

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, January 17, 2026

5:30PM Gordon Morrissey 3rd Anniv.

Sunday, January 18, 2026

9:00AM Michael Corcoran 6th Anniv.

11:30AM Ronald & Frances O'Brien and
Mary Ferrazzi Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, January 19, 2026

7:00AM Helen Murphy Spec. Intent.

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

7:00AM Virginia Anderson Anniversary

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

7:00AM Samuel A. Dentino Memorial

Thursday, January 22, 2026

9:30AM Josephine Brown Healing

Friday, January 23, 2026

7:00AM Stella Ngugi Spec. Intent.

Saturday, January 24, 2026

5:30PM Anthony Pate 1st Anniv.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

9:00AM Louis Napolitano Anniversary

11:30AM Ernest "Red" Sheehan and
Deborah Cerilli Anniversary

6:00PM Margaret Corbett 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.



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, January 17, 2026

8:00AM

4:00PM Anna DiCenso 1st Anniv.

Sunday, January 18, 2026

7:45AM

10:15AM Bashir Abraham Khnaizir, Mary
Limea Bashir and George Nisser Memorial

Saturday, January 24, 2026

8:00AM

4:00PM Genevieve McDonough 21st Anniv.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Claire Bernard Spec. Intent.

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.





Having completed a beautiful celebration of the Christmas season, we begin **Ordinary Time**. This season runs for a total of thirty-four weeks and is split in two because of Lent/Easter. As the date of Easter varies each year, exactly where Ordinary Time is split varies too. This year the first part of Ordinary Time will cease during the sixth week once Lent begins on February 18. It will resume on May 25, the day after Pentecost Sunday.

Given our use of the word “ordinary” we would think that this season is all about what is not special or what is common. I think of ordinary as referring to the typical day-to-day stuff. Others would say mundane. However, there is nothing mundane about Christ! In the Church’s use of the word, ordinary comes from the ancient Latin usage meaning *that which is numbered*. The way the Church’s calendar is arranged implies that we are moving toward something. That something is the Kingdom of God. We number the weeks so that we can track our progression toward the completion of time when Christ returns in glory to judge the living and the dead and so brings forth the fullness of God’s Kingdom.

The liturgical color for this season is green. Green captures the sense of creation when you consider grass and trees.

Vestments for Mass

Until the start of Lent, I thought I would use the bulletin column to explain the vestments the priest and deacon wear at Mass. The inner vestment is a long white robe called an alb. The word alb means white, and not surprisingly, the alb always white. It is primarily a baptismal garment. If you recall from the Baptism liturgy, after the person is baptized (infant, child, adult) he/she is clothed in the baptism garment: a white robe of some fashion. As the newly baptized (called a neophyte) is being clothed with the robe, the priest/deacon says “you have become a new creation in Jesus Christ. See in this garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. Bring it unstained to the everlasting Kingdom of God.”

Since Baptism is the foundation of our Christian life, the alb is the foundational garment. A priest or deacon wears an alb for every liturgical event. It varies in style and shade. With some styles, it is tied up with a cord called a cincture (from the Latin meaning “waist”). Actually, since it represents baptism, any baptized person can wear an alb.

It’s worth mentioning here that at a funeral the casket is covered with a white cloth called a pall. Like an alb, the pall is a baptismal garment and is used at funerals to remind the mourners that this person was baptized and therefore is a child of God.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This week is dedicated to praying for Christian Unity. Each year the Catholic Church and many Christian faith communities join together in praying for unity. It was never the intention of our Lord that there should be divisions in the Church. Frankly, the fact that we speak of Catholic, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, is downright scandalous. The history of how all of this came about is fascinating. Nevertheless, it’s not the way the Church ought to be. Pope Leo, as well as his recent predecessors, have spoken consistently about the importance of praying and working for reunification of all Christians. Yes, there are many theological issues that make this challenging. However, these are challenges and can be worked through (I’m convinced). It was just a few weeks ago that Pope Leo traveled to the ruins of Nicea in Turkey which is the site of the Council of Nicea in the year 325 which gave us the Creed. That is the foundation for the Christian faith. You may recall, he not only prayed with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, he celebrated two Masses with him, once in a Catholic Church and the other in an Orthodox Church. Though there wasn’t “inter-Communion” the fact that they were at Mass together is a huge step toward unity with the Orthodox Church. Progress!

Day of Penance

This Thursday, January 22 is a unique day for the Catholic Church in the United States. It is the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s legalization of abortion in 1973. Though the federal law was overturned in 2022, the US bishops have decided to keep this date as a day of prayer and penance for the sin of abortion and other crimes committed against the dignity of the human person. I would like to encourage you to mark this day by taking on some kind of penance. It could be skipping a meal, or dessert, or abstaining from meat, or abstaining from something else that is pleasurable. I will have more to say about the importance of penance as we get into Lent. For now, though, it can foster prayer in a powerful way. Aside from penance, you could also go to Mass, visit a Church or chapel, say the Rosary of Divine Mercy Chaplet. You may have other ways of praying that day.

As a collaborative, we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 6:00 until 7:30. The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed at 6:45 followed by Benediction.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Last week we discussed the Baptism of the Lord, and the kids made storyboards of the event on paper water droplets. Then we reviewed the symbols and gifts of baptism. The kids were given "homework" to ask their parents about their baptisms in order to learn more about their very special day – the day that they became a child of God!



Our First Communion class has been hard at work preparing for their First Penance. Please keep them in your prayers this week as they receive the sacrament of reconciliation.



2nd Annual VBS – July 13-17 - SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Last summer we took a Road Trip with God for a wonderful week of learning and fun. The theme for this year is to be determined – the kids who sign up will vote on the theme!! More details to follow, but summer camp signups are starting soon, so PLEASE save the week of July 13-17 and join us this year!



January BPS half-day event – Thursday January 29 1:00 -4:00

Join us in the St. Clare RE Hall after the school early release. Bring lunch and a drink, and we will watch a video and play games. The kids will make prayer cards and assemble Blessing Bags to be distributed at the Community Meal program and the Food Pantry.



FAITH FACTS

The reading is from the gospel of Saint John.

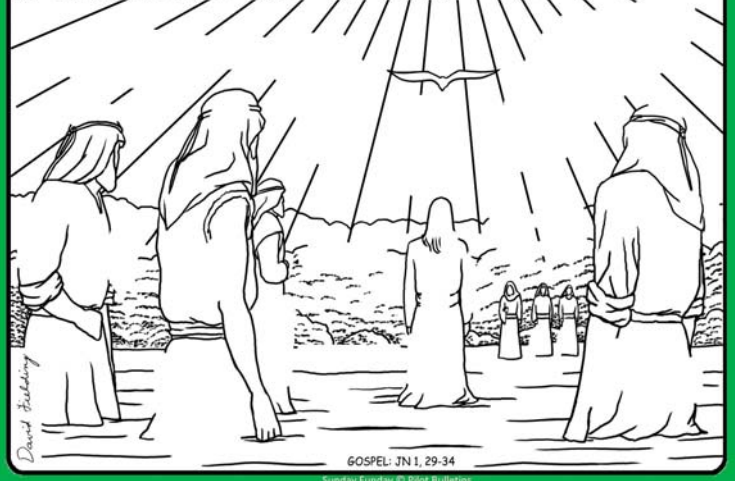
Saint John tells us that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove. He also calls Jesus "the Lamb of God."

Artists who have wanted to represent the three persons of the Trinity have often used these symbols. The drawing shown here has been taken from a carving on a medieval church. God the Father is in the center. God the Holy Spirit is shown as a dove, at the top. God the Son is shown as a lamb, at the bottom.



Sunday Funday © Pilot Bulletins

A PICTURE FOR YOU TO FINISH



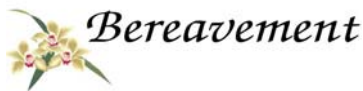
GOSPEL: JN 1, 29-34

Sunday Funday © Pilot Bulletins



We are starting a Braintree Catholic Collaborative Women's Group focusing on fellowship, community building, and spiritual growth. This will be a space to connect, pray, socialize, and grow in faith together. If you're interested in joining or learning more, please come to a **Kickoff Event Saturday, February 7, 10:30 a.m. in the St. Clare Hall.** We will brainstorm ideas for the group: how often/where to meet, types of activities like book/topic discussions, parish outreach, guest speakers, etc.

Please feel free to contact Jeanne Mackin at mackinjeanne@gmail.com or Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas for this group!



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



**The next Community Meal is scheduled for
Wednesday, February 4, 2026**



St. Clare
Nora Sheridan O'Meara



St. Francis of Assisi
George Simonelli

*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.*



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2025 please call the collaborative office at 781-843-1332. **In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner who has made a single contribution of \$250 or more.** If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the collaborative office.



**The Collaborative Office will be closed on
Monday, January 19th in commemoration of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**



January 18: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Gospel after Jesus was baptized, John testified saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove...and remain upon him."

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that you are a sign of God's Spirit of love to those who are suffering.



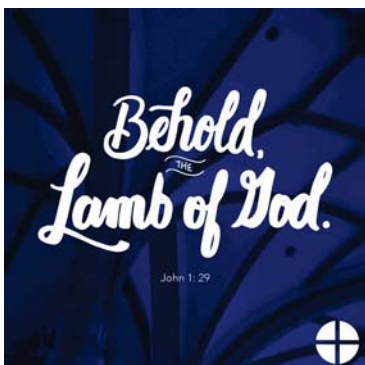
FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, January 17-18. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. **We are in need of the following items:** Laundry Detergent, spray cleaners, dish liquid, personal care items i.e. bar soap,

deodorant, catsup, mustard mayonnaise and coffee. 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.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2026 YEAR A

SUNDAY Jan 18	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
MONDAY Jan 19	1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21+23/Mk 2:18-22
TUESDAY Jan 20	1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28
WEDNESDAY Jan 21	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
THURSDAY Jan 22	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12
FRIDAY Jan 23	1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6+11/Mk 3:13-19
SATURDAY Jan 24	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21
SUNDAY Jan 25	Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Pilot Bulletins



From the Archdiocese of Boston

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats

Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Upcoming dates are Saturday, February 28 (Greater Boston), Saturday, April 11 (Merrimack Valley), and Saturday, May 16 (Boston/South). Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

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.



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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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