Saint Mary Church
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St. Vincent de Paul Society
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Religious Education Office
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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: 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 Old Testament passage is the first reading during the Sundays of Lent and it holds a great deal of meaning for us. We do not start the reading at the very beginning of the story of Noah, but much later when all the trouble and travail have passed and the flood waters have gone back down. Indeed, the beautiful multi-colored rainbow is now showing forth across the sky for one and all to see. Earth and heaven are connected by this beautiful display of light that tells us God is with us and He is committed to us forever. What a great thought to hold in mind as we launch out and begin the great Season of Lent.

As people who live near the sea, the story of Noah captures our attention and imagination. Although it sounds much like a children's story, it is a story for all of us of any and all ages. This story of Noah is actually about God's first covenant with His Chosen People. This is in fact a big event and truth. The story and this covenant are not just about Noah and his family, but about all the people of then. What makes this covenant with God so significant is its timing; it is made after the world has drowned itself in willfulness and sinfulness. The story of Noah is of a good man who must begin again; in fact, even God begins again with His now publicly Chosen People. This is the story of the second chance for people. The ark is a symbol of a miniature saved world that allows for a new beginning for all of us.

Our second reading this weekend, taken from the First Letter to Peter, helps us to gain a new insight into the meaning of water in Salvation History. Peter does not focus on the water in Noah's tale as a destroying flood, but as water that supports and maintains life. Peter sees this water as the water of salvation, not at all as the water of death.

Water is a contrasting image in the Gospel. Jesus goes into the desert where there is no water. Here he struggles with the devil. For forty days Jesus struggles with evil and ultimately subdues it. When He returns from the desert, he announces the great news that the Kingdom of God is at hand. He does not focus on all the negatives of the people's lives, He does not tell them how sinful they are. Jesus instead sets before them promise and fullness and asks them to take up the work of conversion and the changing of their hearts. The significance is that Jesus wants us by conversion and the changing of our hearts to focus on what we gain, not what we give up.

If we pay attention this Lent as we walk with Jesus towards Jerusalem for the Great Events that will take place during Holy Week and Easter, we need to have courage and strength to change our hearts and seek a new beginning. As the rainbow promised Noah a new and beautiful life, we too can have a new beginning with Jesus that will give us a deeply spiritual and fulfilling life.

Fr. Brian

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 20

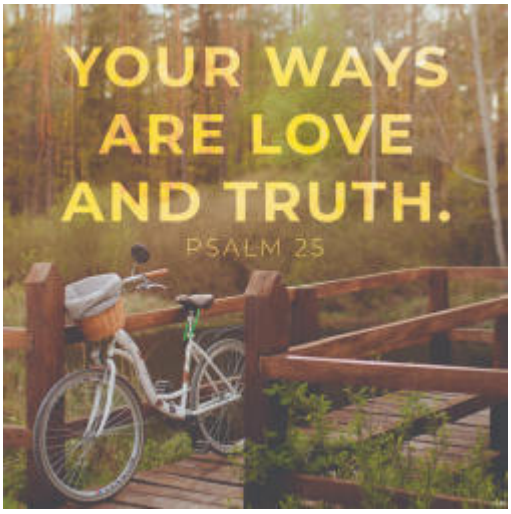
4:00 pm James P. Flynn, Peggy Mundy, Helen Powell – Anniversary

Sunday, February 21

7:30 am --------

10:30 am Arlindo Afonso – Memorial

12:00 noon James Brunelli – Memorial



READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of February 21, 2021

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10

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St. Mary's Lenten Webinar Series

Tuesdays during Lent
February 23. March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
7:00 - 8:00 pm
via Zoom Webinar

This year's topic: "*Essentials of Catholicism: Faith, Morals, and Scripture.*"

Click here for information about each session and to register.
There is no cost to attend.

Lenten Weekday Mass

Monday through Friday

7:00 am
Lower Chapel

Lent Confession - Saturdays

March 13, March 20, March 27
April 3

8:00 - 9:00 am
Lower Chapel

Saint Vincent de Paul

February Food Pantry Collection

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. For our February food drive, we are requesting the items listed below.

- **Laundry Detergent**
- **Mac and Cheese (Individual Cups & Boxes)**
- **Ramen Chicken Flavor**
- **Grape and Strawberry Jam**

Thank you in advance from all who will benefit from your generosity. Donations may be placed in the boxes at the doors of the church anytime during the month of February.

Catholic School Tuition Assistance Grants

The Boston Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul is happy to announce the availability of tuition assistance grants for the 2021-2022 school year. These grants are for students attending Catholic Schools in grades 1-8. The grants are for $1000 and are paid in two installments of $500 each. There is a limit of one applicant per family and typically the household income should be below $85,000. A phone interview is required by two of our St. Mary's SVdP members. Applications for these grants are available by calling St. Mary's SVdP at (508) 918-2291. The deadline for applications locally is 3/15/21 so that we may forward all information to the Boston Council in a timely manner.

Franklin Interfaith Food Security Team
Eat Out… Take Out…Help Out

Many folks will recognize the **Franklin Interfaith Council** as the collective of most of our local houses of worship. Members representing many of the church communities formed an **Interfaith Food Security Team**.

The question was: "How to help the Franklin Food Pantry and the local restaurants both of which are being challenged by this pandemic?"

Project Envoy was conceived. Project Envoy will advertise participation for participating restaurants. Folks can eat out or take out. A portion of the meal will help the Franklin Food Pantry for a win-win. The **Franklin Food Pantry** has a calendar that identifies the day each restaurant is participating.
Members of the newly formed **Franklin Interfaith Food Security Team** have contacted all locally owned restaurants and establishments in Franklin. At the moment, Project Envoy has confirmed restaurants enrolled, there are conversations with others underway.

Project Envoy is expected to formally launch on February 1. You don't need to wait until then. You can eat out/take out and help out now.

As of February, the following restaurants are participating: Rome, Acapulcos, Intermission Café, Franklin Central Pizza, George's Pizza, Dacey's Market & Deli, Santa Fe, Rhapsody's Victorian Coffee House, King Street Café, Spruce Pond Creamery, and Franklin Pizza and Deli. Patrons can visit The Franklin Food Pantry site each day to learn which restaurants are participating on what day as well as follow social media channels.

The Food Security Team members represent: the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, the First Universalist Society in Franklin, the Franklin Federated Church, St. John's Episcopal, St. Mary Parish, and Temple Etz Chaim.

As we begin the Lenten season, we are reminded of the importance of our parish communities that allow us to fully live out our faith. The support of the ministries at the Archdiocese of Boston help our parish continue serving the faithful in this community. Consider making an early gift to this year's Catholic Appeal to help ensure these ministries can continue helping our parish, and all parishes, schools, and communities throughout our Archdiocese of Boston. Visit bostoncatholicappeal.org to learn more or make a donation. To give now, scan the QR code above.

St Mary's Women's Faith Formation is pleased to announce that Bishop Robert Reed will be the guest speaker for their monthly Saturday morning Zoom meeting on March 6 starting at 9:30am. Bishop Reed is an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston, Vicar General for the West Region and the President of Catholic TV. Bishop Reed will be presenting on the topic "The Meaning of Lent". This meeting is open to all women. If interested in attending this 45 minute Zoom meeting, please email Deacon Guy for Zoom link contact information.

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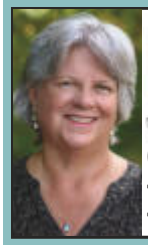
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