

*Parish Communities*  
*St. Mary & St. Philip Benizi*



Office - 508-839-3993  
Fax - 508-839-1330  
Website - [www.stmarysgrafton.org](http://www.stmarysgrafton.org)  
Mass Schedule:  
Saturday 4:00 PM  
Sunday 7:30 & 10:30 AM  
Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM  
Mailing Address:  
17 Waterville St., North Grafton, MA 01536  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Parish Secretary: Janice Sears x10 • [jsears@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:jsears@stmarysgrafton.org)  
Religious Education Secretary:  
Jill Sullivan x13 • [jsullivan@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:jsullivan@stmarysgrafton.org)  
Organist/Director of Music:  
Pamela Cross x37 • [p.cross@shoplegacy.com](mailto:p.cross@shoplegacy.com)  
Safe Environment Coordinator: Joan Shanley [jfs34@msn.com](mailto:jfs34@msn.com)

Office - 508-839-3325  
Fax - 508-839-1310  
Religious Education - 508-839-9130  
Email - [stphilipsgrafton@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipsgrafton@gmail.com)  
Mass Schedule  
Sunday 9:00 AM  
Mailing Address  
12 West St., Grafton, MA 01519  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Parish Secretary/Administrator of  
Religious Education/ Safe Environment Coordinator:  
Carole LeBlanc [cleb1329@aol.com](mailto:cleb1329@aol.com)

**Pastor: Rev. Leo LeBlanc x24 • [fathrleb@gmail.com](mailto:fathrleb@gmail.com)**  
**Deacon: Rev. Mr. Frederick A. Coggins x29 • [fcoggins@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:fcoggins@stmarysgrafton.org)**  
**Business Manager: Lisa Stewart x11 • [lstewart@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:lstewart@stmarysgrafton.org)**

**BULLETIN NOTICES:** To Parish Secretary by **6:00 PM Mondays.**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 3:00 PM on Saturday and by appointment. Monday - Thursday, following the 8:00 AM Mass.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated at either the 4pm Saturday Mass or the 10:30 Sunday Mass at St. Mary & 9am Mass Sundays at St. Philip. Please speak to Fr. Leo after Mass. ( The sacrament may be celebrated at another time for serious reason.)

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Contact Fr. LeBlanc at least one year prior to the tentative wedding date.

**CARE FOR THE SICK:** Please contact the church office if you know of anyone who is hospitalized or confined to home because of age or illness.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Please introduce yourself to Fr. LeBlanc, Deacon Coggins or a greeter after Mass. Visit the office or log into the website (St. Mary only). We want to know and serve you. We hope that you will become members of our parish community.

**St Vincent de Paul Society** of St Philip/St Mary at 508 839-3993 x 35. All information is kept strictly confidential .

**JOURNEY  
THROUGH  
HOLY WEEK  
WITH US.**



WON'T YOU BE MY CLOSE FRIEND?

*Jesus, in a way, is inviting each of us to enter fully into the celebrations of this Holy Week: "Won't you be my close friend?" In what way will you and I welcome our Messiah and King into our minds, our hearts and our lives? Jesus enters Jerusalem with the excitement of the crowds who welcome Him with cheers and jubilation. But as we all know very well the story, this festive atmosphere does not last long. During that very same week, this Jesus will disappoint many who are expecting a powerful King in the line of David. This same Jesus will walk the very same streets of Jerusalem with a cross on His shoulders, weak and severely bruised, like the worst of criminals on his way to crucifixion.*

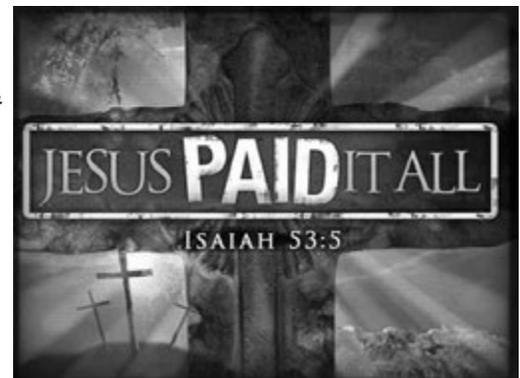


*"Won't you walk with me and unite your sufferings with mine? Or will you too abandon me when you discover I am not the kind of Messiah you were hoping for? Please, I need your companionship this week. I need you to be close to me and follow me closely. Can you see that I have a mission to accomplish, and that I must do the Father's Will? Won't you share in my mission? You rejoice as I enter the Jerusalem of your heart. But I come as a very meek and humble King who embraces the path of Love and total nonviolence. Even to this day the world does not accept my path.*

*Will you be with me at the Passover Meal, my Last Supper with you and the Twelve? How I have longed to break this Bread with you, to say: 'Take and eat, this is my Body. Take and drink, this is my Blood.' This command I give you: 'Do this in memory of Me.' I have so much desired that you to be an intimate part of me. You are my companion, one with whom I share the Bread of My Life, the Blood of my Intimate friendship and Sacred Covenant with you.*

*What pains me, are the many times people receive this Sacrament of my Love and Friendship in a trivial fashion. As my Father has done, so I have given you my all. Won't you partake of my Life? Or are you pulled away from me by all the distractions of this world? I am asking you, no, I am begging you to let go of the world's empty promises. Only I can fulfill your hunger and thirst for Eternal Life. But to accomplish this you must let go of your fear to accompany me to Mount Calvary.*

*Please understand that there is nothing I was not prepared to suffer for your sake, for your conversion of mind and heart because I never wanted anything less than your Eternal Happiness. There can be no room for violence in your heart. For this I am ready to be crucified. On this, my Father and I are One. This Spirit I impart to you. Follow Me!"*





**Religious Education Registration**

Registration for this Fall 2018-2019 is underway. Please bring your Registration Form and Fee, (Cash or Check) in as soon as possible. A late fee will be charged for those who choose to register after April 16. If your child is NEW to the program and was NOT Baptized at St. Mary or St. Philip, bring a copy of their Baptism Certificate. If you know a family with a child entering Grade 1 next Fall, please extend an invitation to them to enroll their child in Religious Education.

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**Market Sunday's Outreach Program** "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" is set up by our St. Vincent de Paul and Market Sunday ministries to communicate with our parishioners on seasonal food items that would help to broaden our food pantry.

**We welcome donations of: pasta sauce, Raisin Bran, soup, cookies & crackers, rice pilaf, Lipton Sides and Hamburger Helper, chef Boyardee, juice boxes, jello/pudding and kids' snacks, tissues & paper towels, coffee & tea, mayonnaise, jelly, pancake mix & syrup, seasonings.** Please remember this is only a suggested guideline; any and all items are appreciated. Food items can be left in the Gathering Space at St. Mary on the Market Sunday food cart, downstairs on the cart located by the food cabinets, or on the table to the left of the cabinets. At St. Philip, you may leave them in the basket marked SVDP located at the entrance of the church. We are blessed to have the generous parish families of St. Mary and St. Philip and very grateful for all the food you donate. **"If you know of anyone struggling to provide for their family, please contact the St Vincent de Paul Society of St Philip/St Mary at 508 839-3993 x 35. All information is kept confidential."**



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March 23, 2018

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Participating in the Way of the Cross is such a powerful way for Christians to recall the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ during Lent. Christians in the Holy Land are faced with the particular challenge of bringing their own suffering to the cross as they witness to the faith. The Latin Patriarch of the Holy Land has been a voice for Christians living not just in Jerusalem, but also in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Each year during Holy Week we are challenged by the Scriptures to see the light of hope amidst darkness and despair. Holy Week is about finding hope from despair and, as St. Francis prayed, "that we may be instruments of peace."

Christians living in the Holy Land not only struggle to live their faith and worship in their parishes – they are also the stewards of the sacred places as Christians arrive in pilgrimage day after day. Catholics worldwide are invited each year by the Holy Father to support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land by making a donation to the Good Friday Collection. Keeping Christianity alive in the Holy Land is as urgent a goal of the Church as it was in the days of St. Paul when he called upon various communities to support their brothers and sisters in Jerusalem.

Your donation helps the Franciscans and others to minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. Your contributions assist the Catholic community with housing, food, health care and employment. In these times of crisis, you also help in providing humanitarian aid to refugees and bring the sacraments and hope to Christians in places like Syria.

Please be generous in this year's Good Friday collection in your parish. I invite you to visit [www.myfranciscan.org](http://www.myfranciscan.org) to learn more about the good work made possible thanks to your response to this pontifical collection.

Pray for peace during this Holy Season so that we may preserve the past and offer hope for the future. With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester





Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2018 Partners in Charity Appeal. St. Philip is 31% towards our goal of \$33,200 and St. Mary is 32% towards our goal of \$65,000. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please fill out a commitment pledge envelope located in the pews. Or visit [www.partners-charity.net](http://www.partners-charity.net) to do it online. Partners in Charity is the Annual Appeal for the Diocese of Worcester, serving 28 charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries. Through your generous support we are able to serve thousands of families and individuals in Worcester County through outreach, formation, evangelization, and worship. Thank you!

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**Holy Week and Easter Services**



*Come Worship With Us!*



**Holy Thursday**

**Holy Thursday** : Morning Prayer 8am St. Mary  
 Mass of the Lords Supper 7pm St. Mary

**Good Friday**: Morning Prayer -8am St. Mary  
 Stations of the Cross -**St Mary 3pm \*\*not St. Philip\*\***  
 Passion of the Lord - St. Mary 7pm

**Holy Saturday**: Easter Vigil 7:30 pm St. Mary  
 NO 4pm Mass

**Easter Sunday**: St. Mary 7:30 am  
 St. Philip 9:00 am  
 St. Mary 11:00 am

Thank you to the "12 apostles" who will be getting their feet washed on Holy Thursday. Please arrive no later than 6:45.

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**Piano Player**

Do you play the piano? St. Philips is looking for someone to please help out with our music ministry. Chuck and Patty Brown, our cantors and guitar players are doing a fantastic job but could use some help until our new music director is hired. Please call the office at 508-839-3325 if you can help. Thank you



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**Next Youth Group Events**

**April 6, 2018 @ St. Mary's** from 6:30 to 8 pm                      **May 4, 2018 @ St. James** from 6:30 to 8 pm

Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with us! Tacos will be served. Sign up at Grafton Catholic Youth Group Facebook or webpage Bring a new friend who hasn't been before and receive ice cream!

**The Grafton Catholic Youth Group** is looking for someone to coordinate a group of youth to join the Diocesan Volleyball league this summer. The league starts In June. If interested contact Tim Rodrique at 774-545-6689 or by email at [tjrodrique@gmail.com](mailto:tjrodrique@gmail.com)

**The Grafton Catholic Youth Group** would like to thank all the parishioners that joined us for a wonderful fish dinner and fellowship catered by Bushel 'n Peck. We would also like to thank everyone that just donated to the Youth Group as we begin to prepare next years schedule of events. The support of the parishes been greatly appreciated.

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A very special Thank You to Mrs. Dewar for sharing her passion for the Stations of the Cross with our Religious Education Classes. She spoke from the heart and truly touch the children's hearts. She gave of her time to visit both parishes and share her love for Jesus by her wonderful show of her love for Him.

Thank you for being a part of the faith formation of our children.



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