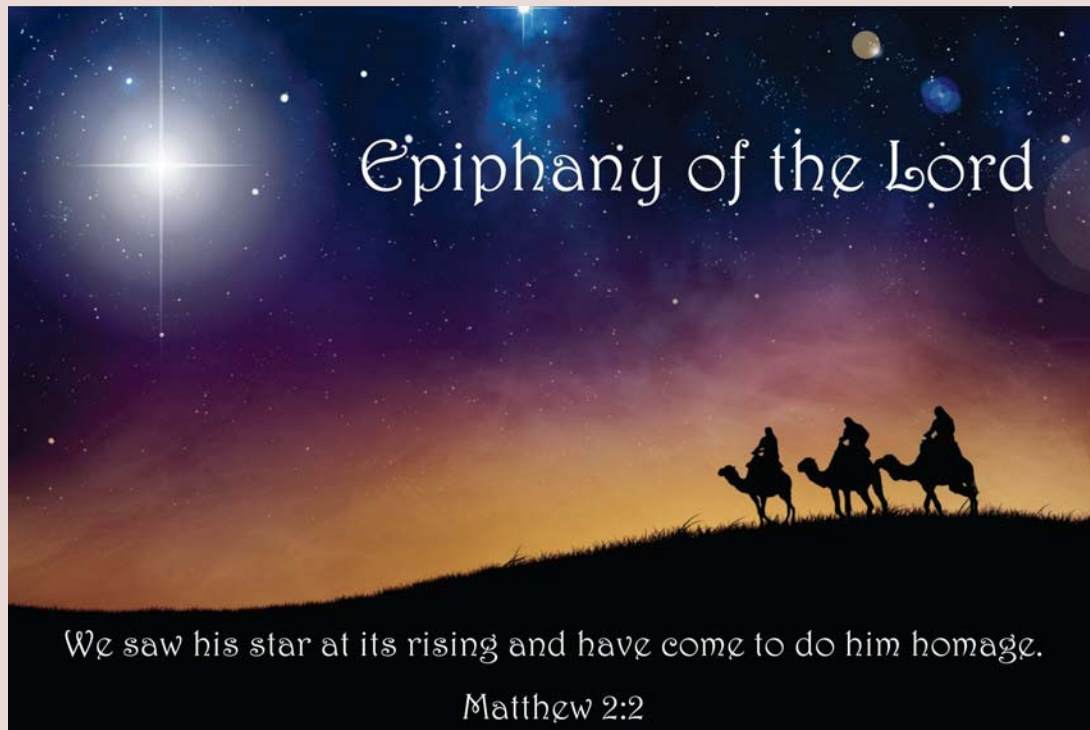


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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 3, 2026

5:30PM Lawrence Perfetti Memorial

Sunday, January 4, 2026

9:00AM Martin Joseph Kent Month's Mind

11:30AM Daniel Crimmins and Kathleen Crimmins Memorial Healing

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, January 5, 2026

7:00AM Odenweller Family Healing

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

7:00AM Martin Family Healing

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

7:00AM Dewey Anderson Anniversary

Thursday, January 8, 2026

9:30AM Domenico Giannandrea Memorial

Friday, January 9, 2026

7:00AM Stella Ngugi Spec. Intent.

Saturday, January 10, 2026

5:30PM

Sunday, January 11, 2026

9:00AM Nicholas T. Nashawaty III Anniversary

11:30AM Grace & Paul Kelly 1st Anniv.

6:00PM



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 3, 2026

8:00AM Ruth Barkowski, 10th Anniv.
Ed Barkowski and 18th Anniv.
John Avery Memorial

4:00PM Anna Tempesta and Memorial
Deceased Family Members

Sunday, January 4, 2026

7:45AM Kha Ho Memorial

10:15AM John T. Cassidy 2nd Anniv.

Saturday, January 10, 2026

8:00AM Robert Finn Memorial

4:00PM Patrick "Paddy Preston and Margaret "Maggie" Preston Memorial 1st Anniv.

Sunday, January 11, 2026

7:45AM

10:15AM William "Bill" Andrews and 1st Anniv.
Deceased Members of Burns and Memorial
Andrews Family

The Bread & Wine for the week of January 10 through 16 were donated in loving memory of William "Bill" Andrews and Deceased Members of the Burns and Andrews Family.

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.



There are traditionally twelve days of Christmas with the first on December 25 and the twelfth on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. In the US, Epiphany has been permanently moved to the second Sunday following December 25, which is today. Epiphany is a Greek word meaning *manifestation*. Appropriately so, this feast commemorates three events in the life of Jesus in which He is manifested or shown to be the Messiah or Christ of God. First is the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. Second, is the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. Third is the first public miracle at the wedding in Cana changing water into wine. In these three events, Jesus is shown by God to be His Beloved Son. Though we celebrate His birth on December 25, no one but Mary and Joseph and perhaps a few shepherds, would have known what happened by virtue of the birth of this child. It wasn't until Jesus was circumcised on the 8th day that anyone would have even known that a baby was born. More so, the special nature of Jesus would not have been recognized until the visit of the magi. I liken it to the history of our nation. The Declaration of Independence, which gave birth to this country, was dated on July 4, 1776. That's the day we celebrate our national beginnings. However, on July 4, 1776 there were very few people who knew anything about a declaration or the start of something new. It took several weeks to get the word out about what had happened. Similarly, the revelation of Jesus as the Incarnation of God happened over a long period of time. The magi, Baptism and water-made-wine are three manifestations. Yet there are so many more!

Perhaps while driving to work this week or in a time of prayer it would be good to think about other ways Jesus was manifested in the Gospels and even in your own life. They are worthy moments to ponder as even the mere recollection of them will deepen your faith.

Epiphany was the traditional day on which the average Catholic would find out the date for Easter that year. If you think about it, most people in ancient and medieval times could not read or write. There were no smart phones to tell you the date and time and whatever devices they had for measuring time were primitive. Therefore, it was necessary to tell everyone what the movable feasts were going to be so they could "synch" their calendars and make provisions for business and farming.

As you may recall, the date of Easter is determined by a lunar calendar. It falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. That requires a lot of

math! To keep the community on the same calendar, the deacon of the parish would get up at the end of Mass on Epiphany and announce to everyone when Easter and corresponding feasts would be for that year. So though you can easily look it up on your smartphone, here are the movable feasts for 2026.

Ash Wednesday	February 18
Palm Sunday	March 29
Holy Thursday	April 2
Good Friday	April 3
Easter	April 4
Ascension	May 14
Pentecost	May 24
Trinity Sunday	May 31
Corpus Christi	June 7
1 st Sunday of Advent	November 29

May God bless our parish communities of St. Francis and St. Clare with a new year of abundant graces. May each household be blessed with health, much laughter and knowledge of the Lord. May we grow in holiness and complete this year with a deeper encounter with Christ made manifest!



SCRIPTURE READINGS 2026 YEAR A

SUNDAY Jan 4	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12
MONDAY Jan 5	1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
TUESDAY Jan 6	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
WEDNESDAY Jan 7	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
THURSDAY Jan 8	1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
FRIDAY Jan 9	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
SATURDAY Jan 10	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a+9b/Jn 3:22-30
SUNDAY Jan 11	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/ Mt 3:13-17

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

The RE Children did a wonderful job telling the story of the Jesse Tree during the Christmas Pageant!



Confirmation students narrated the story that the K-6 students brought to life.



The children who represented different parts of Jesus' family tree added an ornament to the Jesse Tree in the stable, and then Mary and Joseph, surrounded by angels, shepherds, and animals, laid Baby Jesus in the manger.



The Pageant ended with everyone singing Joy to the World in sign language.





The season of Christmas is upon us, and we will celebrate Epiphany this weekend! Epiphany is when the Magi visited baby Jesus and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jesus has what He needs, but there are many in our community today that do not have all that they need. For the solemnity of Epiphany, let us bring gifts to the manger for those in need. The RE kids will be assembling "Blessing Bags" that will be brought to the Collaborative Community Meals, as well as the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Please bring donations to either church the weekends of January 3, 10, and 17. The following items would be appreciated:

- Warm socks
- Hats
- Gloves
- Hand warmers
- Snack foods – individually packaged items like:
- Granola bars, crackers, jerky, dried fruit, nuts,
- Toiletries – small or travel size items like:
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, lip balm, lotion, wipes hand sanitizer



To all who so generously participated in our Christmas Giving Trees. Your response was humbling. The gifts received were distributed to the Marge Crispin Center, Braintree High School Special Needs Program, Friends of the Unborn, Alliance Nursing Home (see pictures below) and Affinity (formerly Braintree Manor) Nursing Home. We would like to especially thank Etta and Pat Forti, Carola and Kippenhan, John Mulcahy, Michelle Dinon and Doreen Sweeney for coordinating the collection and distribution of these gifts (and in some cases shopping for gifts that were not returned).

Thank you also to the very generous parishioners who donated gift cards to supermarkets and Target. These can be used throughout the year for anyone in need.





January 4: Epiphany

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Blue Envelopes so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

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.**

REST IN PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi

Leo Salvucci

St. Clare

Richard Magri

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.



Bereavement

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



T

**he next Community Meal is scheduled for
THIS Wednesday, January 7, 2026**



*From the
Archdiocese of
Boston*

January 4 ~ Epiphany of the Lord

Our gospel presents the familiar story of the Magi and their determination to find "the newborn king." Having followed the star, they came to the place where "they saw the child with Mary his mother... and did him homage." As you listen attentively or reread the passage again on your own, what catches your attention in the story? Perhaps it is the Magi's perseverance in their pursuit, or it is the faith they show upon finding the child. How willing are you to go out of your way to find Christ? Where in your own life might you look for Christ, or been surprised to have found him? On this feast, take a lesson from the Magi don't let obstacles stand in the way of your search.

Love Your Marriage Retreat (1/31)

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 (2/14/26)

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 (3/28/26)

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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