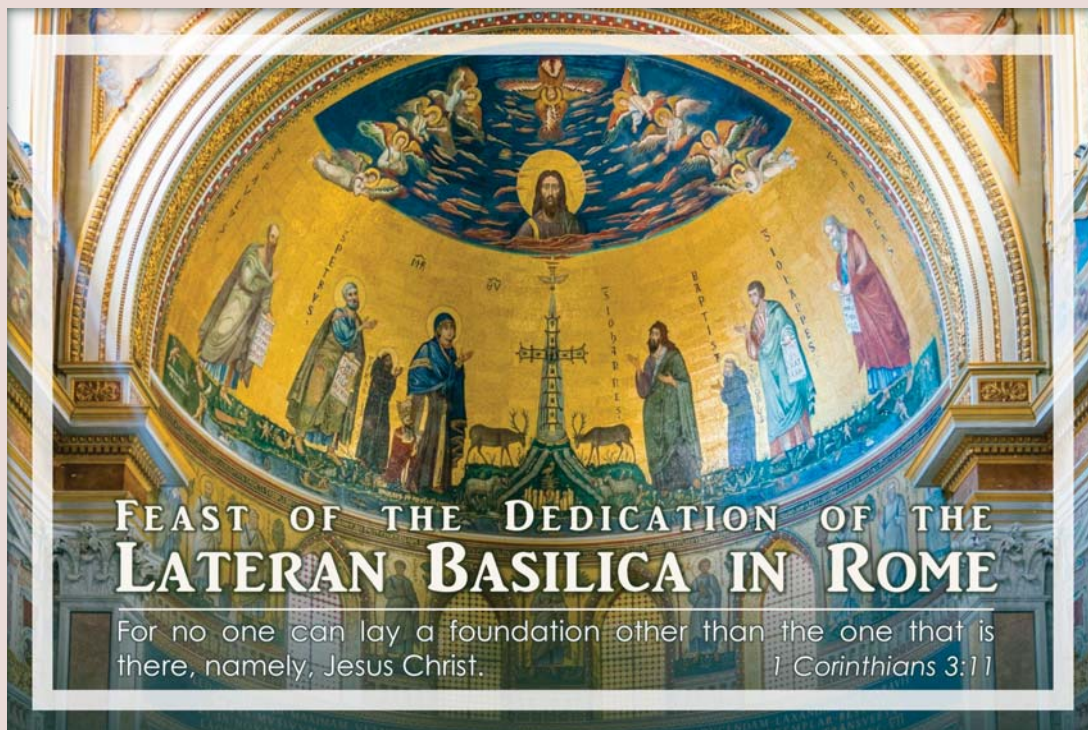


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



St. Francis of Assisi Church

856 Washington Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:30PM
Sunday: 9:00, 11:30AM and
6:00PM

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

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, November 8, 2025

5:30PM The William Kelley Family Memorial

Sunday, November 9, 2025

9:00AM Basil & Mary Boudreaux Memorial

11:30AM Lauren Dyer Anniversary

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, November 10, 2025

7:00AM Deceased Members of the Farnsworth Family Memorial

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

7:00AM Deceased Members of the Rawson Family Memorial

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

7:00AM Anna Benjamini Memorial

Thursday, November 13, 2025

7:00AM Stacie Casey Memorial

Friday, November 14, 2025

7:00AM Irene Lund Memorial

Saturday, November 15, 2025

5:30PM Patricia Dailey Anniversary

Sunday, November 16, 2025

9:00AM Patricia Allen and R. James Lannon Memorial

11:30AM Vincent & Frances Pattavina 10th/12th Ann

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, November 8, 2025

8:00AM Tom Larnar, Sr. & John Larnar Memorial

4:00PM Roberta Colman Memorial

Sunday, November 9, 2025

7:45AM Patricia Melvin 10th Anniv.

10:15AM Fermina DiFonso Memorial

Saturday, November 15, 2025

8:00AM Phil Thornton, John O'Connell, II and Bernard Yetman Memorial

4:00PM Loretta Barron, Clara & James Columbus, David Ferrairo and John Gabriel Memorial

Sunday, November 9, 2025

7:45AM Tom & Mary Walsh Memorial

10:15AM Domenic DeSantis 20th 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.
- **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.
- **Community Meal...** 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM in St. Francis church hall.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.





Today is the Feast of the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Basilica of Saint John in the Lateran. This seems like an obscure feast. Though most have not heard of it, the feast is quite ancient. Way back in the year 313, Emperor Constantine signed the Edict of Milan tolerating all religions and putting an end to persecution of Christians. With this new freedom, Christians in Rome built a Church in the Lateran section of Roman in the year 324 in honor of Christ the Savior. That Church quickly became known as the Bishop of Rome's Church. There have been several churches that have stood on the spot over the centuries. Today it is known as the Lateran Basilica, one of the four major basilicas in Rome. Most importantly it is the cathedral for the Diocese of Rome. Most people think that St. Peter's is the Pope's Church. Technically, it is not St. Peter's but rather the Lateran Basilica. Having lived in Rome, I'm sure Fr Kevin could offer a fascinating history of the church. I have been there a few times myself. It is a magnificent edifice to the glory of God.

So, why do we celebrate the anniversary of this particular Church anyway? Celebrating the anniversary of a Church is a way of renewing our dedication to God through the Sacrament of Baptism. You will notice that the first reading of the Mass today uses water imagery to describe the importance of the Temple. The dedication of a Church also recalls that God makes His dwelling among His people.

We love anniversaries. Whether a birthday, or wedding anniversary, date of death or a tragedy like 9/11, recalling dates helps to shape our identity. Anniversaries give a sense of belonging to a family or to something bigger than ourselves. I love to read the list of birthdays and "what happened on this date" each day in the newspaper. It gives me a feeling of fitting into a bigger picture. Such is the nature of this feast today.

This is a great segway to mention that I am going to give a presentation on how the Church puts the calendar of feasts and seasons together on Tuesday evening, December 2 at 7:00 in St. Francis Hall.

Archbishop Henning will bless the renovated sanctuary at St. Clare on Sunday, November 23 at the 10:15 Mass. There will be a number of priests coming who were stationed at St. Clare over the years as well as invited officials from the town. There will be a collation after in the Church hall. Given the significance of this event, and because our priests, deacons and so many liturgical

ministers will be participating at this special Mass, there will not be an 11:30 Mass at St. Francis Church on Sunday, November 23.

Later that week, we will have one Mass for the collaborative on Thanksgiving morning at 8:00 at St. Clare Church. Oh, to think that the holidays are upon us!

Christmas is coming!

There will be some changes to the Christmas Mass schedule this year based on attendance from the past couple of years. I'm mentioning this now because there are some families that like to plan ahead.

Christmas Eve

4:00 St. Francis

4:00 St. Clare

6:00 St. Francis

11:00 St. Clare

Christmas Day

8:00 St. Clare

9:30 St. Francis

11:30 St. Clare

Fr. Bob

**REST IN
PEACE**

St. Francis of Assisi

David A. Gargano

Josephine Walsh

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.



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 December 3rd, 2025. Please help get the word out!



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Today we celebrate the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. It must be a significant event for us since it replaces the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary time. The emperor Constantine gave the Laterani family palace to the Christian community of Rome in 324 and it was dedicated to worship on November 9th of that same year. It is the Cathedral Church of Rome, the Pope's own church, and for the western church it is a symbol of Christian unity. Certainly, this is an event that is worthy of our celebration and of our reflection. Still, we might struggle to find out how significant this event is to us in the 21st century. What lesson can we gain from this ancient building? What difference does it make to us?

Without doubt over the past year thousands of people have made pilgrimage to this Basilica and even as we speak scores of people from around the globe have passed through its doors and are worshiping the true God in union with the entire Church. It is a magnificent edifice, a work of art, and a monument to the human desire to reach beyond the self, to aspire to the very life of the God it honors. As wonderful as it is, as poignant is its meaning to us it remains brick and mortar, and God doesn't love brick and mortar. God did not breathe his spirit into stained glass, nor did God redeem cement. God loves humankind, God breathed his spirit into flesh and blood, and God redeems men and women!

Saint Paul gave a profound reality – We are God's building. We are God's temple. I wonder sometimes how well we really get that.

Every first Friday in one of the parishes I served we would have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:30 in the morning until 5 P.M. when we concluded with Benediction. In that adoration we honor the true presence of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. Indeed, on a daily basis people enter the church, reverence the tabernacle, and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. It is a laudable practice.

Every Sunday during Holy Communion we all approach the altar and receive the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Doesn't that make us a kind of tabernacle? Should we not then be deserving of one another's devotion? I often wonder how far we are willing to accept this notion of true presence.

I had a priest friend. From nearly the beginning of his ministry he has suffered from a debilitating neurological disorder. He had not been able to take an assignment for nearly all of his priesthood and for much of that time he had not been able to serve at all. Yet he always had his faculties

and was able to help out in a parish on weekends and celebrated mass for various prayer groups. He was a particularly good man and one that I admire. But to many, some of his brother priests he was damaged goods. He was avoided like a plague because his speech was sometimes off; he sometimes had a tremor and walked with some difficulty. He was always in pain. Before his disease was diagnosed and treated properly he may have behaved or appeared even more oddly. The man was Job.

I remember one of his homilies from years ago. He talked about how people make pilgrimages to all kinds of shrines – nothing wrong with that. But recognizing that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and that we are "living stones," "temples" of the Holy Spirit he suggested that it was time that we went on pilgrimage to one another. It was time we showed reverence for each other. Fr. Jack was God's temple, was he not as deserving of our devotion as any shrine on earth?

I had another friend. A deacon, he had a massive stroke and died on Christmas day. Several years before, he had another massive stroke and nearly died. If he survived no one thought he'd ever have any quality of life again, but he came back beyond what anyone would have hoped. Still, he walks with a gate, especially when tired. His speech is frequently slurred. Although he studied for a master's degree at one of the nation's premier colleges and was doing quite well, he would sometimes appear to come across as something less than intelligent. In fact, he reminded someone of Forest Gump. They thought it was funny enough to call him that to his face, not meaning any harm - but it was hurtful. Wasn't He God's temple? Was he not deserving of our devotion?

What about all those people living on the fringe? We know who they are. They're the ones that we go out of way to avoid on the sidewalk or when we enter the subway. They're the ones that talk to themselves or stink of urine. Are they too not made in God's image? Did Christ not suffer and die for them? Are they not temples of the Holy Spirit?

Are they not deserving of our affection?

Why is it that it's so difficult for us to see Christ in each other? What are we looking for? Are we looking at all? Do we really believe in true presence?

I have this little ritual that I do frequently. People have seen me do this and wonder what it's all about. They may think I'm just fooling around (because I do fool around a lot).

This little ritual was inspired by Fr. Jack's homily. When I see someone or I'm introduced to someone I make a little reverent bow. It has become my way of acknowledging God's presence in His people. It's a way that I can make a

pilgrimage to Christ who is truly present in those around me.

I invite anyone who will listen, to find some way to make this pilgrimage with me. It might be a reverent bow, a kind word or any gesture that shows a brother or sister that they are not invisible and that they are valuable and indispensable, loved by God and loved also by us.



Our first BPS Half Day event was a success! The kids watched "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" and enjoyed some popcorn and Halloween candy.



Then they got to work – each child made a saint puppet, then they worked in teams to make saint statues for the All Saint's Day displays.



Here is what the collaborative posters looked like when the pieces were put together...



BPS Half Day Event - Thursday, November 20 1:00-4:00 at St. Clare—All are welcome to come to the RE Hall on November 20 after early dismissal! We will watch a movie, do a Thanksgiving craft, and decorate placemats to go to local nursing homes for their Thanksgiving meals. Please bring your lunch and a drink.

Please also bring a food item for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry – they need special items for the holiday – turkey gravy mix, cranberry juice, canned yams, stuffing mix, canned vegetables, canned pie filling, and bread mixes (cranberry, corn, banana, etc.) – Many thanks!

Please email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org if your child would like to attend.



We will NOT have an 11:30 Mass on Sunday, November 23rd due to the Dedication of the St. Clare Sanctuary. We encourage everyone to attend the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare.



This year Mass there will be ONE Mass on Thanksgiving morning (Thursday, November 27) celebrated at 8:00AM at St. Clare Church.

The Annual Thanksgiving Toy Drive will be conducted at this Mass . Please bring a new/unwrapped toy or game which will be presented during the offertory. These gifts will be distributed to needy children in our community through the Marge Crispin Center.



November 9: Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

In today's Gospel, Jesus promises that if the temple is destroyed, He will raise it up again in three days. This is the true hope He offers.

When you give the furniture, household items and clothing you no longer use to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you give a sign of hope to your neighbors who have nothing.



Due to the Government shut-down and potential loss of SNAP benefits we anticipate an increase to our Food Pantry visitors. If you are able, please keep us in mind when you are grocery shopping.

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, November 15-16. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. With the holidays coming some of the items needed are: gravy; canned yams; stuffing mix; quick bread mixes (i.e. pumpkin banana, etc.); canned yams; cake/brownie mix; pie filling; instant pudding; canned fruit; apple/cranberry juices; napkins. However, we are grateful for anything you wish to donate. If you prefer not to shop, please read below 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.

"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>



Christmas Giving Tree

We are pleased to announce that we will be able to have the Advent Giving Tree Program in BOTH parishes again this year.

Thank you to those who answered to call to assist with this program.

The Giving Trees will be placed in the churches the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend (November 29th). The organizations that will be helped this year are the **Marge Crispin Center for children, The Marge Crispin Center for Seniors, Braintree High School Special Needs Program, Friends of the Unborn, Alliance Health Care and Affinity Health Care** (formerly Braintree Manor).

Please see next week's bulletin for more information.



Bereavement 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





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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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"He has risen." Matt 28:6



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