

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 24, 2025

5:30PM Daniel Crimmins Memorial

Sunday, May 25, 2025

9:00AM Victor & Angeline Valle Anniversary

11:30AM John Keaveney Memorial

Monday, May 26, 2025

7:00AM

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

7:00AM St. John Seminary

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

7:00AM Stacie Casey 1st Anniv.

Thursday, May 29, 2025

7:00AM

12:10PM Kathleen Crimmins Spec. Intent

5:30PM

Friday, May 30, 2025

7:00AM Nathan Watson Memorial

Saturday, May 31, 2025

5:30PM Kim and Maureen Lyons Memorial

Sunday, June 1, 2025

9:00AM Nunzio & Mary Sbordone and John Citerones Memorial

11:30AM John Townsend



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 24, 2025

8:00AM George & Carole Friedman Memorial

4:00PM Maria Soares and Maria Dalomba Memorial

Easter Sunday, May 25, 2025

7:45AM Deceased Members Tran Family Memorial

10:15AM Larry Rochon 13th Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

4:00PM

Thursday, May 29, 2025

9:00AM

Saturday, May 31, 2025

8:00AM Caroline Conboy Memorial

4:00PM Donald W. Fitzgerald Memorial

Sunday, June 1, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Vincent, Dorothy, John & Winnie Joyce Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

The Bread & Wine and Sanctuary light for the week of May 17 through 23 were donated in loving memory of Irene Barone. The Bread and Wine for the week of May 24-30 were donated in loving memory of Larry Rochon.

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...** Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church Hall.



This week marks the 1700th anniversary of the **Council of Nicea**. This is the council that laid out the framework for the Creed that we use at every Sunday Mass. We recite the Creed, of course, as a reminder of what we as the Universal Church hold as truth. The history of how the Creed came to be is fascinating. During the weeks of summer, I will use this column to look more closely at what we profess as Catholic Christians.

Background

By the beginning of the fourth century the Church had spread quite far geographically: most of Europe, north Africa and eastern Asia. Given the distances between cities and towns, as well as communication being very slow, there was not much in the way of unity when it came to the tenants of the Christian faith. There was certainly an understanding of Christ's virginal birth, teachings, miracles, passion, death and Resurrection. However there was not any kind of consensus about the nature of Jesus Christ. Some Christians believed Jesus was truly God and truly human. Others said that Jesus was half God, half human. Still others said that Jesus was a human who was adopted by God. Many were swept up by the teaching of a priest named Arius from Alexandria who claimed that Jesus was created by God to be the Christ and thus not equal with God. This may seem at first like a trivial point however if you ponder it for a while you begin to realize that if Jesus were a creature of God than the crucifixion and Resurrection were not effective for salvation. All this to say that there were many theological divisions in the Church about who Jesus was. Such divisions had an impact on civic life as there were rivalries and factions in the empire that weakened the economy.

It was Emperor Constantine himself, a convert to Christianity, who called for the council. All the bishops of the Church were invited, of which 318 participated. Among them was St. Nicholas of Christmas fame. Along with the bishops there were theologians, scholars and civic authorities. They were given a mandate by the emperor to figure out what the Church believes, once and for all. They met for over two months in the town of Nicea, which today is Iznik, Turkey. There was much debating over the points of what the Church believes. Consensus was not easily won. Nevertheless, what they produced in the way of a symbol (the outline of the Creed) was inspired by the Holy Spirit. For some biblical background you could read the 15th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles to learn how the Apostles

themselves had to wrestle with important matters of faith. More to come.....

Praying for the Pope at every Mass

One of the beautiful protocols that we have in Divine Worship is that we pray intentionally for the Pope and local bishop at every single Mass. Several priests have mentioned how startling it is not to be praying for Francis our pope and remembering to pray for Leo our pope. The small change in the Eucharistic prayer is indicative of the large change in the Church. We pray for the pope by name at Mass because he is the successor of St. Peter upon whose faith Christ built the Church. As the successor of Peter, the Pope embodies the unity of the Church. Granted it is far from a perfect unity but nevertheless there is only one Church professing one faith. This is different from some Protestant denominations and other religions in which the local congregation or region decide what to believe. There is not the same level or desire for unity which the Catholic Church holds.

All that to say, to keep the faith that binds the Church as one, the priest includes the name of the pope and local bishop in the Eucharistic Prayer at every Mass.

Memorial Day

Speaking of Popes, you may recall that **Pope Benedict** was fond of wearing red shoes under his white cassock. He explained that he did so as a reminder to himself that every step he takes as Pope is on the blood of the martyrs. I was always fascinated by this practice. Remembering those who sacrificed their lives so that we could have the opportunity for a better life is very much part of the Christian Tradition and certainly an important part of American culture. Tomorrow (Monday) we honor those men and women who sacrificed their lives for the good of our country. The number is well over a million who have died defending this country since the Revolutionary War. We hold their memory sacred and commend them to the mercy of God.

Renovation of St. Clare Sanctuary

We are closer to starting the renovation project for St. Clare sanctuary. As I have mentioned before, the raised floor on which the altar sits in the sanctuary is giving way in a few spots. The idea is to remove the steps all together and make the sanctuary all one level. This will entail tearing up all the carpeting in the sanctuary and replacing it with hardwood. This means that we will need to make the sanctuary handicap accessible which means putting in a ramp. The altar itself will be pulled forward a few feet and the tabernacle moved behind the altar. Since we are doing that much, shouldn't we paint the sanctuary? And if we are going to paint the sanctuary, lets replace the back drop for

MAY 25, 2025

the crucifix. Since some have suggested painting the whole Church and putting in new carpet in the aisles, I got prices for that as well. All of this has been discussed with the Collaborative Pastoral Council and the finance councils of both churches. They support this project. I want to bring this to the parish to see if this is even feasible. Therefore there will be two meetings next Sunday morning and one on Monday evening to look at the plan and discuss how much of it is feasible or how to break it up into smaller projects.

The meeting times are:

Sunday, June 1, 8:30 (after 7:45 Mass)

Sunday, June 1, 11:00 (after 10:15 Mass)

Monday, June 2, 7:00pm

Fr. Bob



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

If I were to ask you how many commandments there were I'm sure that everyone would say, there are Ten Commandments. Most of us know that there are ten but how many of us know what they are?

These are the commandments that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai.

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

By the time Jesus arrived on the scene these ten had expanded into 613 "mitzvot" or commands that embodied the whole of life for the Jew in the first century, everything from social justice, morals, and religion. If you had trouble remembering just the ten, how much more burdensome must it have been for Jews in the first century.

We might recall how a scribe once asked Jesus, "Teacher which commandment in the law is the greatest?" It was a multiple-choice question. He had 613 choices! Jesus narrowed it down. The first and greatest was to love God and second to love your neighbor as yourself. Everything depends on this. If we take a look at the Ten Commandments that's exactly what they say. The first three tell us how to love God and the next seven tell us how to treat our neighbors.

Today's Gospel, though short, tells us something about Jesus and about love that we might not grasp at first glance. All of this is happening at the Last Supper. Judas had just left to betray Him. Jesus knows He is going to die soon.

We have in our legal system something called a "dying declaration." When someone is about to die or believes that their death is quickly approaching our law considers anything they say to be the truth. Their statement can even be used as testimony in court. All of this is based on the idea that awareness of one's impending death adds a sense of urgency and truthfulness to one's statements. You're going to say the most important things you want people to know.

Today's Gospel is part of the Lord's dying declaration. Throughout the Gospels Jesus called the Apostles many

Ascension of the Lord

Thursday, May 28 is The Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule for the Braintree Catholic Collaborative is:

St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, May 28

7:00AM, 12:10 and 5:30PM

St. Clare

Wednesday, May 27

Vigil 4:00PM

Thursday, May 28

9AM



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. The Bereavement Group will break for the Summer after the meeting on June 21st. If you or someone you know are/is struggling with grief please call the office to arrange an in-person meeting.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:7)

things. They were students, they were friends, He called them sheep, they were the ones with little faith. Personally, I think He would have called them knuckleheads on more than one occasion. But in this passage from John's Gospel Jesus calls them something different. He calls them children. Who does that except a father?

Remember when Thomas asked for Jesus to show him the Father? Jesus said, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." Again, in the tenth Chapter of John Jesus spells it out. "The Father and I are one." In this passage he is being the Father to them, the Father who gave us those ten commandments. Who can give us commandments except for God? No one. Saint Paul tells us that "He is the image of the invisible God." (Colossians 1:15). We may have been made "in" the image and likeness of God but Jesus "is" the image of God.

This puts into perspective what Jesus tells His followers. "I give you a new commandment." Who is the Law Giver but God alone, the God who gave us those Ten Commandments. By announcing a new commandment Jesus is declaring His divinity in no uncertain terms. He is doing something only God can do.

We might ask ourselves what is so new about this? Jesus always said to love each other. We are even supposed to love our enemies. Already this is a radical way of looking at things. Yes, Jesus always told people to "love your neighbor as yourself." That isn't what He is saying here. That's what He told the crowds, the non-believers. Jesus is teaching something even more radical to the Apostles and by extension to us. We are to love as He loves. Our love must be sacrificial. It must be without bounds or boundaries. It is a love that stretches its hands out on the cross. We need to love Christ with this kind of love. We need to love our spouses and children, our friends, neighbors, and the strangers on the street with this boundless sacrificial love. Jesus stretched out His hands upon the Cross in sacrificial self-giving love for not just for His friends but for His enemies and for strangers, the people He had never met. His outstretched bloodied arms bore a love that embraced all the people that ever were and ever will be.

My friends, that is what we are called to. It is quite the challenge, but God gives us the grace to love like that if we are willing to accept it. Let us pray that we may accept the grace to love with a love that is boundless, self-sacrificing and that embraces every living man, woman, and child.

How many commandments are there? I'd say eleven.

The Braintree Catholic Collaborative Kazoo Marching Band—due to lack of response this has been tabled. We may look at again next year.



Family Fun Event

The collaborative is planning a "Family Fun Event!" On June 20th there will be a trip to Polar Park in Worcester to watch the WooSox play the Buffalo Bisons. Total cost for the trip is \$31 per person. This includes admission to the game and transportation. You can sign up using the QR code on the Flyer found at the doors of both churches or you can call the rectory to reserve your spot. There are only 50 spots and the tickets will go fast so don't wait. Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or adult. **Deadline line to reserve tickets and a seat on the bus is Monday, June 2nd.**



Jesus said to his disciples: "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." - Jn 14:26-27a

Readings *of the Week*

Readings for the week of May 25, 2025

- Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29
- Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26—16:4a
- Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11
- Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
- Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 16:16-20
Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53
- Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23
- Saturday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Lk 1:39-56
- Next Sunday: Acts 7:55-60/Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/Jn 17:20-26

The Family Faith Gathering last week was wonderful! Everyone enjoyed some food and fellowship, and while the adults learned about the new pope and what the pope does, the kids were busy with some activities of their own, learning all about the Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope.



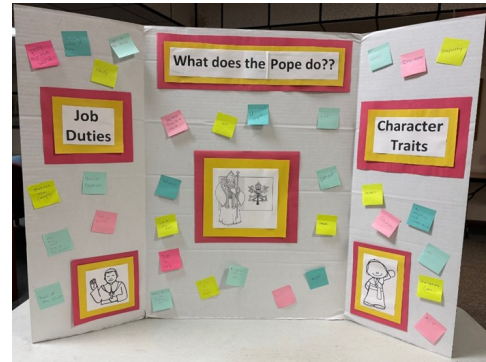
The kids learned that jubilees are marked by renewed faith. The kids “planted” a Garden of Hope, and on each flower petal they wrote something that they hope for.



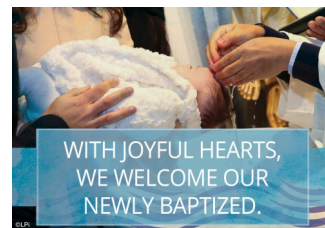
The kids took a look at the Jubilee logo, which had Pilgrims of Hope represented as people on a boat. They also discussed that the word pontiff means bridge builder, so the kids wrote their own definition of hope on a sail boat and put it under the bridge that connects Pope Francis to Pope Leo.



Finally, the kids wrote some thoughts down about what they think the Pope does, and what kind of character traits the Pope should have to perform the duties of the job.



Registration is OPEN for our very first Vacation Bible School at St. Clare Church Hall! It will be July 14-18 from 9am-1pm, with an option for extended hours from 1-5pm. VBS is open to students entering kindergarten through grade 6 in the fall, and students in grade 7-12 are welcome to volunteer as counselors! Please click on the QR code below, and email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org with any questions.



St. Clare
Daniel Christopher Howland

St. Francis of Assisi
Raedyn Ford O'Leary
Kaelan Walter O'Leary
Braelyn Rose Regan



We are now booking Mass Intentions through December 31, 2025. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.



May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

In the Gospel today, Jesus says to us: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." In the month of May, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the love and care of Jesus to the poor by assisting families, providing food, assistance with utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

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



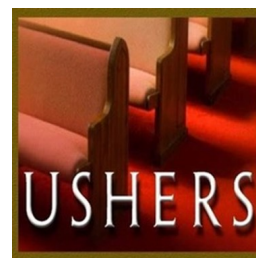
St. Francis of Assisi
Bridget Christopher

St. Clare
Paul A. Marrocco

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 Collaborative Office will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe and happy long weekend.



We are looking for a couple of people to join our Team of Ushers at the 5:30 Mass at St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday evenings.

The responsibilities include arriving around 4:45 pm to help welcome the attendees, set out the bulletins and Pilots, and help with the collection and locking up, as needed. If you can help us out it would be much appreciated.

Please call Patty at the office if interested. Thank you!



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>