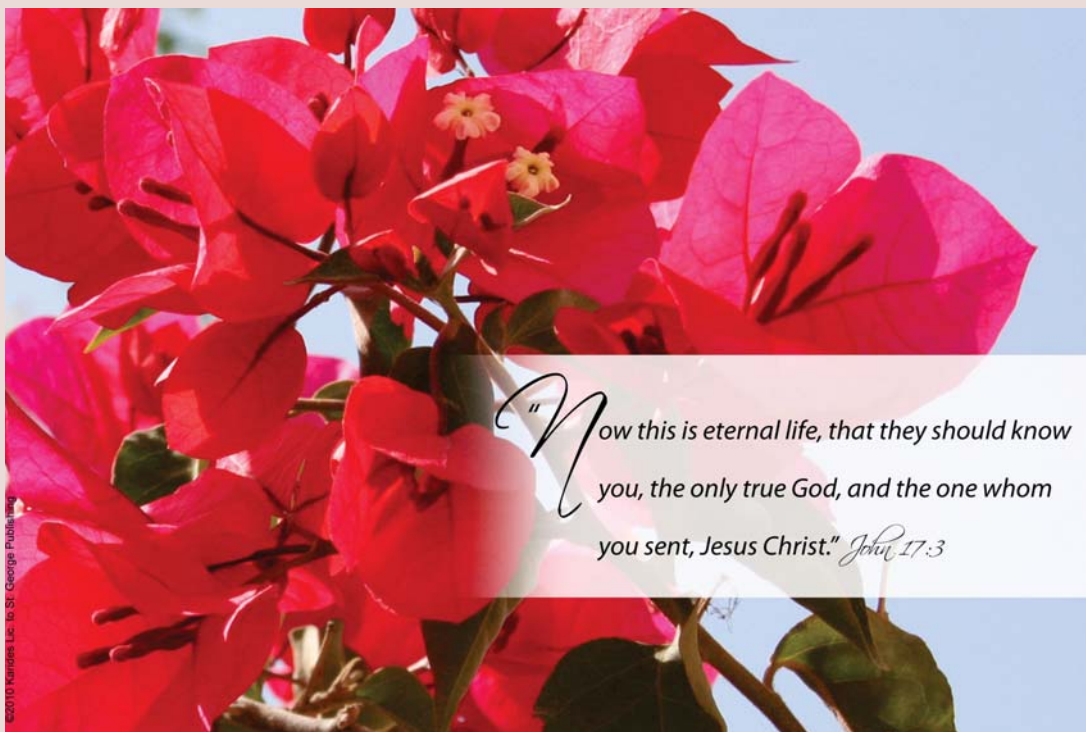


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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 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

Monday, May 18, 2026

7:00AM

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

7:00AM

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

7:00AM

Thursday, May 21, 2026

7:00AM

Friday, May 22, 2026

7:00AM Melemcio Navarro 36th Anniv.

Saturday, May 23, 2026

5:30PM Heather, Garrett & Kathleen Fitzgerald Memorial

Sunday, May 24, 2026

9:00AM Lilla Candelieri Memorial
 11:30AM Lucy Ngugi Spec. Intent.
 6:00PM Jean DiCesare Morehouse Memorial



We are now 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.

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COMING SOON

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

Watch for details in the coming weeks.

A safe, secure, and convenient way to support your parish - anytime, anywhere.



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

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.

Saturday, May 23, 2026

8:00AM

4:00PM Marie Keoghan Memorial

Sunday, May 24, 2026

7:45AM Joseph Rizzo Healing
 10:15AM Larry Rochon 14th Anniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of May 16 through 22 were donated in loving memory of Irene Barone. The Sanctuary light will also burn in memory of Irene.

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 Holy In between

The liturgical calendar of the Church teaches us something about the spiritual life. This Sunday falls between the Solemnity of the Ascension and the Pentecost. During this time, the Blessed Mother and the Apostles were making a retreat of sorts in Jerusalem. Tradition holds that they were in the "Upper Room" where they had celebrated the Last Supper just a few weeks before. There they waited. And prayed. And waited. They were not sure what they were waiting for exactly. Before His Ascension, Jesus told them to wait for Another Advocate whom the Father would send. What did they imagine this advocate would be? They waited for nine days (giving us the devotion of novena). Then on Pentecost, they received the Holy Spirit.

Our current position in history is a sort of in between. Jesus has ascended. He has sent the Holy Spirit. And now we await Christ's return in glory. None of the Apostles or the first generation of Christians imagined that the Church would still be around in 2000 years. They just assumed that Christ would return within their life time. Ever since, there have been people who have speculated on the time and place for Christ's return. Of course, it did not happen. The pendulum has swung in that now we assume that Christ will not come during our life time and that the Church will still be around in another thousand years. Without that sense of urgency, you can understand why the world is not all that concerned about faith and the social issues that impact that faith. The Sacred Scriptures would say this is foolish.

In a sense we are caught between earth and heaven. Christ has established our redemption, however the work of redemption is not complete. It requires our full and active participation. It must be chosen!

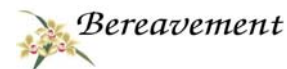
Next Sunday, of course, is the Feast of Pentecost. I would like to celebrate an ancient liturgy next Saturday night known simply as the **Pentecost Vigil**. It is much like the Easter Vigil in that it is structured around an extended Liturgy of the Word with many readings from the Old Testament and Psalms. This will be a contemplative liturgy in that we will listen to the readings and have quiet time for prayerful reflection after. This will be a slow paced and intentionally longer Mass. It will begin at 7:00 at St. Clare Church.



This weekend is all about Donum! At each of the Masses a parishioner will give a brief introduction to the concept of supporting the parish electronically. The future of our parishes will clearly depend on electronic financial support as we are moving rapidly toward a cashless society. If you have been to the UK in recent years, you have discovered what a cashless society looks like. There are very few places that will accept cash: not restaurants, pubs, food markets, convenience stores, trains, taxis, etc. If we don't adjust, the parishes will not survive financially. To be clear, though, the Donum app is another option for supporting the parish. We are not stopping cash, checks or envelopes. However you choose to support the parish is a significant help and I am most grateful!



Our next Women's Group meeting will take place Thursday, May 28th 6:30 PM 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



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. **Please note there will be NO meeting on Saturday, May 9th.**

"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 Elevator

The St. Clare Elevator is temporarily out of service. We are awaiting the part needed for the repairs. Thank you for your understanding.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Mea culpa! Mea culpa! Mea maxima culpa! Friends, I must make an apology. Last week I was so concerned with getting my column in by the deadline that I completely left out the most important thing that I came to understand by visiting San Giovanni Rotunda and getting to know St. Padre Pio. So, before I continue with this week's column I'm going to finally complete last week's edition.

As you know Padre Pio was recognized as a gifted confessor. In fact, he was also known as a mystic and often displayed knowledge and understanding that could only be called supernatural gifts from God.

My experience there has led me to a better understanding and appreciation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament is something that we should all consider vital to our spiritual growth and well-being and that we should receive this healing Sacrament often.

Before my next Confession, I'm going to pray to Padre Pio that my Confession will be complete, courageous and with sincere sorrow for my sins and with a genuine desire to sin no more. I will also pray to Padre Pio for my confessor, that like this great saint and through the grace of his priesthood and of the Sacrament he may guide me on a path of holiness.

Ok, let's move on to one of the other sites we visited on our pilgrimage. This one is Monte Sant'Angelo, the Cave of Saint Michael the Archangel. Here is a little background about this oldest place of pilgrimage in Europe.

In the year 490 a local nobleman's most important bull went missing so he started looking for it. He found the animal lying in front of a cave. Unable to get the creature to move he decided to shoot an arrow into the cave to scare it away. To his surprise the arrow came right back and hit him. Assuming that something weird was happening in that cave he went to the local bishop *Lorenzo Maiorano* (also known as *Laurentius Maioranus*) of Sipontum and explained what happened. The bishop wasn't sure if this was supernatural or not or whether it came from God or some other source, so he ordered three days of fasting and prayer. And then Michael the Archangel appeared to the bishop himself, requesting that a church be built there. At first the bishop believed but soon began to doubt what he experienced. Could it have been a dream? Was it an hallucination? Would people think he was losing his mind? The bishop put it aside and thought of it no more – for a while.

Sometime later, when a group of pagan Lombards threatened the total destruction of the city, Saint Michael again appeared to the bishop and told him to fight off the invaders with faith and that they would be successful. It happened just that way.

Bishop Maiorano continued to have doubts and still did not have the church built on the site. He did however go to the Pope for advice – three days of fasting and prayer, just like before. The bishop stayed outside the cave not wanting to go in when Saint Michael again appeared announcing who he was and that he was always in the presence of God. He ordered the man to enter the cave and told him that it was unnecessary to consecrate the church because Saint Michael had already done it. The church was built. To this day it is the only church in the world that was not consecrated by a human being.

Now most other shrines I have been to, especially in Italy were generally great basilicas built over the sites where saints have died or are buried or are dedicated in some way to holy things. An example of this is the Porziuncola, the tiny 9th century church most associated with Saint Francis of Assisi around which the great Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli was built.



This is exactly what I expected to find built over St. Michael's Cave. When we arrived at the top of Mount Gargano the first thing I noticed was a gigantic structure, certainly ancient and I thought "this is it." Boy was I wrong. It turned out to be one of the fortresses that were often built to protect cities from invasion and not the church. Finally, after walking down some very narrow, steep and centuries old streets, we came to the church. It wasn't very big or impressive. When we entered through the doors we came to some stairs that led down, down and down. Although I didn't count them, I will trust the internet and tell you that there are 86 steps. These steps were made of ancient stones and were very uneven, not what we call "up to code". At the



bottom of the steps was the church and guess what? It was a cave – a real cave. No grand basilica with gold ceilings and frescos and other ornate decorations. It was cold like a cave,

smelled like a cave, and was damp like you'd expect a cave to be. There was a simple stone altar with simple wooden benches. Because it was so small it filled up with people very fast and it was difficult to find a place to sit. There was a priest praying with the people in Italian and at first we had no idea what he was saying. Well, Fr. Kevin did because he speaks fluent Italian, but the rest of us were out in the cold. Then we recognized the rhythm of the prayer and realized that it was the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and we could pray along quietly in English. Following the chaplet there was

Benediction, which we could also understand though it was not in our own language. It was a very moving and prayerful experience.

Along with the millions who have made pilgrimage and prayed here, many saints and popes have visited as well, they include Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Padre Pio, Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Saint Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict and many other saints and popes.

Although many of us have difficulty relating to human saints, like Francis and Clare, I think we have even more difficulty relating to angels. We know that they exist (at least in our minds) and that they are sent by God to assist us. We know we have guardian angels, but do we try to talk to them – pray to them? I don't think most people do. But it was an angel that appeared to Mary to announce that she would become the Mother of God. It was an Angel who appeared to Zechariah to announce that he would become the father of John the Baptist. Both the Old and New Testaments have many examples of angels interacting with men and women. Let's remember the holy angels when we pray and ask them to pray with us and guide us.

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can bring peace to those who are hungry.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS 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.**



St. Clare

*Charles Joseph Connolly
Benjamin James Moccio*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Congratulations to our First Communicants! May this special communion strengthen your faith and guide you closer to God, marking the start of a lifetime filled with His grace.

Before each Mass Father Bob and Father Kevin had a “prayer huddle” with the kids!



It was exciting to see the kids process in with the priest!



During the First Communion Masses, the students participated by reading Prayers of the Faithful and bringing gifts up to the altar.



During one of the Masses, Father Bob was joined by Father Foley and Deacon Proulx. Father Foley gave First Communion to his nephew Declan and Deacon Proulx gave First Communion to his granddaughter Abigail – so special!



After the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare, the First Communicants read some prayers, sang a song, and crowned the Blessed Mother statue.

The Catholic Church dedicates May to Mary, the Blessed Mother, because it is a spring month symbolizing new life, just as Mary brought new life (Jesus) into the world. Mary always leads us closer to her son, Jesus. She acts as a loving mother who brings all of our worries and cares to God. We honor her as our loving, Heavenly Mother!

Why May is Mary's Month?

- **A Time of New Life:** May is often filled with blooming flowers and fresh growth, reminding us that Mary brought Jesus, the author of life, into the world.
- **Our Mother Too:** When Jesus was on the Cross, He gave Mary to us as our mother. She is a perfect, loving, and gentle mom who cares for every child.
- **The Queen of Heaven:** Because she loved God perfectly, she is honored as the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

How can we Celebrate Mary during May?

- **Bring Flowers to Mary:** Children can bring flowers to a church to place at her altar or set up a small "Mary altar" at home with a statue or picture, flowers, and candles.
- **Pray the Rosary:** The rosary is a special, garden-like prayer (like a bouquet of roses) for Mary.
- **Learn About Mary:** Read stories about when Mary visited children in appearances like Our Lady of Fatima.

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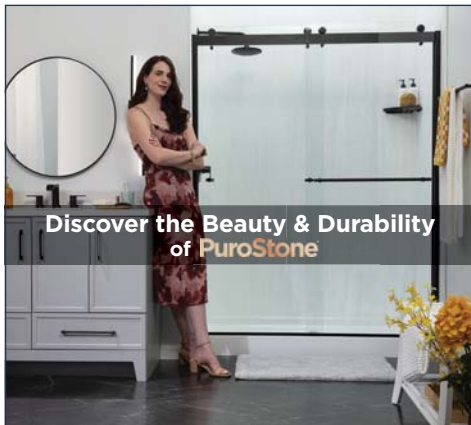
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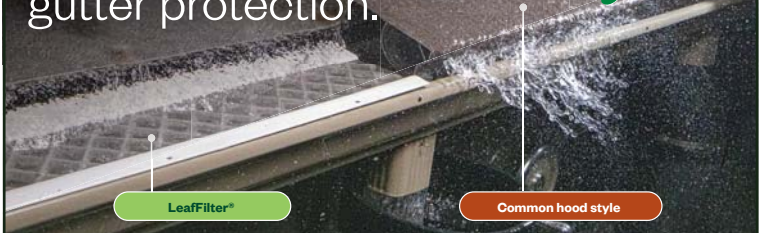


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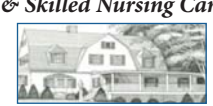
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