

# Braintree Catholic Collaborative



## **St. Francis Church**

856 Washington Street  
Braintree, Massachusetts

### **Mass Schedule**

Saturday Vigil: 5:30PM  
Sunday: 9:00, 11:30AM

Monday –Friday: 7:00am

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday: 12:30-2:00PM

## **St. Clare Church**

1244 Liberty Street  
Braintree, Massachusetts

### **Mass Schedule**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM  
Sunday: 7:45, 10:15AM AND 6:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday: 8:30-9:00am

## **Collaborative Staff**

Rev. Robert M. Blaney, Pastor  
Rev. Kevin P. Leaver, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Joseph MacDonald, Collaborative Deacon/  
Music Director  
Deacon James Waldron, Collaborative Deacon  
Mrs. Karen Lane, Religious Education Coordinator  
Ms. Patty Kinnally, Office Manager  
Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager  
Mr. Robert Muldoon, Facilities Manager  
Msgr. Robert W. Oliver, In Residence  
Rev. Gerald Nebo, In Residence  
Deacon Michael Cavanaugh, Senior Deacon

## **Contact Information**

[www.braintreecatholic.org](http://www.braintreecatholic.org)  
781-843-1332 | Fax: 781-848-0976

## **Collaborative Office and Mailing Address**

856 Washington Street  
Braintree, MA 02184

## **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday: 9:00-4:00

## **Sacrament of Marriage**

A minimum of six months notice is required. Please call the Collaborative Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a venue.

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

2nd Sunday of the month at St. Clare at 1:30PM  
3rd Sunday of the month at St. Francis at 1:30PM  
Please call the Collaborative to register

## **Sacrament of the Sick & Communion Calls**

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

## **Bulletin Deadline**

All requests must be submitted to the Collaborative Office by Monday at 1PM. Email to [parish@sfab.org](mailto:parish@sfab.org).

# Mass Intentions

## St. Francis of Assisi

### Saturday, September 30, 2023

5:30PM George Reardon Month's Mind

### Sunday, October 1, 2023

9:00AM Marie Reis Memorial

11:30AM Frances Salvucci 1st Anniv.

### Monday, October 2, 2023

7:00AM Connie McEleney Memorial

### Tuesday, October 3, 2023

7:00AM Anna & William Polin Anniversary

### Wednesday, October 4, 2023

7:00AM Mary L. Hamel Memorial

### Thursday, October 5, 2023

7:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

### Friday, October 6, 2023

7:00AM

### Saturday, October 7, 2023

5:30PM Frances Hurley & Jen Grasso

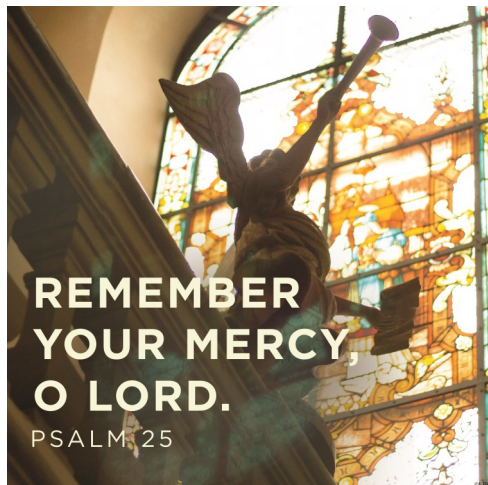
### Sunday, October 8, 2023

9:00AM Donald & Mary Broughton Memorial

11:30AM Robert & Alice Kelley Memorial

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

Please remember our parishes when planning your estate. Thank you!



# Mass Intentions

## St. Clare

### Saturday, September 30, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Susan Gagne Memorial

### Sunday, October 1, 2023

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Rees Irvine 1st Anniv.

6:00PM Sheila Fordham 5th Anniv.

### Saturday, October 7, 2023

8:00AM

4:00PM Mary E. Cahill 3rd Anniv.

### Sunday, October 8, 2023

7:45AM

10:15AM Regina & Paul Centauro, Memorial  
Regina Vivone, Christine Gannon  
and Robert Gannon

6:00PM

The Bread & Wine for the week of September 30th through October 6th have been donated in loving memory of Mary & Tom Walsh. The **Sanctuary light** will also burn in Mary & Tom's memory.

### Info and events of note...

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry Open Thursdays at St. Francis from 10AM-12NN.** If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need.
- **Collaborative Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the prayer line, please call the Collaborative office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is deployed and you would like their info to appear on the blue board in the church, please call or email the parish office. Thank you.
- **Al-Anon ...** Tuesdays at 10:30 in St. Clare Church Hall
- **Boy Scout Troop #138 ...** Wednesdays at 7:00PM in St. Clare Church Hall.—Contact John Collier at 781-843-3330
- **Braintree Catholic Women's Club...** Second Wednesday of the month at 1:30PM in St Francis Church Hall. Contact Carolyn Puleo 617-834-0726.
- **Braintree Knights of Columbus Council 1462...** Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church Hall.



The **Synod on Synodality** begins on Wednesday at the Vatican and runs until the end of the month. **Pope Francis** will preside at this important gathering of bishops, priests, deacons, religious and lay people. Unlike an Ecumenical Council (like Vatican II) which is comprised of all the bishops of the Church, a synod is a meeting of representatives from around the world. I'm not sure if every country is represented this time, but certainly every region and ecclesial conference. Representatives are chosen by respective bishop's conferences. Also the Holy Father invites delegates as well to ensure that various disciplines are represented. Cardinal Sean O'Malley is there, having been invited by the pope.

In recent times, synods are held every three years and cover topics such as the New Evangelization, Eucharist, Spreading the Word of God, role of youth in the Church. This year's topic is "*synodality*", that is, how does the Church listen to people? In other words, Church leaders and representatives will spend three weeks this October reflecting, praying and discussing the process by which the Church discerns the Holy Spirit. Given our rich history of scholarship and leadership, you might think that we have this question figured out by now. Such thinking, however, inhibits authentic discernment. Rather than embark on a "hot button" topic this time, the Holy Father wants to spend significant time talking about how we as a Church listen to the world and to each other. Given that the ways in which we communicate are in a constant state of change, this seems timely and necessary.

Preparations for this synod have been happening over the past few years. Every diocese in the world was asked to submit a ten page report summarizing what parishioners have said about the question of *synodality*. The meeting this year is part I, with part II scheduled for October 2024. Sometime in 2025 I would expect the Holy Father will promulgate a letter to the whole Church with his conclusions and "action items". The synod will certainly be in the news over the next coming weeks. There are many reputable websites and podcasts that will give daily reports. As secular media outlets take on various political bents, the same is true for Catholic media outlets.

We had an excellent kick-off to a new year of religious education! **Karen Lane** has recruited a number of parishioners to help catechize our children. We could use more volunteers! It's not too late to register. Go to the

the parish webpage.

On Sunday evening **Fr. Kevin** got us started for the Confirmation program. We had over 100 high school-aged parishioners who will be preparing for confirmation. Encouraging numbers!

Wednesday this week is the **feast of St. Francis of Assisi**. When the parish was founded we took his name as our own, relying on his constant intercession for the well-being of all parishioners. It's most appropriate to honor him that day by participating in Mass. There will be a 7:00am Mass at St. Francis Church followed by coffee/breakfast pastries in the Church hall. If you can't make that time, you could go to Mass anywhere else that day.

Speaking of Mass elsewhere, by way of reminder: there is also a 12:10pm Mass in the collaborative Monday-Thursday at the Bethany Chapel at the Pastoral Center on Brooks Drive. You are always welcome there! In fact, Msgr Oliver, Fr. Kevin and I often cover those Masses.

Starting on Wednesday, the feast of one of our patron saints, we will begin **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** from 7:00pm-8:00pm at St. Francis of Assisi. Deacon Joe and Deacon Jay have organized this. Our plan is to have adoration each Wednesday night.

Wednesday evening is also the next meeting of the **provisional council**. Fr Bob Connors will be with us for the beginning of the meeting to offer some words of encouragement. He is Cardinal Sean's Episcopal Vicar for the parishes in the south region. Whilst he is here, I will formally make a profession of faith and oath of fidelity as pastor of St. Clare and St. Francis Parishes. Every pastor is required by Canon Law to make the profession and oath when he begins as pastor. Where it was the summer when I began, Fr Connors said that I could wait until the fall. Given various schedules it would be another while before we could schedule this to happen at a Sunday Mass. I thought doing so with the council would be a nice option.

## **Altar Server** — TRAINING —

**Calling all altar servers or those who aspire to be!**

Training meeting (for both parishes) will be held **THIS** Sunday, October 1 at St. Clare Church following the 10:15 Mass.





*From*  
*Deacon Joe MacDonald*

It's never too late to do the right thing. It's never too late to follow Christ and give your life to God. It's never too late to work in the Lord's vineyard.

Both the gospels from this week and last demonstrate this. In today's gospel the first son, like an obstinate toddler who just learned to say no, refused to do his father's bidding. But later he began to think about his actions. He remembered his father's love, and his duty as a son. He had a sort of conversion experience and in the end did the father's will. Just because he said no, didn't mean that he couldn't change his mind.

We can change our minds too. All of us to some extent refuse to do God's will. In fact, many of us don't even want to know what His will is because it might take us in a direction that we don't want to go. I remember getting a phone call some years ago. There was no caller ID or voice mail back then but the timing of the call made it quite clear who it was and what they wanted me to do immediately. I didn't want to do it so I didn't answer. If you don't answer the phone you can't get the message.

Last week we learned about God's generosity and how even when we turn to him late in the day, we still get more than our just reward.

Remember the people who were standing around at the end of the day. When asked why they weren't working, they said that no one had hired them. They might have well said "nobody wants us." Well, this landowner (our Father in heaven) wanted them and he put them to work. And at the end of their day they got more than they expected. They got the same reward as those who had been working all along. I'm not sure what a union rep would have to say about that.

The reward, the wages if you will, for following Christ is heaven. Does Jesus care that you showed up late? I don't think so. He wants you to show up right away, but he's patient.

I've heard people say, "It's too late for me." Dismas, the good thief that hung on the cross next to Christ, turned to God literally in that last moments of life and he's in heaven. Ask Dismas if it's too late.

Others think that they'd feel like a hypocrite to turn to Christ after shutting him out for a lifetime. Saint Paul was a pharisee. He persecuted Christians. He didn't believe any of

it. He helped put them to death. In fact, he held the coats of those who were stoning St. Stephen. If anyone might have felt like a hypocrite it might have been him. Except for this, when God calls us to go in a different direction and we hear that call and act on it, it brings joy and nothing else.

Still others might believe that they've done too many bad things in their life to deserve God's love or heaven. It's not about deserving! If it were about deserving, none of us would get to heaven. We get to heaven by God's grace. Remember this, there is no sin greater than God's love. And there is more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent. (Luke 5:10)

And don't think you're too old either or that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Abraham was in his 70's when God called him. And Christ promises to make all things new. "(Rev 21:5)

There are plenty of excuses. I'm sure we can all come up with more. But when we hear ourselves come up with these excuses, let's say a Hail Mary or a Glory be to God, just to chase those thoughts away. Let's continue to turn to Christ, no matter what we've done, what we've thought, or what we've failed to do. Let's turn to him with our weaknesses, follow him in our pain, with our addictions and illnesses. Let's follow Christ in every circumstance. He does not disappoint. And it's never too late. Our reward in heaven is great.



**BIBLE STUDY**—Saint Jerome once said that “ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ.” We certainly always want to know Christ better. Deacon Joe's bible study will resume on Saturday September 30 at 9:00 A.M. in Saint Francis Church Hall. This year we are studying the Gospel of Mark. We had a good crowd last year and hope to see even more of you this year.



The Collaborative Choir will continue practicing Thursdays from 6:30 -8:00 PM. We will meet in the choir loft at Saint Francis. Please enter by the elevator doors.

As always we welcome new members to the choir. We especially need a few new men. Don't be shy and remember singing is praying twice!



*When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him." - Mt 21:32*

## Readings of the Week ©LPI

### Readings for the week of October 1, 2023

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/  
Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

Monday: Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and  
22-23/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/  
Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/  
Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10,  
11/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/  
Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/  
Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday: Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16,  
19-20 (Isaiah 5:7a)/Phil 4:6-9/



Information regarding Religious Education, including online registration, for all grades is now available on the collaborative website [www.braintreecatholic.org](http://www.braintreecatholic.org) - Faith Formation page. For online registration click on RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SIGN-UP GRADES 1-10 and it will take you directly to the registration form.

### Grades 1-8

Many thanks to all who attended our Religious Education kickoff event on Sunday. It was wonderful to see everyone and hear the stories of St. Clare and St. Francis straight from the "saints" themselves! I am looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing in faith. Classes begin on Tuesday, October 3.



Classes This Week: Tuesday, October 3rd - 4PM;  
Thursday, October 5th—4PM; Next Sunday, October 8th—  
11:15AM. All classes will be held at St. Clare

### Grades 9-10 (plus)

Confirmation Classes for Grade 9  
THIS Sunday, October 1st 4:45PM at St. Clare  
Confirmation Classes for Grade 10  
NEXT Sunday, October 8th 4:45PM at St. Clare  
Classes are followed by the 6PM Mass. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Mass.



## October 1—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

The Gospel today is a great example of saying, “actions speak louder than words.”

**As you put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s blue envelopes, know that you are putting your faith into action.**

Pantry donations can be dropped off at the Collaborative office during normal business hours (M-F 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.**



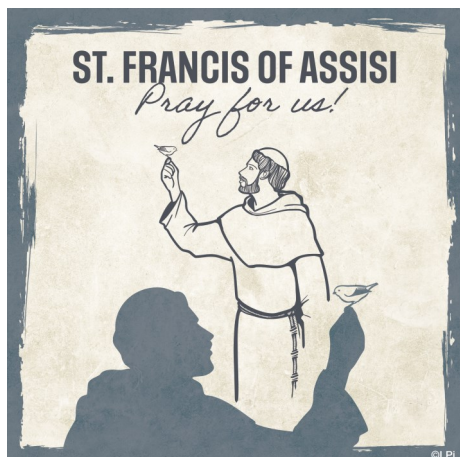
**St. Francis of Assisi**

Paul Agnew, Sr.

***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 Annual Blessing of the Animals** in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi will take place **THIS Sunday**, October 1 at **1:00PM at St. Clare AND 1:30PM at St. Francis**. Owners, pets, and pet-lovers are welcome to attend. In the interest of safety for all please keep your pets restrained or contained.



*From the  
Archdiocese of Boston*

## October 1 ~ Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In our second reading today St. Paul expresses the need for unity within the community of Philippi. “Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves...” The same concern is of importance to each parish community. If we have Christ as our companion, his presence and love will keep us united to one another. St. Paul knew that a lack of unity, signs of divisiveness or a lack of harmony erodes the spirit of a community. What is Christ asking of us so that we can be united to him in our thinking and actions? This week, pray the prayer of St. Francis, whose feast we celebrate this week: “Lord, make me, [make us] instruments of your peace.”

**Fiat**, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. The topic will be “Overcoming Fear in Responding to God’s Call.” 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.

**All Are Called; All Belong: A Workshop in Ministry with Persons with Disabilities (10/11)** - All are Called, All Belong is a free workshop on the realities of living with disabilities in the Church and society. With inspiring witnesses by author and person living with autism and Tourette’s, David Petrovic and Cassie Drahos, mother to Sophia with Down syndrome, this day will reawaken our understanding of the inherent dignity and value of all children of God and the truth that all baptized in Christ are called and belong to His Body, the Church. Mass, lunch, and more included. Register here: <https://bit.ly/ALLBELONG>

## Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats

“Project Rachel led me to a place of forgiveness and mercy. During the retreat, I realized the lasting impact of forgiveness. I knew God had forgiven me, and now I needed to forgive myself.” 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. Upcoming date November 11 from 9 AM to 5 PM. Locations are confidential. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com).

**Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass** - All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries are invited to join Cardinal Seán O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap. on Sunday, October 29th at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. The Mass includes a vow renewal and special blessing by the cardinal. Family and friends are invited to attend. Couples can register or find more information at [bit.ly/WeddingAnnivMass](https://bit.ly/WeddingAnnivMass).



**October 1, 2023 - 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**—A life-long Catholic friend of mine recently mumbled to me, “I can’t stand all these converts to the faith. They’re always rocking the boat.” It surprised me because he is dedicated to evangelization, and yet he struggles with openness to new Catholics. It made me realize how easily I close my heart to those whom I perceive to be outsiders who become new members of the Catholic community. Almost unconsciously I reduce the world to the categories of “us” and “them.” The result is that meaningful community silently shrinks in my life. Don’t we all do that to some degree?

This week Jesus’ punchy parable about the two sons blows up that black and white world. One son said he wouldn’t get to work, and then did. The other said he would, and then he did not. **“Which did the will of his father?”** asks the Lord. Like so many of us, in identifying the first as the answer, the religious authorities manifest hidden hypocrisy in refusing to follow Jesus. They — like us — intuit the correct path but simply won’t do it. The tax collectors and prostitutes are indeed following Jesus and thereby getting to work in the kingdom of God. *Everyone* is called to do God’s will regardless of the labels we may apply to them.

This week let’s reject the convenient but damaging categories of “insiders” and “outsiders.” Instead, let’s embrace a grateful attitude that Jesus is calling fallen, weak, and broken men and women like you and me. Then we begin to see that the tax collectors and prostitutes aren’t *them*. They are *us*. And Jesus wants all of us working in his boat, no matter the rocking.

Father John Muir ©LPi

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

**The Carmelite Nuns of Boston invite you to join them for A Triduum of Masses Celebrating St. Therese’s 150th Birthday.** Friday, September 29th at 7:00PM; Saturday, September 30th at 2:00PM and Sunday, October 1st at 2:00PM. All Masses will be celebrated at the Carmelite Monastery Chapel, 61 Mount Pleasant Street, Boston, MA 02119. Blessed roses will be distributed on October 1st.

### High School Open Houses

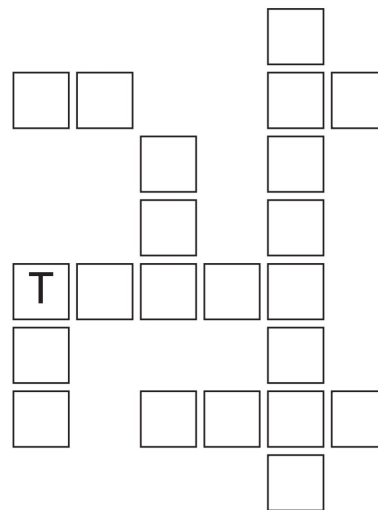
**Cardinal Spellman High School**, 738 Court Street, Brockton—Co-ed Grade 9-12. **Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 6 PM. Families are asked to register at [spellman.com/openhouse](https://spellman.com/openhouse).**

**St. Sebastian’s School**, 1191 Greendale Avenue, Needham—Boys Grades 7-12. **Thursday, October 5 at 5:30PM.** Please visit [www.stsebs.org/visit](https://www.stsebs.org/visit) for event registration and details.



## PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:  
**Go and work today in the vineyard.**



## MISSION

Show kindness to a friend. Help someone pick up a mess they made, just because you love Jesus.



BECAUSE VIBRANT  
CHURCHES MATTER

### Sharing the Gospel

Maybe you have heard that actions speak louder than words. It means that the things you do are more important than the things you say. Show kindness to others. Trust God. He wants what is best for you, so find out how to work for God. Then do what he asks.

### Prayer

God, I want to show you that I love you.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself washing the dishes.

### Mission for the Week

Show kindness to a friend. Help someone pick up a mess they made, just because you love Jesus.