

Saint Mary Parish

Franklin, Massachusetts



Parish Pastoral Plan

2022

Saint Mary Parish

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June 2022

Cardinal Sean O'Malley
Office of the Archbishop
Pastoral Center
66 Brooks Drive
Braintree MA 02184

Your Eminence:

The Parish of Saint Mary Franklin continues our journey of faith as “Intentional Disciples.” This Second Plan reflects where we are as a Community of Faith focused on the Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus as we live during this time of the COVID Pandemic. Our Plan envisions that one day we shall move beyond these most difficult days for all people and reflect a strategic sense of the development of our Parish of Saint Mary in the future. The COVID Pandemic has changed the circumstance of life for all of us, but it has not changed our faith in the Risen Lord Jesus. We journey forward step by step with Christ as our Light. We recognize that pilgrimage is sacred and it is a joy to bring the message of mercy, love, and hope to all our Parishioners and beyond.

Our new Plan reflects the strengths and successes of our first Plan and allows us to go forward in faith to our next period of being “intentional disciples.” This new Plan also reflects “the practicality of possibility” with our faith filled hearts of hopes and dreams of making present the Kingdom of God in our midst. Our Plan also reflects that as we enter a long term transition from the COVID Pandemic that there are things discovered and things yet to be discovered about how our Parish will be able to grow in faith. We will be listening for the Voice of the Holy Spirit to whisper or shout to us what the Spirit wills. We will respond in faith and service to his invitation.

We submit this Plan for Saint Mary’s in a spirit of faith, hope, and joy.

Respectfully yours,

Reverend Brian Manning

Reverend Brian Manning
Pastor



Vision Statement

(The restatement of our vision for our parish pastoral plan.)

Saint Mary Parish strives always to be a Christ-centered welcoming community. During these times of the COVID Pandemic, we continue to live and share our Catholic faith with all who join us in person or electronically. We look towards the future of Post-Pandemic era and strive to provide not only for the present times, but also to strategically embrace our future.

Purpose Statement

(Our reason for existence, our significance, and the critical role our parish plays.)

We reaffirm that we are a welcoming and compassionate community of Christians and that we seek to express our love of God by caring for our neighbors through community leadership, service, and stewardship, growing in our Catholic faith, and also inspiring and inviting others to journey with us.

Value Statements

(How we, as a parish family, will decide, communicate, and behave.)

Evangelization

We will bravely step out in word and by example to joyfully express our Catholic faith throughout our daily lives at home, at work, in our parish community, and in our greater community.

- ◆ We will use our Faith to be the loving hands of Jesus to our neighbors.
- ◆ We will utilize various and newly established communication methods when spreading the Good News.
- ◆ We will invite others to worship with us in the ways that they are able.

Faith

We, as children of God, will strive to deepen our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to know and experience Christ's unconditional love for us, and to share His Love with others.

- ◆ We will continue to encourage attendance at Mass in our safe and healthy church environment and also offer those who participate in person via Live-Streaming meaningful and uplifting liturgies.
- ◆ We will participate in the full sacramental and liturgical life of the Church.
- ◆ We will offer, support, and encourage participation in Faith Formation programs for all ages.



Caring

We will respect the dignity of each person, as Christ does, and compassionately accept all members of our parish by welcoming them in a non-judgmental way, wherever they are on their journey.

- ◆ We will extend particular love and care to the fragile and the struggling. In these COVID Pandemic days, we recognize this special welcoming as an essential role of an ‘intentional disciple’.
- ◆ We will share our gifts and talents to build a faith community in which everyone may experience being a valued member of the Parish family.

Preparation for Realization of Pastoral Plan Priorities

Management Structure in support of the Pastoral Plan Upon approval of the Plan

The Pastor will provide the leadership and direction for the Pastoral/Ministerial Staff in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council to support existing needed Liturgies, Ceremonies, Services and Programs and also to develop new programs or services which respond to the envisioned or expressed needs of Parishioners. The Pastor with the support of the Pastoral/Ministerial Staff will develop in particular the necessary strategic development of new services and/or programs.

As our Parish continues to implement our Plan, the Pastoral/Ministerial Staff will monitor the status of the Plan and provide input for any necessary changes. The Pastor will provide updates to the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and also work in dialogue in seeking advice and insight regarding the implementation of the Plan.



Priority One: Vocations

“You did not choose me, but I chose you.”

John 15:16

SMART Goal: To provide vocation awareness directly and indirectly to all parishioners

- ◇ To continue to offer the 7 AM Mass each weekday as a principal spiritual support for those discerning vocations, often stated by vocational discerners as major support in their search.

- ◇ To continue to pray for vocations in the Prayers of the Faithful at all Weekend Liturgies
 - ◆ Prepared weekly by the Pastor
 - ◆ Assistance from Office Staff
 - ◆ No cost

- ◇ Vocation Crucifix – Maintain heightened awareness to the Vocation Crucifix and its associated monthly prayer commitment through remarks and articles in the weekly bulletin or on our website and bulletin.
 - ◆ Support from Legion of Mary
 - ◆ Assistance from Pastor
 - ◆ Assistance from Office Staff
 - ◆ No cost

Our Lady of Hope Prayer Group to include prayers for vocations in their weekly intentions.

- ◆ Our Lady of Hope Pray Group Leadership
- ◆ No cost



Priority Two: Welcoming Environment in a Changed World

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

With the Environment of our church building now providing for those who are mobility limited and with our hospitality space now improved, we seek to offer, now through the time of COVID Pandemic, hospitality which meets State and Archdiocesan protocols with the strategic decision to allow during the Transition and Post Pandemic development of our hospitality for support of Parishioners’ engagement and activities.

Smart Goal: To provide a clear and welcoming environment for those who are hesitant about participation in worship in a church environment now and going forward in time

- ◆ The Pastor through the Staff and Official Greeters will welcome guests and offer them a sense of belonging and welcome.
- ◆ The Church environment will contain welcoming, but clear signage of designated COVID Mask and Socially Distanced areas so that all guests will feel at ease as they enter the church.
- ◆ All Church Masses and Services will be conducted with the respect for the requirements to maintain safety and health for the good of all



Priority Three: Communication for Faith Formation

“But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ”

2 Peter 3:18

Smart Goal: to continue to develop the electronic platforms of our Parish to include Live-Streaming, Constant Contact, and Zoom. The Faith Formation Team will meet with religious and lay leaders of current faith formation programs to assess ongoing faith formation efforts and recommend strategies and resources to support these endeavors.

The Pastor along with the Business Manager will complete, fine tune and enhance a Live-Streaming Service for our main church and also for our chapel and Sacred Heart Hall.

Cost: \$45,000.00 One Time

- ◆ To obtain all required Software and Licenses for our Parish to communicate Liturgical Services, Faith Formation Events and “Social Events.”

Cost \$5000.00 Estimated - Annual

- ◆ To develop our website to contain “parishioner friendly” access portal to various Faith Formation Programs (on-line learning) by Catholic Institutions and providers.

Cost: \$0

- ◆ To encourage the use of CATHOLIC TV to have a sense of belonging to the Universal and Archdiocesan Church and be enriched by its many Liturgical Services and Spiritual Programs.

Cost: \$0

- ◆ Via Constant Contact to maintain a weekly communication with all Parishioners.

Cost: \$1000.00

- ◆ The Faith Formation Programs will employ Bishop Barron’s Word on Fire Programs for our principal on-line learning platform. Each faith group will recommend the particular program which meets their needs.

Cost: \$1000.00



Implementation of the Pastoral Plan: The Pastor along with the Ministerial/Pastoral Staff will periodically review the Plan at their Staff Meetings. Insight, advice, and direction will be sought from the Parish Pastoral Council at their meetings. The Pandemic with its unpredictable nature requires the Pastor and Staff to closely monitor and follow State and Archdiocesan Directives while ministering and serving the Parishioners. The Pastor along with the Staff will think and act strategically in terms of Liturgies, Services, and Programs so that each step will be a building up of the Kingdom and also lessen Parishioners' fears of more disappointments and cancellations.

