

Saint Mary Church
One Church Square, Franklin MA 02038

Phone: 508-528-0020

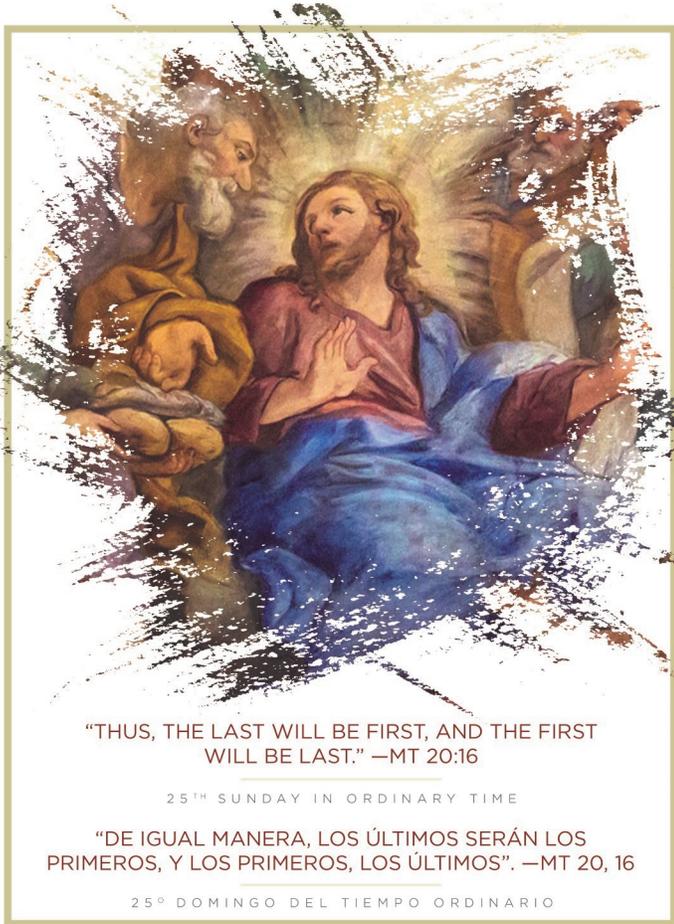
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Website: www.stmarysfranklin.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
508-918-2291

Religious Education Office
Phone: 508-528-1450

201 Main Street
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"THUS, THE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THE FIRST
WILL BE LAST." —MT 20:16

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"DE IGUAL MANERA, LOS ÚLTIMOS SERÁN LOS
PRIMEROS, Y LOS PRIMEROS, LOS ÚLTIMOS". —MT 20, 16

25^º DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Brian F. Manning
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Parochial Vicar

Rev. John Sullivan
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Deacons

Deacon Guy St. Sauveur
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Deacon Ron Gerwatowski
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Pastoral Assistant

Stephen May
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STAFF

Religious Education

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Rectory Office

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Mary Ann McSweeny - Secretary
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Bulletin
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Music Director

Terry Kerr • terry.kerr@att.net • 508-541-3286

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. We will send you a Welcome Package that will help you register.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Sunday by appointment only.
Baptism Preparation meeting recommended.

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 (Grades 1-8):

Guided Remote Learning

Confirmation Preparation (after Grade 8):

Guided, Independent, Remote Conferences

Programs run from October through May

Adults

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Wednesdays • 7:00pm

October to Easter

Pastoral Reflections:

There are many themes in this weekend's scripture and one of them is that life does not work out equally for everyone. Life is not distributed to everyone in equal parts at the same time. We are all proud believers in egalitarianism for one and all, yet we know that in many ways life rolls out differently for each person. There is in a life some randomness if badness that is not the result of malfeasance or sin takes place. And more importantly there is some randomness of goodness in our lives that we cannot justify or explain. It is very difficult in life to sort through the many complaints people have. We are biased by our personal histories and so is the complainer. We tend to remember our negatives and nurse them along in our lives and often miss seeing or valuing the many good things that we have. We often carry resentments and grudges quite tightly to our hearts and very rarely carry gratitude and appreciation in the same way. The larger theme of this weekend is how we see life.

This weekend our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah focuses on how our God is merciful and also just. Even though the Jews in exile in Babylon did not live the way of the Covenant and the Law as they should have, God did not abandon them. Even though their ways and thoughts were not the ways and thoughts of God, he continued to call them back to return to him.

We discover in the Gospel that God's loving generosity is made very clear in the parable when Jesus suggested that it is all right, even admirable, for a vineyard owner to pay some of his workers generously. Our Gospel story makes us look inward and discover what it is that makes the other apostles and ourselves jealous of the workers who did little and got paid the same amount. In fact we do expect our God, like the vineyard owner, to be near, loving, generous, and also to pardon us. We find these expectations as right and reasonable for us, but we do not really think these gifts of God should freely apply to others who have done less. Did not the workers in the Gospel mumble in complaint that the last workers did not show up until almost quitting time and that, "It's not fair that they receive the same amount of money as the workers who came early." I think all of us have been like these complainers, measurers, and judges of others. What is the most important, obvious point of this parable is that it is not at all about people getting more than they deserve but rather about God's generosity. This is quite the revelation and insight for many of us!

This Gospel passage is to remind us that in our lives God always continues to be generous to us no matter what we do or say. In many ways we also are being asked to become more generous and loving to others, even when they do not deserve it. We are to try to measure up to God ways, not bring his ways down to our smaller and lower level. Being more generous or forgiving is never a sin, but being un-giving or unforgiving may well be a sin. God continues to be generous to us. Ours is a loving, forgiving God who is quietly involved in our lives and he asks the same of us towards others in our lives.

Fr. Brian

READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of September 20, 2020

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 [18a]/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44 [35]/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 [105]/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc [1]/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4 [1]/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 [1]/Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [6a]/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-3

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This is OUR CHURCH

While many aspects of our life have come to a standstill, the work of our ministries continues as we strive to meet the needs of those who are relying on our guidance and assistance. The sick and homebound continue to receive spiritual support and information over the phone from the Archdiocese's 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

Thank you!

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