

Braintree Catholic Collaborative

*Solemnity
of the
Body and
Blood
of Christ*



*Unless you eat
the flesh of the
Son of Man
and drink his blood,
you do not have
life within you.
John 6:53*

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 6, 2026

5:30PM Gaetano Giannandrea 4th Anniv.

Sunday, June 7, 2026

9:00AM Joseph & Genevieve McCarthy Memorial
 11:30AM Clare Tallon 19th Anniv.
 6:00PM Domingas Andrade Memorial

Monday, June 8, 2026

7:00AM Alice Beaulieu Memorial

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

7:00AM Maria Anna Haag Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

7:00AM Joe & Helen Doran Memorial

Thursday, June 11, 2026

7:00AM Erwin Maratingrao Memorial

Friday, June 12, 2026

7:00AM

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



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.

NOW IN OUR PARISH

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Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, June 6, 2026

8:00AM Phyllis Keif Memorial
 4:00PM Kara Flaherty Brady Memorial

Sunday, June 7, 2026

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative
 10:15AM Mrs. Cotter Healing

Saturday, June 13, 2026

8:00AM Mary Larner Memorial
 4:00PM Philip Fontana Memorial

Sunday, June 14, 2026

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial
 10:15AM Antonio and Ben DiFonso 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 Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

How in the name of God are we to remember all that Jesus did for us? How do we recall what he taught us about God? About the world? About ourselves? About life? Recall what Jesus said to the Apostles at the Last Supper: *do this in remembrance of Me*. The Eucharist is the way in which we keep alive the memory of the Lord Jesus and all He did for us, and all that He taught us. The technical word for this is *anamnesis*: remembering something of the past in such a way that it becomes the present. When we celebrate the Eucharist and receive Holy Communion, this is not simply recalling the Last Supper or recalling the Crucifixion and Resurrection. In the Eucharist the life-saving events of the past are made reality in the here and now. Such is the power of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. By sharing in Holy Communion at Mass we participate in those saving events. How is this even possible? God, who created all that is visible and invisible, is not limited by creation. This is to say, God is not bound by the constraints of time and space. Therefore, God can be present to the Apostles at the Last Supper and to you and me at Mass today all at once.

The miracle of Holy Communion is not only that bread and wine become the very substance of Christ's Body and Blood, but that all those who participate in the Eucharist share in the Paschal Mystery: Christ's death and Resurrection. Of course this is impossible to grasp with our limited minds. It is beyond our comprehension. Precisely for this reason, Christ gives us the Eucharist that the memory of Him and all He did for us might be kept fresh in our minds.

When we move away from the Eucharist, its amazing how quickly we forget the Lord. Maybe not right away, but over time the memory of Christ gradually subsides. We may be able to recall stories about Christ, however, we stop living in Communion with Him. You may have experienced this at some time in your life or have witnessed this phenomena in family members. All this to say, Eucharist is essential for the faith, the fuel, if you will, that helps keep us moving where Christ the Good Shepherd leads.

Holy Communion should never be received casually. The one receiving Holy Communion ought to be properly disposed, meaning not conscious of mortal or serious sin, truly desiring to be in Communion with Christ, believing that the Sacrament is truly Christ's Body and Blood; Accepting all that is contained in the Creed; Having fasted from all food for one hour before receiving Holy Communion; Holding the

teachings of the Catholic faith

If you have any questions or concerns about your disposition, please speak with Fr. Kevin or myself. We are here to support and encourage all of our parishioners. If there is something keeping you from Holy Communion, let us help!

Various things....

Last week **Fr. Kevin** announced that he has been appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Malden. This was going to take effect on July 7. Given some work there that needs to be done immediately, the start date has been moved to sometime in September. Actually, he is quite relieved as July is coming fast! I am equally pleased as it will be good to have him here longer, especially where we don't yet know who is coming to take his place! **Therefore the farewell reception scheduled for this month will be on hold until we have a firm date of transfer, likely sometime in early September.**

Heartfelt congratulations to all of the high school seniors who were graduated this week! We are having a celebration here for them on Tuesday evening of this week. Please talk with Fr. Kevin or Karen Lane for details.

Thanks to all who took the time to investigate the **Donum app**. If you haven't done so yet, please take a moment to download the app and see if it would be a help to you.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2026 YEAR A

SUNDAY June 7	Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58
MONDAY June 8	1 Kgs 17:1-6/Ps 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 5:1-12
TUESDAY June 9	1 Kgs 17:7-16/Ps 4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 5:13-16
WEDNESDAY June 10	1 Kgs 18:20-39/Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab+8, 11/Mt 5:17-19
THURSDAY June 11	Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mt 5:20-26
FRIDAY June 12	Dt 7:6-11/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10/1 Jn 4:7-16/Mt 11:25-30
SATURDAY June 13	1 Kgs 19:19-21/Ps 16:1b-2a+5, 7-8, 9-10/Mt 5:33-37
SUNDAY June 14	Ex 19:2-6a/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5/Rom 5:6-11/Mt 9:36—10:8

Pilot Bulletins

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

The last Half-Day Hangout of the school year was a blast! After watching a video about gratitude, the kids talked about things they are grateful for while making some “tie-dyed” butterfly clips out of coffee filters.



They learned some fun facts about the Bible while they played Bible Story Bingo.



They even got outside to play a game of Fenway, and then decorated Archbishop Henning's driveway with sidewalk chalk!



Everyone had fun, and we look forward to more Half-Day Hangouts in the fall!



Discover what it means to follow Jesus and find life in God's kingdom. Enter a fantastical multi-universe 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.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

There is a disturbing statistic taken from a number of surveys which would indicate that more than one-third of Catholics do not believe in Transubstantiation – that the bread and wine we consecrate at Mass becomes the actual Body and Blood of Christ, that He is truly present in the Eucharist.

For those Catholics that who participate in Mass every week we might expect that the result is much higher, and it is. Still, it is indeed a sad reality that even some Church-going Catholics don't believe in the Lord's true Presence in the Eucharist they receive each week.

How can this be? Certainly, some fault lays with the Church in that our people have not been properly catechized for some decades in this regard. I remember when my son was in CCD many years ago, he came home from Mass and told me that he had taken the "Holy Bread." It wasn't communion or the Eucharist. I then explained to him the reality of what it means.

I went to Catholic School in the 1960's and the sisters were careful to teach us that the bread and wine actually became the Body and Blood of Christ. Of course, we didn't fully understand it because we were only in the second grade, but I think most of us at least knew something extraordinary was happening at Mass. A few years later I had a toothache and at that time hadn't really had a good experience with dentists and so when I went to Communion that Sunday, fully believing that the Body of Christ could heal that tooth I let the host lay on that tooth for a while. This was at a time when we were forbidden to let the Eucharist touch our tongues. I'm sure there are some old-timers here who remember that. My tooth didn't heal and it was yanked the next day. Hey, Jesus didn't heal everyone, but He always gives us what we need.

What stops people from believing? Well, it's scientifically impossible for bread to become anything else or wine to become anything else. In fact, they can, wine can become vinegar and bread can become mold under the right conditions. But the problem with that argument is - that what happens at Mass isn't about science – it is supernatural, it is spiritual. It is not the realm of science.

It is astounding to me that many Christians firmly believe that Jesus could change water into wine but can't change bread into His Body or wine into His Blood. And yet the evidence is in Scripture itself. We read it in today's Gospel (John 6:51-58)

Jesus called Himself "the living bread that came down from heaven." He went on to say that if one were to eat this bread they would live forever and that the bread is

His flesh. The crowd wasn't buying it. They argued among themselves "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

At this point we might expect Jesus to backtrack and explain what it "really meant." But that isn't what He did. He doubled down or more accurately tripled down, teaching them the truth and the reality of what He was saying, repeating it three times:

Jesus said to them,

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.

For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. (John 6:53-56)

The question they asked still remained. "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" It would have been abhorrent to them and drinking blood was taboo.

The answer is found during the Last Supper.

Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of Me."

And likewise, the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which will be shed for you. (Luke 22:19-20)

How do we know that the Eucharist is more than a symbol or a simple remembering? We have to understand what the word "remember" would have meant in the culture and context of a first century Jew. And Jesus was a first century Jew. To remember meant much more than just recalling something in the past. It meant to make the event present again. So, at Mass we are making present again the words and actions of Jesus Himself. It is Jesus, not the priest, who changes bread and wine. The last supper is made present to us now. So is the Lord's passion, His death on the Cross and His Resurrection. How can He give us His flesh to eat? How can he do that in such a way it wouldn't be repulsive? How can He be the new manna (bread) come down from heaven? By changing bread and wine into His Body and Blood at the last supper and telling his Apostles to do the same. We have been doing this for more than two thousand years.

Our Lord knows that our faith is weak. He said it about the Apostles, too. So, every now and then throughout history He gives us a miracle – a Eucharistic miracle. I wrote about one a few weeks ago. It was the Eucharistic Miracle at Boslena, but that was some eight hundred years ago. Something more recent and something that could be scientifically studied could be more helpful.

This one occurred at St. Mary parish in Buenos Aires, Argentina. On August 15, 1996 (the Solemnity of the

Blessed Virgin Mary), a consecrated host fell on the ground. It was placed in a vessel of water and placed in the Tabernacle. When it was fully dissolved and was no longer bread it could be disposed of in a respectful manner. However, within a few days it had become bloody and eventually became flesh. The archbishop at the time (who would become Pope Francis) ordered an investigation be done. Forensic pathology and DNA testing over the next twenty years determined that the substance was human heart tissue from a traumatically injured human being. The sample was sent to Dr. Frederick Zugibe, a cardiologist from New York. He was asked to examine it but was not told what it was or where it came from. His written report stated in part:

"I am an expert on the heart. The heart is my business. This is flesh. This flesh is heart muscle tissue, myocardium, from the left ventricle wall not far from a valvular area. It is the muscle that gives the heart its beat and the body its life. This heart muscle is inflamed. It has lost its striations and is infiltrated with white blood cells. White blood cells are not normally found in heart tissue. These cells are produced by the body, and they escape from blood and infiltrate the tissue to address trauma or injury."

God wants us to have faith and throughout time continues to give us these incredible signs that lead us to belief. I can't make anyone believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. But given the evidence from Scripture and science we must all reconsider our lack of faith in the miracle that occurs on the altar every day at Mass. You can read more about this miracle and other Eucharistic miracles on the website Saint Carlo Accutis created before he died at the age of fifteen. <https://www.miracolieeucaristici.org/en/liste/list.html>

**REST IN
PEACE**

Archdiocese of Boston

Fr. Joseph Arsenault

St. Francis of Assisi

Rose Conlon

Robert J. Sullivan

St. Clare

Eileen Marie Son

Maryellen McDermott

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.

SACRAMENT OF Confirmation

Congratulations to the following students who were confirmed in our Collaborative last weekend.

St. Francis of Assisi

Anna "Francis" Beauchamp, Lillian "Hildegard" Belo, Grace "Catherine" Breslin, Sullivan "Sebastian" Brooks, Abigail "Anne" Burke, Kendall "Claire" Charbonnier, Kathryn "Veronica" Charland, Lucia "Cecilia" Collins, Marianna "Elizabeth" Collins, Candace "Victoria" Coombs, Brooke "Mary" Costello, Aidan "Joseph" Crisman, Grayson "Francis" Dennison, Nicolas "David" DiTocco, Siena "Dorothy" DiTocco, Kayleah "Mary" Joyce, Maura "Cecilia" Kelly, Charlotte "Cecilia" MacDougall, Matthew "Anthony" Mackay, Molly "Margaret" Malcolm, Eliana "Joan" Mark, Christine "Brigid" Mawn, Elizabeth "Veronica" Mawn, James "Gerard" Morelli, Mckayla "Agnes" Murphy, Kendall "Teresa" O'Brien, Lindsey "Leo" Pendergast, Brooke "Veronica" Petrelli, Ryan "Michael" Polito, Dylan "Sebastian" Pugsley, Connor "Magnus" Robey, Colin "William" Shea, Delaney "Caroline" Smith and Rosalie "Catherine" Sullivan

St. Clare

Brynn Haley "Cecilia" Abejuela-Chin, Alexa "Margaret" Balsamo, Ava "Rose" Berner, Aaron "John" Burns, Eamon "Christopher" Carr, Coleman "Matthew" Clancy, Joseph "Christopher" Clancy, Charles "Richard" Doyle, Callie "Anne" Driscoll, Maeve "Pamela" Duffy, Nicholas "Peter" Fitzgerald, Leah "Therese" Fraser, Gavin "Michael" Fratto, Anthony "Michael" Howell, Rachel "Mary Magdalene" Hulke, Emily "Anastasia" Keane, Vivian "Claire" Lewis, McKenzie "Catherine Labouré" Lima-Tower, Devin "Vincent de Paul" Lucas, Caolinn "Rose" Maloney, Brian "Joseph" Malloy, Bettina "Elizabeth" Mulcahy, Samuel "Carlo" Nesslany Marin, Magdalena "Magdalen" Precetaj, Juliana "Mary" Romero, Brooke "Maria" Spinella and Joshua "Sebastian" Tower



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.

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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8



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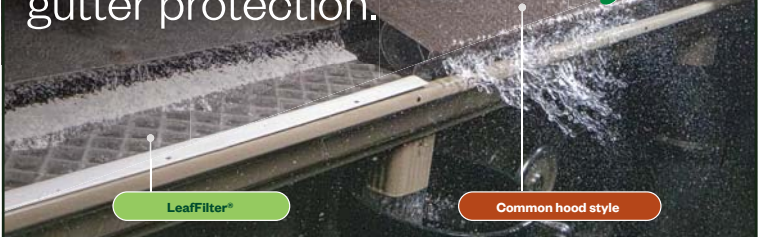


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