

## Saint Mary Parish

### 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

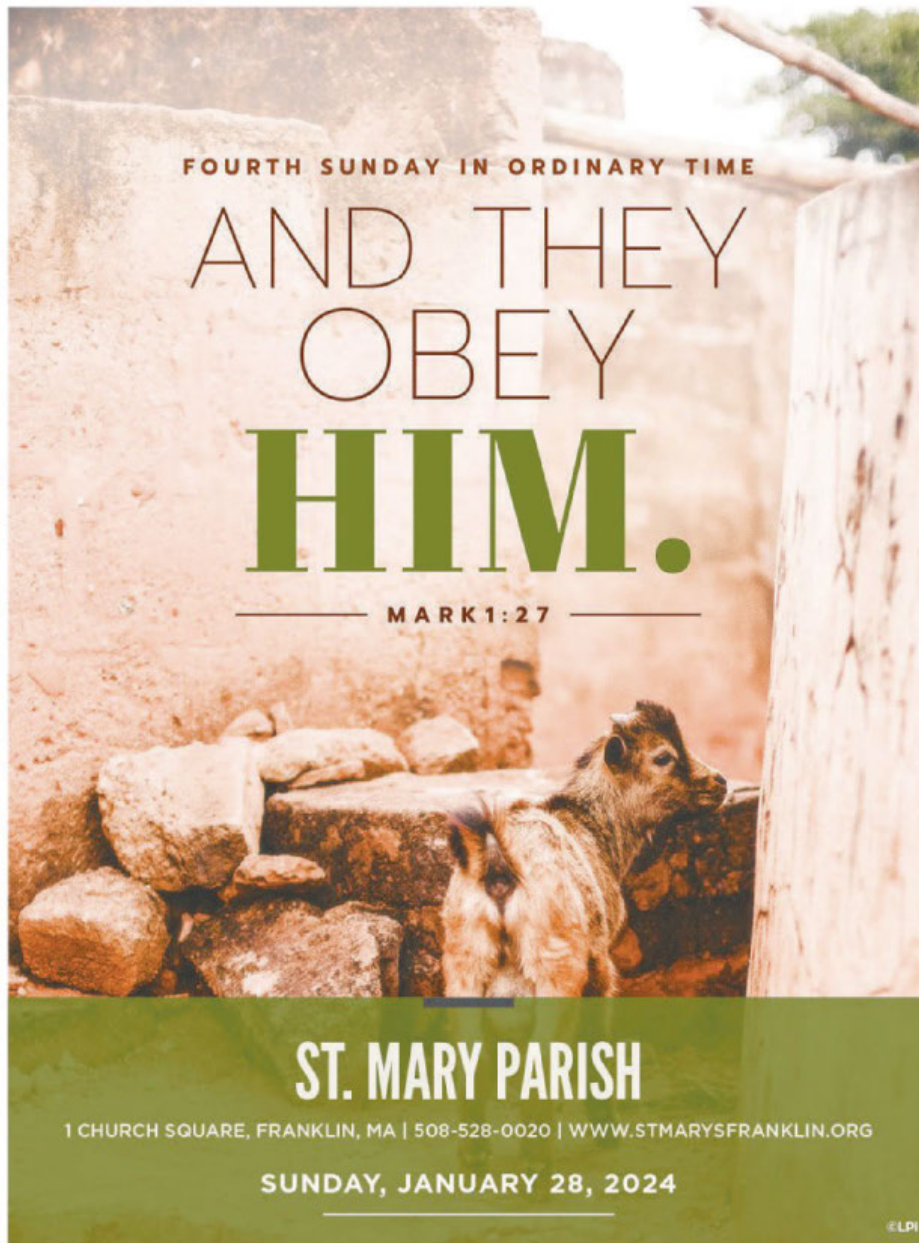
#### Rectory Hours

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

**www.stmarysfranklin.org**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, January 27

4:00 pm Tom Rohan, Vera Weaver & Mary Banville

### Sunday, January 28

7:30am John LaPlace

10:30am James Lennon

12:00 noon John A. Wynne

### Monday, January 29

7:00am Special Intention

### Tuesday, January 30

7:00am Special Intention

### Wednesday, January 31

7:00 am Doris Girard

### Thursday, February 1

7:00 am Doris Girard

### Friday, February 2

7:00 am John Proctor

### Saturday, February 3

4:00 pm Norbert and Doris Beaulieu

### Sunday, February 4

7:30am Susan McMullan

10:30am Scout Sunday

12:00 noon Rosemary Downey

## WEEKLY GIVING

Online Donation: \$ 5,940.62

Offertory \$ 4,335.00

Drop-Off \$ 2,231.00

\$12,506.62

Grand Annual 78%: \$137,181.33



Conor John Sullivan and Emelia Maria Valdivieso were Baptized on January 21st at St. Mary Parish by Fr. Bob. May God watch over them always.



## READINGS THIS WEEK

### Readings for the week of January 28, 2024

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (see 3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39



### 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, February 7, 2024 at 7-8pm. Contact Deacon Ron [deaconron@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:deaconron@stmarysfranklin.org).

To schedule a Baptism, please email: [Baptism@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://stmarysfranklin.org) or call the Rectory at 508-528-0020.

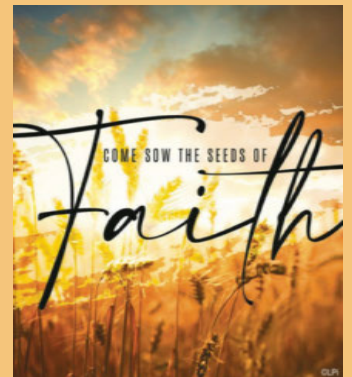
## MEN'S Ministry

### 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 February 3rd.

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](mailto:rschratz@comcast.net).



### Many Thanks!

*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 thanks all parishioners who donated to the winter clothing drive for the Homeless in our area. You helped our neighbors in need this winter by donating **Socks, Gloves, Hat or a Warm Scarf!**

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!







**Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council 1847**  
**Keep Christ in Christmas Art Awards**



The Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 is proud to announce the winners of this years Keep Christ in Christmas Contest. Though they were all great, we had to pick a winner in each age grouping.

This year's winners are **Daniel McCahill**, **Leonora Vendetti** and **Lucy Rovani**. Their artwork will travel to the K of C state office to be entered into the statewide contest. The posters not moving on, will be on display in the Religious Ed office. Many thanks to Ms. Ackles and Ms. Bertoni for their support of this great project. Congratulations to all the students that participated in this years **"Keep Christ in Christmas"** poster contest.

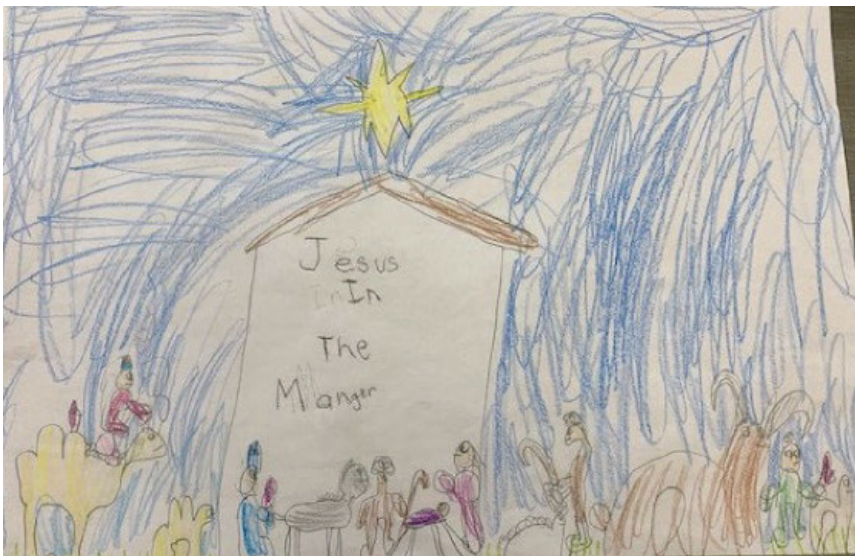
**Leonora Vendetti**



**Lucy Rovani**



**Daniel McCahill**





**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:

**Cereal**  
**Green Beans and Corn**  
**Shampoo and Deodorant for women**  
**Men's Body Wash**

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

**February Book Club Meeting**

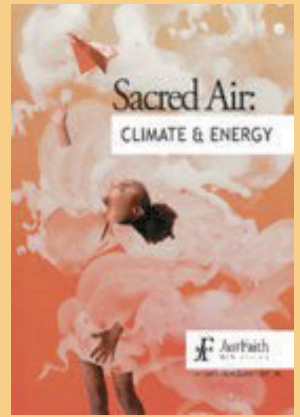
The Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 1st at 6pm in the Olive Branch Conference Room. Please contact Joan Maguire at: 508-528-3789 for more info.



**Sacred Air:**  
**Climate & Energy**

**How can I help to stop climate change?**

*Sacred Air: Climate & Energy* is an eight-session JustFaith Ministries' small group program that explores the impact of the climate crisis on God's creation and God's people. As they learn and discuss tough topics such as air pollution and greenhouse gases, prayer and spiritual practices guide participants in noticing the breath of God that flows through them, granting them the life and energy to address the climate crisis with passion and resilience.



Our pastoral associate, Leo Racine, will be one of the facilitators for this engaging program which will be held via Zoom on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 beginning on February 4, 2024. The program is free to St. Mary parishioners. Please contact Leo Racine at 508-528-0020 or [pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org) for more information and to begin the registration process.



Thank You. 

Dear Parishioners: The economy continues to be deeply affected by inflation, weather, and world events. This has in turn affected all of us personally, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society was unsure what the financial response would be from our parishioners for this year's St Mary's Caring Tree.

We were pleased to see that the response was exceptional! Donations of gift cards and checks were \$11,345. We are so blessed to have such a caring and generous parish. As a result of this overwhelming charitable response, we were able to assist 103 Franklin families, (161 adults & 86 children) this holiday season.

Current events have created financial stress on so many Franklin families. Without the financial support and wonderful Christmas notes and prayers that accompanied the gift cards, we would not have been able to bring assistance and happiness to so many Franklin families. We thank you! Our thoughts and prayers are with all the parishioners of St. Mary's, and we pray for a safe and healthy 2024 for everyone. God Bless and keep the Christmas Spirit of Jesus thriving during these demanding times.

Sincerely, St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul







## Congratulations To the 2024 Franklin Free Throw Contest Champions

The Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 completed it's Annual Basketball Free Throw Contest last Saturday, at the Franklin YMCA. All participants shot really well and made their families "proud." We thank our New Champions, their families, our Knights that volunteered their time and hard work and a special thank you to our Pastor Fr. Bob for attending and sharing this fantastic event. We are also grateful to Scott Martin and his YMCA staff who were so friendly and easy to work with.

### 2024 Basketball Free Throw Contest Winners

Girls 9 year olds - Molly Flynn  
Boys 9 year olds - Charlie Abdilmasity  
Boys 10 year olds - Joseph Lapaglia  
Boys 11 year olds - Chris Bogdanov  
Boys 12 year olds - Lance Lopes Jr.

Our Knights District Deputy, Bob Bubencik will be contacting each winner to participate and compete in the Knights **District BB Free Throw Contest later in February.**

Again, **Congratulations** to our NEW CHAMPIONS from the K of C, Sacred Heart Council 1847!!!



## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

By Father John Muir

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie "Nefarious" features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like multiple persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel fake sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" Notice the plural, us. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man's identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, "Quiet! Come out of him!" Jesus' word has the power to restore the man's singularity — him — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it? ©LPi



## Women's Faith Formation

The Women's Faith Formation group will be holding our next meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, February 14th at 7pm. We plan to view a video from Bishop Barron titled "Three Habits to Get the Most Out of Lent". Discussion will follow.

If you are not already on our email list, please email: [womensfaithformation@google.com](mailto:womensfaithformation@google.com) to receive the Zoom link. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Email [womensfaithformation@google.com](mailto:womensfaithformation@google.com) to receive the Zoom link and be added to our email distribution list. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend!

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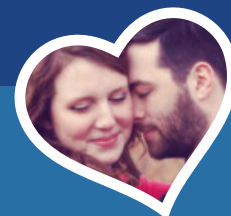
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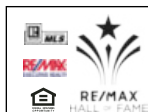
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