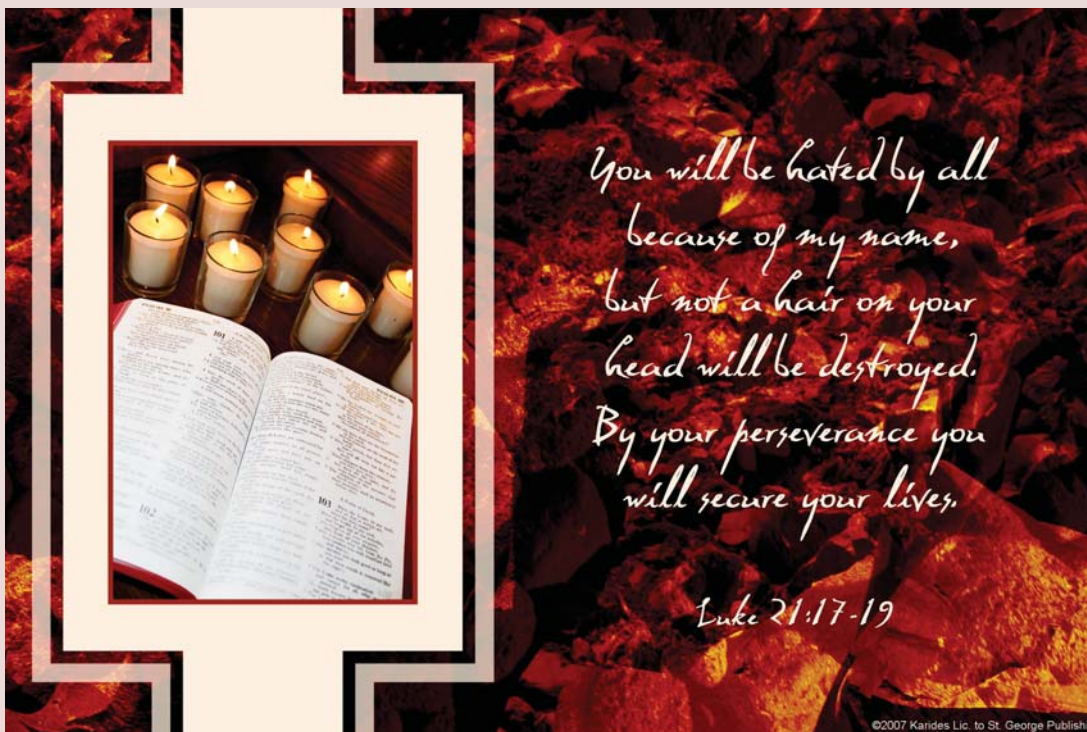


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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 15, 2025

5:30PM Patricia Dailey Anniversary

Sunday, November 9, 2025

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

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

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, November 17, 2025

7:00AM Stella Ngugi Spec. Intent.

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

7:00AM Robert and Robbie Faherty Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

7:00AM Lucy Ngugi Spec. Intent.

Thursday, November 20, 2025

7:00AM

Friday, November 21, 2025

7:00AM Vera Tsunis Anniversary

Saturday, November 22, 2025

5:30PM Joannie Hill Anniversary

Sunday, November 23, 2025

9:00AM David & Polly Napolitano Memorial

11:30AM **No Mass**

6:00PM Joan Fahey 1st Anniv.



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 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 16, 2025

7:45AM Tom & Mary Walsh Memorial

10:15AM Domenic DeSantis 20th Anniv.

Saturday, November 22, 2025

8:00AM Stephen Devine Memorial

4:00PM Darche & McCue Families Memorial

Sunday, November 23, 2025

7:45AM Maureen Watson Anniversary

10:15AM Eileen Romeo Memorial
Marks & Conley Families 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.
- **Community Meal...** 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM in St. Francis church hall.





As you well know, the **month of November** in the Church's liturgical calendar is focused on praying for our **beloved dead**. This custom comes from the fact that it's the time of the year when daylight is limited and leaves are falling from the trees. It's also the end of the Church's liturgical year when the prayers and readings of the Masses are focused on the end of time and final judgement.

I thought it might be helpful to take a moment to reflect on the funeral rites of the Church. Many non-Catholics have commented how much they like a good Catholic funeral. The music, prayers, incense and rituals somehow help them at their time of grief. The same can be said for most Catholics too. When I was working at the Pastoral Center, most of the complaints that came to me had something to do with a funeral. It is a very unique time for people. They are often quite vulnerable and the funeral liturgy helps to carry them.

The norm for a Catholic is to have a funeral Mass. Only for exceptional circumstances should we forgo a funeral Mass. In fact, if a parishioner dies who does not have a funeral Mass the pastor is still obliged to say a Mass for that person's soul! This is good to keep in mind as culturally we have shifted the way we do funerals. Many people opt for cremation, which is perfectly acceptable in the Catholic Church. With family members traveling great distances, funeral services and burials are often delayed. Sometimes there is a wake the day before, other times just before the service or not at all. Whatever choices the deceased or family members make regarding the funeral, the funeral Mass is the norm. Why the norm? Because the celebration of Mass is the proclamation of Christ's death and Resurrection. There is no greater way to make the connection between Christ's death and Resurrection and the deceased's death and forthcoming Resurrection than the celebration of the Eucharist. You remember what St. Paul wrote: "when we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes again."

What I've noticed in recent years is that more Catholics are choosing not to have a funeral Mass. They still want the priest to come to the funeral home to "say some prayers" so there is a religious connection. However, they do not value the importance of the funeral Mass. This is most sad when the deceased was an active member of the parish, sometimes a daily communicant, and the family

chooses to omit the Mass for their own convenience.

We are blessed at St. Francis and St. Clare Parishes to have a bereavement team, dedicated men and women of faith who assist families in the planning of the funeral Mass. When a funeral director calls to schedule a funeral, a member of the bereavement team contacts the family to offer support and help in planning. We strive to celebrate funeral Masses with reverence and dignity. We are so fortunate to have parishioners who give of their time and their faith for this particular purpose. On behalf of the parish I wish to express my profound thanks to our team: Patty Kinnally, Linda Muldoon, Therese English, Marilyn Cioffi, Maureen McMann, Karen Lane, Susan Egan, Michael O'Sullivan, Patrick Clifford, Deacon Joe MacDonald, and Deacon Jay Waldron.

This is a good place to mention that we have a bereavement group that meets each Saturday morning at 10:30 in St. Francis Parish Hall. This is a support group for those who are feeling the burden of grief. You can simply show up. You need not call ahead. I am grateful to Joanne Clifford for her generous care of those in our parish who are grieving.

The renovation project at St. Clare is nearly completed! Thanks to all whose generous sacrifices have made this possible. Please join us next Sunday, November 23 for the 10:15 Mass at which **Archbishop Henning** will consecrate the new altar and bless the renovated sanctuary. There will a reception with the Archbishop following the Mass. **Please note: because of this big celebration there will not be an 11:30 Mass at St. Francis Church next Sunday, November 23!**

I am away this weekend on my annual retreat. A priest is required by Canon Law to make a retreat each year. This is to ensure that he has a notable period of time in which to reflect on his vocation as a servant of Christ the High Priest. There are various ways that priests can make a retreat. I prefer a solid week of silence which allows ample time for spiritual reading, reflection and contemplative prayer. May I ask for a remembrance in your prayers during this important time. I assure you of my prayers for you and both parishes each and every day. I will be back on Thursday.

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



*From Deacon
Joe MacDonald*

Don't you just love to hear about the end of the world? All those scary stories. Look out! The sky is falling!!

In today's Gospel Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. That prophecy was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when the Romans marched in to quell a revolt and leveled the Temple. It would never be rebuilt. The only thing left of the ancient Temple is the Western Wall. Today we call it the Wailing Wall.

Certainly, this would have unnerved the disciples so they approached Jesus to ask, "When will this happen and what signs will there be?" He tells them not to be deceived by false prophets or impersonators claiming to be Christ – hold fast to the faith.

There will be wars and rumors of wars, nations will rise against nation and there will be famine and earthquakes and persecution. He warned that they would be arrested and beaten and killed. Even families would turn on each other, handing them over to death. Why? Because of His Name. So, when we take a look at the world today, we might be tempted to think it's happening now! The end *is* near! But there have always been wars, nations and kingdoms have always risen up and fought each other. There have always been earthquakes and volcanoes (one is erupting in Hawaii this week, as well as one in Iceland) and famine and every other kind of disaster in the world. The only difference is that because of modern communication with radio and television, internet and smartphones we see and hear about it happening in real time. We can become overwhelmed with fear and anxiety. It all sounds just awful, but we see these images often in Scripture. If you find yourself overwhelmed by these things, turn off the screens. Be not afraid. Trust in God.

We often hear Jesus referred to as "The Son of Man." Have you ever wondered where that comes from? It came from the prophet Daniel some five hundred years before the birth of Christ. It reads (the brackets are mine):

As the visions during the night continued, I saw coming with the clouds of heaven One like a son of man [Jesus] When He reached the Ancient of Days [God the Father] and was presented before Him, He received dominion, splendor, and kingship; all nations, peoples and tongues will serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, His kingship, one that shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:13-14)

Jesus is coming at the end of time as that Son of Man with power and glory and His angels will be sent to gather His people from every corner of the world. Frankly, that's not something to be scared of. We shouldn't be afraid of His coming, not now, not ever. When He comes for us, it will be a good thing, a wonderful thing, a joyous thing if we have followed him faithfully in this life. We don't know when that great coming will be. It might be tomorrow, or it might be a thousand years from now. The one thing we do know is that at the end of our own lives He will come for us. We need to be awake and ready and live Godly lives whether that time is soon or far away.

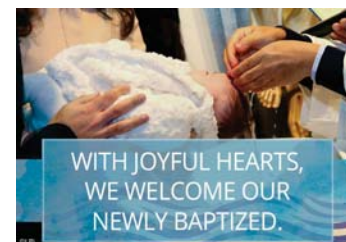
"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day the Lord is coming." (Mt 24:36,42)

In a couple of weeks, we are going to enter the season of Advent when we look forward with boundless joy to the coming of Jesus at Bethlehem. Many of us can remember the time we first experienced the coming of Christ in our own lives and the joy that came with it. During Advent We will also anticipate the Lord's coming at the end of time and although the language of the Scriptures may seem ominous, His final coming should also fill us with joy for the Kingdom that is prayed for at Mass every day will come in its fullness when there will be no more tears or illnesses or distress. Let's continue to pray for that day to come with joyful anticipation.



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!



St. Clare

Patrick William Brady

Nathan Thomas Martin

Sloane Evelyn McDonough

Claire Sophia William



America's White Table is a wonderful children's book and a tradition honoring prisoners of war (POWs) and missing in action (MIA) service members by setting a small, solitary table with symbolic items. This table, that no one will sit at, is a reminder to remember and pray for all Veterans, especially our POWs and MIAs.



The children helped to set up this table in St. Clare Church. Items like a white tablecloth, single empty chair, overturned glass, and white candle represent the service member's pure heart, the loneliness of their battle, an uneaten meal, and the hope for peace.



Thank you to all who filled in a star with the name of a Veteran that is close to your heart. The children did some beautiful artwork honoring Veterans of each branch of the military. There is a basket of small plastic soldiers in the display – please feel free to take one home and put in a special place to remind you to pray every day for our Veterans.



The Children's Choir needs more voices!

Please consider joining us – it is such a wonderful way to participate in the Mass. On Sunday, November 23, Archbishop Henning will be celebrating the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare to bless the new altar. We will be singing a very special song and would love to have some new members in the choir! We meet at 9:45 before the 10:15 Mass downstairs in the RE hall each Sunday.



Sunday, November 23 Family Faith Event! - after the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare

After the special Mass with Archbishop Henning, we will read a very special book about Advent and make advent wreaths and countdown chains to bring home. There will be food, fellowship, crafts, and activities. All are welcome!!!

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

Please also bring a food item for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

– they need special items for the holidays – turkey gravy mix, cranberry juice, canned yams, stuffing mix, canned vegetables, canned pie filling, and bread mixes (cranberry, corn, banana, etc.) – Many thanks!



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 16: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gospel predicts end times; our challenge though is to live faithfully now. St. Vincent often asked this simple question: "What would Jesus Christ do, if he were in my place now? **Ask yourself "What would Jesus Christ do?" and then put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box so that those who are suffering will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.**



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 THIS 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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