

Braintree Catholic Collaborative

22nd SUNDAY
in Ordinary Time



"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." Luke 14:13-14

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 30, 2025

5:30PM Ann Fiore Memorial

Sunday, August 31, 2025

9:00AM Genevieve McCarthy & Anne Dooley Memorial 3rd Anniv.

11:30AM David & Marie Parr Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative Memorial

Monday, September 1, 2025

7:00AM Michael Doherty Memorial

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

7:00AM Nancy Nicosia Memorial

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

7:00AM James O'Hare Memorial

Thursday, September 4, 2025

7:00AM Suzanne Cullum Month's Mind

Friday, September 5, 2025

7:00AM Giles Parker, Sr. and Leonard Lesko Memorial

Saturday, September 6, 2025

5:30PM Mary Mochen 4th Anniv.

Sunday, September 7, 2025

9:00AM Estelle "Kitty" Lezynski Memorial

11:30AM Evelyn Capodilupo 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 30, 2025

8:00AM Elizabeth & Mary Manning and James Walsh Memorial

4:00PM Arduino DiCenso Memorial

Sunday, August 31, 2025

7:45AM Daniel Crimmins and Kathleen Crimmins Memorial Healing

10:15AM John Twomey Memorial

Saturday, September 6, 2025

8:00AM Stephen Browne and Daniel Gillis Memorial

4:00PM Claudette Jules Memorial

Sunday, September 7, 2025

7:45AM Mary Kelley 20th Anniv.

10:15AM Joan Palmer Anniversary

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.

Labor Day

The Collaborative Office will be closed on Monday September 1st in observance of Labor Day.

Have a safe and happy long weekend!



The Nicene Creed

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

As we come near to the end of the series on the Nicene Creed I want to look at the line *I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins*. Worth looking at first is the use of the word confess. We think of confession as telling our sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And it certainly is that! As it is used here it refers to making public what you hold to be true. Aside from religion, confession is most associated with crime prosecution as in “to confess to a crime”. Even when we confess our sins to a priest, what we are actually confessing is our belief that God can absolve all sin.

One Baptism. The word baptism refers to a bath. When we use it in the Christian context it means the beginning of eternal life, to which there is no end. Baptism is the primary Sacrament. If you recall from your religious instruction, Baptism is the means by which God claims us as his own child, we are initiated into the Body of Christ, the Church; and it removes the consequences of original sin and washes away all sin. By virtue of Baptism we are united to the Paschal Mystery: the dying and rising of Jesus Christ which makes us heirs to the Kingdom of God.

We can only be baptized once. It is what we call a “character sacrament” (along with Confirmation and Holy Orders) that radically transforms the essence of a person. Given this reality, there is never another baptism because the one baptism is for all eternity. Given the permanence of Baptism, therefore, it can never be done away with. A person cannot be “unbaptized”.

The concept of one Baptism can be likened to the story of Noah’s Ark. God who is so frustrated by the human condition brought on by sin, floods the whole world in order to begin again. The Sacrament of Baptism is like that: it is an entirely new life...beginning again, if you will. We lose this sense, though, because for many centuries our tradition has been to baptize infants. The norm, if you will, is to baptize adults who can freely reject sin and profess their faith in Jesus Christ. Obviously an infant can’t do that (hence the testimony of parents and godparents). If we only baptized those who were old enough to ask for baptism, then the sense of being “born again” would be clearer. However, given our understanding of the power of Baptism, we include

infants based on the faith of the parents and their promise to God to raise the child in the Christian faith.

It’s worth mentioning here the connection between baptism and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Both take away sins. The Sacrament of Reconciliation as we know it today developed over the first few centuries of the Church. The early members of the Church understood that baptism was the way to have sins absolved (think John the Baptist). With such understanding, people who desired salvation through Christ would delay baptism until as late in life as possible for fear that sins committed after Baptism could not be forgiven. Such a practice is what prompted the development of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This is an exciting week in the Collaborative as we inaugurate the Community meal program. As you know, our intention is to provide a hot meal to anyone who needs it. The doors to St. Francis Church hall will open at 5:30 on Wednesday afternoon and those who are hungry will be welcomed. This has required a monumental effort to which we are indebted to so many volunteers and benefactors who have made this ministry possible.

The plan is to host the meal this week, then assess how it went and plan for another. I will keep you posted.

Blessings to the children and teachers of our parish who begin a new school year this week! My mother would remind us as kids that if we didn’t have to go back to school then the summer wouldn’t be so special. Myself, I was never convinced. Nevertheless, a new school year is exciting as it provides an opportunity for a fresh start...not unlike the Sacrament of Reconciliation! (see how all things circle around!)

Next Sunday we will bless backpacks of students and teachers at the 9:00 and 10:15 Masses. Please bring your school supplies to be blessed!

This is a good segway to mention that next Monday night, September 8, the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, we will host Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6:00-7:30pm at St. Francis Church. We will pray the Rosary together at 6:45 and conclude with Benediction. Confessions will be available from 6:30-7:15. What a great way for a fresh start at the beginning of a new school year!

■ *Thank You* ■

Fr. Leo Shea, M.M., and the Fathers and Brothers Maryknoll, have asked us to extend their sincere thanks for the warm welcome he received from our collaborative the weekend of August 10th. And also for your generosity toward their Mission efforts.



*From Deacon
Joe MacDonald*

What is your heart's desire?

For some it might be winning half a billion dollars in the Power Ball lottery. I must confess that although I don't usually play the lottery, when the jackpot starts making the news and the amount is staggering to think about, I will buy a ticket. I don't have any particular lucky numbers; I just waltz in for a quick pick and I'm on my way. Sometimes I don't even check to see if I won anything. At least not right away.

Young women might want to be rich and famous like Taylor Swift, flocked on all sides by adoring fans.

Young men may dream about meeting a supermodel whose only desire to be with and no other. And of course they live happily ever after.

A football player might desire the Heisman Trophy or a Superbowl ring.

None of these desires are bad. Nor are they good. They are neutral. Either good or bad could come from them.

There are also desires that are intrinsically evil. Anything for example that is contrary to the will of God.

This might surprise you, but God also desires something. It's His heart's desire. He desires us. He always has. From the beginning of creation, he wanted us to share His own life and holiness. He wants to love us and for us to love Him. Even when humankind fell into sin and lost their original holiness God continually reached out to us. And the Word He spoke to create all things was made flesh and became a human being to redeem us from our sinfulness and to restore what was once lost by sin. The Lord turned our disobedience around by His own obedience, even to the point of death on the cross. This is how much God loves us; how much He desires us.

Psalm 37 tells us to:

"Take delight in the Lord.

And He will give you your heart's desire. (Ps 37:4)

That's all I have to do, and I'll win Power Ball! I can be famous like Taylor Swift! I can win that Heisman Trophy or that World Series ring! Let's not forget that supermodel. I don't want to burst anyone's bubble but that's not what the verse is talking about.

We have all kinds of desires, some of them good or neutral and some are definitely disordered. Even we know those

things won't necessarily make us happy or give us fulfillment. Yet there they are ever present to us. We struggle with them. I think that what God is saying in Psalm 37 is that He has the desire we're actually looking for. He wants to place that desire in our hearts. It's as though God has placed on a silver and gold platter that one desire that will not just make us happy but fill us with fullness of joy and that will be the fulfillment we have always longed for but sought elsewhere. The Lord stands before us with the gift that changes everything, ours for the taking. But He did not create robots or beings who are forced to do His bidding. He did not create slaves but free people. People who can freely choose what is being offered.

It's time we let God place in our hearts the desire that supersedes all others. It is the desire before which all others pale in comparison. Our true heart's desire, the one placed there by our loving Father – the desire for Him alone. The desire to love Him, to serve Him, to be holy like Him, and to be one in communion with Him and to be happy with Him forever in Heaven.

**REST IN
PEACE**

St. Francis of Assisi

Joann M. Lovito

Margaret A. O'Donnell

John "Matt" Wood

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.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

"Silver Rose Program- The Braintree Knights of Columbus will hold the silver rose prayer service & rosary in the lower church hall of St. Francis at 12:45pm on August 31st.

The Silver Rose Program is a Rosary centered occasion promoting the dignity of all human life and honors Our Lady of Guadalupe. **The parish community is invited to attend and join with us in this service as the Silver rose continues its pilgrimage through the Northeast before returning to Mexico"**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Are you ready for a new Religious Education Year?

We've got some terrific things in store for this year! RE schedules, registration forms, and information on Children's Choir will be available next Sunday, September 7 at the Family Faith Gathering as well as on the Collaborative web-site.



During the 10:15 Mass: Backpack Blessing

⇒ Bring God's blessing with you to school every day! 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 10:15 Mass: Family Faith Gathering

⇒ Learn all about Carlo Acutis and sainthood in the RE Hall from 11:15-12:15.

⇒ Carlo Acutis is the first millennial saint! During the gathering we will officially unveil the new Carlo Acutis Teen Room!

⇒ Holiness is in the ordinary - bringing the extraordinary into the ordinary. Carlo was an ordinary child with an extraordinary desire to grow in faith. He once said,

1. "I have to win this battle. How? With a virtuous life. God has given me the means in abundance:

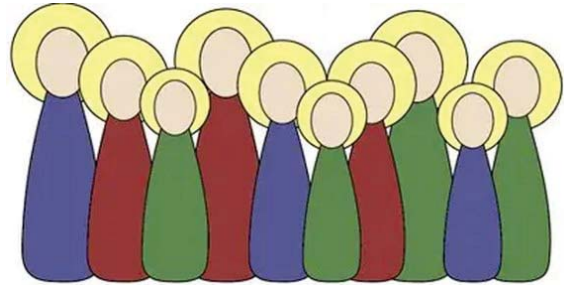
- ♦ the sacraments through which he gives me the grace to sanctify myself and to grow in holiness and, above all, to purify me.
- ♦ Then we have prayer and the Rosary, through which God gives us many graces. Our Blessed Mother has promised many graces through the Rosary at Fatima and Lourdes.
- ♦ Then we have God's word, which is a compass."

⇒ Steps to Sainthood - To become a canonized saint in the Catholic Church, the process generally involves the

following steps:

1. Servant of God – after a candidate's death, there is an investigation into their life and virtues and they are declared a "Servant of God"
2. Venerable – if the candidate is found to have lived a life of heroic virtue, they are declared "Venerable"
3. Blessed – this step is called beatification, where a miracle is attributed to the intercession of the individual and they are declared "Blessed"
4. Saint – this step is called canonization, where a second miracle is attributed to the individual and they are officially recognized as a "Saint" by the Church.

This process is rigorous and can take many years, reflecting the Church's commitment to ensuring that only those who truly exemplify holiness are canonized.



WORDSEARCH

Can you find and circle the words listed below the wordsearch grid?

S	Z	H	C	A	S	G	Z	G	Y	B	X
B	O	A	U	L	F	I	M	U	I	E	J
G	E	N	D	M	I	H	N	E	L	G	K
I	L	K	J	S	B	N	X	S	Q	G	Z
F	A	V	O	R	G	L	R	T	V	A	O
T	V	W	X	U	T	L	E	S	X	R	U
S	E	A	R	C	H	Z	A	H	W	S	P
R	O	T	A	B	L	E	W	M	Y	T	Y
Q	P	E	C	R	I	P	P	L	E	D	S
F	I	R	E	N	M	S	B	L	I	N	D

SON
GIFTS
HUMBLE
FAVOR
SEARCH

WATER
FIRE
ALMS
SINS
GUESTS

TABLE
LAME
BLIND
BEGGARS
CRIPPLED

**August 31: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today, we hear Jesus say to us, "...when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

With love for your neighbors who are poor, crippled, lame or blind, look around your house to see what furniture, household items, and clothing you no longer use...and give it to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

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.**



The 2nd Annual Collaborative Picnic is scheduled for Sunday September 14th at St. Clare. Tickets are on sale after all Masses **THIS** weekend and Next. The picnic will run from 11AM-3PM. Tickets \$20, free for children under the age of 8. This includes the barbecue luncheon, beverages and dessert. 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>

*From the
Archdiocese of Boston***Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats**

Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat. Fall dates are Saturday, September 27 and Saturday, October 18. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact *Project Rachel* at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

Hope for Life Conference (10/4)

The Hope for Life Conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4th at the Track at New Balance in Brighton from 8 AM-4 PM. All are invited to this special event featuring *The Chosen's* Jonathan Roumie, Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, Mass by Archbishop Henning, music by the Vigil Project, and much more. The event is a collaboration of the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office, the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, and the Men of Divine Mercy Prayer Group. Please join us in honoring the sanctity and beauty of life. For more information and tickets, visit hopeforlifeboston.com.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass (10/26)

All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries or another special milestone are invited to a celebratory Mass on Sunday, Oct. 26th at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. Couples will renew their marriage commitment and receive a special blessing. Family and friends are invited to attend. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/WeddingAnniversaryMass2025>. For more information, please email Emily Elliott at marriageprep@rcab.org or call 617-746-5756.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2025 YEAR C

SUNDAY Aug 31	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14
MONDAY Sept 1	1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1+3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30
TUESDAY Sept 2	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37
WEDNESDAY Sept 3	Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44
THURSDAY Sept 4	Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11
FRIDAY Sept 5	Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39
SATURDAY Sept 6	Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6+8/Lk 6:1-5
SUNDAY Sept 7	Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14+17/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

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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