

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

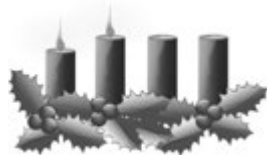
Dec 9- Gerry Lauria requested by parish
Dec 16- John LaPan requested by parish, Pat & Paul Marrkand requested by Tricia & Rick
Dec 25- Helen Stone requested by a friend

Calendar of Events for St. Philip and St. Mary
Rosary cited Sunday mornings after Mass @ St Philip
Eucharist Adoration Wednesdays St Mary

Dec 8- Holy Day of Obligation 8am Mass St Mary
Dec 9- Confirmation Celebration at St Paul Cathedral 3pm.
Dec 9- Epiphany rehearsal 4:30- 5:30 St Mary
Dec 16- Gathering Day 7th & 8th graders Mass at 9 @ St Philip
Dec 16- Epiphany rehearsal 4:30- 5:30 St Mary

2nd Sunday of Advent

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10) Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.



Sunday Collection
 \$1670.00

Thank you for your continued support

St. Mary



Mass Intentions

St. Mary Parish

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

Saturday: 8:00am – Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary – Holy Day of Obligation
 4:00 pm – Deceased members of St. Mary
Sunday: 7:30 am – Parishioners of St. Mary
 10:30 am – 25th Anniversary Rev. Paul M. Couming requested by parish, Deceased members of Maillet family requested by family, Memorial Kenneth Maranda by Adrian & Jeannette Maranda

Monday: 7:45am - Morning Prayer
 8:00am - Morning Mass – Jennifer Meara requested by friend

Tuesday: NO MORNING MASS- 7:00PM - Evening Mass – Adoration & Reconciliation/Confession till 8:00pm

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

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

Saturday: 4:00pm – 2nd anniversary John DeFoe requested by Janet LaMarche & Denise Spence, Memorial Alfred Cardin requested by family, Months Mind Jack Sheridan by family, and Peter Malkowski requested by family

Next Sunday: 7:30am – 20th Anniversary Katherine Fleming by family, Memorial Dennis Flynn by family
 10:30am – – Memorial Kenneth Maranda by Adrian & Jeannette Marand

Sunday Collection
 \$5,742.50

Thank you for your continued support

Thank You All for Making the 2018 Christmas Fair A Success

Thank you

The St. Philip Christmas Fair Committee extends its gratitude to all who helped make this year’s annual Christmas Fair held Saturday, Dec. 1, such a success.

Thank you to all the fairgoers who turned out on a beautiful late fall day to take a chance on one of our raffles, find a bargain at the White Elephant table, taste the treats at the bake table, shop at the crafts table, share lunch with friends, or look to outbid your friends at the silent auction.

We were blessed to have more than 80 volunteers and supporters give their best to offer the Grafton community a beautiful and festive introduction to the Christmas season.

St. Philip’s also is deeply grateful for the support of the entire Grafton Catholic Community. Thank you to the volunteers from St. Mary’s and St. James who approached us and asked if they could help us. We loved having you be part of this event, our parish’s major fundraiser, to help us continue our work.

And a special thanks to the team who led the charge for the past year — with much welcomed support from parish secretary Carole LeBlanc and business manager Lisa Stewart — to make this a fun-filled day for all who came to enjoy the fruits of your labors. Your energy, hard work and talent were essential to our happy outcome. (Look for fair totals in a future bulletin.)

Thank you, one and all, and may your Christmas season be blessed and bright.



THE REAL MARY: COURAGEOUS WAITING



We often idealize Mary as being perfect in every way because she was born without original sin. As St. Maximillian Kolbe put it, "Mary was the most perfect resemblance of God's divine being in her humanity. **What were Mary's human qualities that most resembled God's own being? What qualities do I see in others that reflect God's attributes? Do I see in myself any God given gifts that reflect His goodness and love? If I looked at myself in the mirror, would I be able to see Jesus in me?** She was and is, therefore, God's instrument. In full awareness she lets herself be guided by God. She desires only what He wants. She strives with every fiber of her being to do God's will

without attempting the slightest deviation of her own will from His will." All this said, however, she is not excused from experiencing all the temptations we experience, nor is she spared the sufferings that are an integral part of being human. **Would I be comfortable in sharing with Mary, my mother, the temptations I have, and/or the sufferings I struggle with?**

At the Annunciation we are told that Mary was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The Church teaches us that faith in the coming of the Savior does not grow of itself. We have to nourish our faith and exercise it. **How do I nourish my faith on a regular basis? And how do I exercise my spiritual muscles?** The vibrancy of our faith depends on it. Mary did not sit around just basking in the glory of the great graces given to her. That would have been an attempt to deviate her will from God's will. Instead her heart totally remained riveted toward God's will and fully attuned to the Holy Spirit. Her faith would not have been nourished unless she knew how to wait on the Lord. As one Antiphon in the Office for Readings proclaims: "Wait for the Lord to lead, then follow in his way." This, Mary knew quite well and obeyed the promptings of the Holy Spirit. **What kind of waiting do I engage in?**

Throughout her entire life Mary held on to her peace and remained open to the Lord and his plans. Yet she had to, as Sr. Ruth Burrows puts it, "learn how to move in the shadowy mists of detachment." What detachment means here is not to be passive, but rather that we learn to detach from our depressions and anxieties, that we do not succumb to discouragement, or that we become slaves to our passions. Like Mary, we are called to what Pope Francis refers to as "combative hope." This can only be born out of silent waiting. **Am I afraid or uncomfortable with silence? Do I exercise my "silence muscle as Mary did, or is it atrophied? How strong is my "listening muscle? "How easily can I detach from depressions, anxieties and discouragement? How strong is my combative hope? What spiritual training do I need to undergo to be combat ready for hope?**

Many of us know how to wait impatiently. We know how to wait by ruminating over and over about what we should do but can't muster the courage to take action, because we fear losing what we call "secondary gains", such as perks, comfortabilities, fear of "losing the relationships we have." **When was the last time I prayed for learning how to wait patiently for God?**

WAIT
be strong & let your
FOR THE
heart take courage
LORD
 P S A L M 2 7 : 1 4

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

“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.

Calling All Shepherds, Magi, Angels, Mary, Joseph, and even Sheep--Epiphany Pageant Getting Underway 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 Jan. 5th from 12:00 Noon-2:00pm. Space is still available. Contact Mrs. Farland at dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org

EPIPHANY EVENT SUNDAY JANUARY 6, 2019

Volunteers, both students (grade 6 and above) and adults, are needed to help supervise activities for our Epiphany Event on Sunday Jan 6th from 9:00-10:30am. All directions and supplies will be made available. Please see information below for additional workshop details and contact Darleen at dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org if you are available to help.

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Baking in Bethany | decorating holiday cookies |
| Music in Cana | practicing Christmas carols |
| The Potter's Shop in Jerusalem | molding clay items |
| The Carpenter's Shop in Nazareth | making a wooden Christmas craft |
| Refreshments at the Well in Sychar | -serving drinks and snacks |
| Crafts in Bethel | making a hands-on craft activity |
| Coloring with Lydia at Philippi | helping students color pictures and stories of Christmas |



Please prayer for our young adults as they stand before Bishop McManus this afternoon at Confirmation.

- Jacob Lazo
- Ashley Lupien
- Alec Molinari
- Hope Msumba
- Kaitlyn Naff
- Bradley Palmer



- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Cameron Cadman | Juliet Dywer |
| Christopher Cadman | Alexa Formato |
| Kylie Cahill | Jonathan Graveson |
| Matthew Cusack | Brandon Gouveia |
| Camella DiPinto | Devin Kelly |
| Evans Djohan | Frank LaPolito |

- Sara Powers
- Sarah Remillard
- Keaton Wajer
- Cassidy Waldo



ST. PHILIP'S ANNUAL GIVING TREE

Giving Tree gifts are due in one week! 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.

St. Vincent de Paul Giving Tree– Please return your gifts TODAY DEC 9 by noon. Thank you



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.

Meeting for the St. Mary's Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held on Saturday December 15th 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.



Holy Hour to pray for Priests

On Friday, Dec. 14 from 7 to 8 pm a holy hour to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester. This holy hour will consist of adoration, a short reflection, the rosary, silent prayer and benediction, and will be held again on the second Friday of each month.

Praise & Worship Event in Webster

Living Waters Music Ministry invites you to a Christmas Festival of Advent/Christmas music and Praise and Worship music as we await the birth of our Savior. Join us on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 7-9 pm at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 11 Day St., Webster. Fellowship, free refreshments and delicious desserts! All ages are welcome to this free event. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Congratulations Christmas Fair Raffle Winners

The 2018 St. Philip Christmas Fair Committee congratulates the winners of this year's fair raffles. May all of you enjoy your winnings and continue to share the spirit of the season, The lucky winners are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| The Floral Lattice Quilt | Barbara Carlson |
| Fleece Throws | Dottie Nacimiento & Dorothy Bliss |
| Bonnie Frederico Painting | Norm Daigle |
| Hanover Theater Tickets | Rita Whiting |
| \$100 Restaurant Gift Card | Donna Reinhardt |
| \$100 Goretti's Gift Card | Rob Fraser |
| Truro Vineyards Basket | Rita MacCallum |
| Mystery Box | Claire Lavalley |
| The Lottery Tree | Lindsay Warwick |

Thank you to all who took chances to support St. Philip Church and its ministries. Your support of our parish is much needed and appreciated.

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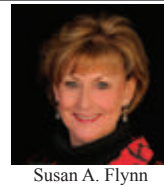
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