

# Braintree Catholic Collaborative

## 3rd Sunday of Lent

### FAITH HOPE LOVE

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

*Romans 5:5*



## 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](http://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](mailto:parish@sfab.org)

## Mass Intentions

### St. Francis of Assisi

#### 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 Margaret, Catherine and Joseph Corbett Memorial

#### Monday, March 9, 2026

7:00AM JoAnne Wroe and Madelyn Magee Healing

#### Tuesday, March 10, 2026

7:00AM John & Joseph Odenweller Memorial

#### Wednesday, March 11, 2026

7:00AM Sally Healy 3rd Anniv.

#### Thursday, March 12, 2026

7:00AM

#### Friday, March 13, 2026

7:00AM

#### Saturday, March 14, 2026

5:30PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

#### Sunday, March 15, 2026

9:00AM Ann Picewick 4th Anniv.

11:30AM Domenico Federico 4th Anniv.

6:00PM Peter LeRoy 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.



## Mass Intentions

### St. Clare

#### 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.

#### Saturday, March 14, 2026

8:00AM Patricia Welch Memorial

4:00PM Helen Farmer Anniversary

#### Sunday, March 15, 2026

7:45AM Robert W. Graham 40th Anniv.

10:15AM Joseph Marino 5th Anniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of March 7 through March 13 were donated in loving memory of John Harkins.

## 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.





### Collaborative Lenten Retreat

This week is our Collaborative Lenten Retreat. This is a three-day period of reflection and prayer for our faith community that comprises the two parishes. Each night a guest speaker will offer a reflection on the topic of penance. Penance is a voluntary act of self-denial, prayer or work of charity that expresses sorrow for sins we have committed and our desire for reconciliation with God and one another. We often associate penance with the Sacrament of Penance, also known as Reconciliation or Confession. It is that, of course, but not limited to the Sacrament. Many people take on a penance for Lent, such as fasting from a favorite food, going to daily Mass, giving money to the poor or some other spiritual exercise. We do this to express to God our remorse for sins we have committed as individuals but also for sins in which we have participated as a community. Our Lenten retreat is intended to help us consider the important role penance plays in our lives as disciples of Christ.

**Monday, March 9, 7:00pm, St. Francis Church**

**Presenter: Mr. Leonard "Budd" Ryer**

Budd was a student at St. John Seminary College in Boston from which he was graduated as he considered the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. He discerned that was not his vocation. He eventually married and he and his wife raised two girls. Budd recently retired from a successful business career and is now using his time to pursue studies in theology at Boston College. He has been active in philanthropy and is an active member of St. Anthony Shrine in downtown Boston. Budd will share with us his own experience of taking on penance as a means to a deeper conversion to the Lord.

**Tuesday, March 10, 7:00pm, St. Clare Church**

**Presenter: Msgr. Bob Oliver, BH**

Msgr. Bob is a member of the Brotherhood of Hope and has been a priest for twenty-six years. He has had many interesting assignments such as professor of theology in the seminary, canon lawyer, judicial vicar for the Archdiocese. He also worked in the Vatican for ten years as a secretary for a papal commission under Pope Francis. He currently serves as the Vicar General of the Archdiocese and lives here at St. Francis where he regularly assists with Masses.

Msgr. Bob will lead us in a liturgy of the Word and offer a reflection on the Sacrament of Penance. The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation/Confession will be available following this evening's service.

**Wednesday, March 11, 7:00pm St. Francis**

**Presenter: Sister Georgeanne Donovan, SMSM**

Sr. Georgeanne is a member of the Marist Missionary Sisters. As such, she spent twenty-five years missioned in Jamaica helping to establish a new diocese in Montego Bay and teaching in the local seminary. The next twenty-five years she was in various positions of leadership for her congregation including superior general for fifteen years in Rome. In that position she traveled around the world several times to visit each community of Marist Missionary Sisters and help reorganize the congregation to meet the needs of a constantly growing Church. She will offer a reflection at Wednesday's prayer service on communal penance, that is, how we as a local Church participate in a common penance for the salvation of the world. There will be a light collation following Wednesday's service.

In addition to the three evenings of prayer, there will be a time of reflection after the 7:00am Mass on Tuesday, March 10. Sr. Georgeanne will offer a reflection on Lent.

**Next weekend** there are two special events for the collaborative: on Saturday evening, March 14 is the **St. Patrick's Dinner** beginning at 6:30 at St. Francis Church Hall. On Sunday morning, the **Knights of Columbus** will hold a **pancake breakfast** following the 10:15 Mass in St. Clare Hall. I hope that you can come!







**ST. ANDREW DINNER**  
St. John's Seminary

March 16, 2026  
6pm - 8pm

All high school young men are invited to an evening of food, fraternity, prayer, and a talk from Archbishop Henning.

- Small group tours of the seminary
- Q & A with seminarians
- Photo Opp with Archbishop Henning
- Dessert

Depart from St. Francis Parking Lot 4:15 pm  
Teens under 18 need a permission slip to attend



*From*  
*Deacon Joe MacDonald*

Jesus is always breaking down barriers. He is always looking to include people, especially those who are outcasts. He seeks out sinners. He seeks out foreigners and Gentiles, and he doesn't care if it clashes with either religious or social norms.

The first thing we notice is that He is talking to a Samaritan. Jews in the first century were not supposed to have anything to do with Samaritans. Although they believed in the one true God they were treated just like Gentiles. Also, men never spoke to women in public, especially woman of questionable backgrounds. And on top of all that He was alone with her. Jesus was a rule breaker but not a commandment breaker.

There are a couple of lines in this Gospel that I would like to focus on a little bit. Jesus had just said to the woman at the well, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth." Now He goes on to tell her that "the Father seeks such people." (John 4:23) God seeks us out. We may have always been close to Him or we might have strayed far away, but God always seeks us. Remember in the Garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve had sinned, they hid from God. I think that we do the same thing when we sin. But what did God do? He sought them out. "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9)

I doubt that it was mere chance that Jesus found Himself at the well that afternoon. And I don't think it took all of the Apostles to go into town to buy food. Certainly, one or two could have done it. More likely, Jesus sent them all knowing that the Samaritan woman probably wouldn't have approached if she saw a gang of unknown men waiting for her. Jesus sought her out.

Scripture is full of examples of God calling people. Here are just a few: God called Abraham to leave his country and his family and go to place he didn't know; (Genesis 12:1) God called Moses, who was minding his own business, tending to his father-in-law's flock, when he saw the burning bush on Mount Horeb. God sought him out there and sent him to go back to Egypt to free his people; (Exodus 3:1-11) Although Jesus did seek each of the Apostles and called them to follow Him the call of Matthew was significant in that he was a tax collector, a traitor to the nation, a collaborator. But, as always, Jesus goes against the tide and not only seeks out this sinner but also eats with him and other tax collectors and sinners for which he was highly criticized. (Matthew 9:9-13)

So, what happens when God seeks us out? How do we respond? We do have a choice. We can walk with God which is life-giving or we can follow some other way that drains life out of us. "I set before you life and death...Choose life." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

When we decide to listen to the Father/Jesus something spectacular happens. We start to move. We go to places and do things. We bring the Good News (Gospel) to others just as the Samaritan woman did and the Samaritan people believed because of her testimony. Great things happen when people listen to and follow God. Abraham became the father of faith for billions of people. Moses brought the liberation of God to the Israelites enslaved in Egypt and gave us the Ten Commandments. Matthew wrote a Gospel and brought many to believe in Christ.

Isn't this what we are meant to do? Jesus said, just minutes before the Ascension:

"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)

Jesus wasn't just giving that command to the Apostles, or to bishops or priests or ministers. That mission, that call is for each and every one of the Baptized – everyone who follows Christ. We may never convert a soul, but we can certainly plant the seed.

At the end of every Mass the priest says "Go, the Mass is ended" and we respond, "Thanks be to God." The original Latin phrase is "Ite Missa est." Literally – "Go on the mission." When we say, "Thanks be to God," it's not because we're glad to be out of there and get on with our lives. Quite the contrary, we are thankful that we have been strengthened by God's Word and the Eucharist so that we are able to complete the commission and go out and bring the Gospel to the world.



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](mailto:Kathywg@sfab.org) or call Patty in the Collaborative Office.

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

The RE students have set up Lenten displays in both churches. The big crosses are made up of small crosses with the kids' names written on them because, "In Christ, we, though many, form one body." All are welcome to write a Lenten prayer on a leaf and clip it to a branch on the tree – as the leaves of the tree begin to blossom and turn green, so inwardly our spiritual lives are seeking renewal in the new life that comes with Easter.



The adult and youth choirs had a very special visitor last weekend – Flat Leo! Students, remember to take pictures with your Flat Leo during your daily adventures and bring the pictures with captions to RE class so we can add them to our display! Where will Flat Leo show up next?



The February Half-Day Hangout was a blast! The students made bird feeders to hang in their yards. After the birds enjoy the treats, they can use the twine to build their nests – its' a win-win!



The kids helped design the Lenten displays by arranging the small crosses on a poster in the shape of a big cross.



Luckily there was time for some "snowball" fun – teams competed to see who can "shovel" the most snow in their basket. The challenge was that the kids were blindfolded and relied on their teammates to guide them!





### March 8: Third Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work."

Through your almsgiving you are doing the will of the Father and finishing the work of Jesus. Know that your nickel, dime or quarter is multiplied by the coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Blue Envelopes.



**FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY** is next weekend, March 14-15. 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, cat-**

**sup, 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.**



**The Third Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner** will be held NEXT 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. Tickets can be purchased after all Masses this weekend or in the Collaborative Office during business hours. 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*!



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.



## Lenten Calendar

### Mondays at St. Francis

**Will resume next week (Collaborative Mission this week)**

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

### Fridays at St. Francis

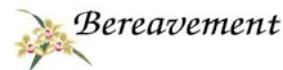
Stations of the Cross at 12:10PM

### 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



### 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

Mary Graziano

***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.***



**Join the Knights of Columbus next Sunday, March 15th following the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare for a Pancake Breakfast.**

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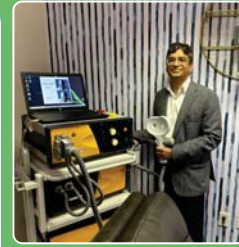
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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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"He has risen." Matt 28:6

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