

Braintree Catholic Collaborative



*Seek what is above, where
Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
Colossians 3: 1*

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, August 2, 2025

5:30PM Richard & Margaret Keane and Daniel Barselou Memorial 4th Anniv.

Sunday, August 3, 2025

9:00AM Joseph McCarthy 6th Anniv.
11:30AM James Daly 2nd Anniv.
6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, August 4, 2025

7:00AM Ann Fiore Memorial

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

7:00AM Kathy Whalen-Giannandrea Healing

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

7:00AM Charles Beaulieu Memorial

Thursday, August 7, 2025

7:00AM Ryan Monsegue Spec. Intent.

Friday, August 8, 2025

7:00AM Angelo P. Zampine Anniversary

Saturday, August 9, 2025

5:30PM Nancy and Pamela Gorman Memorial

Sunday, August 10, 2025

9:00AM Francis H. Nehiley, Jr. 20th Anniv.
11:30AM Broughton & Dorgan Family Memorial
6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative



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, August 2, 2025

8:00AM R. Brian Johnson Memorial
4:00PM Kathryn & Augustine Murphy Memorial

Sunday, August 3, 2025

7:45AM Glenn Leite Memorial
10:15AM Ruth Busa 5th Anniv.

Saturday, August 9, 2025

8:00AM Luke Conboy Memorial
4:00PM William Bill Joyce 1st. Anniv.
Kerry Marie Joyce and Deceased Memorial
Members of the Joyce Family

Sunday, August 10, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial
10:15AM Eileen Romeo & Bruno Scanga 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 J. Tramontana & Maeve K. Gattine III
Frederick C Broughton, Jr. & Julieanne M. Flowers II
Lauren Riley and Jeeva Jacob I



The Nicene Creed

A summer series marking the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea

In last week's column I discussed the lines *for us men and for our salvation he came down from Heaven*. I want to address the use of the word "man" as it appears in this part of the Creed. There are many in the Church who find the use of the word *man* in this particular instance to be exclusive of women. The question arises why not simply use the words *human being* instead of *man*? I don't think there is a simple answer to this. Putting the question in a wider context, however, may be of some help.

The prayers we use at Mass are a translation from Latin, which is the official language of the Church. All official documents are promulgated in Latin.

When looking at any part of the Creed and trying to understand why one word is chosen over another, it is important to look at what is stated in Latin. *Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis*. The Latin word *homines* is translated into English as "man". In Latin, *homines* implies to both men and women. Many languages rely on the masculine verb when speaking of something applying to men and women. And some languages have a word that is gender neutral to apply to all people. We do not have such a word in English and the use of a masculine noun to apply to all people is falling out of use. What is happening is that many English speakers are using the third person plural (they/them) to apply to all people.

I have long wanted a word in English that could be used as a pronoun for all people or for a single person that is not exclusively masculine. All this to say, given a very long history, the Church is always concerned that there is uniformity in the parts of the Mass among all the languages. Hence *homines* is translated as man. I don't write this to argue for or against, but rather to offer a wider perspective. This is a bigger issue than just the Nicene Creed. It comes up constantly because the Church is comprised of so many language groups and translation is an ongoing cultural issue. Language represents thought and not everyone thinks the same! It is challenging to capture the right word in one language that expresses a thought in another. I remember my French professor telling us that *Bon Jour* does not mean *good morning*! It is the phrase French-speaking people use to greet each other at the

beginning of day. She warned us not to think that every word or phrase translates easily or equitably into English. It was a valued lesson that not all the world fits neatly into my language structure.

Moving on with the Creed we look at the words
*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
 he suffered death and was buried,
 and rose again on the third day
 in accordance with the Scriptures.*

*He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

These two sentences capture the essence of the *Paschal Mystery* which proclaims the way in which God saved humanity from the power of sin and death. Having taken on our human nature, God then accepted the ultimate of human suffering: betrayal, humiliation, excruciating pain, abandonment and death. How does this save humanity from the power of sin and death? Jesus' death is not the end of the mystery. By rising from the dead God demonstrates that sin and death are not the ultimate force in the world; that God is more powerful than any evil or human situation. Not only did Jesus rise from the dead, but in His Resurrected life he was no longer subject to human frailty or demise. By Ascending to His Heavenly Father, the Risen Christ makes everlasting life with God possible. This is the Paschal Mystery and we are immersed into it through Baptism.

It's worth mentioning a word as to why the pagan Roman governor is mentioned by name in the Creed. Remember that the Creed was written in the fourth century. By stating Pontius Pilate, the authors of the Creed wanted to be sure to place the Paschal Mystery in the proper historical context. The death and Resurrection of Jesus was not a myth that took place "a long, long time ago in a place far, far away". Our way of recording historical events using dates and years hadn't developed yet. To place events in history, our ancestors would mention the name of a king, emperor, governor etc. Also, by mentioning Pilate, the authors wanted to make clear that the death of Jesus was brought about by Roman authority and not by the Jewish people. The Gospels tell us that some of the Jewish leaders went to Pilate to ask him to carry out punishment. Nevertheless, it was not Jewish people who arrested, tortured and killed Jesus.

Beware of computer generation

There is a barrage of memes, tweets, videos and commentary on social media about Pope Leo, particularly about things he has said OR reported to have said. While watching a video of him speaking in English about priests, I noticed that a few words were mispronounced. These were simple Church related words that struck me as awkward. Then I realized that the video was computer generated. It

certainly looked like the Pope, and sounded like the Pope, but was not the Pope. I asked some other priests if they had noticed any such videos and they said they had. Then some parishioners mentioned they heard Pope Leo speaking about changing some parameters around ordination. I mention this to raise your awareness that you cannot assume that what is posted on social media is necessarily true. When questioning if something you see or hear as legitimate, may I suggest checking on the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops at USCCB.org, or the Archdiocese of Boston at Bostoncatholic.org, or thebostonpilot.com. For official Church teaching you cannot go wrong looking at the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Fr. Bob



*From Deacon
Joe MacDonald*

Jesus was approached by a man who it seems was not given a share of an inheritance. In the first century it was the eldest son who received the largest portion of the inheritance. The rest would be distributed to the other sons as the father had decided. It seems to me that this man was one of the younger brothers and it may be that he was left out of the will altogether. He hadn't asked for more but just a share.

Why would he go to Jesus to settle this matter? Well, to begin with, he didn't have a legal leg to stand on. Maybe his brother had become a follower of Jesus, or he just appreciated the Lord's opinions. The younger son thought that "if Jesus sides with me my brother will listen."

Jesus was not going to be sucked into this dispute, but he did have something to say. Jesus didn't speak to either brother though, instead He addressed the crowd knowing that both brothers would be also listening. Jesus gave a teaching on greed. But who was the greedy party?

The younger brother wanted more than he got. His desire for more riches, for something that wasn't even his, along with his jealousy for what his brother possessed can certainly be called greed. It seems he was guilty.

But what of the older brother? Was he greedy? I think he was at the very least stingy. He was more like the rich fool in the parable. He had more than he needed but his own kind of

greed made him want to keep it all to himself. He would certainly have had more than his brother. It would have been legal. No one would dispute that it was his to do with as he pleased. Why wouldn't he share some of it with his brother? Why should he? He could "eat, drink and be merry." There may have been some sibling dynamics that we don't know about but which we can all relate to in some way.

I think we've all seen families torn apart over an inheritance. Perhaps some of our own families. "Why did he get that? Why did she get more? I wanted that ring or that lamp?" Is any of it worth losing your family over? I don't think so.

Jesus didn't settle the dispute, but he did weigh in on it and gave both brothers something to think about. It isn't the accumulation of riches that is important – you can't take it with you. We all think we'll live forever but we never know when our end will be and all the money or possessions in the world can't change that. Death is the great equalizer. Instead of seeking riches, seek the Lord. For the past couple of weeks, we've been singing a song that ties all these weeks together. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be given unto you." God will give us everything we need, not necessarily everything we want.

If any of us find ourselves in the same situation as these two brothers, remember what Jesus tells us:

"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24)

My parents were wise. They spent every penny before they died. There was nothing to fight over. But if you have an issue with someone in your family or they have one with you, do everything you can to work it out. Swallow your pride. Consider that maybe some of it might be your fault. Don't let a love relationship be shattered by greed or pride. The longer we wait the more difficult it becomes and at some point, one or the other of you will be at the end of your life and any opportunity will be lost. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." (Matthew 6:12)



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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

THE VBS Road Trip is complete!!!



Everyone made one of a kind VBS tie dye shirts to wear on the last day!



VBS Couture!



Lots of outdoor fun and games!



On the last day we read a story about Paul who traveled to Corinth to spread the Good News of Jesus. While there, he visited with Aquila and Priscilla, who were tent makers just like Paul! Each of the kids designed their own paper tent, and we used beach towels to turn the RE Hall into a campsite!

You can't have a campout without s'mores!



To remember each stop on our incredible Road Trip, each of the kids made a Passport and the group decorated a huge map in the RE Hall!



It was a terrific week! Many thanks to all the kids who participated. And a very special thank you to the older kids who volunteered their time to be counselors – I am SO very grateful to you all! ~ Mrs. Lane



PROROME

A Spring 2026 Pilgrimage to Italy

Join Father Kevin Leaver on the Trip of a Lifetime

April 17 - 27, 2026

\$3640 land-only

Airfare: \$1334 per person (from Logan Airport):

Total Package Including Airfare: \$4974 per person.

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.

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2025 YEAR C

SUNDAY Aug 3	Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14+17/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21
MONDAY Aug 4	Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mt 14:13-21
TUESDAY Aug 5	Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
WEDNESDAY Aug 6	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36
THURSDAY Aug 7	Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 16:13-23
FRIDAY Aug 8	Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16+21/Mt 16:24-28
SATURDAY Aug 9	Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47+51/Mt 17:14-20
SUNDAY Aug 10	Wis 18:6-9/Ps 33:1+12, 18-19, 20-22/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

Pilot Bulletins



August 3: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable about the rich man who selfishly stored all his grain and goods only to die and not enjoy his abundance anyway. What we struggle all our lives to learn is that life does not consist of possessions nor our perceived security, but of being possessed by God.

This week, as you give your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you are realizing that in giving you indeed receive.

Mission Appeal—As part of the annual Missionary Co-Operative Program, Rev. Leo Shea, MM representing The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, will speak at all Masses next weekend. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies represented here in the Archdiocese of Boston. Father Shea will share stories of the missions and help us build a spiritual connection to others whose daily lives may be very different from ours. The Society of the Propagation of the Faith is the official mission agency of the Catholic Church dedicated to assisting and supporting laypeople, priests, and religious in their evangelizing missionary work. To learn more in advance, visit www.propfaithboston.org.

There will be a second collection next weekend

May our hearts and ears be opened by the Holy Spirit to support and pray for all missionaries and people they serve in the missions.

REST IN PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi

Donald W. Murray

Elena Lydon

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.



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

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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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



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