

# 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: [karensmusicclass@aol.com](mailto:karensmusicclass@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>January 29, 2022</b>   |            |
| 8:00AM          | Parishioners of St. Clare |            |
| 4:00PM          | Brian Sampson             | Memorial   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>January 30, 2022</b>   |            |
| 7:45AM          | Gerald Ridge, Sr.         | 7th Anniv. |
| 10:15AM         | Deceased Brothers K of C  | Memorial   |
|                 | Braintree Council 1462    |            |
|                 | <b>and Peggy Marsh</b>    | 1st Anniv. |
| 6:00PM          | Daniel Barselou           | Memorial   |
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>February 5, 2022</b>   |            |
| 8:00AM          |                           |            |
| 4:00PM          | Arduino DiCenso           | 3rd Anniv. |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>February 6, 2022</b>   |            |
| 7:45AM          |                           |            |
| 10:15AM         | Abdallah John Khnaizir    | 1st Anniv. |
| 6:00PM          |                           |            |

**WE ARE THE STEWARDS ...**

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Offertory</b>     | <b>\$ 3,763.00</b> |
| <b>Online giving</b> | <b>\$ 664.00</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$ 4,427.00</b> |

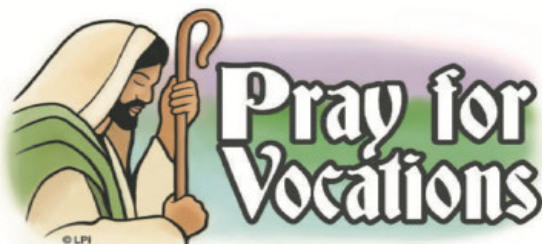
If you are interested in the Online Giving option to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the parish office or visit our web site.

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*  
 Theresa Votruba  
 Teresa Tybus  
 William Shaughnessy  
*Archdiocese of Boston*  
 Fr. Stephen Boyle

*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.*



**The Confirmation program for students in Grade 10 will began last Sunday, January 23, 2022.** If your son or daughter was unable to attend this meeting please have them contact the Collaborative Office to get the information they missed.

The next in-person class/Mass is scheduled for Sunday, February 27 at 5:00PM at St. Clare.



First Penance/First Communion classes continue this week. If you have not yet enrolled your child, please contact Karen at [klane@sfab.org](mailto:klane@sfab.org). Classes will be held on Sundays 11:15-12:15; Tuesdays 4:00-4:00PM and Thursdays 4:00—5:00PM.



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2021 please call the collaborative office at 781-843-1332. In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner who has made a **single** contribution of \$250 or more. If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or EFT/online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the collaborative office.

# GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Tuesday, January 25 our Grand Annual Collection was \$56,765 from 160 contributors. **Thank you to all who have contributed.** If you did not receive an Appeal letter or have misplaced your copy, please call the parish office at 781-843-1332 and we'll be happy to send you a new one.



*From*  
*Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Despite what popular culture may want us to believe, we can be sure of this: Love is NOT a Subaru! Nor is love, in the words of the Roberta Flack song, “Soft as an easy chair.” Love is not defined by some saccharin laced Hall-mark card or as John Lennon put it “Silly little love songs.” It is not an act of carnal pleasure. It is not a warm and fuzzy feeling.

Our modern ethos trivializes love.

Like the existence of God, the existence of love cannot be proven by science. Wrapping our heads around it or more importantly our hearts, is elusive. It is one of those things that as it is said, “I can’t tell you what it is but I know it when I see it.” Well, you can know it - if you know what you’re looking for.

Saint Paul in the thirteenth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians tells us exactly what we should be looking for so that we will indeed know it when we see it. He tells us what it is and what it is not. In addition, we’re told that we should actively seek and then possess this greatest of spiritual gifts.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. (1 Cor 13:4-8)

But it’s in the first letter of St. John that we find the flawless definition of Love. It is a simple statement but one that produces a lifetime of reflection. God is love. Three words define it perfectly and one person demonstrated it perfectly.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” (Jn 3:16-17)

Jesus, the perfect definition and demonstration of love, told us this, “Greater love than this no man has that he should lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn 15:13)

What about laying your life down for your enemies? What about loving the ones who brutally scourged you until the flesh was ripped from your back, who pressed thorns into your skull, who stripped you naked and mocked you on the top of a hill and drove spikes through your wrists to fasten you to a cross? “Forgive them Father, they don’t know

what they are doing.” (Lk 23:34) What kind of love is that?

It’s Godly love!

Love is not a feeling. Love is a choice.

Any married couple can tell you that they don’t always “feel” love for their spouse. Sometimes we can’t even stand them. But we choose to continue to love even when we don’t feel it. Even when that relationship brings with it hardships, annoyances, disagreements and disappointments, loss of trust, and feelings that no one could describe as love. We choose to love the other because it is a commitment that we made, it is a promise to be kept and a covenant not to be broken. We choose to love because it is what Jesus did and it’s the right thing to do. Choosing to love, even when we don’t feel it, renders our relationships stronger even when they are weak. None of us are perfect either and we bring our own brand of chaos into our relationships and guess what? Our spouses choose to love us anyway.

In my career as both a pastoral musician and as a deacon I’ve been to many hundreds of Catholic weddings. In all weddings we hear something like this: “I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.” There are no conditions. We might hear this: “As long as we both shall live” or “Until death do us part.” Nothing ambiguous about it, marriage is meant to be permanent.

Today however, with more weddings being held at venues other than Church people are writing their own vows and making their own promises. Frankly, in my opinion, they tend to be filled with cultural euphemisms and leave out any commitment to permanence. They literally change “as long as we both shall live” to “as long as we both shall love.” It turns something sacred into a feeling which may be deceptive but which is always fleeting. They might as well say “as long as we feel like it.”

Love is not a feeling. I am confident that the only thing Christ felt on the cross was pain. But even in this agony he chose to love and to put others first, the good thief, his executioners, his mother, his followers, and the multitude who died before him and that would be born in centuries to come, people he would never meet in the flesh. It was all done for the love of them and us. Love is not based on what we get out of relationships but rather on what we bring to them. Jesus brought everything with him and he gave everything to his last breath.

This is the kind of love that we need to bring to our relationships, starting in our own families, but also in our work relationships, in our schools, even our politics. This Godly love needs to possess every part of our being, every cell, every thought and action. It needs to spread faster than Omicron until the hearts of all are on fire with Godly love. There is no hope for the world without it.



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