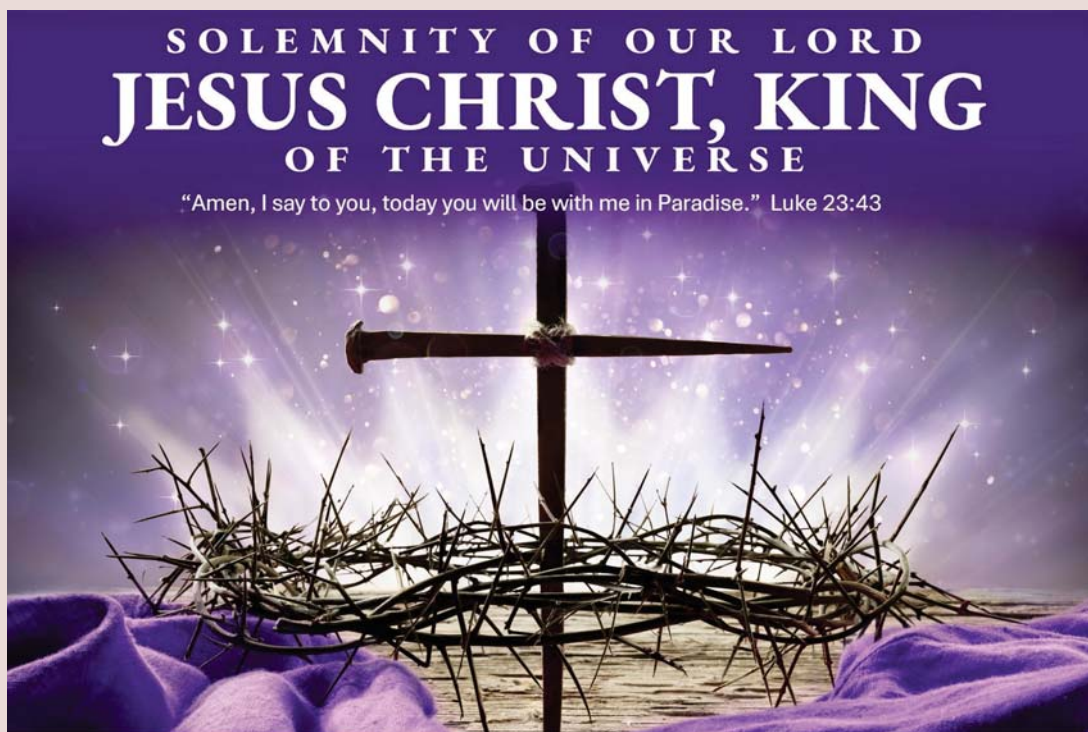


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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 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.

Monday, November 24, 2025

7:00AM Marks & Conley Families Memorial

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

7:00AM Dick & Mary Hamel Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

7:00AM Thomas Ngugi Spec. Intent.

Thursday, November 27, 2025

7:00AM **NO MASS**

Friday, November 28, 2025

7:00AM Lt. Col. James F. Darcy Memorial

Saturday, November 29 2025

5:30PM David Ringius 3rd Anniv.

Sunday, November 30, 2025

9:00AM John O'Connell, III 1st Anniv.

11:30AM Joseph Stanton 10th Anniv.

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.



We are now booking Mass Intentions for January 1 through June 30, 2026. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

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

Thursday, November 27, 2025

8:00AM Vincent Cioffi Anniversary

Saturday, November 29, 2025

8:00AM Marion & Al Petkiewich Memorial

4:00PM William, Miriam & Brian Little Memorial

Sunday, November 23, 2025

7:45AM Jared Petrelli 13th Anniv.

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

Please call the collaborative office for more information.





Welcome Archbishop Henning!

It is a delight to welcome our shepherd Abp. Richard Henning to St. Clare Church on this proud and happy occasion of the blessing of the newly renovated sanctuary. He will do so at the 10:15 Mass. I'm guessing that this is one of the easiest "stational" visits of a bishop (stational referring to a bishop's visit to one of his parishes). He doesn't even to take his car out of the garage!

On behalf of the entire parish, I want to express profound gratitude to **Mr. Cecil O'Brien** for the beautiful gift he has given us of a newly fashioned sanctuary and church in which to gather parishioners to offer our worship to Almighty God! Cecil has labored for much of the past year in preparing and then renovating the Church. The vast majority of the work he did himself, with some help from his son and daughter, as well as Bob Muldoon. Cecil's labors are truly an act of love for God and His people. It is a pure delight to have him on the collaborative staff. His wisdom, common sense, talent, skill, work ethic and sense of humor have proven to be a blessing for us.

I am also grateful to all those who have contributed to covering the cost of the project. Their sacrifices have made this possible and are an expression of faith. The renovation is not completely finished yet and there will be more costs incurred. It's not too late to contribute! Please consider helping the project through the Grand Annual Collection.

The Mass of the blessing of the sanctuary happens on the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year known to us as the **Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**. To appreciate the meaning of this feast consider that it comes at the very end of the year as if all time leads to this feast and thus all creation leads toward Christ. In our sophisticated way of understanding the world, we see a king as something archaic and undermining the common good. Think of it this way: all creation is under God's providential care and authority. Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God, therefore has dominion over all creation. The feast is an occasion to acknowledge this reality. In a culture that is so untrusting of leadership in general, it is all the more important to recognize who ultimately is in charge. Because of God's immense love, each of us has a choice as to whether we place ourselves under Christ's dominion and power. The Sacraments, of

course, help us to choose wisely.

For **Thanksgiving Day** we are going to try having one Mass at 8:00am for the collaborative. It seems that as the two parishes are working so closely together that it would be appropriate to bring the two parishes together on Thanksgiving Day for one Eucharist. I hope that you can come.

Next Sunday we begin a new liturgical year with the blessing and lighting the Advent wreath on the **first Sunday of Advent**.

On Tuesday, December 2, I will offer a **presentation on how the Church structures the calendar** with feasts and seasons. We will talk about how we came up with December 25th to celebrate Christ's birth and how the date for Easter is chosen. That will be held in St. Francis Parish Hall beginning at 7:00.

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

There will be a second collection this weekend to honor the Retired Women Religious. This collection helps to provide for their needs, including health care and retirement expenses that are not covered by social security benefits. Every gift impacts the lives of these wonderful women and allows them to journey forward knowing they are blessed with the support and care that they need.



*From the
clergy and
staff of the
Braintree
Catholic
Collaborative*

**The Collaborative Office will close at noon on
Wednesday, November 26th and reopen on
Monday, December 1st at 9:00AM.**



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

Ancient Israel was a nation unlike any other of its time, and it wasn't just because they worshiped the one true God. Unlike the other nations, Israel had no king. It had leaders but it had no king. Do you know why? Because the Lord God was their king.

But Israel wasn't satisfied with that. They wanted to be like the other nations and asked the Lord to give them a king like too. What were they thinking? Had they not seen what those other kings were like? God said he didn't think that was such a good idea to give them a king, but the people persisted and God finally relented and gave them kings. And for the most part it didn't work out. There were of course some good ones but most of them were terrible. Some of them were downright nasty. Even the good ones were corrupted by unbounded power. Even King David, from whom we got the psalms, sent a loyal soldier to the front lines, making sure that he would die there, just so he could take the man's wife as his own. Kings weren't really working out for Israel. God was right, it wasn't a good idea for them to have kings. It wasn't a good idea to be like the other nations.

In the mid 1700's King George of England began to impose unfair taxes upon the American colonists. British soldiers were given the right to stay in people's private homes, eat their food and use other property as they saw fit. Even the right to a trial by jury had been corrupted. America rebelled. Kings weren't really working out for us either.

And so, I think that we 21st century Americans have a little bit of trouble getting a handle on this whole Christ the King celebration. We aren't used to royalty, and we really disdain the idea of being someone's "subject." We don't want to bow down to anyone. We don't like kings, period!

Which begs the question, what are we celebrating? What kind of king is Jesus?

It's imperative that we know, because when we were baptized, we were baptized into the three ministries of Christ to be prophet, priest and king. We have a part in that kingship, and we have a vocation to live from it, but we can't unless we know what it means.

There is a passage from Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians that gives us a clue...

Though he was in the form of God
Jesus did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.

Rather he emptied himself
and took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men.

being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate,
And it was thus that he humbled himself,
obediently accepting even death, death on a cross.

Our king, Jesus, though he was in fact God, gave up all the trappings of what it is to be God and became one of us. In a way, he gave up being God. Maybe we should try that.

He took the form of a slave. Our king, Jesus, became a slave, a servant not because he was forced to but because he wanted to. Our king is a servant. Our king puts the needs of others before His own.

Luke's Gospel has Jesus telling a parable about a king coming home, late at night and when he arrives his servants were waiting for him, ready to feed him and give him a comfortable place to sit. But what does the king do? He has the servants recline and he puts on the apron and waits on them. In His own words Jesus tells us what a king should be like.

Now picture Jesus in today's gospel and we see the extreme to which the Lord takes His service. Hanging on the cross beaten, scourged, a crown made from thorns on His head, facing his own death which He accepts in our place. It was our punishment he endured. By His sacrifice our death lost its sting, by the stripes on His back made the centurion's whip-we are healed. Suffering such great agony He still loved. He forgave those who crucified Him and promised the good thief that even he, a criminal, would be with him in paradise. That's how much Christ our King put our needs before His own.

That is our King. "Because of this God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name about every other name, so that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth. And every tongue proclaim to the Glory of God the Father: Jesus Christ is Lord!"

Now we know what kind of king we have. How do we enthrone Him? How do we acknowledge Him? How do we approach Him? Especially since we know that we have a share in His kingship – through baptism.

We acknowledge His kingship by imitating what he did. By emptying ourselves and becoming servants, one to another. By recognizing Christ who is King in the faces of our brothers and sisters, the ones who are hungry and thirsty; the strangers, the naked; the ill and imprisoned. the ones that nobody else likes. The ones that stink and look all messed up – kind of like Jesus did before pilot.

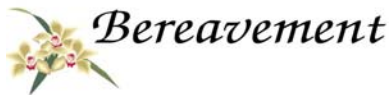
When we can recognize these many faces of Christ our King and approach them with love and a mind toward service we live out our baptismal kingship. That's when Christ the King

is enthroned in our hearts. That's when the kingdom of justice reigns. That's when love and peace will rule and that's when His kingdom comes and His will is done on earth as it is in heaven.



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.



Braintree Catholic Collaborative Support Group will NOT meet on Saturday, November 29th (Thanksgiving Weekend).

**REST IN
PEACE**

St. Francis of Assisi

Michael Herman

Alfred J. Mickiewicz

Archdiocese of Boston

Rev. Mark A. Mahoney

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.



St. Francis

Tess Anne Burke

Kyle Allan Kincaid



Our Advent Giving Tree begins next Weekend (November 29-30) in BOTH Parishes. **Gifts should be returned no later than December 15th** for distribution. When considering your gift please keep in mind the following:

- * If you take a tag from the tree, please **look at it before you leave church** to be certain that you are willing and able to purchase at least the gifts listed there. If not—simply return it to the tree and take a different card that more suits your mindset and your budget.
- * Please check to see if the organization sponsoring the card has requested that you wrap the gift(s). If the tag says **do not wrap**, you can still help everyone involved in sorting and organizing by placing your purchase in a gift bag so that our volunteers can easily check the contents.
- * Please **securely attach the tag** you take from the tree to the outside of the bag or package. The tags are coded by color and number and we need them back so that your gift reaches the correct organization and recipient.

If you choose not to shop, **[do not take a tag]** gift cards (Target, WalMart, Amazon, Gas Stations, Game Stop, Movie Passes, Fast Food Restaurants, etc.) and monetary donations are always a good option. These can be used for any last minute requests for assistance that we receive (even after Christmas Day). Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



Troop 138 Annual Holiday Wreath Sale!

The scouts will be selling holiday wreaths again this year. Wreaths will be available for sale after all Masses beginning November 29th (while supplies last. All proceeds help fund scout activities.

Traditional wreaths are @30 or 2 for \$45

Premium wreaths are \$35 or 2 for \$55

Online ordering available at <https://troop-138-braintree-ma.square.site>

Contact: stclarebsat138@gmail.com or

Jennifer Ricciarelli at 508-414-2262

Thank you for supporting the troop!



November 23: Feast of Christ the King

Today as we celebrate Christ the King, may we open the door of our heart so wide that we may listen to the voice of Jesus calling us to help build his kingdom here on earth. **In the month of November, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help build the kingdom of God by assisting 34 families, providing food, Gift Cards to purchase Thanksgiving Dinner, and financial assistance for 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.**

THANK YOU to all who answered our request for donations during the government shutdown. Your generous assistance is deeply appreciated by our clients and volunteers. We couldn't do this without you.



We're still looking for volunteers with cooking skills and experience. 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!

"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>



From the Archdiocese of Boston

November 23 ~ Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

This last Sunday of the Liturgical Year celebrates that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is King of the Universe. Christ was never caught up in the trappings or airs of royalty. The crucifixion scene in today's gospel, is anything but regal. Rather we see Jesus in the same way that he lived – reaching out to the outcast, the marginalized. The readings today describe who Christ is and all he has done for each one of us – delivering us from the power of darkness, redeeming us, forgiving our sins and making it possible for us, like the thief in the gospel, to enter the kingdom of God. That's the "good news" about Christ, our king, that needs to be shared!

Love Your Marriage Retreat

This one-day retreat for married couples will be held on January 31st at the Pastoral Center, Braintree. It will be led by Family Life and Our Outpost, a Catholic ministry designed to help couples intentionally develop vibrant marriages through healthier communication, conflict resolution, and decision making. The cost is \$40 per couple and includes meals, materials, Mass, and more. For more information and registration, visit bit.ly/loveyourmarriageretreat.

Convalidation Ceremony

If you and your spouse desire holy matrimony in the Catholic Church, you are invited to convalidate your marriage through your parish or at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston during World Marriage Week on Sat. February 14, 2026, at 6 PM with Bishop Cristiano Barbosa. A celebration of convalidation is an opportunity for couples married outside of the Church to enter a marriage covenant in the Catholic tradition. The Cathedral ceremony will be available in the various languages of the couples present. Visit bit.ly/convalidation2026 for more information or call Emily Elliott in Family Life at 617-746-5756.

Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce

The Catholic ministry, Life Giving Wounds in collaboration with Family Life are offering a one-day healing retreat for adult children of divorce or separation at the Pastoral Center in Braintree from 9 AM - 5 PM on March 28th. The day will include talks, prayer, confession, Adoration, Mass, small group sharing, meals and resources. The retreat fee is \$45 (\$25 for college students). Visit bit.ly/lifegivingwoundsretreat for more information.



*As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget that the highest appreciation
is not to utter words, but to live by them.*

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy



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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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