

Braintree Catholic Collaborative

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

I bore you up on eagles' wings
and brought you to myself.

Exodus 19:4



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, June 13, 2026

5:30PM Harold and Fran Basile Bonvie Memorial

Sunday, June 14, 2026

9:00AM Giuseppe and Clementina Gallo Memorial

11:30AM Ann Griffin and Catherine Lydon Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, June 15, 2026

7:00AM

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

7:00AM Helen Murphy Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

7:00AM James & Mary Kelley and Charles Gillis Memorial

Thursday, June 18, 2026

7:00AM Gaetano & Italia Giannandrea Memorial

Friday, June 19, 2026

7:00AM Maria Paz Navarro Anniversary

Saturday, June 20, 2026

5:30PM Robert & Pauline Gardner Memorial

Sunday, June 21, 2026

9:00AM All Fathers

11:30AM All Fathers

6:00PM All Fathers



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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Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, June 13, 2026

8:00AM Mary Lerner Memorial

4:00PM Philip Fontana Memorial

Sunday, June 14, 2026

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Antonio and Ben DiFonso Memorial

Saturday, June 20, 2026

8:00AM James Burns Memorial

4:00PM Sean Marcella 5th Anniv.

Sunday, June 14, 2026

7:45AM All Fathers

10:15AM All Fathers

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.





Though the Church returned to **Ordinary Time** three weeks ago, the past two Sundays have held the solemnities of Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi. This Sunday we pick up Ordinary Time in the 11th week. In our contemporary parlance, ordinary has come to mean that which is not special, implying a certain dullness. However, the original usage, and the way it is used in the Church, is to describe things that fall into a sequence, that is one thing follows another. In Ordinary Time the Gospel is a continuation of Matthew, Mark or Luke. This is the year of Matthew in the three year cycle. His story picks up in the 9th chapter with the choosing of twelve Apostles. Jesus has given the Sermon on the Mount and returns to Capernaum where he performs a series of healings.

Sacred Heart

As the month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the month of June is dedicated to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**. The Sacred Heart is a way of thinking about the way in which God loves humanity. The most common image is that of our Lord Jesus, pointing to His exposed heart in the middle of His chest. The Heart is often depicted with a crown of thorns, a cross and flames emanating from the top. It symbolizes that God's love for all humanity is burning, all consuming. The cross and thorns provide the context that God's love is sacrificial and is expressed in the suffering of Jesus Christ.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart relies on the notion that God's love is all-consuming. While it destroys sin it also draws disciples into the very life of Christ. The devotion to the Sacred Heart has been around for many centuries. However, it became more widespread by St. Margaret Mary in the late 17th century. She was a member of the Visitation Nuns in Burgandy, France. A childhood illness fostered in herself an attraction and reliance on contemplative prayer, which drew her into the convent. While there she had a series of mystical visitations of Christ beaten and tortured. These continued for a few years. Out of this experience came a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus which she shared with others. Pope Pius IX instituted the feast in 1856 to be on the third Friday following Pentecost.

Why a devotion to the Sacred Heart? For a number of reasons:

- It better disposes us to grace
- Fosters peace in our homes
- Gives us strength in trial
- Immerses us in the ongoing act of redemption

- Helps us to progress in virtue
- Rekindles faith
- Grants to us perseverance in adversity

It's worth reading some of the history of the Sacred Heart and St. Margaret Mary. The devotion encourages celebrating Mass on the first nine Fridays of the year (making for a novena of sorts)

It also includes hanging an image of the Sacred Heart in your home and offering a prayer such as

Lord Jesus, You gave your life for us. Your Sacred Heart is ablaze with love. Your hand extends towards me, and towards all, offering love, mercy, and healing. Sacred Heart of Jesus may your love transform me. Burn away my hesitation that I may become your love and radiate your mercy. Amen.

As a way of celebrating the 250th anniversary of the establishment of our country on July 4, 1776, the **bishops of the United States** have consecrated our country to the Sacred Heart. This took place this past Thursday during their spring meeting in Orlando. This is a beautiful expression of gratitude to Almighty God for the gifts of our homeland while at the same time asking for God's grace through ongoing struggles, especially of political polarization. What's more, the bishops, including Archbishop Hennig, are encouraging all of us to consecrate our homes to the Sacred Heart by displaying its sacred image somewhere in your house. There are holy pictures available at the entrances with a consecration prayer on the back for you to place in your homes.

THIS Sunday we will have a family faith event following the 10:15 Mass which will teach our children about devotion to the Sacred Heart. Fr. Kevin will have a presentation on the same subject for their parents (or any adults!).

Today is Firefighter Sunday when the country honors those men and women who serve our communities by standing watch at every moment of the day and rush to where there is fire or some other kind of danger. They are worthy of our gratitude, respect and prayers. We honor and pray for them at the 9:00 Mass this weekend.

Thanks to all of those who have tried **Donum**. A number of parishioners have used it already and many others have expressed interest. Overall there is an appreciation for the option it provides in light of the fact that our culture is relying less on cash. As it catches on, hopefully it will provide a financial stability for the collaborative.

Several people have expressed an uneasiness about using Donum while we continue to pass the basket at the offertory. For some, the idea of not putting something in the collection basket causes a certain level of embarrassment as we have been so conditioned to put something in the offertory basket! To help with this, there

are small laminated cards at the entrances for those who have used Donum and still want to put something into the collection basket. The card simply says "I gave with the help of Donum". When you enter the Church, simply take one of these cards, and drop it into the collection basket during the offertory.

Now that the security cameras are in place, this would be a good time to meet with all the ushers to review safety protocols. **I would like to meet with ushers from both parishes** this coming Thursday, June 18 at 7:00PM at St. Francis Church.



The Braintree Day Parade is scheduled to begin at 11:45 AM on Saturday, June 27th (roads will close at 11:15). The parade route will go past St. Francis of Assisi which will impact access to the church.

This year as I'm sure you are aware Independence Day falls on Saturday. There will be NO Confessions at St. Francis of Assisi and NO 4:00 Mass at St. Clare on this day. There WILL be Confessions following the 8:00 Mass at St. Clare AND the 5:30 Mass WILL be celebrated at St. Francis.

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.



The Collaborative Office will be closed on Friday, June 19th in observance of this National Holiday. We will reopen on at 9:00 Monday, June 22nd.

Our next Community Meal is scheduled for 5:30 Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at St. Francis.

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.



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

You may have noticed that I was not around last weekend (or maybe you didn't). If you were wondering, I had a nice five-day stay at South Shore Hospital. Now, no one panic. Obviously, it was serious enough to be admitted, and I won't bore you with the gory details but suffice it to say I was in particularly good hands and came home Monday (6-8-26) Being there was very good for me and not just for my health. I had some very good and welcome insights. It is always a good thing when we are able to step back from our busy lifestyles and reflect on our lives and our relationship with the Lord and each other. And I want to share some of these with you.

Before I go too far, I do want to give a shoutout to the nurses, nurses aids and everyone who cared for me on Emerson 3. I have a new and increased appreciation for the nursing profession. In the nurses I met and befriended during my stay there I was able to recognize that what they do is not merely a job or a paycheck for them, it is really a vocation. Whether or not they realize it they are the healing hand of Christ and His compassion to those whose lives are coming to an end, for their families and for those who have no one in this world. Indeed, they do it for Christ Himself. And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these the least of my people, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40)

Thank you to them and to all the wonderful health care providers who bring healing and comfort to their patients.

I mentioned earlier that it is good to have time to reflect. That's why we go on retreats. I have to say that my hospital experience was indeed like a self-directed retreat. After all, aside from getting poked and prodded every couple of hours what else is there to do – scroll or watch television? I think not. You may or may not know that deacons are required to pray two of the daily offices from the Liturgy of the Hours, morning, and evening prayers. Well, while there I had the time to do them all: Morning; Mid-Morning; MIDDAY; Mid-afternoon; Evening and Night Prayer. For those of you who are not familiar, the Hours are a way of praying with Scripture, especially the Psalms. It is very ancient and reflects the way the ancient Jewish people would pray. First-century Jews prayed at three fixed times each day—morning, afternoon, and evening—with two of those tied directly to the daily Temple sacrifices. This practice was continued in the early Church (remember the first Christians were Jews and still considered themselves Jews). Saint Paul called us to "Pray constantly."

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you

in Christ Jesus. (I Thessalonians 5:16-18)

The Liturgy of the Hours or the Divine Office as it is also called is the Church's way of fulfilling this call. Priests, deacons, and religious are required by a Sacred promise to pray the office daily, but it is not only for them. The Liturgy of the Hours is for everyone! It is the official prayer of the Church, and I recommend it to everyone. How can you as lay people access this wonderful prayer? First, there is the four-volume set that contains everything, but there is also a one volume set called Christian Prayer, that you can purchase. I would recommend you wait until the new translation comes out next year to purchase these. But of course, there is an app for that – actually two that I know of and use. The first is called “Divine Office” and the other is called “LBreviary.” Both are quite easy to use.

Now aside from being able to pray all those hours I was also praying the Rosary (a Scriptural prayer for meditating on the life of Christ) and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Finally, I was able to just chat with the Lord, using everyday language in the way I would carry on a conversation with anyone. But as we all know, a conversation is a two-way street. We have to stop talking long enough to hear what the other person is saying. It is the same with prayer. We have to be silent sometimes.

Now as you know I am mostly a cheerful kind of fellow always whistling a happy tune, telling dad jokes or bad puns but one night my mind went to a darker place. It was a medically worse place. I hadn't had anything but a liquid diet for a few days and I couldn't sleep. My roommate needed a lot of care that night, so the lights were constantly on, the room was noisy and sleep seemed impossible. I was waiting for someone for a respiratory therapist to hook up their C-Pap machine and they never came. I was beginning to get angry (actually at this point I was already angry) I got out of bed and stood at the door of my room. There was a man a few rooms down who obviously had some kind of dementia or psychological issues who was crying out in a loud voice. The staff could not calm him down. Of course, the first thought in my dark mind was “How am I supposed to sleep with that guy yapping all night.” Then it came to me – the light. “You knuckle head” I thought, why aren't you praying for that man?” And so, I did. I called out to the Blessed Mother and asked her to go to her child and comfort him in his fear and anxiety as she had done to her child Jesus when he was a little boy. “Hold him in your arms and whisper “you're going to be alright, mother is here.” You know what? Within a minute or so the man calmed down, my nurse came in and gave me a melatonin to help me sleep. Now, you may think this is just a coincidence, but I don't. As I lay there and dark thoughts came back, I realized that these thoughts were not from God but from that other guy and so I asked Saint Michael the Archangel to drive the devil and all his

demons away from me. He did and I finally fell asleep at two in the morning. Until they woke me to poke and prod me again around five. Never underestimate the power of your prayer it makes a difference, a powerful difference.

I think that in our spiritual journeys the object is to keep the focus not on ourselves but on others.

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vain glory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] for those of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

At that point onward my prayer was focused not so much on myself but on the other patients that were there with me and for the nurses, nursing assistants, and for all the patients who found themselves in a situation they did not ask for nor expected.

It is getting close now to the time I need to publish this for the parish bulletin, so I am going to ask you for prayers, not for me but for my roommate and his family. Let's just call him YL. While I was there, they got the news that YL's cancer had spread throughout his body and that he would need palliative care and eventually hospice. He was near death. Here is the most difficult part. YL did not speak English. It was difficult for the staff to understand what he was calling for beyond his medical needs. Please pray that he has a peaceful death and that his lovely family will receive the consolation only Christ can give. Let's also pray for all those who suffer from a language barrier, especially when hospitalized. Life is more difficult for them than we often realize. Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, look with compassion on your servant who is burdened with illness. Grant them comfort in their suffering, patience in their trials, and hope in their hearts.

Send your Holy Spirit to be their strength and let the healing touch of Christ bring peace to their body, mind, and soul.

Bless the hands of all who care for them, and guide those entrusted with their treatment.

May Mary, Health of the Sick, wrap them in her mantle of love, and may your will be done in all things. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**REST IN
PEACE**

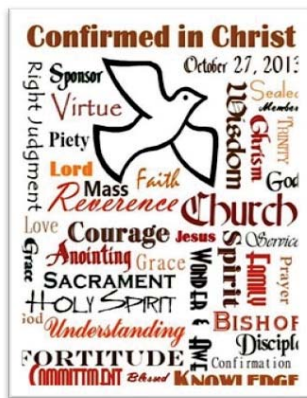
St. Clare

Vincenzo Muscolino

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



The Confirmation Team would like to congratulate our newly confirmed parishioners! The Masses were beautiful celebrations of your commitment to your faith and radiated the joy of all who attended. We wish you all of God's blessings as you continue your spiritual journey. Remember that God is with you, supporting you through every success and new endeavor; may you hold the love of Christ in your heart forever and lean on His guidance throughout your life.



Archbishop Henning made a new friend at Confirmation - Flat Leo!



The U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, 2026, marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of

Independence.

Consecration is the act of making something sacred and dedicating it to God. The Sacred Heart symbolizes Christ's

boundless love and mercy, and the bishops are entrusting the nation to the love and mercy of Jesus, asking Him to guide, protect, and transform American life.

Come to the RE Hall at St. Clare after the 10:15 Mass this Sunday, June 14 to learn how we can all devote our families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. There will be food, fellowship, and fun activities for the kids.



Discover what it means to follow Jesus and find life in God's kingdom. Enter a fantastical multiverse adventure that shows us that being a part of God's kingdom comes with an awesome mission filled with purpose! Every day will be centered around a bible story and will include crafts, games, and activities! There will be some special guests and other surprises! VBS is July 13-17 from 9:00-1:00 with after-care available. There are a few spots left...email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org to register your child.

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, June 20-21. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. **We are in need of the following items: paper towels, toilet paper, tooth paste and tooth brushes. However, 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 Food Pantry is in need of some new volunteers. If you are willing and able to help out on Thursday mornings please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.

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 our bereavement classes meet Saturdays at 10:30AM at St. Francis of Assisi church hall. **The meeting on June 20th will be the final meeting before the summer break. Meetings will resume in the Fall.**

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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8



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