

Saint Mary Parish

ST. MARY PARISH

1 CHURCH SQUARE, FRANKLIN, MA 02038 | 508.528.0020 | STMARYSFRANKLIN.ORG

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASTER,
TO WHOM
SHALL WE GO?

JOHN 6:68

Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:00 p.m.

Sunday

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

Daily Masses

Monday-Friday

7:00 a.m.

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 Tanyi
parochialvicar@stmarysfranklin.org

Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. John Sullivan
jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

Deacon

Deacon Ron Gerwatowski
gerwat@verizon.net

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 Caretaker

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, August 24

4:00 pm Paul Hannon

Sunday, August 25

7:30am Mimma & Vito Bertone

10:30am Antonio Pereira

Monday, August 26

7:00am Vera M. Barker

Tuesday, August 27

7:00am Sam Norton

Wednesday, August 28

7:00am Jose and Marie Pereira

Thursday, August 29

7:00 am Anthony & Antoinette Perry

Friday, August 30

7:00 am Clare Marie Sullivan

Saturday, August 31

4:00 pm Edward Vroman

Sunday, September 1

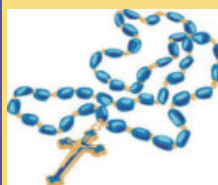
7:30am Chiarina, Carmine and Filomena Pisani

10:30am Michael Costello



On August 17, Nora Caterina Keenan was Baptized by Fr. Bob.

On August 18, Leita Ann Kirby, Miles Finn Malvar, Luca Anthony Ortiz, Harrison Douglas Walch and Evangeline Jo Joyce were Baptized by Deacon Ron. May God watch over them always.



Zoom Rosary

Deacon Guy continues a Zoom Rosary every Monday night at 7:00pm. This is open to parishioners, family & friends from all communities. You are welcome to join, relax, pray and/or and just listen.

Link info is on the Parish Web Site under Parish Life and Prayer. For more information contact Deacon Guy at: deaconguy@verizon.net.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of August 25, 2024

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/

Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Year of Prayer

In his twenty-fourth teaching on prayer, Pope Francis talks about daily prayer and its importance in the life of a Christian. The pope speaks often of encountering Christ, and he reminds us that in our daily prayer we can meet God, for “today is always the day of the encounter.”

Pope Francis also says that “prayer helps us to love others, despite their mistakes and sins.” He names three qualities of Jesus that we can take up ourselves: *compassion*, *nearness* and *tenderness*. Finally, the pontiff tells us that, despite our “fragile” nature, prayer is our “greatest dignity” and “strength.” <https://bit.ly/PFPrayer24>



- SACRAMENTS -



Baptism

Baptisms are held on Sunday afternoons. 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, and the next Zoom Baptismal class is on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024.

To schedule a Baptism, please call: 508-528-0020 or email: baptism@stmarysfranklin.org. You can reach Deacon Ron at gerwat@verizon.net

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 call the Rectory at 508-528-0020.

Eucharist 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.

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 Season of Creation

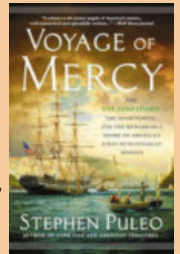


The Season of Creation begins next Sunday, September 1, which is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The *Celebration Guide* for the Season of Creation (found on the Season of Creation website <https://seasonofcreation.org/>), tells us that “the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.”

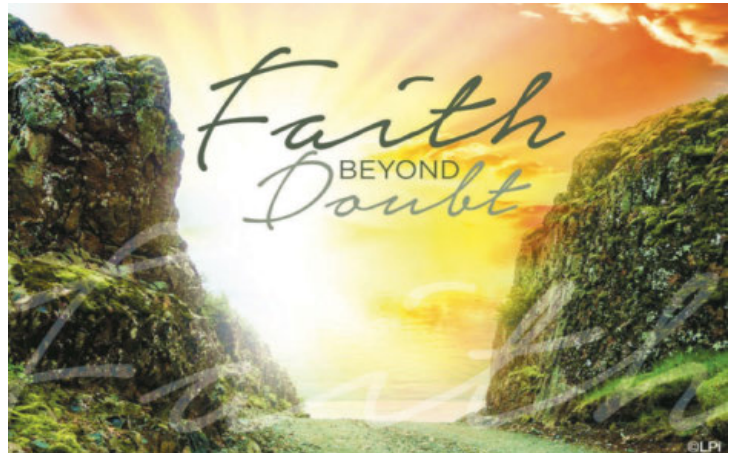
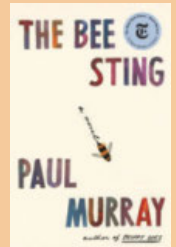
The Season of Creation, whose 2024 theme is “To Hope and Act with Creation”, runs from September 1 to October 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. You can learn more about the Season at its website. You can also read Pope Francis’ message to the Universal Church on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation at <https://bit.ly/PFCreation2024>.

Book Club

The first meeting of St. Mary Book Club will be on Thursday, September 5 from 6 -7pm. The first book to be discussed is Stephen Puelo’s “**Voyage of Mercy: The USS Jamestown, The Irish Famine and the Remarkable Story of America’s First Humanitarian Mission.**”



Since we only read books that are available at Franklin Public Library, it is a good idea to order our October book now. The October book is “The Bee Sting” by Paul Murray. You might want to listen to the audio version as the narrator has a fun brogue. We look forward to discussing the books and hearing your opinion.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Earlier this year the Parish Pastoral Council and I took up a conversation about our weekend Mass schedule. My concern is the declining numbers for the 12pm Mass that our parish has traditionally held between September and May. During my first year as Pastor I witnessed that our 12pm Mass was not only our lowest attended Mass, but it is also a Mass with the smallest collection as well as the hardest Mass to find Liturgical Ministers for service. I think you would agree all three of these difficult realities made it worth our Parish Pastoral Council discussion on whether or not to return to the 12pm Mass this September.

I am announcing today that after discussion and consultation with our Parish Pastoral Council and upon their advice, I have decided that St. Mary's Parish will suspend the 12pm Mass for the immediate future. Therefore, our Weekend Schedule will remain 4pm on Saturday and 7:30am and 10:30am on Sunday.

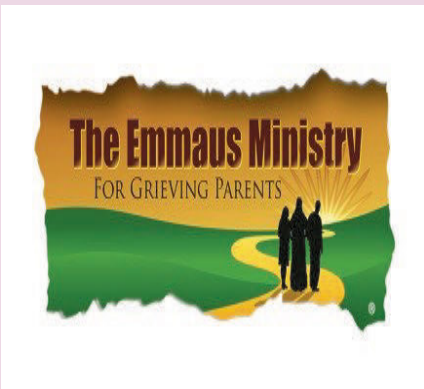
To those who were regulars at the 12pm Mass, I know this will be frustrating news, and I apologize for the inconvenience this change presents for you. However, we must, like all things, be unafraid to continue to move forward into the future together. When one season ends another begins. So, I pray we as a parish will find new blessings in this new season of Mass schedules at St. Mary's.

Also, I have created a Subcommittee of the Parish Pastoral Council which also includes members of our Parish Finance Council that will work on creating a new weekend Mass schedule for St. Mary's Parish in the future. This Subcommittee will research, review and present to the Parish, options for what a new St. Mary's Parish weekend Mass schedule could be in the future. Please keep this Subcommittee's work in your prayers and look for more information on how to include your input on these matters in the coming months.

Peace and Blessings, **Fr. Bob**



Retreat for Grieving Parents



The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents will sponsor a one-day retreat on **Saturday, September 28, 2024** from 9:30am to 6:30pm at St. Mary's, Franklin. The organization's website (www.emfp.org), tells us that the Emmaus Ministry "*serves the spiritual needs of parents whose children of any age, have died by any cause, no matter how long ago.*"

Parents can register for this retreat at <https://bit.ly/2024RegEmmaus>. For more information, please contact Leo Racine, pastoral associate at 508-528-0020 or pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org.

Friends OF THE POOR[®] WALK/RUN



St. Vincent de Paul

**Saturday, September 28,
2024**

Registration for the event begins at 8:30am on the Town Common. Blessing for the Walk will be at 9:00 a.m. Walk Participants can **Collect donations** and **Walk with us** or **donate online**. The registration link for the 2024 Friends of the Poor Walk will be available soon.

All money raised stays in Franklin, to assist anyone in need of help. Put your feeling of compassion into action and join us for this walk!

"Go to the poor; you will find God."

St. Vincent de Paul



508-918-2291

Thank you to all who so generously donate to the SVdP Food Pantry. The SVdP often requests certain items. Donations may be placed in the boxes at the doors of the church anytime during the month. The current needs of the pantry are:



Green Beans
Juice Boxes

*Toilet Paper/Tissues

*Paper Towels

Apple & Cranberry Juice
(2 quart bottles)



Thank you for your help in supporting those most in need in our community. God Bless

*We request these items as the SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly food stamps) do not cover paper products, laundry detergent and personal hygiene items. As a result we request these items to help supplement the needs of our neighbors.



MEN'S Ministry

Prayer, Formation, and Fraternity for Men

This next meeting of the St. Mary's Parish Men's Faith formation group (COR- Communication Resources) is on **Saturday, September 7 at 8am** in the Sacred Heart Hall. All men, wherever you are on your faith journey are welcome. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 am.

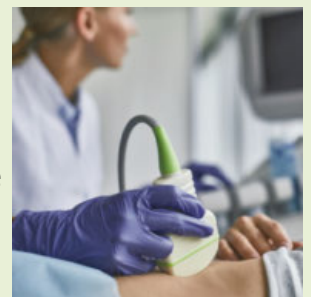
The program is a great way for men to connect. In addition to faith formation, we build in plenty of time to socialize over coffee and bagels. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Regis Schratz at: rschratz@comcast.net.



Did You Know... Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center provides pregnancy confirmation appointments with licensed medical professionals that include a lab-quality pregnancy test, ultrasound and non-judgmental options counseling - All For Free.

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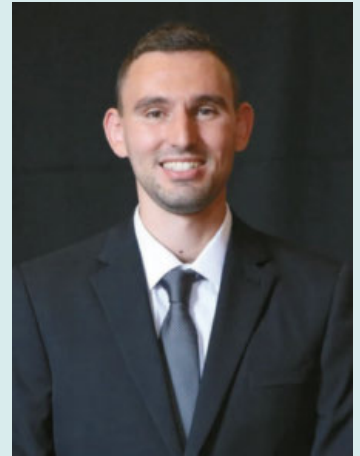
Dear Friends,

I'd like to introduce to you a young man from Franklin and a son of St. Mary's Parish, Mr. Sean McKeown. Sean is a seminarian, studying for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Boston. He is currently in his second year of preparation for Theology studies.

Sean spent all of his childhood living in Franklin and attending the Franklin Public Schools. He received his sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St Mary's parish in Franklin. He went on to study and become a physical therapist assistant. Sean spent years traveling around the country and the world seeing more than 40 nations. After 8 years, Sean felt called to return to his faith in a deeper way. His love for PT was outshined by a strong desire serve God with his whole heart. This call was answered when he began seminary formation at St John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts. He is in his 2nd year of the 7 year formation process.

Our St. Mary's community rejoices that one of our young people has courageously answered God's call to share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Please join me in keeping Sean in our prayers as he continues his journey of discernment and study. Please continue to pray that more young men and women will not only hear God's call but have the courage to answer it through a life of service to God's Church.

Peace and Prayers, **Fr. Bob**



A promotional poster for a football watch party. At the top, a football player in a blue and white uniform is shown in a celebratory pose, pointing upwards. The background is a dark, starry space. The text 'Kickoff Event' is written in a red, cursive font. Below it, 'FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY' is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath that, 'ST MARY'S YOUTH GROUP' is written in white on a blue rounded rectangular background. Further down, 'STARTS AT 3:30 PM' is in blue, 'SUNDAY SEPT 29' is in red, and 'FOR GRADES 9-12' is in blue. Below that, 'GRADES 9-12' is written in white. At the bottom, 'Tailgate Party' is written in a white cursive font, followed by 'ST MARY'S RECTORY BACKYARD' in white. At the very bottom, 'FOOD, FUN, PRIZES, & LARGE OUTDOOR SCREEN' is written in white.

Bible Study

Did you know that the Bible has two creation stories? Or that Abraham had a son, Ishmael, who was older than Isaac? If you are interested in these or other stories of the early history of Israel, please join our Bible Study group.

This fall we are studying the Old Testament Book of Genesis. There will be nine Monday sessions, beginning on Monday, September 9 and ending on Monday, November 18. The meetings are held from 11:00 to 12:00 noon in the chapel at Magnolia Heights, (485 East Central Street), the retirement residence here in Franklin.

There is no cost for the group. Contact Leo Racine, our pastoral associate, for more information and to register. He can be reached at: pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org or 508-528-0020.

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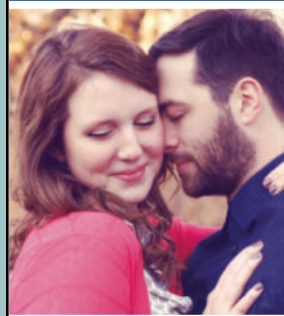
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