

# 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 .

## St. Philip



### Mass Intentions

#### St Philip Parish

**April 1**– John Chartier & Edward Chartier requested by family

**April 8**– Robert Cournoyer requested by family

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#### Calendar of Events for St. Philip and St. Mary

Rosary after 9am Mass at St. Philip

**April 3**– Confirmation parent/candidate meeting @St. Philip 7pm

**April 7**– Religious Education Appreciation Brunch @ St. Philip 10am.

**April 8**– Mini Retreat for all 6th grade students @ St. Philip 3:00–4:30 pizza will be served

**April 8–9**– Last Religious Ed classes

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#### Easter Sunday

“Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” (COLOSSIANS 3:2) On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died and rose for us. We celebrate and sing “Alleluia.” Let’s try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how He is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.



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★ Welcome Home ★

*Thank you for joining us on this most blessed day. If you are new to the parish or just visiting, WELCOME, Please say hello to Fr. Leo and Deacon Fred today.*



## St. Mary



### Mass Intentions

#### St. Mary Parish

The 4 D's of stewardship: Desire - Decision - Discipline - Delight - Rev. Henry Wildeboer

#### HOLY SATURDAY

7:30 pm Easter Vigil (No 4pm Mass)

Memorial for Luiz Fornasaro requested by the David Cochran family, In remembrance of his birthday John Hebert requested by the family

#### EASTER SUNDAY

7:30am 27th anniversary for Anthony “Spitz” Stolulonis requested by the family

11:00 a.m.

For the parishioners of St Mary

#### Monday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. Open Intention

#### Tuesday

7:00 p.m. For the Parishioners

#### Wednesday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. Open Intention

#### Thursday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 am Open Intention

#### Next Saturday

4:00 p.m.

3rd anniversary for Marge Spence requested by the family

#### Next Sunday Second Sunday of Easter

7:30am The Parishioners of St Mary

10:30 a.m. 9th anniversary for Leo Charest requested by the family, 16th anniversary for Msgr Jean Baptiste requested by the family

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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!

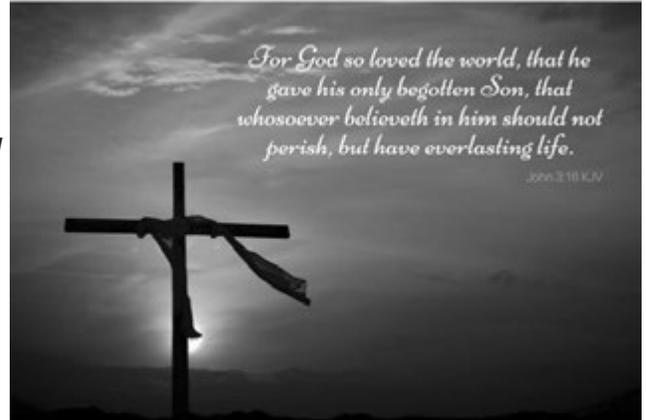
The Grafton Catholic Youth Group is looking for someone to coordinate a group of youth to join the Diocesan Volleyball league this summer. The league starts in June. If interested contact Tim Rodrigue at 774-545-6689 or by email at tjrodrique@gmail.com

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.

**EASTER BEYOND FEELINGS**

*We as Christians claim Easter to be the greatest event ever, without which, St. Paul says, our faith is in vain. Yet Easter is deeply and fundamentally connected to Good Friday, when Jesus loves us to the very end. On Easter we celebrate that Christ trampled down death by Himself dying.*

*For those who can see with the eyes of faith, Christ fills us with Divine Light. Anyone else sees nothing. Resurrection signifies the victory of life in its wholeness for those who believe . Whereas death and hell belong to fallen time, which wears us out and turns us into machines and destroys us. Death and hell also belong to fallen space, a space that separates us, imprisons us and fills us with loneliness. Death and hell fill us with a hatred for ourselves, and a hatred of others for themselves. In fact many people are already in hell and are dead in many ways.*



*Yet we can attest that this world is filled with much tenderness and beauty because it is still God's creation, despite the fact that we can really mess it up. And Easter celebrates the reality that we and our children are not meant primarily for this world. Though many think and believe that this world is it, many often experience an incredible sense of alienation, emptiness and nothingness. And our efforts to fight for a world of tenderness and beauty apart from God, is like fighting for justice and wellbeing on board a great ship, only to discover that it's sinking. For God did not create death!*

*He is the living God who created us to enjoy the fullness of Eternal Life. That is why Christ came, was born one of us, died and rose from the dead. Yet Resurrection is not an easy mystery to understand. It is not simply a discreet historical event with a before, during and after. That Christ is risen, means He is not limited to one location in space and time. As He promised, He is not absent from our world, and yet is not confined within the world either. In His humanity, which is now our humanity as well, Jesus now exists in the sphere of God. While being totally available to us in every place and time, He yet remains at rest in the bosom of the Father.*

*Though we are finite creatures, God has put a thirst for Eternal Life deep within our hearts that we might seek Him above all things. Many look to the world for happiness, but eventually find that the world only enslaves them to what is vain and empty. For though the world is created by God, when it leaves God out, the best it has to offer is a "dead life." Easter tells us that we are meant for eternity. But we cannot sustain a vibrant Easter Faith by nourishing it only once or twice a year.*



*As pastor I am bound to challenge each of you to develop a vibrant Easter faith. This faith is not a private gift, for Christ gave it to the Church that was founded on the apostles. As Christ intended, we nourish it at the heart of the Church, which is the Eucharist, as we immerse ourselves in the Mystery of the death and Resurrection of Christ again and again. It is especially here that His Spirit transforms our death into Eternal Life. Thanks be to God!*



### Religious Education Registration

Registration for this Fall 2018-2019 took place last weekend and on Monday. If you missed this, 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.

**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."**



*With out your generous gift of time and faith, our program wouldn't exist.*

*Please join us on Saturday April 7th as **We Celebrate You***

*We are hosting a brunch for all those involved in religious education in both parishes.*

*Please join us starting at 10:00 am at St. Philip for a wonderful **Breakfast Appreciation Brunch** provided by Buggy Whip Catering. Every year that you give of yourself is a true blessing in the faith formation of our children.*

*Please join us.*





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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**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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Easter 2018

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the grieving women walked to the tomb in the pre-dawn darkness of Easter Sunday, their companion was not only grief but worry. How would they remove the stone that blocked the tomb so they could anoint Jesus' body?

When they arrived at the tomb the women found the stone removed. To their amazement, they also found much more—an angel and the announcement that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Overjoyed, the women ran to announce the good news to the disciples.

That evening, two of the disciples were leaving Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus. Grief and disappointment hung over them as they discussed the events of the last three days. Just as worry about the stone distracted the women from recalling Jesus' promise, the events of Good Friday, shattering their hopes, prevented the disciples from believing the women's report.

Many times worries and disappointment over the immediate events of life cause us distraction. When that happens, do not forget Christ's promises. Do not forget history's greatest event, Christ's resurrection.

The women's worry about the stone proved to be a trifle. God would move the stone. The expectations of the disciples on the road to Emmaus were inconsequential when compared to God's plan fulfilled in Jesus. When the angel told the women that Christ's promise was fulfilled, they were overjoyed. When Jesus enlightened the disciples about the prophecies of Scripture, their hearts burned. The women's worry and the disciples' disappointments were utterly dispelled by the joy of the Resurrection.

May we live in the light of Easter—full of hope and anticipation. May we never let our worries or disappointments distract us from the realization that God's love provides us with the means to overcome every fear and to live in the confidence that God's promises will exceed our most fervent hopes.

With every prayerful best wish for a joyous Easter, I remain  
Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester



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