Saint Mary Church
One Church Square, Franklin MA 02038

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St. Vincent de Paul Society
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Religious Education Office
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201 Main Street
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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:

Our first scripture passage this weekend tells a most significant story about King David who was the great power in the entire world, at least so he and others thought. He had an impressive military career, which had resulted in a peaceful time for Israel with prosperity for its people. He was at the very pinnacle of success. He had placed the Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem, the capital city, and now in this passage spoke out loud of how he would like to do something special for God. He decides he needs to build God a worthy temple.

But this is not what God wanted. According to the prophet Nathan, David had gotten his and God's roles confused. God is to care for David in ways greater than David can dream. If we were to count the times, we would learn that God told David that God is the source of strength, triumph, and success. David does not realize that all power comes from God, not a human person such as a mere king. Rather than David building a "house" for God, God will instead give to David a "house," a kingdom that will stand firm forever.

Surprisingly, we learn that this kingdom started in a humble house in the out-of-the-way village of Nazareth. A special messenger from God came with a greeting of joy and a request for the young woman not to be afraid. The carpenter Joseph of the house and family of David is engaged to her and thus the child will be a child of the house of David. We learn that Mary — as did those before her — always trusted that God would act on her behalf. Her questions were not about disbelief, but about the hope of how this would happen. She asked about the next step; she did not doubt that God would act and lead. Mary clearly needed to know how God would act, what God would do to fulfill the promises kept close and dear through Israel's long history. Without doubt or guile, Mary welcomed God's future and her place in it: "Let it be done to me as you say."

Our Gospel passage speaks to our hope and our trust that God will fulfill His promises. This special hope in our God is what keeps us from getting caught in the vicious cycle of perpetual worry and forlorn hopelessness. When we end up thinking and believing that everything depends upon us, then we become truly hopeless. We must remember that our lives depend upon God and thus we must act out not God's role, but our part and responsibility.

We must and should accept our part and responsibility and get on with whatever is before us. Mary did. In fact, she went and visited her cousin Elizabeth who needed help at that time. She put her life and trust in God and stepped along to live each day and do her part. So to have hope and trust as Mary did means that we accept God as the one who is in charge and that we need to do our part in faith and trust. This not always easily done, but Mary's example tells us this is what we should believe and do.

Fr. Brian

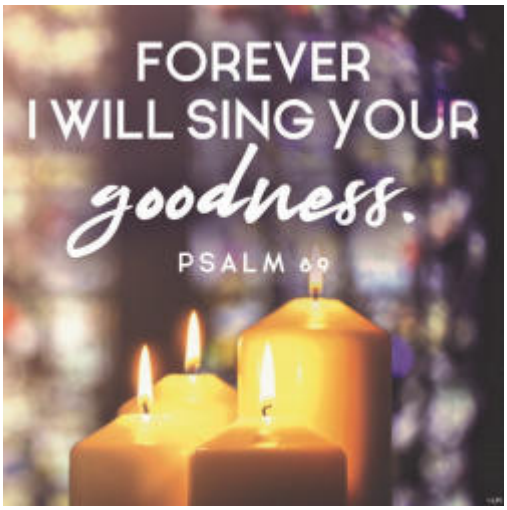
MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 19

4:00 pm Jane Finn - 2nd Anniversary, Janet Marie Finn, Mariann Jordan - 2nd Anniversary

Sunday, December 20

7:30 am Robert Scarperi
10:30 am Robert Scipione - 5th Anniversary
12:00 noon Virginia Nasuti - Anniversary



READINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

©LPi

We welcome everyone to Saint Mary's Celebration of Christmas!

You are invited to choose <u>one of three options</u>:

- **<u>Inside:</u> Christmas Mass inside the Church (and also Chapel and Hall)**
  (<u>If and Only If</u> a Red Zone: registration required via our website by Thursday NOON)
- **<u>Outside</u>: Christmas Holy Communion Only at the Outside Crib**
  (Outside Weather permitting – if not, just inside at main entrance)
- **<u>Live-stream:</u> ALL Masses via our website: stmarysfranklin.org**

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve (Thursday)

1 PM	Mass	Main church & down (on screen)
1 PM until 2:15	Communion Only	Outside at Crib
3 PM	Mass	Main church & down (on screen))
3 PM until 4:30 PM	Communion Only	Outside at Crib
6 PM	Mass	Main church & down (on screen)
6 PM until 7:30 PM	Communion Only	Outside at Crib

CHURCH CLOSES AFTER 6 PM MASS
<u>NO MIDNIGHT MASS</u>

Christmas Day (Friday)

7:30 AM	Mass	Main church & down (on screen)
7:30 until 9 AM	Communion Only	Outside at Crib
10:30 AM	Mass	Main church & down (on screen)
10:30 AM until NOON	Communion ONLY	Outside at Crib

UPSTAIRS CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VISITS FROM NOON UNTIL 6 PM CHRISTMAS DAY

We are so grateful for every item that is donated to our SVdP food pantry week after week. Because of these donations we are able to pack up many bags of food and offer them to our neighbors in need. All your food donations go right back into the community to help our neighbors who, in their hour of need, turn to St. Mary's.

Recently we delivered bags of food to a person who had been evicted. He was so grateful and said, "You have filled my heart."

Our December food pantry needs are:
juice, juice boxes, water, cereal, (no Cheerios please), crackers and snacks .

Through your donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you also give "God's mercy to your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless, alone and frightened."

Thank you for helping us to work together to make a difference in our parish and community!

St. Mary Parish
2020 Grand Annual

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

Online Giving

Consider making your gift Online:
stmarysfranklin.org

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