

Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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 15, 2026

5:30PM Nancy and Pamela Gorman Memorial

Sunday, August 16, 2026

9:00AM Francis H. Nehiley, Jr. 21st Anniv.

11:30AM Paul Boback 1st Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, August 17, 2026

7:00AM

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

7:00AM

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

7:00AM Jeremy Ashe Memorial

Thursday, August 20, 2026

7:00AM

Friday, August 21, 2026

7:00AM Francis Gallagher Spec. Intent.

Saturday, August 22, 2026

5:30PM

Sunday, August 23, 2026

9:00AM Brian Sampson 10th Anniv.

11:30AM David & Marie Parr Memorial

6:00PM



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~ ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, August 15, 2026

8:00AM Robert F. Murphy, Sr. Memorial

4:00PM Mario Pereira Month's Mind

Sunday, August 16, 2026

7:45AM Charlene Chen Memorial

10:15AM Barry J. McGonigle 1st Anniv.

Saturday, August 22, 2026

8:00AM Rev. James Lerner Memorial

4:00PM

Sunday, August 13, 2026

7:45AM Diane, Claire & Jack Conlon Memorial

10:15AM Rita Rakauskas 5th Anniv.

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.





Continuing our series on the liturgical renewal of the Second Vatican Council, let me draw your attention to what is written in paragraph 14:

Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people is their right and duty by reason of their baptism. In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else; for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit.

Fully conscious and active participation is what the council is looking for in the Mass. To appreciate what is meant by fully conscious and active participation, it helps to look at how the pre-Vatican II Mass (Tridentine Mass) was understood. The Mass was primarily the activity of the priest. He was offering the sacrifice of the Mass for himself, the universal Church and those entrusted to his care. The faithful went to Mass to observe this sacred action. As the Mass was said in Latin, many followed along in their missals which had a translation in the local language. Still others prayed the rosary during the Mass. The faithful were spectators of a supra-natural event. It was the common parlance of the day to make reference to "hearing the Mass". The focus of the laity was on fulfilling their obligation, which they did by hearing the Mass.

The liturgical reform of the council called for a shift in the way we thought of the Mass from the activity of the priest to the activity of the whole Church. By virtue of Baptism, the laity are God's chosen people who are redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ. The priest has a unique role in the Mass, of course. He stands in persona Christi, literally in the person of Christ. In other words, the Mass is the action of Christ's sacrifice: passion, death and Resurrection extended in time and space. When the priest stands at the altar, it is Christ who offers the sacrifice. The faithful join in Christ's sacrifice by uniting their prayer with that of the priest, which is ultimately the prayer of the whole Church.

What does it look like for the faithful to participate in the Mass consciously and actively?

First, it means showing up. Going to Sunday Mass is essential for the faith. It's what keeps the memory of the Risen Christ alive in our hearts.

Second, it means that we come with a proper disposition: free of any mortal sin, minds engaged in what is taking place and intentionally listening! As the Lord Himself said "Blessed are those who long to hear what you hear!" If we are not actively listening, then how can we render a proper response of praise and thanksgiving? Having said all that, all of us have times when we are distracted or overly tired and it is very hard to focus. Not to worry! Sometimes this happens to the priest, too. This is why we join a faith community who carry us in such times.

Third, we raise our voices in acclamation. This may happen by singing or reciting the parts of the Mass that properly belong to the laity.

Fourth is conscious participation in receiving Holy Communion. This may seem obvious, however up until the first part of the 20th century, the laity did not regularly receive Holy Communion at Mass. The priest would receive on their behalf. Receiving Holy Communion ought to be the norm. It's important though, if conscious of mortal or serious sin that the person receive absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving Communion.

Fifth is making proper gestures and postures. We pray with our bodies as well as our voices. Sitting, standing, kneeling are all important. We fold our hands, offer a sign of peace, come forward for Holy Communion...simply sitting still does not make for active participation.

The Second Vatican Council also allowed for the laity to take on various liturgical ministries within the Mass such as lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, altar server, usher/greeter, cantor/chorister.

As I write these words it strikes me that full, conscious and active participation demands a great deal from us. Worshipping God is a kind of labor. Isn't God worth it?

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2026 YEAR A

SUNDAY Aug 16	Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/ Mt 15:21-28
MONDAY Aug 17	Ez 24:15-23/Deut 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 19:16-22
TUESDAY Aug 18	Ez 28:1-10/Deut 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd- 36ab/Mt 19:23-30
WEDNESDAY Aug 19	Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 20:1-16
THURSDAY Aug 20	Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 22:1-14
FRIDAY Aug 21	Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40
SATURDAY Aug 22	Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 23:1-12
SUNDAY Aug 23	Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Part II

Well, I left you in suspense last week. What happened to the children of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton when she began the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph? I'm fairly sure that most of you, after reading last week's column, went straight to Google and looked it up. Let me know if you did. The short answer is, wherever she went the children went too. When she ran the Paca Street Boarding School she took the children with her. When she started the girl's school in Baltimore the children moved there also. So, it should come as no surprise that when she started the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph the kids were brought there too. After all, if you think about it, would the Catholic church canonize a woman who would abandon her own children? Of course not.

But what happened to the children as they grew up?

Anna Maria Seton (1793-1812), the oldest child and nicknamed "Annina" by Elizabeth was thirteen years old when her mother founded the order. Tragically she contracted Tuberculosis and died at age 16 in Emmitsburg. She is said to have been deeply devout and a gentle soul, sharing in her mother's deep spirituality. Elizabeth said "it was a peaceful death and a holy passage. She had gone home to God like a lamb."

William Magee Seton II (1796-1868) was just twelve years old when the community was founded. He lived a good long life, passing at the age of seventy-two. Being seventy-one myself I'm not ready to say I've already lived a good long life so let's say he led a full life by nineteenth century standards. He joined the U.S. Navy, serving with distinction for 15 years with the rank of Lieutenant. He retired when he got married in 1832. An interesting side note is that his grandson Most Reverend Robert Seton became the Archbishop of Heliopolis, a titular see.

Richard Bayley Seton (1798-1823) was named after his paternal grandfather Dr. Richard Baley of New York and moved with his family to Emmitsburg when he was 10 years old. Like his brother Richard he joined the Navy and was lost at age 25 off the coast of Liberia in West Africa only two years after his mother's death.

Catherine Josephine Seton (1800-1891) was only 8 years old when she joined her mother and the Sisters of Charity. She led a life devoted to God and became a sister of Mercy caring for the poor, the sick and prisoners on Blackwell's Island for decades. Upon entering the order, she took the

the name "Mother Catherine Seton." She died at age of ninety in 1891.

Rebecca Mary Seton (1802-1816) was six years old at the founding of her mother's order. Like her older sister Rebecca contracted Tuberculosis and died at the age of fourteen.

As we all know, to become a saint a person typically needs three miracles to occur after their deaths, that lead to beatification and canonization. These are the miracles connected to Elizabeth Ann Seton's cause for sainthood.

First, **the healing of Sister Gertrude Korzendorfer** in 1935 of pancreatic cancer deemed inoperable. Her fellow sisters implored the help of Mother Seton and she remarkably recovered. Most astonishing is that after her death a biopsy was performed on her pancreas and there was no sign that there was ever cancer there at all – not even scar tissue.

The healing of **Ann Theresa O'Neill** is the second miracle attributed to Elizabeth Ann Seton. The little girl was born in 1947 and at five years old was admitted to St. Agnes Hospital with lymphatic Leukemia. At the time there was no cure. It was always fatal. The child's face was pale and swollen; her head shook uncontrollably; she was covered with sores and struggled to breathe. Sister Mary Alice Fowler, supervisor of pediatrics, suggested that a novena be prayed to Mother Seton. Prayer cards were distributed to staff, family and friends and a relic of Mother Seton was pinned to her clothing. Ann began to get better almost immediately after the novena began. She sat up and began eating again, she walked. She was discharged from the hospital on April 27, 1952. Subsequent bone marrow and blood tests showed that the disease was completely gone. An investigation by both the medical team and the Sacred Congregation for Rites concluded that the cure could only be attributed to Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton. Ann Theresa was present at both Mother Seton's beatification in 1963 and her canonization in 1975 accompanied by her family on both occasions.

Finally, **the healing of Karl Kalin** from a rare form of Encephalitis (a brain disease). It was so rare that only five cases of it were diagnosed before his. It always ended in death. A relic of Mother Seton was first pinned to his gown, but his condition continued to worsen. So, the sisters and his wife obtained a first-class relic and placed it on his head praying fervently for his recovery. His convulsions ceased and he made a complete recovery much to the astonishment of his entire medical team. It became the third miracle needed for the canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

I'll be adding to this column on my blog acigarwithgod.blogspot.com that will include the saint's favorite prayers and a few quotes. Check it out.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Day 4 of VBS taught us that **Jesus makes us new**, and because of Jesus, **our sins are forgiven!** We read from the Gospels of Matthew and John where after His resurrection, Jesus asked Peter if he loved him 3 times, which is a reminder of the 3 times that Peter denied Jesus before His death. By asking three times, Jesus allows Peter to reaffirm his love and commitment, replacing his denials with affirmation and forgiveness. We discussed how forgiveness gives us a fresh start and helps us to make better choices in the future!

Our day began with a visit from Braintree Town Councilor Meredith Boericke. She talked about her job and the importance of local government. She described some town projects that began with an idea from a Braintree resident!



We discussed what the word **community** means and brainstormed lots of ideas how we can be good citizens in our community of Braintree. The kids wrote their ideas on puzzle pieces and then assembled the puzzle together. Just like every piece of a puzzle matters, together our individual pieces make the finished picture a better whole!



Part of our Kingdom Quest theme is being sent on a mission as a warrior for God. A warrior is someone God trusts to bring light wherever they go, fighting for love, peace, and goodness. God's warriors do not need to use swords or armor - they use kindness, courage, and truth. A warrior for God is someone who:

- Stands up for what is right
 - Shows love even when it's hard
 - Helps others who need support
 - Uses their words to build, not break
- Trusts God when things feel scary

After discussing this mission, the kids had some fun making catapults out of popsicle sticks and rubber bands and using mini marshmallows for target practice!



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.





August 16: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

The Gospel today announces that the kingdom and salvation are for all people. It is our persistent calling out to Jesus and our faith that count, for Jesus always

responds.

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is next weekend, August 15-16. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. **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.**



Fr. Kevin's final Mass in the Collaborative will be the 10:15 at St. Clare on Sunday, September 13. A farewell reception will follow in the church hall.

Our Celebration of the 800th Anniversary of Saint Francis' death continues with an "Italian Dinner" on his Feast Day Weekend. On Saturday, October 3rd following the 5:30 PM Mass, we will gather in the Saint Francis of Assisi Hall with a catered meal and entertainment. More details to follow soon; tickets will be sold in September.



*St. Clare
Lilja Marie Kane
Brooks Ruazol Talbot
Jagger Joseph Zaniboni*



*From
the Archdiocese of
Boston*

August 16 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Take a moment and look around you at Mass today. Are there people present whom you have never met or who may come from a different culture? In what way might you be a welcoming presence to the stranger or immigrant or the seeker who is in your midst? Today's scripture makes clear that the message of God's love is not meant to be kept to ourselves. It is not only for those longtime parishioners or certain groups – it is for everyone! Ask God for the grace to do your part to make people feel welcome. Your smile, or word of welcome will help make your parish a place where all feel welcome and at home!

Charismatic Renewal Services Fall Conference

Charismatic Renewal Services Fall Conference will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 8:00 am-5:30 pm at BC High. The annual gathering will include general sessions, adoration & healing, and breakout sessions in 3 languages. A vigil Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Cristiano Barbosa. For more information, visit bit.ly/CRSfallconference26.

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.

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gracious
to us &
BLESS us;
may God's face
Shine
upon us.

Psalm 67:2

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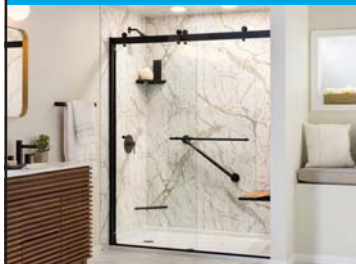
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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

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