

ST. MARY PARISH

Franklin, Massachusetts

150 Years of Grace 1877-2027

May 31, 2026

Dear Families of St. Mary Parish,

Peace be with you!

One of the greatest joys of being a pastor is seeing faith come alive in the lives of families. There is something beautiful about watching a child learn a prayer for the first time, seeing parents and grandparents share their faith, or hearing a family talk about how God is working in their lives. These moments remind us that faith was never meant to stay within the walls of the church. Faith is something meant to be lived, shared, and passed on from one generation to the next.

That is why I am excited to share with you a new chapter in the life of St. Mary Parish through our new Family Faith Formation program. I'm grateful to Jim Flanagan, our Family Faith Formation Director and the Family Faith Formation advisory board who have worked so hard in creating a new Faith Formation program, not just for a few but for the entire parish, the whole family, children and adults.

For many years, our religious education program has helped form countless children and families in the faith. We are incredibly grateful for the catechists, volunteers, and parents whose dedication has made such a difference in the lives of so many. As we continue moving forward, we also recognize something very important that the Church has always taught: parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith for their children. That's why we believe it is important to include all adult parishioners in our new program.

Our new Family Faith Formation program is meant to strengthen that partnership between the parish and the home. Faith formation is about much more than attending a class once a week. We want to help create opportunities for families to encounter Christ together and to make faith a natural part of everyday life.

This new approach will include engaging learning experiences, opportunities for families to gather and pray together, and resources to support parents as they guide their children in faith. We know life today can be busy and sometimes even overwhelming. Our goal is not to add another thing to your schedule, but to walk with you and support you in your family's journey of faith.

Community is an important aspect of our new program. As a community we break bread together spiritually at the altar of the Eucharist. It is also important as a community to have an opportunity to break bread together enjoying a simple family meal while deepening our faith lives. We believe children learn faith not simply by hearing about it, but by seeing it lived. They see it when families pray together, when they worship together at Mass, when the break bread

together, when kindness and forgiveness are practiced at home, and when parents and loved ones do their best to follow Jesus in everyday life.

As we begin this new journey, I invite you to approach it with excitement and open hearts. Together we have an opportunity not only to help our children grow in faith, but also to strengthen the faith of our entire parish family.

In order for us to have a clear understanding of the New Family Faith Formation Program I invite you and your family to join us on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00P.M. in the Sacred Heart Hall for a Wine and Cheese gathering.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers, and know that I keep all of you and your families in mine. I look forward to walking this journey together as we continue growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless you and your families abundantly.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Bob
Pastor
St. Mary Parish
Franklin, Massachusetts