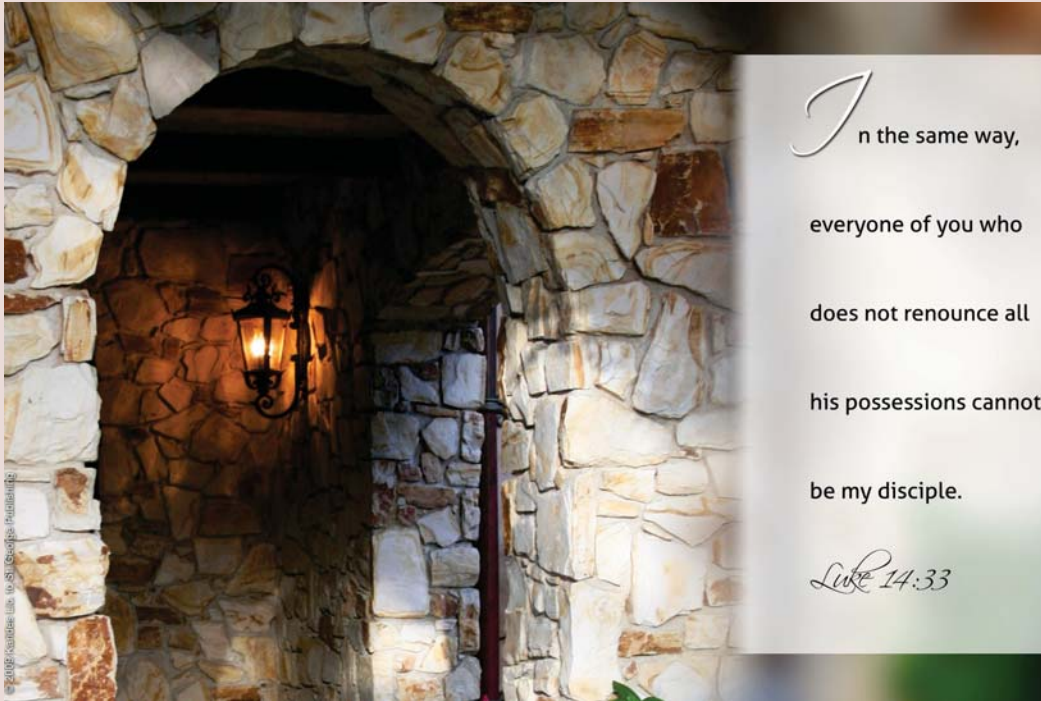


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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, 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

Monday, September 8, 2025

7:00AM Felice Zampine Anniversary

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

7:00AM Deacon Hank Welch Memorial

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

7:00AM Mary & Gustavo McGollow and
John & Nancy Faherty Memorial

Thursday, September 11, 2025

7:00AM Evelyn & George Lambert and
Joseph & Rose Faherty Memorial

Friday, September 12, 2025

7:00AM Harriette Burke 6th Anniv.

Saturday, September 13, 2025

5:30PM Ellen White Anniversary

Sunday, September 14, 2025

9:00AM Pasquale & Benedetta
Compagnone Memorial

11:30AM Louis & Catherine Luccio and
Louis Luccio, Jr. 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.



REST IN PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi

Marion Abell

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.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

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

Saturday, September 13, 2025

8:00AM Vera Sullivan Casey and
Bill Sullivan Memorial

4:00PM Robert McDermott Memorial

Sunday, September 14, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Mary Sawyer 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.



Augustus Paul MacDonald



Last Friday I sent a letter to all those on our email list about the terrible shooting in Minneapolis and security concerns in our collaborative. Below is the letter.

Dear parishioners,

The atrocities Wednesday at the Annunciation School in Minneapolis were an unspeakable act of evil. How a person could so intentionally target children at school is beyond comprehension. Furthermore, to do so while they were at Mass opening a new school year underscores the vile cooperation of the shooter with the power of evil. The depth of hatred toward God, the Church and its most innocent and vulnerable members is hard for me to grasp. The Sacred Scriptures and so many of the saints encourage us that when facing evil we bind ourselves ever more closely to the mysteries of our faith. Many of us are left with questions like 'where was God during all of this?' I certainly do not have any answers that will satisfy such questions in the wake of this kind of horror. Nevertheless, our faith prompts us to push through our own doubt and fear and flee to the Lord who Himself faced such evil and overcame it in Resurrection.

The Archdiocese, through its Risk Management Office, has put together a program for our parishes and schools in best practices for security. Last November, our ushers, pastoral council members and staff underwent active shooter training. Since that time a group of parishioners, comprised of active and retired law enforcement personnel, fire fighters and those who work in security have assessed the parish properties and buildings and have made recommendations to improve our security. Some of these recommendations have been implemented while others will be implemented in the coming weeks. Among these will be changes in the way we enter the Church for Mass and the drop-off and pick-up of children from Religious Education classes. Another recommendation is the placement of security cameras inside and around the Church property. We have a meeting next week with a security camera consultant about installing cameras.

If you have any specific concerns or ideas as how to improve security for Mass, religious formation classes or other parish activities, please do not hesitate to talk with me.

I encourage you to pray fervently for the Anunciation Parish community and for the Lord's Wisdom and Protection upon our local Church in Boston and our collaborative. Please turn to the Blessed Mother, Comforter of the Afflicted, to ask for the Consolation of Her Son.

Turn your eyes of mercy upon us and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb. (Hail Holy Queen)

Yours, in Christ the Lord.

Fr. Bob

The Nicene Creed

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

The Nicene Creed ends with the words *I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

In every aspect of our Catholic faith, be it Sunday Mass, bedtime prayers, visiting the sick, feeding the poor, managing a parish budget or filling out sacramental records, the Resurrection of our bodies is always in front of us. The hope that we will live eternally with Christ is what shapes our lives and gives meaning to our endeavors and sufferings. If there is not Resurrection, then what's the point? If you have difficulty in grasping the meaning of Resurrection, then you are in the right place. No one, other than Christ, has ever been Resurrected, so we don't have a clue what it is. It's hard, therefore, to image what eternal life would look like.

Some of the characteristics of Resurrection as have been abstracted from Sacred Scripture:

- Our risen bodies will maintain their individual identity. We will be recognizable.
- Our risen bodies will be at their best quality and power. Therefore they will not be subject to illness, injury or aging.
- Risen bodies are not subject to time and space. Think of the Risen Jesus walking into the upper room where the Apostles were "even though the doors were locked."
- At Resurrection, our bodies will be identified with divine glory. Think of Mary Magdalene and the disciples on the way to Emmaus, they did not recognize the Risen Jesus right away.

The life of the world to come refers to the fullness of God's Kingdom when all those who have accepted God's gift of salvation have been raised and living in the fullness of divine glory. Perhaps it's enough to say here that it is life without death, without an ending. Such a reality implies no suffering, evil, corruption, sin, etc.

It is hard to believe all that. Thankfully, we do not carry that belief alone. We are part of a community of faith that professes the belief. When my belief is wobbly and I am having a hard time holding to such beliefs, the Church carries me. This is why we profess the one faith together every Sunday.

Tomorrow, Monday, September 8 is the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother. As you well know, we celebrate her Immaculate Conception on December 8 then nine months later we celebrate her birth. To honor the Mother of God and Mother of the Church our collaborative will offer a Rosary Monday night at 6:45. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 6:00 and there will be Benediction after the Rosary. As we get back to our routines after a wonderful summer, it is a good time to think of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions will be available from 6:30-7:20.

Tickets are still available for the Collaborative Picnic next Sunday. My mind drifts back to last year's picnic. It was on the cool and drizzly side. What I recall, though, is the number of people who, having heard about it, said they wished they had come!

Heartfelt congratulations to Braintree American Little League who won the New England Championship! What an accomplishment for the players, their parents and coaches! Such a feat shows the results of good teamwork and lots of practice! I was away when all the excitement happened but was able to see the video of their homecoming down Washington Street.

The Collaborative Pastoral Council will meet on Wednesday evening.



*From Deacon
Joe MacDonald*

Some 30 years ago, I met a kid, and for anonymity I'll call him Joe C. Actually, he was in his early to mid-twenties at the time, but this kid was mentally challenged in some way. One day while I was standing outside Saint Joseph's in Quincy, he came up to me, a complete stranger, and announced "You're my best friend." And I was for a few years. I had never met him before that day, but suddenly I was his best friend. Joe was one of those people who'd call you on the phone and spend an hour or two talking about absolutely nothing. Quite literally, I could put the phone down, wash a few dishes or throw some laundry in the dryer and come back and say, "uh huh" and he wouldn't even know I was gone. Some best friend I was. Every once in a while, we'd go out to lunch, or I'd give him a lift someplace and that's when I discovered that Joe was a toucher. It must have had something to do with whatever his disorder was, but he'd pinch or just grab your arm or shoulder and hold on. It made me uncomfortable. It was annoying. But apparently, he had a need to just touch another person. He needed human contact. Joe was the kind of guy you wouldn't choose as your best friend and to be honest I didn't choose him - he chose me.

After I got married, I lost contact with Joe, but a few years later I found out what happened to him. When his parents died his brother moved him to New Hampshire and placed him in a nursing home. Joe died there of neglect. Often, he was not given his medication and of all things he died of dehydration. How could that happen? That's not accidental, it's negligent! But that's what happens when people are deemed useless, when they're worthless; when they are invisible, when they're not seen for who they really are in the light of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

I met someone else. I don't usually tell people about this encounter because people might think Well, you know. But late one night, as I was driving home, I met the Blessed Virgin Mary – Really! She appeared to me standing on the double yellow line in the middle of Sea Street in Quincy near the police station. At first, I didn't recognize her since she had the appearance of a woman in her early 60's and was not very well dressed and NO blue! Not yet knowing who she was and fearing that she might get hurt standing there in traffic, I invited her into my car and asked if she'd like a ride someplace. Of all places, she wanted to go to the train station. Well, the T was closed and she couldn't decide where else she wanted to go so I took her to Dunkin Donuts and we sat and had coffee and donuts together, and that's when she revealed who she really was – The Blessed Virgin Mary, not only that but this 60ish something woman said she was pregnant with the Christ Child. And because she carried Christ, the Savior of the world, within her womb her very life was in danger. She told me that the evil one wanted to destroy her and her child. They were out to get her. That's when I knew, in the very depth of my heart, that this woman actually was, loonier than toon. She was loopy. The woman was coo-coo for cocoa puffs.

I'm willing to bet there are a lot of Virgin Marys out there, or Napoleons, Elvises, or Jesus Christs. Released from some institution or not taking their medication. And they're walking the streets looking for human contact; needing to be touched; recognized; listened to; needed and cared for.

You and I know that this woman wasn't who she thought she was, but – just because she wasn't the Virgin Mary, doesn't mean that she didn't deserve to be treated as though she were.

When we meet the Joe C.'s, or the Blessed Virgin Marys, or the Napoleons of the world, and they tell us who they are, maybe it's not a statement but a question – the question Jesus himself asked his disciples – "Who do you say that I am?" I hope we have the courage and the grace to answer "you are my brother; or you are my sister. You are my very heart, my beloved; you are my best friend."



Are you ready for a new Religious Education Year?

Classes begin the week of September 21! Registration forms, welcome letters, and schedules can all be found on the Faith Formation page of the Collaborative website, at <https://braintreecatholic.org/faith-formation/>



We've got some terrific things in store for this year! In addition to classes, there will be:

- ✦ A Hall of Saints project!
- ✦ Movie/Game nights!
- ✦ Community Service projects!
- ✦ A fun letter writing campaign!
- ✦ Christmas and Easter pageants!
- ✦ A Prayer Buddy program!

If you have an idea for an activity or project, please let us know! Email klane@sfab.org with suggestions—thank you!



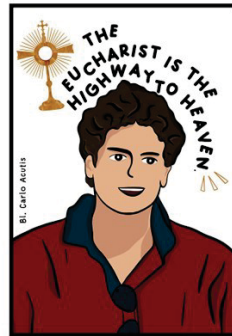
Confirmation Meeting

There will be a mandatory meeting for parents and students in the confirmation program Sunday, September 21, at 4:30 in St. Francis Church. Schedules, expectations, and requirements will be outlined. You can find the schedule on the Faith Formation page of the Collaborative website, at <https://braintreecatholic.org/faith-formation/>

The confirmation program is a 2 year program. A student just beginning the program would follow the year 1 schedule (no matter what grade they are in) A student who has completed a year of the program, or a student who is just beginning the program but attends a Catholic school would follow the year 2 schedule. The Grade 9 Fall schedule is only for 9th graders who have completed a full year of the program. They will have a condensed, fuller schedule to be ready for a December confirmation

Please join us after the 10:15 Mass on Sunday September 7 for a Family Faith Gathering!

- Learn all about Carlo Acutis and sainthood in the RE Hall from 11:15-12:15.
- There will be lots of activities and crafts in the hall for kids, and Father Bob will lead a discussion for adults in Café Assisi (the room next to the kitchen)
- 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,

"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."*

There are 4 Steps to Sainthood -

1 - Servant of God, 2 - Venerable, 3 - Blessed, 4 - Saint

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.

Did you know that we are all called to be saints? Not all saints are canonized on earth, but from the time we are baptized, we are all invited by God to live a life of holiness on Earth and join Him in Heaven as saints! So our time on Earth is our "saint in training" time!





September 7: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel, Jesus lays out the demands of following him, the great cost of discipleship. The Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul states: "Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice...the Society makes no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ."

Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining 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. 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

Charismatic Renewal Fall Conference, "In Unity and Hope for the Mission" - All are invited to the Charismatic Renewal Fall Conference, "In Unity and Hope for the Mission," with Archbishop Henning at BC High School, Boston on Sept. 13th. Two language tracks, healing service, and Vigil Mass. \$30 includes lunch. For more information visit bit.ly/CRSFallConference2025

Our Lady of Sorrows Feast Day Masses - In response to Pope Francis' call to console the sorrowing on September 15, we will celebrate Our Lady of Sorrows Feast Day Masses all over the Archdiocese for the intention of "those who need consoling." For an updated list of Mass locations, see bit.ly/OLSorrowsMass. This event is hosted by the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents. For more information, visit <https://www.emfgp.org/events/2025-be-a-pilgrim-of-hope/> or contact [Diane Monaghan](mailto:Diane.Monaghan@archdioceseofboston.org).

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.

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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