

Braintree Catholic Collaborative



*"Stand up
and go;
your faith has
saved you."*

Luke 17:19

28TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

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 11, 2025

5:30PM Paul O'Reilly and Anna & Joseph Dunlea Memorial

Sunday, October 12, 2025

9:00AM Patrice McAndrew Kelly 2nd Anniv.
11:30AM Edward Marks Memorial
6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, October 13, 2025

7:00AM Daniel Kenneally Memorial

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

7:00AM

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

7:00AM Anna & William Polin Memorial

Thursday, October 16, 2025

7:00AM James Zampine Anniversary

Friday, October 17, 2025

7:00AM John, Julia & Tom O'Connell Memorial

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



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 11, 2025

8:00AM
4:00PM Robert W. Osgood 1st Anniv.

Sunday, October 12, 2025

7:45AM Alice & Robert Kelley Memorial
10:15AM Julia Folan Downing and Mary & Mark Folan 6th Anniv. Memorial

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.

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.



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



You may recall from last week's bulletin column that I relayed the story of how a 16th century priest in Milan complained to his bishop, St. Charles Borromeo, that he easily became distracted whilst celebrating Mass. The saintly Cardinal asked him what he was doing just before Mass? His question has long guided me in my own preparation for the celebration of Mass. If you wonder at times why you even bother going to Mass, or find it hard to stay focused, might I suggest a closer look at what you are doing just before the celebration of the Mass?

I continue this reflection on preparing for Mass by writing on the "Communion Fast". In preparation for the reception of Holy Communion the Church mandates us to abstain from food and drink for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. Canon 919 from the Code of Canon Law (the laws and precepts of the Catholic Church) states *A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before holy communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine.* The reason for this directive is to help the person become more aware of what he/she is receiving at Holy Communion. Better stated, *WHO* is being received at Holy Communion.

No doubt there are many parishioners who can recall that in generations past the Communion fast began at midnight of the day in which Communion was to be received. This meant that Catholics couldn't eat breakfast on Sunday mornings until after Mass. (I wonder if this is what lead to the concept of Sunday brunch?) After the Second Vatican Council the fast was shortened to three hours and then eventually to one hour. It may seem like a trivial or outdated practice, but it is done as a means to be properly disposed to receiving Holy Communion. By abstaining from food and drink (except water) we are more intentional about participation in the Mass. The Communion fast is a discipline that tells our minds and bodies that we will be participating at Mass very soon.

There is a spiritual danger in receiving Holy Communion without preparation. From years of hearing confessions, I would say that Catholics, in general, have a sense that using God's name in a profane way is disrespectful and offensive to God. We often catch ourselves using God's name or the holy name of Jesus in anger or a moment of frustration, and we rightly regret it. In a similar way, receiving Holy Communion without proper

proper preparation is disrespectful to God and to those who honor Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Given that the fast is about helping a person be properly disposed for Holy Communion, it is not meant to be such a rigid practice that makes us anxious about going to Mass. A stop watch is not necessary to make sure that we haven't had any food or drink in the 60 minutes leading up to Holy Communion. Also, if someone is sick or for whom the fast imposes hardship they are exempt. Also, if someone is going to receive Communion who wasn't expecting it, then they too are exempt (think of a person in a hospital or nursing home who is eating lunch when a chaplain comes in with the Blessed Sacrament.)

Most practices of the Catholic faith are rooted in centuries of experience of what works or doesn't work in terms of drawing us more deeply into the life of Christ. This is one of them!

Thanks Neighbor!

On behalf of St. Francis Parish I want to thank Brad Cartwright of the Cartwright Venuti Funeral Home for the planting the beautiful mums in the two urns in front of the Church. Such a kind gesture enhances the beautiful façade.

Speaking of thanks, I am grateful to all who volunteered last Wednesday evening for the **Community Meal**. It was so well organized and the dinner was superb! There were several guests who partook and more who enjoyed the meal the next day thanks to the St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

Save the date:

Archbishop Henning will celebrate the 10:15 Mass on Sunday, November 23 to bless the newly renovated sanctuary at St. Clare Church.

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>



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

There seems to be two themes in today's readings. The first and most obvious is thanksgiving. We should always give thanks to the Lord for everything He has given us, remembering that we don't always recognize His gifts. What a pity!

The second thing to notice in both the first reading and the Gospel is who it was that was healed and who it was that gave thanks. Naaman was not a Jew. He was not an Israelite. He was an outsider. He was in fact a high ranking, probably a general in the (ancient) Syrian army. The Jewish people at that time had a great mistrust of the gentiles, the "outsiders" if you will. They had good reasons it was a time of frequent warfare and invasions. But most of all they were afraid that pagan religious practices would corrupt their devotion to the one God. There was good reason for that fear too – because it happened.

But who did God choose to heal of leprosy? It wasn't a Jew. Naaman, the outsider, a gentile, the leader of a foreign army. Love of neighbor the way Jesus taught - it didn't exist. Love of neighbor was meant only for their own people - no one else. But even then, God was laying the groundwork for Jesus. God was saying "I love them, too." Israel was to be a sign to all people. They were the ones through whom the entire world would come to worship the one and only God.

Naaman was so grateful that he came back to Elisha, the man God used to heal Naaman, with everyone! He wanted to repay Elisha personally for this miracle, but Elisha would have none of it. Naaman was converted. He changed so much that he wanted to bring home some of Israel itself and loaded up two mules full of soil so he could offer holocausts not to pagan gods but to the Lord God.

The Gospel tells the familiar story of the ten people with leprosy who Jesus healed and about the one who came back to say "thank you." This man was not a Jew. He was a Samaritan. Jesus himself thought how remarkable it was that a foreigner would be the one to come back glorifying God. Just like Naaman. Notice that Jesus didn't un-heal the other nine who seemed to be ungrateful. He still loved them, too. We see in both these readings that God loves everyone! He even loves foreigners and outsiders. He loves people who are different in society.

There seems to be great division on the topic of Immigration these days in our country. Let me say this definitely. Very good people can disagree on public policy. It doesn't make them bad if they disagree with our own views. Cool, calm discussions amid differences can transform the whole

debate.

However, as Christians, as Catholics, when we see someone in need we have to see them as our neighbor. We have to love them because God does.

"Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31)

We have to see them more than neighbors. We have to see them as brothers and sisters and come to their aid. We can't let people go hungry or without shelter for any reason and this is true regardless of someone's legal status.

We can debate what the government's role is in this, again good people can disagree. But we Catholics, we Christians, each one of us, are called to be another Christ. We are to heal, feed the multitudes, clothe the naked and offer comfort. As Jesus taught:

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:34-40)



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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Why is attending Mass so important? It is the source and summit of our faith. Attending Mass allows us to worship God, grow in relationship with Him and the Church community, hear His Word, and be spiritually strengthened to live out our faith in the world. This week we took a deep dive into the parts of the Mass. The kids completed a word search with key words and then colored a picture of a priest saying the Eucharistic prayer.



The students took turns placing cards with individual parts of the Mass (like the Gloria, sign of peace, prayer over the offerings, and dismissal) onto posters marked Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rites. When all the cards were on the posters, we put them in order. Finally, the kids made Mass Flip books to bring home. When we understand the structure and order of Mass, we can understand it better, participate in it more fully, make deeper connections, and grow in our faith.



Last Saturday was the Women's Day of Recollection at St. Clare Church with Sister Georganne. It was a wonderful day full of prayer, singing, good food, and fellowship. The women participated in Lectio Divina, which means "divine reading." It is a traditional practice of slow, prayerful reading of scripture to encounter God's presence and engage in a personal relationship with Him. The theme of the day was "Be still and know that I am God," so there was also lots of time for silent prayer and reflection. Sister Georganne brought a beautiful tapestry of the icon "Our Lady of Silence" and printouts of some other icons of Mary for the women to use for silent prayer and reflection in the church, in the Religious Education Hall, and outside at the Stations of the Cross and Grotto. We are so very grateful to Sister and a team of parishioners who helped to plan this special and transformative day for the women in our Collaborative.



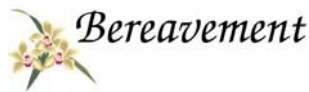


We had a very successful Community Meal on October 1st. We had an increase in diners to 14 – up from 3 at the September meal. A delicious Salisbury Steak dinner was prepared and served by Mike Panciotti and his Team alongside Dawn DiMartino. All leftover meals were distributed at the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry the next day. We thank Dawn, Mike and his Team for their service.

Dessert was donated by Nashawaty and Rand, Attorneys at Law. And we thank them for their kindness and generosity.

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



St. Francis of Assisi
Mary Leone MacGillivray
Frances Benner

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.



October 12: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel we hear that only one of those healed returned to glorify God and to give thanks to God. It is true, that when we have a grateful heart we know that everything is a gift from God. To give thanks for all that God has given to you, have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next 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.**



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

"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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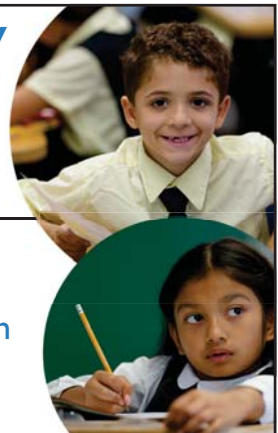
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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



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"He has risen." Matt 28:6



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