

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: 7:45AM, 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 10:30AM
(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: karensmusicklass@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 January 1, 2022
 8:00AM Ruth & Edward Barkowski Memorial
 4:00PM Margaret Preston and Anniversaries
 Jack Fraser

Sunday January 2, 2022
 7:45AM
 10:15AM Lois Carr 1st Anniv.
 6:00PM

Saturday January 8, 2022
 8:00AM Dodier Family Spec. Intent.
 4:00PM Albert & Ann Tosone Anniversaries

Sunday January 9, 2022
 7:45AM
 10:15AM Marilyn Cavallaro 5th Anniv.
 6:00PM Walter & Genevieve Memorial
 McDonough

WE ARE THE STEWARDS ...

Information not available due to early bulletin deadline.

The Sanctuary light will burn in loving memory of Edward P. Barkowski.

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

Michael Kane

Ralph Pompeo

Edna Hannigan

Anna Higgins

Archdiocese of Boston

Fr. Vincent Eugene Dailey

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.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Collaborative Office will be closed at noon on Friday, December 31 and be closed through Monday, January 3, 2022, returning on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Have a Happy and HEALTHY New Year!

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

Special Confession Times

Sunday, January 2, 2022

St. Francis 12:30PM
 St. Clare 7:00PM



God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Loyola Press

MASS+ 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.



Thank you to all who made our Octave of Christmas celebrations so special; the cantors, choir, musicians and Deacon Joe for their joyful music; Bob Muldoon and Diane Cullinane and their assistants for making both churches look so festive; the ushers and greeters who so generously offer their time week after week; and of course to Fr. Paul and Fr. Valan for tirelessly leading us in worship and offering so much flexibility with confession times. And last but certainly not least to all of you for your participation.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Even ill-intentioned people, evil people, dirty rotten scoundrels can say the right thing.

We all know who the villain is in the epiphany story – its King Herod and we all know what his intentions were. Find the kid so we can kill him! Those were his intentions but it's not what he said.

And that's the irony of Epiphany. Even though his motivation was all wrong everything Herod said to the Magi was right on the money. The apostles couldn't have said it any better, the pope couldn't.

- A. Search Diligently for Christ
- B. When you find him, come and tell me that I too may give him homage.

Herod unwittingly called the Magi to discipleship. He asked them to do what every good disciple is called to do – do everything you can to in order to find Christ and when you do bring Him to others. Thanks for the advice, Herod.

We can look into the night sky all we want but unlike the Magi we aren't going to find the light of a star to lead us to Jesus. We can search high and low, near and far and we're not going to find an infant Christ laying in a manger.

But we still have that obligation to diligently search for Christ and we do that through prayer; scripture; the sacraments, community and each other.

The second part of Herod's request is to bring news of Christ to others. At our baptism we are given a lit candle and the priest or deacon says "receive the light of Christ, keep this light burning brightly..." Christ himself is the light we follow and like the star in today's gospel it leads us to Him every time. By that light we find Christ in our own hearts and in our families. By that light we recognize him in the boardroom and in the classroom. He is there in our tears and in the tears of others.

Mother Therese saw the lonely and abandoned laying in the gutters of Calcutta she saw the SAME Christ as a baby laying in the manger. In their suffering the same suffering of Christ on the cross. Same tears that Jesus shed at the tomb of Lazarus and the same sadness at being abandoned by everyone that Jesus felt at Gethsemane. She saw Christ in them and brought Christ to them.

When we can look into the eyes of someone that nobody on this earth loves or desires or cares about; someone who may be repulsive or dirty or diseased and so recognize Christ in them that we're willing to give our own lives for their welfare, and bring the light of Christ to them, then our diligent searching will be complete and we'll have found Christ in our hearts and in each other and like the Magi our joy will be so great we may not be able to bear it.



January 2, 2022 - The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.
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