

Saint Mary Parish

ST. MARY PARISH

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

ZEAL FOR
YOUR HOUSE WILL
CONSUME ME.

JOHN 2:17

©LPI

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 a.m. – 9:00a.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
508-528-0020

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 2

4:00 pm Vincent Florence Keras

Sunday, March 3

7:30am Roland DeMerchant

10:30am Andrew & Louise Decina

12:00 noon Lewis Downey Jr.

Monday, March 4

7:00am Jerry D'Angelo

Tuesday, March 5

7:00am Tony And Rita Merullo

Wednesday, March 6

7:00am Judith Mahoney

Thursday, March 7

7:00 am Juliana Kyungwoo Lee

Friday, March 8

7:00 am Pietro Ferrara

Saturday, March 9

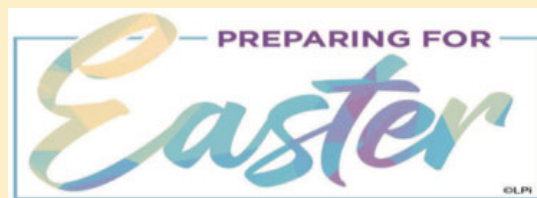
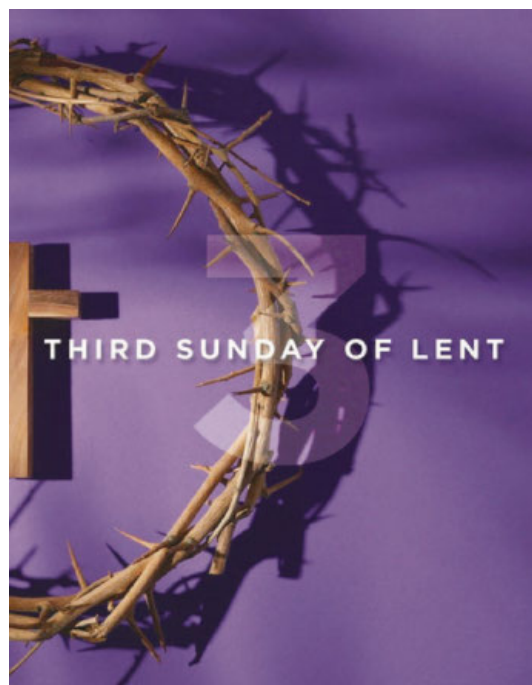
4:00 pm Mark and Patricia O'Friel

Sunday, March 10

7:30am Jose and Maria Pereira

10:30am Bianca Palmieri

12:00 noon Biagino Taddeo



Easter Flower Donations

Envelopes for Easter Flower Donations will be available at each entrance of the church. Envelopes can be returned in the collection boxes for the next three weekends, or dropped-off at the Rectory. You can also donate online via the parish website at: www.stmarysfranklin.org

READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of March 3, 2024

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/

Jn 2:13-25 Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/

Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3,4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (6ab)/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21



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, March 13, 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 or email the Pastoral Associate (pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org) 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

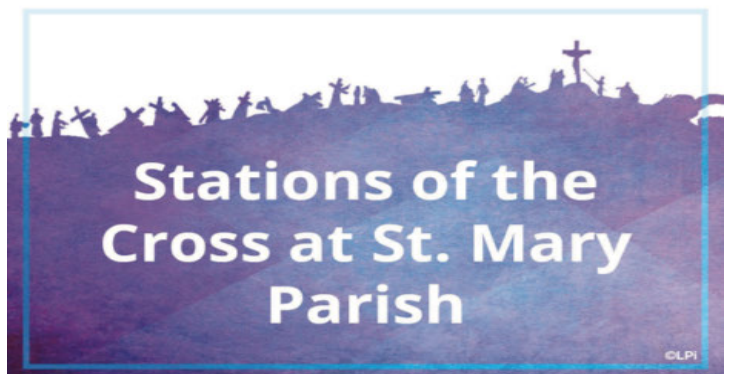
Register Online at stmarysfranklin.org or call the Rectory at 508-528-0020.



The 2024 Catholic Appeal

This weekend, the **2024 Catholic Appeal** will officially launch here in our parish and across the Archdiocese. One of the most meaningful ways that we witness the presence of Christ and deepen the impact of our Church's ministries, is by supporting the Catholic Appeal.

As your pastor, I strongly encourage you to join me in giving a gift to this year's appeal. Many of you have already done so and I am deeply grateful. As a parish, I am hoping for 100% participation! When our parish reaches its goal of \$81,500, a portion of the additional funds received will be returned to St. Mary's for use in our parish. To make a gift online, please visit www.stmarysfranklin.org. On behalf of Cardinal Seán and all those who benefit from your generosity, we thank you!



Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent, at 7pm in the Chapel. A different parish organization will lead the Stations each week.

March 8	Women's Faith Formation
March 15	Men's Faith Formation
March 22	St. Vincent DePaul

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Merciful Anger of Jesus

Watch your fellow churchgoers today as the priest or deacon reads the story of Jesus raising hell (or perhaps he's raising heaven?) in the temple square. Dollars to donuts, they'll be squirming.

As Catholics, we have become very uncomfortable with Angry Jesus. He makes us cringe in the same way that the Old Testament God does when He calls Himself "jealous" and talks about punishment. That level of intensity makes us recoil. If it were present in a human relationship, it would be toxic and abusive, because in humanity, fierceness and love rarely coexist in a healthy way.

But what a tragedy it would be for us to mistake our relationship with God for our relationship with our spouse, our best friend, or even our human father. Because we cannot see clearly, we would mistake His zeal for anger and His law for diktat.

The strong and sure movement of a wave against a rocky cliff will, over time, erode its surface, just as an overabundance of raindrops will flood a city. We do not call the water callous and cruel. We still luxuriate in its coolness and refreshment. Its destructive powers don't negate the life-giving properties of water. We do not demand that water apologize to us for being strong.

Fierce, uncompromising — but also, soft and merciful. How can God — and God's law — be both, at the same time? How can Christ cast a whip at someone's foot, overturn a table and scatter coins? How can the law of God be perfect, as the Psalm says, and refresh the soul — while demanding so much of it?

All I can say is, thank God for Angry Jesus. We need his fierceness and thank God it does not wane because it confuses us. Thank God his mercy does not decrease because we doubt it.

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." — 1 Corinthians 1:25

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Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

This Wednesday, March 6 from 7:00 to 8:00pm in the Chapel, our parish will celebrate an Evening of Prayer in conjunction with Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament, along with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Join us for some quiet, reflective time during this season of Lent.

Women's Faith Formation

The Women's Faith Formation group will be holding our next meeting on Wednesday, March 13th at 7pm via Zoom. We plan to view "**The Eucharist: Source and Summit of Christian Life**" from the SYMBOLON series through the Augustine Institute. Discussion will follow.

To receive the Zoom Link or if you would like to be added to our email list, please email: omensfaithformation@google.com to receive the Zoom link. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.



FORWARD in FAITH



My Dear Friends in Christ:

The Catholic Appeal is an exercise of love.

Through the Catholic Appeal, we respond to our call to love God and one another, actively helping others to realize the hope for a better future. For many, the line between hope and despair is thin. The Appeal serves as a tangible sign of our concern for those in need and allows us to bring them the presence of the Lord, to heal brokenness and restore hope. For so very many, our outreach is the light that helps them find a way forward.

Pope Francis often cites St. Paul's call for us not to be complacent or grow weary of doing good. **With recognition of the many people who look to us for assistance, now, more than ever, I humbly ask for your support of the Catholic Appeal.** This year, I am hopeful that, as a family of faith, we may unite in our involvement because extraordinary participation will have an extraordinary impact for our neighbors in need.

Please know of my gratitude for your generosity and compassion. Together, we affirm our belief that suffering and disappointment can be transformed into new life through the power of our being witnesses and agents of Christ's unconditional love.

Asking God's blessings upon you and all whom you hold dear, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ Sean, OFMcap

Archbishop of Boston

EXTRAORDINARY PARTICIPATION *creates* EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

As Catholics, we are all called to be stewards of our faith. Every person's gift to the Catholic Appeal unifies our Archdiocese and weaves us together into God's tapestry of care. The urgency of need in our communities is great. Your generosity has an extraordinary impact on the life of the Church and its ability to touch, heal, and serve the thousands of lives in our Archdiocese through programs and ministries such as these:

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

Gifts to the Catholic Appeal serve thousands of lives across the Archdiocese through ministries like our hospital chaplaincy programs that bring pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and sacraments to patients and health care workers in dark hours of crisis.

No matter the hour, chaplains bring compassion, support, and love to those who are facing fear, illness, and even death. They minister to staff and strengthen them spiritually as they care for others. They walk with families through times of great joy and great sorrow. They carry a sense of calm and peace into moments of crisis, relying on the power of listening and their quiet presence to communicate Christ's loving companionship, even in the darkest hours.

"We see a lot of trauma incidents. Some nights we may get called 2-5 times to a bedside. We spend time with the patient and family and simply comfort them. And then we use our discretion as to when to leave them alone." — Fr. Ignatius Nge, Hospital Chaplain

Through the Hospital Chaplaincy program, Catholics and non-Catholics experience comfort and grace and come to know that they are not alone.

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TO SEMINARIES
EACH YEAR




Catholic
Appeal



PARISH VIBRANCY

The Catholic Appeal fortifies our parishes so that each congregation's unique culture can flourish and grow in vibrancy. Diverse parish ministries and programs foster connectedness where every person can feel a sense of belonging.

"Parishes are families made up of families. And as families, we have to support each other and build each other up so that we can all thrive together. That's what the Catholic Appeal does, in my view – it allows us to help each other thrive."

The Appeal supports us behind the scenes; there are so many things that are hidden, that people don't see when they come to Mass on Sunday. But, if we don't have them, we don't function. We don't thrive." —Fr. Marc Bishop, Pastor of the Catholic Parishes of Arlington

It is in our parishes that our faith comes alive in holiness and happiness, where we share each other's burdens and celebrate the milestones of life. Where the Gospel is proclaimed and where believers are formed. Where we find a continual font of support for our Christian discipleship.

Parishes are communities of mission, purpose, and action; they are the home of our Christian communities and the heart of our Catholic Church.

VOCATIONS

Appeal contributions sustain vocation and youth ministry programs where the next generation is formed and prepared to lead our Church.

Vocations are integral to the life of the Church. Through the Office of Vocations, a new generation of priests and deacons are formed and supported to lead our Church forward in faith. Others are called to joyfully explore the potential of God's call on his or her life and be supported in their prayer and discernment. Gifts to the Appeal are vital in the active promotion of vocations by which each of us learns of God's intricate design on our lives.

"We accompany every year dozens and dozens of men, young and old, who hear that faint question and feel that subtle nudge – 'could Jesus be inviting me to follow after Him, and to love His people, as a priest?' Because of your help, we are able to admit over 12 men to our seminaries every year – where they are formed to become priests who will bring Jesus to you and your families." —Fr. Eric Cadin, Director of Vocations

Through the Office of Vocations, the perpetuation of our Catholic faith finds hope as young men come to hear God's call and follow Him.





**Let's move Forward in Faith together with a gift to this year's Catholic Appeal.
Help to share Christ's hope and love with all those who seek it.**

If you have received Cardinal Seán's letter in the mail and already made your gift or pledge, thank you! If not, there are several ways you can participate in the 2024 Catholic Appeal:

- Use an in-pew envelope and return it to your parish. Most parishes will conduct an in-pew presentation next week during Masses.
- Make an online donation by scanning the code below or visiting bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now



For a greater sustained impact, select the recurring gift option.
Your monthly donation will continue until you tell us to stop.

- Make a gift through your Donor-Advised Fund using Tax ID #04-2106175 (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston) and include Catholic Appeal and your home parish in the donation details.
- Make a planned gift in the form of a bequest, stock or property transfer, IRA distribution, or charitable gift annuity.

To learn more, visit bostoncatholicappeal.org/ways-to-give.
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YEAR OF PRAYER

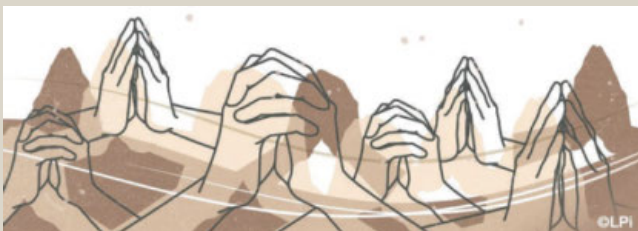
Pope Francis declared this 2024 calendar year to be a *Year of Prayer*, in anticipation of the Church's 2025 Jubilee Year. Pope Francis said that he wished 2024 to be a "great 'symphony' of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him," (<https://bit.ly/PrayerPresser>).

Each week, beginning this week, a summary of one of Pope Francis' Weekly General Sessions will be presented in the bulletin, along with a link to the session itself. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our pastoral associate, Leo Racine, at 508-528-0020 or pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org.

The Mystery of Prayer

The pope's first General Teaching Session on prayer is entitled "The Mystery of Prayer." Pope Francis calls prayer the "breath of faith...a cry that issues from the heart of those who believe and entrust themselves to God," (<https://bit.ly/PFPrayer>).

In this session, the pope talks of the blind man, Bartimaeus, whom Jesus healed of his blindness. The Pope speaks of Bartimaeus' "stubbornness" in seeking God's grace, knocking on the door of God's heart. In healing him, Jesus listens to the cry of faith that comes from Bartimaeus' mouth; "Bartimaeus' prayer touches his heart, God's heart, and the doors of salvation open up for him." We humans, along with all of creation, have a voice within us that invokes God and seeks the fulfillment of the mystery of mercy. Pope Francis concludes this session quoting the *Catechism* (2259), calling mankind to be "beggars before God."



Catholic Women's Club Communion Breakfast

St. Mary's Catholic Women's Club will hold their annual Communion Breakfast on Laetere

Sunday, March 10, 2024 following the 10:30am Mass. Breakfast will be held at the "3" Restaurant, West Central Street, Franklin, MA.

Our guest speaker will be St. Mary's pastor, Rev. Robert Poitras. If you plan to attend, the cost is \$30/pp. Please make out your check to "**St. Mary's Catholic Women's Club**" and mail it to: Patricia Tomasetti, 3 Mackintosh Street, Franklin, MA 02038.



Fill a bottle - Save a Life!

Once again, our St. Mary's **Knights of Columbus** and **Respect Life Commission** are helping the Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center bring hope to expectant mothers and families in great need. During Lent we are holding a Baby Bottle Drive to collect much needed funds for services. Bottles will be available in baby baskets at the church doors on the weekend of March 2 & 3. Please make

Please join us by taking a bottle to fill with your thoughtful gift of change, cash or check, and return to the baskets by weekends of **March 10** and **March 17**. This is a great way to get your whole family involved in sharing God's love, especially during Lent. Religious Education Students can receive service hours for making a sacrificial gift!

'Do small things with great love' - St. Teresa of Calcutta



thank you

St. Vincent de Paul Easter Meal Program

This year the St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society will be assisting about 70 of our neighbors in need with a Shaw's gift card to purchase a meal. Thanks to the generosity of the St. Mary's parishioners throughout the year, this Easter initiative will be funded by previous donations.

The SVdP would like to thank all of the generous donors who enable us to help our neighbors most in need. *"He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor."* Proverbs 22:9



**Knights of Columbus
Sacred Heart Council**



Invite you to a
**St. Patrick's Day
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, March 17 from 8am - 10am
Sacred Heart Hall (Lower Church Hall)**

\$5 donation per person; children under 12 are free

Pancakes, Sausage, Juice, Coffee, Water



**Attention College-Bound High
School Seniors**

The Knights of Columbus is accepting applicants for 2024 **The Robert Simmler PGK, Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council #1847 Scholarship** award program.

Applicants must be a registered member of St. Mary's Parish in Franklin, graduating from High School in spring of 2024 and progressing onto their first year of study at a 2 or 4 year college/university. Please submit a completed scholarship application to be postmarked on or before the application deadline of **March 28, 2024. We are awarding 2 scholarships this year a \$3000 and \$1000!**

The application is available on the banner at the St. Mary's Parish website or on the Knights of Columbus website <https://www.kofc1847.org/>. Please fill in ALL information accurately and clearly, and then submit the completed application to: **The Robert Simmler PGK Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 Scholarship Committee, St. Mary's Parish c/o Michael Swan 38 Madison Ave Franklin MA 02038**

The award will be given to the recipients upon completion of their 1st semester of studies and upon proof of enrollment in the 2nd semester.

Please contact Michael Swan if needed for more information: 508-404-4792



**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:



**Spaghetti Sauce
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Cereal
Crackers and Snacks**



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



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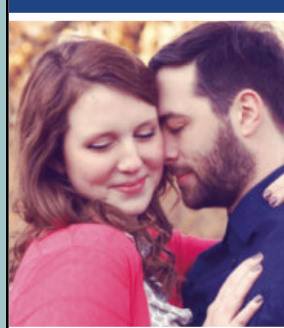
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