

# Braintree Catholic Collaborative



## **St. Francis Church**

856 Washington Street  
Braintree, Massachusetts

### **Mass Schedule**

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

Monday –Friday: 7:00AM

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday: **12:30-1:30PM**

## **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  
Deacon Patrick Bruen, Seminarian Intern  
Mrs. Karen Lane, Director of Religious Education  
Ms. Patty Kinnally, Office Manager  
Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager  
Mr. Cecil O'Brien—Facilities  
Msgr. Robert W. Oliver, 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 **1:00PM**  
3rd Sunday of the month at St. Francis at **1:00PM**  
Please call the Collaborative Office 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 21, 2024

5:30PM Paul Agnew, Sr. 1st Anniv.

### Sunday, September 22, 2024

9:00AM Edward Marks Memorial

11:30AM William O'Sullivan Memorial

### Monday, September 23, 2024

7:00AM John & Jane Crimmins Memorial

### Tuesday, September 24, 2024

7:00AM Wildy Bazelais and  
Guerda Joseph Thanksgiving

### Wednesday, September 25, 2024

7:00AM Barbara & Robert Williamson Memorial

### Thursday, September 26, 2024

7:00AM Phyllis Keif Memorial

### Friday, September 27, 2024

7:00AM St. John Seminary

### Saturday, September 28, 2024

5:30PM Patrick Doherty 14th Anniv.

### Sunday, September 29, 2024

9:00AM Patricia Allen & Jim Lannon 1st Anniv.

11:30AM Ellen White Anniversary

**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 21, 2024

8:00AM Daniel Gillis 50th Anniv.

4:00PM Charles & Dorothy Edgerly and  
William & Barbara Lane Memorial

### Sunday, September 22, 2024

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM John F. Sullivan Memorial

6:00PM Manuel Dalomba Month's Mind

### Saturday, September 28, 2024

8:00AM Eland Poore Memorial

4:00PM Josephine Kokoros Morgan 1st Anniv.

### Sunday, September 29, 2024

7:45AM Marie Reis Memorial

10:15AM Francesco Boncaldo Memorial

6:00PM Parishioner of the Collaborative

*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 parish 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.
- **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 Knights of Columbus Council 1462...** Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church Hall.

**Please call the collaborative office for more information.**





When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic, the Catholic must make a solemn pledge that he/she will do everything possible to hand on the Catholic faith to any children born of the marriage. What is notable about that pledge is that it does not require the couple to raise the children Catholic but rather for the Catholic to do everything possible to "hand on" the faith. The concept of "handing on" the faith is essential to the Gospel. The Gospel, which means "Good News", is not simply something written down, but rather *handed* down. In fact, in Catholic Theology we say that God reveals Himself to us in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The key word there is tradition which means to hand down.

Consider for a moment how you came to know about God. It was initially by what you were told by your parents/grandparents. Before you could read you learned some of the stories of our faith namely Jesus' birth in a stable and His suffering on the cross. Faith is not learned so much as *it is caught*. It's not unlike a father whose passion for basketball is caught by one of his children rather than teaching the child how to drive. Faith is transmitted through passion, not by facts.

I mention all of this at the beginning of a **new year of religious formation** classes for our children. If the most important thing we do as a faith community is the celebration of the Eucharist, then the second most important thing we do is hand on our faith to our children. The primary teachers of the faith are parents. They assume this responsibility when they present their child for Baptism. *"You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training your child in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"*

The Church would go so far to say that parents are the best teachers of the faith. I think many parents would feel uneasy with such recognition as they do not have much confidence in their religious knowledge. Nevertheless, my experience is that they hold much more of the faith than they realize, perhaps not knowing the names of things but certainly understanding and striving to live the fundamentals. Moreso, children take cues from their parents and they imitate them. If a child sees his parents taking the

obligations of faith seriously, then he/she will be most likely to do so. The opposite is true too.

This week begins a new year of religious formation for the children of the parish. This includes preparation for First Holy Communion, Penance and Confirmation. As I stated, after the celebration of the Eucharist, forming our children in the faith is the most important thing we do. It's not too late to register your child(ren) for religious education classes. Please contact the office and we will get them signed up right away.

We are fortunate to have **Karen Lane** with us full time to coordinate all our efforts for religious formation. Even though she is full time, she cannot teach all the children by herself. Would you consider giving some of your time to teach our children???

This weekend is the **Collaborative Picnic!** I hope you are able to come. There are some tickets available at the proverbial door. My thanks to all on the committee who worked all summer to provide our parishioners with this event to celebrate the people and faith that bind our parishes together.

What a lively conversation at last Tuesday's presentation on **Catholic Faith and presidential elections!** I am grateful to all who came and contributed to the conversation. Such powerful insights!

I will offer a presentation next Monday evening, September 30 at St. Francis Parish Hall on the topic of **how the institution of the Church is structured**. People ask questions all the time about things like the difference between a bishop and archbishop, who makes all the rules in the Church? How many parishes in an archdiocese? Etc. The presentation and discussion is from 7:00-8:30pm.

Friday of this week, September 27 is the memorial of **St. Vincent de Paul**. He was a priest from rural France who lived in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. He dedicated himself to caring for the poor in small villages and towns, figuring that those in large cities had more resources. This was also the time of the Protestant Reformation when many priests had lost a sense of mission and purpose. In response he hosted many retreats for priests to recapture their zeal for ministry. He founded many institutions to care for the poor. From him we have the St. Vincent de Paul Society which is an organization within the Church that cares for temporal and spiritual needs of the poor. We are fortunate to have a chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in our collaborative. As you likely know, they hold a food pantry

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

each Thursday morning for anyone in Braintree. They also network with other charitable organizations to provide for the poor in Braintree and surrounding area. On behalf of the parish, I want to express my profound gratitude to the men and woman who comprise our St. Vincent de Paul Society and work on behalf of those in most need of help and also to our parishioners who constantly keep the food pantry well stocked. *Fr. Bob*



*From*  
*Deacon Joe MacDonald*

The comedian George Carlin, an avowed atheist, once did a routine about the Church. He premised his comedy on this belief, that when the Church couldn't come up with an answer for something they'd just say "Well, that's a mystery." He used a tone of voice that was both comedic but also emphasized his point of view.

Mr. Carlin however had a total misunderstanding of what the Church means by the word "mystery."

At the beginning of each Mass we are called to remember that we have sinned. The priest invites in this way: "As we prepare to celebrate these Sacred Mysteries let us call to mind our sins.

Now, if we define mystery the way we do an Agatha Christie novel, as a puzzle that has to be figured out, then we might fall into the same unfortunate pitfall as George Carlin. This is not what mystery means in the language of the Church.

The word we use in English, mystery, comes from the Greek word "mysterion." There is a Latin word for this, "mysterium." But in the west we also use the term "Sacrament" which defines specifically liturgical rites or rituals. In the east it is all mystery – that is something hidden.

Our Bible Study group is finishing up a book called "What Happens At Mass" by Jeremy Driscoll. He defines mystery in this way: "a mystery is a concrete something that when you bump into it, it puts you in contact with a divine reality." So, you might also say that a mystery is a concrete something in which is hidden a divine reality, but that reality is also revealed to us.

What are some of these mysteries (concrete things) that we bump into at Mass? One of these is the bread and wine in which is hidden the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ. Immediately after the consecration the priest declares "the mystery of faith." He used to say let us proclaim the mystery of faith and we would then proclaim one of the acclamations. I think this might have confused people who thought that the acclamation was the mystery. The actual mystery of faith is the Sacrament now placed on the altar, the Body and Blood of Christ. The acclamation is our response to that mystery. At Mass we hear the Word of God read in the midst of the assembly. That word made audible by the reader is a mystery. Holy Water sprinkled on the people is a concrete something revealing a divine reality. Incense; the people singing; liturgical postures like standing, sitting, kneeling; processions and much more constitute in some way



If you interested in a quick and easy way to sign up for online giving for offertory, Grand Annual, Religious Education Tuition, etc. simply scan one the QR Codes below and it will direct you to the site. If you need assistance please call the office at 781-843-1332.



What we mean by mystery. Some divine reality is being revealed to us. It often is not something that can be spoken of in so many words but something that gives us insight, something intuitive, something that occurs in our hearts not just our minds. Nearly everything we experience at Mass can be defined in this way. There is so much to gain when we celebrate these mysteries, if only we open our hearts to the many treasures the Lord reveals in unexpected ways.



### CHOIR:

The Collaborative Choir began practicing Thursday, September 19 from 6:30-8:00PM. We will meet in the choir loft at Saint Clare [change of location].

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!

I am looking forward to seeing the tried and true choir members from last year as well as new faces from both parishes in the collaborative.

## Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study resumed on September 21 at 9:00 in St. Francis Church Hall. The first week we will have a summary discussion on the book we read last spring "What Happens at Mass"

The following week we will begin our study of the Gospel of Luke and then the Acts of the Apostles.

Please bring a bible and a pen or pencil.



St. Francis of Assisi

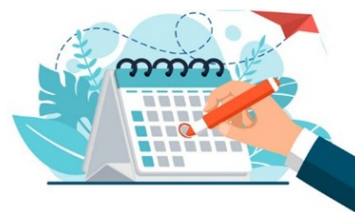
John G. Falvey

Marcia Schepici

*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.*



So sorry for the technical difficulties with RE online registration!! If you are not already registered members of the parish, the My Own Church set-up cannot be completed at this time. If you could please email me at [klane@sfab.org](mailto:klane@sfab.org) and give: child's name, grade, parent's name, phone number and email address, then please let me know what day you'd like for class (Tuesday, Thursday, or Sunday). When the system is fixed, I will assist with online registration before and after classes. Many thanks for your patience!



### Mark your calendars! RE Classes start THIS WEEK!

The first classes of RE will be as follows:

Tuesdays K-6 (4:00) and grade 7-8 (5:00) - September 24

Thursdays K-6 (4:00) and grade 7-8 (5:00) -

September 26

Sundays K-6 (11:15) and grade 10 (4:30) - September 29

Sundays grade 9 (4:30) - October 13

September 22 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time:



In today's Gospel Jesus called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will help hungry children feel the arms of Jesus around them.

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 BCC on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot. Thank you.



***"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me." - Mk 9:35b-37a***

## Readings Week of the

### Readings for the week of September 22, 2024

- Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/  
Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37
- Monday: Prv 3:27-34/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/  
Lk 8:16-18
- Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34,  
35, 44/Lk 8:19-21
- Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101,  
104, 163/Lk 9:1-6
- Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and  
9b/Lk 9:7-9
- Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/  
Lk 9:18-22
- Saturday: Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13,  
14 and 17/Lk 9:43b-45
- Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14  
(9a)/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



**October is the month of the Holy Rosary.** Please join us Mondays, October 7, 14, 21, and 28 as we pray the Scriptural Rosary and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at 6:45PM in St. Francis of Assisi Church.



*From the  
Archdiocese  
of Boston*

### September 22 ~ Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's scripture readings urge us to be aware of the effect that jealousy and selfish ambition have on a person. They lead to division, hatred and dysfunction, and to attitudes and behaviors that are counter to Gospel values. While distrust and selfish ambition are all around us, our readings today remind us of the importance of being witnesses of a different way of living and loving. St. James exhorts his community, and us as followers of Jesus, to possess the wisdom of God, which is "pure, peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconsistency or insincerity." It is this wisdom of God that we are called to bring to the world now!

**Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats (9/28, 11/16) -** Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat (9 am – 5 pm). Fall dates are Saturday, September 28 and Saturday, November 16. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact *Project Rachel* at 508.651.3100 or [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com).

### **CURSILLO - An Opportunity to Deepen Your Faith Men's and Women's Weekends**

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity. It is an encounter with Christ in a small community of the Church, in order to deepen your own faith and strengthen your ability to be witnesses of Christ in the world.

The dates for the weekends are:

**Women's Weekend: October 31 - November 3, 2024**

**Men's Weekend: December 5 - 8, 2024**

The weekends run from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon and are held at the Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich, MA. For information and registration, please check the Boston Cursillo website: [www.bostoncursillo.org](http://www.bostoncursillo.org) or email at [bostoncursillo@gmail.com](mailto:bostoncursillo@gmail.com).

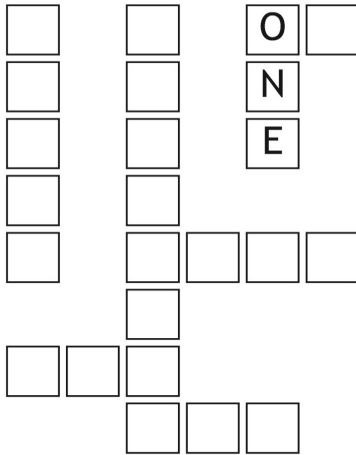
**Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass** - All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries or another special milestone are invited to a celebratory Mass on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. Couples will renew their marriage commitment and receive a special blessing. Family and friends are invited to attend. To register, visit [bit.ly/CelebrateAnniversary](https://bit.ly/CelebrateAnniversary). For more information, please email Emily Elliott at [marriageprep@rcab.org](mailto:marriageprep@rcab.org) or call 617-746-



## PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Which one of them was the greatest?



## MISSION

Ask your family members how you can help each of them this week. When you help them with a cheerful heart, God smiles.



BECAUSE VIBRANT  
CHURCHES MATTER

### Sharing the Gospel

Even though they were friends, sometimes the disciples fought with each other. In today's Gospel reading, they were fighting over who was the most important. All twelve of them wanted to be number one-the best disciple. Then Jesus told them a secret. The best disciple is the one who helps other people.

### Prayer

Dear God, when I am tempted to fight with my friends, show me ways to help them instead.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself helping someone who is younger than you.

### Mission for the Week

Ask your family members how you can help each of them this week. When you help them with a cheerful heart, God smiles.



### Xaverian Brother High School Open House

Serving Boys Grades 7 through 12

Sunday, October 27, 9AM-12PM at 800 Clapboard Street, Westwood, MA. For information call 781-801-1633 or visit the website [www.xbhs.com](http://www.xbhs.com).

### St. Sebastian School Open House

Serving Boys Grade 7-12

Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 1191 Greendale Avenue, Needham, MA. To learn more and register go to [stsebs.org/visit..](http://stsebs.org/visit..)



### St. Francis of Assisi

*Elliana Carol Arkj*

*Anton Jerome Brown, Jr.*

*Eva Grace Cifichiello*

*James Kevin Meighan*

*Grayson William Sawyer*

