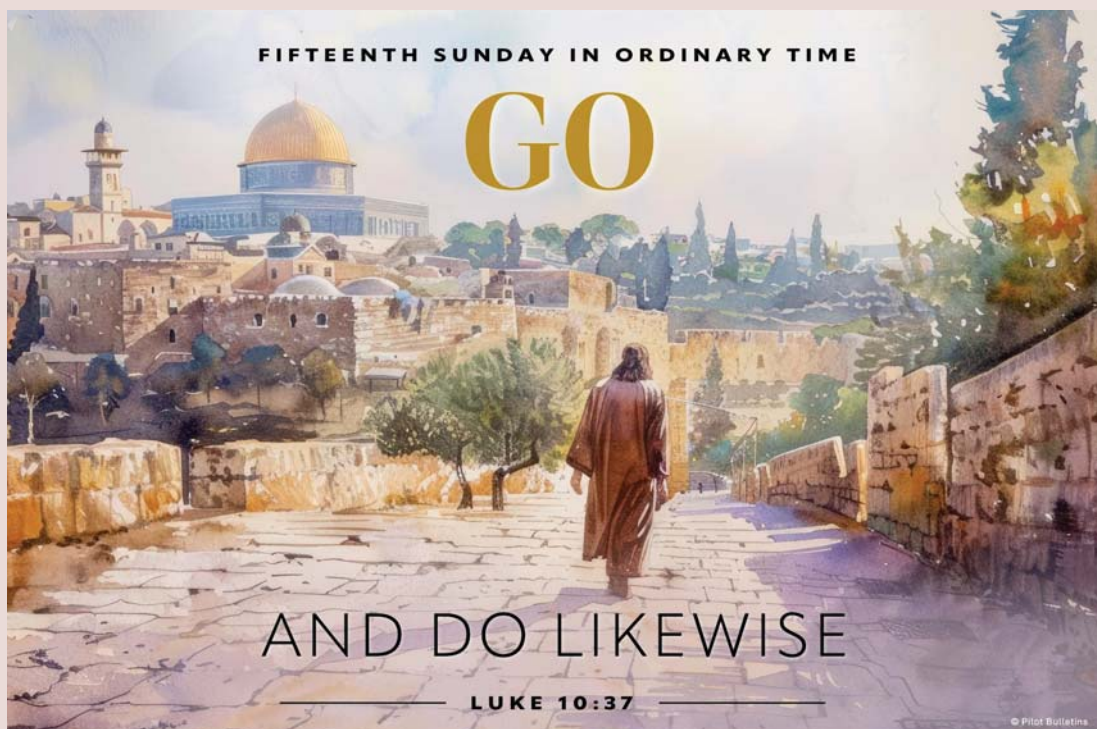


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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 12, 2025

5:30PM Mary Sullivan Anniversary

Sunday, July 13, 2025

9:00AM Francesco & Antonio Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM Edward Marks 1st Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, July 14, 2025

7:00AM Michael DiFillippo Spec. Intent.

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

7:00AM

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

7:00AM

Thursday, July 17, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, July 18, 2025

7:00AM Jane Marks Healing

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



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.



PRAY FOR
VOCATIONS

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, July 12, 2025

8:00AM Domenic Marinilli Memorial

4:00PM Arlene McDonough 13th Anniv.

Sunday, July 13, 2025

7:45AM Ellsworth Rice Memorial

10:15AM Anne Ridge 1st Anniv.

Saturday, July 19, 2025

8:00AM

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

Sunday, July 20, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM James Carey Anniversary

The Bread & Wine and Sanctuary light for the week of July 12 through 18 were donated in loving memory of Domenic Marinilli.

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.



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



Starting today and for the next three Sundays, the second reading at Mass is taken from **St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians**. This letter is dated to the sixties. Some scholars state that it was written by Paul when he was in prison. Others state it was written by a disciple of Paul shortly after his death but credited to Paul (a common practice at this time to give authority). Colassae was a merchant city in the southwest of modern day Turkey. History says that the young Church in Colassae had been visited by Michael the Archangel. It is understandable that there was a devotion, therefore, to St. Michael and to all angels because of this. For this reason, Paul's letter addresses some *cosmic* themes. Particularly, Paul makes clear that Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and humanity. Of course, the need for his strong emphasis was because many Colossians had developed a devotion almost to the point of a cult around angels. In a sense the letter sets them straight about the reality of Christ in creation in general and in the salvation of humans in particular.

So much of the Church's theology about the role of Christ in salvation comes from this letter.

The first article of the Nicene Creed is that I believe in One God. Having grown up in a nominally Judeo-Christian culture we would say, of course, there is only one God! It is hard for us to conceive that anyone would believe in multiple gods. Pagans, of course, did believe in more than one god and, as the Church was opened up to Gentiles, (non-Jewish persons) it became increasingly necessary to make this point very clear. God.

The bishops and theologians at the Council of Nicea had to wrestle with the language regarding God and the way God interacts with humanity. It took time, prayer and much debate to figure out how to talk about God in a way that was distinct from the pagans. Our allegiance is not to this god as opposed to that god, as if God were one god among many. By stating that we believe in one God we are professing that there is only one God. Where this becomes hard to accept is that our world speaks of many things as if they were divine beings such as money, fame, political power, etc. There are many things that vie for our attention, devotion and adoration. When we make a profession of faith we are saying in no uncertain terms that there is only One God, who created all that is visible and invisible. As creator, therefore, God has dominion (power and authority) over everything. Not only did God create it all, but God sustains it

all! That's an important point for Christians. Many of the architects of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution would profess faith in one God, and acknowledge God as creator. They would stop short, though, of saying that God *sustains* it all. As the Creed moves along, it will articulate the Incarnation, that is the mystery of God transcending creation to take on our human nature in the person of Jesus Christ.

Some updates...

- The renovation at St. Clare is well underway. It will take many months. During that time we will adjust the sanctuary layout as is needed given whatever part of the renovation is happening that week. Thanks to all who have contributed to this project.
- Where are the railings??? They have been ordered and finished, as I understand. They need a stretch of dry weather to get them in. Hopefully this week.
- The kitchen in St. Francis Parish Hall has been completed and, by the time you read this, should have been inspected by the Board of Health. So many parishioners have been working hard to make it possible for us to offer a hot meal to those who are hungry. Thanks to them all. The volunteers are having a "practice supper" this week so they can determine the best set up to do this.
- A number of people, including some on the Pastoral Council, have spoken about "dead spots" with the sound system in St. Francis Church. The plan is to install two small speakers under the choir loft. It's not a large job but yet still rather costly. It is on the "to-do" list. Having done work on the kitchen, and paid off the new compressor for the air conditioner, we need to let the reserves build up a bit before taking on a new project.

Fr. Bob

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2025 YEAR C

SUNDAY Jul 13	Dt 30:10-14/Col 1:15-20/Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37/Lk 10:25-37
MONDAY Jul 14	Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Mt 10:34—11:1
TUESDAY Jul 15	Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 11:20-24
WEDNESDAY Jul 16	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27
THURSDAY Jul 17	Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1+5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/Mt 11:28-30
FRIDAY Jul 18	Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15+16bc, 17-18/Mt 12:1-8
SATURDAY Jul 19	Ex 12:37-42/Ps 136:1+23-24, 10-12, 13-15/Mt 12:14-21
SUNDAY Jul 20	Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

This week we read from Luke's Gospel the story of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10:25-37) It is such a familiar and popular parable that one might assume that it's in all four Gospels. But this particular parable is unique to Luke. It's not found anywhere else.

I'd like to try and break open these passages for you if I may. First, we have a scribe, a scholar of the law, a lawyer who approached Jesus with a question. It was likely an attempt to trick Jesus so as to embarrass Him in front of his followers. Jesus isn't one to fall into traps, so He flips the script and answers the question with a question. The scribe is now off balance but answers correctly with the "Shema" which is the central invocation in Jewish morning and evening prayers.

*"Hear O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!
Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God,
with all your heart,
with all your whole being,
with all your whole strength" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)
and with all your mind,
And your neighbor as yourself."*

To this he adds the piece about loving your neighbor. He got this from the book of Leviticus.

"Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your own people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18)

A closer look at that verse and we come to realize who in that culture was considered a neighbor. It was your own people, the Jewish people and no one else. I doubt that's what God intended but that is the way it was interpreted. And the scribe, the "expert" with the intent of justifying himself asks Jesus "who is my neighbor." That question is just the opening Jesus was waiting for.

This time Jesus didn't answer a question with a question He answered with story, a parable. A (Jewish) man is robbed, beaten, and left to die. Did the priest help him? No. He actually crossed the road to avoid him. The Levite did the same thing and passed on the other side of the road. At this point Jesus is about to change how the ancient Jewish people defined "neighbor."

A Samaritan happened to come by. The Jews wanted nothing to do with Samaritans, they were considered heretics and were treated like lepers. Likewise, Samaritans

didn't much like the Jews either.

But this outsider saw the poor man on the side of the road and was moved with pity and bound up the wounds of the man and brought him to an inn paying for the man's care and promising to come back if the money he left wasn't sufficient. This would have astounded the people who heard it. A Samaritan? He was the hero? Can you imagine a Ukrainian coming across a wounded Russian soldier, binding his wounds, and taking him to safety? It would be shocking. It would also be inspiring.

The priest and the Levite both knew who their neighbor was and didn't lift a finger to help. They didn't show him love. It was the outcast, the foreigner who recognized that even this Jewish man was his neighbor, and he had compassion for him. He treated him with love when no one else did.

Even the scribe had to admit that "the one who treated him with mercy" was the real neighbor. But he still couldn't get it past his lips that it was a Samaritan, such was his deep seated prejudice.

This parable isn't just about someone who did the right thing and someone who didn't. Jesus took what was a question about a legal obligation "who should I love" and transformed it into heart felt generosity "who can I love today."

Let us follow the instruction that Jesus gave to the scribe "Go and do the same."

REST IN PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi

Mary McCarthy

St. Clare

William Smith

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

Last week we had our first Teen Bible Study. We read the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday from three different translations to compare and contrast them. Father Kevin then read from a Catholic commentary on scripture and we discussed how to apply that Gospel to our lives. This activity made listening to the Gospel the next Sunday so much more meaningful! Having been familiar with the story, it was easier to follow along and connect to the homily. We will have another Teen Bible Study on Wednesday, August 6 at 6:30 in the St. Clare Hall – all are welcome!

You don't have to have a Missal at home to preview the readings before each Sunday Mass. You can go to <https://bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar> and select a date. This website, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, not only has the daily/Sunday readings, but you can explore the Bible by the book titles (for example, the book of Wisdom or the Gospel of Luke) You can also learn about the Jubilee Year, check out some Catholic podcasts, and much more. It is a wonderful resource!



**Tips to introduce the Bible to younger kids:

- * Use Children's Bibles (there are several in the Kid's Library downstairs at St. Clare that you are welcome to borrow anytime!)
- * Start with stories that line up with the Liturgical season, or those that interest your child
- * Use visuals (discuss the pictures in the book and look up maps or pictures online)
- * Encourage questions - if you don't know the answers, look them up together or ask a priest! Father Bob and Father Kevin love answering questions!!
- * Make connections (help kids see how Biblical principles apply to their lives, ask them how they would feel or what they would do if they were there in the story)



****By making Bible reading an enjoyable and meaningful experience, you can help children develop a lifelong love for God's Word!**

THE BUS IS LEAVING FOR VBS!!! The program is THIS week, July 14-18 from 9:00-1:00. If your child is interested but cannot attend all 5 days, they can come on days that work. Or, they can come one day and give it a try, and continue if they'd like. Email klane@sfab.org with any questions, and feel free to stop by!



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

July 23—Six Flags New England (*details to follow*)

July 30—Pizza and Prayer—St. Clare 6:30PM

August 6—Bible Study—St. Clare—6:30PM

August 13—How I Share the Gospel Teen Witness Talk
St. Francis 6:30PM

August 20—Mini Golf—(details to follow).

CODE - BREAKER!

The sentence below is to be found in one of today's readings. Can you break the code and write in the sentence?

Here are two clues:

$I = E$ and $W = S$.

Crossword solution from last week



GLVMWX NIWYW MW XLI

MQEKI SJ XLI MRZMWMFPI

KSH, XLI JMVWX - FSVR SJ

EPP GVIEXYVIW.

ANSWER Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creatures.



PROROME

A Spring 2026 Pilgrimage to Italy

Join Father Kevin Leaver on the Trip of a Lifetime

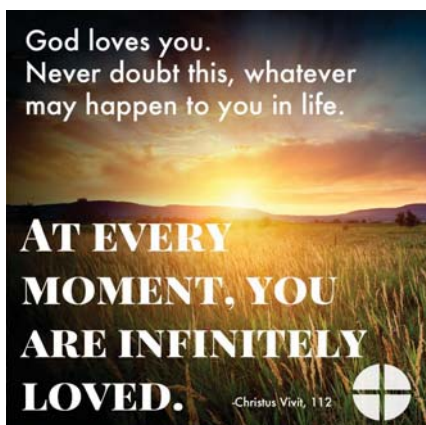
April 17 - 27, 2026**\$3640 land-only**

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.

**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 next 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.



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