

Saint Mary Church
One Church Square, Franklin MA 02038

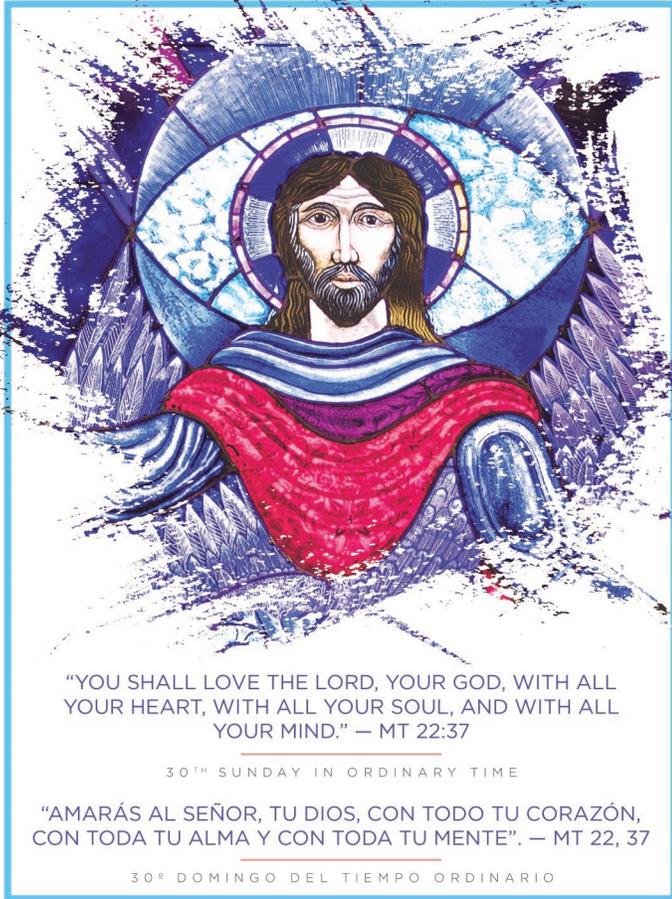
Phone: 508-528-0020

Website: stmarysfranklin.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
508-918-2291

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PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

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STAFF

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Bulletin

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

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: By appointment only. Consult our website: stmarysfranklin.org

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:

We all as humans share common feelings, such as joy, happiness, sadness, or emptiness. We do not always experience the same events that others do, but the commonality of what joy or sadness or any feeling means or feels like lets us relate to another person in their feelings. We do not have to experience exactly what someone else has experienced to be able to empathize with the feelings people are experiencing or have experienced. We like to think that our personal feelings are singular, whereas in reality they are only singular to us, but in common with the human heart of others.

Our first reading from Exodus notes how God reminds the Israelite people that they were once outsiders. He reminds them of their time in Egypt. He tells them that they know how it feels to be foreigners in a strange land, and therefore they should do nothing against the disadvantaged. That remembrance of those common human feelings should impel them to be careful and respectful in how they treat others who are seen as outsiders.

Our Gospel passage this weekend contains another story where the Pharisees try to trick Jesus with a question. The question by its own nature appears to be a reasonable and positive question, but their intent is what turns the question into a dangerous situation. They want to know the greatest commandment (or law) of God. In answer to this loaded question from the Pharisees, Jesus gives us God's greatest commandment: To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love one another as we love ourselves, no matter what.

Some people serve others as part of their occupation. Educators, all those working in the medical field, counselors, priests, and ministers are only a few professions that are service-oriented, that is, aimed at serving others. Many people in these fields and others volunteer their time and talent in our Parish and throughout our Church and world to build up the reign of God by helping directly in our Parish.

Throughout the four Gospels we listen to the stories of Jesus turning everything upside down or topsy-turvy with his message of the last being first and the humble being blessed. That paradoxical message that he teaches is found in our passage from the Gospel of Matthew today. It is simple, clear and direct: in order to be great in God's eyes, we need to love God and one another with as much love as we have for ourselves. The scholar of the Holy Law who questioned Jesus was hoping for a contradictory and complex answer, which would end up incorrect in their opinion.

We know that most of the time it is rather easy to love ourselves for our daily culture constantly tells us to and drives us to do that. Yet truth be told there are days and even long stretches of time when we are not so lovable. How do we change and have love for ourselves when we come up short of our expectations and painful disappointment clouds our image of ourselves? These are the particularly difficult times when we need to know and remember God's love for us first and then attempt to return that love through prayer, quiet reflection, and outward-directed action. These are the times when we need to nourish our soul and practice healthy self-care so that we can first love ourselves and then pass that love on to others.

We learn in the Gospels that Jesus showed us how to do this. Our Savior took time to be alone, to pray and reflect. He then took his renewed inner strength to reach out to others so that they might love themselves and others. Bear in mind that in our service to others, we lift up our neighbors and give them the confidence they need to become humble servants as well.

Fr. Brian

READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of October 25, 2020

Sunday: Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 [2]/1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40

Monday: Eph 4:32—5:8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Eph 5:1]/Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [1a]/Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5a]/Lk 6:12-16

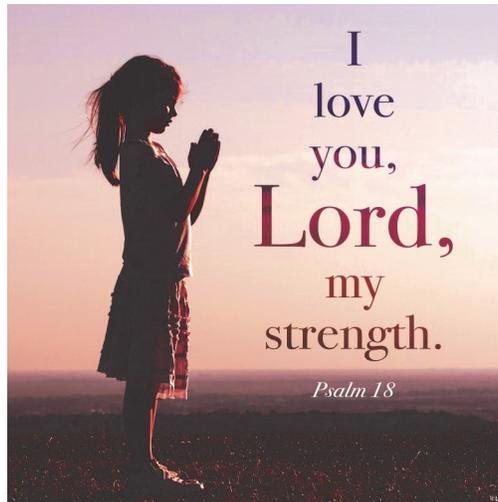
Thursday: Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1b]/Lk 13:31-35

Friday: Phil 1:1-11/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Lk 14:1-6

Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26/Ps 42:2, 3 5cdef/Lk 14:1, 7-11

Next Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12

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St. Mary Parish
2020 Grand Annual

1st Grand Annual collection continues!

Our 2020 Grand Annual Appeal is off to a great start with many families making their gift. If you have not already done so, please place your completed “Grand Annual Envelope” in the regular collection at Mass or mail it directly to the parish office. Additional envelopes are available at the entrance to the church.

All families are being asked to consider a gift of \$350 or more.

If you have not decided on your gift to the Grand Annual, we invite you to prayerfully consider making your gift this week. We truly appreciate any assistance you can give and are counting on the many, who are able, to support this appeal.

Thank you to the many families that have already returned their Grand Annual Gift.



Consider making your gift Online:
stmarysfranklin.org

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 Archdiocese’s *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!



Why bake when the Knights can do it for you?

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting their **3rd Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale** and accepting your Thanksgiving Pie Orders and Payment (\$15 per pie) downstairs in the hall of the Church after all Masses on **Saturday, 10/31/21 and Sunday, 11/3**.

Apple, Blueberry, Pumpkin, and Pecan Pies from the famous Mann's Orchards and Bakery ... high quality, great price, “super” for the Thanksgiving holiday.

You may also order online: kofc1847.org or on the K of C Facebook: KnightsOfColumbusCouncil1847

The Knights of Columbus will have the pies you ordered for Thanksgiving ready for pickup on Tuesday, November 24 from 2:00 - 8:00 pm in the modular classrooms at St. Mary Center, 201 Main Street.

Any questions, call Jim Campbell at 508-848-8681, Jim Lane at 774-571-9804, or Mike Swann at 508-404-4792.

See St. Mary's website for more details: stmarysfranklin.org

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