

THE PARISH OF SAINT CLARE

1244 Liberty Street, Braintree, Mass 02184
Collaborative Office Telephone: 781-843-1332

www.braintreecatholic.org

Collaborative email: parish@sfab.org

Parish Hall is accessible to Handicapped via elevator



Parish Mission Statement

May the Lord bind us together as a community of faith filled with His love. Let us go forth and spread His Good News as St. John preached: "Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth." 1 John 3:18

Pastor

Rev. Paul T. Clifford
Email: pclifford@sfab.org

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Valanarasu Newton-Williamraj
frvalan@sfab.org

Deacons

Michael J. Cavanaugh
Joe MacDonald

Finance and Operations Manager

Kevin Mercier

Sunday Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 7:45 AM, 10:15 AM, & 6:00 PM

Daily Mass: 8:00 AM Saturday

Holy Days: 4:00 PM Mass on the Vigil
9:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sacrament Of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 8:30-9:00 AM

Anytime by Appointment

Sacrament of Baptism: Sunday at 2:00 PM

Please call the collaborative office to register

Sacrament of Marriage:

A minimum six months notice is required. Couples must participate in a marriage preparation program.

Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls:

Please notify the Collaborative Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness, handicap or age.

Religious Education: 781-843-1332

On Hiatus

Music Director:

Deacon Joe MacDonald

E-mail: deaconjoe.sfasc@gmail.com

Collaborative Office Manager—781-843-1332

Patty Kinnally—pkinnally@sfab.org

Fr. Bill's Place:

First Tuesday of the month

(Suspended due to Coronavirus)

Al-Anon:

Meets in Parish Hall - Tuesdays at 10:30 AM

(Suspended due to Coronavirus)

Help for the Poor:

Pine Street Inn Society:

(Suspended due to Coronavirus)

Holy Name Society: (Suspended due to Coronavirus)

Second Sunday of the month at the 7:45 AM Mass

Boy Scout Troop #138:

Wednesday 7:00 PM

John Collier 781-843-3330

Family & Tots Program: (Suspended due to Coronavirus)

Karen Mc Brine 961-3460

E-mail: karenmusicklass@aol.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry: (Suspended due to Coronavirus)

First Wednesday of the month

Lucille Barton 848-0626

Braintree Catholic Women's Club:

Second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM in the Parish Hall

Carolyn Puleo 617-834-0726

Bulletin Deadline:

All notices must be submitted to the Parish House by Monday 1 PM. You may email them directly to stclare1@verizon.net

Welcome To New Parishioners. We want to know and serve you. If you are not registered, please fill out this form and present it to one of the priests or bring it to the rectory or place in the collection basket.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Street/City/Zip

Do You Wish to receive Offertory Envelopes? Yes

Prayers are requested for the Parishioners of St. Clare Parish, for those who are hospitalized, for our deceased relatives and friends, and for the following intentions:

Saturday December 11, 2021

8:00AM
4:00PM Tino & Catherine Novello Memorial

Sunday December 12, 2021

7:45AM Martha Byron Anniversary
10:15AM Clare Cavanaugh and Deceased Members of the Hamrock Family Memorial
6:00PM Russell DuPuis 1st Anniv.

Saturday December 18, 2021

8:00AM Arthur Gillis Memorial
4:00PM Patricia Roche Anniversary

Sunday December 19, 2021

7:45AM Jack Gibbons and Kathleen Hurley Memorial
10:15AM Anne Conolly Memorial
6:00PM Philip Fontana Memorial

WE ARE THE STEWARDS ...

Offertory	\$11,610.00
Online giving	\$ 844.00
Total	\$12,454.00

The Altar Breads and Wine to be used at all Masses for the week of December 11—17 have been donated in loving memory of **Ellsworth Rice**. The Sanctuary light will also burn in loving memory of **Ellsworth**.

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

As always, we thank you for your ongoing generosity. The offertory is our primary means of meeting our Parish weekly operational expenses.



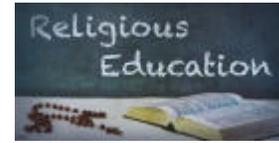
St. Francis of Assisi
James Nicholson
Matthew McNeill Jenkins
Joseph O'Brien
Evelyn Valanzola
Giuseppina Pansa

St. Clare
Joseph R. Driscoll

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.



St. Clare
Payton Ramage



The following is from a letter recently emailed to families :
“We are bringing Religious Education back to the collaborative parishes this year with a particular focus on the Sacramental Years, Grade 2 and Grade 10. Once those programs are up and running we will address the needs of families with children in all other grades.”

Information regarding Confirmation classes will be sent out in the very near future.

Please see the website www.braintreecatholic.org for the full letter.



Please see the bulletin insert for the Schedule of Christmas Masses and special Confession Times.



THANKS FOR GIVING

Thank you to everyone who helped and donated to our 9th Annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive. Because of you we were able to donate to the Marge Crispin Social Service Center...

200 TURKEY DINNERS

It is inspiring to see the generosity of so many people, helping struggling families right here in Braintree. The response from family, friends and neighbors was very overwhelming.

Our hearts are heavy this year with the passing of our family member, Mary “Mare” Milligan who lost her battle to cancer on November 10th. She was such a big part of this project from the beginning and was sadly missed. Her presence was felt as we received many donations this year in Mare’s memory. Your kindness and generosity will go a long way to making this holiday a very happy celebration for those less fortunate.

Happy and Safe 2021 Holiday Season to all...
The McDonough Family



WHAT IS GAUDETE SUNDAY?

What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent? For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the mid-point in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.

Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." This celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy. Today's Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, reflects this joy: "Brother and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."



We are now booking Mass Intentions through Sunday, September 11, 2022. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.



December 12, 2021 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina) ©LPI

Advent Rosary Evenings... continue THIS Monday, December 13 at 6:45PM in St. Francis of Assisi Church. Throughout Advent we will meet weekly (December 13, and 20). We hope you'll consider making this time a new holiday tradition—for yourself or with family and friends.

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