

ST. MARY PARISH

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

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LIKE A NET
THROWN INTO
THE SEA.

— MATTHEW 13:47 —



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00pm Sunday: 7:30am and 10:30am
Monday - Friday 7:00am

Wi-Fi: **StMarysChurchMesh** Password: **STMarysGuest**

Weekend Masses Live Streamed at: stmarysfranklin.org

RECTORY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Very Rev. Robert A. Poitras V.F.
pastor@stmarysfranklin.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. John Tanyi
parochialvicar@stmarysfranklin.org

Deacon: Deacon Ron Gerwatowski
gerwat@verizon.net

Pastoral Associate: Leo Racine
pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org

RECTORY STAFF 508-528-0020

Finance & Operations Manager:
businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org

Secretary: Jennifer Lance
secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

Music Director: Dr. Krishan Oberoi
krishan.oberoi@gmail.com

Cemetery Caretaker: Joe Spencer
508-498-8271

150th Anniversary Director: John Ristaino
150director@stmarysfranklin.org

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION 508-528-1450

201 Main Street, Franklin, MA 02038

Director: Jim Flanagan
jflanagan@stmarysfranklin.org

Secretary: Liz Bertoni
reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED

St. Vincent De Paul: 508-918-2291

PARISH REGISTRATION

Online at www.stmarysfranklin.org or call the office.



Baptism

Baptisms are held on Sunday at 12:30pm. First time parents need to attend a Baptism Class held by Deacon Ron. Classes are held one evening each month via Zoom. To schedule a Baptism email: baptism@stmarysfranklin.org or call: 508-528-0020. To schedule a Baptism Zoom Class, contact Deacon Ron at: gerwat@verizon.net

Penance

Penance/Reconciliation 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 arrange a meeting with the priest in preparation for marriage and schedule a date.

OCIA - Order 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

If you have a family member or friend who is unable to attend church due to age or infirmity, we will provide pastoral visits. To set-up visits, please call the rectory or email the Pastoral Associate at: pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org.

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 and select Emergency Anointing of the Sick. Please do not leave messages on this line.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Today is the Church's World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. For the last five years, grandparents and the elderly have been remembered in this special way on the Sunday closest to the feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne, Jesus' maternal grandparents (July 26).

The theme for this year's commemoration is "I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15). Pope Leo XIV has written a message for this day, noting that "God's love, which forgets no one, offers itself as an act of justice and a response to the anonymity in which human life, all too often, ends up lost".

"At any age, it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God" and that "it is never too late to begin turning to him." We are all, especially the young, called to "ensure that the words of the prophet, 'But I will never forget you,' take the form of a tender and affectionate encounter" with elderly family members. You can find Pope Leo's message at <https://bit.ly/PopeLeoGPs>.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of July 26, 2026

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday: Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21



Saturday, July 25

4:00pm Sabino and Angela Coscia

Sunday, July 26

7:30am Alfred, Ronald, Joseph & Madelyn Padula

10:30am James Queenan Jr.

Monday, July 27

7:00am

Tuesday, July 28

7:00am

Wednesday, July 29

7:00am

Thursday, July 30

7:00am Patricia Malnati

Friday, July 31

7:00am May Ellen Barry

Saturday, August 1

4:00pm John William Sullivan, Jr.

Sunday, August 2

7:30am Francis Maureen Dick

10:30am Mary Canty



Last weekend Noah Patrick Afflitto, Charlotte Elizabeth Aldred, Charles Adam Lupien, Charlotte Marie Silk and Isabella Marie Trafecanty were Baptized by Fr. Bob. May God bless these



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exercises that support
health and mobility.



COGNITIVE STIMULATION
Participate in activities
that encourage memory,
thinking, and creativity.



FRIENDSHIP
Experience the joy of
companionship and
lasting friendships.



For more information,
contact the
Franklin Senior Center
508-520-4945



Visit our website:
**[www.franklinma.gov/587/
Dementia-Alzheimers](http://www.franklinma.gov/587/Dementia-Alzheimers)**
Learn more about local resources and support.



SAVE THE DATE!

**St. Vincent DePaul
Friends of the Poor Walk
Saturday, September 26, 2026**

Registration at 8:30 am on the
Town Common followed by a
Blessing for the Walk at 9:00am.
Participants can **Collect donations**
and **Walk with us** or **donate online**
with the QR Code:



Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

**Saturday, August 29, 2026
9am to 3pm**

St. Mary School, Franklin, MA

To register call 1-800-RED-CROSS or
www.redcrossblood.org



Help Wanted — St. Mary Parish Secretary

St. Mary's is looking for someone to provide administrative and clerical support for the church and parish operations. The secretary works with priests, parishioners and our organizations to fulfill the needs of the parish. This includes answering phones, managing the parish calendar, preparing for funerals and baptisms, making the weekly bulletin and creating sacramental certificates upon request. This position is a 24 to 30 hour a week, hourly paid position.

Office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9am to 3pm but the additional hours are flexible. Must enjoy interacting with people, be organized and able to multi-task and have computer skills in Google Calendar, Word, Excel and Canva/MS Publishing . If interested, please email: Fr. Bob at pastor@stmarysfranklin.org



JULY 26, 2026



St Vincent De Paul Society St Mary Franklin
Interim Results 10/1/25 to 5/31/26

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things. " Mother Teresa

Thank you to all the parishioners, the Knights of Columbus, Family Faith Formation classes and all the other organizations for your continued support of SVDP by generously donating food and financial assistance so we can help Franklin residents in need. Special thanks to Fr. Bob, Fr. John, and Deacon Ron for spreading God's message of the importance of helping others.

In the first eight months of our Fiscal Year 2026 we continued our mission of serving Neighbors in need. We meet in pairs with people seeking assistance to thoroughly assess the need either in their homes or at the church. Our 38 volunteers had calls with neighbors in need over 1,000 times, with 2,900 people helped.

Altogether financially, your donations served families 287 times for over \$95,000 with the largest items being housing, utilities, automobile related, furniture and gift cards for Easter meals/food/gas. Any financial assistance was paid directly to the provider of services and not to the person seeking assistance.

Your generosity also helped our day-to-day operations as follows:

- Distribute over 383 bags of donated food and 56 Hygiene bags.
- Give out Complimentary SVDP Thrift Store vouchers worth almost \$1,850
- Caring Tree 121 families, 303 people helped for a total of over \$16,000 in Gift Cards
- Mother's Day Bags for 62 people worth over \$3,100

We continue to have strong relationships with town organizations and businesses. In total we gave families 126 referrals to town, state and federal agencies that might help them.

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

For Respect for Human Life by Pope Leo

Lord of life, You created us in love and called us to live in fullness. Each person is a sacred gift that reflects your face, from the first instant of existence to the final breath of their journey on earth. Today we ask for the grace to recognize and protect the unique and unrepeatable value of every human being. May we learn to welcome life unconditionally, to tenderly care for fragility, to accompany each stage with respect, and to bravely defend those who have no voice.

Forgive us, Lord, when we fall into indifference or the culture of discard, when we fail to see in others a being worthy of love. Give us a new heart, always ready to choose life, and generous hands that protect it through concrete actions. Make your Church a living witness of the Gospel of life, an open home where every life is celebrated, where no one feels unwanted, and where dignity is always honored and protected. Lord Jesus, may we love life as You love it: with tenderness, fidelity, and self-giving. May we proclaim, in words and actions, that every human life is worth the total gift of ourselves. Amen.



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

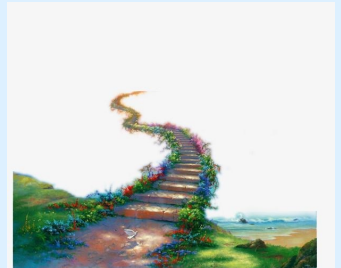
Choosing Heaven: My children often ask me questions about Heaven. What does Heaven look like? Is there nighttime in Heaven? Do you get hungry in Heaven? Are there oceans in Heaven? Will we feel bored in Heaven? My answer is almost always the same: "I can't tell you for sure." I guess I didn't realize how little we actually know about Heaven until I had kids who were obsessed with hearing the details.

But accepting human ignorance is liberating in a way, because it allows me to see clearly — and cling wholeheartedly to — the three things I do know for sure: Heaven is where God is, and Hell is where He isn't, and it's completely my decision where I want to be. *The choice, you see, is everything.*

We need to pay attention to how Jesus describes the kingdom of Heaven in his parables. It is, he tells us, a treasure — but a treasure buried in a field owned by someone else. It is a beautiful pearl — and a very expensive pearl. It is a bountiful yield — one which must be carefully, even painstakingly sifted through.

It's so easy to imagine the delight of the man who finds the treasure, who encounters the pearl, who hauls the bursting net aboard, just as it is easy to call ourselves followers of Christ, to hang a Rosary from our windshield and go to Mass. It's less easy, and a great deal more uncomfortable, to contemplate what comes next: the sacrifice, the commitment, the perseverance through uncertainty.

Heaven is an incredible stroke of luck — one that requires a good deal of follow-through. We can never earn it, but we must choose it. Again and again and again, we must choose it. ©LPi



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The St. Vincent DePaul Society would like to thank all the parishioners who have so generously donated to the SVdP Food Pantry. The St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is looking for the following items to help our Franklin neighbors in need.

Spaghetti Sauce
Canned vegetables
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Thank you for your help in supporting those most in need in our community. God bless.

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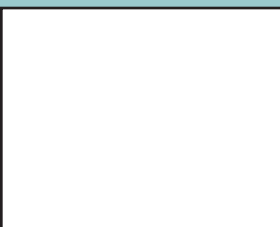



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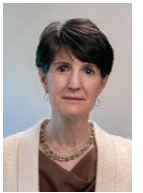
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