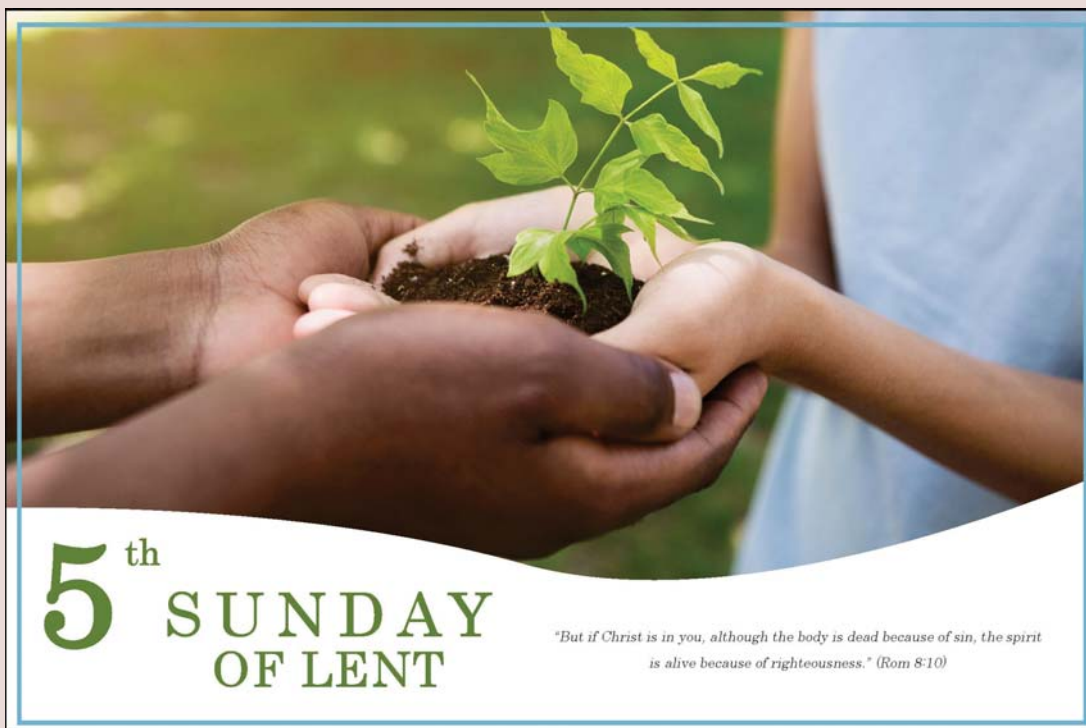


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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, March 21, 2026

5:30PM Thomas Pokaski 25th Anniv.

Sunday, March 22, 2026

9:00AM Pasquale & Benedetta Compagnone Memorial

11:30AM Dennis O'Connell 20th Anniv.

6:00PM Kaitlyn Haugh Memorial

Monday, March 23, 2026

7:00AM

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

7:00AM Erwin Macatingrao Memorial

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

7:00AM

Thursday, March 26, 2026

7:00AM

Friday, March 27, 2026

7:00AM

Saturday, March 28, 2026

5:30PM Mark Downing 1st Anniv.

Sunday, March 29, 2026

9:00AM Garrett, Kathleen and Heather Fitzgerald Memorial

11:30AM Debra Canale and Paul Canale Anniversary Memorial

6:00PM Marisa Federico 10th 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.



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, March 21, 2026

8:00AM Thomas Targonski Memorial

4:00PM Anna DiCenso Memorial

Sunday, March 22, 2026

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Sean Michael O'Donnell 2nd Anniv.

Saturday, March 28, 2026

8:00AM Josephine & Antonio Buglisi and Caterina & Luigi Alberti Memorial

4:00PM Donald, Ervene and Deborah Harding Memorial

Sunday, March 29, 2026

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Mary Lydon 1st Anniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of March 21 through March 27 were donated in loving memory of Thomas Pokaski.

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.





At the core of Christian faith is the **Paschal Mystery**. Simply put, the Paschal Mystery is the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. We call it a mystery because its reality is beyond the grasp of human intellect. There are many things of our faith that fall into the realm of beyond-our-intellect. Colloquially, we think of a mystery as a problem to be solved, as in math or an episode of the TV show *Law and Order*. In the religious sense, though, mystery is that which lies outside the limits of human reason. We like to think that we have the brains to figure anything out given time and the right resources. When it comes to God, however, this is not the case. Though we can grasp death, we cannot grasp Resurrection. Resurrection is not simply coming back to life, as what happens to Lazarus in today's Gospel. It is rising from the dead to a glorified life. So, what exactly is a glorified life? We don't know. We do not know for the simple reason is that the answer is beyond the grasp of human intellect.

With all that said, though we cannot grasp the Paschal Mystery, we certainly are given insights into what it is. First and foremost of these is the Eucharist. Think of what the Eucharist means. It certainly points to the fullness of God's Kingdom and glory of the Risen Christ. At the same time, though, it connects us physically, psychologically, and spiritually to Christ's death and Resurrection. For this reason, the Church has us celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday, the day on which Christ rose from the dead.

Given all this, the way in which we celebrate the Eucharist is so important. A Eucharist which is celebrated sloppily with poor preaching, music and lack of reverence diminishes the faith of the participants. A Eucharist which is celebrated reverently increases the faith of the faithful.

Certainly, during Holy Week, which begins next Sunday, we will celebrate the Paschal Mystery over three days. We call these three days the *Sacred Triduum*. Beginning on the evening of Holy Thursday, continuing on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and into Easter Sunday, we commemorate the events of the Paschal Mystery. You could say, I suppose, that it is Mass in slow motion. The Triduum is the highlight of the entire Church year.

I want to mention here the beautiful practice of remaining in prayer with the Lord following the Mass of the Lord's Supper. At the conclusion of this Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession to a repository. The faithful are encouraged to remain at the repository

of Gethsemane. From the conclusion of Mass (at St. Francis Church) until about 10:00 the Church will be opened. You are encouraged to come to the Church for a period of adoration. Some people will stay for an hour or so. Others will be there for a few minutes. I am asking everyone to give a few moments of your time on this evening to spend with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

My thanks to all of you have responded to the Annual Catholic Appeal. I learned that the Braintree Collaborative was at 60% of goal before the in-pew envelopes were even opened! Thanks to **Karen Lane** and **John Collier** for representing us at the diocesan kick-off meetings and speaking at all the Masses about the importance of this endeavor.

Tomorrow night (Monday) all the parish councils from our vicariate (the parishes of Quincy, Randolph, Milton and Braintree) will be participating in a discussion here at St. Francis about the meeting with Archbishop Henning a few weeks back. At that meeting, over 500 people serving on parish councils from the south region gathered at the Quincy Marriott to talk about our identity as Catholics and the needs of our parishes at this time. Fr Bob Connors, the Archbishop's episcopal vicar for parishes in the south region will lead the discussion.

What a great time was had by all who came to the St. Patrick Dinner last Saturday evening. It was a delightful time. Thanks to **Marybeth McDonough** and **Kim Kelley** for organizing the event and to all who helped to set up the hall and clean up afterward.

Thank you also to the Knights of Columbus for providing the wonderful pancake breakfast last Sunday.

Wednesday of this week is one of the most important days in the Church's calendar. It is the Solemnity of the Annunciation, commemorating the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary of Nazareth and asking her to be the Mother of God's Son. This moment has been captured in Church art for centuries and has been the subject of songs, poem and spiritual writings. The significance of this solemnity is that at the moment Mary consented to God's invitation, the Word of God became flesh in her womb. Heaven and Earth were forever united. Please mark the day with Mass if you are able or reciting the joyful mysteries of the Rosary, or even saying the Angelus prayer.





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Jesus allowed his friend Lazarus to die. In doing so He let his other friends Martha and Mary suffer the agony of watching their brother suffer death and the grief that comes with it. Many of us have been with loved ones as they were dying and some of us were there when they took their last breath. For Martha and Mary, it was the end of the line for Lazarus. His story had come to an end. There wouldn't be any new chapters of his life to enjoy with him.

When Jesus finally arrived, four days too late, Martha took the initiative and went to Jesus. She was suffering from one of the stages of grief – anger. She was not pleased that Jesus was not there to heal her brother and she let Him know it. She got right in His face, wagging her finger at Him and said, “If you had been here my brother would not have died.”

Jesus answered her, “Your brother will rise again.” But Martha knew that. She knew that Lazarus would rise on the last day with everyone else but that was too long to wait. Then Jesus explained to her that He was the Resurrection and the Life and to believe in Him meant everlasting life. And then he asked her the same question He asks of each one of us. “Do you believe this.” Her answer I think is particularly telling. “I have come to believe.” That answer tells us something not just about Martha but also about us. She didn't always believe that Jesus was the Messiah – the Son of God. There was a time, early in their relationship, when she didn't have a clue who Jesus really was. And over time she began to believe, and those seeds of faith grew, and she believed more and more until finally she could make that confession that she had come to believe, that she now believed with her whole heart who in fact Jesus really was. Did she know Jesus was going to raise her brother to life again in just a few minutes. I doubt it.

Then Mary came to Jesus and fell at his feet, a sign of worship, and repeated the same thing Martha had said not so much with anger but with resignation and grief. Mary was crying. Martha was crying.

And we are told that “Jesus wept.”

Have you ever wondered why Jesus wept? He knew what was about to happen. He wasn't sad that Lazarus was dead. Jesus already knew that was not going to last. I think Jesus wept for a number of reasons. He cried out of empathy for his friends who lost their brother. He cried at the lack of faith among the people, even His own disciples. He cried out of frustration, and He cried because He knew that raising Lazarus would pretty much sign his own death warrant. Haven't we all wept at some point in our life when we were

overwhelmed by situations and feeling a myriad of emotions? We see Jesus here at one of His most human moments and soon He will show us His Divinity because who has the prerogative over life and death except God Himself.

Then Jesus did the impossible. People were horrified when He told them to roll the stone away. They were afraid of the stench that a corpse rotting for four days would make.

“Lazarus come out!” Jesus commanded. And he did, still bound by the burial bindings and his face covered by a cloth. “Let him go free.” Lazarus, like everyone before Christ was prisoner of death and now, he was liberated.

The Gospel goes on to tell us that after Lazarus had been raised from the dead the people “began” to believe in Jesus. The seed of faith was planted in them and would grow until like Martha they might say “I have come to believe.”

Our journeys of faith don't usually come all at once. It is often a gradual thing. Something about Christ or the Church grabs our attention and we seek more. Actually, it's been the Lord seeking us the whole time. Curiosity leads to the beginning of belief, which leads to coming to believe. But what then? This pilgrimage that we are on, leading us to eternal life in the presence of the Trinity, continues. Our conversion continues. There will always be parts of us, sometimes not even known to us, that continue the need to be converted. When will we know for sure what our faith tells us is true? The answer is found in the first reading.

Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel. You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have spoken; and I will do it. (Ezekiel 37:12-14)

Everyone thought that Lazarus' story was over, but Jesus proved them wrong. When our friends and loved ones take their last breath; when we ourselves come to the end of this earthly pilgrimage we can be certain our stories are not over either. At death life changes it doesn't end. That's what the Christ's Resurrection has bought for us, bought with His own Blood.

March is CORI month! - All volunteers, employees and clergy serving in the Archdiocese of Boston are required to submit a new CORI every year. If you have not filled out a CORI since February of this year you need to complete one in the next couple of weeks. There will be someone after each Mass to help you fill them out, check them and sign them. All lines highlighted in yellow, back and front, must be filled in.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



Confession during Lent helps kids prepare their hearts for Easter by clearing away sins, allowing them to feel God's love and forgiveness deeply. It is a special time to turn back to God, heal, and receive grace to grow stronger in kindness and faith, repairing

relationships broken by mistakes.

- **It's a Gift:** Confession isn't about being in trouble; it's a gift from Jesus to help us feel better and be closer to Him.
- **Cleaning the Heart:** Think of it like taking a bath for your soul to get rid of the "dirt" of sins (mean words, disobeying, selfishness).
- **The Priest is a Helper:** The priest hears our confession and gives us absolution, bringing us peace and a "tremendous load" taken off.

The students in grades 4-6 reviewed the steps and prayers of Penance recently and were encouraged to receive this sacrament before Easter. If anyone would like help or another copy of the Penance & Reconciliation flyer, please contact Mrs. Lane at klane@sfab.org.



Before the teaching Mass with Father Bob, the confirmation students received a wonderful tour of the St. Francis sanctuary. Father Bob explained the significance of the altar and why the priest

venerates it with a kiss at the beginning and end of every Mass.

Father Bob explained what the tabernacle is and how ours sits underneath a baldacchino, which is a rare and special thing in the Boston Archdiocese! He

also pointed out the sanctuary lamp, which is lit to signify and honor the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.



The students learned that it is important to genuflect before the tabernacle to demonstrate reverence for the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Before Mass began, Father Bob described the vestments the priests wear, starting with the alb (a symbol of our baptism), a stole (which represents the spiritual authority of the ordained), and a chasuble (a word which means tent). The chasuble, which symbolizes the priest taking on Christ's mission and serving with love, changes color depending upon the Liturgical season and feast days.



Many thanks to the knights of the Columbus for a wonderful Pancake Breakfast on Laetare Sunday! Flat Leo even stopped by and helped serve up the food, then visited with some kids as well as the choir!





March 22: Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Gospel today, challenges us to see and believe the signs of grace in our lives: joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy and kindness.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing food, financial assistance for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

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.**



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.

Our next Community Meal is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2026.



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.

Men of Divine Mercy & the Flatley Foundation present

The Boston Catholic Men's Conference

"To Whom Shall We Go?" John 6:68

Saturday, April 18

The Boston Marriott Quincy

1000 Marriott Drive, Quincy, MA

Presenters include Fr. Leo E. Patalinghug, Fr. Dermot Roache, SMA, Deacon Harold Burke Sivers and John Edwards. Closing Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Richard Henning. Tickets are \$60; College/Youth Adults (18-30) are \$25 and can be purchased at www.bostoncatholicmen.com. Ticket includes coffee, pastries and boxed lunch.



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

Confessions

In addition to the time listed above, confessions are heard on Saturdays at 8:30AM at St. Clare and 12:30-1:30 at St. Francis. Additional times during Holy Week will be added.

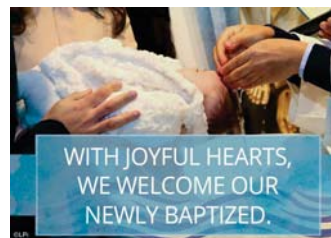


Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? If you are interested in talking about your grief and need support in your grief healing, we are again beginning our bereavement classes. They will be every Saturday at 10:30AM at St. Francis of Assisi church hall. The hour-long meeting will help you 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. Clare

Abigail Marie Lavoie

Rory Timothy Lawton

Peyton Louise Matheson

Isla Grace McNeil

Tatum Noelle Preziosi

St. Francis of Assisi

Emma Marisol Balcarcel

Sophia Isabelle Carcamo

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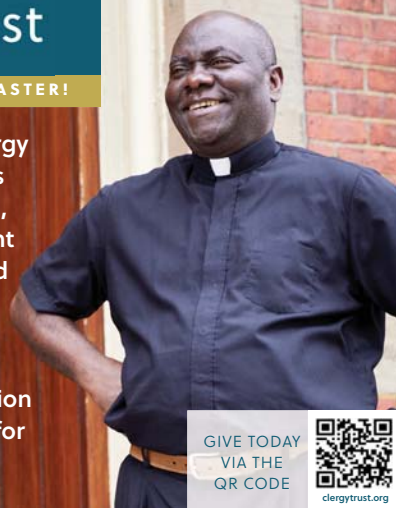


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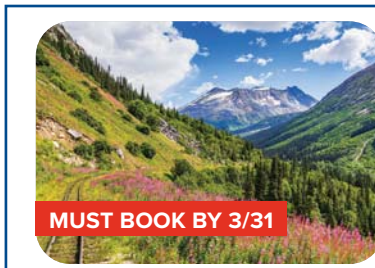
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"He has risen." Matt 28:6

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