

Saint Mary Parish



ST. MARY PARISH

1 CHURCH SQUARE, FRANKLIN, MA 02038 | 508-528-0020 | WWW.STMARYSFRANKLIN.ORG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:00 p.m.

Sunday

7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
12 Noon

Daily Masses

Monday-Friday
7:00 am

All weekend Masses are
Live Streamed at:

stmarysfranklin.org

Confession

Saturday: 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Emergency Anointing of the Sick

508-528-0020, #4

Rectory Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
508-528-0020

St. Mary's Church Wi-Fi is:
StMarysChurchMesh
Password: **STMarysGuest**

St. Vincent De Paul

Assistance
508-918-2291

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Robert A. Poitras
pastor@stmarysfranklin.org

Parochial Vicar

Rev. John Sullivan
jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

Deacon

Deacon Ron Gerwatowski
deaconron@stmarysfranklin.org

Pastoral Associate

Leo Racine
pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org

RECTORY STAFF

Finance & Operations Manager

Patricia Murphy
businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org

Secretary

Jennifer Lance
secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

Music Director

Terry Kerr
Terry.kerr@att.net or 508-541-3286

Cemetery

Joe Spencer
508-498-8271

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

201 Main Street
Franklin, MA 02038

508-528-1450

Director

Karen Ackles
reled.director@stmarysfranklin.org

Secretary

Liz Bertoni
reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 30

4:00 pm Gaspare Favara

Sunday, December 31

7:30am Brandon Brazao

10:30am Ted & Molly Ristaino & Mary Ryan

12:00 noon Ann Campbell

Monday, January 1

7:00am No Intentions

Tuesday, January 2

7:00am Jerry D'Angelo

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 am Ralph Rosati

Thursday, January 4

7:00 am Bernadette O'Connor

Friday, January 5

7:00 am Maria Aguirre & Nemisio Pina

Saturday, January 6

4:00 pm Eleanor & Dominic Mele

Sunday, January 7

7:30am Bridget & John Fallon

10:30am Philbert Bourgeois

12:00 noon Lucille Balzarini

WEEKLY GIVING FROM

12/17/23

Sunday Collection: \$ 5,143.44

Online Donation: \$ 5,409.62

\$ 10,553.06



READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2023

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/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

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

- SACRAMENTS -



Baptism

Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1:30pm. First time parents need to attend a Baptism Catechesis Class held by Deacon Ron via Zoom. Classes are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next Zoom Baptismal class is on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7-8pm. Contact Deacon Ron deaconron@stmarysfranklin.org.

To schedule a Baptism, please email: Baptism@stmarysfranklin.org or call the office at 508-528-0020.

Penance

Penance/Confession is held each Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Chapel's Reconciliation Room and by appointment, anytime.

Marriage

Couples planning to be married at St. Mary should schedule their wedding one year in advance and attend a Marriage Preparation program. Please call the Parish office at 508-528-0020 to schedule the wedding and rehearsal date and to arrange a meeting with the priest in preparation for marriage.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If you are interested in become a Catholic, please email Father Jack at jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

Sacrament to the Sick for the Homebound

Please call the rectory to speak to the Pastoral Associate 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.

Anointing of the Sick

If you or a loved one would like the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Offices at 508-528-0020. For after hours Emergency Anointing of the Sick please call 508-528-0020, option 4. Please do not leave messages on this line.

Become a Parishioner of St. Mary Parish

Register Online at stmarysfranklin.org or call the Rectory at 508-528-0020.



Warm Hands – Warm Hearts

A little bit of dignity... a little bit of love... is all some need to heal.

-Dr. Jim O'Connell

St. Mary's Respect Life Committee is sponsoring a winter clothing drive for the Homeless in our area. You can help our neighbors in need this winter by donating ***new* Socks, Gloves, Hat or a Warm Scarf !** On the weekends of January 13 & 20th, there will be donation boxes at the entrance of the church.

All donations will immediately be distributed to area shelters and other programs that serve the homeless as the need is great.

Thank you for warming another's heart!



Thank You for your Generosity

St. Mary Parish would like to thank all those who donated to the Migrant Fund. Any additional clothing or food can be dropped-off at the *Franklin United Methodist Church* at 82 West Central Street, Franklin, MA.



Mass Intention Book for 2024 Masses will be open on January 1, 2024.

You can request a Mass on the Parish Website www.stmarysfranklin.org or call the Rectory to request a Mass.

January Book Club Meeting

The Book Club will meet on Thursday, January 4th at 6pm - 7pm in the Olive Branch Room in Sacred Heart Hall. All are welcome.





Many Thanks!

The Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 and the American Red Cross would like to thank all those who donated to the blood drive. The blood drive was very successful, with 39 registered donors and 33 units collected. The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 2024

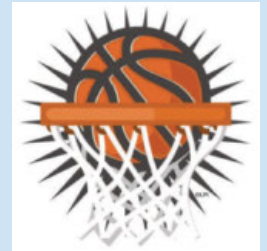
The Knights would also like to thank those parishioners who purchased and/or donated Stop and Shop gift cards to the needy in our town. Proceeds from the sale of the cards and donated cards went to the St. Vincent DePaul Society for distribution. Your generosity is most appreciated.



Boys and Girls Ages 9 to 14! Come join the fun at the K of C Free Throw Contest!

It's all on the line...and now it's your turn! The **Knights of Columbus**, Sacred Heart Council 1847, Franklin, MA is holding its **Annual Free Throw Contest** on Saturday, **January 13, 2024 from 9AM to 11AM** at the Hockomock YMCA, Franklin, MA.

The Free Throw contest is for Girls and Boys 9 to 14 years old. Ask if a parent could accompany the participants. This fun event brings our community together in a friendly competition to showcase you free-throw abilities. The Winners will be declared after the shooting sessions and will be invited to participate at the upcoming District Competitions! So start practicing. The Free Throw Contest is only a couple of weeks away!



Calling all Boys and Girls 3rd - 12th grade!

St. Mary's Is Bringing Back Altar Servers!



St. Mary Parish is happy to announce the return of altar servers to our weekend Mass celebrations beginning in late February. This is a wonderful ministry for all children who have received their First Communion and are currently in grades 3 through 12. Prior to the COVID Pandemic our parish enjoyed a great group of young people serving in this role, and we are looking forward to restoring the ministry with even stronger numbers of young Catholics.

Families who are interested should have mom or dad email Father Bob at: pastor@stmarysfranklin.org. Please include the altar server's name(s) and current school grade(s). Practices will be offered in early February. It is hoped that altar servers will start serving the First Sunday in Lent. Please direct any questions to Father Bob.



St Vincent De Paul Society St Mary Franklin

Year at a glance: Fiscal year ending 9/30/2023

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.” **Mother Teresa**

Thank you to all the parishioners, the Knights of Columbus and all the other organizations for their support of SVDP by generously donating food and financial assistance so we could offer help to Franklin residents in need. Special thanks to Fathers Brian, Bob, Jack, Deacon Ron, and Deacon Guy for spreading God’s message of the importance of helping others.

Our 38 members volunteered almost 5,600 hours meeting with families in need, a total of 1,076 times, with 2,674 people helped. In 2023 we have continued our mission of providing assistance to neighbors in need. We are back to doing home visits with people as Covid has ended. Two members meet with neighbors in need and do an intake to assess how best to help. Any financial assistance is paid directly to the provider of services and not to the person seeking assistance.

Your support helped us:

- Distribute 675 bags of donated food & 105 personal hygiene bags
- Give out 72 Complimentary SVDP Thrift Store vouchers worth \$3,600
- Caring Tree 98 families / 224 people with Gifts cards of \$9,500
- Provide Gifts for Mother’s Day (48), Father’s Day (13) and Veterans (6) of \$2,600

Financially, your donations served families 319 times for a total over \$ 64,000

- Housing assistance 43 times for \$33,800
- Utilities 34 times for \$10,900
- Automobile related assistance 12 times for \$5,000
- Easter Meal Food Cards 71 families for \$3,600
- Grocery store, Gas & Other gift cards 115 times for \$3,500
- Furniture 14 times for \$3,300
- Other: Medical, Child Care, and Moving 30 times for \$4,100

We continue to have strong relationships with other town organizations and businesses. We gave families 200 referrals to town, state and federal agencies that might help them.

In the coming year neighbors in need face significant **challenges** due to increases for housing, utilities, food & gas. These costs put added pressure on them to make ends meet.

The most important members of this Ministry are each of you, our Contributing members, without whom we would not be able to serve. We thank you for your generosity, and want you to know your contributions are very appreciated by the people we serve.

Promoters of Hope, Apostles of Charity and Advocates of the Dignity of the human person

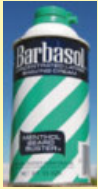


St. Vincent De Paul Current Food Pantry Requests 508-918-2291

The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all of the parishioners who have so generously donated to the SVdP Food Pantry. Donations from these lists help us to keep the pantry well stocked with many items for our neighbors in need.

Donations may be placed in the boxes at the doors of the church anytime during the month.

The current needs of the pantry are:



Grape Jelly
Crackers
Complete Pancake Mix
Maple Syrup
Men's Shaving Cream



Thank you for joining us to serve those in our Community with the greatest needs. God Bless.

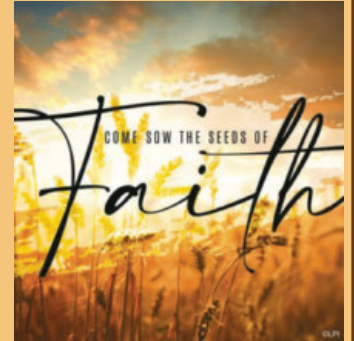


MEN'S Ministry

Prayer, Formation, and Fraternity for Men

St. Mary's Parish is relaunching our men's faith formation group (COR— Communication Resources) . All men, wherever you are on your faith journey are welcome. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 am in St. Mary's Hall for an hour. The first session is January 6.

The program has no cost and is a great way for men to connect. In addition to faith formation, we build in plenty of time to socialize over coffee and bagels. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Regis Schratz at: rschratz@comcast.net.



Truth, Justice and the Environment

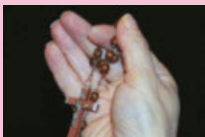
On Saturday mornings, January 13, 20, and 27, 2024, from 10:00-11:00AM, our pastoral associate, Leo Racine, will facilitate an in-person reading/discussion group on Pope Benedict XVI's 2009 encyclical Caritas in Veritate, On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth. The US Bishops describe Caritas in Veritate as a "call to see the relationship between human and environmental ecologies and to link charity and truth in the pursuit of justice, the common good, and authentic human development." (www.usccb.org).

The reading/discussion group meetings will be held at Leo's home parish, St. Mary's in Holliston, which is about 20 minutes away. A Zoom meeting may be held if there is inclement weather on any particular Saturday. Please contact Leo at 508-429-7476 or leoaracine@msn.com for more information or to register. All are invited to participate in this group.



Bible Study

St. Mary's Bible Study is resuming on Monday **January 8, 2024**, with a study of the Gospel of Mark. The Bible Study meetings are held from **11:00am to 12:00noon** on Monday mornings in the third floor chapel at Magnolia Heights, 485 East Central Street in Franklin. Contact Leo Racine at 508-528-0020 or pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org to register. We will return to the Old Testament in March with a study of the Book of Isaiah.



Zoom Rosary - Monday nights at 7:00PM

Deacon Guy continues a Zoom Rosary every Monday night at 7:00pm. This is open to parishioners, family & friends from all communities. The Zoom Rosary takes about 30 minutes and has a different Mystery each week. There is no expectation of attendance or level of participation. You are welcome to join, relax, and just listen. *Link info* is on the Parish Web Site under *Parish Life and Prayer*. For more information contact Deacon Guy deaconguy@verizon.net.

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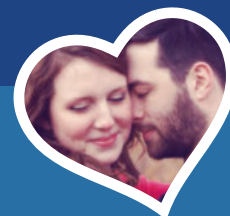
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