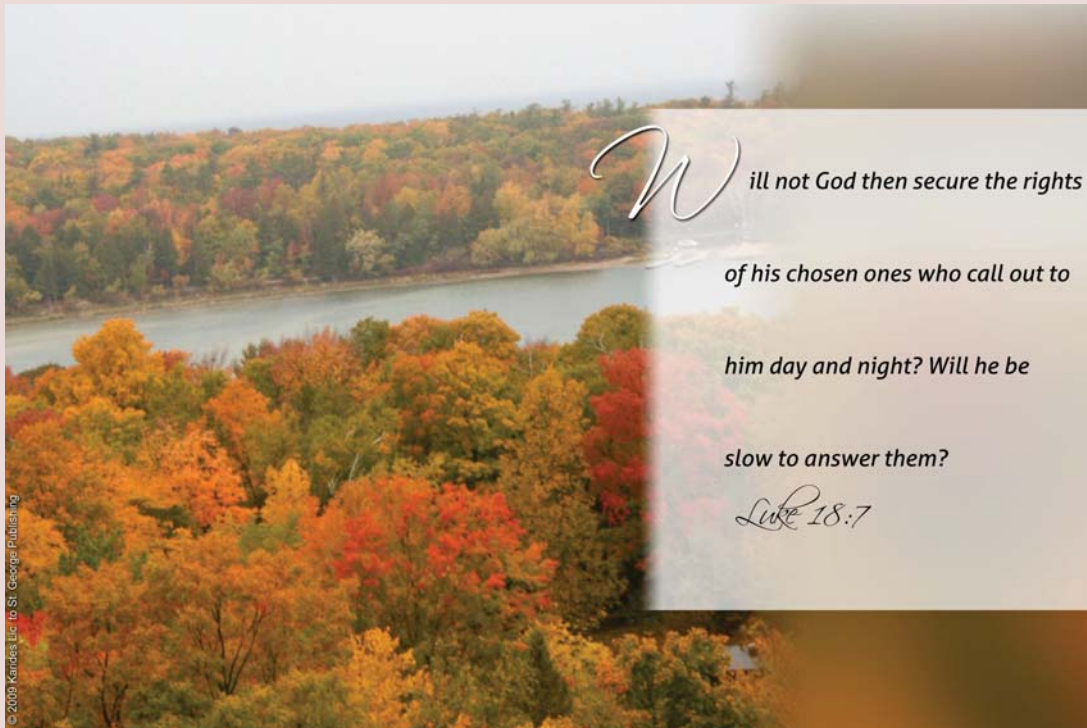


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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, October 18, 2025

5:30PM John Hill Anniversary

Sunday, October 19, 2025

9:00AM Carol Fuller 10th Anniv.

11:30AM Anthony H. Cataldo, Jr. Memorial

6:00PM

Monday, October 20, 2025

7:00AM

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

7:00AM Giles Parker, Sr. Anniversary

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

7:00AM Faherty Family Spec. Intent.

Thursday, October 23, 2025

7:00AM Sam & Mary Dentino Memorial

Friday, October 24, 2025

7:00AM Joseph Sheehan 2nd Anniv.

Saturday, October 25, 2025

5:30PM Chester Diaute, Jr. 24th Anniv.

Sunday, October 26, 2025

9:00AM Gerald & Terence Palmer Memorial

11:30AM John "Mac" McGrath Anniversary

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, October 18, 2025

8:00AM

4:00PM Mary Cahill 5th Anniv.

Sunday, October 19, 2025

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Gary Shutter 1st Anniv.

Saturday, October 25, 2025

8:00AM

4:00PM Gene Butterfield Memorial

Sunday, October 26, 2025

7:45AM

10:15AM William & Barbara Lane, Charles & Dorothy Edgerly and Florence Nichols Memorial

The Bread & Wine and Sanctuary light for the week of October 18 through 24 were donated in loving memory of Gary Shutter.

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.





Today is World Mission Sunday. Each year in October, the Church around the world dedicates a Sunday to praying and collecting donations to support the missionary efforts of the Pope. Since the evening of Christ's Resurrection, the Church has been focused on preaching Jesus Christ to every nation in the world. This has always involved dedicated Christians leaving their familiar homes and traveling abroad for the purpose of speaking of the empty tomb. It's how the Church has spread from Jerusalem to the whole world!

I remember Fr. Gerald Nebo telling me that the biggest consumers of Guinness were Nigerians! Such a factoid is a testament to how missionaries from Ireland spent generations catechizing and ministering to the people of various African cultures.

Years ago I made a retreat with the Jesuits in Missouri. As you exited the property there was a large sign at the gate that read "now entering mission territory". It was certainly thought provoking as I think of that from time to time. The sentiment captures the Church's identity that it is a mission-oriented community, that is to say, it is outward looking.

This is a good segway to pick up on the topic of preparing for Mass which I've been writing about for a few weeks. If the Church is mission-oriented then it is necessary for its members to be properly nourished and formed. This happens first and foremost at Sunday Mass. Our identity as Catholics is rooted in the Eucharist. Without Eucharist, there is no mission! Both Francis and Clare of Assisi were mission-driven. Even though Clare lived a cloistered life she had a profound sense that she and her sisters had the Christ-given mission to live in stability. If Francis and his friars were "on the move" so to speak, Clare and the sisters stayed in the convent. Nevertheless their identity was one of mission: to be sent by Jesus to proclaim the Gospel.

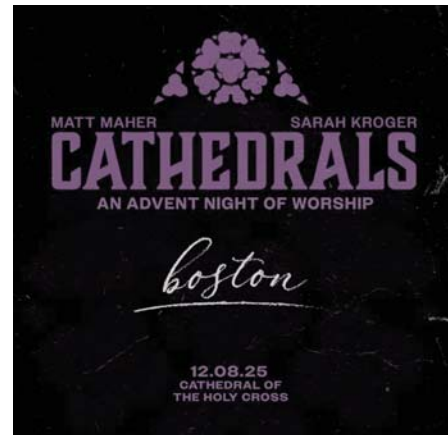
For the Mass to form us and nourish us, we have to be there. It may sound overly simplistic, but showing up is what it is about. It won't be long before we gather to celebrate Christmas, the great feast that recognizes that when we were in dire need, God showed up! Likewise, we have to show up. There is a heresy that has crept up in the past couple of generations that participating in Mass is not necessary; that as long as you are a good person or get there when you can that God is just as pleased. This is not in keeping with the Commandments, not with the Tradition of

the Apostles.

I write all of this to encourage you to think "I need to be at Mass" and "the Church needs me to be at Mass" As you are not complete without Mass, so the Church is not complete without you!

It's time for our Grand Annual Collection again. I've written a letter to each household registered in the parish. They will likely arrive to your house the week of October 26. I humbly ask that you read the letter and prayerfully consider my request.

Fr. Bob



**Sponsored by
International Justice Mission**

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:

<https://www.itickets.com/events/484244>



St. Clare

Christen John Dandrea

Jack Robert Leal

Bryson Daniel Lecchiones

Stefano Rocco O'Brien



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

Both the first reading and the Gospel today remind us of the importance of prayer. It might not be as obvious in the first reading where Moses is holding up his staff and as he did the Israelites were winning and when he wasn't they were losing. He wasn't just holding that staff up as though it was some magic wand that caused them to win. It was a sign to the men in battle that he was praying for their victory. The holding of the staff was not an isolated action but it was a prayer to the God who freed them from bondage in Egypt, fed them in the desert and even now was showing His power against the Amalekites.

Moses, at this point was an old man. If you've ever tried to hold something up for a period of time you know that even something that seems light can become heavier the longer you hold it. The staff which was already heavy became a burden. He had difficulty holding it up. When he put it down it was like he stopped praying. So, Aaron and Hur found him a place to sit, and they supported his hands in holding up the staff. The prayer continued without ceasing.

In the Gospel, Jesus also gives us a parable about persistence in prayer. God will always listen and answer prayer.

Both of these cases were examples of prayers of petition. Moses wanted to defeat the Amalekites and the woman in the parable needed a just decision from a corrupt judge. There is nothing wrong with prayers of petition, but when our prayers are answered, even if it's not the answer we want, they should be followed by prayers of thanksgiving.

Moses's strength was weakening; He needed help to pray as he should and so his community in the persons of Aaron and Hur supported him in his prayer. We find ourselves in that situation too, don't we? We're tired, too; weary of everything the world puts on us; the stress at work; chronic illnesses; wayward children; wars and rumors of wars. It's all too much for us and we don't even know where to begin with our prayer. This is exactly why we need our faith community. That's why we go to Mass, so that our faith can be strengthened, and we can find help among our brothers and sisters in faith.

What is it about prayer that is so important even when we don't ask for something?

Prayer is where we taste the goodness of the Lord. Prayer is where our relationship with Christ grows and is nourished. It's where we listen for God's voice and where we hear the Lord speak to us in the quiet of our hearts. Prayer is where we discover that we're not in this alone. It's in prayer that we

learn that God is not like that boss whose always looking over your shoulder, waiting to jump out at us and shout "You're Fired" but God is the Good Shepherd who goes out looking for us and carries us home because we can't get there ourselves; God is the loving Father in the story of the prodigal son, waiting for our return, watching, and who eagerly comes out to meet us with open arms not to condemn but to say "welcome home," "I missed you. I love you" and prayer is where we can gaze into the eyes of God and say "I love you, too."

One morning, while I was on retreat, I left the retreat house to pray outside. There was a nest of mockingbirds above the door of the retreat house and as I sat there a single bird flew across the lawn. It started flying in huge circles in front of me. It would dip and swoop and climb and turn. I was reminded of that feeling of exhilaration you get on a roller coaster or when your car goes over that unexpected drop in the road. It occurred to me that this bird wasn't hunting or looking for food. It seemed to be playing. It was simply taking delight in flight, in what it was made to do – to fly. It took delight in what it was made for.

We're made for something, too. We were made to know God, to love God, and praise God, and though we might think otherwise, this isn't foreign to us. We were made in God's image and likeness. We desire God (whether or not we realize it). Scripture speaks to us of it. The psalmist writes "My soul thirsts for you Lord, like the desert thirsts for rain," and "like a deer longs for running streams so I long for you," Saint Augustine said it beautifully when he wrote "You inspire us, O Lord, to delight in praising You, because you made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

We live in a world where everyone specializes, we can fall into the trap of thinking that prayer is a specialized occupation – the lone realm of priests, deacons or religious and not our own, but no one can taste the goodness of the Lord for us. Our relationship with Christ is our own. There are no designated hitters or place kickers in the spiritual life. And so, if we want to have delight in our lives – then Pray!

Even, if we feel ourselves unworthy of God's love – Pray!

If we are grieving – Pray!

If we feel abandoned or rejected, so did Christ and he prayed.

If we are angry and disappointed in someone we love – Pray all the more!

If we are lost and have no direction, if we are in harm's way or face our own mortality – Pray!

If we are joyful or thankful, if we are filled with love and we're on top of the world – Pray!

If we want to find delight in our lives that wells up in us like an unending stream of life-giving water then in every circumstance of our lives we must pray, as Saint Paul tells us – constantly. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) Because when we pray the most wonderful effect occurs in us. God takes our hearts, hardened like stone by the hatred and cynicism of the world and gives us new hearts; hearts of flesh made for love alone. He gives us his very own heart, the heart of Christ.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

The Blessing of the Animals was a wonderful celebration! Deacon Jay gave the people a bookmark with a medal of St. Francis, and gave their animals a blessing.



October is the month of the Rosary. Consider saying a decade of the rosary each day, and all are welcome to come to St. Francis Church Monday evenings at 6:45 in October to recite the rosary together.

HOW TO PRAY ONE DECADE ROSARY



October 30 Half Day Event

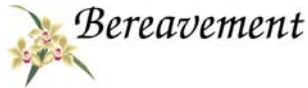
Join us in the RE Hall from 1:00-4:00 on Thursday, October 30. We will watch a Halloween movie and then work on an All Saint's Day Project! If your child would like to attend, please email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org. They should bring a lunch and drink.





We're still looking for volunteers with cooking skills and experience, preferably ServSafe certified! Please call the office if you're interested!

The next Community Meal will be held on November 5, 2025. Please help get the word out!



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 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

REST IN PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi

Kaitlyn Haugh
Ruth Mariano
Denise LeBlanc
David A. Buker

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.



There will be a **Protecting God's Children Training** on Wednesday October 22 from 6-9 pm at St Clare Church in the Religious Education Hall. It is a workshop that all Parish Volunteers need to complete one time. If you'd like to register for the training, please go to <https://virtusonline.org/virtus/> Please email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org with any questions.



October 19: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Gospel today Jesus tells his disciples to pray always without becoming weary., indeed our prayer must always be an expression of our love for God, our family, our world, and especially for the suffering poor.

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, please say a special prayer for the poor who have no one to pray for them.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, October 18-19. 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.**



Michael Coyne & Sara Senesac III
Tyler Thorne & Delaney Sieber II

"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>

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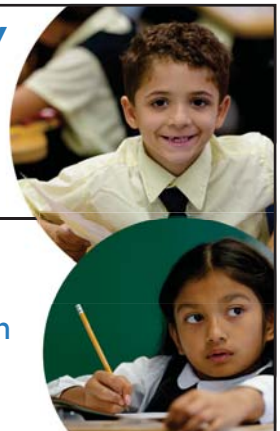
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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



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"He has risen." Matt 28:6



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