

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 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

Monday, December 1, 2025

7:00AM Filomena Giovannangeli Memorial

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

7:00AM Peggy Conrad Months Mind

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

7:00AM Ugo Giovannangeli Memorial

Thursday, December 4, 2025

7:00AM Charles Beaulieu Anniversary

Friday, December 5, 2025

7:00AM

Saturday, December 6 2025

5:30PM Richard & Margaret Keane Anniversary

Sunday, December 7, 2025

9:00AM Genevieve McCarthy and Philip O'Neil 2nd Anniv.
6th Anniv.

11:30AM Ernest "Red" Sheehan Memorial

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 29, 2025

8:00AM Marion & Al Petkiewicz Memorial

4:00PM William, Miriam & Brian Little Memorial

Sunday, November 30, 2025

7:45AM Jared Petrelli 13th Anniv.

10:15AM John Keaveney 5th Anniv.

Saturday, December 6, 2025

8:00AM John Kendzierski 10th Anniv.

4:00PM Frances & David Hurley and Jenny & Joseph Grasso Memorial

Sunday, December 7, 2025

7:45AM George & Doris Kippenhan Memorial

10:15AM Sean O'Donnell 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.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.



"If you or someone you know is in need of a home-cooked meal and community, please join us for our monthly community meal, THIS Wednesday, December 3rd, (and all subsequent first Wednesdays of the month) at 5:30 pm in St. Francis church hall."



A new Church year

With the blessing of the Advent wreath and lighting the first candle, the Church begins a **new liturgical year**. The year begins with a call to remember that we are awaiting the return of the Christ, who will come again to judge the living and the dead. The Advent wreath, which marks the weeks leading up to Christmas is an image of the passing of time, that our salvation is closer than when we first accepted it. The Church uses the preparation for Christmas as an “arch-type” of the Christian life which is always in a state of preparation for the coming of Christ.

Not only do we begin a new year but also return to the top, or beginning, of the cycle of readings for Sunday and daily Mass. This year, year “A” in the cycle, the Gospel readings for Sunday Mass will be taken, for the most part, from Matthew’s Gospel. I say for the most part because there are several Sundays during the year, mostly during Lent and Easter, when the Gospel reading is from John. Nevertheless, the year comes as a study in Matthew. Many spiritual writers have suggested that if you intend to read the entire Bible, don’t start with Genesis, but rather Matthew’s Gospel. Matthew writes with such an appreciation of Jewish culture that he is able to shed light on the Old Testament. His Gospel serves as a good foundation for appreciating the Old Testament writings.

The author of Matthew’s Gospel is credited to be Matthew the tax collector, one of the twelve Apostles. It was most likely written by one of Matthew’s disciples, who gives credit to Matthew, as he would have been the head of the community. It was written in the early 70’s, sometime after the destruction of Jerusalem. The Gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of all that is written in the books of the Old Testament. The author based the Gospel on that of Mark and of another source of ancient writings known simply as “Q”. In fact almost the entirety of Mark’s Gospel can be found in Matthew’s.

As you listen to the Gospel this upcoming year, notice how Matthew reveals over the course of his writings that Jesus is the anointed one of God.

As mentioned before, this coming Tuesday, **December 2, I will offer a catechesis on how the Church structure’s its liturgical calendar.** That will be held in St. Francis Hall beginning at 7:00PM.

My thanks to all who helped to make last week’s celebration of the dedication of the altar at St. Clare’s

such a joyous occasion! The adult choir and the children’s choir were at their very best! Such wonderful music comes only from much practice. Thanks to the staff who juggled things for months to keep the project moving. Thanks too for everyone who planned a lovely reception for Abp. Henning following Mass. The Archbishop was delighted with the celebration and felt very much at home with all who joined him for some time downstairs.

I am grateful, of course, to those who donated some of their money to help with this project. In budgeting for the project, we anticipated that some folks would wait until the Grand Annual Collection to make their donation, and that is the case. All donations are a sacrifice and thus, an expression of faith. I am most grateful to those who made such sacrifices.

I want to give a word of gratitude to **Cecil O’Brien**, our facilities operator, who oversaw the project and did most of the work himself! Cecil came to us in the summer of 2024 to work full time, caring for the buildings and properties of both parishes. For many years, he had his own contracting business and is a skilled craftsman. Starting in June, he has been spending many hours each week remodeling the sanctuary and painting the interior of the Church. He brought in others to do the electrical and carpeting. He has given a very special gift to the parish. We would never have been able to do all that he did. Thank you Cecil!

Placing the relic in the new altar

It struck me yesterday during the Mass that there was no catechesis about the relic that went into the altar as part of the consecration. So here is my feeble attempt. It is the custom in the Church that when an altar is consecrated, relics of saints are incorporated into the altar. A relic is a piece of the saint: a fragment of bone or tissue or even a droplet of blood. The placing of a relic in an altar demonstrates that in the Sacrifice of the Mass the Divine is united with the human in the person of Jesus Christ. I had several relics to put into the altar but only discovered days before the consecration that we needed the corresponding decree from the Holy See declaring that the relic is valid. (apparently you can go to sites on the internet to “buy” relics, but these can be forgeries). As there was no decree about these relics, they would not be going into the altar. In the chapel in St. Francis rectory, there was a relic of St. Francis and underneath, a formal decree validating its authenticity! That relic of St. Francis was carried in procession. Just before placing it in the altar, Abp. Henning blessed everyone with it, then with Cecil’s help, placed it inside the altar, along with the decree.

The parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston are participating in a novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. There is a great website with information on this novena:

www.evangelizeboston.com/olg-novena-prayer/

We will be using the prayer each day at Mass from December 4-12.





*From
Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Happy New Year! "Wait! What did you say?" You might think I'm a little early to be saying this but in fact today is New Year's Day, in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar. The first Sunday of Advent is the first day of the new liturgical year. It is a time for making ready for the coming of Christ. I'm not just talking about Christmas and the Lord's birth, as momentous an occasion that Christmas is. Advent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, but it is also, maybe more so, a time to prepare for His second coming at the end of time and to be ready at the end of our earthly lives to meet Him and be judged.

In today's Gospel Jesus uses a name for Himself that we might find a little odd. He calls himself the "Son of Man." We know that He's the Son of God and the Son of Mary but where does this term "Son of Man" come from? It comes from the prophet Daniel who lived some five hundred years before the birth of Christ. He describes a vision he received from God. Part of that vision follows. 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 [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. (Daniel 7:13-14)

We might not grasp the significance of this term but the people listening to Jesus would certainly have understood this to mean "Messiah." It wouldn't be long before Christians understood it to also mean the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity – also God.

So, in today's Gospel Jesus is talking about His coming again at the end of time. He tells us that one would be taken and one left behind. I think most of us look at the ones being taken as the ones who go with Jesus to Heaven and the ones left, well they aren't the lucky ones. I'd like to put a different spin on it. Jesus begins with the story of Noah and makes a comparison with end times. People are going about their lives and not worrying about how God wants us to behave. They lived as if nothing mattered except for their own happiness. It will be the same at the end when Jesus, the Son of Man, returns. People won't be paying attention to anything but themselves. One will be taken, and one will be left. Now look back at Noah. After the flood, who was left? Noah and his sons. It was everyone else, the ones who never turned to God, whose lives were taken. We might not

want to be the ones who were taken.

Whatever way we want to look at it the fact still remains we have to be ready. We can't continue to live like we are the only thing that matters. God wants to give us much more, more than we can imagine, if we would just turn to Him and be the people He wants us to be.

When Christ returns, we can't be found asleep at the wheel. We have to be ready, and to be ready means that we have to become, by God's grace, holy. None of us will ever be perfectly holy in this life. Even the saints confessed their sins. But we certainly don't want to be found unrepentant of anything that will prevent us from entering God's Kingdom.

None of us knows the hour of our own death. We might think we have all the time in the world to live any kind of existence we like, thinking "I'll have plenty of opportunity to change when I'm older" but suddenly some tragedy befalls us, and we're gone. It's too late to repent. It's too late to confess our sins and we're not ready to be judged.

Some years ago, I was at one of my son's baseball games. It was a Thursday night, and I had to leave early for choir practice at St. Elizabeth's in Milton. I said my farewells and headed to the parking lot. Then I heard the crack of a bat. That's nothing unusual at a baseball game. Seconds later I heard several people cry out "Heads up!" Well, I was half-way to the parking lot and didn't think a thing about it. "Clunk!#! I got beamed off my head. I ended up in the E.R. instead of choir practice. All because I wasn't watchful. I wasn't ready. I didn't have my head in the game-literally.

The Gospel today warns us to be watchful and to be ready, to keep our heads in the game. So that when Christ comes either at the hour of our death, at the end of time, in the Sacraments, or in the people we meet every day made in God's image, we will be ready to greet Him with joy and happiness knowing we have lived our lives in the knowledge and love of God and Jesus who was sent to redeem us.



Bereavement Bereavement Support Group meets 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. No sign-up or commitment, just a place to come and find comfort.

**REST IN
PEACE**

St. Clare
Mildred Varrasso

*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.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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The Children's Choir sang "We Come to Your Table" in English and American Sign Language during the Offertory.



After the Mass, Archbishop Henning came down to the RE Hall to talk to the children! Last year, the students learned how Pope Francis blessed some baby lambs whose wool would be used to make his pallium. Archbishop showed us his pallium and described how it is symbolic of the lamb that Jesus carried on his shoulders. As Archbishop, he is our shepherd! The RE classes will be reading "The Shepherd on the Search," a book about a shepherd who followed the Angel's news to find baby Jesus. We will be doing some fun activities with our plush Shepherd and his flock of plush sheep to prepare for Christmas.



Our Advent Giving Tree begins THIS Weekend 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 THIS weekend (while supplies last. All proceeds help fund scout activities.

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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