

Braintree Catholic Collaborative

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18



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
Sr. Georgeann Donovan, Coordinator of Ministries
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 22, 2026

5:30PM Germinia DiMartino 10th Anniv.

Sunday, August 23, 2026

9:00AM Brian Sampson 10th Anniv.

11:30AM David & Marie Parr Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, August 24, 2026

7:00AM Franklin Hinnant Memorial

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

7:00AM

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

7:00AM Rev. Robert Lennon, CSSR Memorial

Thursday, August 27, 2026

7:00AM Catherine Sullivan Spec. Intent.

Friday, August 28, 2026

7:00AM Mary L. Hamel Anniversary

Saturday, August 29, 2026

5:30PM Mary Mochen 5th Anniv.

Sunday, August 30, 2026

9:00AM Genevieve McCarthy and Anne Dooley Memorial 4th Anniv.

11:30AM Mary & James McDonough Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, August 22, 2026

8:00AM Rev. James Larnier Memorial

4:00PM William Hanscom Anniversary

Sunday, August 23, 2026

7:45AM Diane, Claire & Jack Conlon Memorial

10:15AM Rita Rakauskas 5th Anniv.

Saturday, August 29, 2026

8:00AM Elizabeth and Mary Manning and James Walsh Memorial

4:00PM Arduino DiCenso Memorial

Sunday, August 30, 2026

7:45AM George & Nancy Betza and Eileen Romeo Memorial

10:15AM Mary V. Browne Anniversary

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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The Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (CSL) known as Sacrosanctum Concilium did not lay out in any kind of detail what the changes in the Mass should be. Rather the constitution offered the framework by which all decisions, documents and practice should be made. I would like to look at some of the guiding principles that CSL put forth.

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi (the law of prayer is the law of belief) is the principle that mandates that the way we pray shapes what we believe. The easiest example of this is the prayer we all say constantly called the Our Father or the Lord's Prayer. It begins with the words Our Father who art in Heaven... Having recited this prayer since before we could remember, we develop an image of God as a Father. Other prayers contribute to the image by suggesting that God is a father who is loving, merciful, compassionate and personal. Of course not everyone imagines God as a father, but you get how the principle works. For this reason the words that are used in the Mass are carefully chosen. Sometimes the sentence structure is not how we speak in everyday communication and some prayers can be harder to grasp (think of the word consubstantial in the Creed).

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal is clear about what has to be said precisely as written. Sometimes the instruction says "in these or similar words". In other cases the instruction gives latitude in how prayers ought to be formed (such as the closing prayer to the Prayers of the Faithful). Connected to this are the hymns. Music that is used at Mass must reflect the theology of the Church. Not every religious hymn reflects our theology so music has to be chosen carefully.

Another guiding principle is called Ars Celebrandi. This translates as the art of celebration and covers what is not in the rubrics. In other words, the way the priest leads prayers is extremely important for the integrity of the worship. The priest is to pray with reverence conveying the sacredness of the Mass and the majesty of God. A priest who is overly casual or folksy in style could easily diminish the sacredness of the Mass. This is why we call it the art of celebration. Such a principle also applies to the faithful. How we stand, sit, kneel, speak and sing all shapes the worship that is offered to God.

Fr. Bob



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. Francis of Assisi
Lily Christine McCormick
Naya Urdaneta
Naziah Urdaneta

Watch St. Clare Mass on BCAM TV

Whether you're unable to attend Mass in person or would simply like to watch from home, you can view the weekly Mass from St. Clare Church on BCAM TV or online.

Public Channels: Comcast 9 / 1073 HD
 Verizon 28 / 2128 HD

YouTube: BCAM TV

Website: BCAM.tv

READINGS, SAINTS, OBSERVANCES 2026

SUNDAY Aug 23	<i>Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20
MONDAY Aug 24	<i>Saint Bartholomew, Apostle</i> Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
TUESDAY Aug 25	<i>Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest</i> 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26
WEDNESDAY Aug 26	2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32
THURSDAY Aug 27	<i>Saint Monica</i> 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 24:42-51
FRIDAY Aug 28	<i>Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13
SATURDAY Aug 29	<i>The Passion of Saint John the Baptist</i> 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mk 6:17-29
SUNDAY Aug 30	<i>Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

If you've driven through Plymouth, you may have noticed a Catholic Church named Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and scratched your head wondering "Who the heck is that?" You might not recognize her name because she is a very recent saint, canonized in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. So, let's dig in and find out who she was and why she matters.

From her name you might have already surmised that she is Native American and the first indigenous person to be canonized a saint. Her life and sanctity predate the founding of the United States.

Her mother was an Algonquin Christian who was captured by the Mohawk and married a Mohawk chief. Tekakwitha, (her Mohawk name) was born in 1656 in the village of Ossernenon which is now Auriesville New York. Early in her life, perhaps around the age of four, a smallpox epidemic killed both of her parents and her younger brother. Although she also suffered from the disease she survived it, however her face was severely scarred for the rest of her life, and she was left partially blind. It's interesting to note that the name Tekakwitha literally means "she who walks into things." She may have received the name because of her partial blindness. It sounds a little bit like bullying to me.

After the death of her parents she was adopted by her uncle, also a Mohawk chief. While there she lived her life in the community preferring quiet duties because of her poor eyesight. She began to learn about the Christian faith from missionaries who were well established in the area by that time, but she could also remember bits and pieces of what her mother would tell her about the faith and she was drawn to it. This was not easy for her since her uncle was not at all someone who approved of conversion and it was certain that her desire would anger and upset him. This disapproval from her family and others in the her community did not deter her and she pursued entry into the Church. At age 19, on Easter Sunday, 1676, she was baptized and took the name Kateri, a Mohawk version of Catherine. She took the name after Saint Catherine of Siena. Missionaries noted that she was drawn to Saint Catherine because of her purity of life, mystical spirituality and her total devotion to Christ.

Her newfound Christian faith was received with hostility among her own people and she was accused of abandoning her Mohawk culture. She was forced to move nearly two hundred miles north to a community of indigenous Christians living near Montreal Canada called the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier.

It was here that her spirituality grew and developed. She attended daily Mass, spent long hours in prayer, and per-

formed acts of charity – especially caring for the sick and elderly. She embraced a life of chastity, telling her confessor she wished to belong entirely to Christ. Her holiness was marked by gentleness, humility, and a deep love for the Eucharist. Witnesses recalled her slipping away to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and spending hours in contemplation. She practiced small acts of penance, though her spiritual directors guided her toward moderation due to her fragile health.

Kateri longed to establish a community of Indigenous women consecrated to Christ, but her early death prevented this dream from taking shape.

Kateri's health, weakened since childhood, declined rapidly. She died on April 17, 1680, at age 24. Those present reported that the scars on her face vanished moments after her death, leaving her skin radiant. This phenomenon was widely regarded as miraculous.

After her death, many Indigenous people and missionaries reported favors and healings through her intercession. Devotion to her spread across North America, especially among Native Catholics.

St. Kateri stands as a witness to courageous faith in the face of cultural pressure, healing and hope after trauma. Holiness expressed through gentleness, and the dignity of Indigenous cultures within the Church.

The miracle used for her Canonization was that of five-year-old Jake Finkbonner from Ferndale, Washington. Jake contracted necrotizing fasciitis, a rare and aggressive flesh-eating bacterial infection. The disease spread rapidly across his face and toward his brain. Doctors told his parents that he was likely to die. However, a priest suggested invoking St. Kateri Tekakwitha, patron of Indigenous peoples and those with facial disfigurement. Jake's parish, school, and community (Lummi Nation) began praying for her intercession. The infection stopped progressing and his physicians had no explanation for his complete recovery. It was investigated by the Archdiocese of Seattle and then by the Vatican's medical and theological commissions. The Vatican declared the healing and attributed it to Kateri's intercession. This miracle was formally approved by Pope Benedict XVI in 2011, leading to her canonization on October 21, 2012. Jake and his family were present.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is the patron saint of Indigenous people, ecology and the environment, those who suffer from physical disfigurement and people who love nature and creation.

This year we celebrate the 350th anniversary of her Baptism.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

The last day of VBS taught us that **the Holy Spirit helps us**, and because of Jesus, **we are sent!** We read from the Acts of the Apostles where Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to give His friends special courage from God. A sound like a wind came from Heaven and the people saw tongues of fire. Suddenly they had the ability to speak new languages so they could tell people from all different countries about Jesus!

Each one of us is **sent on a mission** from God to spread the Good News of Jesus. What can we do to fulfill that mission?

- ✦ Invite a new schoolmate to eat lunch with you
- ✦ Help your parents with chores before they even ask you
- ✦ Stand up for someone who is being teased or left out
- ✦ Pray for a country on a map each night before bed
- ✦ Donate chore money to a local charity

The kids finished up and proudly displayed their coats of arms. Each project had 4 sections, to represent their individual interests, their family traditions, their faith practices, and the community in which they live.



We had an ice cream party to celebrate the end of an AWE-SOME week!



Kingdom Quest 2026!



A huge thank you to this special group of volunteers – our VBS counselors, who shared their time, energy, and faith with the kids. They planted seeds of faith that will impact the lives of the kids for years to come. We are so very grateful to them!





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 23: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Like Peter in today’s Gospel, we can find that when we open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to experience Jesus’ presence in our daily lives, God reveals himself to us.

Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

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

St. Francis of Assisi
Pasquale Pregoni
Joseph J. Calabro

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 23 ~ Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today’s Gospel is so familiar that it may be easy to just let Jesus’ question go unnoticed without taking the time to answer. Once again, Jesus is asking each of us “Who do **you** say that I am?” Is your response like the enthusiastic answer of Peter – “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”? Does your response come more slowly, yet very sincerely? Your response will hopefully come from the depth of your relationship with Christ. This question that Jesus asks gives each one of us an opportunity to put into words the importance of our relationship with him. Find some time in the coming days to consider your answer and to speak it to Jesus.

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.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass (10/25)

Archbishop Henning invites all couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries or another special milestone to a celebratory Mass on Sunday, Oct. 25th at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. Couples will renew their marriage commitment and receive a special blessing. Family and friends are invited to attend. To register, visit bit.ly/WeddingAnniversaryMass2026. For more information, please email marriageprep@rcab.org.

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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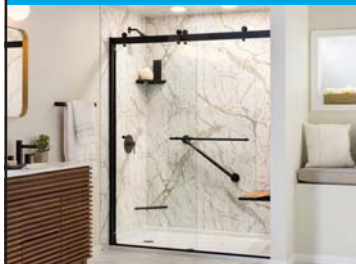
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