

Braintree Catholic Collaborative



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.
When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.*

Matthew 13:45-46

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, July 25, 2026

5:30PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Sunday, July 26, 2026

9:00AM Joe & Mary Monti, Joe Monti, Jr. Memorial
Paul Monti, SFC Jared Monti
Rita Monti-Hammersted, and
Jake Riley

11:30AM Stephen Connolly and 1st
Bonnie & Joseph McDonald Anniversary

6:00PM Patrick & Mary Holland Memorial

Monday, July 27, 2026

7:00AM Nicola Spinaccola Memorial

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

7:00AM Felix Giovannageli Memorial

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

7:00AM Filomena Giovannageli Memorial

Thursday, July 30, 2026

7:00AM Albin, Eleanor, Richard and Memorial
Michael Wrublewski

Friday, July 31, 2026

7:00AM Elizabeth Collins Memorial

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 ??

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, July 25, 2026

8:00AM Peter Bowler Memorial

4:00PM Antonio Tempesta and Memorial
Deceased Family Member

Sunday, July 26, 2026

7:45AM Mary & Charles Thomas and Memorial
Frank and Tom Hubbard

10:15AM James Carey Anniversary

Saturday, August 1, 2026

8:00AM R. Brian Johnson Memorial

4:00PM Robert St. Jean 6th Anniv.

Sunday, August 2, 2026

7:45AM

10:15AM Thomas H. Byron

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.



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Each parish in the Archdiocese is asked to host a **missionary** every year to speak with parishioners about what the Church is doing in other parts of the world. Such a custom keeps before us that the word Catholic means universal. This weekend we are hosting the executive director of Rostro de Cristo, a missionary organization that works primarily in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. As it so happens, our speaker at all Masses, and executive director of Rostro, is one of our own parishioners **Evan Cuthbert**. It feels odd to welcome him to the parish as this is his home! I certainly welcome Rostro de Cristo here and am eager to hear about the excellent work they are doing. As is the custom, we will take up a second collection at all Masses this weekend to support the work of Rostro.

Summer Series on the Vatican II Mass

Pope Leo has encouraged us to reexamine the documents of the Second Vatican Council as a means to renew our faith during 2026. With that in mind, I have been writing in the bulletin this summer about how the Mass reflects the teachings of Vatican II. To do so, it helps to appreciate the *Traditional Latin Mass* which was celebrated for centuries before the Council and is still in use today in some places.

The Traditional Latin Mass, with which many of our parishioners grew up, goes back to the year 1570, the Council of Trent. The 16th century was a time of religious turmoil in Europe. Martin Luther was calling for a reform of the Church and King Henry VIII declared himself head of the Church in England. So many Christians were slaughtered in the years following in what is known as the Protestant Reformation. To help unify the fractured Church, the Council of Trent mandated the Traditional Latin Mass to be celebrated exclusively in every Church throughout the world. Up until this time, there was not a consistency as to how Mass was to be celebrated. Certainly, there were the basics of Scripture, Eucharist and universal petitions. Nevertheless, there was no requirement for every locale to do it the same. That changed after the Council of Trent. It would have taken years to implement this mandate, just as it has taken years to implement the changes of Vatican II. The thinking of the bishops at the Council of Trent was that if Mass were celebrated in a way that was the same everywhere, then the conformity would bind the fractured Church. This is consistent with the guiding liturgical principle *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*: the law of prayer is the law of belief. In other words, how we pray

shapes our relationship with God.

From 1570 until 1963, the Mass was celebrated exactly the same in every Church in the world. This came to be known as the Tridentine Mass (Tridentine = Council of Trent). It certainly accomplished what the Council wanted, which was to unify the Church during such turbulent times.

The Traditional Latin Mass was all that Catholics knew. Throughout a period of four hundred years it was the one thing in the world that was constant. It gave people a sense of stability especially in periods of war and famine. No one thought that the Mass would ever change. The liturgical renewal of Vatican II was hard for many to accept, even priests. Those who grew up with the Traditional Latin Mass often speak of the sense of transcendence it created. Some people felt that the Mass connected them directly with God. The Latin, chanting, incense and precise ritual instilled in so many a sense of mystery.

It is important to keep in mind that for most of the four hundred years the Church used the Traditional Latin Mass, most people could not read nor were there any electronic sound systems. For these reasons the Mass was primarily the activity of the priest, not the people. By the time we got to the 1960's, most people could read and have a basic education. Also, our Churches were equipped with sound systems. These two reasons contribute to the impetus for a liturgical renewal.

Speaking of sound systems, new systems have been installed in both Churches. I can notice a big difference in the quality of sound. It will likely require a bit of tweaking over the coming weeks. Let me know if you find any dead spots. We were able to pay for these systems with Grand Annual money. Thanks to all who contributed from that collection last year.

Welcome

A word of welcome to Seminarian David Cronin who will be staying with us for a number of weeks. David is a native of Weymouth and worked for many years in the Canonical Affairs office of the Archdiocese. He will be entering Pope Saint John XXIII Seminary in late August and will be spending some time with us to learn a bit about the day-to-day operations of a parish.

Women's Retreat

Our collaborative is hosting a **day of recollection for women** on Saturday, August 15, the Feast of the Blessed Mother's Assumption into Heaven. It will be held at St. Clare Church from 8:00-2:00. Please call the office to register as we need to prepare materials and lunch.



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Santa Croce in Gerusalemme – The Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem.

Guess what. The Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem is **not** in Jerusalem. It is in Rome. “What’s with that?” you might ask. How on earth did it get that monicker? It’s an interesting story. If you want to hear it, read on.

Saint Helena lived from 248 to 329 AD, and she had a very famous and important son – Emperor Constantine. He bestowed on her the title Empress. I would liken this to the queen mothers of Israel who were second only to the King himself. It was a powerful position. Saint Helena was a devout Christian and in the years from 327 – 328 made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem so that she could visit those places where Christ suffered his Passion. While there she had churches built and expressed her piety in many other ways. What she has become known for over the centuries were the relics she brought back to Rome. These include a substantial piece of the true Cross; The wooden plaque that hung on the Cross (Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews); Three nails used in the Lord’s Crucifixion; A fragment of a rock from Calvary; Fragments of stone from the Holy Sepulcher (the tomb); And the sponge and reed used to offer Jesus the soured wine. She also brought back with her a substantial amount of soil from Jerusalem.

How was Saint Helena so sure that she really did find the true Cross on which Christ was crucified? She tested it expecting a miracle. Two ancient historians Gelasius of Caesarea and Rufinus record that three crosses were found believed to be those of Christ and the two men crucified with him. Saint Helena brought the crosses to a sick or dying woman. She touched the first cross to the sick woman, and nothing happened. That couldn’t be the Cross. She repeated this with the second cross and again nothing happened. However, when she was touched by the third Cross she immediately got well. This was the proof Saint Helena needed proving this was indeed the Cross on which the Lord had been crucified.

There is a later account of the miracle which says that a dead man was brought to the Cross and the same test was conducted and when the third Cross was touched to the dead man he came back to life. Constantine and his mother then had the Church of the Holy Sepulcher built on the site. It can be visited today.

She returned to her home, the Sessorian Palace, where she built a chapel to house the relics she brought back which

she brought back which became the beginning of the Basilica we see today. She used the soil from Jerusalem beneath the floor of the chapel indicating that she brought back a piece of Jerusalem – hence the name “Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem.”

It is said that Constantine used two of the nails from the crucifixion. He had one attached to the helmet he wore into battle and put one on the bridle of his horse. He attributed this to his successes in battles. Although he was baptized through most of his life, he accepted Christianity and was baptized toward the end of his life.

The Basilica has undergone many restorations over the centuries. There are two restorations of note. The first occurred in the 12th century and was in the Romanesque style. The other was completed in the 18th century and is the one we see today.

The Basilica is everything we might expect from a Basilica in Rome. It has three naves, granite columns, frescos and mosaics that depict the Passion of the Lord. In Saint Helena’s chapel contains the soil from Jerusalem and a mosaic ceiling. There is a “Chapel of the Relics” in which the relics can be viewed through glass cases.

One last note of interest. It is said that the Cathedral of the Holy Cross here in Boston also possesses a relic from the true Cross.

I suggest you google images of the basilica to get an idea of its true beauty and grandeur. Better yet, plan a trip to Rome and see it in person.



St. Francis of Assisi
Avery Mary DiCarlo
Charles Brendan Feeney
Jack Terrence McElroy
Henry John O’Mahony
Thomas Robert Smith



The Collaborative will be closed on Friday, July 31st.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



Day 1 of VBS taught us that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and that **Because of Jesus, We are Called.** We talked about how God created

the world with magnificent care, and He created each person exactly as they are. He made every one of us in His own image and likeness with distinct personalities and talents to love, connect with Him, and bring Him glory. Each student brainstormed what makes them special as a child of God and thanked Him for His gifts!

Each day of VBS began with prayer, and we used a giant set of rosary beads to pray a decade every day! We reviewed how and why we pray the rosary, and before we began, we offered prayer intentions for each bead and prayer.



We talked about the parable of the 99 sheep, where a shepherd leaves 99 sheep to search for one lost sheep. This story illustrates that every single individual is incredibly valuable to God, and God takes personal initiative to rescue the disadvantaged and the wandering. Since prayer is a wonderful way to connect (or re-connect) with God, we moved a stuffed sheep from bead to bead to keep track of our prayers.



Building castles was a fun way to talk about the connection between God's Kingdom and a castle. In the Bible, God's ultimate kingdom is Heaven and all of His creation where He is the King. A castle is a

strong, safe fortress built inside the kingdom to protect the King, his treasures, and his people from danger.

Each team was given a box of spaghetti and a bag of mini marshmallows. The kids used a lot of creativity and teamwork to build their castles!





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 information or any questions.



ROSTRO DE CRISTO

This weekend Evan Cuthbert, a Braintree resident and parishioner, will be speaking at the

Masses as part of the annual Missionary Cooperative Program. Evan serves as the Executive Director of Rostro de Cristo, an organization founded in 1989 by Fr. Jim Ronan of the Archdiocese of Boston. Today, Rostro de Cristo works in the Dominican Republic in collaboration with the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo (Scalabrini Sisters). Drawing from 8 years of missionary work in Latin America with Maryknoll and the Jesuits, Evan 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. He will share how through this ministry Christ's presence is revealed in those on the margins and how this work plays a vital role in expanding the missionary activity of the Church to people that are often forgotten and excluded. The second collection will support the mission of Rostro de Cristo. To learn more please see the insert in this week's bulletin or visit www.rostrodecristo.org. Thank you for your generosity.



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



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.**



July 26: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel, we find that the demand of daily Christian living is to spend our life primarily searching for the kingdom of God.

This month through your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 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.**

**REST IN
PEACE**

Archdiocese of Boston
Msgr. Joseph G. Lind

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.

We know that all things work for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28



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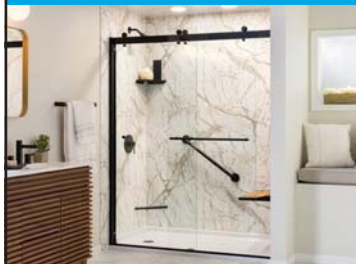
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