

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, April 4, 2026

5:30PM **NO MASS**

Sunday, April 5, 2026

9:00AM *Alleluia He Is Risen*

11:30AM *Alleluia He Is Risen*

6:00PM **NO MASS**

Monday, April 6, 2026

7:00AM Thomas Larnar, Sr. Memorial

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

7:00AM Jake Parker Memorial

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

7:00AM Jean McPhee 4th Anniv.

Thursday, April 9, 2026

7:00AM

Friday, April 10, 2026

7:00AM

Saturday, April 11, 2026

5:30PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Sunday, April 12, 2026

9:00AM The Cozzo Family Memorial

11:30AM Shannon Ellsworth 5th Anniv.

6:00PM Eric Fairbanks Anniversary



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 4, 2026

8:00AM **NO MASS**

8:00PM EASTER VIGIL

Sunday, April 5, 2026

7:45AM *Alleluia He Is Risen*

10:15AM *Alleluia He Is Risen*

Saturday, April 11, 2026

9:00AM Anita Walsh Durigan Memorial

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

Sunday, April 12, 2026

7:45AM Gary Comoletti Memorial

10:15AM Bruno Scanga Memorial

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.





The joy of the Resurrection renews the whole world!

The Sacred Scriptures tell us that between the morning of the Resurrection until the Ascension, there were over 500 people who saw the Risen Jesus. Some of the people we know by name like Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, John, Andrew and the other Apostles, Mathias and of course Paul. It is their testimony that has been passed down to us today. The concept of being raised from the dead is hard for us to grasp. Actually, it is impossible to understand completely. Nevertheless, through God's grace, we have the ability to believe it. To be sure, belief and faith are not the same thing. Faith is a response to God's Revelation. It is that quality about us that is moved when we encounter something of God. For example, when you hear the story of Christ's Resurrection, the mere desire that it be true is an act of faith. Belief, on the other hand, is a choice to accept as true what you have heard. Knowing that, by human nature, our belief wobbles from time to time, God has provided a community of believers, the Church, to support us in our doubts.

Many people feel they are not good Catholics or Christians because they have doubts about the Resurrection or about something in the Church. Similarly folks tell me they feel their faith is not strong or that they don't pray enough. Recently, I came across a list of indicators that your faith is stronger than you realize. I do not know the source.

1. **You show up to Mass even if you don't feel like it.** Mass is not entertainment and may not engender the kind of anticipation as a sporting event or theatrical performance. Nor should it. It is a solemn act of worship of Almighty God and an expression of gratitude for all that God has given. All that to say we don't always feel like being there (priests too!) Showing up is in itself an act of faith.
2. **You feel spiritually dry, but pray any way.** Whenever or however we pray, it is always a response to God's initiative. Prayers can be spoken, sung, silent. Some are rote, others spontaneous. Some are formal while others informal. Cardinal O'Malley often said to us priests "prayer is not about quality but rather quantity". In other words, however you pray, just pray.
3. **You are willing to wrestle with Church teaching** The Venerable Fulton Sheen once quipped that "there is less than 100 people in the world

who hate the Church, but countless numbers who hate what they think the Church is". Integrating Church teaching with our own self is the work of a lifetime. Given our respective personalities, experiences and histories, each of us looks at the world around us, including the Church, differently. Some aspects of what the Church teaches are relatively easy; others are difficult. Our culture dictates that if you are in disagreement with something you must distance yourself from it. This has caused many to separate from the Sacraments. The alternative, when you find it difficult to accept something from the Church, is to dive into it more deeply.

4. **You feel that you are not praying enough.** I have never met anyone who feels he/she prays enough. That sense of wishing for a better prayer life is a sign of holy desire
5. **You feel badly after you have committed a sin.** Compunction is the feeling of guilt after doing something that is against God's law or offensive to God's Church. It is a good thing, actually, (the compunction, not the sin!). Compunction can draw us closer to the Lord by prompting us to go to Confession.
6. Asking yourself what God wants you to do. Such a concern underlies a sense of vocation, that is a calling from God. We associate vocations most often with priesthood and religious life. There are, of course, many vocations; many ways of serving the Lord. In addition to a vocation, the Lord calls us to ask in certain ways given life's circumstances. Wondering what God is asking you is a sign of faith.

Of course, signs of faith are not limited to what is listed above. There are also adherence to Church precepts, following the Commandments and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, i.e. feeding the hungry visiting the sick, counseling the ignorant. As we celebrate this joyful occasion of the Lord's Resurrection, I hope that you might take a look at your own faith and give thanks to God for what has been placed in your heart! Many will recall the warning that was printed on the side mirror of cars: *objects the mirror are closer than they appear*. This is certainly true of God. So don't underestimate your faith!

A blessed Easter to you and all whom you hold dear!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

The Easter Movie Night was so much fun! The kids watched the animated version of "The Chosen" while eating pizza!



Then they made a tomb diorama craft. Many thanks to Sister Georganne, who was on hand to help out!

Next they crafted an empty tomb scene using donuts, munchkins, graham crackers, pretzels, icing, and airheads! This required just the right amount of nibbling on the materials to make the scene!



Here are the artists displaying their finished products.



We ended the night with a lively game of Easter Bingo!



A HUGE thank you to the middle school and high school helpers who did an amazing job making the night so fun for everyone!





For the Palm Sunday Mass, the Religious Education students processed in with Father Bob carrying the cross and waving palms. On the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, people waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna!" During the homily, Father Bob talked about how the cross was made out of a tree, and that days later Jesus would carry it to Calvary.



The Youth Choir celebrated their first anniversary of singing in Mass. It is said that, "he who sings in church, prays twice." The choir is grateful to St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, for inspiring them to use their gifts to Praise God in song!



March 29: Palm Sunday—Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life. **Please support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the poor as they carry their cross of suffering and pain.**

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 5:30 Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at St. Francis.



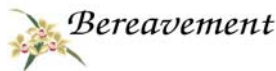
Join us at 6:45 THIS Monday evening for the Scriptural Rosary and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at St. Francis of Assisi.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2026 YEAR A

SUNDAY Apr 5	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
MONDAY Apr 6	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a+5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
TUESDAY Apr 7	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20+22/Jn 20:11-18
WEDNESDAY Apr 8	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35
THURSDAY Apr 9	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab+5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48
FRIDAY Apr 10	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2+4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14
SATURDAY Apr 11	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1+14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15
SUNDAY Apr 12	Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31



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.



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

**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 Siverson and John Edwards. Closing Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Richard Henning. Tickets are \$60; College/Young Adults (18-30) are \$25 and can be purchased at www.bostoncatholicmen.com. Ticket includes coffee, pastries and boxed lunch.



*St. Francis of Assisi
Roman Terence Kelly*



From the Archdiocese of Boston

Annual Mass with Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf - Join Bishop Cristiano Barbosa for a Mass with persons with disabilities and the Deaf community on April 12 at 2PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Reception to follow at Cathedral High School. The Mass will be accessible for all and include a sensory-friendly space, ASL interpreters, Braille and large print worship aids. For more information and registration, visit bit.ly/MWPWDD2026

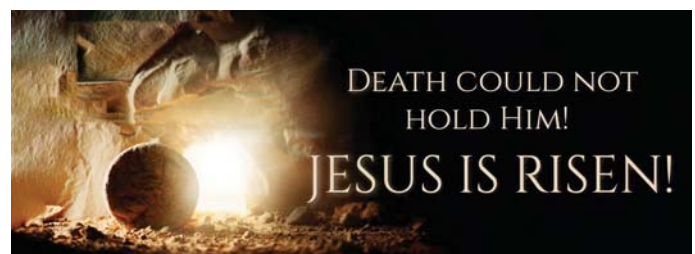
Annulments: A Workshop to Promote Understanding and Healing.—May 12th from 7-8:30pm, the Family Life team, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Tribunal, present **Annulments: A Workshop to Promote Understanding and Healing.** The goal of this online workshop is to help the faithful and parish leadership 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.

**REST IN
PEACE**

St. Clare
Peter Akins

St. Francis of Assisi
David O'Connell

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.



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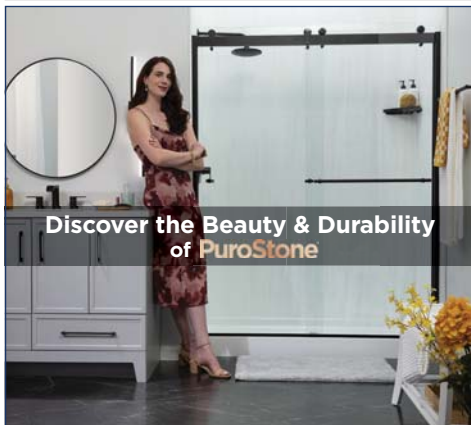
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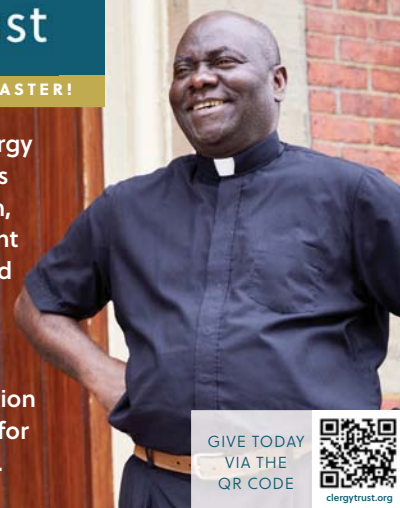


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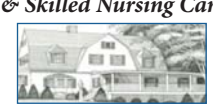
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"He has risen." Matt 28:6

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