

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
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, May 9, 2026

5:30PM Mary Reid Memorial

Sunday, May 10, 2026

9:00AM All Mothers

11:30AM All Mothers

6:00PM All Mothers

Monday, May 11, 2026

7:00AM Margaret Varraso 8th Anniv.

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

7:00AM Helen Murphy Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

7:00AM Erwin Macatingrao Memorial

Thursday, May 14, 2026

7:00AM

12:10PM McStevens Leonard Memorial

6:00PM Baby Keane Memorial

Friday, May 15, 2026

7:00AM Barbara Leaver 2nd Anniv.

Saturday, May 16, 2026

5:30PM Margaret "Peggy" Folan 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, May 17, 2026

9:00AM Rita MacDonald and Kay Napolitano Memorial

11:30AM Stella Ngugi Spec. Intent.

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, May 9, 2026

8:00AM Alice Beaulieu Anniversary

4:00PM John Mahoney 20th Anniv.

Sunday, May 10, 2026

7:45AM All Mothers

10:15AM All Mothers

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

6:00PM

Thursday, May 14, 2026

6:00PM

Saturday, May 16, 2026

8:00AM George & Carole Friedman Memorial

4:00PM Daniel Lauria 1st Anniv.

Sunday, May 17, 2026

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Irene Barone 4th Anniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of May 9 through 15 were donated in loving memory of McStevens Leonard. The Sanctuary light will also burn in Memory of McStevens.

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.



Thursday of this week is the **Solemnity of the Ascension** of the Lord. This great event is recorded in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles as well as the conclusion of Mark's Gospel. The Ascension is one of the central mysteries of the faith, though it does not receive much attention.

Sacred Scripture tells us that forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus took his Apostles back to the Mount of Olives and there "was taken up into Heaven". This explains why the Risen Lord is no longer present in the world in bodily form. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that Christ's Kingdom is inaugurated at the time of the Ascension. You could say that the Kingdom of God requires the Ascension in order to be effective. By returning to His Heavenly Father, God the Father and God the Son are able to send forth into the world God the Holy Spirit. Notice that at no time in history has the Church grieved Christ who is no longer with us. This is because the power of the Holy Spirit keeps the Risen Christ present in the world. In the story recorded by St. Luke in the Acts of Apostles, the Apostles asked the Risen Lord if he was to restore the Kingdom of Israel. This question is very telling as it reveals that the priority of the Apostles was to get rid of the Romans who were occupying their country. Because He was raised from the dead, thus showing His power, the Apostles assumed that Jesus would overturn Roman occupation. Instead, Jesus speaks to them about the Holy Spirit who will give them power.

How did the Risen Jesus ascend to His Father? We really don't know. The Scriptures simply tell us that "...as they were looking on, He was lifted up and a cloud took him from their sight". The phrasing lifted up and a cloud took him are literary devices which imply Heaven, or to be with God. The Ascension was not like the Wizard of Oz being carried off in his hot air balloon. Rather it was more like the opposite of the Risen Christ's first appearance to the Apostles in the Upper Room. Though the door was locked, Scripture, tells us he appeared to them. Similarly, at the right moment the Risen Christ was no longer visible to them.

To be clear, the plan for the implementation of the fullness of God's Kingdom is that all of us are meant to be with God body and soul. All the Sacraments and activity of the Universal Church point to this hope.

To stress the necessity of the Ascension to our faith, the Church has deemed this solemnity as a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Please see the Mass schedule elsewhere in

in this bulletin.

Donum

Beginning on May 31, there will be an additional way to provide financial support to the parish. It will be through an app called Donum. By simply downloading the app and typing in the name of the parish (St Francis or St Clare), you can simply contribute to the collection. Ideally, folks would sign up for recurring giving, so that the parish can receive your offering even if you are not at the parish on any given weekend. At all the Masses next weekend, a parishioner will speak about Donum and the benefits it could have for the collaborative. Donum is not intended to replace the weekly collection, envelopes or the electronic giving button on the parish website. If those are working for you, please continue with them! The Donum App is simply another way of giving. Many people today do not carry cash or write checks. How are they able to contribute? As the saying goes, there is an app for that! The app is live now. You can go to the app store, type in Donum and it will come up. Once you have downloaded, type the name of the parish and you will be brought immediately to our page. Donum is not only a way to contribute, but also a way to communicate with you. Eventually we will have the bulletin posted there, Mass readings, announcements, etc. We will be the second parish in the Archdiocese to use Donum.

A very blessed and happy **Mother's Day** to all the Mother's of the parish! All Masses this weekend will be offered for the mothers of the parish, including those who have gone before us in faith. For me, it's been eight years since my mother passed. I still have not gotten used to it. I suppose you never do. Most of us are able to recognize the profound gift from God our mothers are. Let us all give thanks for these women through whom God has given us life.

During the month of May we honor Mary the Mother of God. After the 10:15 and 11:30 Masses this weekend, we will hold the crowning of the Blessed Mother. In addition there is a group of parishioners who are committed to praying the Rosary on Monday evenings at 6:45 in St. Francis Church. All are most welcome.

The Blessed Mother was with the Apostles when they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. That great fest is in just two weeks. This year, we will host a **Pentecost Vigil** at 7:00pm at St. Clare Church. This Mass is modeled after the Easter Vigil so has an extended liturgy of the word. The Mass will be more contemplative than a typical Sunday Parish Mass. If this appeals to you, please come to the Vigil!



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

San Giovanni Rotondo – Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

I'm continuing with some thoughts about our recent pilgrimage to Italy. This week I'm not going in chronological order but skipping to day four and our visit to the home of St. Padre Pio, at San Giovanni Rotondo, the Friary where he spent most of his life.

I must start this column with my father-in-law's great devotion to Padre Pio. He was his favorite saint. Now Lou had a simple faith and often prayed using the prayers on the back of holy cards (especially those of Padre Pio). It wasn't anything most of us would consider remarkable, but we could definitely see the change in him over time. I should have taken more notice. I really didn't know much about Padre Pio, just that he was a saint of the 20th century, apparently a holy man. On our trip we learned much more about him.

It is said that when he was a young boy living in the shadow of a friary, he would see a monk with a long beard walking down the street. He would say to his parents "someday I want to be a monk with long beard too." He started his journey young.



Cross from which Padre Pio received his stigmata.

He was known for his holiness of life and for many supernatural phenomena. One day, in 1918, while in prayer before a crucifix he saw rays of light coming from the wounds of Christ, from His hands, His feet and from His side. Those rays were directed at Padre Pio's own hands and feet. He had received the gift of stigmata.

Though a gift it also caused him much suffering. The wounds on his body hurt as though he himself was crucified and indeed he lost a cup or more of blood from these wounds every day for fifty years. Because these wounds would constantly bleed he needed to wear special gloves on his hands and bandages on his feet.

Padre Pio was also given the gift of bilocation, that is being present in two places at once. He is a modern saint and there were many accounts by witnesses of seeing him. This mostly happened while deep in prayer. One account stands out. During World War II there was a priest being held in a concentration camp. The Germans would not allow him bread and wine so that he could celebrate Mass. Padre Pio appeared to him, not only did he appear but he brought him everything he needed to celebrate Mass. It is the only recorded time someone not only bilocated but brought gifts too.

Saint Pio was also a gifted confessor. People from

all over the world would come to him for confession. They would confess in their own language, and Padre Pio would say that his guardian angel would translate for him. He would then speak to the penitent in his/her own language. He could also tell if a penitent was holding something back and would prod them to continue with everything.

The Vatican heard about this holy priest and decided these claims needed to be investigated and for a time Padre Pio's ministry was so restricted for some two years that he described it as being in jail.

But his reputation for holiness spread more. And many people came to San Giovanni Rotondo to listen to him preach which he would do from a window in the "old church." This is the original church of his community where he would often celebrate mass. Eventually as more people came, he told his superior "you're going to need to build a bigger church." I had to laugh because it sounded a little bit like the line from "Jaws", "we're going to need a bigger boat." And they built a bigger church next to the original one.



Window from which Padre Pio preached..

We were able to celebrate Mass in that chapel, the one where Padre Pio celebrated Mass. It was the same altar on which his hands bled, and we stood upon the same floor where he stood in pain from the wounds on his feet. How my father-in-law would have loved to be with us that day. And I was both honored and humbled to serve as deacon and preach in that holy place, along with Fr. Kevin, our celebrant, and my classmate Deacon Steve Butrick.

Eventually, after his death and canonization the bigger church wasn't even large enough and a new Basilica was built nearby.



Our Lady of Grace Church. On the left is the "old church" built in the 12th century where Padre Pio celebrated Mass and heard confessions. On the right is the new Church completed in 1959



The Modern pilgrimage church completed in 2004.

What insight might I have gained from my experience visiting San Giovanni Rotondo that I can share with all of you. Firstly, the saints were real people who lived with all the struggles

that each one of us deal with in our own lives. Although we venerate their bodies, they are not dead. They are alive with Christ in Heaven. They know of our struggles and want to help us with their prayers so that all may achieve peace in this life and eternal happiness with the Lord.

Padre Pio suffered from illnesses that defied understanding at the time, having fevers that would sometimes reach 119 degrees. He suffered constant pain from the wounds of Christ manifest in his own body. Yet through all of this he remained faithful to God and to his mission to lead souls to Jesus. All of us suffer from the pain of illness, of spiritual warfare, and psychological wounds that often scar us for our whole lives. Yet in all of this we can still thank God, as Saint Pio did, that we have His consolation and promise that we will be alright and that He will never abandon us. Indeed, we can offer these sufferings in union with Christ for the salvation of souls.

Padre Pio held up for us, as an important spiritual exercise, the daily recitation of the Rosary to lead us toward holiness. Luanne and I have begun to this discipline and although not perfect yet will continue to strive to say it every day. I would encourage all of you to do the same. It is very powerful.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, May 16-17. 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.**



The Mass schedule for the Braintree Catholic Collaborative is:

St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, May 14 7:00AM, 12:10 and 6:00PM

St. Clare

Wednesday, May 13 Vigil 6:00PM
Thursday, May 14 9AM

ANOINTING of the SICK

Saturday, May 16, 2026

You are invited to join us for a Mass of the Anointing of the sick. This beautiful sacrament offers both physical and spiritual healing for those who receive it. The sacrament is for those who are confined to their homes because of illness, infirmity or advanced ages; for those preparing for surgery; for those newly diagnosed with serious illness; and for those with chronic illness who have not received the sacrament within the past 3 months.

Mass will begin at 11:00AM in the church hall and will be immediately followed by a luncheon.

If you plan to attend please RSVP not later than Monday, May 11th. Email pkinnally@sfab.org or call the Collaborative office at 781-843-1332.

If you have any questions please call the office.



Effective **TUESDAY, May 19th** we will begin booking Mass Intentions **for July 1 through December 31, 2026.** To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.



DONUM

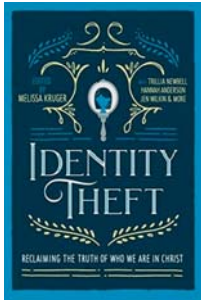
COMING SOON

Donum - a new online giving app developed specifically for parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Watch for details in the coming weeks.

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Our next Women's Group meeting will take place Thursday, May 28th 6:30PM at St. Clare's Church. We will be discussing the book *Identity Theft: Reclaiming the Truth of Who We Are in Christ*. You can purchase this book for about \$13.00 on Amazon. Please join the meeting even if you are not reading the book as it will be a nice open group discussion. Please contact Jeanne Mackin with any questions at mackinjeanne@gmail.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



Last week, the children gathered for First Communion Retreats. They talked about the incredible gift of the Eucharist, and discussed how the Eucharist is a Meal, a Sacrifice, and a

Memorial.

They reviewed the parts of the Mass, practicing the prayers and responses for each part.



They practiced receiving the Eucharist with unconsecrated hosts.



Finally, they made their pew banners – it was a lot of fun working together to prepare for their big days!



Save the date for a Family Faith Gathering!!
Sunday, May 17, after the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare



The Ascension is when Jesus returned to heaven 40 days after Easter to be with God, while Pentecost, occurring 10 days later, marks the Holy Spirit coming as a helper to guide believers. The Ascension shows Jesus completing his mission, and Pentecost marks the birth of the Church, empowering friends of Jesus to share his love. Join us in the St. Clare RE Hall for some food, fellowship, and activities to learn about and celebrate the Ascension and Pentecost!



Join us at Vacation Bible School July 13-17!!! Contact Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org to pre-register now! Those who are pre-registered will get to choose the theme, which will be announced at the end of May!

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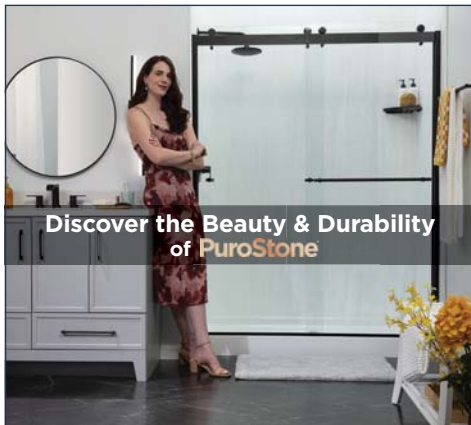
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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8



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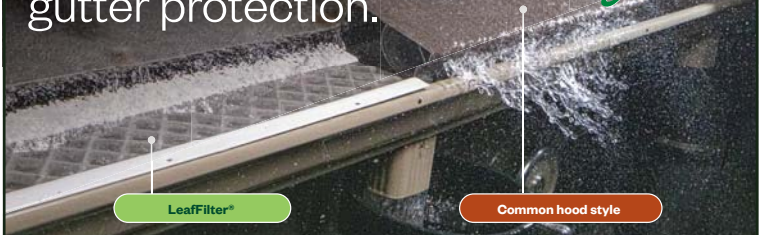
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