

Braintree Catholic Collaborative

Divine Mercy Sunday



We have seen the Lord. John 20:25

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, April 11, 2026

5:30PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Sunday, April 12, 2026

9:00AM The Cozzo Family Memorial

11:30AM Sharon Ellsworth 5th Anniv.

6:00PM Eric Fairbanks Anniversary

Monday, April 13, 2026

7:00AM

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

7:00AM Helen Murphy Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

7:00AM Erwin Macatingrao Memorial

Thursday, April 16, 2026

7:00AM Antonio, Eleanor, Robert and Edward Corbo Memorial

Friday, April 17, 2026

7:00AM

Saturday, April 18, 2026

5:30PM Thomas Connelly Spec. Intent.

Sunday, April 19, 2026

9:00AM Elizabetta & Francesco Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM Mary Tricomi, Philip Walling, Sr., Rosemarie Roche, Paul Rober, Sr. and Paul Rober, Jr.

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.



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, April 11, 2026

8:00AM Anita Walsh Durigan Memorial

4:00PM Kathleen O'Leary 6th Anniv.

Sunday, April 12, 2026

7:45AM Gary Comoletti Memorial

10:15AM

Saturday, April 18, 2026

8:00AM Elizabeth & Mary Manning Memorial

4:00PM Arthur Gillis Anniversary

Sunday, April 19, 2026

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Francesco Boncaldo 2nd Anniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of April 11 through April 17 were donated in loving memory of Francis Ivens.

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.





Heartfelt Congratulations and Welcome to the newest members of our Collaborative who were initiated into the Church last Saturday night at the Easter Vigil: **Sarah Blanco, Inez Csátri, Katherine Gowen, Aaron Jones, Sean Murray and Heleny Pomeroy.**

They have been preparing since early fall to enter the Church. Typically, they would meet on Thursday nights with **Fr. Kevin** and **Karen Lane** to discuss Sacred Scripture, Sacraments, history, Church structure, how to pray, etc. I am very grateful to Fr Kevin and Karen Lane for their dedication to these young adults who have so desired to be connected to Jesus Christ in a more life-giving way.

You may have heard or read in the media about the striking increase in the number of people entering the Catholic Church this year. There were 680 adults in the Archdiocese of Boston who were Baptized at the Easter Vigil last week. The numbers I have heard were between 17,000 and 20,000 in the US this year. There were over 8000 adult Baptisms in Los Angeles (largest diocese in US) and an over all increase of 38% across the country. The big cities in the northeast all report a big increase. For those who lament the declining numbers participating in Church life over the past 50 years, these numbers are encouraging.

To what do we attribute such an increase? I have read some articles in local and national publications. Some claim that, given the high usage of social media, that many young adults are looking for inter-personal community. Others call it the "Leo affect" citing the first US born Pope and his very affable and approachable personality. Some are saying that it is a hunger for meaning in life which is void in a world filled with opinion, cyber bullying, sound bites and lacking in moral absolutes. Still others correlate the stresses brought on by the geo-political state of the world with a search for God. All of that is interesting and worthy of consideration. However, as Archbishop Henning said in a statement last week, it is the work of the Holy Spirit. We so easily try to give every phenomena a sociological reason. Certainly the Holy Spirit works through every aspect of our lives. Let's not forget, though, that Christ sent the Holy Spirit to bring the Church to life. Such an occurrence was not merely one moment in time. The Holy Spirit continues to inspire thoughts, influence minds and move hearts all to bring about God's Kingdom. The object is not to get in the Holy Spirit's way!

If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please encourage them to speak with Fr. Kevin or myself.

Today, the Second Sunday of Easter is known as Divine Mercy Sunday. It was inspired by the writings and spirituality of **St. Faustina** and instituted into the Church calendar by **Pope St. John Paul II**. In fact, the late Holy Father died on the vigil of this feast in 2005. The Gospel reading for today is the story of the Risen Jesus appearing to the Apostles. Keeping in mind that they had all abandoned him in his hour of need (save St. John the Beloved Disciple) His visit to them is a gesture that he is letting them start over. Though their actions during the crucifixion were an indication that they wanted nothing to do with Jesus, His returning to them in the glory of Resurrection provided them with an opportunity to try again. In other words, the Risen Jesus' walking through the locked door is a gesture of mercy: let's start over.

My thanks to everyone who helped to make our Holy Week Services such a meaningful celebration and a beautiful expression of our faith. There are so many people to mention by name, perhaps too many for the bulletin. I will mention a few by name. **Deacon Joe MacDonald** and the choir for the magnificent music during the Triduum. It was inspired and inspiring. I am grateful, too, to **Chantelle Doran** and **Lisa Berardinelli** for decorating the Churches. The quality of their work helps us to pray with greater fervor. Thanks too, to the collaborative staff who worked long hours preparing for Holy Week. I need not tell you how blessed we are to have them all working here.

Fr. Bob

CNS Photo/Paul Haring





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

It's Easter! Halleluia!

What better way to start an Easter column than with a scene from Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol." That makes sense right? To make things more vivid I'm going to describe a scene as it has been portrayed in a number of movies.

Picture this. It's toward the end of the story (movie) and the Ghost of Christmas future is taking Scrooge to a number of events that will happen sometime in the future. Now this ghost is a dark character, all dressed in black, we can't see his face except for some menacing red eyes, he is for certain the Grim Reaper. After showing Scrooge a number of disturbing scenes, the Ghost takes Scrooge to a cemetery and points to a grave. Scrooge does not want to look. He is terrified of what he might find. The ghost, with threatening gestures compels Scrooge to look and when he does, he sees himself laying in his own grave. It is a hopeless scene. All is lost. Scrooge, a man without faith, recognizes his fate – death forever, a decaying body, worms devouring what remains leaving only a skeleton that will someday also turn to dust.

Uplifting so far?

Now I'd like to describe a very different scene. At the crucifixion of Christ, there was a righteous man named Joseph of Arimathea. He was a secret follower of Jesus because he was fearful of the authorities. He was also a wealthy man and just like many of us do today he pre-planned his funeral. He had a tomb built, hewn out of rock, that would someday be used for his own burial and probably the rest of his family as well. When Jesus died, he showed great courage and went to ask Pilate for Jesus' body. Having received permission he took Jesus and placed him in the tomb that he prepared for himself.

The following Sunday the tomb was found to be empty. Word had started to spread like wildfire among the Lord's disciples and followers. It was also spreading among the Romans and the Sanhedrin. There can be no doubt that Joseph of Arimathea heard this news, too. Now, what would you do if you buried someone in your tomb and then heard that he is no longer there – that indeed he had risen from the dead?

I know what I'd do. I would run with all my strength toward that tomb, after all it was mine. I'd go as fast as I could; nothing could stop me.

Nothing more is said about Joseph after he left Jesus in the tomb, but we can speculate, and I think that he most certainly went to the tomb to see for himself. Now we have

Joseph, a righteous man, peering into his own grave and unlike Scrooge he doesn't see his rotting corpse, his tomb, his tomb is empty! This is what I think. Joseph seeing his own tomb empty was among the first to realize that the resurrection of Jesus was something more than the coming back to life of Jesus. He saw the stone that would have sealed his fate rolled away. He recognized what this event meant for him personally and for the whole world, that we are no longer slaves to the tomb because just as the Red Sea was tossed aside so that Moses could lead his people from slavery to freedom, so too the stone that would have kept us captive to sin and death has been tossed aside so that we can live in freedom as children of God, eternally, through the saving act of Jesus Christ.

My friends Christ has died, and He has risen. He has paid a ransom for our freedom and stripped death of its control and because of that the cemetery is not our final address – because that stone has been rolled away.

If death itself has no more power over us, then what can we possibly fear? What can possibly have a hold on us now?

Can the weight of our grief and sorrow? No, because that stone has been rolled away.

Can the darkness of our depression or anxiety? No, because that stone has been rolled away.

Can the chains of addiction? No, because that stone has been rolled away.

Can we be held back any longer by our illnesses, disabilities, or suffering? Absolutely not, because that stone has been rolled away.

Like Jesus, we all must die, but also like Jesus our own graves, darkened by death, will be opened, the stone will be rolled away. We will rise again. Take these words of Saint Paul to heart.

"For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection." (Romans 6:5)



This week the Collaborative Choir is returning to sing at Saint Francis. We want to thank all the good people at Saint Clare for all your love and support. We hope that our music helped you to pray and praise the Lord more effectively. We will be back!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Father Bob took the kids on a walk to Calvary on Good Friday. The kids took turns carrying the cross as Father Bob told the story at each station of the cross.



On Easter Sunday we renewed our baptismal promises and received a blessing of holy water. The youth choir had lots of opportunities to practice the ASL sign for "Alleluia!" during the celebration of the Mass!



Happy Easter! Easter is not just one day - it is a liturgical season that lasts for 50 days! So, from Easter Sunday until Pentecost, we can continue to celebrate this season of hope, joy, renewal, love, and light. We can connect Easter to the themes of spring - new life, growth, and brightness, where everything comes back to life after winter, reminding us of the resurrection.

A great way to celebrate the season of Easter is to focus on nature and look for signs of spring. Here is a scavenger hunt you can use to celebrate the joy of this season!



Next Meetings:

Thursday, April 30th 6:30 pm at St. Clare's
Saturday, May 16th 11:30 am at St. Clare's

REST IN PEACE

Archdiocese of Boston

Rev. Ronald J. Gariboldi

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. 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.

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



April 12: Second Sunday of Easter: In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!" **During Mass we turn to each other and say, "Peace be with you!" As you put your gift into the St. Vincent de Paul blue envelopes you say, "Peace be with you!" to those who are poor and hungry.**

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, April 18-19. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. **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.**



Our next Community Meal is scheduled for 5:30 Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at St. Francis.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

Fiat (4/22)

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about consecrated life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00pm (ET) on Zoom. The topic will be "A Day in the Life of a Sister." If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

Annulments: A Workshop to Promote Understanding and Healing.—May 12th from 7-8:30pm, the Family Life team, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Tribunal, present **Annulments: A Workshop to Promote Understanding and Healing.** The goal of this online workshop is to help the faithful and parish leadership understand what an annulment (decree of nullity) is versus the myths long surrounding this topic. We will cover the process and the grounds for an annulment, how long it takes, and more. Our hope is that a clearer understanding becomes a pathway to healing through a return to full participation in the sacramental life of the Church. For more information visit, bit.ly/UnderstandingAnnulments.

April 12 ~Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) - This Sunday, our scriptures give us clear instruction about how we are to live as disciples. In the reading from Acts, the author describes the disciples' way of life: "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers." Teaching, prayer and Eucharist, sound familiar? Nourished by prayer and our reception of Holy Communion may we be strengthened to bring the peace and mercy of Christ to others. Today, simply prayer, "Jesus, I trust in you" and listen as Jesus replies "I trust YOU!"





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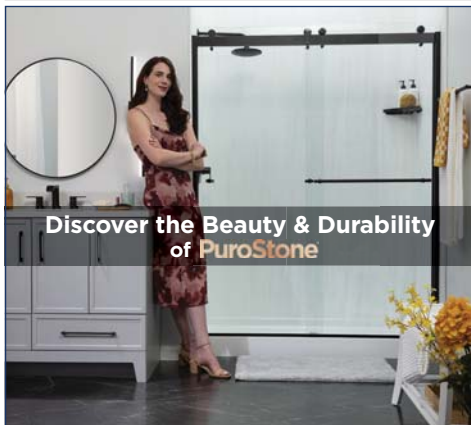
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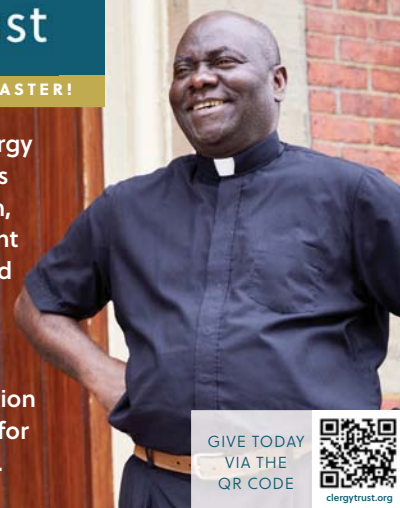


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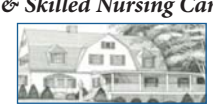
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