

Parish Communities

St. Mary & St. Philip Benizi

Pastor: Rev. Leo LeBlanc x24 • fathrleb@gmail.com



St. Mary Office - 508-839-3993
Fax - 508-839-1330
Website - www.stmarysgrafton.org
Weekend Mass Schedule St. Mary-
Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 7:30 & 10:30 AM Mass-time nursery'
Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 7:45 AM
Daily Mass Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM
St. Philip Office - 508-839-3325
Fax - 508-839-1310
Religious Education - 508-839-9130
Email - stphilipsgrafton@gmail.com
Mass Schedule
St. Philip Sunday 9:00 AM

* Deacon: Rev. Mr. Frederick Coggins x29 fcoggins@stmarysgrafton.org
* Business Manager: Lisa Stewart x11 lstewart@stmarysgrafton.org
* Parish Secretary St. Mary: Jill Sullivan x10
* Parish Secretary St. Philip: Carole LeBlanc—cleb1329@aol.com
* Director of Religious Ed St Mary/ St. Philip— Darleen Farland x 12 dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org
* Administrator of Religious Ed St. Mary/St. Philip— Carole LeBlanc
* Organist/Dir. Music: Pamela Cross x37 p.cross@shoplegacy.com
* Safe Environment Coordinator St. Mary : Jill Sullivan x10
* Safe Environment Coordinator St. Philip: Carole LeBlanc cleb1329@aol.com
* St Vincent de Paul Society of St Philip/St Mary at 508 839-3993 x 35. All information is kept strictly confidential .
* Youth Group Ministry-youthgroup@stmarysgrafton.org

BULLETIN NOTICES: To Carole by 6:00 PM Mondays. Email cleb1329@aol.com

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 3-3:30 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: The Visiting Eucharistic Ministers of St Mary/St Philip Benizi Parishes are available to bring the Eucharist to you at home or your rehab facility. Please call the church office at 508-839-3993 or call Noreen McConville (VEM coordinator) at 508-839-5313 to schedule home visits.

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

R.C.I.A.- Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

RCIA is the process of welcoming adults into full membership in the Church. It is for you, or someone you know:

v who has never been baptized

v who was baptized in another Christian tradition

v who was baptized Catholic, but has never celebrated the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation

Contact Darleen at 508-839-3993 X 12 for more info. Share this notice with someone you know who may be interested.



St. Philip



Mass Intentions

St Philip Parish

- Dec 2-** Helen Stone requested by parish
- Dec 9-** Gerry Lauria requested by parish
- Dec 16-** John LaPan requested by parish, Pat & Paul Marrkand requested by Tricia & Rick
- Dec 25-** Helen Stone requested by a friend

Calendar of Events for St. Philip and St. Mary

- Rosary cited Sunday mornings after Mass @ St Philip*
- Eucharist Adoration Wednesdays St Mary*
- Dec 2-** Epiphany Pageant rehearsal@ St Mary 7:15pm
- Dec 2-** Confirmation rehearsal St Philip 10:30 am
- Dec 2-** Confirmation Reconciliation service 2pm @ St James
- Dec 8-** Holy Day of Obligation 8am Mass St Mary
- Dec 9-** Confirmation Celebration at St Paul Cathedral 3pm.
- Dec 16-** Gathering Day 7th & 8th graders Mass at 9 @ St Philip

1st Sunday of Advent

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (LUKE 21:28) We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.



Advent begins

Sunday Collection

- 11-18-2018 \$2137.00
- 11-25-2018 \$1223.33

Thank you for your continued support

Christmas Eve/Day Masses

We are looking for children who may be interested in carrying in Baby Jesus at the Christmas Masses. Religious Education students have received a flyer with Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses available. If students are interested in participating, please fill in appropriate Mass and return to Mrs. Farland and the parish office. If we have too many volunteers, we will pick names in a random drawing. Deadline to return forms are December 17th.

Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday Dec 8 is an Holy Day of Obligation. The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated at Mass at 8am at St. Mary. This is the only Mass to celebrate the Holy Day. Please join us as we celebrate the Mother of Jesus.

St. Mary



Mass Intentions

St. Mary Parish

"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure." Saint John Paul II

Saturday: 4:00 pm – Rosa Jackson requested by Janet LaMarche, 6th anniversary Irving Shanley requested by family, 6th Anniversary Steven Desmarais requested by family, Memorial Alfred Cardin requested by family, 3rd anniversary Annette Joncas requested by family

Sunday: 7:30 am – 16th Anniversary Walter Fleming requested by family
10:30 am – 6th Anniversary Helen Kenney requested by family

Monday: 7:45am - Morning Prayer
Morning Mass Special intention for Mercy

Tuesday : NO MORNING MASS

7pm Mass during Advent, Adoration & Reconciliation after Mass

Wednesday: 7:45am - Morning Prayer
8:00am - Morning Mass

Thursday: 7:45am - Morning Prayer
8:00am - Morning Mass

Sat Dec 8-8 am Mass-Holiday Day of Obligation Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Next Saturday: 4:00pm – Deceased members of St. Mary

Next Sunday: 7:30am – Parishioners of St. Mary
10:30am – 25th Anniversary Rev. Paul M. Couming by parish, Deceased members of Maillet family by family

Tuesday Nights during Advent Mass will be celebrated at 7pm followed by Adoration and reconciliation for those who would like to celebrate the sacrament, all concluding at 8pm. **NO MORNING MASS**

Sunday Collection

- 11-18-2018 \$4380.41
- 11-25-2018 \$5,542.00

Thank you for your continued support

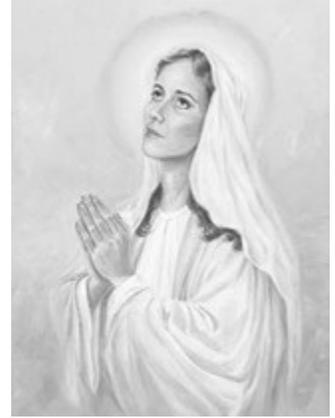
Calling All Shepherds, Magi, Angels, Mary, Joseph, and even Sheep--Epiphany Pageant Getting Under-

way at St. Mary's

Children in K-Gr 6 (and younger) are invited and encouraged to participate in this live presentation of the Epiphany Scripture. The first rehearsal is Sunday, Dec. 2nd at 7:15-8:15pm in St. Mary's church. Remaining rehearsals are Dec. 9th and 16th at 4:30-5:30pm. The dress rehearsal/pizza party date is TBA. Space is still available. Contact Mrs. Farland at dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org



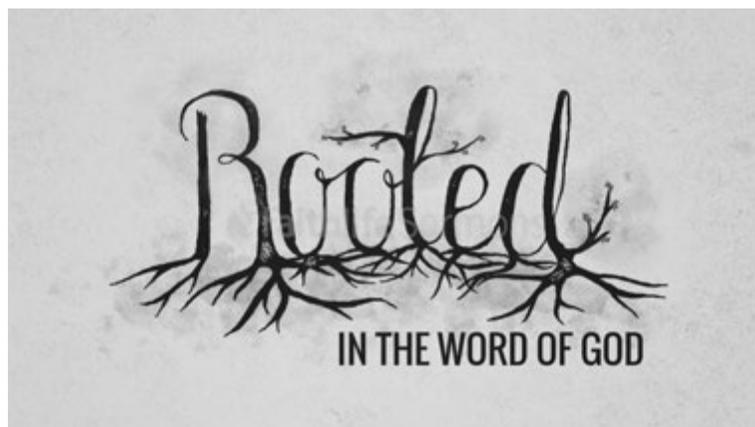
MARY VIGILANT AND AT PRAYER



When Jesus predicts the collapse of the old order of creation, He adds the injunction: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap." (Lk. 21:34) Jesus exhorts us to be vigilant and pray. These are certainly qualities of Mary our Mother. Her prayer is always vigilant and awake. Jesus warns us that we should not be weighed down by the world which puts us spiritually asleep. Mary is a great help in this. Like her we have to be rooted in the Word of God which keeps us awake. If we are rooted in the Word of God, then we are focused on God rather than on the world and ourselves. **Is your life focused on God lately? With honesty, what percentage would you assign your focus and energy on God rather than other things? How much time do you and I devote to prayer? What distractions and temptations compete for attention with Christ and His Mother? How much time do you think Mary "wasted" on the Word of God? How much do you and I worry about the things of this world in our own life?** Waiting, for Mary our Mother is anything but passive. It is to eagerly anticipate great things from God. And vigilance preserves us from self-importance. Vigilance always exercises a custody of the heart. **So who does your heart long for? In what areas of your life do you need to exercise vigilance? How much does fear dominate your life (for fear is predominantly based in the ego)?** Mary was fearless. "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to stand before the Son of Man." (Lk. 21:36) Mary was quite ready to stand before her Son and before the Living God. **Would you be ready or would you be afraid to stand before the Lord? How serious are you about prayer? Mary's fearlessness comes from having given her heart to God completely. If you haven't completely given your heart to God, what might you be holding on to? If you were to spend time sitting with Mary during this Advent, what would you ask her to help you with? And what do you imagine she would say to you?**

The meaning of our lives has to be rooted in the Word of God and in waiting expectantly for His action. Like Mary we have to allow and in this way it become flesh. And yet by the power of the Holy Spirit we have to allow Him to draw us totally heavenward, that is, toward God. **What word of God is speaking to you lately? If He isn't speaking to you, can you just be silent and wait expectantly, asking Mary to show you how to wait? Are you willing to believe with great anticipation, like her, because God intensely desires to take action in your life, or in the life of your loved one?**

Part of the holy vigilance is to make it your duty not to believe the world, nor to hope in the world, nor to love the things of this world. It is to be very empty, waiting eagerly and truly anticipate His coming. **How are you doing with the practice of this holy vigilance?**



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Grade Level Gathering Days at St. Philip

December 16– Grade 7 & 8– We will be starting with Mass at 9 and ending our day at 2pm. Students are to bring lunch

Grade 6 is being re-scheduled, date TBA.

These gathering days are part of the curriculum and count as class time, we expect your child to be in attendance.

Any questions? Please contact Carole at cleb1329@aol.com

Confirmation Rehearsal will be held on Sunday morning Dec 2nd at 10:30 am at St Philip Parish. If sponsor is unable to attend, a parent may stand in for them.

Confirmation Reconciliation is scheduled for Sunday Dec 2nd at 2:00 pm at St James Parish. This is a mandatory requirement, if not able to attend, please contact Mrs. LeBlanc so other arrangements may be made.

The Confirmation Ceremony will be held on Dec 9th at 3:00 pm at St Paul Cathedral, *please pray for our young adults who have been preparing for this sacrament.*

“AMPLIFY” DIOCESAN YOUTH NIGHT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

As part of our religious education program curriculum for High School students, we will be attending “Amplify” Diocesan Youth Night. The evening includes dinner, games, praise and worship music, Eucharistic Adoration, and Reconciliation. Open to all youth in grades 9-12. Cost is FREE.

H.S. students may select 1 of 2 dates and locations listed below:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday, Dec. 16th | 5:30-8:00pm | St. Bernadette in Northborough |
| Sunday, Feb 10th | 5:30-8:00pm | St. Joseph Parish Center in Auburn |

Parents are asked to drop off and pick up students directly at event location.

Please let Mrs. LeBlanc or Mrs. Farland know of your selection by December 9th so we may meet the diocesan registration deadline.

November 29, 2018

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On **December 8 and 9, our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious**, a national collection that benefits nearly 31,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who are members of 547 religious institutes throughout the country. The sad reality is that only 23 of those communities are adequately funded to care for their elderly and infirm members who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church.

During the 2018 World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis remarked, “There is no growth without roots and no flowering without new buds.” This analogy has certainly born out within the life of the Church in the United States. Senior religious were the roots that established Catholic schools, hospitals, and social service agencies—allowing generations of Catholics to flourish. Today the example of older religious inspires younger members to persevere in mission and ministry.

Just as our annual Celebrate Priesthood event helps our diocese to care for its retired diocesan priests, this national collection assists many religious communities which struggle to provide for aging members. Most elder religious served for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the struggle to provide adequate care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations implement long-range retirement strategies, even as they continue to serve the People of God.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance; I ask simply that you give what you can. In thanksgiving for their faithful service, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God's blessing on our nation's elderly religious.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Dec8th and 9th, we will have a second collection for the retirement fund for the religious. Please be as generous as you can.



ST. PHILIP'S ANNUAL GIVING TREE

Giving Tree gifts are due in two weeks! Please bring your gifts to church in a gift bag with the ornament attached by Sunday, 12/16/18. Questions? Call Rachel Costello at 508-839-2767.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary and St. Philip of Grafton is excited to once again offer the opportunity to assist families in need in our community through "Christmas Adopt-a-Family." As you may know, SVdP works with families in the Grafton area who are in need. We are looking for parishioners (either individuals or families) interested in providing gifts for the children of these families this Christmas. Guidance on gift selection is provided.



Please note that Christmas Adopt-a-Family does NOT replace or serve the same folks as the Giving Tree.

If you are interested in helping, please call the SVdP phone line (508 839-3993 ext 35) NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 14. Leave your name and phone number, and one of our members will return your call within 24 hours. Because of the confidential nature of the work of SVdP, recipients will only be identified by code and age. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Please also note that Cub Scout Pack 106 provides Christmas dinner baskets for all the SVdP families. A special "Thank You" goes to these scouts and their leaders!

Thank You

We would like to thank the Boy Scouts from Troop 106 who participated as the Color Guard for our Patriotic Rosary last Sunday Nov. 11th. who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was a nice addition to the event.



Market Sunday's Outreach Program "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" As we prepare to help our families during the holidays & winter months, we welcome donations of: Soup, Coffee & Tea, juice boxes and kids' snacks, jelly, Lipton sides and rice mixes, mayonnaise, pancake mix & syrup, cake mixes and frosting, cookies & crackers, and paper products. As always, we thank you for your ongoing generosity. If you know of anyone struggling to provide for their family, do not hesitate to have them contact the St Vincent de Paul Society of St Mary/St Philip at 508 839-3993 x 35. All information is kept strictly confidential.

GIVING TREE

This year our parish will be blessed with the opportunity to experience a deeper spirit of Christmas. On November 17th, our GIVING tree will be covered with colored tags. Each tag will represent A REAL AND SPECIFIC need in a family in definite need. Not all the families are from our town. Not all the families are Catholic. But I assure you they are all in need. Our source is the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope in Worcester, Pernet Center, St.John's, Crescent Manor and Visitation House. by Deacon It was not easy for some to admit they could use help but each tag on the tree is a REQUESTED need.



There are no restrictions on the number of tags you can take. Items range from inexpensive toys to winter jackets. Whatever your heart is moved to do will be appreciated.

You will have 3 weeks to purchase and return by December 9th at noon. Be sure the original need tag is attached securely to the outside of your gift.



Meeting for the St. Mary's Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held on Saturday December 18th from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. downstairs in room #5 of the church. All are welcome to attend, adult knitters, beginner adult knitters and crocheters. The ministry is looking for knitters or crocheters to assist in making shawls, blankets, hats, mittens and scarves for those in need. Easy patterns are available. We would like to extend an invitation to parishioners of St. Philip's Church to join us

in our ministry. For more information contact Pat Morse at 508 839-6070. Please join us in a rewarding ministry. We meet every third Saturday of the month. The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets September through May.

The Grafton Catholic Youth Group would like to thank everyone for their support by sponsoring a luminary for Christmas Eve.

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