

# THE PARISH OF SAINT CLARE

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

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

Collaborative email: [parish@sfab.org](mailto: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](mailto:pclifford@sfab.org)

## Parochial Vicar

Rev. Valanarasu Newton-Williamraj  
[frvalan@sfab.org](mailto: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](mailto:deaconjoe.sfasc@gmail.com)

Collaborative Office Manager—781-843-1332

Patty Kinnally—[pkinnally@sfab.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 25, 2021</b>	
8:00AM	Merry Christmas	
10:30AM	Merry Christmas	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 26, 2021</b>	
7:45AM	Welch Family	Memorial
10:15AM	William R. Moore	30th Anniv.
	Therese M. Moore	22nd Anniv.
	Mark J. Moore	23rd Anniv.
6:00PM	Patrick Liam Finnerty	2nd Anniv.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 31, 2021</b>	
4:00PM	Maureen Mahoney Turcotte 3rd Anniv.	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 1, 2022</b>	
8:00AM	Ruth & Edward Barkowski	Memorial
4:00PM	Margaret Preston and Jack Fraser	Anniversary
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 2, 2022</b>	
7:45AM		
10:15AM	Lois Carr	1st Anniv.
6:00PM	Patrick Liam Finnerty	2nd Anniv.

**WE ARE THE STEWARDS ...**

Information not available due to early bulletin deadline.

The Sanctuary light will burn in loving memory of **John F. Avery**.

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. Clare  
Kenneth Tocci*

*St. Francis of Assisi  
Christine DiMartinis  
Mary Welch*

*Archdiocese of Boston  
Fr. Dennis Wheatley, O.F.M.*

***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.***

*Mary, Mother of God*

Saturday, January 1, 2022 is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day. Since it falls on a Saturday, it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year. The Mass schedule for the Collaborative of St. Clare and St. Francis of Assisi is as follows:

Friday, December 31, 2021	
4:00PM	St. Clare
5:30PM	St. Francis of Assisi
Saturday, January 1, 2022	
8:00AM	St. Clare
9:30AM	St. Francis
11:30AM	St. Francis of Assisi

The evening Masses on Saturday, January 1 the Vigil Mass for January 2, 2022 Solemnity of the Epiphany.

**Special Confession Times**

<b>Sunday, December 26</b>	
St. Francis	12:30PM
St. Clare	5:00-7:30PM
<b>Friday, December 31</b>	
St. Francis	7:30AM
St. Clare	2:30-3:30PM
<b>Saturday, January 1, 2022</b>	
St. Clare	8:30 –9:30AM
St. Francis	12:30—2:00PM
<b>Sunday, January 2, 2022</b>	
St. Francis	12:30PM
St. Clare	7:00PM



Thank you to everyone who donated to our “Giving Tree” this year. Your generous response was awe-inspiring. Because of you some children in our community had a very Merry Christmas. We also received many gift cards that can be given to those in need beyond Christmas, for which we are deeply appreciative.

Thank you also to those who donate to our Food Pantry. Your contributions throughout the year has allowed us to keep our pantry operating throughout the pandemic.



The Collaborative Office will be closed on Monday, December 27, returning Tuesday, December 28. We will also close at noon on Friday, December 31 and be closed through Monday, January 3, 2022, returning on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Have a Blessed holiday season and a Happy and HEALTHY New Year!



From the  
Archdiocese of Boston

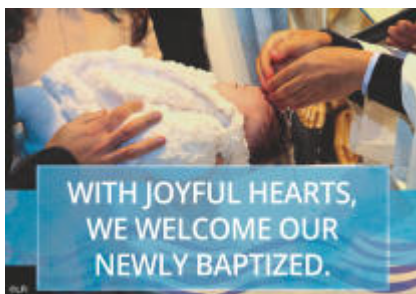
The Nineteenth Annotation of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius Loyola **An Invitation to Meet Christ in Prayer** is an “at home” retreat lived in ordinary life. The retreat is available for Catholic adults, in a group setting, over the course of twenty-four weeks. **This year the exercises began on Wednesday December 1, 2021 and conclude May 4, 2022.** The group will meet weekly from 10am to 12:00 noon. Hybrid setting with most sessions via Zoom. In person meetings will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, 573 Washington Street, Newton MA. Mary Ann McLaughlin and Deacon Dan Burns will direct the Spiritual Exercises. For further information please call 617-686-2287 or email: [maryannmclaughlin2@aol.com](mailto:maryannmclaughlin2@aol.com).

### 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/>. Give yourselves the best Christmas present ever – take time for your marriage. Strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.

**MASST**  
**INTENTIONS**

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.



*St. Clare*  
*Finn Robert Sweeney*



### December 26, 2021 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today’s Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the “light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families.” While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God’s continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPi

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