

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 19, 2026

5:30PM J. Richard Hamel Memorial

Sunday, September 20, 2026

9:00AM Robert & Mary McClelland and Jasper & Dorothy Orlando Memorial

11:30AM Mario DiScipio

6:00PM Ellen White

Monday, September 21, 2026

7:00AM Filomena Giovannangeli Memorial

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

7:00AM Natividad Navarro Anniversary

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

7:00AM John & Joseph Odenweller Memorial

Thursday, September 24, 2026

7:00AM Paul Agnew, Sr. 3rd Anniv.

Friday, September 25, 2026

7:00AM Aurelio San Jose Anniversary

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 2nd Anniv.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, September 19, 2026

8:00AM Frederick Mitchell Memorial

4:00PM Bill & Doris Barron, Jean Delisle and Robbie and Mark Hassan Memorial

Sunday, September 20, 2026

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Vincenzo DellaPenna 1st Anniv.

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.

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.



DONUM

NOW IN OUR PARISH

Join your fellow [38] parishioners who have already downloaded Donum and the [29] 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.

A safe, secure, and convenient way to support your parish - anytime, anywhere.



A heartfelt welcome to our new Parochial Vicar, **Father Agnel Samy**! Fr Agnel arrived this past week from St. Mary Parish, Lynn. He is a member of the Heralds of the Good News, a missionary order based in India. Fr Agnel himself is a native of Bangalore, India and desired to serve Christ not only as a priest, but as a missionary priest. His congregation was founded in the years following the Second Vatican Council in response to the council's call for more missionaries to serve the Church. Given our first-world view that the US provides so much for countries around the world, it is heartening to recognize that in other countries and cultures the US is considered mission territory when it comes to parish life! I admire Fr. Agnel greatly to leave what was so familiar at home only to travel to the other side of the world to offer priestly ministry.

Fr. Agnel has served as a pastor in the Diocese of Burlington. He also pursued doctoral studies in moral theology at Boston College which he completed a few years ago. I am excited for you to meet him. In the few days he has been here he has already shown himself to be a true disciple of Christ.

The Beatification of Blessed Fulton Sheen

This Thursday, September 24, the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen will be beatified in a grand ceremony to be held in St. Louis and be granted the posthumous title of blessed. Blessed Fulton was a priest of the Diocese of Peoria in Illinois. He prepared for the priesthood in Washington and Belgium. After ordination to the priesthood in 1919, he was invited to join the faculty of Leuven University in Belgium. In a surprise move, his bishop denied the request. The bishop recognized that Fr. Sheen had a uniquely special talent for teaching and knew very well that the young priest would spend most of his priesthood in academia. With such foresight, the bishop assigned the newly ordained priest to a small parish in rural Illinois believing that a few years in a parish would only accentuate his academic talents. Blessed Fulton recognized this in later years.

Blessed Fulton went on to join the faculty at the Catholic University of America in the District of Columbia where he began a radio program explaining aspects of the Catholic faith. His popularity on radio morphed into the development of a TV show in which he gave a presentation on some aspect of theology or philosophy. For this he received an Emmy award and went on to be one of the most popular shows in the country in the 1950's/60's. He even beat out Milton Berle in television ratings!

Being declared blessed signifies that Blessed Fulton will be canonized a saint sometime in the future. He will need to have an additional miracle attributed to his intercession. That will take many years to process.

His greatness should not be measured in his popularity on television or his brilliant mind. He is being declared Blessed because he allowed the Lord's grace to transform him. Blessed Fulton himself had many flaws, weaknesses and limitations. However, he recognized them and begged the Lord for the grace to overcome them. Perhaps the most documented of his limitations was that he was not an effective diocesan bishop. Pope Paul VI appointed him (as bishop of Rochester New York) in 1966. It went poorly. After a year, Blessed Fulton went to Rome to ask the Pope to remove him as he felt he did not have the skills necessary to lead a diocese. The Pope agreed, though it took almost two years before he could leave.

Despite that Blessed Fulton continued offering his priestly and episcopal service to the Church by a new tv program and giving retreats around the world. He has written extensively. Those who have read his works or remember his tv show recall that he has a unique talent to make complex concepts very accessible. Even now he continues to teach us that by allowing God's grace to work in us our failures and limitations will not prevent authentic holiness.

For those interested in a good biography of Blessed Fulton Sheen, may I recommend the book [America's Bishop](#) by Thomas C. Reeves.

Happenings in the parish

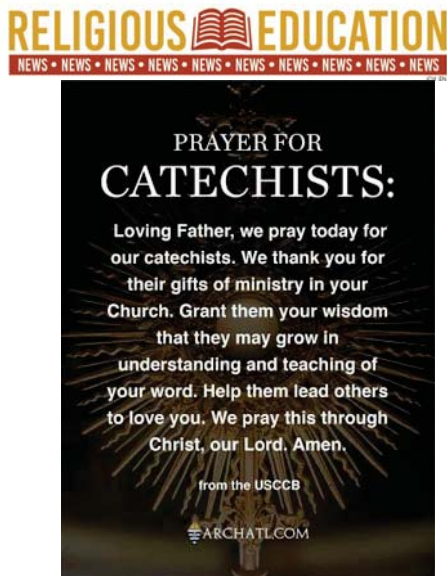
The **Young Adult Group** will meet tomorrow, Monday night at 7:30 in St. Francis Parish Hall. Those attending are invited to pray the Rosary at 6:45 in the Church.

On Wednesday, September 30, we will host an **informal presentation** and discussion on Pope Leo's **encyclical** on artificial intelligence called Magnifica Humanitas. You need not have read the encyclical to participate. However, if you would like to read it, we have some copies in the parish office. It can also be downloaded on the Vatican Website.

October 4 will mark the **800th anniversary** of the death of one of our patron's, **Francis of Assisi**. That we might celebrate this occasion with greater solemnity, the 9:00 and 11:30 Masses that day will be combined at 10:30. Bishop Peter Uglietto will be the presider and homilist. All of that to say, there will not be a 9:00 or 11:30 Mass that day but rather one Mass at 10:30. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

Fr. Agnel





This weekend we celebrate **Catechetical Sunday**. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to all our dedicated catechists who volunteer their time, energy, and love to teach our children about our faith. At the **10:15 Mass** at St. Clare, our catechists will receive a special blessing for the upcoming Religious Education year.

How You Can Participate:

- **Pray for our catechists:** Pray for their wisdom, patience, and continued growth in their own faith as they guide their students.
- **Pray for our students and families:** Pray that the hearts of our youth remain open to God's word.

Support the ministry: Consider how you might share your own gifts, whether as a catechist, a classroom aide, a door monitor, or some other way.

Thank you to everyone who makes our faith formation programs possible. Parents, please remember that you are the primary educators of your children in the faith—we are honored to walk alongside you on this journey!



Youth Choir will resume singing Sundays at the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare on September 27!

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!) Looking forward to old members returning and adding some new voices this year! Email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org with any questions.



Blessing Of The Backpacks

Backpack Blessing – Sunday, September 27 at the 10:15 Mass at St. Clare

As a new school year begins, all students are invited to bring their backpacks to Mass for a **Backpack Blessing**! We will take a special moment during the service to pray for our students and educators as they start an exciting year of learning. Teachers, school staff, and bus drivers are also encouraged to bring a work bag or item they use at school to receive a blessing!



We're so excited to welcome you back for another year of learning, fun, and growing in faith together! **Religious Education classes will begin Sunday, September 27!**

- 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.



It was sad to say Goodbye to Father Kevin, but we all wish him the best for his new assignment as Pastor. Some of the Vacation Bible School counselors gave Father a Flat Leo to bring with him on his new adventure. Here is Father Kevin with Flat Leo in his new church, St. Joseph in Malden!



From Deacon Joe MacDonald

This week as we continue with our series on American saints we will focus on Saint John Neumann, missionary, educator, and Bishop.

Saint John Neumann was born in Prachatice, Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811, and was the third of six children. His father was a stocking knitter and owned a small business. His mother was a devout Catholic which had become a great influence on John and the rest of the family. He was known to be a very contemplative child, thoughtful and meditative.

During his school years his passions included reading, botany, astronomy and languages. It was his penchant for languages that he would find most helpful in his future role as missionary in the United States.

At the age of twenty in 1831 he decided to study theology and entered the seminary in Budweis. Budweis is now known as České Budějovice today and is a major city in South Bohemia, in the Czech Republic. Interestingly, it still remains the home of the famous Budweiser Budvar brewery (the original “Budweiser”). In fact, Budweis” is simply the German name for the same city, widely used when Bohemia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

While he was studying at the seminary in Budweis he began to be attracted to the missions. He learned about the needs of Catholic immigrants in America, and the shortage of German-speaking priests there. This along with reading many articles from missionary sources led him to decide to become a missionary. But before that could happen, he got sidetracked.

This might be a little bit hard for us to believe given the number of vocations in this country, but Saint John, after finishing his studies would not be ordained because his home diocese had more candidates than they could ordain. I can’t imagine sending a man with a strong vocation away just because there were too many. Can we ever have too many priests? We can give his diocese a pass on this one poor decision though; they had no idea they had dismissed a saint.

He went to the United States anyway and arrived in New York alone and penniless in 1836. But God’s providence proved again that even when men thwart God’s plan He can still bring it about through other means. We’ve all heard the adage “God writes straight with crooked lines” and “If one door closes God will open another.” And so, things began to look up.

Saint John went to the local bishop with his story and on June 25 of that same year, Bishop John Dubois ordained him a priest and assigned him to the Niagara frontier. It was here that he ministered to German, Irish and Czech immigrants over a massive geographic area. He endured long journeys either walking or on horseback and conducted catechesis in barns or people’s homes, bringing the life of the Sacraments to the people wherever he went. He had become known for his poverty and the simplicity of his lifestyle. Remember his passion for languages? He would eventually learn six languages: Czech, German, Latin, Italian, English and French. In addition to these he also gained a working knowledge of Spanish, Greek and Gaelic.

Seeking the sense of community that religious orders provided,, Fr. Neumann entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), in 1840 and was the first Redemptorist to profess vows in the United States. As a Redemptorist he served in: Baltimore, Pittsburgh, New York, and Philadelphia. He became superior of the American Redemptorists, known for his gentle leadership, strict personal discipline, and compassion for immigrants.

As a side note, there is a Redemptorist Basilica here in Boston. It is called the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It is better known to many as Mission Church, and it is known particularly for the many healings that have taken place there and for healing Masses. If you’ve never been there, it is a beautiful basilica and place for great devotion – worth a visit.

In 1852, he was appointed the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. Although naturally quiet and personally modest, he proved to be an energetic pastor and administrator. During his eight years as bishop, he made several lasting contributions. He organized the first diocesan-wide system of Catholic parochial schools in the United States and this model influenced later school systems throughout the country. He encouraged the building of churches and the creation of parishes for a fast-growing Catholic population. Historical records credit his episcopate with dozens of new churches and approximately one hundred Catholic schools. He supported Catholics from many ethnic and language communities. He introduced the Forty Hours’ Devotion as an organized diocesan practice in the United States increasing devotion to the Eucharist. He promoted religious instruction and wrote a number of Catechisms to help children learn the faith.

Bishop Neumann died suddenly on a Philadelphia street on January 5, 1860, at the age of forty-eight and his cause for sainthood began 1886.

He was beatified October 13, 1963 by Pope Paul VI and was canonized on June 19, 1977 also by Pope Paul VI.

His feast day is January 5, the day of his death. He is patron saint of Catholic education, immigrants and the Diocese of Philadelphia.

Saint John Neumann, faithful servant of God and tireless shepherd of souls, intercede for me that I may grow in love, humility, and zeal for the Gospel. Help me to follow Christ with the same courage and devotion you showed. Pray that I may trust God's will in all things. Amen.



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.



September 20: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us a parable to teach us how great God is and how generous, and then he calls us to this same greatness and generosity.

As you put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's blue envelopes, know that you are putting your faith into action.



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY is THIS weekend, September 20-21. Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports our pantry. **We are in need of the following personal care items: deodorant; shampoo; toothbrushes; Toothpaste; bars of soap; etc.**

However, 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.**

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



St. Francis of Assisi

Michael Joyce

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 can do no great things; only small things with great love.
• Blessed Teresa of Calcutta •



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.

YOUNG ADULTS

Parishioners in the age range of 18-40, what the church considers young adults, are invited to a time of prayer and conversation at 6:45 THIS Monday evening, September 21st beginning with the Rosary at St. Francis of Assisi. Following the rosary we will meet in the church hall to discuss opportunities for enriching your Christian faith.

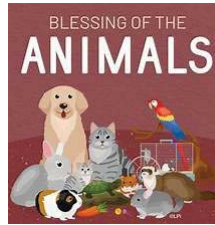
Our Celebration of the 800th Anniversary of Saint Francis' death continues with an "Italian Dinner " on his Feast Day Weekend. On Saturday, October 3rd following the 5:30 PM Mass, we will gather in the Saint Francis of Assisi Hall with a catered meal and entertainment. **Tickets will be on sale after 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.

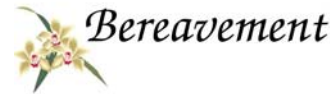
AN EVENING WITH ARTIE BOYLE

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.



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 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**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

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.



St. Clare

Amelia Cohoon Columbus
Lyla Mae Dunlap
Leland John Gerry
Cameron Thomas Jones
Vivian Ryle McGourty
Nora Susanne Salzillo



Each year all parishes in the Archdiocese are required to submit a Sacramental Statistics Report to the Pastoral Center. The reporting period is based on Fiscal Year. We thought you may be interested in seeing our Collaborative Report for this past year (July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026).

St. Clare

Baptisms	34
First Communions	45
Confirmations	74
Marriages	3
Funerals	28

St. Francis of Assisi

Baptisms	55
First Communions	17
Confirmations	34
Marriages	9
Funerals	79

Totals

Baptisms	89
First Communions	62
Confirmations	108
Marriages	12
Funerals	107



September 20 ~ Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The parable in today's Gospel has been interpreted in many ways. At its heart is the powerful truth that every person, no matter when or how they come to faith, is equally precious in the eyes of God. As Christ's disciples today, we are called to rejoice whenever a new generation, a new culture, or a new face comes to the faith. In our parishes it shouldn't matter if people speak another language, express their faith through different cultural or devotional traditions, or that they have different economic circumstances. Diversity is God's idea! There are no outsiders to God. If we truly see others as God sees them, then our parishes will be places where every person is loved and recognized as equally precious.

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats—Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The *Project Rachel* ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat. Upcoming fall dates are Saturday, October 24, and Saturday, November 14. Locations are confidential. More information is available at projectrachelboston.com/retreats. To register, contact *Project Rachel* at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass - 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.

READINGS, SAINTS, OBSERVANCES 2026

SUNDAY Sep 20	Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/ Mt 20:1-16a
MONDAY Sep 21	<i>Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i> Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13
TUESDAY Sep 22	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21
WEDNESDAY Sep 23	<i>Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest</i> Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6
THURSDAY Sep 24	Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17bc/Lk 9:7-9
FRIDAY Sep 25	Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b+2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22
SATURDAY Sep 26	<i>Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs</i> Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14+17/Lk 9:43b-45
SUNDAY Sep 27	Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/ Mt 21:28-32



Braintree Catholic
Collaborative

Dear Friends:

Each September I deliver the financial report for the two parishes in our collaborative. As you will see, the numbers demonstrate parishes that are financially stable. Having said that, you will see that we are living within our means, but just barely. Those of you who own homes know the high costs of maintaining property. The same is true with the parishes.

Because of the generosity in the Grand Annual Collection we were able to take on some property improvement projects this year. St. Francis has a new roof, security cameras and sound system. St. Clare Church received a new sound system, updated kitchen and dining area in the hall and a much needed refurbishing of the outdoor stations of the cross. These were made possible through the Grand Annual Collection and savings thus allowing the offertory to be used for operating costs. If we have to use Grand Annual money for operating costs, we will be forced to use savings for capital improvements. This will leave the two parishes in a very vulnerable financial position.

The future of our financial stability lies in the way people make their offerings to the Church. In June we launched Donum, an app that allows people the option to make a financial contribution right from their smartphone. Many have started using it, though this is overall a small percentage of our parishioners. If we could get more parishioners to use it, or the option provided by the collaborative website, we would be in a far better position for the future. Given the highly mobile society we have become, relying solely on donations that come from the offertory at Mass each Sunday will have a negative financial impact in the next several years. I am trying to think long-term for both St. Francis and St. Clare parishes and am convinced that our financial security is in some form of electronic giving.

As you look over the financial report may I ask you to consider using the Donum app for your offertory to the parish. Just go to the app store on your smartphone to download Donum. To be clear, however, anyway you contribute to the parish is a big help to which I say thank you.

In the coming weeks, I will be writing to you about the Grand Annual Collection. Possibly a new bathroom for St. Clare's and the painting of the exterior of the Church for St. Francis are in our future as both are needed.

Thank you for the support you offer to either parish of the collaborative. I feel greatly privileged to be entrusted with the stewardship of the monetary sacrifice you offer. I am grateful to our business manager Kevin Mercier and the finance council for their guidance and wisdom. Their concern for parishioners is inspiring. I could not pastor the parishes without their support, and the faith that underlies it.

If you have any questions about the report, please do not hesitate to call Kevin Mercier at 781-843-3132 or by email at business@sfab.org.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**Saint Clare Parish
Comparative Statement of Income
For The Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2026**

	<u>Actual YTD</u>		<u>Prior YTD</u>		<u>Budget YTD</u>		<u>Over / (Under) Budget</u>
Offertory	362,870		382,001		386,962		(24,092)
Other	<u>220,094</u>		<u>253,553</u>		<u>307,959</u>		<u>(87,865)</u>
Total Income	<u>582,964</u>	100%	<u>635,554</u>	100%	<u>694,921</u>	100%	<u>(111,957)</u>
 Total Wages & Benefits	 346,774	 59%	 321,072	 51%	 354,674	 51%	 (7,900)
Total Liturgical	21,773	4%	16,554	3%	15,381	2%	6,392
Total Religious Ed	5,346	1%	3,971	1%	3,000	0%	2,346
Total Rectory	13,928	2%	13,605	2%	14,823	2%	(895)
Total Operating Expense	177,850	31%	143,624	23%	144,467	21%	33,383
Total Other (Income) & Expense	<u>19,542</u>	3%	<u>19,884</u>	3%	<u>28,102</u>	4%	<u>(8,560)</u>
Net Income	<u>(2,249)</u>	0%	<u>116,844</u>	18%	<u>134,474</u>	19%	<u>(136,723)</u>

Offertory Lower Than Budget Due To Change In 6 PM Mass Location.

Other Income Lower Due To Decrease In Gifts and Bequests.

Operating Expenses Higher Due To Increase Costs For Snow Removal and Heating.

**Saint Clare Parish
Comparative Balance Sheet
For The Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2026**

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>	<u>Variance</u>
ASSETS			
Cash - Checking/Savings	410,697	464,189	(53,492)
Other Current Assets	<u>2,169</u>	<u>2,898</u>	<u>(729)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	412,866	467,087	(54,221)
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Accounts Payable	4,766	14,969	(10,203)
Due To St. Francis of Assisi	149,245	78,690	70,555
Other Current Liabilities	<u>16,014</u>	<u>9,979</u>	<u>6,035</u>
Total Liabilities	170,025	103,638	66,387
EQUITY			
Total Equity	<u>242,841</u>	<u>363,449</u>	<u>(120,608)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	412,866	467,087	(54,221)

Saint Clare Parish
Cash & Cash Limited To Use
As of June 30, 2026

	Current Year	Prior Year
Checking	17,292	24,561
Savings	23,595	39,642
On Deposit With RCAB	244,426	288,216
RCAB Common Investment Fund	125,384	111,770
Total Cash	410,697	464,189

St. Clare Parish
Comparative Statement of Cash Flows
For The Years Ended
6/30/2025 and 6/30/2026

	Actual	Prior Year
Period Ending:	June 30, 2026	June 30, 2025
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income (loss)	(2,249)	116,844
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash from operating activities:		
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	(220)	(1,075)
(Increase) decrease in fixed assets	(118,360)	
(Increase) decrease in other assets	950	(20,700)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(10,203)	9,895
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities	6,035	(12,902)
Net cash from operating activities	(124,047)	92,062
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Intercompany	70,555	(62,068)
Net cash used in financing activities	70,555	(62,068)
Net increase (decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(53,492)	29,994
Cash & cash equivalents, start of period	464,189	434,195
Cash & cash equivalents, end of period	410,697	464,189

**Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
Comparative Statement of Income
For The Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2026**

	<u>Actual YTD</u>		<u>Prior YTD</u>		<u>Budget YTD</u>		<u>Over / (Under) Budget</u>
Offertory	558,464		467,564		455,337		103,127
Other	249,165		296,426		236,995		12,170
Total Income	<u>807,629</u>	100%	<u>763,990</u>	100%	<u>692,332</u>	100%	<u>115,297</u>
Total Wages & Benefits	354,543	44%	358,638	47%	351,092	51%	3,451
Total Liturgical	20,380	3%	19,113	3%	17,777	3%	2,603
Total Religious Ed	5,137	1%	3,973	1%	3,608	1%	1,529
Total Rectory	13,811	2%	14,106	2%	15,219	2%	(1,408)
Total Operating Expense	260,436	32%	244,887	32%	215,616	31%	44,820
Total Other (Income) & Expense	<u>(22,830)</u>	-3%	<u>28,594</u>	4%	<u>39,691</u>	6%	<u>(62,521)</u>
Net Income	<u>176,152</u>	22%	<u>94,679</u>	12%	<u>49,329</u>	7%	<u>126,823</u>

Offertory Higher Than Budget Due To Change in 6 PM Mass Location and Conservative Budgeting.

Other Income Higher Due to Gifts and Bequests That Were Not Budgeted.

Operating Expenses Higher Than Budget Due To Increased Snow Removal and Heating Costs.

Other (Income) & Expense is Lower Due to Increased Value in the Common Investment Fund Which is Not a Budgeted Item.

**Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
Comparative Balance Sheet
For The Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2026**

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>	<u>Variance</u>
ASSETS			
Cash - Checking/Savings	1,801,023	1,852,780	(51,757)
Due From St. Clare	149,245	78,690	70,555
Other Current Assets	<u>1,819</u>	<u>9,363</u>	<u>(7,544)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	1,952,087	1,940,833	11,254
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Accounts Payable	11,288	38,756	(27,468)
Deferred Revenue		-	-
Other Current Liabilities	<u>21,694</u>	<u>42,857</u>	<u>(21,163)</u>
Total Liabilities	32,982	81,613	(48,631)
EQUITY			
Total Equity	<u>1,919,105</u>	<u>1,859,220</u>	<u>59,885</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,952,087	1,940,833	11,254

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
Cash & Cash Limited To Use
As of June 30, 2026

	Current Year	Prior Year
Checking	35,996	28,925
Savings	73,551	47,469
On Deposit With RCAB	737,867	925,914
RCAB Common Investment Fund	953,609	850,472
Total Cash	1,801,023	1,852,780

St Francis of Assisi
Comparative Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended
6/30/2025 and 6/30/2026

	Actual	Prior Year
Period Ending:	June 30, 2026	June 30, 2025
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income (loss)	176,152	94,679
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash from operating activities:		
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	0	(39)
(Increase) decrease in fixed assets	(116,267)	
(Increase) decrease in other assets	7,544	(224,764)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(27,468)	25,589
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities	(21,163)	(22,920)
Net cash from operating activities	18,798	(127,455)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Intercompany	(70,555)	62,069
Deferred Revenue	0	0
Net cash used in financing activities	(70,555)	62,069
Net increase (decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(51,757)	(65,386)
Cash & cash equivalents, start of period	1,852,780	1,918,166
Cash & cash equivalents, end of period	1,801,023	1,852,780

**St Francis of Assisi
Finance Council Members**

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John Mullaney

Steve Pugsley

Kathleen Whalen-Giannandrea

Lauren Squires

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