

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 26, 2025

5:30PM Ann & Vincent Palombo Memorial

Sunday, July 27, 2025

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

11:30AM James Carey Anniversary

6:00PM Patrice McAndrew Kelly Memorial

Monday, July 28, 2025

7:00AM Special Intention Healing

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

7:00AM Annie Mullen 9th Anniv.

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

7:00AM Daniel Crimmins Memorial

Thursday, July 31, 2025

7:00AM Charles Ray 3rd Anniv.

Friday, August 1, 2025

7:00AM Simon Tran 3rd Anniv.

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



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 26, 2025

8:00AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

4:00PM Tindara "Rosa" Boncaldo Memorial

Sunday, July 27, 2025

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Edith Plummer Memorial

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.

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 II
Frederick C Boughton, Jr. & Julianne M. Flowers I



For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.

These two sentences are the most important of the entire Nicene Creed as they express the central mystery of the Christian faith: the incarnation. Quite simply, the word comes from the Latin meaning to be put in the flesh. In essence, the mystery of the Incarnation is how and why God transcended all of creation to become human AND by the fullness of His humanity and divinity, redeem the rest of humanity. Another way to say it is that the second person of the Trinity took upon Himself a human nature without giving up any part of His divine nature.

To get more into the weeds of the mystery, to redeem, in this case, means to restore the relationship between God and humanity that was ruptured by the sin of our first parents. The Book of Genesis tells the story of the man and woman eating the fruit of the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden. The free choice to disobey God is what ushered sin into the world. Since that time, humanity has been aware of the abyss between itself and God. The Hebrew people (and other cultures) tried to bridge the gap by offering sacrifices to God. This idea of offering sacrifice is essential to appreciating the Incarnation. For thousands of years the Hebrew people felt that God would forgive sins and bestow favors based on what was offered in sacrifice. In fact there are several places in the Torah that prescribed clearly what had to be sacrificed for the forgiveness of particular sins or to win God's favor for a particular request.

None of the ancient sacrifices ever fully accomplished the desired outcome. The Hebrews recognized that they could never adequately bridge the gap with God or have the kind of access to God they long hoped for. By taking on a human nature in the Incarnation, God rectified the situation by offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice which would render unnecessary any further sacrifices. By the sacrifice of the cross and the subsequent Resurrection, God demonstrated once and for all that divine power is more powerful than any sin.

The Incarnation is not simply a "leap from Heaven" but involves a human conception and birth. We are very careful in the Nicene Creed to recognize that Mary was a virgin at the time of Jesus' birth. This is significant in that it is a recognition that the redemption of the human race

depends on the cooperation of humanity. God could have been incarnated in any number of ways, yet chose to be conceived and brought to full term in the womb of a mother like every other person. Had Jesus not been conceived and born of a woman then one could argue that Jesus was not fully human. This was one of the heresies that the proclamation of the Nicene Creed sought to address. Stating Mary was a virgin is an essential part of understanding that her child was not conceived in a typical way. We believe, of course, that this happened through the power of the Holy Spirit. If this was not the case, then we are not truly saved from the power of sin.

There is a beautiful gesture at Mass during the Creed. When we get to the words *For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit was born of the Virgin Mary and became man*, we bow. By bowing as we say these words we are reminding ourselves of the significance of this mystery in the whole of our Christian lives. You will note that in the missalette, there are instructions to bow reverently when pronouncing the Incarnation.

Fr. Bob

REST IN PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi

Cecilia O'Brien

Eileen Lydon

Linda Porter

Lorraine Patrician

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2025 YEAR C

SUNDAY Jul 27	Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13
MONDAY Jul 28	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Mt 13:31-35
TUESDAY Jul 29	Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
WEDNESDAY Jul 30	Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46
THURSDAY Jul 31	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a+8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53
FRIDAY Aug 1	Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6ab, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58
SATURDAY Aug 2	Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12
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



*From Deacon
Joe MacDonald*

We read today that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. And He did. We still use this prayer today and call it the Lord's prayer.

What can we learn from the Lord's Prayer. The first thing that strikes me is that we are to call God "Father" or "Abba" a word that is closer in meaning to our word Daddy. Jesus has taught us that we have an intimate relationship with God. It's one of family. God invites us to be His family.

Then we rightly call God Holy – the Holiest in fact and we say this in relation to His Name. "Holy is your Name." Why is that important? It's important because the Jewish people could not say God's name "YHWH". It was too holy, too sacred for mortal men and women to utter. Instead, they called him "Adonai" or what we translate as Lord. Importantly, in Hebrew the word "name" meant much more than just what people call you. It meant the totality of your character, mind and heart and being. People who had never heard of the Hebrew God may have still hallowed His name in their own way of understanding.

We can see that the Lord's Prayer is divided into two parts. Before we ask for anything for ourselves, our daily bread; forgiveness of sins; and deliverance from evil, we have rightly placed God first and given Him honor. This is a pattern of prayer that Jesus has given us not just in this prayer but also to use in all our prayer. First honor God and acknowledge that He is our sovereign then after giving God due praise and honor we can ask for something for ourselves.

If we find ourselves having a difficult time praying, follow that pattern. Praise God first then petition Him for help. God first, we come second.

Sometimes we think that our prayers are a private matter between us and God; between me and God. And it is true that sometimes it is. And it is important that we have that personal prayer time with the Lord. But not all prayer is that way.

I have talked to many people who no longer go to church. One reason they give for this is that they don't need the "church" to pray to God. They don't need to pray with other people to be spiritual.

This is not the lesson of the Lord's Prayer. This is not a private prayer, although we often say it privately. Jesus didn't give us a prayer that is just for ourselves. He gave us

something to pray with each other. He gave us a community prayer and by doing so He teaches us that praying in community is an important part of our spiritual lives. That it is an important part of our relationship with the Living God.

- Jesus didn't teach the disciples the "My Father, who art in heaven" - it's the OUR Father.
- Jesus didn't teach us to pray for my own needs but for "our" needs. Give us this day our daily Bread." It's not "my daily bread." It's not "give me."
- In the prayer that Jesus taught, it's "forgive us" – not "forgive me."
- He leads US away from temptation and delivers US from evil.

Some prayer is private, between me and God. But if that takes on a life of its own outside the community of believers, we are actually driving a wedge into our relationship with the Lord. We need each other to support us on our journey; to pray for each other; encourage one another to be one with each other.

Jesus showed us this in other ways as well.

- He gathered a community of apostles and disciples around him, people who lived, worked and prayed together.
- He sent out the disciples to preach and heal not individually but in pairs.
- He founded on the rock of Peter not a loosely connected bunch of individuals but a Church.
- We believe in the communion of saints – that is a holy community of saints – past, present and to come.

To separate ourselves from the Church or to separate ourselves from each other, to refuse to see the dignity in each person – in any way, is to separate ourselves from Christ. As we pray the Lord's prayer at Mass or with the Hail Mary in our rosaries, or as we say our prayers before we go to bed, let's keep in mind that our prayer is one of community and for the well-being of us all.



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 BUS CONTINUES!!!



We read the story about when Mary traveled to visit her cousin Elizabeth. We talked about how the Rosary is a devotion to Mary. Jackson taught us how to pray the Rosary and we recited a decade together.



We made friendship bracelets - one for ourselves and one to give to a friend (or cousin)



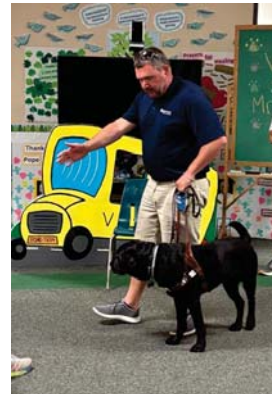
We played a Bible Trivia game, and ended the game with some scooter races!



Jackson showed the kids the sacred objects that we see in the church and during the Mass. The kids did a scavenger hunt in the church - they used a list and clipboard to find and check off the objects as they found them!



We read the story about a lonely tax collector named Zacchaeus. Jesus befriends him and his kindness inspires Zacchaeus to change his ways and join the community of God's kingdom. We had some very special visitors who taught us about kindness and teamwork, Kevin Trainor and his guide dog Jason!!!



Mr. Trainor taught us how guide dogs (and their people) are trained, and he demonstrated some of the verbal and hand signals he uses to navigate with Jason! We learned that we should not pet or even talk to service animals when they are working so that they can concentrate on their important job!

After the demonstration, Mr. Trainor took Jason's harness off. This meant that Jason was no longer on duty so the kids all got to pet him and give him treats!



After Mr. Trainor and Jason went back to work, we made some origami dogs - some to keep, and some to put on a thank you card that we will send to them!



PROROME

A Spring 2026 Pilgrimage to Italy

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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.

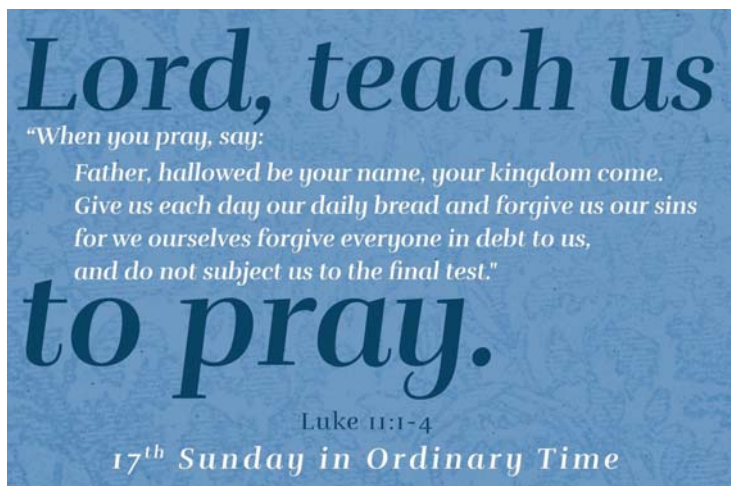
Roundtrip airfare and beautiful four-star hotels will be arranged. A ProRome tour manager will accompany the group throughout the course of the trip, and private bus transportation, Catholic tour guides, all tours and tickets, daily breakfast and either daily lunch or dinner are included in the price.

Updated pricing: Land Only: \$3640 per person; Airfare: \$1334 per person (from Logan Airport); Total Package Including Airfare: \$4974 per person. 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. Francis of Assisi**Sophia Florence Calderin**Kinsley Paul Hynes**Violet Grace Oliva***July 27: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that God is our "Father" and just as a parent's love for their children is unlimited, so is God's love and care for us unlimited. **In the month of July, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing food, financial assistance for 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.**

**"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.



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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



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