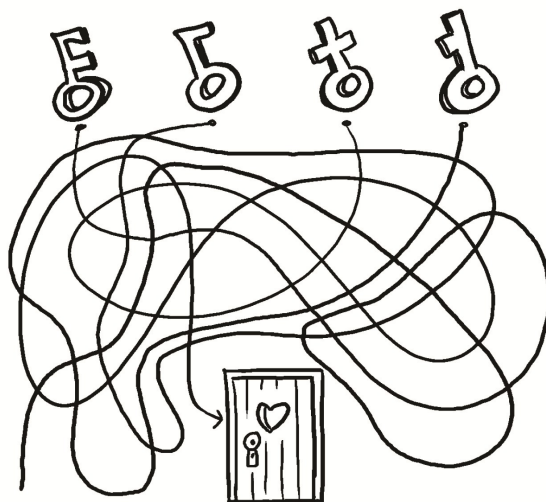
Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The *Project Rachel* ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat. Spring dates are Saturday, March 15 and 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.



**PRAY FOR
VOCATIONS**



Which key can unlock the Door?



I will talk to God whenever I am afraid.



Sharing the Gospel

After Jesus died on the cross, the disciples were afraid people would want to hurt them, too. They stayed together in a room and locked the door. Then Jesus came to his friends, to show them he was really alive again. Jesus changed their fear into gladness. Have you ever been so afraid that you just wanted to hide? Remember that Jesus is with you when you are afraid, too.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being with me when I am afraid.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus next to you when you are afraid.

Mission for the Week

I will talk to God whenever I am afraid.