

Braintree Catholic Collaborative



St. Francis of Assisi Church

856 Washington Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:30PM

Sunday: 9:00, 11:30AM and
6:00PM effective July 6, 2025

Monday –Friday: 7:00AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 12:30-1:30PM

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, 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
Rev. Wellington Oliveira, 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

St. Clare of Assisi Church

1244 Liberty Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM

Sunday: 7:45, 10:15AM

Saturday: 8:00AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: Following the 8AM Mass

Summer Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00AM-4:00PM
Friday: 9:00-1:00

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, July 19, 2025

5:30PM Theresa Ann Smith Memorial

Sunday, July 20, 2025

9:00AM Joseph McCarthy Memorial

11:30AM Marty Tucker 20th Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, July 21, 2025

7:00AM Jimmy and David Almeida Anniversary

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

7:00AM Ann Fiore Month's Mind

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

7:00AM

Thursday, July 24, 2025

7:00AM Geraldine Gallow Month's Mind

Friday, July 25, 2025

7:00AM Eddie Trocki Spec. Intent.

Saturday, July 26, 2025

5:30PM Ann & Vincent Palombo Memorial

Sunday, July 27, 2025

9:00AM Joseph & Mary, Joseph Jr., Paul, Memorial
& SFC Jared Monti, Rita Monti
Hammerstad and Jack Riley

11:30AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

6:00PM Patrice McAndrew Kelly 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, July 19, 2025

8:00AM

4:00PM Antonio Tempesta and 34th Anniv.
Deceased Family Members

Sunday, July 20, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM James Carey Anniversary

Saturday, July 26, 2025

8:00AM

4:00PM Tindara "Rosa" Boncaldo Memorial

Sunday, July 27, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Edith Plummer 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.
- **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.



Daniel T. Tramontana & Maeve K. Gattine I



The Nicene Creed

Summer series on the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed

We come to the part of the **Nicene Creed** that discusses the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the most complex part of the Creed. You may recall from earlier bulletin columns that it was precisely a lack of cohesion on how to speak of Jesus that prompted the Emperor Constantine to convoke the council in the first place. Given the lack of timely communication there was little cohesion in the first centuries as to what the Church actually believed about Jesus Christ. Some said that he was fully God acting as a human person or was fully human but adopted to be God's Son. Given this lack of a system of belief there was tremendous tension in the Church of the early fourth century around the proper authority for determining what the Church believed. Even though there was a pope there wasn't yet a clearly articulated policy of determining what the Church held to be true.

The Nicene Creed strives to articulate the proper relationship between the persons of the Most Holy Trinity. Given that Jesus was born of Mary who conceived by the Holy Spirit, it made sense to the council leaders that God would be thought of as *Father*. However, what is absolutely crucial to the articulation, and to the Christian faith overall, is that Jesus, the second Person of the Trinity, was not *created* in the sense that you or I are created. The Creed says that the "only begotten Son of God" was with the Father before all ages, that is, before time. In other words, there was never a time that Jesus Christ did not exist. This is emphasized by the verse, "God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God."

In his Gospel and pastoral letters, St. John the Evangelist writes that "the Word became flesh". The point here is that God transcended creation and became a human being. This happened without God "giving up" divine nature. That is God maintained being-God while at the same time becoming fully human.

The Creed uses the word "*begotten*" to describe the relationship between the first and second persons of the Trinity. Begotten is the past participle of the verb "beget". We don't use the word beget so much in our contemporary parlance. It describes the action of bringing something into existence through the process of procreation. My understanding is that in past centuries *beget* referred to the

father's action in offspring whereas the mother bears a child. Someone may have a better sense of this than me. Nevertheless, the idea was to speak definitively about the "fully God-fully human" reality of Jesus Christ by showing that God was His Father and Mary his mother.

Everyone's favorite word in the creed has to be "*consubstantial*". We used to say "one in substance with the Father". That changed in the updated translation of the Roman Missal to "*consubstantial*". What does it mean? Quite simply, of the same substance. God the Father and God the Son are the same, though distinct. Whatever is the "stuff" of the Father is also the "stuff" of the Son.

Tithing Committee

As you may be aware, each week 5% of the offertory goes to a cause outside of the Collaborative. This is part of good stewardship in that we recognize that everything we have is ultimately from God and is to be shared with others. This is the spirituality that many parishioners exercise when determining how much to give to the Church or to a charity. Our offering is an expression of gratitude

I have put together a committee of parishioners from each of the parishes who will determine how that money is to be allocated. They will meet a number of times throughout the year to pray over and discuss how best to disperse the 5% of the offertory. Elsewhere in this bulletin is their brief report on how they have dispersed the money. I am very grateful to our committee: Kate Waldron, Deacon Ken Ryan, Marybeth McDonough, Tom Larner, and Laura Hamilton.



On Monday, August 9, which is the feast of our patron St. Clare of Assisi, I will have the honor of celebrating Mass at the site of the apparition at the Shrine of **Our Lady of Knock**, County Mayo, Ireland. This will be part of the pilgrimage involving several of our parishioners. If you have any particular intentions that you would like me to pray for during that Mass, please let me know!

Fr. Bob

Some Information About the Braintree Catholic Collaborative Tithing Committee

Did you know that our Collaborative tithes its weekly offering? The concept of tithing was first introduced in the Old Testament when the Israelites were required by law to give a tenth of their income to support the work of their priests, the temple, and the poor of the community. While in the New Testament it was not a strict law, Jesus repeatedly called his believers to give generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully.

The Collaborative of St. Francis and St. Clare parishes has made a commitment to answer the call of Jesus and share its weekly offering with those most in need in our archdiocese and local community. The Tithing Committee is made up of parishioners from both parishes and was established to review requests for tithe disbursements and make recommendations to our Pastor.

During the meeting of the Tithing Committee held most recently, the following recommendations were put forth:

- \$4,000 to the Archdiocese of Boston Clergy Trust:**
 The Clergy Trust's mission is to ensure that the priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others and helping us live out our faith are cared for throughout their lives. This donation is in support of their annual fundraiser which provides significant funds for the work of the Clergy Trust.
- \$1,000 to Braintree Catholic Collaborative St Vincent DePaul Society:**
 Our St. Vincent DePaul Society aids families in the parish who are in financial crisis. The group also runs and financially supports our Collaborative food pantry that is open on Thursday mornings.
- \$1,000 to the Collaborative Community Meal Program:**
 Beginning in September, our Collaborative will begin hosting a gratis meal for those in need the first Wednesday of each month in the parish hall at St. Francis. This offering will be used to purchase the food needed for the meals.
- \$500 to the Seminary Summer Vocation Program:**
 Each year the Vocation Office for the Archdiocese hosts a retreat for our seminarians preparing for priesthood. This donation will cover the cost of the retreat for two seminarians.

The Tithing Committee will meet regularly to review requests for assistance and make recommendations to the Pastor about how to best share the Collaborative offering to God's needy in our community. We'll continue to provide updates in the bulletin about all the great work our Collaborative is doing as the result of your generosity and cheerful giving.

REST IN PEACE

St. Clare
Barry McGonigle

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 2nd Annual Collaborative Picnic is scheduled for Sunday September 14th at St. Clare. Tickets will go on sale after all Masses beginning the weekend of August 23rd. More information to follow in future bulletins.

If you have any items you would like to donate for raffle/door prizes please contact the Collaborative Office.

READINGS & OBSERVANCES 2025 YEAR C

16TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME Jul 20	Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5/Col 1:24-28/ Lk 10:38-42
MONDAY Jul 21	<i>Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i> Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 12:38-42
TUESDAY Jul 22	<i>Saint Mary Magdalene</i> Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/ Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
WEDNESDAY Jul 23	<i>Saint Brigid, Religious</i> Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28/ Mt 13:1-9
THURSDAY Jul 24	<i>Saint Sharbel Makhlûf, Priest</i> Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/ Mt 13:10-17
FRIDAY Jul 25	<i>Saint James, Apostle</i> 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28
SATURDAY Jul 26	<i>Saints Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Mt 13:24-30
17TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME Jul 27	Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13

Pilot Bulletins



Monday—Thursday 9AM—4PM
Friday 9AM—1PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

THE VBS BUS HAS DEPARTED!!!

Each day we are learning about a different Bible story where someone is traveling. We are exploring the themes of the stories and connecting them to our lives today.



We began our journey by making suitcases for the road trip!

We learned that God led the Israelites through the desert with columns of smoke and lightning. The Braintree firefighters explained the link between smoke and fire, and connected the science of our candle experiment to the Bible Story!



The firefighters showed us all the safety gear they wear and use to stay safe. Everyone got a chance to sit in the driver's seat! They saw all the instruments on the dashboard and even got to turn the lights and sirens on!



We also got to see all the medical and firefighting equipment that the fire trucks carry. The firefighters showed us how the jaws of life work to rescue people from cars.



Thank you very much to the Braintree Firefighters who took time out of their day to visit VBS and teach us about what they do to keep us all safe!



The people in the Bible stories who traveled did not have GPS!! We learned that they used the sun and the stars to navigate. We made working compasses out of needles, magnets, and wax paper – they really pointed north when placed in a bowl of water! We talked about how Jesus is our spiritual compass – thank you Jesus for showing us the way!



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.

*St. Clare**Fred Ata**Vincent Bear Ferraro**Joey Lane Ferraro***July 13: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In today's Gospel, when Jesus asks "which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" the scholar of the law answered, "the one who treated him with mercy." Jesus then said, "Go and do likewise."

This week you can also "treat the poor with mercy" by putting a gift in the St. Vincent de Paul blue envelopes.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, July 19-20. 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.**

"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.html>

We are pleased and honored to provide this bulletin for the Braintree Catholic Collaborative of Saint Clare and Saint Francis of Assisi.



We want to thank the advertisers on the back of this bulletin without whom this bulletin would not be possible.



We hope you enjoy your new bulletin, which is now available online as well as in print.

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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



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