

Saint Mary Church
One Church Square, Franklin MA 02038

Phone: 508-528-0020

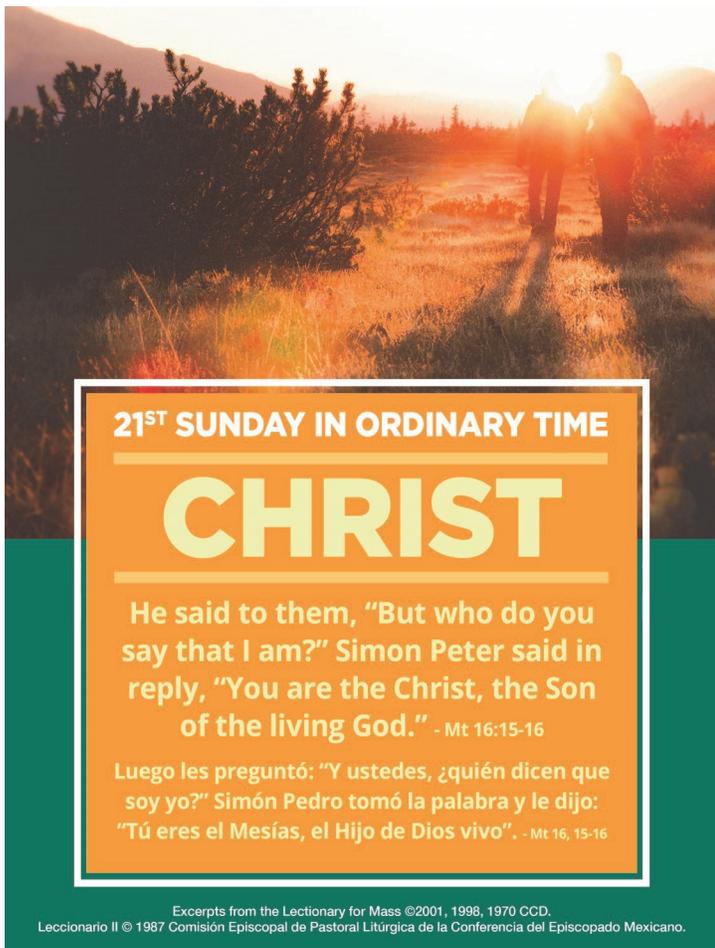
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Website: www.stmarysfranklin.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
508-918-2291

Religious Education Office
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PASTORAL STAFF

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Music Director

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WELCOME

If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to the priests after Mass. We want to know and serve you. To register, please email your name and address to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org and we will send you a Welcome Package which will help you register.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Sunday at 1:30pm by appointment only.
Baptism Preparation meeting required.

Penance: By appointment; please call 508-528-0020

Marriage: Couples planning to be married at St. Mary's should schedule their wedding one year in advance and attend a Marriage Preparation program.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please call the rectory if you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who is unable to attend church due to age or infirmity. We will provide pastoral visits, with administration of the Sacraments.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children

Grade 1: Call the Religious Education Office for info
Grades 2-10 held in the St. Mary Center

Monday through Thursday

Classes suspended for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year

Adults

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Meeting Wednesday 7:00pm
October - Easter

Pastoral Reflections:

Nowadays many times our smart phone can open a door. We can use them via apps to open garage, house, or work doors. We no longer need a traditional metal key. In fact hotels now give arriving guests an electronic card or send them a special code to their phone to a hotel app so that they may use the elevator or open their room. Some homes now use special lock systems that open via Wi-Fi with an app or a special numeric code. Most of us, however, still use traditional keys to open our houses, even if we use a “fob” to open and start our cars. Although metal keys are slowly being replaced, the name and concept of “key” is still very much in common use. I notice sometimes I need “an electronic key” to get into file or a network system. Keys, whatever type they may be, are meant to provide security and safety. They are to protect and also at the right time to open up. They also strongly represent power. Who controls the key, to whom is it given, who has a Master Key, and who is “allowed to come in”: all these questions and more tell us about the power of keys and who possesses them. Keys of various categories and concepts are very important in our lives.

Our scriptures in the first reading and also the Gospel speak of the role of one who holds the keys, the “key holder”. Isaiah had to deliver the bad news that Shebna, the keeper of the palace keys, was not a trustworthy holder of the keys. Shebna was told by Isaiah that he would be thrust down and a new keeper would replace him. Shebna had sided with the king and his royal decision to form military alliances with other nations. This was directly contrary to the will of the Lord. This decision and policy would dilute the religion of Israel with the polytheism of the pagans and render asunder the Covenant established on Mount Sinai that had been renewed with David. In the passage it is clear that the symbols of the Shebna’s office—the robe and sash and key—would be placed on another’s shoulders.

In today’s Gospel, we see Jesus walking along quietly and reflectively with his disciples. Jesus suddenly turns to them and asks what do others say of him. The disciples tell him that he is seen as a continuation of the Jewish Tradition and Scriptures. Some think he may even be a prophet. Jesus then asks what they think. Peter then speaks for himself and for the rest. Peter appears to be the leader and acts as Jesus’ main helper. In the Calming of the Sea story, Peter had already said: “Truly you are the Son of God”. This time Peter’s announcement is even greater for he says: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Although the other Gospel writers tell of this scene, they do not include the commissioning of Peter. Here we learn his name is changed from Simon to Peter, which means “rock,” and he is given the keys, which means he has the authority “to bind and loosen.” Jesus tells everyone Peter is chosen because he is faithful to the revelation of God, not because he is smart, pious, or tough. We know Peter, instead, often stumbled and made mistakes.

Jesus saw into the essence and heart of Peter. We heard two weeks ago about how Peter started to sink while walking on the water towards Jesus. Peter lost his focus on Jesus. We also learn in this new scene that Peter and his followers would face some very hard times. Bear in mind Peter was chosen because of his faith, although it was imperfect for there is no perfect faith. We need to remember that we have been chosen. Like Peter we may stumble, but we can pick ourselves up and see Jesus and then lead others to him by our words and example.

Fr. Brian

READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of August 23, 2020

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 [8bc]/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

Monday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 [13b]/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 [1]/Mt 23:27-32

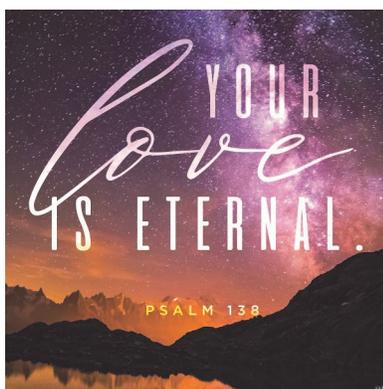
Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [1]/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 [5]/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Mk 6:17-29

Next Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-2

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This is OUR CHURCH

Faith Community Nurses and Chaplains program. Our Pregnancy Help Centers continue to provide resources for women facing crisis pregnancies. Those suffering from addiction still need support and guidance and many have greater need for counseling and spiritual support during this time of heightened anxiety.

Your support of the *Catholic Appeal* ensures that these programs and services continue. With the knowledge that many of you are also facing challenging financial realities, and with concern for the people we serve, your prayerful consideration is greatly appreciated. Your donation will make a *significant difference* as we continue serving the Catholic faithful and all our brothers and sisters in need.

To learn more about *Your Church at Work* or to make a donation, visit www.bostoncatholicappeal.org

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