

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. Agnel Samy, 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, September 26, 2026

5:30PM Katherine & Fred Bickford Memorial

Sunday, September 27, 2026

9:00AM Marie Reis Memorial

11:30AM Joseph P. Mont Memorial

6:00PM Mary Morrissey and
James Morrissey 2nd Anniv.
Memorial

Monday, September 28, 2026

7:00AM Eleanor & Antonio Corbo Memorial

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

7:00AM Conversion of Souls

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

7:00AM Robert & Edward Corbo Memorial

Thursday, October 1, 2026

7:00AM Anna & William Polin Memorial

Friday, October 2, 2026

7:00AM Richard & Louise McDermott Memorial

Saturday, October 3, 2026

5:30PM Mary L. Hamel Memorial

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10:30AM Patricia Grace Allen and
Richard James Lannon, Jr. Memorial

11:30AM No Mass

6:00PM Paulin Lusha 3rd Anniv.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, September 26, 2026

8:00AM Eland Poore Memorial

4:00PM Paul & Regina Centauro,
Christine & Robert Gannon and
Mary Gannon Memorial

Sunday, September 27, 2026

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Giuseppe Gioioso 2nd Anniv.

Saturday, October 3, 2026

8:00AM Phyllis Hanscom 1st Anniv.

4:00PM Walter & Frances Woolf Memorial

Sunday, October 4, 2026

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Patrick Doherty Memorial

The Bread & Wine for the week of September 26 through October 2 were donated in loving memory of Joseph P. Mont.

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.




NOW IN OUR PARISH

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Next weekend, the Church commemorates the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi. He was only 44 years of age and had been in poor health for some time. He was brought back to Assisi where St. Clare had built a small room attached to her convent. He was laid on the ground where he was tormented with physical pain. He begged for the grace of patience to bear his approaching death. The Lord granted St. Francis a consolation of blessed assurance which filled him with joy even as he experienced pain. Part of his pain came from his "stigmata". Two years previous he received the wounds of Christ which included pain and bleeding. He succumbed to his illnesses on the evening of October 3, 1224.

Franciscans throughout the world celebrate St. Francis' "transitus" on the evening of October 3. Transitus is a Latin word meaning "a passage". In other words he passed over from earthly life to heavenly life. Interestingly, with the exception of the Blessed Mother and St. John the Baptist, the Church does not celebrate the birthdays of saints but rather their deaths. This tradition is meant to instill within the members of the Church a sense of moving towards something greater than earthly life, namely the Kingdom of Heaven. Our entrance into the Kingdom does not begin at death but rather at Baptism. So powerful is our Baptism that we say it begins a life that does not end with earthly death. Rather, life changes. As St. John wrote "what that shall be has not yet been revealed. When it is revealed we shall see Him (Christ) as He is (glorified) and we shall be like Him".

In our collaborative we shall celebrate the death of one of our patrons with great festivity. On Saturday morning, October 3, we will have the blessing of animals outside St. Francis Church at 11:00. St. Francis had a great appreciation for God's creation especially animals. Bring your pets for a blessing and render thanks for these faithful companions.

That evening, we will hold an Italian dinner at St. Francis Parish hall beginning at 6:30. On Sunday morning Bishop Peter Uglietto will visit the parish to **celebrate Mass at a special time: 10:30. Please note, there WILL NOT be a Mass at 9:00 or 11:30.** I'm hoping everyone will come to this Mass at 10:30.

You will see from time to time that the gate on Washington Street into the St. Francis parking lot will be closed. There has been an increase in traffic cutting through the property, which in itself is not a problem. However,

people are cutting through at excessive speed. Children from the neighborhood play and ride bikes in the parking lot. Having been almost hit twice myself, I don't want anyone being hurt. The closing of the gate will be sporadic. If you need to come to the Collaborative Offices, the back gate will remain open. The front gate will be open for all Church functions.

Wednesday evening there will be an informal presentation and discussion on Pope Leo's first encyclical (circular letter) *Humanitas Magnifica*, on the magnificence of humanity. In this encyclical, the Holy Father addresses the impact of artificial intelligence. You need not have read the letter (over 200 pages!) in order to participate. However, we have a few copies in the collaborative office and would be happy to give you one if interested.

Special Message from Archbishop Henning

Archbishop Henning, Bishop McManus, Bishop da Cunha, and Bishop Byrne have sent a Message this weekend to the Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful of Massachusetts regarding the "Prioritizing Patient Access to Care Act," a new Massachusetts law which permits abortion throughout pregnancy for any reason. Please use the QR code below to read this Message, which invites each of us to take concrete actions during Respect Life Month to renew our reverence for life and to witness to the beauty and sanctity of this foundational gift of the Lord.



SCRIPTURE READINGS 2026 YEAR A

SUNDAY Sep 27	Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32
MONDAY Sep 28	Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7/Lk 9:46-50
TUESDAY Sep 29	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51
WEDNESDAY Sep 30	Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15/Lk 9:57-62
THURSDAY Oct 1	Jb 19:21-27/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14/Lk 10:1-12
FRIDAY Oct 2	Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab/Mt 18:1-5, 10
SATURDAY Oct 3	Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130/Lk 10:17-24
SUNDAY Oct 4	Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are so excited to welcome you back for another year of learning, fun, and growing in faith together! **Religious Education classes begin this week!**

- The door for drop off and pick up is near the back of the church on the side of the main parking lot.
- The door must remain locked during classes. Please consider signing up to be a **door monitor** to help keep our kids safe. You can sign up for one day, once a month, or more. There will be a signup sheet for door monitors downstairs when you drop off your kids.
- Parents, please come downstairs to sign your child in and out – this week we will be giving you some important papers – a welcome letter, a letter about the Empowering God's Children Safe Environment lessons, and a class schedule. Looking forward to seeing everyone!
- The **RE schedules** can be found on the Faith Formation page of the Collaborative website at <https://braintreecatholic.org/faith-formation/>
- A link to the **registration form** can be found on the Faith Formation page of the Collaborative website at <https://braintreecatholic.org/faith-formation/>
- Email klane@sfab.org for more information or any questions.



Youth Choir is back singing at the 10:15 Mass each Sunday at St. Clare! We have a great group but would love to add some more voices to it! All students grade K-8 are welcome! We meet in the RE Hall at 9:30 to rehearse and then go up to Mass together at 10:15 (that gives Mom and Dad some time to go for a walk, have a cup of coffee, or enjoy some quiet time in the church.) PLEASE JOIN US!!! Email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org with any questions.

Why Do We Pray?

- **To get close to God:** Just like talking to a friend or a parent, talking to God helps you grow closer to Him.
- **To share our feelings:** We can tell God when we are happy, sad, scared, nervous, or excited.
- **To care for others:** We can ask God to help our friends, family, and people who are hurting, hungry, sick, or sad.

How can we pray?

You can remember how to pray using the letters **P-R-A-Y**

P - Praise (Say "Wow!")

Tell God how great He is. Praise Him for making the stars, animals, and you!

R - Repent (Say "I'm Sorry")

Tell God you are sorry when you make a bad choice and ask Him to help you do better in the future.

A - Ask (Say "Please")

Ask God to help you or someone else who needs help.

Y - Yield (Be Quiet and Listen)

Stop talking for one minute. Be quiet and listen to God's peace in your heart.



St. Francis

Hailey Orla Fitzsimmons
James Angelo Galluzzo
Morgan William Kelly
Nora Josephine Kelly
Beau William Lyons
Connor James McGovern
Bryce Warner Zmudzien

REST IN PEACE

St. Clare

Lillian Zingg
Peter Dolan

St. Francis of Assisi

Joan Bicchieri

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.



What is Prayer?

It is talking and listening to God. God is our loving Creator, and He is never too busy to hear from you. You do not need big or fancy words - He just wants to hear from your heart!

6-17
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"Sayin' 'Amen' is like pressing the 'SEND' button for your prayers."



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

Please don't judge me. I know I'm supposed to be writing a series on American saints however; I'm going to jump across the "pond" to merry ol' England and take a look at a saint whose name sounds eerily similar to Saint John Neumann who we read about last week. The English saint we will learn about this week is Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman. There are many great things we can say about him but wait! Could there possibly be a connection to the United States, to Massachusetts, to the Archdiocese of Boston? The answer is yes! Because the miracle that was used for his beatification was for a local man, Jack Sullivan, from Marshfield. We will learn more about Jack, too.

Saint John Henry Newman was born on February 21, 1801 in London and was the eldest child of John Newman, a banker, and Jemima Fourdrinier Newman. His family were members of the Anglican Church. When he turned 15 he had a conversion experience which gave him a firm belief in God's reality and in God's providential love and care.

He entered Trinity College, Oxford, in 1817 and was elected a fellow of Oriel College in 1822. Ordained an Anglican deacon in 1824 and priest in 1825, he served as curate of St Clement's, Oxford, became a fellow at Oriel College one of the most prestigious academic positions in England, and from 1828 was vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin. His sermons combined intellectual precision with close attention to the moral and spiritual life. Around that time the Oxford Movement was formed. Its purpose was to recover ancient Christian tradition, sacramental theology, apostolic authority and continuity with the early Church. Father Newman became a leading figure in this pursuit and began to read the Church Fathers and not surprisingly this led him to mistrust his faith in Anglicanism and he wrote a piece that basically stated that the thirty-nine articles of Anglicanism were compatible with Catholic Doctrine, that their condemnations were targeted to abuses and not to Catholic teaching and that they should be read in the lens of Catholic tradition. Of course, this didn't sit well with the Anglican Church and it was publicly condemned. In 1843 he resigned from St. Mary's and withdrew to Littlemore for prayer and study. Up until this time John Henry was considered one of the most influential Anglican theological writers of his time. It wouldn't be long before he became one of the most influential Catholic writers and thinkers as well.

On 9 October 1845, at Littlemore, a Passionist priest Dominic Barberi received John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church. He would describe the change as "like

coming into port after a rough sea": not an abandonment of his earlier search, but its fulfillment. He went to Rome for formation, was ordained a Catholic priest on 30 May 1847. He had many accomplishments as a Catholic Priest which include his founding of the first English Oratory at Birmingham in 1848. It is here that he lived out most of his life in prayer, writing, preaching, education, and pastoral care. He helped establish the Catholic University of Ireland. He wrote many articles and essays on faith and the spiritual life.

In 1879 Pope Leo the XIII made him a cardinal noting his immense contribution to theology and the Church. He died at the Birmingham Oratory on 11 August 1890. He was Declared Venerable in 1999; was beatified on September 19, 2010 by Pope Benedict the XVI and was canonized on October 13, 2019 by Pope Francis. His memorial is observed on 9 October, the anniversary of his reception into the Catholic Church.

There are two miracles attributed to his intercession. The first is Deacon Jack Sullivan who lives in Marshfield Massachusetts. Jack was in the class ahead of me so for the first two years of my formation I saw him on a regular basis. I remember seeing him on a retreat in great pain and difficulty in walking.

Jack suffered from severe lumbar stenosis at multiple levels; compression of the cauda equina (the bundle of nerves at the base of the spine) and degenerative changes that made spontaneous improvement impossible. By August 2000, he could barely walk, needed a brace and cane, could not stand upright, was told he would soon lose the ability to walk entirely and that he had to withdraw from diaconate formation because he could not attend classes. His neurosurgeon described his condition as "one of the worst cases" he had seen.

On August 15, 2000, the feast of the Assumption, in great pain and discouraged he prayed to Cardinal Newman "please help me finish my studies." Immediately the pain dramatically decreased, he could stand upright, and he could walk without assistance. He returned to diaconate classes the next day. Doctors were stunned. His neurosurgeon said the improvement was medically inexplicable, because stenosis does not spontaneously reverse. He finished that year of study. But the condition was not fully cured; the structural problem remained.

Several months later his symptoms returned even more severe than before, and he was told that he must have immediate surgery or he would become permanently paralyzed. The surgery and its lengthy recovery would have meant he could not finish his studies and so he prayed again to Cardinal Newman, "Please help me finish my studies." Instantly the pain vanished, his strength returned and he walked normally. He was able to finish his diaconal formation and was ordained a deacon on September 14,

2002. His surgeon reported that Jack's ability to walk and function without surgery could not be explained medically.

Deacon Jack has frequently given interviews and speaks about his illness; his prayers to Saint John Henry Newman; the details of his healing and the spiritual meaning of Newman's intercession. He has appeared on EWTN and other Catholic media to explain the miracle and encourage devotion to Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman, an English saint with a special local connection. He has written a book about his experiences titled "When Heart Speaks to Heart" You can find it on Amazon. Deacon Jack also conducts a healing service at Holy Family in Duxbury. The next one is Friday October 16th beginning with Evening Prayer in the chapel at 5:00 and the healing service starts at 5:30 with a relic of Saint John Henry Newman.

Many volunteers have recently attended the **"Protecting God's Children"** class. Please be sure to make a copy of your certificate and leave it at the office for Deacon Joe. We have to keep our records of this and CORI's to comply with Archdiocesan directives. Thank you.



The Collaborative Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday 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 .

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.

In a few weeks we will be adding a new Gloria to our repertoire at Mass. It is the Gloria from the Heritage Mass which is the one we've been singing for several months now so some of the musical material will already sound familiar to you. You can listen to it by following this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILnBHqogu-4> We have a link to this Youtube page on our website.

AN EVENING WITH ARTIE BOYLE

The Braintree Catholic Collaborative Women's Group is inviting ALL (Women, Men, Families) to attend the evening talk with Artie Boyle on October 7th at 7PM in the Saint Francis CHURCH. Since this date is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, we will open the church at 6:30PM for Rosary prior to his talk.

Artie is the author of *"Six Months to Live"*. Devastated with a terminal cancer diagnosis, Artie and friends dared to look for a miracle. Twenty five years ago, they journeyed to Medjugorje in Croatia in search of healing. Upon return, the cancer was gone completely; and his doctors had no explanation. We will listen as Artie relates not only his miraculous healing but his spiritual journey and the hope and inspiration he offers.



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

Presentation and discussion on Pope Leo's first encyclical (circular letter) *Humanitas Magnifica*, on the magnificence of humanity. 7:00PM Wednesday, September 30th in St. Francis 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 this weekend.**

Sunday October 4th, Bishop Peter Uglietto will celebrate Mass in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi at **10:30AM** at St. Francis. **There will be no 9:00 or 11:30 Masses that day.** Light refreshments will be served in the church hall following this Mass.

The Annual Blessing of the Animals in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi will take place **Saturday**, October 3 at **11:00AM at St. Francis**. Owners, pets, and pet-lovers are welcome to attend. In the interest of safety for all please keep your pets restrained or contained.

Braintree Catholic Collaborative Bereavement Support Group—Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? If you are interested in talking about your grief and need support in your grief healing, we are again beginning our bereavement classes on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall. The hour-long meeting will help you bring your suffering to the Lord and also allow you to know others who are going through something similar. Meetings will meet weekly from 10:30—11:30AM. No sign-up or commitment, just a place to come and find comfort.

"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we loved deeply becomes part of us."

Helen Keller

Knights of Columbus—The weekend of October 17th-18th member knights will hand out tootsie rolls and collect donations to support God's special children. Funds collected will provide assistance to the handicapped, and promote support for children and families with special needs.

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