

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 5, 2025

5:30PM Eric Fairbanks 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, April 6, 2025

9:00AM Dorothy Banks Anniversary

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

Monday, April 7, 2025

7:00AM Jake Parker Memorial

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

7:00AM Robert & Edward Corbo Memorial

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

7:00AM

Thursday, April 10, 2025

7:00AM Kathleen O'Leary 5th Anniv.

Friday, April 11, 2025

7:00AM Sandra McManus Memorial

Saturday, April 12, 2025

5:30PM Mary Hill Anniversary

Sunday, April 13, 2025

9:00AM William O'Sullivan Anniversary

11:30AM Ryan Steber and 2nd Anniv
Peggy Proctor 30th 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 5, 2025

8:00AM Tom Larnar, 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

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

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.



Thinking about hosting a community meal project in St. Francis Parish Hall. Can we do this???

The sixth chapter of John's Gospel recalls the story of Jesus teaching an estimated crowd of 5000. At one point he asked Philip where they could get enough food to feed everyone. Philip and the others figured he could not be serious given the large number. Andrew announced that he had found a boy with barley loaves and two fishes, but couldn't imagine how that could help. And, as the story goes, Jesus fed the crowd with just the loaves and the fishes to the point where everyone had enough so that there were twelve baskets-full left over.

The story demonstrates that Jesus and the Church are all about acknowledging the needs of the people and considering how to use the resources available to them to meet the need.

I am increasingly aware of hungry people in Braintree. There are several people who live on the streets around South Braintree Square as well as the T station. In addition there are some families in the parish that are struggling financially where even providing food is a challenge.

There are many resources available to us to help feed them. We have a Church building to which people can walk. We have a spacious hall with plenty of tables and chairs and a small kitchen. There is plenty of food and volunteers to help get the food to those in need.

I have proposed to the Collaborative Pastoral Council that we use such resources to provide a hot meal to anyone who needs it. Several parishioners have been meeting weekly to figure out the details of how we could do this. Not surprising there are many details, more than I would have imagined. It turns out it's not so easy to prepare a meal and serve it. There are many local ordinances that have to be met, especially with the Board of Health. Most basically, the small kitchen in the St. Francis Hall has to be reconfigured to meet the standards of the board of health, mainly sinks with proper drainage. Also, there needs to be electrical work to provide for the food warmers/crock pots/coffee, tea etc.

We are applying for a grant from the Community Health Fund in the Archdiocese. This will help with a needed refrigerator and cover basic supplies. Having said this, is there anyone who is able to help with the costs of the infrastructure of this initiative? Such help would assist in getting this up and running and would be most

appreciated.

Interestingly, the instructions for the Mass of the Lord's Supper celebrated on Holy Thursday call for a collection to be taken, the proceeds of which are to be used for the poor. The Collaborative Pastoral Council has designated this project as the recipient of the Holy Thursday collection as it directly benefits those who are hungry in Braintree.

This is a good time to remind everyone that we are blessed to have an active **St. Vincent de Paul Society** in the Parish that operates a food pantry out of the rectory garage each Thursday morning. Please call Patty at the collaborative office for more information.

Holy Week starts next Sunday

As you well know, Holy Week begins next Sunday with the blessing and distribution of Palms. This begins the most solemn and important period of time in the Church year. The week concludes with the Sacred Triduum (Holy Three Days) in which we commemorate the life-giving events of the Paschal Mystery: Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. I encourage all of our families to keep these days as holy time given to the Lord by reading the stories of Jesus' Passion and Rising in the Sacred Scriptures, watching movies or documentaries about the events, praying devotions such as the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or Stations of the Cross. Spiritual reading or listening to sacred music or anything that helps meditate on the events is helpful. Most importantly is participation in the Sacred Liturgies of the Triduum. Elsewhere in this bulletin is the collaborative schedule for Holy Week.

I remember as a child on Good Friday our mother told us we had to stay in between noon and three o'clock (the hours Jesus hung on the cross). We could play in our rooms but had to do so quietly. Such a simple discipline instilled in me the sense of sacred time, that is that certain periods of time were to be given to God. Funny I remember that after all these years. Clearly it left an important impact.

Archbishop Henning will celebrate the annual **Chrism Mass** on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 15 at 11:00 at the Cathedral. Every bishop in the world gathers with his priests and deacons to consecrate and bless the oils that will be used for Baptisms, Confirmations and Anointing of the Sick. The oils are then distributed to all of the parishes and are used throughout the year. Parishioners are most welcome to attend.

Thanks to all who participated in the Collaborative Lenten Retreat! It was a special time for our faith community. The numbers of parishioners who participated was most encouraging. I hope and pray that the

APRIL 6, 2025

prayer and reflections by our speakers was an inspiration for those who heard them.

Fr. Bob

What are you doing for Lent?

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

Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration—Monday April 7—6:30-7:15PM in St. Francis church.

Catechesis on the Creed with Fr. Bob—Tuesday, April 8—7:00—8:15PM in St. Francis Church Hall.

Stations of the Cross—Fridays at 12:10PM



Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." - Jn 8:6b-7

Readings Week of the

Readings for the week of April 6, 2025

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

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or
13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/
Jn 11:45-56

Next 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



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

There are a couple of things you may or may not know about me. The first is that I have had two total hip replacement surgeries. I am now officially a hippie!

I am also a whistler. I whistle while I work; I whistle while I'm doing the dishes; I whistle just walking around. I can't help it if I'm happy! But it does drive my wife bonkers. I get up in the morning and whistle and all she wants to do is sit quietly with her coffee and watch the morning news.

Another thing most of you probably don't know is that I am a complete Disney nut! Now when I say nut, I mean certifiable. I mean get me into therapy. Call an intervention. Get me into a 12-step program. Have the bishop perform a prayer of deliverance. We go fairly often. We're members of the Disney Vacation Club. Who knew there was such a thing?

Of course, any vacation needs to have some level of planning, especially a trip to Disney World. For example, you need to know what park you're going to visit on which day, buy your tickets ahead of time and during Covid time make a reservation for each park. You also need to choose which restaurant you want to go to and make advance plans for that.

A few years ago, was the first time we took our grandchildren to Disney World, and of course, I want it to be perfect. So, made my pie charts, graphs and spreadsheets and when I finished, I knew exactly when the shortest wait times are in each park for each ride.

Now here is the rub. Disney gives you a certain window in which to make dining reservations and if you hope to get the ones you want you need to be online or on the phone at 7 AM on the day your window opens. My window opened on June 16th. The problem was that at 7 AM on June 16th I was unconscious having my hip replaced. I couldn't get it done.

I knew that I probably wasn't going to get the dining options I wanted. There was only one that I had my heart set on. It was a character meal at Chef Mickey's. I wanted to see the faces of our little ones when Mickey and the gang showed up at dinner. It would be priceless. Social distancing, still in effect there, would not allow me to make a reservation for our entire party. I could make a reservation for 4 and then make an additional reservation for another four which wouldn't guarantee we would even be seated near each other or at the same time.

To say I was miffed would be an understatement. I was downright angry. How can they separate families who want (need) to dine together? So, I was left with a reservation for four people, my daughter, her husband and the two kids.

How dare they deny me dinner with Mickey Mouse! It really got under my skin. It was ruining my peace and I was convincing myself that this vacation was going to be awful.

Then came my Godly intervention; my spiritual therapy session; a heavenly dope slap and my deliverance from what had become an unhealthy obsession.

A question came to me, and when I say it "came to me" I mean the Holy Spirit planted it. Why am I so upset about not eating with a mouse? Every time I go to Mass, I partake in the wedding feast of the Lamb! I'm sure the dinner rolls are quite tasty at Chef Mickey's but it can't hold a candle to the Bread of Life that I can hold in the palm of my hand and that cries out "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord." I could certainly get a good glass of wine there (and overpay for it) but it wouldn't compare to the Cup of Salvation, the Cup of the New and Everlasting Covenant, the Blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins.

It's what we will celebrate in a few weeks – the Sacred Triduum, when we will celebrate the institution of the Eucharist, the Passion and death of Jesus, our Lord, and His glorious and triumphant resurrection.

I loved seeing the faces of my grandchildren when they walked down Main Street and saw the Castle for the first time. But that's just a Magic Kingdom. It's fake. It's make-believe and at the end of the day we have to go home. How much more satisfying is the Kingdom of God for whom Christ paid the price of our admission and that is our eternal home. Mickey and the gang might bring some fleeting happiness that will come and go. I want my children and grandchildren to possess the fullness of joy, joy that is complete. I am reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Why spend your money on what is not bread and your wages on what does not satisfy." (Is 55:2)

If we can be grateful about what we have, then we don't have to worry about what we don't have and that won't satisfy.

This "vacation" was becoming too much work and filled with anxiety. I had put unattainable expectations on it. I had taken my eyes off of what is really important in life.

Each of us is a nut about something. For me it's Disney planning. For someone else it might be work; or sports; or gambling or some other addictive behavior. It all starts out as something that appears "good" but if we are not careful it grows into something else altogether, something bordering on idolatry, until we don't even recognize the good it started out to be.

My friends, let's keep our priorities straight and keep our eyes on the real prize: The love that God has for us; the love we have for God; and the love we have for each other. We all need that heavenly dope slap from time to time that says "snap out of it!" "Seek first the Kingdom of God."

Religious Education News

Father Bob hosted Teaching Masses last week for the RE students. Because of the more informal setting, Father Bob was able to narrate what happens and why during each part of the Mass as it was happening. The kids asked a lot of great questions and everyone learned a lot! Thank you Father Bob for this very special learning experience!



He described the tabernacle, and other sacred objects in the sanctuary.



He showed the kids all the pieces of his vestments and what each represents.



He lit the candles and described the things on the altar that are used for a Mass.



During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the kids all got to stand and kneel right in front of the altar as Father Bob explained how the bread and wine become the true presence of Jesus!



Easter Movie/Game Night

K-6 students are welcome to come to our Easter Movie and Game Night on Friday, April 11 from 6-8pm in the St. Clare Church Hall. We will watch a movie, make an Easter craft, and go on a "Puzzling" Team Egg Hunt! Parents, please RSVP to klane@sfab.org so we can plan for pizza and snacks!



Children's Choir

The children's choir will begin to sing at the 10:15 Mass on April 6! 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.

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 April 6, 2025

Family Faith Gathering Sunday, April 6 after the 10:15 Mass.

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

Grades K-6 meet Tuesday, April 8 & Thursday, April 10 4:00PM

Grades 7 & 8 meet Tuesday, April 8 & Thursday, April 10 at 5:15



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.



Brian F. Hickman
Wilfred Lambert
Paul Kelly

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)



Open to All!

On Palm Sunday, April 13 after the 10:15am Mass, please join us in St. Clare hall to learn how to make Palm Crosses and maybe some Palm Roses from the blessed palms we will receive. This is open to all ages and to all experience levels. If you know how to make a Palm Cross or Rose or some other form of Palm art, we ask you to share your talent. If you want to learn, come on by and learn with others. Not only will it be a fun way to spend time with each other – young and old – but it will also help us observe the beginning of Holy Week.



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.



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.



"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>



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS