

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, June 14, 2025

5:30PM Clara Grant Memorial

Sunday, June 15, 2025

9:00AM All Fathers

11:30AM All Fathers

Monday, June 16, 2025

7:00AM Laurie Melchionda 5th Anniv.

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

7:00AM Jim & Mary Kelly Memorial

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

7:00AM Carolyn Ryan 2nd Anniv.

Thursday, June 19, 2025

7:00AM Maria Paz Navarro Memorial

Friday, June 20, 2025

7:00AM Gaetano & Italia Giannandrea Memorial

Saturday, June 21, 2025

5:30PM Lorraine McGrath 4th Anniv.

Sunday, June 22, 2025

9:00AM Lillian & Joseph McCarthy, Catherine Murray and Irene Lynch Anniversary

11:30AM Daniel Crimmins Memorial



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, June 14, 2025

8:00AM Mary Lerner Memorial

4:00PM Edward Mojkowski and Marie Mojkowski 10th Anniv.
22nd Anniv.

Sunday, June 15, 2025

7:45AM All Fathers

10:15AM All Fathers

6:00PM All Fathers

Saturday, June 21, 2025

8:00AM James Burns Memorial

4:00PM Patricia A. & Daniel I. Ward Memorial

Sunday, June 22, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Joan Perkins Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners

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

Please call the collaborative office for more information.



THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY



The Sunday following Pentecost is the celebration of the central mystery of the Catholic faith: **The Trinity**. In all the activity of our faith there is an articulation of what we hold true about God: namely that God is a community of persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe this about God but yet do not understand, nor ever will. The particulars of the Trinity are far beyond the limit of the human intellect. Though many have undertaken the attempt to explain the Trinity, the best we can do is draw analogies. And, not surprisingly, throughout history there has been immense confusion about what the Church actually believes about God.

Heartfelt congratulations to Father Patrick Bruen! I was privileged to be at his ordination to the priesthood last Saturday at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. Fr. Pat was ordained with just one other priest, who was a mere 26 years old. As the Archbishop said at the beginning of his homily, "you are ordained together, but you will not retire together!". It was a gorgeous spring day in Detroit. The Cathedral is magnificent, the music spectacular and the campus was so perfectly manicured and flowered. The reception was under a tent on the cathedral grounds. I was so happy to meet his family. Fr. Pat still has his mother. Of course I met his three children, their spouses and his fifteen grandchildren. Not surprisingly, they are a gracious family. Fr. Pat said his first Mass at Divine Child Church in Dearborn. That, too, was a beautiful parish celebration. He has been assigned as the parochial vicar at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth, Michigan. His assignment begins July 1. Fr. Pat is planning to come back to Boston in September for a fund raising event at the seminary and plans to celebrate Mass here at that time.



By way of update on the St. Clare renovation: we have removed the raised platform on which sat the altar and presider's chair. The wood was rotting and crumbled as it was removed. That had to happen immediately. Also, the pews have been removed from the crying room for no other reason than we had the help to do it now.

We are keeping the crying room!

The crying room or side chapel is part of the renovation. During the renovation however, it will not be in use as we need it as a staging area for all of the tools, paint, supplies, etc. Very soon it will be locked. Like the sanctuary the crying room will be painted and carpeted. The pews will be replaced by chairs though. This will allow us to use the crying room for other purposes such as meetings or a prayer group. Let me know if you are interested in taking a pew (or part of a pew). Some people like them in their homes. I would simply ask for a donation toward the overall project.

I am grateful to all who participated in one of the three parish meetings about the renovation. Folks gave some excellent ideas and raised concerns I hadn't considered.

For the record, I want to share with you the breakdown of the budget for the project. These are all estimates, of course.

Dumpster rental	\$1000
Lumber and materials	\$5000
Sacristy door	\$2500
Crying room door	\$2500
Locks and keypads	\$1000
Scaffolding	\$1000
Hardwood for floor	\$12,000
Carpeting for aisles	\$20,000
Stone for altar	\$5000
Relocate organ	\$3000
Wiring for organ	\$2000
Paint	\$10,000
Brushes, rollers, cloths	\$2000
Finish materials	\$16,000
Electrical work	\$14,000
Exterior steps	\$16,000
Railings	\$4500
Miscellaneous materials	\$5000
Subcontractors	\$6000
Budget overrun	\$10,000
Architectural work	\$5000
Total	\$140,000

Though a great amount of money to have in your pocket, it's a relatively low cost for such a project. Cecil O'Brien our facilities manager is doing much of the work himself. As many of you know, Cecil operated his own contracting company for much of his adult life. He offered to take this on.

JUNE 15, 2025

Could you help with the cost of this project? As explained at the meetings, I don't want to undertake a major pledge drive for this relatively small project. Fortunately, we have already received a number of donations and are well on our way to meeting the goal to cover the cost. If you are in a position to help with this, I simply ask you to put your offering in an envelope that is marked "renovation". The envelope can be placed in any collection basket, mailed to the collaborative offices or brought to St. Francis Rectory. (Please do not bring the offering to St. Clare Rectory!) My hope is that raising this money will be a relatively simple undertaking. I don't think it requires a pledge over so many years as did the roof. Thanks to those who have already given a donation.

A week from Tuesday, on June 24 we will celebrate the **Midsummer's Night Nativity** to honor John the Baptist on his birthday. This major feast on the Church's calendar compliments Christmas which is exactly six months later. The evening will begin at 8:00pm at St. Clare Church. It begins outside in the setting sun and then moves inside to the candlelit Church. Throughout the course of the Mass the Church is getting progressively darker. This is to capture the mission of John the Baptist which was to decrease so that Christ may increase. There will be a lite social afterward in the hall.



Along with Trinity Sunday, today is **Father's Day**. We pray for all of our dads, living and deceased at all the Masses today as we give thanks for them.

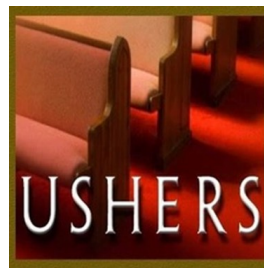
Fr. Bob



Speaking of Fathers - if you see Fr. Kevin this weekend, please wish him a Happy 40th Birthday!



The Collaborative Office will be closed on Thursday, June 19th in observance of this National Holiday. We will reopen on Friday morning.



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!



June 15: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

As we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity we also realize the mystery of how much God loves and cares for us each day. Believing in this our lives can then overflow in thanksgiving and praise.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help those who are suffering.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, June 14-15. 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.**



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.



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

Why did God make us?

If you, like me, grew up with the Baltimore Catechism I'm sure you can just rattle off the answer even after all the years.

"God made us to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him forever in the next."

Blah! Blah! Blah! We might as well be reading the obituary page in the newspaper. Our problem is, and this is most of us, that we read something, recognize the words and move on. We don't really think much about them. It means very little. They are out of our minds by the time the last word rolls off our lips.

But if we do think about it. If we chew on it for little bit, we might be surprised at what we discover. The answer to that little question, "Why did God make us?" expresses much more than we suspect. It describes something much more beautiful and profound than first meets the eye.

That simple answer describes the progression of a love relationship, an intimate love relationship. We see it in our own human interactions.

For example, a man meets a woman and is attracted to her. It might be her smile, the twinkle in her eye but there's something there that leads him to want to know her better. Likewise, there is something in him that grabs her attention too. They begin to spend time together, talking, getting to know one another. This knowledge leads to a deep affection and the wealth of this knowledge eventually leads to love. At first it might be no more than infatuation but as it grows it becomes deeper and more satisfying. Finally, it becomes what it is meant to be, "agape" a love that is self-sacrificing, one that wants to serve the needs of the other just because a love, like God's, exists between them.

But we're not talking about human relationships here are we? We're answering a question about God and why we are here. First, let's make something clear. Before there is any effort on our part, before we even acknowledge His existence, God already loves us. He loved us into existence, and He will love us eternally. He calls us first.

The first step is to know Him. How can we love someone we don't know? And so, as in human relationships we talk to the one we love. We call that prayer. Prayer takes many forms, and it may feel awkward at first, just like those first tentative conversations when we first start dating. It gets easier.

Here's a mistake many of us make. We do all the talking and don't let God get a word in edgewise. I'm sure many of us have had the experience of just sitting quietly with our spouses. No words are spoken. We sit bathing in the knowledge that our love is with us and we with them. We can do that with God too. We call it meditation or contemplation. However you decide to pray, whatever form it takes, we can take some advice from Nike – just do it! God will answer, not always in ways we expect but changes will come. Like a seed buried in the ground, we can't see it grow, we don't always feel anything, but the Good Lord waters it and cares for it until it breaks the soil, sprouts and eventually bears fruit. We can trust that this will happen.

Before long we discover that we have fallen in love. And we know that we are loved beyond anything we can imagine. This love, if we let it, continues to grow throughout our whole life. After years of this intimate love with the Divine we realize that what we had at the beginning only looked like love and what we have now doesn't reach the pinnacle of what true love is. We want more and God wants more for us. As Saint Paul reminds us,

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it even dawned in the human heart the good things God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Through prayer we have come to know God and having come to know Him we love Him. And because we love Him, we also want to serve Him, not in a master/slave way but in an "I love you. What can I do for you?" way. Let God lead you into whatever that service might be. Even if it's difficult it can still be joyful. Let us imitate Christ who came "not to be served but to serve." And whose love was poured out for the world on the Cross.

God made us to know Him and to love Him and to serve Him (and each other) and so receive that which no eye has seen in happiness with Him eternally.



St. Francis of Assisi
Fr. Robert Milling
Thomas Mahar

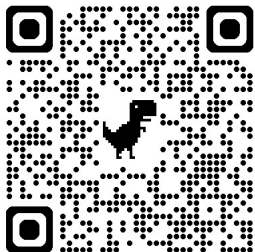
***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.***



The last days of school are near! It is a great time to review the types of prayer and start a new habit of prayer... we can show our adoration for God when we reflect on his greatness and love, we can ask God to keep us safe on trips, we can thank God for a wonderful school year, and we can praise God for the beautiful summer scenery! Whatever your summer adventures include, be sure to stay close to God through prayer!



Our very FIRST Vacation Bible School at St. Clare Church Hall will be July 14-18! Registration is open, so click on the QR code here or on any of the flyers around the churches to register! The program is for kids entering kindergarten through grade 6, and students entering grade 7-12 are welcome to volunteer to help!



We're going on a Road Trip to 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) and experience twists, turns, and excitement as we face new challenges and find strength in God's presence on this unforgettable trip!

Below is a schedule of summer activities for students in grade 7-12 - we look forward to a summer filled with faith and fun!

BRAINTREE CATHOLIC YOUTH

SUMMER WEDNESDAYS **2025**

STARTING JULY 6 THE SUNDAY 6 PM MASS IS MOVING TO ST. FRANCIS

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH AFTER MASS WILL ANNOUNCE THE WEEK PRIOR

E
NCOUNTER

**JUNE 25
JULY 30**

Pizza & Prayer
(Eucharistic Adoration)
St. Clare 6:30pm

E
VANGELIZE

**JULY 2
AUGUST 6**

Bible Study
St. Clare 6:30pm

E
VANGELIZE

**JUNE 28
JULY 14-18
AUGUST 13**

Braintree Day Parade St. Francis
10:30am-end of Parade
Vacation Bible School for Grades K-6
St. Clare 8:45AM-1:15PM
How I share the Gospel Teen Witness
Talk St. Francis 6:30pm

E
NJOY

**JUNE 20*
JULY 23
AUGUST 20**

Friday--Parish WooSox Trip
SixFlags New England- Details soon!
Mini Golf-Details Soon!

GRADES 7-12 WELCOME! **@BRAINTREECATHOLIC**

"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>



PROROME

A Spring 2026 Pilgrimage to Italy

Join Father Kevin Leaver on the Trip of a Lifetime

April 17 - 27, 2026

\$3640 land-only

We're excited to invite you and your family and friends on the trip of a lifetime next year. Not only will you see the new Pope and receive his blessing, but you also will walk in the footsteps of countless saints and martyrs, especially Saint Francis of Assisi and Clare of Assisi, our parish patrons. As the trip takes place during the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis, a special focus on Franciscan saints will be placed, especially Saint Francis, Saint Clare and Saint Padre Pio.

The itinerary features two nights in Assisi, two nights in San Giovanni Rotondo, one night in Pompeii, and four nights in Rome. Daily Mass – the cornerstone of each day – will be complemented by a rich Catholic touring program designed to bring the pilgrims face to face with the great saints, martyrs, Eucharistic Miracles and cultural heritage of Roman Catholicism. Some highlights include St. Peter's Basilica, the Papal Basilicas, the Catacombs, the Vatican Museums, the Sanctuary of St. Michael, the Amalfi Coast, and many incredible saints, churches, basilicas and holy sites throughout Italy.

Roundtrip airfare and beautiful four-star hotels will be arranged. A ProRome tour manager will accompany the group throughout the course of the trip, and private bus transportation, Catholic tour guides, all tours and tickets, daily breakfast and either daily lunch or dinner are included in the price.

The cost is \$3640 land-only. Airfare from BOS will be available in late May 2025. Register now as the trip is filling quickly! For more information or to register please visit <https://prorometours.com/braintree/> or call ProRome Tours directly at (434) 953 1112. **There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, June 18th at 6:30PM in St. Clare church hall.**



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.**



*From
the Archdiocese
of Boston*

June 15 ~ Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

We proclaim the Most Holy Trinity as a mystery of our faith. It is central to our Christian faith and life. The doctrine of the Trinity includes the truth that there are three persons in One God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While we will never fully understand this mystery in our lifetime, the creed we profess at Mass is an invitation to an ever deeper understanding of who God is and desires to be for us. The Sign of the Cross and the doxology or "Glory be ..." are two prayers that are easy to say. Use those prayers this week, and as you do so, ask the Holy Spirit to increase your faith in the Trinity.

Into the Deep - Corpus Christi Procession by Sea (6/21-6/22)

Join Archbishop Richard Henning on June 21-22 as he brings Jesus in the Eucharist to the shores of the Archdiocese of Boston from Gloucester to South Boston over Corpus Christi weekend. For more information on the schedule of stops and masses for this historic procession, visit <https://bit.ly/IntoTheDeep2025>.

World Apostolate of Fatima Annual Meeting in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (6/28)

The World Apostolate of Fatima of the Archdiocese of Boston will host its annual meeting in honor of The Immaculate Heart of Mary on June 28th from 9 AM - 3 PM at the Pastoral Center, Braintree. Fr. Elias Mary Mills, F.I. will present a talk on "The Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary - the messages of Our Lady at Fatima and Akita." For more information, please contact [Lorain Allen](#) or visit the [website](#).

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

How can I be the "sign of hope?"

- When another Christian despairs, remind him/her that our hope is in Jesus, who offers us the opportunity to go to heaven.
- Perform spiritual and corporeal works of mercy.
- Share with others who may not have a relationship with Our Lord the reason for your hope in him (cf. 1 Peter 3:15).
- Pray with Scripture passages about the Kingdom of Heaven to rediscover for yourself why you have hope.
- Matthew 18:10-14
- Matthew 13:24-33
- Matthew 13:4-50
- Luke 16:19-31