

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, May 3, 2025

5:30PM Victor & Angeline Valle Anniversary

Sunday, May 4, 2025

9:00AM First Communicants Anniversary

11:30AM Lucia Campo and Michael Varraso 19th Anniv. 2nd Anniv.

Monday, May 5, 2025

7:00AM Louie & Catherine Luccio Memorial

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

7:00AM Frances Murphy Whalen Memorial

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

7:00AM John E. & Olga Zanelli and John A. Zanelli Memorial

Thursday, May 8, 2025

7:00AM Daniel Keleher Spec. Intent.

Friday, May 9, 2025

7:00AM Alice Beaulieu Anniversary

Saturday, May 10, 2025

5:30PM Nicole Sorensen 4th Anniv.

Sunday, May 11, 2025

9:00AM Happy Mother's Day

11:30AM Happy Mother's Day



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, May 3, 2025

8:00AM The Pike Family Memorial

4:00PM Philip Fontana 5th Anniv.

Easter Sunday, May 4, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

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

6:00PM Francesco Boncaldo 1st Anniv.

Saturday, May 10, 2025

8:00AM Dorothy Rocks 1st Anniv.

4:00PM Bill Fennell Memorial

Sunday, May 11, 2025

7:45AM Happy Mother's Day

10:15AM Happy Mother's Day

6:00PM Marisa Federico 9th 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.



Conclave. It's a Latin word for "with a key" and refers to the fact that those who are charged with choosing a new Pope are locked up with a key for the sacred process.

The Conclave is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, May 7th.

The choosing of a Pope is rooted in centuries of tradition, Scripture and ritual. The beginning of the process we use today dates back over 1000 years to 1059 when Pope Nicholas II established the College of Cardinals. It was his way of separating the authority of the Church from that of the empire. He did not want the emperor to be the one choosing the head of the Church. His idea was that those who served in the capacity of cardinal would come together to discuss the state of the Church and ultimately elect a leader.

Since Apostolic times, whoever was serving as the Bishop of Rome was considered the head of the earthly Church. This, of course, is in deference to St. Peter who was the first of the Apostles to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ and to whom Jesus bestowed "the keys to Heaven". The Papacy has changed over the centuries from being a witness to Christ's Resurrection to being a military leader, to the head of papal states, to pastor. The history is fascinating! Nevertheless, we hold that the Bishop of Rome has a unique relationship to all the Churches scattered throughout the world and is thus recognized as Christ's representative on earth. He is a world figure, no doubt, but more so a teacher of the faith and a sign of unity.

The days ahead will be exciting as we wait for the College of Cardinals to choose the next Pope. After he is introduced to the faithful and indeed the world, a date will be set for his formal installation. Whoever he is, he is pope from the moment he accepts the mandate of the cardinals. There is no sacrament involved here, as he will already have received Holy Orders. The installation will be a time of celebration and the investiture of the symbols of his office. I will write more about those in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about the process of choosing the pope, a bit of papal history and symbols of the office, please join me this Tuesday, May 6 at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church for a presentation on all things having to do with the Conclave.

Bidding Farewell to Deacon Pat Bruen

We have been blessed this past year with the presence and ministry of Deacon Pat Bruen. As you well know, Deacon

Pat is a seminarian preparing to serve as a priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit. This past year he has been assigned as deacon to St. Francis and St. Clare parishes as part of his priestly formation. He has been a blessing to us, bringing a deep love for the Lord, dynamic homilies, celebrating Baptisms and warm humor. I want to acknowledge and thank him for helping to restart the bereavement ministry along with Joanne Clifford. They meet each Saturday morning with anyone who is seeking support at the time of loss. He will make an excellent priest. His ordination will be on Saturday, June 7 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Detroit. I plan to be there and join in the ancient ritual of the "laying on of hands" with the priests of Detroit.

Heartfelt Congratulations to the children of our parish who have received Holy Communion for first time this weekend! This is always a highlight of the year in any parish. Their eagerness to participate in the Eucharist and "receive Jesus" is such an inspiration for me.

There are first Communions next week as well: Saturday morning May 10 at 10:00 at St. Francis then at the 10:15 Mass the next day at St. Clare.

Next week following the 10:15 and 11:30 Masses, the parishes will celebrate the "**Crowning of Mary**".

Updates in the Collaborative

- The repair of the steps at St. Clare Church has been delayed because of all the rain we had in April. I am hoping that the project may begin around May 15.
- The kitchen project at St. Francis Church Hall can move forward thanks to the generosity of many parishioners. Bringing this kitchen up to code will permit us to provide meals to those in need. The collection at the Holy Thursday Mass was over \$3500. That, along with some very generous gifts, is enough to move forward. We are waiting to hear on a grant from the Community Health Fund which would enable us to buy the supplies for such an endeavor.
- The Safety Committee has met again and is in the process of writing the proposal for a collaborative-wide safety plan which ultimately will go to the Collaborative Council to be implemented.
- Regarding the renovations of the St. Clare sanctuary: we have received bids for painting and flooring. My hope is that this coming week I can put a plan together to present to the parish for the project and see what is possible for us to accomplish. *Fr. Bob*



MAY 4, 2025



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Driving into work in the morning I have a chance to read a lot of bumper stickers. I like the ones that say that they'd rather be doing something else other than sitting in traffic. I'm sure you've seen them.

"I'd rather be golfing" or "I'd rather be sailing" or the one Peter and his boys were using in today's gospel, "I'd rather be fishing." I bet everyone in this room has a bumper sticker in your head that says YOU'D rather be doing anything else but sitting here. Am I right?

This is kind of a weird scene if you think about it. Two chapters earlier Christ suffered and died on the cross. One chapter ago the Apostles have their first and second meeting with the resurrected Jesus, where He basically tells them to go out and preach to the whole world.

Now, if someone I saw die, and they suddenly appeared to me and told me to go do something, especially if it's the Son of God – I think I'd do it. I don't think I'd say "I'd rather go fishing" and then go on a fishing vacation, which is exactly what Peter and his friends seem to be doing.

This must also have been a kind of a Deja vu moment for Peter. You might recall, because I know you all read the bible on a regular basis, that when Jesus first met Peter he was in his boat fishing, he hadn't caught anything and was giving up, when Jesus standing on the shore, told him to cast his nets on the other side of the boat. Immediately the catch was so big that the nets were breaking and the boat was beginning to take on water. Peter is so astounded that he puts his hands up and says "Get away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Jesus responds, "Follow Me and I will make you a fisher of men." It sounds a lot like what happened in today's Gospel doesn't it?

There are, however, a couple of significant differences between the two.

First is Peter's reaction to Jesus. The first time they met it was "Ohhhh get away, I'm a sinner, I'm afraid of you." This time there is no fear, only a desire to be with the Lord that is so strong and compelling that he jumped out of the boat. That's kind of comical – you have to admit. I can see the other Apostles shaking their heads and rolling their eyes. "There he goes again."

Second difference: You'd expect that Jesus might be a bit angry that His chosen band of merry men were out fishing instead of converting the world, wouldn't you? That's not what happened. Jesus, knowing that they were tired and hadn't

eaten all night was cooking them breakfast. He was above all compassionate and concerned about us. This is something we must never forget, especially if we've wandered away from Him or feel guilty or sinful. Be the second Peter and don't wait for anything – just jump into the water and swim as fast as you can toward Jesus. He'll be waiting there with something to feed you. He'll have something good.

Third and fourth difference: The nets weren't breaking and there were a specific number of fish. Let's start with the number, 153. The oceanographic scientists of the first century, probably sailors, had determined that there were exactly 153 different species of fish in all the waters of the entire world.

So what?

Remember that Jesus said he would make Peter a fisher of men. This passage tells Peter and the rest of us that it is the Lord's will that everyone, every different kind of human being, is to be gathered into the nets of the Church and be saved. With this in mind we cannot look upon anyone we meet, not a single face, man, woman or child as anything but our own brother or sister. If we all did that, what a different world we'd be living in.

We could say, "That's too hard" or "it could never happen. I'm not strong enough. People won't listen." But remember, the nets will not break. If Christ asks us to do something He gives us the strength and anything else we need to get it done.

Let's change channels for a minute and talk about love. We have one word for that, and it can mean anything from I love my mother to I love ice cream. In Greek it's different, there are three words, and the significance is that the Bible was written in Greek. There is a Greek word for brotherly love, self-sacrificing love, and sensual love. Guess which ones we're going to talk about. Brotherly love – philias and self-sacrificing love – agape.

Jesus said "Peter, Do you love Me? Do you agape me? Do you love me with a self-sacrificing love."

Peter responded "You know I love you – philias, like a brother."

Again, Jesus asks "Do you agape Me?" and Peter responds with "philias" like a brother.

A third time Jesus asks "Do you agape Me?" and Peter responds with "like a brother."

Each time Jesus gave Peter a job – "Feed My sheep."

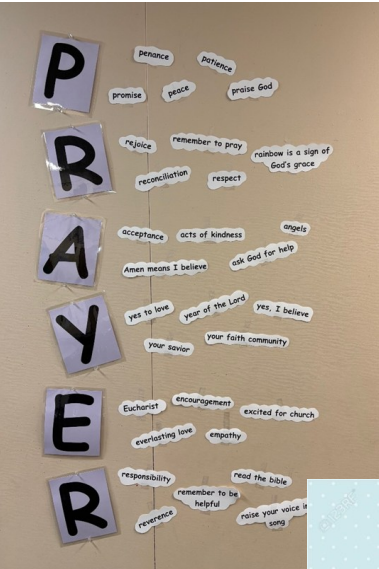
Jesus was looking for a certain response and Peter wasn't able to give it. But Jesus, didn't pull a phrase from Donald Trump in the apprentice and say, "You're fired!" He took

Peter where he was with his weakness, and his inability to give 100%. It's the same with us. Jesus takes us wherever we are, with all our baggage and there's nothing he's going to hold against us. He expects progress from us not perfection. Peter started out wanting to keep his distance from the Lord. When the going got rough Peter denied Christ three times. Today we hear that he couldn't wait to be with the Lord, and he proclaimed his love for the Lord three times. Not exactly the love Jesus was looking for, but progress. In the end, Peter did have that agape love, that self-sacrificing love and he proved it on his own cross.

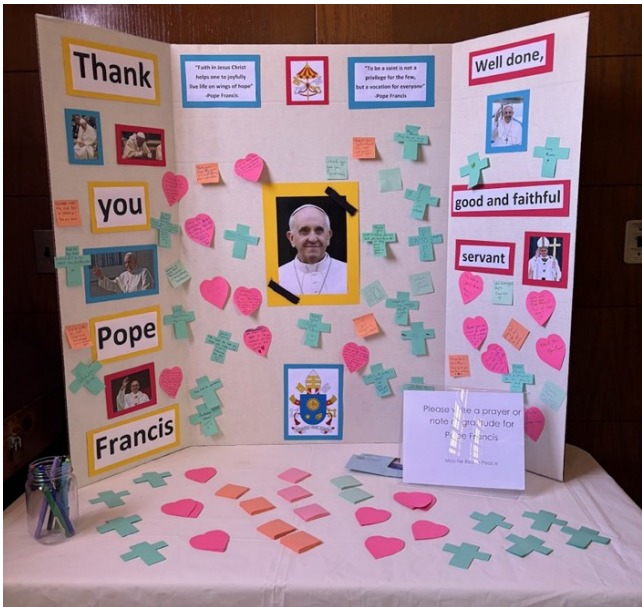
I'll leave you with this. Don't let anything on this earth keep you from Christ. Don't let anything you've done or thought keep you away from Him. Don't let anything someone says to you that might make you feel guilty or feel inferior keep you from Christ because you aren't inferior, you're just like everyone else – not perfect yet. Jesus died so that you can take those things you feel guilty about to Him and let him take it from you. His love for us is agape and He calls us to follow Him even if our love isn't agape yet. Trust in Him and He will get us there.



First Communions are the next two weeks. The kids have worked hard and learned so much preparing for their special day - please keep them in your prayers!



There are prayer boards at both churches in honor of Pope Francis. Please write a note of gratitude, a prayer, or any other message you'd like on the post-it notes and add it to the board. He will be missed - what a gift to the world he was!



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!





Jesus said to them, “Come, have breakfast.” And none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. - Jn 21:12-13

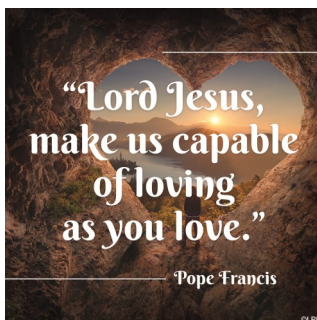
Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of May 4, 2025

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
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69
Next Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c)/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30



Please join us **Mondays** May 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.



May 4: Third Sunday of Easter

In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples in their struggle finally recognize Jesus and proclaim “It is the Lord!” **Have you considered answering the call to “help the poor recognize the Lord in their life” by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?**

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>



St. Francis of Assisi

Carole Friedman
Paul Reinhalter

St. Clare

Clare Mormile
Peter Forbes

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.



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The Braintree Catholic Collaborative will be hosting a night for young adult Catholics (ages 21-39) on Monday, May 5th at 6:45PM. We will join the Monday night Rosary Group for a Scriptural Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. After Benediction, around 7:30 we will head downstairs for a light supper and presentation by seminarians Liam Warner and Adam Habershaw. The topic for their presentation will be "How can we be sure of what God is asking us to do." We will wrap up around 8:30. A monetary donation for food would be appreciated but is not required to attend. If there are any questions please reach out to Patrick Hubbard phubbard@sfab.org.



The Collaborative is planning a new ministry to feed the food insecure in our community. We refer to it as the "Community Meal". It will be heavily dependent on volunteers to fill the

many teams with varying duties and responsibilities. We will be holding an informational meeting soon which will be announced in the bulletin. We are working towards being certified as a commercial kitchen to fulfill the requirements of the Town. Among other things, that means we need volunteers certified by ServSafe. We are looking for anyone who might be **currently certified by ServSafe as a Manager** or otherwise to help us. If you are certified and would like to help please call Patty in the office. We will also be training volunteers to take the exam and become certified and we are in need of a couple more volunteers. So if you are willing to **take the course and the exam to become certified** please let Patty know as well. This is an exciting new ministry that not only will serve our community but also offer numerous opportunities for all of us to serve our brothers and sisters. The training will be beginning soon so please let us know. Thank you!

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 the Archdiocese of Boston

May 4 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

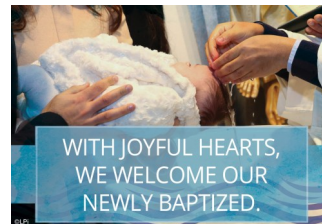
Listen to the conviction of St. Paul and St. Peter in today's readings. In the first reading, St. Paul is ordered "to stop teaching in that name." That meant he was to stop teaching about Jesus. But St. Paul gives a clear response, "We must obey God rather than men." He was willing to face trial and suffering rather than stop speaking about Jesus. The scene in the gospel is often referred to as "breakfast with Jesus." St. Peter, having denied Jesus three times, is given three opportunities in today's gospel to express his conviction to following Jesus. In this intimate conversation we can hear the strength of that love in each response, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." How will you express your conviction about being a follower of Jesus Christ, if asked? Take some time in quiet prayer to speak from your heart with Christ.

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope What do Christians hope for?

Jesus has promised that those who follow him will have eternal life (cf. Jn 10:27-28). His death and resurrection defeated evil and sin forever. But we have to accept his salvation. We accept it by believing in him and following his ways. As Christians, that is followers of Jesus Christ, we believe his promise of eternal life even after our physical death. We know God is with us and supporting us through the trials of life and that the happiness of communion with God in heaven awaits us!

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.



St. Clare

*Peter Joseph Cassaro
Thomas Alan Cassaro
Daniel Gregory Jenkins
Caleb Arthur Wallace*

St. Francis of Assisi

*Lorenzo Balsamo
Finn Joseph Bray
Quinn Marie Brennan
Elizabeth Deborah Fridrich
Delaney Opie*