

Braintree Catholic Collaborative

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.
ROMANS 13:9

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, September 5, 2026

5:30PM Giles Parker, Sr. Memorial

Sunday, September 6, 2026

9:00AM The Broughton Family Memorial

11:30AM Fr. Cyril Fitzgerald, O Carm and William O'Sullivan Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, September 7, 2026

7:00AM Helen Murphy Spec. Intent.

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

7:00AM Felice Zampine Anniversary

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

7:00AM Deacon Tom Welch Memorial

Thursday, September 10, 2026

7:00AM Mary Kager Memorial

Friday, September 11, 2026

7:00AM Victims of 9/11 Memorial

Saturday, September 12, 2026

5:30PM Vera Sullivan Casey and Bill Sullivan Memorial

Sunday, September 13, 2026

9:00AM Mary A. Sawyer 13th Anniv.

11:30AM B. John Boudreaux and Mary E. Bourdreaux 5th Anniv.
8th Anniv.

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative



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Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, September 5, 2026

8:00AM Loretta Connor Spec. Intent.

4:00PM Joan O'Shea and Anne Quirke Memorial

Sunday, September 6, 2026

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

10:15AM Joan Palmer 12th Anniv.

Saturday, September 12, 2026

8:00AM Stephen Browne and Daniel Gillis Memorial

4:00PM Clara Clements 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, September 13, 2026

7:45AM Thomas & Josephine Clifford Memorial

10:15AM Robert L. & Eileen Son and Paul Marrocco Memorial

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.





Saying goodbye to Fr. Kevin

Next Sunday our collaborative will gather to pray for and say goodbye to Fr. Kevin. He has served this parish faithfully and generously as Parochial Vicar for the past three years. He and I started here together. It's hard to believe that he is moving on! As you know, the Archbishop has appointed him as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Malden beginning on September 15. His last Mass here will be next Sunday at 10:15. There will be a reception following Mass in the hall with coffee and pastries.

A new priest for Braintree

Archbishop Henning has appointed Fr. Agnel Samy as parochial vicar of St. Francis and St. Clare Parishes! Fr Agnel is currently the parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish, Lynn. A native of India, he was ordained for the Heralds of the Good News, a religious congregation based in India that provides priestly ministry for dioceses that are in need of priests. He worked for many years in the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont. In the past few years he has undertaken graduate studies at Boston College. He is a delightful young man. I am excited for you to meet him! His assignment begins on September 15.

Remember September 11

Friday of this week marks the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country. We hold sacred the men and women who perished on that day. It seems all of us have a personal connection to someone or something from that day. The 7:00 Mass that day will be moved to 7:45 with the hopes that following Mass people will walk over to town hall for a memorial service beginning at 8:30.

Interested in joining the Catholic Church?

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about being Baptized, Confirmed or receiving Holy Communion in the Catholic Church, please join Sr Georgeanne and Karen Lane for information on Sunday, September 13, 12:30 at St. Clare Church.

Young Adults

Parishioners in the age range of 18-40, what the Church calls young adults are invited to a time of prayer and conversation on Monday, September 21. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 6:00 and Rosary at 6:45. Following the Rosary we will meet in St. Francis Parish Hall for about an hour to discuss opportunities for enriching your Christian faith.

Response to floods in Nepal

In response to the devastating floods in Nepal, we will give 5% of our offertory this week and next week to Catholic Relief Services who have deployed resources to provide relief to victims and support to local rescue workers. You can read about their work at CRS.org. If anyone would like to contribute something more, please put it in an envelope marked Nepal CRS and drop it in the collection basket. We will add it to the check.

Presentation on Pope Leo's Encyclical

On Wednesday, September 30, we will host a presentation and discussion on Pope Leo's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*. That will be at St. Francis Parish Hall 7:00-8:30PM. The document is about 200 pages. It is brilliantly written, addressing the concept that God's creation is magnificent and thus we must take care in the use of artificial intelligence so as not to negate what God has made. You need not have read the document to participate in the discussion.

Council Meetings

Both the Collaborative Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Councils will be meeting this week.

Confessions

Next Monday, September 14, I will be in the confessional at St. Francis 6:30-7:15pm for anyone who would like to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

800th anniversary of St. Francis' death

This October 4th marks the 800th anniversary of the transitus (death) of St. Francis of Assisi. There will be a big Italian dinner and celebration on Saturday, October 3. Tickets are available after Masses this weekend or by calling the office. The 9:00 and 11:30 Masses on October 4 will be combined into one Mass at 10:30. Bishop Peter Uglietto will be the presider and preacher for the occasion.



The Collaborative Office will be closed 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



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 children, youth, and educators as they start an exciting year of learning. Along with students, teachers, school staff, and bus drivers are also encouraged to bring a work bag or item they use at school to receive a blessing and a tag for their school bag!



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/>



Registration is open – please send your form in as soon as you can so that books can be ordered. 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.



What adventures did you bring Flat Leo on this summer? Remember to send pictures to Mrs. Lane at klane@sfab.org so they can be added to the display!

The **Portiuncula Chapel** at the Cardinal Cushing Center in Hanover is an **exact replica of the chapel in Assisi, Italy** that was restored by Saint Francis in the 13th century when he answered God's call to "Rebuild My Church!"

The word *Portiuncula* means a "little portion" of land. Built in 1953, the chapel serves as the final resting place for Cardinal Cushing. He chose this specific spot so he could remain close to the "exceptional children" who attend the school.

Because it is recognized as a National Shrine, Catholic pilgrims visit the chapel to pray and seek the "Portiuncula Indulgence," a special blessing historically associated with the original Italian sanctuary. The Pilgrims from our collaborative (along with Flat Leo!) got to visit the original chapel in Assisi back in April, and last week, they celebrated Mass in the chapel in Hanover!



Inside the chapel is a relic of St. Clare, and out in front of the chapel is a statue of St. Francis. What a special place to visit and pray with our patron saints!



- 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*

Saint Damien of Molokai “The Martyr of Charity”

I suppose if someone wanted to argue that Saint Damien isn't an American saint because he died before Hawaii was made a U.S. Territory they could. But it was only four years after his death in 1889 that the Hawaiian Monarchy was overthrown and only nine years before it was annexed by the United States, eventually becoming an official territory. Since Hawaii has been a state since 1959 I think we can clearly claim him as a bonified American saint.

He was born into a very devout Catholic family in Tremelo, Belgium on January 3, 1840. His given family name was Joseph de Veuster. His life within this deeply religious family gave him a strong work ethic and compassion for others. In 1859, following his brother's lead, he joined the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (SS.CC.), where he took the religious name Damien after a third century Arab Christian physician and martyr. Interestingly, St. Damien's brother Cosmas was also a physician and martyr. You may recall hearing both their names mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I at Mass.

Four years after entering religious life his brother Pamphile was ordered to go to Hawaii as a missionary, but he became ill and was unable to make the trip. Damien stepped in and asked his superior if he could go in his brother's place. His request was approved and it was a decision that would be a blessing for both the Hawaiian people and Universal Church.

Fr. Damien arrived in Hawaii in March of 1864 and hit the ground running. He was ordained a priest just two months later on May 21 of that year. He began his ministry on the island of Hawaii serving scattered rural communities.

The first diagnosed case of Hanson's disease (leprosy) first appeared in the 1830's and by the 1860's had grown to epidemic proportions forcing King Kamehameha V to sign the *Act to Prevent the Spread of Leprosy*, in 1865. The government exiled those diagnosed to the remote peninsula of Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai—a place surrounded by ocean on three sides and a sheer cliff on the fourth. There was no escape and the colony quickly fell into chaos and social collapse. The people begged for a priest. Bishop Louis Maigret asked for volunteers to serve temporarily at Kalaupapa. Of course, Damien was the first to step forward and he arrived on May 10, 1873, intending to stay only a short time—but at the request of the residents, and with the bishop's permission, he remained there permanently.

Damien lived as an exile among exiles and served in Molokai in many different capacities. First, as a pastor celebrating Mass, hearing confessions and burying the dead. But he also served as physician of body and soul by personally dressing wounds, building hospitals and caring for the needs of every person regardless of religion or race. He also built roads, homes, and water systems making life more bearable for those suffering separation from family and friends. He transformed a lawless, despairing settlement into a community of dignity, hope, and mutual care. His presence restored humanity to people who had been treated as outcasts.

Of course, the reason these lepers were exiled was because close contact with them would cause the spread of the disease. It is no wonder that Fr. Damien after years of working closely with these brothers and sisters, contracted the disease himself. He could have left the island but decided to stay and live in solidarity with the people he came to love and who had become like family to him. He continued to serve as their priest until his health failed to the point where he was too weak. He died of leprosy on April 15, 1889 after sixteen years of service to the lepers of Molokai.

I personally wondered if he could be considered a Martyr since he literally gave his life for these people in the name of Christ. However, the Church has a very limited definition of Martyr. First death, second, it must have been inflicted because of hatred for the faith, and third it must be done willingly. Well, Damien did suffer death and it was willingly and it was in service to Christ and his people, but his death was not caused by hatred but from love. However, because of the heroic way in which he served people with Hanson's Disease and because he chose to stay when he could have left knowing that if he stayed he, too, would eventually die of the disease. He is frequently referred to as the Martyr of Charity.

There are two miracles associated with Saint Damien.

The First Miracle (1895) — Healing of a French nun
A French nun suffering from a terminal intestinal disease prayed for Father Damien's intercession. Her spontaneous and complete recovery was medically inexplicable and was accepted by the Church as Damien's first miracle. This miracle led to his beatification in 1995.

The Second Miracle (1997–1998) — Healing of Audrey To-guchi (Hawai'i)

She was a retired Hawaiian school teacher who had a rare and aggressive form of cancer called liposarcoma. Her doctors told her that there was nothing they could do for her so she went to Kalaupapa and prayed to Fr. Damien “Please ask God to heal this cancer.” Over the next four months the tumors disappeared, and she had a complete recovery stun-

stunning her medical team. Her healing was documented in the Hawaii Medical Journal. This is the miracle that was used for his canonization on October 11, 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI.

His feast day is May 10, the day he began service at Kalaupapa.

Prayer to Saint Damien of Molokai

Saint Damien, brother on the journey, happy and generous missionary, who loved the Gospel more than your own life, who for love of Jesus left your family, your homeland, your security and your dreams. Teach us to give our lives with joy like yours, to be in solidarity with the outcasts of our world, to celebrate and contemplate the Eucharist as the source of our own commitment. Help us to love to the very end and, in the strength of the Spirit, to persevere in compassion for the poor and forgotten so that we might be good disciples of Jesus and Mary. 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 will also have a link to Youtube page on our website.

WE REMEMBER



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 this weekend.**



September 6: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we help them to know that indeed "God is in the midst of them."

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.**

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
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YouTube: BCAM TV

Website: BCAM.tv

REST IN PEACE

St. Francis of Assisi

Jayne Casey

Peter Theologou

Margaret Morganelli

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