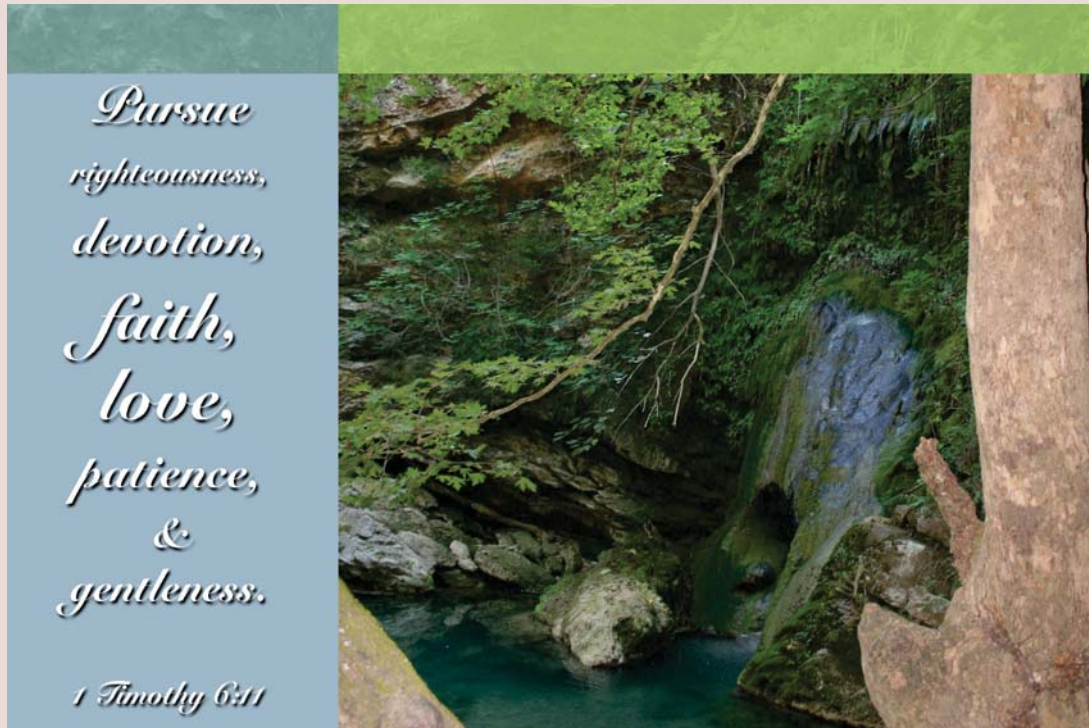


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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 27, 2025

5:30PM Patrick Doherty 16th Anniv

Sunday, September 28, 2025

9:00AM Anna, Mario and James Berardinelli Memorial

11:30AM Joseph P. Mont 6th Anniv.

6:00PM Mary Morrissey 1st Anniv.

Monday, September 29, 2025

7:00AM

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

7:00AM Feances Gallagher Healing

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

7:00AM Aurelio San Jose Memorial

Thursday, October 2, 2025

7:00AM Benjamin Venuti Memorial

Friday, October 3, 2025

7:00AM Stella Ngugi Googhee Spec. Intent.

Saturday, October 4, 2025

5:30PM Mary Hamel Memorial

Sunday, October 5, 2025

9:00AM Marty Murphy 22nd Anniv.

11:30AM Len Civittolo Memorial

6:00PM Parihioners 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

2S. Clare

Saturday, September 27, 2025

8:00AM Eland Poore Memorial

4:00PM Francesco Boncaldo Memorial

Sunday, September 28, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Henry Picewick 1st Anniv.

Saturday, October 4, 2025

8:00AM

4:00PM Rees J. Irvine 3rd Anniv.

Sunday, October 5, 2025

7:45AM Marie Reis Memorial

10:15AM Paul & Regina Centauro, Christine & Robert Gannon, Regina Bernoe and Mary Gannon 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.
- **AI-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.



*St. Francis of Assisi
James Edward Arkj,
Joseph Charles Coakley,
Isabella Kemmett
Mia Kemmett*

WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,
WE WELCOME OUR
NEWLY BAPTIZED.



Beginning tomorrow night, Monday, September 29, our collaborative will host **Eucharist Adoration** at St. Francis Church, 6:00-7:30 each Monday night.

The exposition and reposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be simple. As interest grows, we can look at the time frame and whether to include Benediction regularly. Currently, when there is a formal praying of the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy, exposition will conclude with Benediction.

Some of our parishioners have a devotion to the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass and enjoy opportunities for quiet prayer in Eucharistic Adoration. Others may not be so familiar with the concept or practice. I thought a bit of history on the subject might be helpful. The Eucharist goes back to the Last Supper. After the Resurrection, the Apostles and disciples of Christ celebrated the Eucharist as a means deepening the mystery of Christ's death and Resurrection. Records from the earliest days of the Church speak of the Eucharist. The idea of adoring Christ in the Blessed Sacrament goes back to around the fourth century. Over the centuries the practice has grown and subsided. In the not too distant past, the reception of Holy Communion by lay people had dwindled to the point where the Church had to put in a precept (requirement) that Catholics had to receive Holy Communion at least once a year between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost. During the time where receiving Holy Communion was infrequent there grew an appreciation for adoring Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Seeing the Blessed Sacrament either at Mass during the elevation or at Benediction became an intimate moment with Christ. Fortunately, over the past century and a half, reception of Holy Communion at Mass is the norm. In recent years, though, more Catholics have shown an interest and even desire for opportunities to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament involves placing a consecrated Host in a vessel called a monstrance (from the Latin word "to show") The monstrance is placed on the altar with lit candles. Often incense is burned. If you are interested in the format for exposition and benediction, I invite you to look inside the back cover of a missalette.

On Wednesday evening of this week, October 1, there will be meeting of all liturgical ministers (lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, choir members) at 7:00 in St. Francis Church

In the past these meetings have focused on the "what" of our respective ministries. This presentation will focus on the "how" of what we do. When it comes to the celebration of Mass, how we carry out our various ministries is extremely important to the reverent celebration of the Eucharist. I am happy to welcome Sr. Georgeanne Marie Donovan, Marist Missionary Sister, and former seminary professor of liturgy, who will present the topic and answer questions.

Sr. Georgeanne will also be here to conduct a day of recollection for women on Saturday, October 4 at St. Clare Church hall. Please see important information elsewhere in this bulletin.

Beginning today, the **doors of the Churches will be locked once Mass begins**. Those arriving after Mass begins are asked to enter the Church through a designated door at which there will be an usher. The designated door at St. Francis Church will be the side door facing the school parking lot. This allows for access to the elevator. At St. Clare the designated door will be the ramp door in front of the Church. I ask for your support of this initiative as we strive to provide a safe environment for the sacred activity of worshipping God at Mass. I am grateful to all the ushers who will be helping to implement this new protocol.

Fr. Bob



We invite the women of the collaborative to a day of retreat titled *Be Still and Know That I Am God* led by Sr. Georgeanne Marie Donovan, SMSM, on Saturday,

October 4 from 8AM to 2PM at St. Clare church. If you have children living at home, we know how your body and your mind are in constant motion. If you are of a certain age, your body may not be as active, but it can be a challenge to slow down your mind. And who wouldn't like a chance to have breakfast and lunch all planned for you? The day will begin with the 8AM Mass followed by a light breakfast. There will be 2 morning presentations with a break in between, lunch, and an afternoon session. There will be time for quiet, time for sharing (if you choose), time to reconnect with our loving God. If you need some alone time or if you are looking to enjoy the companionship of other women, this is for you! Come alone, bring a friend—there is no cost to attend. Please call (781-843-1332) or email the parish office (pkinnally@sfab.org) for more information or to register. We need at least an approximate count so we can order food for everyone.



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

Last week I bemoaned the fact that we Catholics do not celebrate our Sacred Liturgies all that well. In fact, I pointed out that our sporting “liturgies” are celebrated with much more fervor and enthusiasm than the typical Sunday Mass.

This week let’s look at some of the gestures, postures, signs, and symbols we use during the Introductory Rites at Mass.

These rites, that we use at the beginning of each Mass, are meant to prepare, and ready our hearts, minds and souls for the work of the Liturgies that follows. Although Mass officially starts with the Entrance Chant (song) our individual preparations begin much earlier – at home. Our preparations begin the moment we make the decision to attend Mass. We rise early enough to be on time and make sure the rest of the family is up, too. We eat our breakfast early enough so as not to break the Eucharistic fast or we wait to eat until Mass is over. Not much is said about this very often, but the Church requires a one hour fast from eating and drinking before we receive communion. This of course is a symbolic gesture now, but it wasn’t too long ago that we could not eat or drink anything from midnight until after receiving Communion the next morning. Early Masses were therefore very well attended. As we prepare to go to Mass, we dress appropriately for what we will be participating in. For example, if we go to the White House as tourists we might dress casually in shorts and t-shirts. Those shirts might advertise certain brands of products or make political statements, some may actually be offensive in some way. But, if we are invited to a state dinner at the White House with the president, and other dignitaries we would want to dress appropriately for that occasion. In fact, we would be required to do so. So it is with Mass, we are invited to a banquet not hosted by a human leader but by the Divine Son of God. We are celebrating not with political cronies but with angels and saints. We aren’t going to the beach or on a cruise. Because of the enormity of this undertaking, we may want to present ourselves in a way that reflects the dignity of what we are celebrating. How that looks is up to each of us to decide.

Having prepared ourselves at home we arrive at Church. As we go through the doors, we remind ourselves of our Baptism by touching the holy water and making the Sign of the Cross. Since there are some who were never taught how to do this correctly it is done this way. We take our right hand, touch it to our foreheads, (in the name of the Father) then touch our chest (and of the Son) and then our left shoulder followed by the right shoulder (and of the Holy Spirit).

Typically, we Catholics genuflect as we enter the pew as a recognition of Christ’s Eucharistic presence in the tabernacle. And always genuflect when passing in front of the tabernacle. We genuflect by bending the right knee to the floor, pausing briefly (a second or two) and rising again. The Sign of the Cross often accompanies this action. One last thing on this subject, if someone, like myself, finds it difficult physically to genuflect, a reverent bow will suffice or if that is difficult some other act of faith such as the sign of the cross.

There are certain prayers that we say in dialogue with the priest, for example: “The Lord be with you.” And we respond, “and with your spirit.” Technically it is enough to just mumble it or say it quietly, however it is a sign of our Christian unity and is uplifting to the priest presiding at the Mass if we respond with our parts clearly and with conviction.

The Church gives us three options for the Penitential Act. One of these options is the Confiteor in which we acknowledge our sins and ask Mary, the angels, saints, and those present to pray to God for us. That’s a lot of people praying for us and for each other. I like to make a conscious effort of some kind to direct a prayer for those I’m worshipping with when we use this option.

It is during the Confiteor that there is a gesture that is often passed over by many people. As we say “through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault” we are instructed to strike our breasts. This is typically done by making a fist and striking the center of the breast. It is a sign of contrition not a symbol of any punishment we deserve for our sins. The Rubric (the official instruction) doesn’t indicate how many times we are to do this. One time would seem to suffice. Some people strike their breasts three times with each repetition of “through my fault.” It is one of those things that we should be doing but often do not.

We then sing or say the Gloria. If it is sung, we should sing it with all the fervor of “America the Beautiful” or “Sweet Caroline” at Fenway.

The Gloria is followed by the Collect. The priest says: “Let us pray.” This is followed by a moment of silence as the assembly prays silently. The priest then “collects” the prayers of the people and with outstretched hands concludes the rite with the prescribed prayer of the day.

Those are the Introductory Rites of the Mass. If you have any questions, feel free to ask when you see me or send an email.



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

The first week of Religious Education classes was terrific - it was wonderful to see familiar faces returning and meet new friends! We started off by discussing the story in the Gospel of Luke when Jesus told Peter to cast his net into the deep sea. Jesus was telling him to be a fisher of men, to gather more disciples to share in the Good News. The kids all decorated colorful fish to add to the net on the bulletin board since we too, as disciples of Jesus, want to share in the Good News!



Last Sunday was the International Day of Peace. We began our lesson by reciting the Prayer of St. Francis and discussing what it means to be “instruments of peace.” We collaborated with the Thayer Library Children’s Department on the Peace Crane Project. Inspired by the book *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, we folded origami paper cranes and talked about ways we can all be Peacemakers in our daily lives.



The Children's Choir is back! We will be singing a song at the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare each week. We meet downstairs in the RE Hall at 9:45 to rehearse and then go up to Mass together. Please join us!



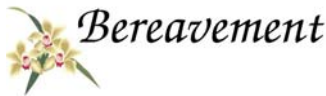
Once again we congratulate Deacon Mike on the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the Diaconate. Thank you to Jenifer Walsh, Therese English, Rose Doran, Kim Kelley and Karen Whitney and all who attended in helping to make this celebration a success.





Come cook with us! Do you have experience in food service preparation and cooking and looking for a way to make a meaningful impact in your community. Then the Community Meal Ministry is looking to meet you. If you are ServSafe certified that's great. If not, we can assist you in preparing for and taking the ServSafe exams in its Kitchen Manager and Allergen programs, as well undergo choke saver training (Heimlich maneuver). Please call the Collaborative Office to leave your contact information and someone will get back to you.

Our next Community Meal will be served on OCTOBER 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. sharp in the St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall. Mike Panciotti's Team will be preparing and serving. Team members should report at the time assigned by Mike.



Braintree Catholic Collaborative Support Group

Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? If you are interested in talking about your grief and need support in your grief healing, we are again beginning our bereavement classes. They will be every Saturday at 10:30AM at St. Francis of Assisi church hall. The hour-long meeting will help you bring your suffering to the Lord and also allow you to know others who are going through something similar.

Meetings will begin Saturday, October 4 and will meet weekly from 10:30—11:30AM.

No sign-up or commitment, just a place to come and find comfort.

"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we loved deeply becomes part of us."

Helen Keller



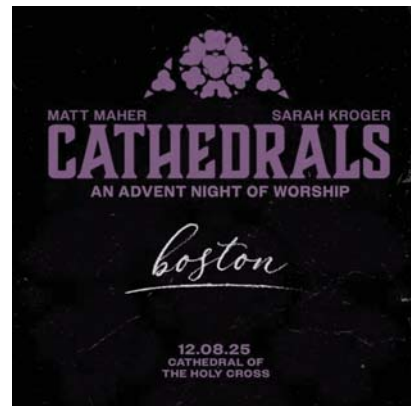
St. Francis of Assisi
Marie Milano

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.



September 28: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time—On **September 27**, the Church celebrated the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, who knew that "God had sent him to bring good news to the poor." Together with your gifts, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continue his work and mission in our parish. **In the month of September, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to "bring good news to the poor," by assisting families, providing food, assistance with 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.**



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Come join us for a special night of worship at Cathedral of The Holy Cross! This event is a time to gather together as a community and celebrate the season of Advent through music, prayer, and reflection.

Let's come together to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All are welcome to attend this evening of praise and worship.

The CATHEDRALS tour is proudly sponsored by International Justice Mission. There are more people enslaved now than at any other time in history – 50 million children, women and men are subjected to various forms of trafficking, slavery and violence. Our friends at International Justice Mission are creating lasting change with the help of people like you and us. For tickets go to:

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