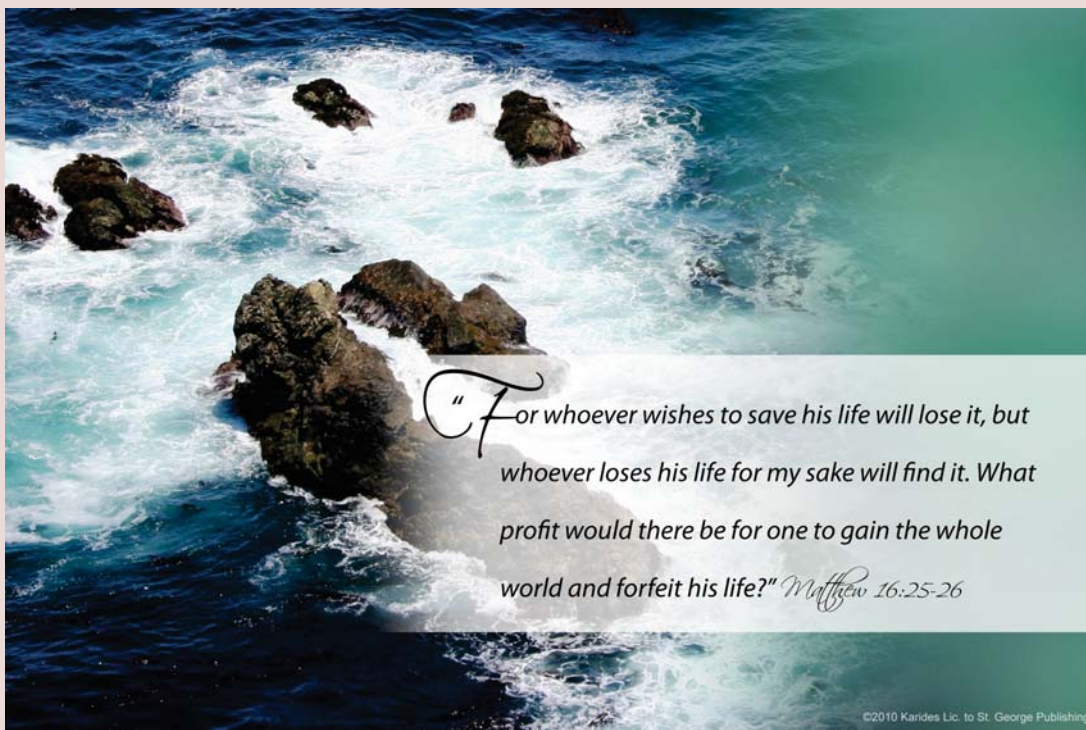


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



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
Sr. Georgeanne 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 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

Monday, August 31, 2026

7:00AM Mary Ruane 1st Anniv.

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

7:00AM Stella Ngugi Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

7:00AM Nancy Nicosia Memorial

Thursday, September 3, 2026

7:00AM Jeremy Ashe Memorial

Friday, September 4, 2026

7:00AM Joseph Blushi, Sr. Month's Mind

Saturday, September 5, 2026

5:30PM Giles Parker, Sr. Memorial

Sunday, September 6, 2026

9:00AM The Broughton Family

11:30AM

6:00PM



Our next **Community Meal** is scheduled for **5:30 THIS Wednesday, September 2, 2026** at St. Francis. Enjoy a hot, home-cooked nutritious meal and enjoy a sense of community. This meal is **FREE**. If you know someone who could benefit, please share this with them.

NOW IN OUR PARISH

Join your fellow [34] parishioners who have already downloaded Donum and the [25] who have set up recurring giving!

If you haven't yet, download the app and enroll in recurring giving to provide steady support for our ministries.

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Mass Intentions

St. Clare

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

Saturday, September 5, 2026

8:00AM Loretta Connor Spec. Intent.

4:00PM

Sunday, September 6, 2026

7:45AM Catherine & Victor Johnson and Bernadette & John Conlon Memorial

10:15AM Joan Palmer 12th 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.





I am wrapping up this summer series on the changes in the Mass prompted by the Second Vatican Council by saying a word about “liturgical creep”. There is a tendency among priests, music ministers, lay ministers and parishes to adopt practices at Mass that are not prescribed by the liturgical documents. These practices are usually subtle and often receive no attention because in the mind of most people it’s just the way it’s always been.

One extreme are priests who make up Eucharistic Prayers. I’ve actually only seen this one time about 35 years ago. I remember wondering if the bread and wine actually became the Blessed Sacrament. This is a rare occurrence. There are practices however, that have managed to make their way into the Mass. Before mentioning examples, it’s worth noting that the General Instruction is clear that nothing is to be added or taken away from what is prescribed by the liturgical norms. There are places in the Mass where the priest is allowed to adapt, make choices or even omit things for pastoral reasons. However, given the history in the Church of what happens when parishes do their own thing, following the General Instruction is essential. You may recall from what I wrote a few weeks back that one of the reasons for the Protestant Reformation was a lack of unity in the way Mass was celebrated which resulted in inconsistency with the practice of faith. The Council of Trent adopted a uniformed approach to the celebration of Mass (Tridentine Mass) to help heal divisions.

One of the biggest examples of liturgical creep, of which I am guilty, is the practice of going to the tabernacle to take out consecrated Hosts to give to the faithful. The General Instruction states that the faithful are to be given Hosts consecrated at that Mass. Nowhere does it state that we should take hosts from the tabernacle to use at Mass. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle for two reasons: to bring Holy Communion to the sick and dying, and for private or communal adoration. The idea of taking hosts consecrated at one Mass and using them at another is contrary to documents and to the overall spirit of the liturgy. So why keep doing it? Ultimately, it comes down to laziness. It is time consuming to count out hosts at each Mass.

Another example is reciting the Hail Mary at the conclusion of the Prayers of the Faithful. It is a beautiful prayer. Nevertheless, what is called for at that moment is a collect prayer, which may include reference to the Blessed Mother or other saints. However, the Hail Mary is a devotional prayer that has a very important place in the Catholic faith, just not at the conclusion of the Prayers of the

faithful.

Similar to this is the Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel said at the end of the Mass. This was in fact part of the Mass before the Second Vatican Council. However, it is not included in the General Instruction, most likely because it is a devotional prayer. There is absolutely nothing wrong with anyone or any group of people saying the prayer after Mass. Making the prayer part of the practice for the parish is, in fact, adding something that is not in the General Instruction.

There are other practices as well. You can probably think of some yourself.

Fr Kevin’s Farewell

Fr Kevin will be leaving us in two weeks for his new assignment at St Joseph Parish, Malden. His last Mass here will be at the 10:15 at St. Clare’s on Sunday, September 13. There will be a gathering in the parish hall after Mass for those who want to express their sentiments to him personally.

Starting in September

Some calendar items I would like to point out as we get into September:

The Women’s group will start up on September 10 and will be meeting on the second Thursday of the month.

The Young Adult group will resume on Monday, September 21 and will meet on the third Monday of each month.

Starting on Wednesday, September 30 we will have an evening for adult faith formation on various topics. Once into October this group will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our first gathering will be a presentation and discussion on Pope Leo’s encyclical called the Magnificence of Humanity.



The Collaborative Office will be closed Friday, September 4th through Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.



Scriptural ROSARY and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will begin on 9/14 at 6:45pm at SFA.

ALSO - we are looking for new leaders and readers to volunteer for this prayer ministry as going forward we will be having it on EVERY MONDAY throughout the year. Please contact Lisa at LBERARDI28@verizon.net to be included in the rotation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus called Peter the rock on which He would build the Church. He gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven and bestowed on him the authority to open the doors of the Church to the whole world! During our Kingdom Quest Vacation Bible School, the kids made their own keys to the castle. These keys unlock our faith and demonstrate our entry into the castle (salvation) by trusting in Jesus as our King!

VBS was such a terrific week! Next year's program is already in the works, so SAVE THE DATES for next year – July 12-16, 2027!



Have you brought Flat Leo on any adventures this summer? Please send pictures to Mrs. Lane at klane@sfab.org so they can be added to the display!

Mrs. Lane visited her brother's farm in Pennsylvania this summer and the goats were very curious about Flat Leo! (some even tried to take a nibble!) Here are Lucy and Penny, two of the newest 'kids' on the farm.



This is Groot, a grown boar goat who was very sick when we arrived. We prayed to St. Francis every day and guess what? Groot is on the mend! Thank you St. Francis!



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 Women's group will meet on **Thursday September 10th** at 6:30 pm in St. Francis of Assisi church hall.
- **Guest speaker** - Artie Boyle: The Women's group has arranged for Artie Boyle to join us on **Wednesday evening, Oct. 7th** at 7:00 pm in St. Francis church. Artie was a run-of-the-mill American hockey dad. Then terminal cancer happened over 20 years ago. The best doctors despaired; and Artie dared to look for a miracle. With his best friends, he went to Medjugorje in Croatia, where healings were known to happen. Artie was healed—completely! The cancer was gone; and his doctors could offer no explanation. We will listen as Artie relates not only his miraculous healing but his spiritual transformation and the hope and inspiration he offers. *All are welcome to hear Artie speak.*



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

I'm going to continue my series on the saints with someone who is not a saint (yet). Like Kateri Tekakwitha he, too, is a native American. It's also a repeat of a column from a couple of years ago.

Everyone has some guilty little pleasure they like to partake in. This is mine (when the weather is nice.) After supper and the dishes are done, while sitting on my back deck enjoying a nice beverage and smoking a cigar, I listen to one of my favorite podcasts.

A couple of weeks ago I was listening to an episode of Jimmy Akin's *Mysterious World*. Jimmy examines various mysteries from both the faith and reason perspectives. This particular episode was about a native American medicine man of the Lakota Nation name Black Elk. Much of what the world knew about Black Elk came from a book published after the author, John G. Neihardt interviewed Black Elk in 1930. The book, published in 1932 is called "Black Elk Speaks."

Black Elk was born in December 1863. His father, grandfather and an uncle were all medicine men and Black Elk, as you might expect, followed in their footsteps. As a child and beyond he had many paranormal experiences and spiritual visions.

He led a remarkable life with varied experiences. When he was still a boy, he was present at the Battle of Little Big Horn (Custer's last stand) and even scalped one of the soldiers. He survived the massacre at Wounded Knee and even toured the United States and Europe as part of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show performing for Queen Victoria. Interestingly, his cousin was the famous Ogala warrior Crazy Horse. He did not however, continue as a warrior but instead became known as Native American holy man.

Most of what the average American would come to know about Black Elk came from Neihardt's book. But Neihardt did not tell the whole story about Black Elk. His book leaves us with the impression that Black Elk remained a medicine man and a spiritual icon of native American culture for his whole life. But the book only covered about the first 25 years of his life even though he was in his forties when Neihardt interviewed him. He lived to be 80 so as you might expect there is a lot more to the story. Why was so much of his life deliberately left out of his story? This is where the first episode on Black Elk ended. In the following episode Jimmy Akin told the rest of the story.

Black Elk married a Lakota woman, Katherine War Bonnet, who had converted to Catholicism. Although he did not con-

vert, he did promise to raise their three children as Catholics. He kept this promise even after her death in 1903. One day a young native boy was terribly ill and lay dying. Some of his relatives still believing in the traditional ways called the medicine man Black Elk. Others who were Catholic called a priest. As a medicine man Black Elk went to the boy's side beating a drum and performing the traditional rituals. A Jesuit priest, Fr. Joseph Lindebner, came in to administer the Sacrament of the Sick since the boy was a baptized Catholic. When he entered, he ordered Black Elk out exclaiming, "Satan get out!" Black Elk was not angry at this and did in fact leave. When the priest came out, he saw black Elk looking dejected. He invited him to ride back to Holy Rosary Mission with him. Black Elk remained with the Jesuits for two weeks at the end of which he asked to be baptized. One year later on December 6, 1904, the feast of St. Nicholas (the saint on whom Santa Claus legend is based) Black Cloud was received into the Catholic Church taking the name Nicholas whose feast was celebrated that day. From that time forward he became a devout Catholic and in 1907 began a long career as a lay catechist working very closely with the Jesuit missionaries. He converted many native American people.

Later in life he wanted to set the record straight regarding Neihardt's book and wrote this letter:

"I shake hands with my white friends. Listen, I speak some true words. A white man made a book and told what I had spoken of olden times, but the new times he left out. So, I speak again, a last word. I am now an old man. I called my priest to pray for me and to give me holy oil and the Holy Food, (the Yutapi Wakan). Now I will tell you the truth. Listen my friend. In the last thirty years I am different from what the white man wrote about me. I am a Christian. I was baptized thirty years ago by the Black-gown [Jesuits] priest called Little Father (Ate-ptecela). After that time all call me Nick Black Elk. Most of the Sioux Indians know me. I am now converted to the true Faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. I say in my own Sioux Lakota language: Ateunyanpi: – Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name — as Christ taught us to say. I say the Apostle's Creed and I believe every word of it. I believe in seven holy Sacraments of the Catholic Church... I was for many years a regular companion of several missionaries campaigning for Christ among my people... I know that the prayer of the Catholic Church is better than the Sun-dance or the Ghost-dance. Old Indians danced that kind for their own glory. They cut themselves so that blood flowed. But Christ was nailed to the Cross for sin, and he took away our sins. Christ taught us to be humble and to stop sin. Indian medicine did not stop sin. Now I hate sin. I want to be straight as the black-gown Church teaches us to be straight

to save my soul for heaven. This I want to do."

There isn't time or space in this short article to explain all of what has made Nicholas Black Elk such a holy man of faith. But it is said he helped prepare over 400 people for Baptism. He used Lacota imagery to teach Catholic doctrine and saw Catholicism as the fulfillment of Lacota spiritual longing.

Black Elk's life challenges the false choice between Indigenous identity and Christian faith. He lived both deeply. He condemned injustice against his people while preaching reconciliation. He saw Christ's peace as fulfilling—not replacing—the "greatness and truth" of Lakota tradition. His ministry shows how evangelization can be rooted in culture rather than opposed to it.

Here's a wonderful part of the story of Nicholas Black Elk. On October 21, 2017, the Diocese of Rapid City South Dakota formally opened the cause for the canonization of Nicholas Black Elk. Accepted by the Vatican he is now known as "a servant of God." In order to take the next step toward canonization that of being named a "venerable" the Pope needs to sign a decree affirming his heroic virtue. For many Native Catholics, his cause represents healing, dignity, and the affirmation that holiness flourishes in every culture.

The story of Nicholas Black Elk is one of many that demonstrate that the words of Scripture ring true throughout the ages.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb." (Revelation 7:9-10)

For a more complete background on Nicholas Black Elk visit: www.Jimmyakin.com and <https://blackelkcanonization.com/>

In addition to this article on Nicholas Black Elk, I'll be publishing some lengthy thoughts and opinions on the recent Massachusetts law extending abortion until the point of actual birth. You can read it at www.acigarwithgod.blogspot.com



The Collaborative Adult Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday August 27 from 6:30 - 8:00. New members are most welcome to join us. We will begin singing at the 9:00 AM on Sundays shortly after that. We are also

looking for people who play the flute and cello. Anyone interested can contact Deacon Joe at deaconjoe.sfasc@gmail.com. We are looking forward to a great year of worship and music.



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. **Tickets will be on sale after all Masses the this weekend.**



August 30: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Today, we hear Jesus say to us, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." The challenge is to let go so God can lead us.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul enabled the poor to experience Jesus' presence by assisting 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.**

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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.

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