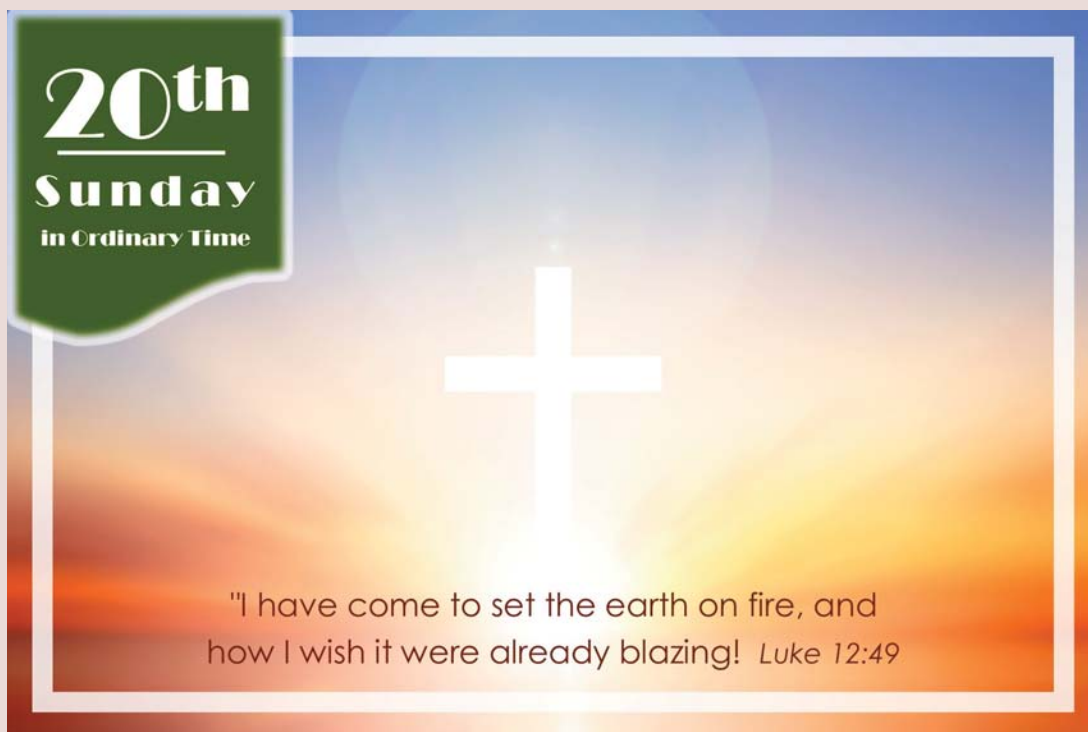


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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, August 16, 2025

5:30PM Denis O'Brien and 6th Anniv
Anne O'Brien and Hazel Hartigan 5th Anniv.

Sunday, August 17, 2025

9:00AM Elisabetta & Lilla Candelieri Memorial
11:30AM Ann & Tom Glynn Memorial
6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, August 18, 2025

7:00AM Natalie, Robert, John & Shannon Memorial
Faherty

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

7:00AM

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

7:00AM John & Mary Faherty Memorial

Thursday, August 21, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, August 22, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, August 23, 2025

5:30PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Sunday, August 24, 2025

9:00AM Brian Sampson Anniversary
11:30AM Frances Salvucci Memorial
6:00PM Peter J. Forbes 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, August 16, 2025

8:00AM Bruce Basse Memorial
4:00PM Patrick Flanagan, BPD Memorial

Sunday, August 17, 2025

7:45AM
10:15AM Carmella Barone 4th Anniv.

Saturday, August 23, 2025

8:00AM Rev. James Lerner Memorial
4:00PM Thomas H. Byron 4th Anniv.

Sunday, August 24, 2025

7:45AM
10:15AM Manuel Dalomba and 1st Anniv.
Elizabeth Soares 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.



Lauren Riley and Jeeva Jacob III
Casey Elijah Kelly & Kimberly Robin Morgan II



The Nicene Creed

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

You may recall from the introduction to this series that much of what prompted the Council of Nicea was the challenge of how to talk about the Most Holy Trinity. There were so many “camps” of what kind of language to use in describing the Trinity that it caused major rifts in the Church. It’s hard for us to appreciate now what that was like because we have been formed with a consistent language about God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is quite precise in the language. Not only is it a good resource to understand Church teaching but is also good fodder for prayer. The relationship with God the Father and God the Son is God the Holy Spirit. I find it helpful to think about the sun at the center of our solar system. The sun is roughly 92 million miles away. Given that distance it takes its light 8 minutes to reach the earth. What we see in the sky, therefore, is not actually the sun. We can’t see the sun. It’s too far away. What we can see, however, is an image of the sun and a perfect image at that. This is like God the Father and God the Son. The Son is distinct from the Father but yet the perfect representation of Him. Back to the sun. When the light of the sun reaches the earth it illuminates the entire atmosphere, giving its energy and warmth. This is much like God the Holy Spirit. Distinct from the Father and the Son in a similar as solar light, radiation and heat are distinct from the actual sun and its perfect representation.

We say we believe that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father AND the Son. This is probably the most controversial line in the Creed. It was this point that ultimately lead to the great schism in the Church in the year 1054 splitting the Church into two parts: the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church says that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son. What is the difference you may ask? Well, the greatest minds in Christianity have been asking that question for over a thousand years. The difference is the way each person of the Trinity relates to each other. Though that was

the theological point of the division, there were political issues at play as well, such as who has the ultimate authority to make such decisions about dogma.

Sadly, to this day, the split continues. There is the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Churches. Hopefully some day soon there may be a formal and sacramental reconciliation. The two parts of the Church are very close indeed. Within days of his installation, Pope Leo met with leaders of the Orthodox Churches.

The Creed states that the Holy Spirit has spoken through the prophets. I like this line because it makes clear that the Holy Spirit didn’t come about after Christ’s death and Resurrection. The Holy Spirit has always been. Eternal with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit was very active before the birth of Jesus by inspiring the prophets of old to speak about the coming of a Savior.



Braintree pilgrims having celebrated Mass for parishioners of St Francis and St Clare Parishes at the apparition site at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Co. Mayo, Ireland. Monday, August 11.

**Jen Walsh, Joe and Rose Doran,
Linda and Bob Muldoon, Fr Bob, Kim Kelley.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2025 YEAR C

SUNDAY Aug 17	Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53
MONDAY Aug 18	Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab+44/Mt 19:16-22
TUESDAY Aug 19	Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30
WEDNESDAY Aug 20	Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16
THURSDAY Aug 21	Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14
FRIDAY Aug 22	Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40
SATURDAY Aug 23	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12
SUNDAY Aug 24	Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30



*From Deacon
Joe MacDonald*

At first glance, today's Gospel might seem a little brutal, especially coming from the mouth of Jesus. "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" The whole passage might make us feel a little unsettled, nervous and anxious. Is Jesus talking about destroying the earth like General Zod in DC's "Man of Steel?" It kind of sounds that way.

The fact of the matter is that fire was seen as a powerful symbol of God's presence in biblical times and this is the way we need to read it today. There are several examples of this.

1. **The burning bush.** We find this in the book of Exodus when God calls Moses to set His people free. God grabs his attention with a bush that is ablaze but is not consumed by the fire. "There the angel of the Lord appeared to him as fire flaming out of a bush. When he looked, although the bush was on fire, it was not being consumed. So, Moses decided, "I must turn aside to look at this remarkable sight. Why does the bush not burn up?" When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look, God called out to him from the bush: Moses! Moses! He answered, "Here I am." God said: Do not come near! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. (Exodus 3:2-4)
2. **The Pillar of Fire guiding Israel during the Exodus.** "By day, the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people." (Exodus 13:21-22)
3. **God's presence when Moses and the Israelites came to Mount Sinai.** "Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently." (Exodus 19:18)

There are several other Old Testament examples of this you can read for yourself these include: Leviticus 9:23-24; 2 Chronicles 7:1; 1 Kings 18:36-39; 2 Kings 2:11; and 2 Kings 2:11.

In the New Testament there is the example taken from the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles where the Holy Spirit is seen descending upon the Apostles as tongues of

fire.

"When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." (Acts 2:1-4)

It is clear that in the Gospel Jesus is not calling down destruction on the earth, rather He is waiting for the day when God's presence covers the whole of the earth and consumes humanity in the fire of His love.

Here's the thing, not everyone wants to be consumed by God's love or they're so distracted by the things of this world that they can't recognize it or even believe it is possible. Jesus is the greatest sign of God's love. He was willing to suffer and die in our place on the Cross. It's easy to say but it was brutal. This is the baptism that He talks about in the Gospel today. It is a baptism of fire. It was Christ's own faith in the Father made it possible to undergo such torture for us. From today's Psalm we read:

"The Lord heard my cry. He drew me out of the pit of destruction." (Psalm 40:3)

It was difficult for Jesus to follow the will of the Father. He knew what was coming. He knew that what he taught would alienate many powerful people. Some would follow and some would not.

Those who would follow Him would not have it easy either and would also alienate many people, friends and even family for the sake of the Gospel. The Gospel makes this clear today. If we follow Christ (not just call ourselves Christian) but spread the Good News among our family, friends, and neighbors without fear we're going to lose friends, some who are most dear to us.

If we are to be courageous witnesses to Christ there will be consequences. But we have to decide what is more important: union with God or union with anyone else including family and friends. Most of us aren't going to have to lay down our lives for the faith but we may suffer ridicule and more subtle forms of persecution for following Christ. It's our choice. Let's make the right choice.





Are you ready for a new Religious Education Year?

The schedules will be announced soon! If you haven't yet registered for classes, please go to the Faith Formation page of the Collaborative Website at <https://braintreecatholic.org/faith-formation/>

where you can print out the registration form. After you fill it out, you can return it by dropping it in the collection basket at any Mass or mail it to the Collaborative Office at 856 Washington Street. Looking forward to an awesome year of faith, learning, and fun!

Mark your calendars for some special upcoming events to kick off our new RE Year...

Sunday, September 7

- * During the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare we will have the Backpack Blessing! All students, teachers, and staff are welcome to bring their backpacks/computer bags to be blessed and receive a special tag for their school bags!
 - * After the Mass, we will have a Family Faith Gathering in the Hall from 11:15-12:15. We will be celebrating the canonization of the first millennial Saint - Carlo Acutis, and officially unveiling the Carlo Acutis Teen Room!
- 
- A blue and orange backpack with a yellow buckle, filled with colorful books, positioned to the right of the text.



Sunday, September 14

- * After the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare will be the Second Annual Collaborative Picnic! There will be a visit from the Braintree Fire Department, lots of activities and crafts for kids, and even some raffle items especially for kids! Join us for a fun day!



Sunday, September 21

- * During the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare will be the Blessing of the Catechists! Being a catechist is a wonderful way to share your time and talent in our collaborative. New Catechists are needed, so please email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org if you are interested!

- * During the Mass the Children's Choir will be back! We are looking for some more singers! We meet at 9:45 each Sunday. There is no commitment necessary so you can come whenever you are available! Please email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org if you are interested in joining us!
- * After the Mass will be the first Sunday RE Class in the Hall!



St. Francis of Assisi
Charlotte Marguerite Hamilton
Hayden Marie Patti

REST IN
PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi
Marie A. Young
George E. Billotte, Jr.
David Good

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 thru Thursday 9-4
Friday 9-1
Closed Friday, August 29th

**August 17: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In today's Gospel Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it be accomplished! **Your gift to the Society to assist those suffering in poverty will help set the earth on fire with the of God's love.**



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, August 16-17. 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.**



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

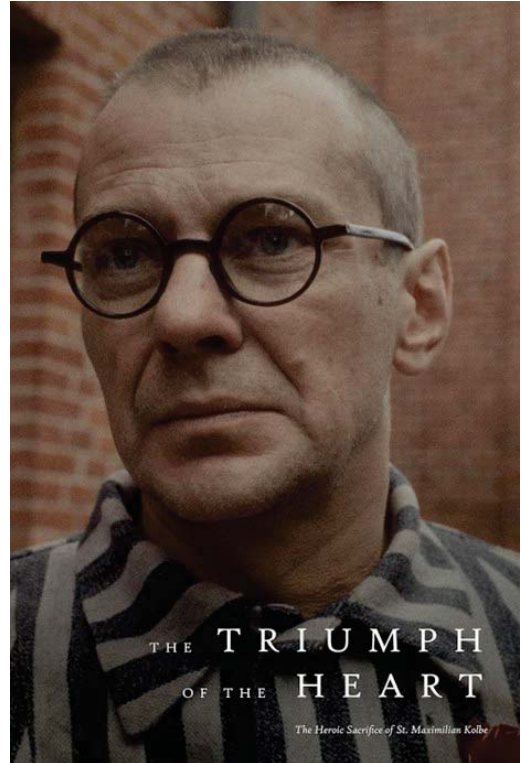
of August 23rd. More information to follow in future bulletins. If you have any items you would like to donate for raffle/door prizes please contact the Collaborative Office.

"CHURCH MERCH"

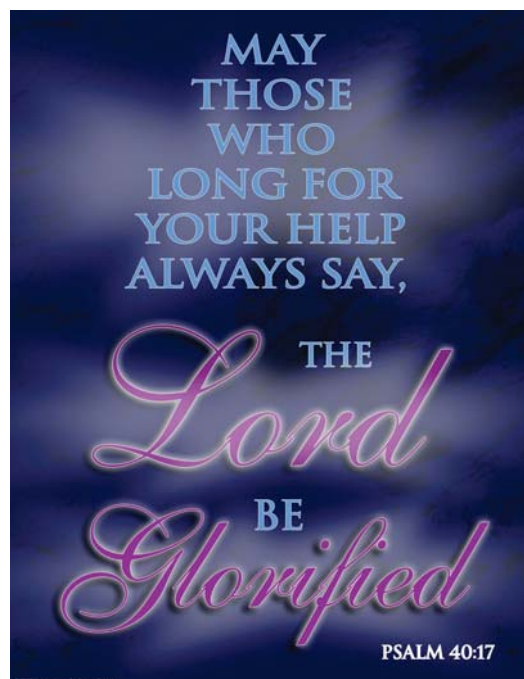
We are pleased to make available for purchase Braintree Catholic Collaborative Gear! For the time being we have three items: crew neck sweatshirt for \$45, fleece jacket for \$50 and hoodie for \$50, but we hope in the future to have more items available! You can order these items by filling out and 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>

Help us bring ***Triumph of the Heart: The Passion of St. Maximilian Kolbe*** to AMC Braintree! We are hoping to secure a screening for Saturday September 13 at 7pm. Follow the link to learn more and to help us reach our goal!

https://screening.triumphoftheheart.com/screening/scr_01k2hzc21qfk3vka8wdhx3xw75

**Reserve a Ticket**

Reserve a seat to this screening for \$18. If this campaign reaches its goal, we'll book the theater and send you your ticket and the screening details! If it doesn't, you'll be given the option to Give Forward your ticket(s) or receive a refund.



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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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



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