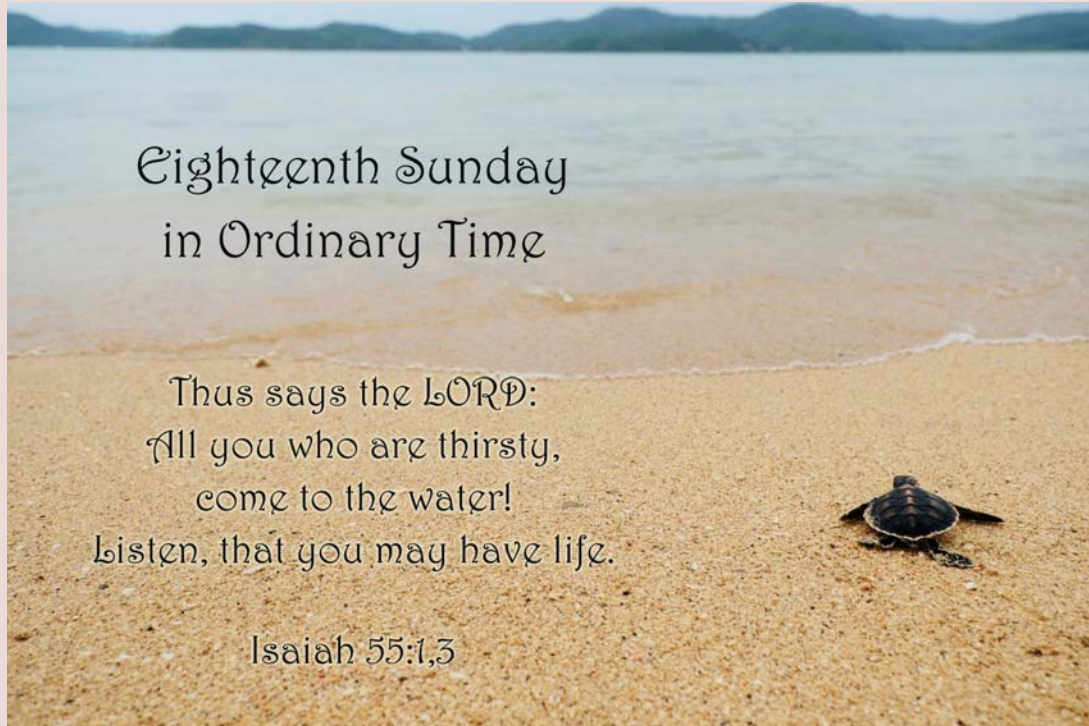


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thus says the LORD:
All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!
Listen, that you may have life.

Isaiah 55:1,3

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 **11:30AM**
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, August 1, 2026

5:30PM	Daniel Barselou,	5th Anniv.
	Adeline Miscioscia and	1st Anniv.
	Richard & Margaret Keane	Memorial

Sunday, August 2, 2026

9:00AM	Joseph McCarthy	Memorial
11:30AM	Paul Hanson	60th Anniv.
6:00PM		

Monday, August 3, 2026

7:00AM	Helen Murphy	Memorial
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Tuesday, August 4, 2026

7:00AM	Jeremiah	Spec. Intent.
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Wednesday, August 5, 2026

7:00AM	Simon Tran	4th Anniv.
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Thursday, August 6, 2026

7:00AM	Charles Beaulieu	Memorial
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Friday, August 7, 2026

7:00AM

Saturday, August 8, 2026

5:30PM	Katherine & Gus Murphy	Memorial
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Sunday, August 9, 2026

9:00AM	Anna, Mario & James Berardinelli	Memorial
11:30AM	Angelo Zampine	Memorial
6:00PM	Kathleen Flynn	Memorial

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, August 1, 2026

8:00AM	R. Brian Johnson	Memorial
4:00PM	Robert St. Jean	6th Anniv.

Sunday, August 2, 2026

7:45AM	Parishioners of the Collaborative	
10:15AM	Thomas H. Byron	5th Anniv.

Saturday, August 8, 2026

8:00AM	Luke Conboy	
4:00PM		

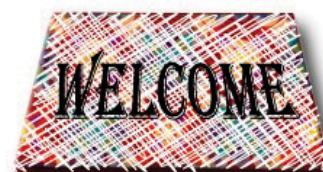
Sunday, August 9, 2026

7:45AM	Parishioners of the Collaborative	
10:15AM	Bruno Scanga	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.



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Background on the renewal of the Mass in Vatican II

Pope Saint John XXIII called for an ecumenical council on January 25, 1959, just three months after being elected Pope. An ecumenical council is a meeting of all the bishops from around the world. To say his announcement stunned the Church is an understatement. No one imagined that he would ever do something so drastic, especially so early into his pontificate. At the time of the announcement, the Pope did not give any details as to why he was calling the council or what he hoped to achieve. Much of Europe had been destroyed in the Second World War. So much of eastern Europe was in the clutches of Soviet Communism. The Cold War was growing but also the advancement of communications. We had radio, of course, but also television. As we know so well, with television came a whole different way of thinking about the world and ourselves. Television programming was reflecting back on ourselves how we wanted to be. It was shaping our world view, political opinions and even impacting our image of God and the Church.

Throughout the first part of the 20th century, there was a growing movement within the Church that called for a close look at how we celebrated the Mass. Some may recall that in the 1950's, Pope Pius XII reformed the Holy Week Liturgies, moving the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil from the morning to the evening. This was to encourage more people to participate in these rich liturgies. When celebrated in the morning, so few people were able to attend that they became associated with something priests did. That may seem relatively insignificant, however he was demonstrating that the sacred liturgy should foster more participation of the laity.

As Pope John did not give any details about the forthcoming ecumenical council, many speculated that he wanted to continue the First Vatican Council which was left unfinished in 1870 because of wars in Europe. In July of 1959, the Pope said that the council would be called Vatican II, thus declaring to everyone that this ecumenical council was not going to be a mere continuation of the last one, but rather something altogether new. During that summer, he wrote to all the bishops of the world soliciting their thoughts as to what the council should discuss. Over 2000 responses

were collected. It took a couple of years to process all of them. By the time the council opened in October 1962, it was clear that the agenda of the body of bishops was to look more closely at the use of Sacred Scripture in the life of the Church. They also wanted to review the Mass. There had not been such a review of the Mass since the Council of Trent in 1570.

Stadium-like risers were built in St. Peter's Basilica to accommodate over 2600 bishops. Also in attendance, were theologians, representatives from other faiths and the media. The bishops were seated according to their seniority by virtue of their date of ordination as bishop. This posed significant problems but also provided wonderful opportunities. The problems were that the bishops were likely sitting next to or near other bishops who did not speak their own language. Although there would have been a working knowledge of Latin among them, Latin was not a conversational language and was not helpful for conversation. They had a hard time speaking with each other. At the same time however, where they were able to find a way to communicate, a whole new world opened up to them. For the first time, you had a bishop from the United States sitting with a bishop from Kenya or a bishop of the Philippines sitting next to someone from Brazil. They learned ways to share stories, concerns, and opinions. The bishops began to think differently about how they were approaching various questions given what they were hearing from their brothers living in other parts of the world. My understanding is the Pope had installed espresso stations under the risers to encourage the bishops to linger with other bishops during their breaks. Of course this allowed for informal exchange of ideas which eventually contributed to the council outcomes.

When it came to the Mass, the discussions were so intense that the bishops were no where near finished by the time the session ended in December. It was the initial plan for the council to last for only one session. By this point not only were they not finished with discussion of the Mass, they didn't get to anything else on their agenda. (except for discussion on Sacred Scripture) Though there was likely much frustration at the thought of having to return to Rome the following year for an additional two months, the Pope was pleased that the bishops were so engaged in the process of *Aggiornamento*, Italian for "updating". Though they left Rome knowing they would be back the following year, no one yet realized they would end up returning another two years beyond that!

Sadly, Pope John XXIII died the following June. He had been diagnosed with cancer a few weeks before the opening of the council but chose not to say anything, knowing that the focus of the council would be on his illness and not on the agenda. By the end of June, Pope Paul VI was elected Pope and ready to carry on with the council.





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

It was nearly half a century ago. I was still living at home with my parents, still in college. This was the time in my life when faith finally took root in me. I had come to really believe and to read Scripture and pray more often.

As will sometimes happen when praying with Scripture, it's just a small phrase or short sentence that stays with you. You begin to ruminate on it, and the phrase keeps coming back day after day. The phrase that struck me at that time was "Be rooted in Him" (Colossians 2:7). I don't think it was any coincidence that I had just gained an interest in gardening. I was planting flowers around the yard and had plans to put in a vegetable garden where my grandmother used to have one when I was a young boy. After all these years I still remember her handing me a huge tomato she had just plucked off a plant and biting into it while still standing with her in the garden. We didn't wash vegetables back then.

I thought a lot about roots during that time, especially as I was planting. Without roots a plant can't survive. It can't take in nourishment or water from the soil. The same is true for us we have to be rooted in Christ not just so we can survive but so that we can thrive. "I came that you may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10) He's talking about a share in divine life.

I finally did get that vegetable garden planted. It was awesome, if I do say so myself. I planted many different things. I was like "Old MacDonald" who had a farm. Of course, I had those tomatoes I loved so much, but I also planted carrots, peppers, corn, and a couple of other things I can't remember all these years later. I was very proud – they were growing right underneath one of the large pear trees we had in our back yard.

Enter an act of nature – a powerful nor'easter. That night we heard a big crash out back but couldn't tell what it was but, in the morning, I found that the huge pear tree had fallen right on top of my garden. I was devastated. It was early in the summer, and I didn't go back there. I didn't want to see the destruction. In late August and early September my parents said it was time to chop up the mess out back. With a hatchet and saw I started to dismantle the tree and as I removed the dead limbs and leaves, I was startled by what I found. Most of the garden survived. It was a kind of miracle. Apparently, the decaying tree added nutrients to the ground, its cover protected the plants from being scorched by the sun and the leaves held in the moisture it needed. I had given up. I lost hope. I threw in the towel when I shouldn't have.

If we jump ahead in time to the year 2000 my deacon class was listening to a talk on faith by Deacon John Manion. John grew up in Ireland, and he told us that every morning his mother would get up before anyone else and go the fireplace. The fire from the night before was gone. It was dead.

Then he told us the best part. All his mother did was simply take a poker and stir up the ash that was left and in a couple of minutes she would have a small fire. She added some more wood and snap just like that she'd have a raging fire again. She could keep warm and make breakfast.

You know, faith is like that. Many of us have been like "dead" fire. We do our best to walk away from Christ but someone or something comes and stirs up what little faith we have left until we are on fire for Christ.

We worry about our loved ones who seem to have lost their faith. And we can't see any hope, but like that tree covering my garden something is going on we can't see. God is working behind the scenes. And our prayer will bear fruit (or vegetables). Don't be like me and give up hope. Don't throw in the towel. Whether it's your own faith you mourn or the faith of others you fear for. Keep praying.

God is at work in ways we'll never know. There is a divine, grace driven, and mysterious work going on. We plant the seeds, but God makes them grow.

"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how." (Mark 4:26-27)



ROSTRO DE CRISTO

¡Muchas Gracias! Thank you very much for the warm welcome, financial support, and your heartfelt prayers. I am

grateful for the opportunity to share the mission of Rostro de Cristo with you last weekend as part of the annual Missionary Cooperative Program, especially as a fellow parishioner. Thank you Fr. Bob and Fr. Kevin for inviting me to do so and for the encouragement. I pray that God blesses you and your family. Together in Mission, Evan Cuthbert.

(Founded over 35 years ago by Fr. Jim Ronan, a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston, Rostro de Cristo works in the Dominican Republic in collaboration with the Scalabrini Sisters. As Executive Director, Evan Cuthbert leads Rostro de Cristo's efforts to recruit, train, and support professionals motivated by their faith who offer their skills and passion to serve in support Haitian migrants and other vulnerable communities. In addition, Rostro de Cristo hosts high school, college, and parish groups on short-term immersion experiences, and pilgrimages for adults. These programs invite participants to an encounter Christ on the margins and to uncover within themselves God's invitation to mission. Through the work of Rostro de Cristo plays a vital role in expanding the missionary activity of the Church to people that are often forgotten and excluded. Please visit www.rostrodecristo.org.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

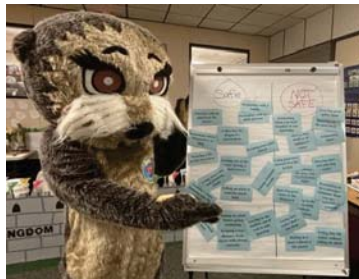
NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

Day 2 of VBS taught us that **Jesus is with us**, and that Because of Jesus, **we can have courage**. We read the story in the Gospel of Matthew where the disciples were on their boat during a storm and they were afraid. Jesus walked right on top of the water toward them! They were scared and thought they were seeing a ghost, but Jesus told them not to be afraid. We talked about ways to feel brave when things are difficult or scary, and also that we have lots of people we can go to for help, in addition to praying to Jesus for courage, who is always with us!



Josh the Otter came to VBS to teach us about water safety! He brought books for everyone, and he acted out some of the scenes in the book, like how otters like to float with friends for safety!

Several scenarios were presented to the kids (like swimming only when an adult is present) and the kids had to decide whether it was safe or not safe.



Finally everyone took a water safety pledge. It is important for kids of ALL ages to be safe around water!



Continuing with our theme of water, we brainstormed ways that we use water every day, and why and how we should conserve water. Father Bob talked about some of the ways we use water in church, like during baptism, or when a priest washes his hands during Mass. He turned a jar of plain water into holy water for us and then we reviewed how to use it to bless ourselves!



Next we used water, aluminum foil, markers, and paper to make tie dyed pictures.

To end the day, we "watered" the grass behind the rectory while doing a fun sponge relay race!



Registration for Religious Education Classes for the 2026-2027 year is open! Scan the QR code below to open the registration form. (A link to the form can also be found on the Faith Formation page of the

Collaborative website at <https://braintreecatholic.org/faith-formation/>).

In order to make the process a little easier, you can check on "returning family" at the top to use information from last year's form so you only need to fill in information that has changed since last year (i.e. student grade, session day, emergency contact, etc.) Class schedules will be posted on the Faith Formation page of the website (see address above) in early August. Email klane@sfab.org for more info or any questions.





The elevator at St. Clare has been repaired. However it can not be used until it has been inspected by the state.



August 2: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel, Jesus says: "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves," and taking the five loaves and two fish, he blest them and gave them to the disciples to feed the crowd.

Know that your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to help those living in poverty touches many lives just like the loaves and fishes.

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.**



Living the Way of Mary will be held on Saturday, August 15th, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at St. Clare Parish.

The retreat will begin with the 8:00 Mass in the church and will continue in the hall until 2:00PM.

Light refreshments and lunch will be served. A free-will offering of \$25-\$40 would be appreciated.

Please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332 to register **no later than Wednesday, August 12th.**

**REST IN
PEACE**

St. Clare
Nora Walsh

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.



From The Archdiocese of Boston

August 2 ~ Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings give us words of great love and comfort. As we listen, we may find ourselves breathing easier, feeling comforted. In Isaiah, God speaks to the people saying, "Come to me, listen, that you may have life." St. Paul tells us that nothing, not hardship or sorrow or difficulty "can separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus." Then we hear the gospel story of the miracle of the loaves and fish. Jesus having compassion for the crowd that had been with him, listening to him. This gospel draws a parallel to our Sunday Eucharist. We are nourished by the word of God, and we are fed the Body of Christ. In both - we are nourished for the days ahead. Take with you from here, the words you have heard and the body of Christ you have received. This is the sustenance we all need!

Restoration Retreat: Hope and Healing for the Divorced and Separated

This one-day retreat at the Pastoral Center, Braintree on Sat. Nov. 21st from 8:30AM-5:00PM will be led by Carolyn Klika of Abounding Joy Ministry, focusing on the hope and healing offered by Christ to those who have undergone the trial of divorce or separation. Join others for talks, small group sharing, Adoration and Confession, and a vigil Mass. An in-person or Zoom option is offered. For registration visit bit.ly/RetreatForDivorcedandSeparated or email Emily_Elliott@rcab.org for more information.

READINGS, SAINTS, OBSERVANCES 2026

SUNDAY Aug 2	<i>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18/Rom 8:35, 37-39/ Mt 14:13-21
MONDAY Aug 3	Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102/Mt 14:22-36
TUESDAY Aug 4	<i>St. John Vianney, priest</i> Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29, 22-23/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
WEDNESDAY Aug 5	<i>The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome</i> Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 15:21-28
THURSDAY Aug 6	<i>Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord</i> Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9
FRIDAY Aug 7	<i>St. Sixtus II, pope and martyr, and companions, martyrs</i> <i>St. Cajetan, priest</i> Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Deut 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41/Mt 16:24-28
SATURDAY Aug 8	<i>St. Dominic, priest</i> Hb 1:12—2:4/Ps 9:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 17:14-20
SUNDAY Aug 9	<i>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

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