

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, 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

Monday, December 8, 2025

7:00AM Albert Varraso Memorial

12:10PM Daniel Crimmins and Kathleen Crimmins Memorial
Healing

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

7:00AM Virginia Oliver Memorial

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

7:00AM Felix Giovannangeli Memorial

Thursday, December 11, 2025

7:00AM Kenneth Tocci 4th Anniv.

Friday, December 12, 2025

7:00AM Lynch Family Memorial

Saturday, December 13 2025

5:30PM Marilyn McGourty 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, December 14, 2025

9:00AM Francis H. nehiley 6th Anniv.

11:30AM Elizabeth "Pat" McGrath Anniversary

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, 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

Saturday, December 13, 2025

8:00AM Richard J. Ryan 1st Anniv.

4:00PM Patrik Finnerty 6th Anniv.

Sunday, December 7, 2025

7:45AM Ellsworth Rice Memorial

10:15AM William, Therese & Mark Moore Memorial

The Bread & Wine for the week of December 6 through 13 were donated in loving memory of Arthur Gillis.

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.





FINAL JUDGEMENT

We would be missing something important if we thought the Advent wreath simply counts off the weeks until Christmas. The value of its symbolism is not the wreath or even the candles but rather in the increasing of light over the course of the season. In fact, we could say that the relationship between Advent and Christmas is a metaphor for the Second Coming of Christ. The return of Christ in glory is part of the profession of faith we say each Sunday in the Nicene Creed: *"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead"*. When is the last time you recall any discussion about the return of Christ?

Early Christians had a sense that Christ's return was imminent, that they would experience it in their own lifetime. And why wouldn't they? After all, Jesus said that this generation would not pass away until the law was completely fulfilled. The sense of an imminent return shaped their lives in such a way that they lived with an urgency that permeated everything they did. They had to be ready at every moment, as no one knew when Jesus would come back, though it would likely be within a few months or so.

Today, the members of the Church have lost all sense of Christ's return. We just presume that the Church will be around a hundred years from now or even another 1000 years! There is no sense of urgency among us because we live as if Christ's return is centuries from now, if at all! His coming again in glory simply doesn't impact us really. And so, the metaphorical value of the Advent season is lost and we think of it as the weeks of getting ready for Christmas.

I've long been enamored by the Trappist monks at St. Joseph Abbey in the town of Spencer in Worcester County. They get up each day at 3:30 to begin prayer in the chapel. Their reasoning for getting up at such an hour is in case Christ should come in the middle of the night, at least some members of the Church would be awake and praying! What a beautiful ministry in the life of the Church!

The Scripture readings at Mass and the prayers for Advent call our attention to the reality of Christ's return. It is a necessary part of our salvation. There needs to be an accountability for the life God has given us. This implies a judgement, of sorts. Jesus speaks about this judgement in the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Might I suggest you take a look at it as part of your prayer this Advent?

Perhaps we think of the final judgement as if it were

like Santa Claus checking his list twice to find out who was naughty and who was nice. Such a mindset could leave us fearing Christ to the point of avoiding Him. Such is not the purpose of judgement. Nor is judgement meant to limit the number of people who will spend eternity in Heaven as if there is only so much room. The Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition of the Church inform our faith that God's desire is that all those who are created in His image and likeness should share in Heaven. Jesus said at the Last Supper that it is the will of His Father that not anyone should be lost.

Nevertheless, Divine love implies that we must have free will. That is to say that we can receive God's love or reject it; cooperate with God or hinder His will. To some extent, each of us rejects and hinders. Thankfully, God gave us the Sacraments of the Church, especially Reconciliation (Confession) so that we can be healed of our poor choices and start anew.

In preparing a homily for last Sunday, I read this in the Catechism of the Catholic Church about final judgement: "When He comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, the glorious Christ will reveal the secret disposition of the hearts and will render to each according to his works and according to his acceptance or refusal of grace." (CCC 682)

Don't be fooled by anyone who has said they have figured out the date or time of Christ's return or the end of the world! To do so is actually blasphemy as Jesus Himself said that such information is reserved to His Heavenly Father alone. The details of Christ's return are kept secret so that we might live an authentic faith, responding generously to God's grace.

Christmas Pageant and Choir

We are looking to celebrate Christmas with a children's pageant and youth choir at the 4:00 Mass at St. Clare Church. What a terrific way to engage our younger parishioners in what we believe about the birth of Christ and why we celebrate it.

Holy Day – Immaculate Conception

Tomorrow (Monday) is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Although there is some confusion about the obligation when a holy day falls on a Saturday or Monday, this particular holy day is always one of obligation as the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States and as such the bishops of our country have deemed this day to be so significant that we ought to celebrate the Eucharist. Check elsewhere in this bulletin for Mass times.

Tomorrow evening in St. Francis Church there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 6:00. A priest will be available for Confession from 6:30-7:15. There will be praying of the Rosary and Benediction at 6:45.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

We learned about Advent wreaths and what each candle represents- HOPE (purple), PEACE (purple), JOY (rose/pink), and LOVE (purple). The children have paper chains with coordinating colors at home to count down the days of advent.



Meet Samuel, our Shepherd on the Search. After reading the book, we discussed the role of a shepherd and how Samuel is special because following a message from an angel, he goes on a journey to find the baby Jesus!



Each class received a plush sheep, one of Samuel's flock! They named their sheep and answered some questions about being a member of a flock and what it will be like to follow the angel's message to find baby Jesus!



Christmas Movie Night / Parent's Night Out!

- * All kids are welcome to our Movie Night, Friday, December 12, 6:00-9:00pm in the St. Clare RE Hall!
- * Parents, drop off the kids and enjoy a night to shop, go out to eat, or just relax!
- * Kids, come in your favorite Christmas Jammies, and be ready for pizza, crafts, and a Christmas Movie!
- * Any older kids are welcome to help out
- * Please email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org if your child would like to join us!

TRUE or FALSE ?

(Note: The readings from Isaiah and the psalms are about the Messiah.)

1. The spirit of the Lord would rest upon the Messiah.
2. He would judge by appearance and hearsay.
3. With the breath of his lips he would slay the wicked.
4. Justice would not flower in his time.
5. He would have pity for the lowly and the poor.
6. John appeared in the desert of Judea.
7. His theme was, "Enjoy your lives!"
8. John was dressed very elegantly.
9. He wore a leather belt around his waist.
10. John baptized people in the river Jordan.

ANSWERS 1 true, 2 false, 3 true, 4 false, 5 true, 6 true, 7 false, 8 false, 9 true, 10 true.

Sunday Funday © Pilot Bulletins

*Now we watch for the day,
hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.*

Advent Preface



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday, December 8 is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule for the collaborative of St. Francis /St. Clare of Assisi is:

St. Francis of Assisi

Monday, December 8 7:00AM and
12:10PM

St. Clare

Monday, December 8 5:30PM



December 7: Second Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a Braintree family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

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.**



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 January 7, 2026. Please help get the word out!

REST IN PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi

James Holloway
Linda M. Antoniou

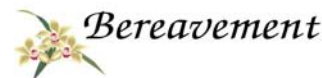
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Our Advent Giving Tree continues 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.



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



Christmas Mass Schedule Wednesday, December 24th

4:00PM at St. Clare
4:00 PM at St. Francis
6:00PM at St. Francis
11:00PM at St. Clare

Thursday, December 25th

8:0AM at St. Clare
9:30AM at St. Francis
11:30AM at St. Clare

**Please note the special Mass times and locations for
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.**

"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>



Archdiocese of Boston

December 7 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Hope is a prominent theme in the readings this weekend. Isaiah presents a hope-filled picture of the Kingdom that Christ came to establish, and St. Paul reminds us that the scriptures we hear give us a reason to be hopeful. "Whatever was previously written ...was for our instruction. . . that by endurance and encouragement, we might have hope." As we draw near to the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope and prepare for Christ's coming, we may want to carve out a few minutes each day to re-read these readings, to be attentive to the encouragement and hope God is holding out to us. Is there someone in your life with whom you can extend that hope? Be sure to take time this Advent to prepare for God's in-breaking, in the here and now, as you await Christ's final coming.

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.

WE BUY GOLD, SILVER, DIAMONDS, COINS, ESTATE JEWELRY & MORE

THE
Jewelers
& Loan Co. Quincy

PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE (617) 479-GOLD

509 Beale St. • Quincy, MA 02169

THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

of SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY



LEARN MORE

SPRING COURSES REGISTRATION OPEN

Theological Anthropology

Ecclesiology

Liturgy and Sacraments

www.sjs.edu/theological-institute | 617-779-4104

AD SPACE AVAILABLE

617-779-3771

SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Saturday, December 6, 7:00PM

Sunday, December 7, 3:00PM

www.sjs.edu/events



RSVP

INNOVATIVE TREATMENTS FOR DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, & OCD



Transcranial Magnetic
Stimulation (TMS)

Intranasal Esketamine
(Spravato®)

Intensive Out-Patient
Program (IOP)

Psychiatry Services



Now welcoming new
clients—virtually and
in-person! Oasis
Behavioral Health
Center has been
delivering trusted,
compassionate care
since 2012.

617-401-7700 | www.obhi.org

1506 Providence Highway, Suite 25, Norwood, MA



SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Your gift helps care for the
health and well-being of
priests in good standing.

Give today at
clergytrust.org

SCAN HERE for
Venmo, Google/
Apple Pay, PayPal
via Givebutter.



THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

We Change Lives.

Your support helps 1 in 8 students in the Archdiocese of
Boston attend a Catholic school through a
CSF Scholarship.



The Catholic Schools Foundation (CSF)
is the largest K-12 scholarship granting
organization in Massachusetts. For
more information visit us at
www.csfboston.org

WILLIAMS
"Solid Service since 1919"
PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING
 E-mail: info@mywilliamsenergy.com
 Lic.#15278/3654c
 Braintree, MA
 (781)-843-0415

Alliance
 Health at Braintree
Rehab & Skilled Nursing Care
 We provide both short & long
 term care Located at
 175 Grove Street, Braintree
 781-848-2050 ext. 223
 for more info.

PECK
 FUNERAL HOMES
 CARING SERVICES FOR A LOWER EXPENSE
 We HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY BEFORE
 Russell and Mortimer Peck Funeral Chapels, Inc.
 516 Washington St.
 Braintree, MA 02184

PRESTIGE ROOFING
 AND GUTTERS
ROOFING & GUTTER
SERVICES / REPAIRS
 Commercial & Residential
508-958-8822
llconstructionandroofing@gmail.com • www.prestigerroofingco.com

EMMANUEL
 IN-HOME CARE
 SERVICES
 Caring for all Diagnoses
 Hospice Care
 Personal Care
 Light Housekeeping

AD SPACE
AVAILABLE
 617-779-3771

"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

Cartwright
 FUNERAL HOMES
 WHEN THE SERVICE REALLY MATTERS
845 Washington Street
Braintree • 781-843-1878
 For Information & Directions:
www.cartwrightfuneral.com

617-784-7264
www.einhomecare.com
info@einhomecare.com

Southside
 BRAINTREE
 941 Washington Street, Braintree
www.sstavern.com • 781.848.0511

CENTURY 21®
 Marella Realty

Michael E Marella
 Owner/Broker/Realtor
 617-694-3669
 367 Washington Street
 Braintree, MA 02184
 Office: 781-848-4740
C21marella@gmail.com
 Each office is independently owned and operated

NASHAWATY & RAND
 Attorneys At Law
Michael Nashawaty, Esq.
Nicholas Nashawaty, Esq.
 Family Law • Wills & Trusts
 Real Estate Law • Bankruptcy • Civil Litigation
 654 Washington Street, Braintree
 (781) 848-8545 • www.greaterbostonlaw.com

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS
 When patronizing our Sponsors
 let them know you saw them in the
 Church Bulletin.
 THEY MAKE THIS BULLETIN POSSIBLE

NDA
 Notre Dame Academy
 HINGHAM
 Inspiring hearts,
 minds and voices

Pope
 Exceptional Short-Term Rehab
 & Skilled Nursing Care

 (781) 335-4352
www.rehabassociates.com/pope

700 West Street • Braintree, MA
information@bluehillcemetery.com • www.bluehillcemetery.com
781-843-9000

AFFORDABLE PACKAGE PLANS
AND CONVENIENT PREPAYMENT
OPTION AVAILABLE
 Permanent Memorialization Options • In-Ground Burial
 Above-Ground Entombment • Cremation Niche Columbarium

GRADES 6 THROUGH 12


SLIGHTEDGE
 FITNESS & PERFORMANCE
 Move better, feel stronger, and take care of
 the body God gave you. Slight Edge Fitness &
 Performance offers personal training, semi-private
 sessions, and athlete performance programs.
101 French Ave. Braintree
www.slightedgefit.com • 781-303-9772

Let your Heart be the Heat in this Life Leave the heating of your Home to **Blue Hills Mechanical**
 HVAC Boilers Furnaces Electrical & Plumbing
Blue Hills Mechanical wishes everyone a blessed Thanksgiving
 Call today (617)828-9020 • www.bluehillsmechanical.com