

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

856 WASHINGTON STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 02184

Collaborative Office Phone: 781-843-1332 • Fax: 781-848-0976

Website: www.braintreecatholic.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



Pastoral Staff: Rev. Paul Clifford, Pastor
Rev. Shawn Carey, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Permanent Deacon/Director of Music
Mrs. Diane Hopkins, Religious Education
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli, Religious Education

Collaborative Office: Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager
Miss Patty Kinnally, Office Manager

Mass Schedule: Saturday Evening – 5:30 PM
Sunday – 9:00 and 11:30 AM
Weekday – Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday – 12:30 to 2:00 PM
Other times by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage: A minimum of ten months notice is required. Please call the Collaborative Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a hall.

Sacrament of Baptism: First and Third Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM.
Please call the Collaborative Office to register.

Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls: Please notify the Collaborative Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness.

Community Meetings: School Hall Alcoholics Anonymous – Friday 8:00 PM
(Suspended due to Coronavirus)

Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 5, 2021

5:30PM Vincent Cioffi Memorial

Sunday, June 6, 2021

9:00AM Giovanna D'Amato Memorial

11:30AM Maddalena Leccese Anniversary

Monday, June 7, 2021

7:00AM John & Joseph Odenweller Memorial

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

7:00AM Alice Beaulieu Memorial

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

7:00AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, June 10, 2021

7:00AM

Friday, June 11, 2021

7:00AM Joan Clark Memorial

Saturday, June 12, 2021

5:30PM Catherine T. Cowley Anniversary

Sunday, June 13, 2021

9:00AM Laurie Melchionda Anniversary

11:30AM Alice Kelley Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for the last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT 85%.

If you are interested in the Online Giving option to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the parish office.

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 4,439.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 1,161.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,914.67
Total Offertory	\$ 7,514.67

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH WHEN PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!



My brothers and sisters,

This past week many of you may have received a letter asking your support of the 2021 Catholic Appeal. Over the last year, we have witnessed just how important Central Ministries are in supporting not just our parish, but all parishes and schools within our Archdiocese. As we move forward through this pandemic, we are so grateful to have a team of experts that help us ensure your safety. Every gift makes a difference. Please consider making your gift today by visiting www.bostoncatholicappeal.org or by scanning the QR code above. Your gift has an immediate impact on our parish and the work of our Church. Thank you for your generosity. As I mentioned in March and on several other occasions, we will be having an in-pew appeal this weekend.

In His service and yours,

Fr. Paul Clifford



As of May 29, masks are no longer required for vaccinated people in the State of Massachusetts. The State does advise that non-vaccinated people continue to wear masks.

Anyone who wishes to do so should feel free to continue to wear masks as long as you like. You will be respected if you choose to do so.

The dispensation from the obligation for coming to Sunday Mass has not yet been lifted, and even when it is, if a parishioner is feeling ill they should remain at home.

If we become aware that a COVID positive person has attended Mass an announcement will be posted on the collaborative's website.

Mass reservations are no longer required.

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

In ancient times people thought the world was flat and if you sailed too far on the ocean you would fall off. They couldn't believe that the world was round.

Likewise in the 15th century most people still couldn't believe that the world was round until Columbus and other explorers proved that it was.

It really didn't matter what they thought. The world was still round though many doubted it.

Over the centuries many things were thought to be impossible but were later proved not only to be possible but normal; human flight for instance.

There have always been doubters. There have always been the "seeing is believing" crowd.

One of our early saints, Saint Thomas, was such a person. He will forever be remembered as "Doubting Thomas." I think that in today's society the story of Thomas might be an appropriate one for today's feast.

The real presence of Christ, body, soul and divinity, in the Holy Eucharist is a truth that we Catholics have embraced since the Last Supper. And yet today, there are many Catholics, some perhaps, sitting in this church, who do not believe it. Polls have shown that perhaps in the United States more Catholics doubt the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist than those who believe.

But just as the world is round and not flat, just because people don't believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, doesn't mean it's not true.

Why would we kneel at the consecration if what the priest elevated was simply a piece of bread or the chalice merely a cup of wine? Why would we bow before receiving Communion if it's just bread? We don't bow to the bread we receive before dinner at our favorite restaurants, do we? Of course not. And we wouldn't genuflect before the tabernacle, which contains the bread of life, the body of Christ, if all that was there was some left-over bread. In fact, some anti-Catholic protestants accuse us of idolatry for our belief and if it were just bread, they would be right. It would be a grave sin. But it isn't just bread.

I played the organ for a protestant church for about 5 years while in college. They would have a communion service every 6-8 weeks or so. When everyone went home, I would see the left-over Wonder Bread, cut into cubes, left on dishes in the church kitchen ready to be thrown away.

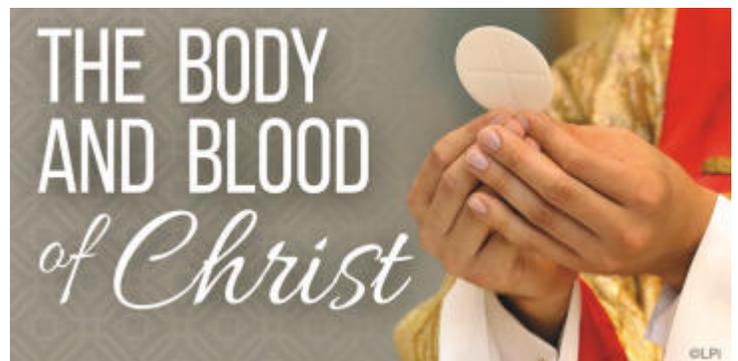
There is a fundamental difference between what our protestant brothers and sisters believe and what occurs in every Catholic Church throughout the world. We take the Lord at His word. "This IS my body. This IS my blood." (Lk 22:19-20) "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you will not have life within you." (Jn 6:53)

We wonder how this can be and this isn't necessarily a bad thing. Reflection often leads to greater faith.

It's interesting that we often have little trouble accepting that water can be made wine; that three can be one; that Lazarus can be raised from the dead; that on Pentecost people miraculously heard Peter speaking in their own native tongues or that Jesus walked on water. Is it not also possible that the one who changed water into something else entirely, can do the same with bread and wine, changing them into His body and blood? Of course, He can. "With God, all things are possible." (Mt 19:26) "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (Jn 14:14)

Thomas couldn't believe that Christ rose from the dead until placed his hands into His wounds. But when he saw Jesus, his doubts were cast aside and falling to his knees spoke these words of faith "My Lord and My God." (Jn 20:28) He learned an important lesson. Seeing isn't always believing – sometimes believing is seeing.

When we approach the altar and the priest or other minister of communion holds up the Eucharist and says "The Body of Christ" as we answer "Amen" with our lips, may we also answer in our hearts, with Thomas, "My Lord and my God."

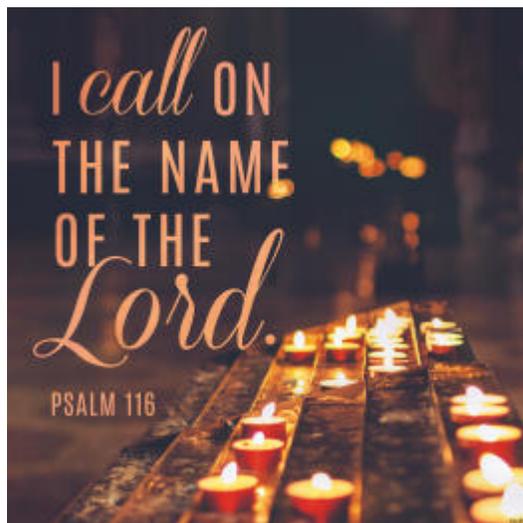




While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." - Mk 14:22-24

Readings for the week of June 6, 2021

- Sunday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 [13]/Heb 9:11-15/Mk 14:12-16, 22-26
- Monday: 2 Cor 1:1-7/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9]/Mt 5:1-12
- Tuesday: 2 Cor 1:18-22/Ps 119:129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135 [135a]/Mt 5:13-16
- Wednesday: 2 Cor 3:4-11/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 8, 9 [cf. 9c]/Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday: 2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 10b]/Mt 5:20-26
- Friday: Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Eph 3:8-12, 14-19/Jn 19:31-37
- Saturday: 2 Cor 5:14-21/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 2:41-51
- Next Sunday: Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34



Check out our new collaborative website—www.braintreecatholic.org.



Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our new Parochial Vicar, Father Valanarasu Newton-Williamraj. Father Valan was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 2021 and officially joined us on June 1, 2021. Welcome to Braintree Father.



*St. Francis of Assisi
Neil Francis "Frank" Murphy*

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.



Reminder to parents—If you were unable to make the First Communion parent meetings last Monday, please contact the collaborative office at 781-843-1332 to arrange a meeting time to learn about the process and pick up the materials.



We are now scheduling Mass Intentions through Sunday, January 9, 2022. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.

Parish Info and events of note...

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry** Open Thursdays 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. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **Parish 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. If you are aware of needed updates to the board, please let us know that as well. Thank you.



Congratulations to all of the recent graduates from St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parishes. May God bless you as you continue your journey to 1st grade, high school, college and/or the workforce.

A PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

Loving God, we thank you for all who graduate from grade school, high school and college this time of the year. You have blessed them during their years in school with wisdom, friendships, and skills. You continue to challenge them to make this world a better place because of their education. Help them to look forward to their next steps: continuing in their education or entering the work world. Particularly help those who are seeking employment to find a job suitable to their education. Give them faith and a sense of purpose in their next steps. Show them how to serve others in effective ways. And may they always be aware in everything they do that they will find fulfillment in doing your will, that you will be with them always, and that you will bring to completion the good work you have begun in them. Amen.

From Marquette.edu/faith



*From the
Archdiocese of
Boston*

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June 6 ~ Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood (Corpus Christi)

It is the beautiful feast of Corpus Christi – the Body and Blood of Christ. During this “Year of the Eucharist”, we focus on the fact that Christ is truly present in this gift that is so central to our life of faith. At the Passover meal of the Last Supper, Jesus blessed and broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and now he gives it to us, his disciples. Each time we gather for Mass and receive the Body and Blood of Christ we are then sent forth to be the Body of Christ to others. This precious gift given to us by Jesus is meant to be shared. He gave himself away utterly, so we must give ourselves away utterly. As you leave Mass today, be Christ’s presence to your family, friends and co-workers.



June 6 - Corpus Christi:

Today as we celebrate the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ let us pray for those who are hungry, malnourished and starving.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help those who are hungry.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God’s plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call at or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is the most precious gift that God has given to each one of us. Allow God to give you grace in abundance and transform your marriage relationship. Sign up today for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience on Thursdays/Mondays Jul 8-29





June 6, 2021 - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

As our world faces so much turmoil and change, it is now more important than ever to remember who God is, who we are and where we are going. It is easy to get distracted and lose focus, especially when we are being pulled in so many directions. We can not only lose sight of God but one another. Maintaining our well developed and mature relationships with God and one another is essential to continuing to live, healthy, happy, and focused lives. In a message to young people, Pope Benedict XVI said, "the happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: it is Jesus of Nazareth, hidden in the Eucharist." What is true for those who are younger is even truer for those who are older. Regardless of how the particulars of life change over time, human beings are still hard-wired to seek the fullness of life and happiness. How we embark on this journey and what we choose along the way will indicate whether we meet success.

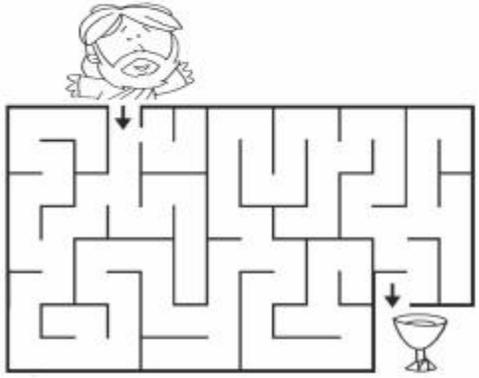
There is so much brokenness and pain in our world. Many people are lost, feeling lonely, anxious, marginalized, victimized, isolated, oppressed, and abused. Every time we receive the Body of Christ, we have an opportunity to become what we eat. The power and presence of Christ in the Eucharist becomes present in us and effects change in ourselves and in the lives of those we meet. We are given the grace to become temples of justice and peace, carrying God's sacred Presence within us wherever we go. Our faith community is ignited with the fire of God's love and stands out as a beacon of hope in a world that is lost. This is the only way we can discover peace-filled resolutions to violence and create innovative solutions to what is fueling its need in the first place. True happiness, for the young and old alike, becomes an obtainable goal.

St. John Maria Vianney says it so well. "There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, he would have given it to us." Only the Eucharist has the ability to connect, sustain, strengthen, and properly orient us, not only on the road of this life but the road to life eternal. Knowing this, when life gets challenging, unsettling, and difficult, we can rely on and cling to this gift we have in the Real Presence of Christ. This actual encounter with God celebrates God's unconditional love for us and grounds us to the truth of who we are in a way nothing else is able to do. Because through the Eucharist we really do become the Body of Christ, we are also bonded together in a most perfect way to one another as that Body. Nourished, united, and strengthened by the Eucharist, let us individually and collectively, bring this wonderful gift to all we meet, especially the poor with whom we have a special connection. ©LPi



PUZZLE

Find your way from Jesus to the cup.



MISSION

Using the concordance found at the back of your Bible, look up the word "Passover." As a family, write down the verses, find them in your Bible, and read them out loud. Sometimes Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God, or the Lamb sacrificed for our sins. Talk about how Jesus took our sins away when he died on the cross.



Sharing the Gospel

Ever since the night Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, God's people remembered that special night with the Passover meal. They ate flat bread, just as the Israelites did the night they left Egypt. They drank wine, remembering the lamb's blood that saved the Israelites from the Angel of Death. Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples. As they ate, Jesus taught his disciples that, under God's new agreement, his own body and blood would save them.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to be truly thankful for the way Jesus gave up his own body and blood to save me from my sins. Amen.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus serving wine and flat bread to his disciples. (Flat bread looks a little bit like pita bread.)

Mission for the Week

Using the concordance found at the back of your Bible, look up the word "Passover." As a family, write down the verses, find them in your Bible, and read them out loud. Sometimes Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God, or the Lamb sacrificed for our sins. Talk about how Jesus took our sins away when he died on the cross.

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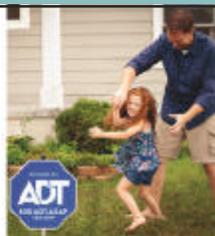
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