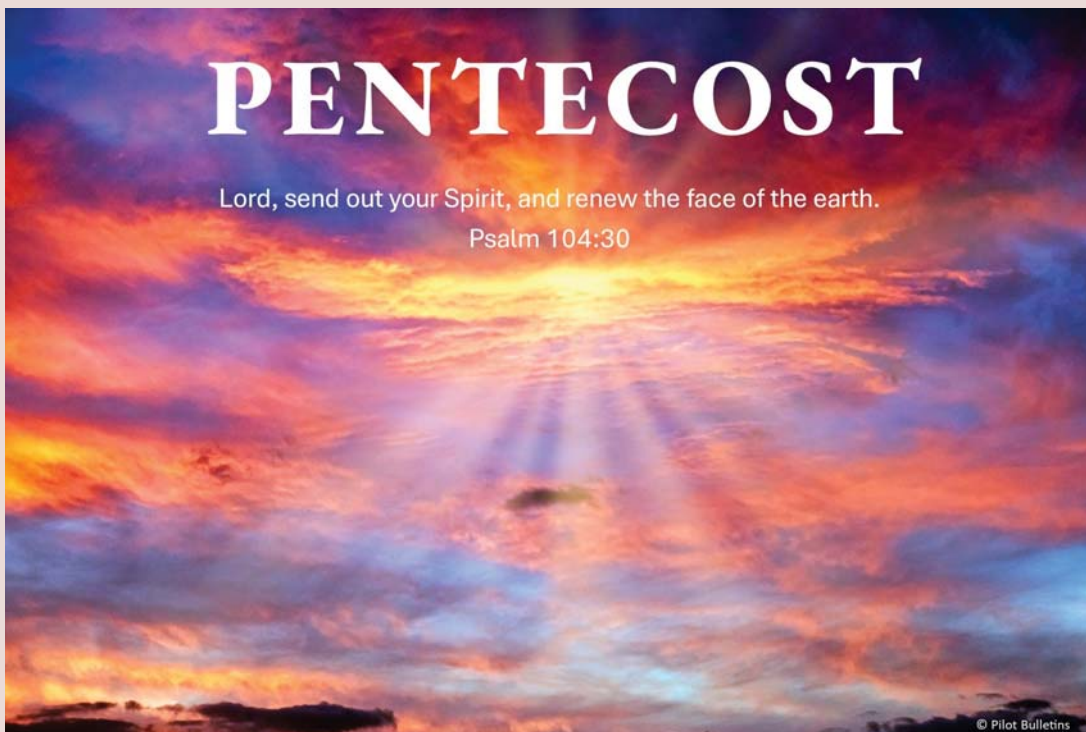


Braintree Catholic Collaborative

PENTECOST

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Psalm 104:30



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 23, 2026

5:30PM Heather, Garrett & Kathleen Memorial
Fitzgerald

Sunday, May 24, 2026

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

Monday, May 25, 2026

7:00AM Ellen Ford 13th Anniv.

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

7:00AM

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

7:00AM

Thursday, May 28, 2026

7:00AM

Friday, May 29, 2026

7:00AM Maureen and Nathan Watson Memorial

Saturday, May 30, 2026

5:30PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Sunday, May 31, 2026

9:00AM Edward Marks Memorial
11:30AM Ryan Steber 3rd Anniv.
6:00PM John Keaveney 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.

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.

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



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, May 23, 2026

8:00AM Burt Tremblay Spec. Intent.
4:00PM Marie Keoghan Memorial

Sunday, May 24, 2026

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

Saturday, May 30, 2026

8:00AM Caroline Conboy Memorial
4:00PM Joseph Clougherty 1st Anniv.

Sunday, May 31, 2026

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative
10:15AM John Gately 11th Anniv.

The Bread & Wine for the week of May 23 through 29 were donated in loving memory of Larry Rochon.

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 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. Please contact Jeanne Mackin with any questions at mackinjeanne@gmail.com.



The significance of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is dramatically described in the reading from the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, “Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem (for the feast)...they gathered in a large crowd but they were confused because each one heard them (Apostles) speaking in his own language.” Clearly, the Apostles were speaking under the power of the Holy Spirit, AND the people heard what they were saying under the power of the Holy Spirit. This is exactly how faith in Jesus has been transmitted over the years: the Holy Spirit inspires and guides the words of the speaker, and also disposes the hearer to receive the message. By words I also mean the written words as in Sacred Scripture.

Commemorating the birthday of the Church is a recognition of the work of the Holy Spirit. The Church is nothing without the Holy Spirit. This is all part of God’s plan for our salvation. The Risen Christ ascended to the Father so that their divine bond could result in the breath of Their Spirit into the souls of Christ’s disciples. Being a member of the Church is therefore not a simple acknowledgement of Christ, but rather a community that is living and acting according to the movements of the Holy Spirit.

Some would argue that the errors, sin, corruption and all around messiness of Church members is evidence that there is no Holy Spirit. I, of course, argue just the opposite: that the faith continues to be transmitted from one generation to the next in spite of the messiness is evidence that same Spirit is active today. Many spiritual writers would say something like the rub between the Holy Spirit and flawed humanity yields a tension that is healthy and promotes holiness. How can this be? Because wherever there is resistance to the Holy Spirit you will find people freely choosing to the promptings of the Spirit. It’s the stuff of saints!

With the celebration of Pentecost today, the Easter Season comes to a close. We return to Ordinary Time tomorrow (Monday) though it is the memorial of Our Lady, Mother of Church. I love how in the Church’s calendar the day after Pentecost is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under this title. Having celebrated the birthday of the Church, we then immediately honor its first member, the Mother of Christ.

Next weekend is the rollout for Donum, the smart phone app that connects you with the parish and allows you to have access to Mass readings, announcements, bulletin,

and electronic offertory. As fewer people are carrying cash or writing check, we need to be thinking of new ways to receive parishioners’ and guests’ donations. Since our parishes are financially dependent on free will offerings, I’m afraid if we don’t do something different then we will be seeing a decrease in offertory simply because more and more of our people will not be using cash or checks. Simply go to the app store, download DONUM, open the app, and when prompted enter St. Francis or St. Clare parishes and click on the ones for Braintree. Once there you will have access to all of the above. Members of the Collaborative Pastoral Council will be available after Masses next week to help you set up your phone.

As you may have heard, Pope Leo will be releasing his first encyclical tomorrow (Monday). An encyclical is a kind of pastoral letter from the Pope addressing some important matters of faith, morals or social issue. The letter has a very high level of authority though is not considered infallible. Encyclical comes from a Greek word meaning circular, as in circular letter. This letter can be written to a group within the Church, such as all bishops. Most often, however, it is addressed to all Catholics or to all people of good will. Pope Leo’s first encyclical is entitled *Magna Humanitas*. The title of an encyclical is taken from the first two words of the Latin version of the letter. This letter addresses ethical issues around artificial intelligence. I am hoping that some evening in June we can have an open discussion about this letter for anyone who is interested. You will be able to look at the encyclical on the Vatican website. ~Fr. Bob



Continuing with my experiences while on pilgrimage in Italy I will turn my attention to Assisi, an important location for both of our parishes.

I think that most of us know very little about Saint Francis, about his youth, his conversion story and the founding of the Franciscan order. When most of us think of Saint Francis we often recall his great love for animals. Every year in our own collaborative we celebrate the blessing of animals as a concrete way to remember Francis through our own love of animals. In fact, it wasn’t just animals that he loved but all of God’s creation and praised God for all of it which we see in his “Canticle of the Sun.” It is the first poem written in the Italian vernacular. But the life of Saint Francis is much more than this. He wasn’t just a twelfth century “flower child” born around 1182 to a wealthy merchant in Assisi. Most parents want their child to grow up in a better situation than they did. And so, it was his father’s desire that he would grow and use his wealth to

marry into nobility. Francis probably thought this was a good idea himself wanting to become a knight and find glory in battle. In his youth he was known to be something of a partier and would frequently be seen in the town square drinking and carousing with friends. Today, we might find many children of the rich and famous doing the same.

Francis soon got his chance to make a name for himself in battle. Assisi and Perugia were locked in a bitter rivalry when in 1202 at around the age of 20, he joined Assisi forces to attack Perugia in the Battle of Collestrada. Things did not go the way he expected. Assisi lost the battle and Francis was captured and spent a year as a prisoner of war. This disillusionment helped shape the course of his future life. He stopped being so concerned with fame and riches and began to look toward the spiritual.

The turning point came while he was riding his horse down the road and noticed a leper walking toward him. Usually he, like everyone else, would keep their distance, not even looking at the poor man. He must have been inspired by the Holy Spirit but in this case he rode right toward the leper, got off his horse, embraced the man and kissed him. Later, Francis came to realize that it wasn't a leper but the Lord Himself that he had embraced and kissed.

"And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

While in prayer some time later in the neglected and abandoned chapel of San Damiano, he heard the voice of Christ speak from the Crucifix he was praying in front of. "Francis, repair my house, which is falling into ruin." Francis assumed He was referencing San Damiano but would later realize Christ really meant the Universal Church.

Francis got to work renovating San Damiano. His father, Pietro, had left on a business trip and Francis went to his shop; took all of his inventory and sold it so that he could rebuild the little chapel. As you might expect his father was not too pleased with his son's thievery and dragged him before the bishop. The bishop explained that one cannot do something evil even if it were for a good purpose and that he had to return what he had taken to this father. Pietro built a jail in his home, with bars and a lock, and imprisoned Francis there for about a month. When he went on another business trip his mother released him. Upon Pietro's return he was furious with both Francis and his wife. He dragged Francis to the town square, berating his son in front of the bishop and towns people. Francis decided that he could no longer take anything from his father and gave even the clothes he was wearing, stripping naked and placing the clothes at his father's feet. He said, "From now on I will no longer say, My Father Peter Bernadone, but Our Father who art in heaven."

The bishop covered the now exposed Francis with his own red robe and as he walked away saw a poor beggar dressed in rags. Francis gave the robe to him.

Francis began a life of service to the poorest of the poor and soon others were attracted to his way of life. Francis, though he was a holy man still had his struggles with sin. One day while having a particular struggle with temptation, he threw himself into a bed of roses being cut by the thorns. When his friends pulled him out all the thorns on the bush fell to the ground. The Thornless Rose Garden remains preserved beside the Porziuncola and is one of the three sacred sites enclosed within the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. I know it sounds crazy to us that someone would actually do harm to their bodies like this and I'm sure it seemed crazy to others at the time as well. We should know that the Church doesn't want us to do this either. However, the act was rewarded by God but not because of the harm Francis inflicted on himself but because he was willing to go to any length to avoid sin. How far are we willing to go, what are we willing to do in order to avoid sin in our lives?

During the Fifth Crusade, Christian forces were locked in heated battle with the Muslim dynasty ruling Egypt at the time. The year was 1219 and Saint Francis taking the words Christ spoke in the Beatitudes to heart he crossed the battle lines believing that dialogue could overcome the violence of war. He was brought before Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil, commander of the enemy forces. The Sultan was very impressed with the courage of this lone monk. They spoke respectfully with one another. Francis spoke to him about the Christian faith and about peace and although the Sultan was not converted to Christianity, he appreciated Francis for his sincerity, courage and devotion to his own faith. The Sultan could have done the expected thing and have Francis executed but instead he was sent back home peacefully. "Blessed are the peacemakers; they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

What did peace mean to a Jew in the first century when Jesus spoke these words? It was much more than the absence of violence and conflict. It means "shalom" – which means wholeness, harmony, justice, and restored relationships. It means full state of flourishing in every aspect of life—spiritual, physical, relational, and societal. Are we peacemakers in that sense of the word? Do we desire shalom with our neighbors, families, even those who seek us harm? How far are we willing to go (within our own hearts) to achieve this kind of peace and thus be called children of God.

I'd like to include just a couple more incredible things about Saint Francis of Assisi. He was blessed with the stigmata, that is the very wounds that Christ received being nailed to the Cross. It is a miraculous gift that indicates the

great holiness of the one who receives it.

There was an incident, from which we probably get our association of Francis and animals. There was a wolf that was terrorizing Assisi. Francis went out and found the wolf and as the story is told spoke to the animal. The wolf didn't want to terrorize anyone it was just hungry. Francis suggested that if the people of the town left something outside their door for the wolf he would leave the people and their livestock in peace. The wolf agreed and promised to protect the city. How could that happen? Was it a Dr. Dolittle moment? Wolves can't actually speak. It certainly must have been some kind of supernatural gift granted at the moment so that two created creatures, Francis and the wolf, could come to understand each other. It was another moment of peacemaking brought about by God Himself.

There are so many aspects and stories to tell about Saint Francis, but I can't describe all of them here. Many books have been written about him. You might want to read some of these and explore his life yourselves.

~Dcn. Joe

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



At the Family Faith Gathering on May 17, the kids learned about the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost. We started with a lesson about Mass objects.

We are meant to participate in Mass, and understanding the objects used helps us to do that. The Church utilizes physical things (water, incense, candles) to aid in worship. Learning about these things helps us understand that all five senses can be used to connect with God. Knowing what the priest is using, like the chalice, paten, or ciborium, makes us feel involved and helps us to participate more fully in the Mass.

After looking at and holding the items, the kids played a matching game to see how much they remembered!



Finally, the kids discussed the Ascension (when Jesus returned to Heaven 40 days after the Resurrection) and Pentecost (when God sent the Holy Spirit to Earth 50 days after the Resurrection) and made some fun crafts.



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 next week!!!

The Half-Day Hangout in April focused on Earth Day, which was celebrated on April 22. We started off by watching The Lorax and discussing why it is important to "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"



The kids made drawstring backpacks out of old t-shirts!



In 1225, St. Francis composed his famous poem, the "Canticle of the Creatures," which praised God through the beauty of nature. It begins with the words, "Praised be You, my Lord, through all Your creatures," which serves as the foundational theme for Earth Day eco-theology. We are all called to be stewards of God's creation, so here are some ways we can all do our part!



- Everyday actions we can take:**
- As the weather cools, put on a sweater before you turn up the heat.
 - Support recycling efforts in your home, workplace, and community.
 - Be conscious of the water you use.
 - Don't buy anything non-essential.
 - Give thanks for all creation!

The final Half-Day Hangout of the Year will be on Thursday, May 28, from 1:00-4:00 in the RE Hall at St Clare Church! Email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org if your child would like to attend. Please send them with a lunch, drinks, and a hat/sunscreen – we hope to get outdoors if the weather cooperates!

**May 24: Pentecost**

Today as we celebrate Pentecost, Jesus says to his disciples: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the love and care of Jesus to the poor by assisting families, providing food, financial assistance for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

Pantry donations can be dropped off at the Collaborative office during normal business hours (M-T 9-4; and F 9-1). **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**

*Juvencia Salado Garcia
Mason Joseph Mosey
Mila Marie Murphy
John Matthew Rowell*

**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

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.

REST IN PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi
Normund Lavoie

St. Clare
Judith Antonellis
Josephine Sanfilippo

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.



**The Collaborative Office will be closed on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.
Have a happy and safe long weekend.**

Join Archbishop Henning for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage! (6/26 - 6/28)

In honor of our nation's 250th anniversary, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will pass through the Archdiocese of Boston from June 26th through June 28th with special events in Lexington, Plymouth, and along the Freedom Trail. This pilgrimage is an invitation to realign our lives, communities, and country under the sovereignty of Christ, to be one nation under God. Learn more at bit.ly/NEPBoston.

**Attention 2026 High School Graduates:**

Save the Date!

Father Bob, Father Kevin, and Mrs. Lane invite you to a cookout on Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 at the St. Francis rectory to celebrate your graduation and wish you well in your future endeavors. Please R.S.V.P. to Father Kevin at kleaver@sfb.org by Wednesday, June 3.

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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8



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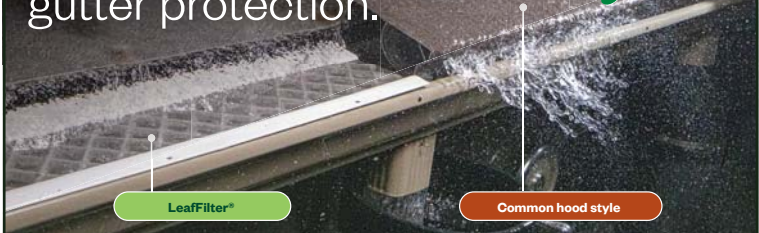
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