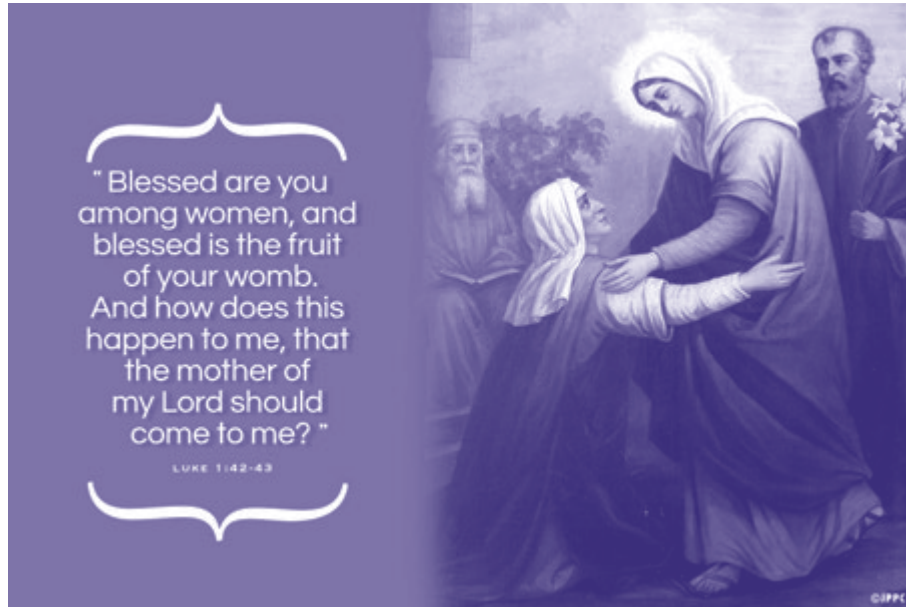


Parish Communities

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 23– Deceased Parishioners of St Philip
 Dec 24– Fr Marteka requested by parish
Dec 25– Helen Stone requested by a friend
Dec 30– Deceased members of St Philip Parish

Calendar of Events for St. Philip and St. Mary
Rosary cited Sunday mornings after Mass @ St Philip
Eucharist Adoration Wednesdays St Mary
Dec. 27 - Blood Drive 1:00 – 7:00pm St Mary
Jan. 6 - Epiphany Pageant – 10:30am St Mary
Jan 6– No Religious Ed St Mary or St Philip, students are to go to Epiphany at 10:30 Mass St Mary

4th Sunday of Advent



St. Mary



Mass Intentions

St. Mary Parish

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

Saturday: 4:00pm – 5th Anniversary – Fr. Oliver Hebert by family, 15th Anniversary Claudia Gentile by Judy Gentile, Memorial Alfred Cardin requested by family

Sunday: 7:30am - 6th anniversary Edith Fleming requested by family
 10:30am - Deceased Members of St. Mary

Monday: Christmas Eve
 No 8:00am – Morning Mass
 4:00pm Children of St. Mary
 6:00pm Peace to the World
 10:30pm Parishioners of St. Mary & St. Philip

Tuesday: Christmas Day
 No 8:00am Mass
 11:00am Parishioners of St. Mary & St. Philip

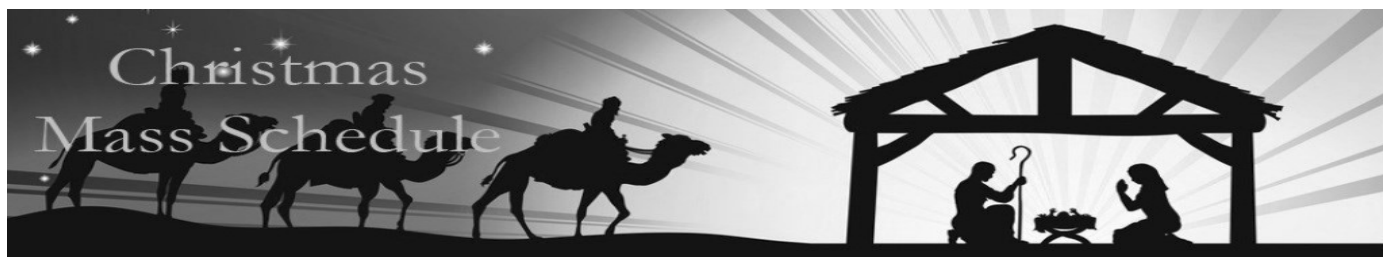
Wednesday: 7:45am - Morning Prayer
 8:00am – Morning Mass –

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

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

Next Sunday:
 7:30am – 11th anniversary Etta Fleming Dickinson & 31st anniversary Arthur Fleming requested by family
 10:30am – Birthday Frank Dorr & Phyllis Dorr requested by family

Collections from both parishes are unavailable until after the holidays



St. James

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24th
 Masses at 4:00 and 10:00 pm

Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25th
 Mass at 10:00 am

New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1st
 Mass at 8:00 AM

St. Philip

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec 24th
 Mass at 4:00 pm

Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec 25
 Mass at 9:00 am

St. Mary

Christmas Eve, Monday Dec 24th
 Mass at 4:00 pm
 Mass at 6:00 pm
 Mass at 10:30 pm

Christmas Day
 11:00am

Wishing you a very Blessed Merry Christmas





WITH MARY, WE PONDER THE CHILD BORN UNTO US

“Christmas is the event that changes our history forever,” says Pope Francis. “The faith we proclaim on this holy night makes us see God present in all those situations where we think He is absent. He is present in the unwelcomed visitor who walks through our city and our neighborhood, who travels our buses and knocks on our doors.” With Mary, there is much here to ponder. **If Mary, our Mother, asked you how Christmas has changed you, what would you honestly answer? Does my faith have the quality of seeing God present in all the situations where we think He is absent? Are there types of visitors with whom we fail to see the face of Christ, or with whom we would rather not deal with?**

Pope Francis further comments that *“our faith impels us to make space for a new way of thinking, to make space for new forms of relationship where none feel that there is no room for them on this earth.”* For in this Child *“God makes us agents of His hospitality.”* **As I get older, do I find myself getting stuck in a certain way of thinking? Have I stopped looking for new forms of relating with others? Have I gotten in a rut with my relationship with my spouse, with my children, with my siblings, or with my friends and co-workers? Am I responsible for making people feel unwanted where there is no room in the Inn of my heart? Which people would God invite me, through the Divine Child, to be His agent of hospitality?**

This very human-divine Child who is born unto us has come “to make us grow up!” This Child who is born like every one of us, vulnerable and fragile, needing to be held and cooed by his mother and us, is nevertheless a child who will grow up and help us grow up with him by leading us into the reign of God. Jesus is the child in whom peace has come for all humankind without exception. This peace He brings is not made through his clinging to childhood as such, but through his growing into that fully divinized human glory of which his Childhood was only the promise of what he wanted to bring about. It is through dark passages of suffering and death that the Christ-Child shall lead us, stripping us of every hindrance we have gathered through the years, until we are set free to join Him into the mature wholeness of our humanity transformed through His passion, death and Resurrection. **Do I want to grow up? Am I ready to grow up, as Mary was ready when she said yes unequivocally? Like Mary, am I ready to welcome that Peace which comes at a price, and which I am called to ponder not with fear, but with trust, by embracing the mystery of the Incarnation of our God, even though I may not fully understand its implications? Do I see the connection between Christmas and the cross, as Mary must have intimated, at least? Am I ready to embrace Christ’s whole humanity in order to embrace His divinity? What implications does this have, in the way I embrace my own humanity and the humanity of others? FOR UNTO US GOD HAS SHOWN HIS FACE!**



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Catechists/Aides Needed

We are truly blessed to have the "problem" of having an abundance of students in our Sunday evening classes. However in order to provide the best learning environment we would like to divide some of our larger classes. We are in need of a few catechists and aides who might be available on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:00pm at St. Philip. If you are able to help or have questions, please contact Darleen at dfarland@stmarysgraffton.org or Carole at cleb1329@aol.com. Thank you prayerfully considering how you can make a difference in the life of a young person through catechetical ministry.

Carrying in Baby Jesus at Christmas Masses

Children who may be interested in carrying in Baby Jesus at the Christmas Masses at 4:00, 6:00, and 10:30pm on Monday Dec. 24th and 11:00am on Tuesday, Dec. 25th at St. Mary Parish are asked to contact Mrs. Farland by Monday, December 17th.

"Spread Warmth" The Grafton Cluster Parishes comprised of St. James, St. Mary and St. Philp Veteran's Ministry will be collecting gently worn winter coats, all sizes needed, Men, Women's and Children. Collection boxes will be left in the vestibule of all three parishes until January 4, 2019.

December 2018

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem stands as an ancient witness to the birth of Jesus Christ. Originally constructed in 327 A.D. over a cave venerated as the birthplace of Jesus, most of the original church was destroyed in a sixth century Samaritan revolt. Rebuilt in 565, the second church still stands today.

Through the centuries, the Church of the Nativity has been battered by time and weather. It has suffered fires, earthquakes, desecrations and even gun battles. The interior, too, suffers neglect as squabbles among Armenian, Greek and Catholic caretakers have delayed needed renovations to the roof, walls and paintings.

For some on the outside, the Church of the Nativity, battered, fortress-like and unattractive to the eye, is disappointing. Even to some on the inside, the neglect is disheartening.

But then, descending a staircase to the cave below, one sees on the floor a silver star and the words, "Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary." Those words and that realization give one profound pause. Here, on this very spot, salvation came, hope was born, Here, Mary laid God's Son in a manger. To this very place, angels directed shepherds who hastened and worshiped. In this very place, like Mary and Joseph, pilgrims for centuries knelt in awe and wonder. From this spot, they have returned home, closer to God, renewed in faith, convinced anew of the great love of God who created us and draws us on. Realizing all that, pilgrims are glad that they did not let the visible defects deter them from entering the Church and staying in it to reach the sacred spot.

In some ways, the Church of the Nativity might be a metaphor for today's Church. Scandals, desecration, and the neglect of some priests and bishops in past years have caused tremendous suffering and sullied the image of the Church. Looking around from outside, some don't want to enter. Being discouraged on the inside, others have left. This, too, is tragic because it is only in the heart of the Church in the liturgy, sacraments, communion of the saints, the Scriptures and Tradition authentically handed on that one can regularly encounter the ordinary means of God's saving graces. Our world, our society and culture need those graces. We must continue to remain vigilant in order to protect our children but we must also never forget the treasures that have been entrusted to the Church and offered to us in the sacraments. The same Jesus, born at Bethlehem, and laid in the manger by Mary comes to us to nourish our souls, to bring us His love, healing and peace. Like Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi, may that encounter give you and your loved ones joy and peace on Christmas and each week at Mass.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester*



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.



A SVDP family is in need of a kitchen table and 4-6 chairs. If you have a table you would like to donate, please call the church line at 508-839-3993 ext 35. Please leave your name and number and a SVDP member will return your call. Thank you for all you do to support SVDP. God Bless.



Christmas Office Hours

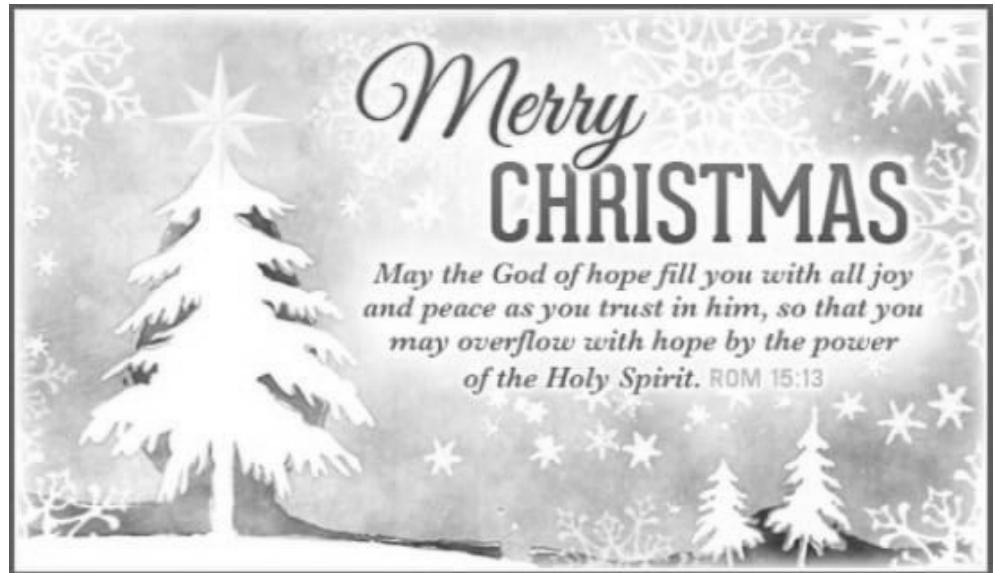


St. Mary Parish Office Hours:

- Dec. 24-25 Closed
- Dec. 26 9:00am – 12:00 noon
- Dec. 27 9:00am – 12:00 noon
- Dec. 30 – 8:30am – 12:30pm
- Dec. 31 – 9:00am – 12:00 noon

St. Philip Parish Office Hours

- Dec 24-25 Closed
- Dec 26- 10:00 am –12:00 noon
- Dec 27-Dec 31 Closed



Merry Christmas

to all and a Blessed New Year from the staff of St Philip and St Mary Parishes



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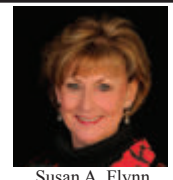
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