

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

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**Website: [www.braintreecatholic.org](http://www.braintreecatholic.org)**

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



**Pastoral Staff:** Rev. Paul Clifford, Pastor  
Rev. Valanarasu Newton-Williamraj, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Permanent Deacon/Director of Music

**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 six months notice is required. Please call the Collaborative Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a hall.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Sundays at 2:00 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.

**Food Pantry:** Thursdays – please call the Parish Office one day in advance.

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, May 7, 2022

5:30PM Lauren Dyer Memorial

## Sunday, May 8, 2022

9:00AM Eleanor Kelley Memorial

11:30AM Jose & Mina Blandon Memorial

## Monday, May 9, 2022

7:00AM Alice Beaulieu Anniversary

## Tuesday, May 10, 2022

7:00AM Robert, Barbara & John  
Williamson and Joan Marden Memorial

## Wednesday, May 11, 2022

7:00AM Patricia Cutting Memorial

## Thursday, May 12, 2022

7:00AM Olive Walbridge Memorial

## Friday, May 13, 2022

7:00AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

## Saturday, May 14, 2022

5:30PM Albert Donnelly Anniversary

## Sunday, May 15, 2022

9:00AM William Pinola Memorial

11:30AM Kathleen Crimmins Spec. Intention



**Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." - Jn 10:27-28a**

## Readings for the week of May 08, 2022

Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 [3c]/  
Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/  
Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/  
Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and  
8/Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and  
27/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/  
Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4,  
5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17

Next Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11,  
12-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



To all who so lovingly nurture our families and our world.

*From the clergy and staff of the Braintree  
Catholic Collaborative of  
St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi*

We thank all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers and "surrogate" mothers for all you do for your families and our collaborative.

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

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



Please join us **THIS Monday** night (and again May 16 and 23 ) at 6:45PM, as we pray the Rosary in honor of our Blessed Mother. We will meet at St. Francis of Assisi church.



*From  
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Full Disclosure, this is a recycled homily from several years ago but fitting to today's Gospel.

Have you ever thought about all the different ways that God is described in Sacred Scripture? It's remarkable. For example, The Lord is King, The Lord is a warrior, God is wisdom, God is Father, God is love, and God is creator. Jesus is described as our brother, a teacher, a friend, and the one we reflect on today, The Lord is a shepherd.

The reason that we have so many ways of describing God is very simple. God is so beyond anything we can imagine that He can't be described adequately in any one way. God isn't either a King or a shepherd. God has qualities that we humans attribute to both those things and many others.

Each of these touches upon some different reality of God so that we may better understand Him. They're analogies that somehow give us greater knowledge of who God is. Since many of these analogies and metaphors come to us from ancient times it's often a bit difficult for modern men and women to really understand what they're saying to us. And that's the way it is with shepherd. We need to know something about what it was to be a sheep and a shepherd in the time of Christ if today's Gospel is going to be meaningful to us.

First of all, sheep were not primarily raised for food during the time of Christ. For the most part they were raised for their wool and their milk, and because of this the sheep would graze together with their shepherds in fields for long periods of time – for years. The relationship between sheep and shepherd was more like the relationships we have with our pets. The shepherd and the sheep got to know one another and understand one another in much the same way we come to know and understand our dogs.

Secondly, sheep were not herded. They were not pushed or frightened or forced into going where the shepherd wanted them to go – they were led. They had a certain freedom. The shepherd would lead or call and the sheep would follow.

Now if I can change gears just a little, I'd like to talk about our family dog, Chelsea (now in puppy heaven). We had a very cool relationship with Chelsea. She was a people dog. More than anything else she just liked to hang with her people. If you left for even a few minutes, when you came back, she acted like she hadn't seen you all day.

She was a pretty good dog. Mostly obedient although she has eaten several pairs of shoes, a few dollars, one of my homilies, my son's hat, two wallets, and a trash can full of

tissue. One time when we were having steak for dinner, she was just hanging around waiting for something to fall on the floor. After a while she got frustrated and whined a little. Not getting what she wanted, she suddenly ran to the front door barking, which usually meant someone came to visit. So, I went to the door, opened it, stepped out to look and found no one. When I turned around, there she was on my chair eating my steak. Bad dog!

Usually, when we went out, even if it was only in our back yard, I'd keep her on a leash. I was just afraid she might run out into the street and get hurt or go off chasing a squirrel and get lost.

But as I began to trust her more, I'd let her out back without the leash and on certain streets I'd take the leash off just to see how she handled it. Mostly it was very good, if she got ahead, I'd call and she would stop and wait. Sometimes, she gets ahead and she stops on her own and turns around to make sure I was still there. "I'm with ya, keep goin' " and she'd continue. If we come to an intersection I'd say "Stay" and she would.

But one time as my wife Luanne and I were out back raking leaves and cleaning out the garage we had Chelsea right there with us – off leash. She was just hanging out sniffing things and curious about what we were up to. More often than not she was just laying in the grass watching us.

Well at one point I asked Luanne "have you seen the dog?"  
"No, I haven't!"

So, the calling began. And she didn't come. I was getting nervous. I went looking for her. Finally, after several minutes she emerged from the yard next door. Now this was one of those neighbors who never mowed the lawn, and whose back yard was literally more like a jungle than a suburb. (not my current neighbors) Chelsea came around the fence with a "sheepish" look on her face and in some obvious discomfort. When I got close, I noticed that she was covered with burs. You know those spiny Velcro-like things that stick to a dog's fur like little needles. I spent the next 20 minutes removing those burs and brushing her.

Now lest you think that I'm telling you all this just to show you that Chelsea was a cute puppy, even though it's true – there is a connection to the Good Shepherd. When we can't totally understand something in Scripture because we are so removed from it by time and culture, sometimes we can use similar experiences from our own lives to better understand what the Scripture is telling us. In this case it's our pets.

When you think about it, aren't we all a little bit like Chelsea; mostly being led by the Lord, hearing his voice and following? There is something about us that makes us just want to hang with Jesus.



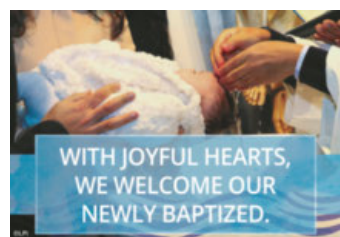
At the end of the day, we forgave Chelsea and at any part of the day God forgives us when we go to Him.

And when we really run off and lose ourselves completely and really get in trouble the Lord goes looking for us, calling our names. And when He finds us all stuck and covered with burs He's not going to yell and scream and punish. He's going to be concerned, He's going to bring us home, and as gently as possible remove those burs. *If we who are sinners know how to be good to our pets, how much more God knows how to be good to his children.* (Matthew 7:11)

Our analogies and our metaphors about God are always going to be inadequate. Something will always be lacking because God is so much beyond anything we can imagine. And so, it is with sheep and shepherd – dog and owner, because our relationship with God is not as much like a pet and its owner as this analogy might suggest. As much as we love our dogs and cats and guinea pigs or whatever, we will never be able to become dog-like and share in their dogness so that they can share in our humanity. We can't give them our life. Yet that is exactly what Jesus has done for us. Christ humbled himself, took on the face of a man and shared our humanity for the sole purpose of sharing his Divinity with us.

And so, through our prayer, our community, and the Sacraments we can better come to understand our relationship with our God, who reveals Himself to us in a myriad of ways if we only have eyes to see and ears to hear.

When we find ourselves covered with burs, dirty, and tired; when we find ourselves so busy with our lives or so distracted by sin that we lose sight of Christ; when we're lonely and afraid; stop – listen for His voice and follow it. He'll take us home where it is safe, where we'll find healing and forgiveness, and where we'll find perfect love in the arms of our God who is our Good Shepherd; Our Father; Brother and Friend.



*St. Francis of Assisi*  
*Vivienne Mary Beauchesne*  
*Madison Louise O'Neil*

*St. Clare*  
*Thomas Peter Jenkins*  
*Caroline Marisa O'Dwyer*

*St. Francis*  
*Teddy Scully*  
*Elizabeth Sweeney*  
*Kevin Sweeney*



**Deacon Jerry Kleponis'** final week in the collaborative is **THIS weekend** (May 7-8, 2022). Please join us, after the 9 and 11:30AM Masses at St. Francis, as we say goodbye and wish Deacon Jerry well as he goes on to become Father Jerry.



**May 8: Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on the care and love of Jesus for us.

**Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus , the Good Shepherd, as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.**



**FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY** is next weekend, May 14-15. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry **Some of the needed items for this month** are individual snack packs,

small bottles of water, canned fruit, pasta, Knorr's or Lipton Sides (rice); soups; crackers; tea bags/coffee, cleaning products; paper products, personal care items (i.e. adult diapers and wipes). However, we are grateful for anything you wish to donate. If you prefer not to shop, please read the St. Vincent DePaul paragraph to learn how you can help.

Donations can also be dropped off at the St. Francis of Assisi rectory during normal business hours (Monday through Friday 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. Thank you.**



**St. Francis of Assisi**  
Bernice Deptula  
Maurice O'Brien  
Alexander Gould  
Teresa Shiner

**St. Clare**  
Barbara "Joan" Lane

***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.***

# Year of the EUCHARIST



## JESUS IS HERE

**Archdiocese of Boston Eucharistic Congress**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022 8:30AM – 6:00PM**  
**TSONGAS CENTER, LOWELL, MA**

Cardinal Seán O'Malley invites all the Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Boston and surrounding dioceses to join him in closing the Year of the Eucharist with a daylong Eucharistic Congress, Jesus is Here.

A core tenet of the Catholic faith is that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ is made truly present in the Eucharist. But belief in the True Presence has waned in recent years, even among Catholics. And that's a concern—because as Cardinal Seán teaches, "it is in the Eucharist where we find our true identity." **Jesus is Here** is an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of the mystery of Jesus' presence with us—by listening to powerful talks on the Eucharist, by receiving Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass, and by adoring Him in a time of adoration and worship.

- 7:30am Doors Open, Exhibitors Available
- 8:30am Welcome, Music, & Celebration of Mass
- 10:15am Break & Visit Exhibitors
- 10:45am Session 1 – Featuring Deacon. Harold Burke-Sivers & Bishop Daniel Flores
- 12:15pm Lunch Break & Visit Exhibitors
- 1:30pm Session 2 – Featuring Bishop Robert Barron
- 2:30pm Break & Visit Exhibitors 3:00pm Session 3 – Featuring Jackie and Bobby Angel
- 4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration & Procession through Lowell
- 6:00pm Eucharistic Congress Concludes \*

*Confessions will be available at the following times: 7:30-8:30am, 10:15am-1:30pm, 2:30-3:30pm.*

If you are interested in attending as member of our collaborative, please contact the collaborative office at 781-843-1332 or [pkinnally@sfab.org](mailto:pkinnally@sfab.org).



From the  
 Archdiocese of Boston

## May 8 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

Again this week we hear that Paul and his companion Barnabas are speaking boldly about the word of God. When they met opposition among their ancestors, they took their message to the Gentile communities. The key to evangelization is in the last line of the passage: "The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit". Perhaps an odd reaction to being "expelled from the territory" but not an odd reaction if sharing the story of God's love for us and Jesus' gift of salvation is what matters most. Try sharing the good news with another and notice the joy it gives you.

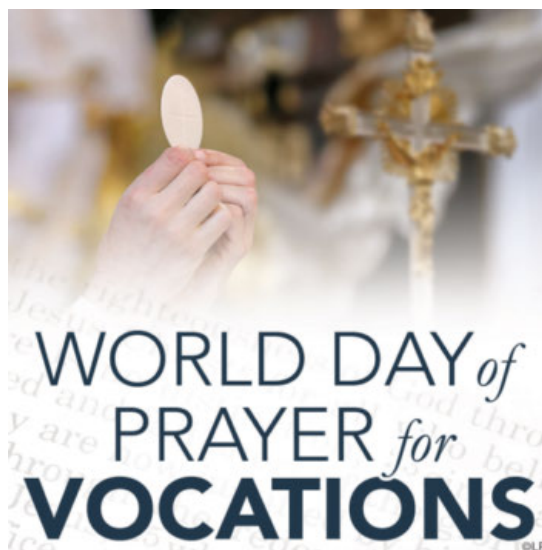


## Post-Abortion Healing Retreats

*"My spirit was broken and as far as I knew beyond repair. I was consumed with feelings of remorse. During the retreat, I realized the lasting impact of forgiveness. I knew God had forgiven me, and now I needed to forgive myself."* – A Project Rachel Retreat Attendee.

The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat. Spring dates are May 14 and June 4. Locations are confidential. Limited to ten participants per retreat. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com)

**Fiat**, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. The topic is: "What Do Sisters Do?" If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at [marian.batho@csjboston.org](mailto:marian.batho@csjboston.org) or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.





### May 8, 2022 - 4th Sunday of Easter

"Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start." (Pope Francis) We have a difficult time figuring out what is true and best for us. There are many voices talking and so many trying to get our attention. We wrongly convince ourselves that the true voice is the voice of progress, the one that speaks of contemporary wants and desires, enticing us with the latest trends and causes. We are taught, by listening to the voices around us, that truth is found in feelings and thought, and ideals must match current and popular human wants. Because we feel a particular way it must be true. Then, we find a shepherd who empathizes with us and affirms us. We follow that voice even though listening to that voice will render us powerless and lead us to harm. There are many with me in this procession to this pasture. I must be on the right path and listening to the right voice.

We are very confused. What can keep us safe and from harm? Where do we go to find life, love, and happiness? Jesus tells us that he is the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to get to Truth, who is God, is through him. There is no other way. The Church, the gate around God's pasture of life, is charged with the mission of directing us where God desires that we go. In the midst of all of the conflicting voices around us, the voice of truth is often muffled in all of the noise, but it beckons us to a life of virtue and grace. Helping us understand who we are and where we have to be, it discerns the voice of God, providing us with the safety net we need to stay straight on our path to life eternal.

We have to trust the voice of God, the true Shepherd, even when it does not mirror what we want and what others may believe. Faith goes way beyond feeling and involves a radical trust in Someone who can lead us and form us. At day's end, if we do not know to find our way home, we will be truly lost. ©LPi



**PUZZLE**  
Find your way through the bible maze.

**MISSION**  
Every night before you go to bed, read from a Bible storybook. Ask God to help you love him more and more.



### Sharing the Gospel

Jesus loves you so much! He knows what makes you happy and what makes you sad. You are his precious child, and he wants to be close to you forever. Get to know Jesus by reading about him in your Bible. Find out what makes him happy. Learn how he loves people who need help, and try to follow his example.

### Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to stay close to you.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself reading a Bible storybook.

### Mission for the Week

Every night before you go to bed, read from a Bible storybook. Ask God to help you love him more and more.



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