

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 24, 2026

5:30PM Anthony Pate 1st Anniv.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

9:00AM Louis Napolitano Anniversry

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

6:00PM Margaret Corbett 1st Anniv.

Monday, January 26, 2026

7:00AM

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

7:00AM

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

7:00AM

Thursday, January 29, 2026

9:30AM

Friday, January 30, 2026

7:00AM

Saturday, January 31, 2026

5:30PM Daniel Barselou Memorial

Sunday, February 1, 2026

9:00AM Sr. Margaret Louise, CSJ and Sr. Annceta, CSJ Memorial

11:30AM Daniel Crimmins and Kathleen Crimmins Memorial Healing

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, 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.

Saturday, January 31, 2026

8:00AM

4:00PM Arduino DiCenso 7th Anniv.

Sunday, February 1, 2026

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Gerald Ridge, Sr. and Ann Ridge 11 Anniv. 2nd 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.
- **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.





Mass Vestments

Continuing with this brief series on vestments worn at Mass, today we look at the stole. A stole is a long, narrow band of cloth that is worn over both shoulders of bishops and priests and over the left shoulder for deacons. Essentially, it is a symbol of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Its roots go back to the 7th century or so. Stole comes from the Greek meaning equipment. It was thought to come from the Jewish tallit, a prayer shawl. That's been refuted, however. Another theory is that it came from the uniform of administrative offices of the empire under Constantine, of which priests were a regular part. It evolved into a vestment worn at Mass to symbolize the yoke of service that was placed metaphorically on Christ. Others have said that the stole comes from an *orarium*, which essentially is a napkin, referencing the towel Christ placed around himself when washing the feet of the Apostles.

The stole matches the chasuble in style and color. It is normally worn over the alb and under the chasuble. For a period of time during the implementation of the new liturgical norms of the Second Vatican Council, the stole was worn over the chasuble. There was no particular reason for this other than a style choice.

Stoles are also worn outside of Mass at any other liturgical functions, such as a baptism, wedding, Liturgy of the Hours, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, etc. Because the chasuble is only worn during Mass, in the cases of other liturgical sacraments, the stole is worn over an alb or surplice (an alb-like vestment worn over a cassock.)

Cold and Flu at Church

So many of us have been hit hard with a cold or flu this winter. News reports indicate that this is a particularly rough outbreak this year. A friendly reminder that if you are suffering with a cold/flu/covid, you are not bound to participate at Mass on that particular Sunday/Holyday. Could I suggest that you take advantage of watching it on television? If you are getting over the cold/flu, not feeling well, or just not sure, could I ask that you wear a mask to Mass? I wore a mask while distributing Holy Communion when I had a cold before Christmas. It smelled just like 2020! We remember all too well having to wear masks everywhere for many months. One of the things we learned is that having everybody wear masks worked as it reduced the transmission of Covid. They help significantly in reducing the spread

of the viruses that cause cold/flu.

Irish Music at St. Francis

On Friday night of this week, there will be an Irish Sesiun in St. Francis Parish hall, beginning at 7:30. This is an informal gathering of musicians who get together to play and sing. You are most welcome to come. There's no telling how many musicians there will be, just a few or more than a few. You are welcome to bring your own food and drink. No charge.

Next weekend we will **bless throats** at all the Masses in keeping with the ancient devotion in honor of St. Blaise. In ancient times the throat was considered the entrance into the body, by blessing the throat we are praying for divine grace to protect our bodies from any ailments.

Our **Collaborative Pastoral Council and Finance Councils** will be joining other councils from the south shore for a meeting with Archbishop Henning next Saturday. The Archbishop will be talking with us about his vision for parishes and the important roles of these councils. We are very fortunate to be blessed with excellent councils:

Pastoral Council: Lisa Bernardinelli, Philip Bernardinelli, Clare Burns, Kathy Whalen-Giannandrea, Karen Whitney, Joanne McCarthy, Brian Hammel, Jen Walsh, Patrick Hubbard, Fran Ialenti, Mary Phelan, Dawn DiMartino, Rahul Pereira, Kate Waldron, Deacon Jay Waldron, Deacon Joe MacDonald, Karen Lane, Fr. Kevin and myself.

Finance Council: Kathy Whalen-Giannandrea, Rahul Pereira, Maryellen Barrett, John Cusack, Deacon Jay Waldron, Jim Egan, John Mullaney, Steve Pugsley, Richard Flaherty, and Kevin Mercier.

I am profoundly grateful to the members of the councils. They provide me with such valuable support. I am grateful for their insights, love for the parishes, and generous spirit, all of which is an expression of faith.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2026 YEAR A

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
MONDAY Jan 26	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10/Mk 3:22-30
TUESDAY Jan 27	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35
WEDNESDAY Jan 28	2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20
THURSDAY Jan 29	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25
FRIDAY Jan 30	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34
SATURDAY Jan 31	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41
SUNDAY Feb 1	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Before I get into my thoughts on today's Gospel (Matthew 4:12-23) I want to express my sincere gratitude for all the prayers that you said on my behalf as I underwent surgery last week. It could have taken a more intrusive path but because of your intercession, the grace of the Sacrament of the Sick and Reconciliation the surgeon was able to accomplish things in a less intrusive manner which will make my recovery much quicker. Again, thank you.

In today's Gospel Jesus finds out that John the Baptist had been arrested, and we are told that Jesus withdrew to Galilee. That might sound as though the bugler had sounded retreat and that Jesus was running scared. But here's the thing. John had been arrested by Herod Antipas who ruled the region of Galilee and Capernaum. Jesus was not retreating. He was marching straight into the lion's den. And this is where Jesus decides to begin His ministry, not where it was safe but where it could flourish.

One might think that the Messiah would go straight to Jerusalem, the center of Jewish faith and thought and begin His ministry and teach there. But as we will see over and over again Jesus is not the kind of Messiah that people were expecting. Instead, He went to "Galilee of the Gentiles" which would have been scandalous to Jewish leadership.

Galilee was a place where the Jews who lived there were surrounded by Gentiles and their influences. The leaders in Jerusalem would have looked down upon this region thinking that the faith of their brothers and sisters there would have been watered down by pagan practices. Jesus went to the Jewish people who were looked down upon who lived in a land surrounded by spiritual darkness. He was there to bring light to them and not just to them but to the Gentiles, too. He was the Messiah for all people.

It was from here that He would call His first disciples Peter, Andrew, James and John. Their response was immediate. There was no second guessing or hesitation. The immediacy of God's grace working instantly is a common theme in Matthew's Gospel. Luke's Gospel, however, adds a preface to their immediate response.

"Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the

nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:3-11)

Following this encounter with Peter and the rest Jesus went all around Galilee preaching, calling people to repentance, healing every kind of illness and disease and declaring that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The Church is missionary in nature.

"I will make you fishers of men." There is a purpose to our calling and that calling is not self-centered. It's not just about our own salvation. It's about our outreach. It is about our missionary mandate. It's about whether or not we are living up to the mission statement at the end of Matthew's gospel given by Christ Himself before He ascended into heaven.

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

It sounds easy enough. But it's not. Most of us aren't going to be baptizing anyone but we are all called to teach, to call, to bring people to Christ. And it isn't easy. Even as a deacon, it is easy to teach a Bible study every week. The people who are there want to be. They want to hear Christ's voice in Scripture, and they want to come to know Jesus in a more intimate way. What is more difficult is calling friends, relatives and even strangers who don't necessarily want to hear it, who may actually be hostile to it. Being Christian comes with a cost. We could be mocked, marginalized or killed. It happens all the time.

We must have courage. We must pray for courage, and we must learn enough about our faith to speak effectively. At least to plant seeds. Like Jesus marching right into Herod's hostile territory to bring light to a land in darkness we, too, need to march right into the lion's den fearlessly proclaiming the truth about Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Congratulations to the students who made their First Penance this week! At the Penance Retreats they practiced the steps and prayers for making a confession.



The kids brainstormed things that they could talk about during their confessions. Volunteers wore backpacks that were filled with heavy books. When someone suggested something to confess, like telling a lie, taking something without permission, or disobeying a parent, a book was taken out of the backpack. Soon the backpacks were empty and the volunteers described how much better it felt as the backpacks got lighter and lighter. The kids understood that the books represented our sins, and the backpacks symbolized the heavy feeling of our hearts when weighed down by guilt of sin. Being sorry for our sins and confessing them helps to heal our relationship with Jesus and makes us feel better!



We discussed the Parable of the Lost Sheep. The shepherd's decision to leave the 99 sheep to find the lost one illustrates the value of each one of us in God's eyes. When we turn away from God by sinning, Jesus, the Good Shepherd will always come for us. When we return to God asking for forgiveness, Jesus welcomes us back with open arms, rejoicing!



HALF DAY HANGOUT! 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.



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.

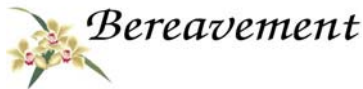
Please feel free to contact Jeanne Mackin at mackinjeanne@gmail.com or Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas for this group!



January 25: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

In this Sunday's Gospel, we find that Jesus "... went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people." **This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to proclaim the good news of the kingdom to the poor, by assisting families, providing food, and financial assistance for heat, utility and rent bills.**

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 SFA on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot.**



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**

Weather Emergencies—Our Collaborative follows the school weather emergency policy. For the safety purposes, if Braintree schools are closed due to snow or extreme weather, there will be NO daily Mass. Please be safe.



St. Francis

Mason James Keaton

Colin James Perea

Molly Kate Riley

Xiomara Penelope Toledo Paz



St. Francis of Assisi

Richard DiMartino

Wayne Brundige

Pauline Smith

Grace Calvi

Lita Ristuccia

St. Clare

Bianca Waickman

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.



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.

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35


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