

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: Following the 8AM Mass

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
Mrs. Karen Whitney, Receptionist
Msgr. Robert W. Oliver, In Residence
Deacon Michael Cavanaugh, Senior Deacon

Contact Information

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.

Mass Intentions

St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, May 10, 2025

5:30PM Nicole Sorensen 4th Anniv.

Sunday, May 11, 2025

9:00AM Happy Mother's Day

11:30AM Happy Mother's Day

Monday, May 12, 2025

7:00AM Paul B. Kelly Month's Mind

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

7:00AM

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

7:00AM

Thursday, May 15, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, May 16, 2025

7:00AM Albert & Margaret Varraso Memorial

Saturday, May 17, 2025

5:30PM Heather, Garrett & Kathleen Fitzgerald Memorial

Sunday, May 18, 2025

9:00AM Catina Napolitano and Rita MacDonald Memorial

11:30AM Margaret "Peggy" Folan and Clara Clements 1st Anniv.
1st Anniv.



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



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, May 10, 2025

8:00AM Dorothy Rocks 1st Anniv.

4:00PM Bill Fennell Memorial

Easter Sunday, May 11, 2025

7:45AM Happy Mother's Day

10:15AM Happy Mother's Day

6:00PM Marisa Federico 9th Anniv.

Saturday, May 17, 2025

8:00AM Thomas and Daniel Eggers Memorial

4:00PM Thomas & Ruth Driscoll Memorial

Sunday, May 18, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Irene Barone Memorial

6:00PM Arthur & Jean Dalton Memorial

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.
- **AI-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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Conclave is about to begin as I write these words and I figure by the time you read them we will have a new Pope. This is an exciting time for the Church. Though whoever he is may not impact our day to day lives, he binds us to St. Peter and the Apostles. In a unique way, the Pope is the sign and instrument of unity for the Church. However he preaches, teaches or writes, whatever ever policies he institutes, or whatever programs he begins, he leads the faithful to Christ. His job, if you will, is to show Christ to us and to the world.

There will be an installation Mass planned to mark the beginning of his papal ministry. To be sure, he is Pope from the moment he accepts the decision of the College of Cardinals. You will notice that he is mentioned by name in the Eucharistic Prayer of every Mass that is celebrated throughout the world (along with the name of the local bishop).

Through all the pomp and pageantry, ritual and ceremony, opinions and editorials, all of this is about knowing more personally the Risen Christ. If not then, quite frankly, it's all for nothing.

A blessing to all the mothers of the parish on this Mother's Day! Both St. Clare and St. Francis celebrate this today by the crowning of Mary (following the 10:15 and 11:30 Masses respectively).

Heartfelt congratulations to all the children of the parish who received Holy Communion for the first time this weekend and last. My thanks to Karen Lane and Maureen Lord who prepared them for this moment of grace.

This is a big week for meetings! Tuesday the finance councils will meet and Wednesday brings the Pastoral Council together. At each of the meetings I will bring to the council members the proposals to the renovation of St. Clare sanctuary. Having done that, I will then be able to speak with the parish directly and solicit feedback.

Fr. Bob



The weekend of May 3-4, 2024

St. Clare

Rowan Beauchamp
Emerson Cahoon
Lucy Charland
Hannah Crowe
Lily Cushing
Cole Dickerman
Margot Fleming
Victoria Golden
Mack Greener
Molly Guthrie
Molly Truc Hoang
Olivia Vy Hoang
Ryleigh Joyce
Beau Kendrick
Reese Lang
Emma LeVangie
Leo McGlynn
Riley Mitchell
Quinn O'Brien
Makenna Olson
Willa Cushing Pitts
Luca Quintero
Charlotte Roth
Kairi Sanden
Jaxson Sanden
Emma Steber
Brian Sweeney
Nora Whalen

St. Francis of Assisi

Quinn Campbell
Avery Keyes
Christopher Larkin
Kyle Larkin
Patrick Liuzzo
Declan McLaughlin
Xander Roche
Gabriella Solimini
Owen Wheaton

MAY 11, 2025



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

As always, we need to put today's Gospel into some context. There are many references to God as a shepherd in the Old Testament. The most famous of these is Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." Moses prayed for such a shepherd.

Then Moses said to the LORD, "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all humanity, set over the community someone who will be their leader in battle and who will lead them out and bring them in, that the LORD's community may not be like sheep without a shepherd." (Numbers 15-17)

Chapter 10, which we are reading from today, begins with Jesus talking about sheep and shepherds and how the sheep have to enter through the sheep-gate, which was a low stone wall open to the sky. The shepherd would stand guard at the entrance. That's what a good shepherd would do, but not all shepherds are good. Jesus continued, "anyone who doesn't enter by the gate was a thief and a robber." The pharisees didn't get it. Jesus was talking about them.

Jesus spells it out for them. "I am the sheep-gate." Jesus is the only means we have to access everything that is good. He came that we might have life and have it abundantly. That is a share in the divine life of God Himself. Jesus calls Himself "the Good Shepherd" the one who lays down his life for the sheep. The shepherd who goes to battle with wolves who come to devour the flock. These wolves are the corrupt leadership of the people. Even the prophets from of old recognized this.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the flock of my pasture—oracle of the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds. (Jerimiah 23:1-2)

Now at the end of the Gospel Jesus returns to the theme of shepherd. Again, to put things in context Jesus is teaching in the temple, when some of the Jews, the ones opposed to Jesus, surrounded Him. This would have been in a threatening manner. They are tired of Jesus beating around the bush and demand that He speak plainly. "Are you the Messiah?" They got more than they asked for. "My sheep hear My voice" He said. Who are these sheep? The ones who listen to Jesus and follow Him. "I give them eternal life!" Wouldn't that be something only God could do? "No one can take them out of My hand" "My Father, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. Now He

seems to make a comparison between Himself and the Father. Here's the clincher. Here is where the pharisees get an earful. Jesus is going to speak very plainly to them, and they aren't ready for this. Jesus speaks the truth that He and the Father are one! Not only is He the Messiah but He is also Divine. Like the Father He, too, is God.

This is where today's reading stops but the next line tells us what Jesus got for telling the truth for speaking plainly. "The Jews (just the ones opposed to Jesus) again picked up rocks to stone Him."

We have to be ready for such a reaction when we confess our faith. Some people aren't going to like it, even our own families. We might not be literally stoned but we can expect push back. We can expect to be ostracized. It could happen even here that we could experience violence for our beliefs.

But if we are His sheep, the ones who listen and follow Him, then we have no choice but to announce the Good News, whether that news is accepted or not. It may hurt but we aren't the first ones. Paul and Barnabas, as we saw in the first reading, were persecuted for preaching the Gospel to gentiles. Were they dismayed? Did they give up? No. They were filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit. Like wise when Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin and flogged, they didn't see this as shameful rather:

"They left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name." (Acts 5:41)

We, too, should rejoice when we receive pushback for proclaiming Christ and if we aren't proclaiming Christ and spreading the Gospel we have to ask ourselves are we really His sheep? Are we listening to His voice, who told us to go out and make disciples of all nations? Yes, it may cause some passing discomfort or something more, but it's worth it.

As we look forward to the reign of the next successor to Peter let's look at Peter's own words about this.

There is cause for rejoicing here. You may for a time have to suffer the distress of many trials; but this is so that your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuineness lead to praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ appears. Although you have never seen Him, you love Him, and without seeing you now believe in Him, and rejoice with inexpressible joy touched with glory because you are achieving faith's goal, your salvation. (1 Peter 1:6-9)



The First Communion retreats were a wonderful experience! The kids started by coloring pictures for a class quilt that will be displayed in the Religious Education Hall. Then they practiced processing into the church.



Next we reviewed the parts of the Mass and practiced all the prayers and responses we say during Mass, including when we trace a cross on our forehead, lips, and heart before the Gospel is proclaimed. We practiced singing "We Belong to God's Family," the song they will sing during the Offertory. Finally we reviewed and practiced receiving communion!



At the end of the retreat, the kids made banners that they will hang on the end of their pews. They are all very excited and ready for their big day!



Our very FIRST Vacation Bible School at St. Clare Church Hall July 14-18! Registration will begin in late May, so please stay tuned! We're going on a Road Trip! We will discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. We will "travel" to exciting destinations through engaging stories from the Navigators' Guide (the Bible.) Travelers will dive into timeless tales of faith from the Old and New Testaments. They will experience twists, turns, and excitement as they face new challenges and find strength in God's presence on this unforgettable trip!





Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." - Jn 10:27-28a

Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of May 11, 2025

- Sunday:** Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c)/
Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30
- Monday:** Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/
Jn 10:1-10
- Tuesday:** Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Jn 10:22-30
- Wednesday:** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4,
5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17
- Thursday:** Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and
27/Jn 13:16-20
- Friday:** Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/
Jn 14:1-6
- Saturday:** Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 14:7-14
- Next Sunday:** Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13
(see 1)/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



Please join us **Mondays** May 12 and 19 at 6:45PM, as we pray the Scriptural Rosary and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy in honor of our Blessed Mother. We will meet at St. Francis of Assisi church.



Beginning **9AM Tuesday, May 13th** we will begin booking Mass Intentions **through December 31, 2025. Effective July 6, 2025 the 6:00PM Mass will be moved to St. Francis of Assisi.** To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.



May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on the care and love of Jesus for us.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, May 17-18. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. We are grateful for anything you wish to donate. If you forgot or prefer not to shop, please read the St. Vincent DePaul paragraph to learn how you can help. Pantry donations can also 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.**



St. Francis of Assisi

Robert F. Zanca
Marjorie Banker
Robert A. Olson

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.



Braintree Collaborative Bereavement Group meets every Saturday at 10:30 at St. Francis. This hour-long meeting will help you bring your suffering to the Lord and get to know others who are going through something similar. No sign-up, no commitment, just come and find comfort.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



COMMUNITY MEAL: There will be a meeting for all persons interested in helping in any capacity in our new Community Meal ministry. We will outline the many ways in which you can help. This ministry will be heavily dependent on having enough volunteers so come and listen and ask whatever questions you might have regarding how you can be of service. It will be held Sunday, June 1, 2025 in St. Clare's Hall after the 10:15 Mass.

"CHURCH MERCH"



We are pleased to make available for purchase Braintree Catholic Collaborative Gear! For the time being we have three items: crew neck sweatshirt for \$45, fleece jacket for \$50 and hoodie for \$50, but we hope in the future to have more items available! You can order these items by filling out and dropping off the order form (located at the entrances of the churches or at the link below) at the Collaborative Office or Call Fr. Kevin at the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.

<https://braintreecatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/BCC-MERCH-Order-Form.htm>



From the Archdiocese of Boston

May 11 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

Again this week we hear of Paul and his companion Barnabas, speaking out boldly and with conviction about the word of God. When they met opposition among their ancestors, they took their message to the Gentile communities. The key to evangelization is in the last line in that first reading: "The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit." Their commitment grew stronger! When people turn a deaf ear to us about following Jesus' example or about the joy that our relationship with Christ gives us, we are reminded to recall the words Jesus says to us in the gospel – "My sheep hear my voice . . . and follow me." This week share the good news with one other person and notice the joy it gives you, and them.

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Why does hope not disappoint?

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:1-5).

God is almighty and generous. He will not give us less than we hope to have if what we hope for is in accord with his will. Hope in his love, mercy, salvation will be fulfilled packed down and flowing over (cf. Lk 6:38). How big is our hope? Is it big enough to boast about?

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats (5/10)

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. Spring dates are Saturday, March 15 and Saturday, May 10. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

