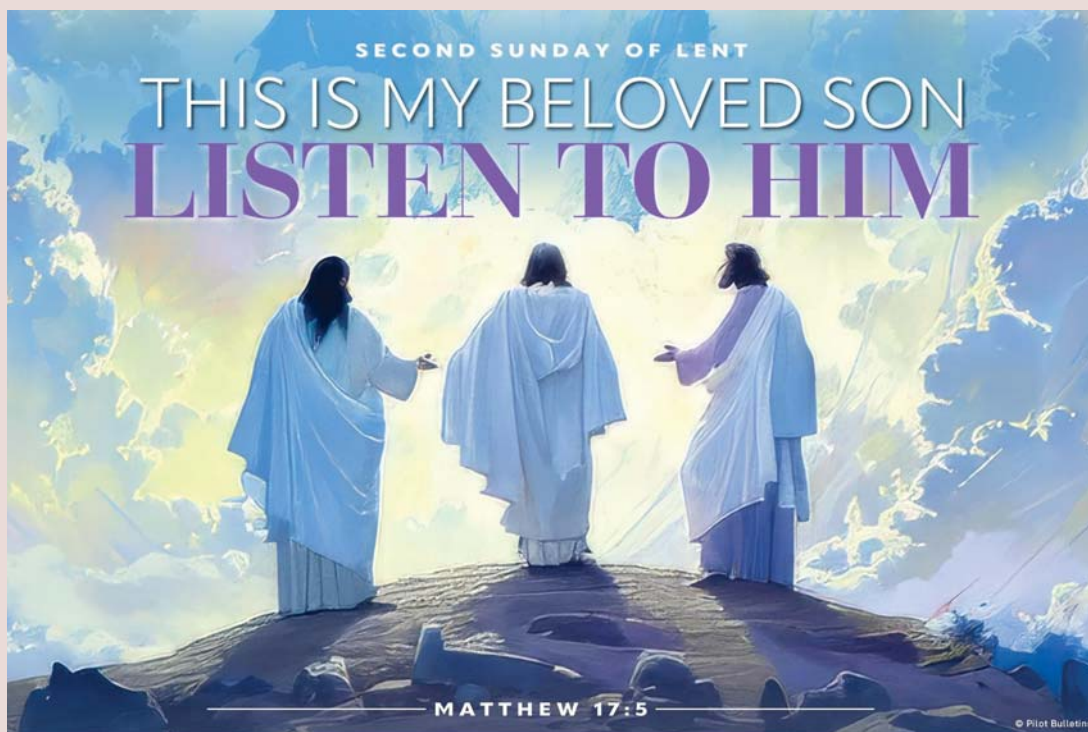


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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, February 28, 2026

5:30PM Maggie Hayes Campbell 22nd Anniv.

Sunday, March 1, 2026

9:00AM Mary & John O'Neil and
Genevieve McCarthy Anniversary

11:30AM Kathleen, Garrett and
Heather Fitzgerald Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, March 2, 2026

7:00AM

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

7:00AM Daniel Kenneally 7th Anniv.

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

7:00AM

Thursday, March 5, 2026

7:00AM Mass of Thanksgiving

Friday, March 6, 2026

7:00AM George W. Whalen, Jr. Memorial

Saturday, March 7, 2026

5:30PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Sunday, March 8, 2026

9:00AM Anthony Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM Bill Fennell Memorial

6:00PM Catherine and Joseph Corbett Memorial



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.



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, February 28, 2026

8:00AM Stephen Dooley and
Departed Family Members Memorial

4:00PM Maria Tempesta and Deceased
Members of Tempesta Family Memorial

Sunday, March 1, 2026

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Barbara Wallace and
David Wallace 12th Anniv.
4th Anniv.

Saturday, March 7, 2026

8:00AM Edward Sacco Memorial

4:00PM Donald Fitzgerald 1st Anniv.

Sunday, March 8, 2026

7:45AM George E. O'Brien Memorial

10:15AM John F. Harkins 1st Anniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of February 28 through March 6 were donated in loving memory of George E. O'Brien, Sr.

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.



Penitential Rite

The introductory parts of the Mass include a penitential rite (with a few exceptions like Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday). After the sign of the cross and liturgical greeting (i.e. The Lord be with you) the priest invites all the faithful to acknowledge their sins and ask God for pardon. Having done this, there should be a period of silence so that everyone has an opportunity to recall his/her sins. The priest or deacon then leads the congregation in one of three options for the public expression of repentance. Option two is rarely used in this part of the world with the priest calling out "Have mercy on us, O Lord" and the people responding "for we have sinned against you". Option three is quite common. The priest or deacon leads the faithful in a short litany asking God for mercy.

Today I would like to focus on option one which is called the Confiteor. After the silence, the priest or deacon leads the faithful in the recitation of this familiar prayer:

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

It looks like this particular prayer has ancient roots going back well over a thousand years. It was likely a prayer spoken by the priest in preparation for the Mass. Eventually, a form of it was used to begin individual confessions. By the middle ages it was used for all the faithful at the beginning of Mass. It is important to recognize this prayer as preparation for Mass (though it may be prayed anytime outside of Mass) The Mass is structured in such a way that the introductory rites are a preparation for the celebration of mystery. By mystery I mean that which the human mind cannot grasp. Ultimately, we are talking about the Paschal Mystery: Christ's dying and rising. As the Mass is a participation in Paschal Mystery, a period of preparation is important. The Church does not ask us to think of our sins to make us feel badly about ourselves but rather to acknowledge that we are in need of a Savior. You may recall that Jesus said, "healthy people do not need a physician, but the sick do". In a similar way, those who are not aware of their sinfulness are not aware of their need to be saved. So that we enter the Mass with a full recognition that we need a Savior, we call to mind our sins and begin the Mass with a humble plea for God's mer-

cy. It's important to have the proper disposition of mind and heart to celebrate Mass.

After reciting the Confiteor together, the priest says May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us of our sins and bring us to everlasting life. This is an indirect prayer in that it is not addressed to God per se, but rather an acclimation of sorts that the priest says aloud before the faithful. It is an expression of our common hope through the Paschal Mystery. In other words, through Christ's death and Resurrection, we hope that God will have mercy on us and heal of us of our sinfulness.

Of course, the season of Lent is a long penitential rite in and of itself. Our taking on disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are intended to keep us aware that we are sinners in need of redemption and focused on Jesus Christ as the Redeemer God has provided us.

Snow

During the past few days we all have been telling our own great snow stories. It occurs to me that most of our parishioners were not born yet or have any recollection of the Blizzard of '78. That is the standard by which all weather events are measured in the greater Boston area. Back then we didn't have the kind of snow removal equipment we have now, or the means to treat the roads or all-weather tires or front wheel drive for that matter. For some, this past week's storm dumped far more snow than '78. Regardless, there is a lot of it. All this to say, please be patient when coming to Mass as there are fewer parking spaces and everybody wants to spaces closest to the Church. We are doing are best to move snow around but it is tedious and quite expensive.

The Confirmation team met last Sunday night to evaluate our new program. You may recall that the age of Confirmation has been moved from 10th grade to 8th grade. This required revamping the entire program. The team is overall pleased with what we are able to offer. They made a number of recommendations to make the program stronger. I am very grateful to the team for the steadfast support and dedication: **Karen Lane, Jen Walsh, Greg Ranieri, Jackson Garvey, Seminarians Jesus Reynoso and Daniel Morrissey**. All of this happens because of the devotion of **Fr. Kevin** who spends many hours each week preparing classes for the students. He is a blessing to the parishes, and to me!

Each year at the beginning of March we join all the other parishes in the Archdiocese in making the **Annual Catholic Appeal**. This collection of all the faithful in the Archdiocese is what funds our common operation as a local Church. At each of the Masses this weekend I have asked a parishioner to share a few thoughts about the appeal. Next weekend I will ask all of you to consider the support you can offer. Those who have given in the past should

have received a request from the Archbishop directly to your homes. Worry not if you did not receive one! We will provide them next week.



Archbishop Henning regularly comments that in his travels throughout the Archdiocese that he sees the faith in Boston as vibrant, energized and spreading! This was seen last Sunday at the Cathedral when over 700 catechumens were presented to the Archbishop and declared "the Elect", those

who have been inquiring and learning about the Catholic Church and are asking for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

We have 6 Elect from the Braintree Catholic Collaborative who will be received into the Church on Holy Saturday. They've been meeting with Fr. Kevin and Karen Lane for the last 7 months and are now in what's called the "Period of Enlightenment/Purification". (Additionally we had three baptized but non-catechized adults who were confirmed in December and are preparing 3 more!)

On the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, the Elect participate in The Scrutinies, rites within the Mass that call them to deeper conversion and prayer. So that the Collaborative can see and pray for these Elect, the Scrutinies will rotate to different Masses.

- 3/8/26 Third Sunday of Lent—First Scrutiny 11:30 am Mass at St. Francis
- 3/15/25 Fourth Sunday of Lent-- Second Scrutiny 9 am Mass at St. Francis
- SATURDAY 3/21/26 Fifth Sunday of Lent--- Third Scrutiny 4pm Mass at St. Clare

We invite you to pray for Sarah, Inez, Katie, Aaron, Sean and Heleny as well as all the Elect throughout the world preparing to enter the Church at Easter.



Lenten Calendar

Mondays at St. Francis

Eucharistic Adoration 6:00—7:15PM; Scriptural Rosary followed by Benediction 6:45PM; Confessions 6:30-7:15PM

Fridays at St. Francis

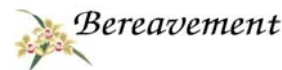
Stations of the Cross at 12:10PM

Saturdays at St. Clare

Mini Course on the Second Vatican Council

Collaborative Lenten Mission

Monday, March 9 and Wednesday, March 11 at St. Francis and Tuesday, March 10 at St. Clare



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



St. Francis of Assisi

Regina Arnold
Helen Kracunas

St. Clare

William Keane
Elizabeth Sullivan

"Whatever Lenten practices we undertake, it is important to remember their purpose. Lenten practices are not about losing weight or quitting smoking, but they are about deepening our baptismal identity as children of God and members of the Body of Christ."

~ Living Liturgy 2007



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Fasting is something we expect during the season of Lent. We fast on Ash Wednesday and fast again on Good Friday. On every Friday during Lent we abstain from eating meat. Many of us give up something in addition, like candy or cigarettes (or coffee God help us).

In addition we also do other things during Lent. For example, we give alms. That is we make monetary donations to the poor or other worthy causes. Many of us also do something extra during Lent. We might try to go to Mass during the week, or pray the Rosary, read more scripture and the list goes on.

But did you ever stop to think that in a sense we have liturgical fasting? Have you noticed that during Lent we never use the word "Alleluia"? You won't hear it in hymns or songs. You won't hear it in readings or antiphons. Before the Gospel we sing "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory" instead of the triple Alleluia.

We often take the Gloria for granted, sometimes saying it just out of habit instead of as a prayer of praise. Guess what? The Gloria disappears during Lent as well. You may have noticed it missing and thought it either a mistake or that it was something optional that the celebrant can add or subtract at his own discretion, but that isn't the case. Every Sunday of the year, except during Advent and Lent, we are obligated to sing this great hymn of praise which echoes the choir of angels on that first Christmas night. The liturgical ministers no longer wear the green vestments of ordinary time but switch to a more penitential color, purple.

This is the Church's way of marking the season of Lent as a time of change and something to take notice of. We can understand this because we do it ourselves. We use different decorations and colors to mark off our own holidays. At Christmas we decorate our homes with candles, a Christmas creche, evergreens and the colors red and green. We play music unique to the season. On the fourth of July we proudly display flags, play patriotic music and decorate in red, white and blue. We carve out pumpkins and use the color orange to celebrate Halloween.

Music in our liturgy also changes to mark off the seasons. You may have noticed for example that beginning last week with Ash Wednesday, the parts of the Mass we sing have changed. We aren't singing the more upbeat settings that we have become used to the rest of the year. We are now singing a more austere chanted version. The Penitential Rite, Lord have mercy, etc. is being sung,

but in the Greek, Kyrie Eleison. In a sense we are fasting from our usual music so that when it returns on Easter it will be even more glorious.

All of these things are meant to increase our awareness of the nature of the season, to bring us all into a deeper sense of our need for God's mercy and redemption and prepare us for the wonderful and glorious season of Easter with its promise of eternal life.



The Community Meal Ministry is in need of another Chef. The Chef would be a team member and would be responsible to cook once every four months in rotation. If you have any experience as a chef we would love to talk to you about this important and fulfilling volunteer position. ServSafe certification would be a plus but is not required. If interested please email Kathy Whalen-Giannandrea at Kathywg@sfab.org or call Patty in the Collaborative Office.

It is time for CORIs to be renewed even if you have just recently submitted one. For the Community Meal volunteers, Kathy Whalen-Giannandrea will be doing CORIs for the volunteers at the March 4th Meal.

If it is convenient for you please come to the Parish Hall before the Meal from 3:00- 5:00 and complete your CORI Application.

Bring a Drivers License or other photo ID. Volunteers in all the collaborative's ministries are welcomed to take advantage of this opportunity as well.

Our next Community Meal is scheduled for THIS Wednesday, March 4, 2026.



The Third Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026 in the St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall at 6:30 p.m.. A traditional corned beef and/or ham dinner will be served, lively entertainment provided by the incomparable *The Next Hurrah* and a few surprises. As the time draws near we will sell tickets after Masses if necessary but for now please call the Collaborative Office for tickets at 781-843-1332. The cost per ticket is \$ 35.00. Tickets are first come first served. Tables of 8 may be reserved with payment in full of \$280.00. Let's get together and have some *craic*!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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PARENT MEETING

There will be a meeting for parents of all RE students (K-6 and Confirmation classes) on **Sunday, March 8 at 11:15 in the St. Clare RE Hall**. We are in the process of evaluating the programs and planning for next year. We want Faith Formation to be an impactful and enjoyable experience and need your thoughts and ideas!

How is your Lent going? Participating in prayer, fasting, and giving together not only helps you prepare for Easter, but it is a way to grow closer in faith as a family. Here are some ideas...

PRAY

Use blue painter's tape to make the shape of a cross on the wall in your child's room. Leave some post-it notes nearby. Every evening, write the name of someone or something you would like to pray for and stick it inside the cross. Pray for that person or situation together. Jesus died for each and every one of us!

#faithandfamilycollective

CREATE

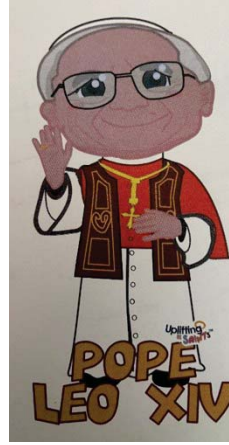
As we journey through Lent, create some visual reminders in your home. Choose a space and lay down a small cloth (purple if possible). Have your children help create a simple desert scene using rocks, sand, succulents, etc. You can also include a short Scripture like Luke 23:42. As we move toward Easter, you can add palm branches, nails, and a cross to enhance this scene.

#faithandfamilycollective

GIVE

Find a grapevine wreath at a craft store. Have your children stick toothpicks throughout the wreath's shape. Talk to them about how Jesus wore a crown of thorns out of love for each of us. As Lent continues, each time you see your child sacrifice by doing a giving action, saying a kind word, etc. let them take a toothpick out of the crown. By Easter morning, all of the toothpicks should be gone and it becomes a nest when filled with grass and eggs. Jesus' sacrifice provides new life for each of us!

#faithandfamilycollective



Flat Leo is getting ready to travel! In addition to sending letters to churches in all 50 states, Flat Leo is going home with the students to share in their adventures! The kids are invited to take pictures with their own Flat Leo at home during dinner, at a soccer game, at a trip to a museum, on a walk at Pond Meadow, on a family vacation, etc! Students can print out pictures and write a caption of their adventure, and we will post them in the RE Hall!



Summer Camp registrations are starting! Please Save the week of **July 13-17** to join us for a really fun week of VBS! Email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org if your child is interested!



The next meeting of the Women's Group will be Wednesday, March 18 - 6:30 in the St. Francis Church Hall.



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. 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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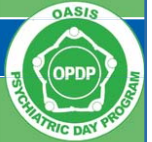
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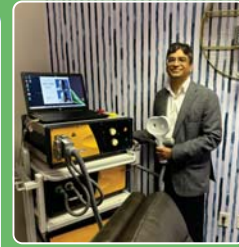
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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35


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"He has risen." Matt 28:6


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