

# 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](http://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](mailto:stphilipsgrafton@gmail.com)  
**Mass Schedule**  
**St. Philip Sunday 9:00 AM**

\* Deacon: Rev. Mr. Frederick Coggins x29 [fcoggins@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:fcoggins@stmarysgrafton.org)  
\* Business Manager: Lisa Stewart x11 [lstewart@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:lstewart@stmarysgrafton.org)  
\* Parish Secretary St. Mary: Jill Sullivan x10 [jsullivan@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:jsullivan@stmarysgrafton.org)  
\* Parish Secretary St. Philip: Carole LeBlanc—[cleb1329@aol.com](mailto:cleb1329@aol.com)  
\* Director of Religious Ed St Mary/ St. Philip— Darleen Farland x 12 [dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org)  
\* Administrator of Religious Ed St. Mary/St. Philip— Carole LeBlanc  
\* Organist/Dir. Music: Pamela Cross x37 [p.cross@shoplegacy.com](mailto:p.cross@shoplegacy.com) St. Mary  
\* Organist/Dir. Music : Brittany Dyer St Philip  
\* Safe Environment Coordinator St. Mary : Jill Sullivan x10  
\* Safe Environment Coordinator St. Philip: Carole LeBlanc [cleb1329@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:youthgroup@stmarysgrafton.org)

**BULLETIN NOTICES:** To Carole by 6:00 PM Mondays. Email [cleb1329@aol.com](mailto: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**

**Feb 24**– Sr. Yvonne requested by Carole  
March 3rd– Mary O'Hara requested by Bereavement Ministry

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

*Rosary cited Sunday mornings after Mass @ St Philip*  
**Feb 23-24**– 2nd collection– IHN  
**Feb 24&25**– RE classes as scheduled  
Feb 28–Adult Education Class—The Mass will conclude with Fr. Leo celebrating Mass for us. Please gather in church space.

**March 2**– IHN "An Evening of Hope" fundraiser

**Sunday Collections St Philip**

2-17-2019 \$1905.50

Thank you for your continued support

**IHN COVERAGE WEEK COLLECTION**

The 2nd collection this weekend is to benefit IHN, please be as generous as you can. Thank you

**Welcome, Brittany Dyer to St. Philip's**

A warm welcome to Brittany Dyer, our new Music coordinator for St. Philip's. We hope you will enjoy being here with us. Once settled in, Brittany looks forward to working with the cantors we have had here at St. Philip's. She already works with students chorus groups in Rhode Island. She hopes with time to develop a choir of students as well. Let us keep Brittany in our prayers. And again welcome.

**Sr. Yvonne Millman, SSA**

JANUARY 4, 1945 ~ FEBRUARY 16, 2019

As we mourn the passing of our beloved friend, let us also rejoice that she has gone home to the Lord. A beautiful soul is never forgotten.

Forever in our hearts,  
rest in peace Sr Yvonne.



**St. Mary**



*Mass Intentions*

**St. Mary Parish**

**Saturday:** 4:00pm – 14th Anniversary Mary Stuba by Family and 6th Anniversary Margaret Dube by Family

**Sunday:** 7:30am – Sr. Yvonne Millman  
10:30am – 6th Anniversary Louis D'Angelo by Family

**Monday:** 7:45am – Morning Prayer  
8:00am – Morning Mass

**Tuesday:** 7:45am – Morning Prayer  
8:00am – Morning Mass

**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 – Deceased Members of St. Mary  
10:30am – Sr. Yvonne Millman

**Sunday Collections St Mary**

2-11-2019 \$4536.00

Thank you for your continued support

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back." (Luke 6:35) Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Mercy and compassion will put us on the path to holiness.





### THE GAME OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE: ARE YOU IN?

In today's Gospel Jesus has opted to play the game of unconditional love. But He needs a good team. He challenges the disciples, including you and me as He's never has before. In last week's Gospel on the beatitudes, he presents the blueprint, His masterpiece plan for happiness. In contrast He spells out what the world offers for happiness which He declares as "woes", or the recipe for disaster. This week, however, the Lord let's all of us know what it means to win the game of unconditional love. He wants committed players who want to win. The enemy wants to win by playing the game of reprisals ("getting even").

In so many words, Jesus is saying: "You think Rugby or football, or hockey or boxing is a rough sport, you haven't played the game of unconditional Love. It will require every ounce of effort from you. The shocking advice of today's Gospel, contrary to many critics, is not social naivete, but theological courage of the highest order. Jesus is an excellent strategist. He has seen quite clearly into the never ending nature of violence but also sees quite well the never ending nature of God. That's the equipment He is giving us, God's very own Spirit and God's very own Word, Jesus Himself.

Through baptism, we become not children of the world, but children of God. With this we acquire Divine Life and are therefore empowered to embrace the Father and His unwavering Love, which is also an infinitely merciful reality. We have to realize that if God cannot be anything but love, then neither can we be anything but love. It is our inner relationship to the loving God that determines our response to whatever is happening. Circumstances no longer control us because the inner freedom of God's unconditional love for us in which as team members we now participate in as well is now ours as well.

The rules are simple yet tough: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, and continue to do this to them no matter what they do to you. And although everyone does not give you kind and generous treatment, everyone receives kind and generous treatment from you. (Capiche? Do you get it?) If you do good to those who hate you, you may be labeled as "co-dependent", or even worse, "masochistic". Be ready.

The skills we must acquire are faith, combative hope and Divine charity. Training involves a serious commitment to daily prayer and the sacraments, especially frequent reception of Holy Communion. Only the Eucharist will give us the excellent nutrition that our heart really needs. Our faith must convince us that what we do with our hearts affects the whole universe.

Jesus is our Coach and He calls the plays. One serious injunction He also gives us is: Do not judge and you will not be judged. Chronic judgment is toxic. It will boomerang back at us and swallow us with its negative fury. Rather we must counter judgment with generous forgiveness which in turn benefits the one who forgives. We can only do this because of God's generous forgiveness of us in Jesus Christ's total self-gift on the cross and who on the cross forgives those who considered themselves His enemies. Are you on the team?



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Classes resume this weekend at both parish**

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## **A Retreat For Adults— Walking with Jesus**

Saturday March 2nd at St Roch Church Hall, 334 Main St Oxford 8:30am to 4:00 pm

Cost \$15.00 includes coffee, lunch and materials.

register by Feb 16. Please see Carole for registration form if interested.

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## **Women of Faith: Morning of Prayer**

Join us for “Moving out of Slumbering Winter into the ‘Greening Power’ of God’s Love with St. Hildegard of Bingen” presented by Laura Fonte on Saturday, March 9 from 9:30 am – 1 pm. It will be held at St. Anne Convent, 720 Boston Post Road East, Marlborough. St. Hildegard of Bingen, a visionary Doctor of the Church, believed everything and everyone hold a spark of God’s love within. Laura has been a Religious Education teacher for over 40 years in the Archdiocese of Boston.

We will begin with “coffee and” followed by a brief presentation, prayer, personal reflection, and discussion. A registration fee of \$10 is paid at the door. Pre-registration is required by March 1 - at WomenOfFaithSSA.org, or e-

mail info@womenoffaithssa.org, or phone Ann Williams at 508-481-8176 or Sr. Yvette Bellerose, SSA at 774-239-3372.

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## **ARE YOU READY TO ENCOUNTER JESUS?**



Pope Francis, shortly after he became pope, put out this invitation to all Christians: "I invite all Christians at this moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ." This is the purpose of our Lent Small Faith Sharing Group Session on the Gospel of John, entitled The Turning Point by Dr. Allen Hunt.

Small group sign-ups will begin on Saturday, Feb. 23rd in the Gathering Spaces and on the website. Join any of our groups that meet for your convenience on various days and times for this 5-week Lent session. Please contact [smallgroups@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:smallgroups@stmarysgrafton.org) with any questions. If you haven't tried a Small Group, this might

be the perfect time to embrace a different experience aimed at 'a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ'.

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## **Steubenville-East July 12-15, 2019**

Join us for the 2019 Steubenville East Youth Conference. The conference will be held on July 12-14, 2019 at the Tsongas Arena at the University of Massachusetts campus in Lowell. The theme for the conference is “Belong”. The cost to attend with the diocesan group is \$275 which includes: Cost of registration and meals ,2 t-shirts. Bus transportation to and from the conference See the video about this year’s event at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eys4jDPD-bA> If you are interested in joining a Grafton group, please email Darleen Farland

at [dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org) ASAP!

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*Sunday April 28, 2019 will be a special day for St. Mary and St. Philip Parishes . We will celebrate with Father Leo the Fortieth Anniversary of his Ordination to the priesthood. Father Leo was ordained on April 21, 1979.*

*There will be more news to follow in the bulletin and announcements from the Altar. Please save the date and plan to celebrate this parish family occasion.*





As always, we thank you for your ongoing generosity. As we help our families through the winter months, we very much in need of **paper products (tissues, paper towels, toilet paper). We can also always use: coffee, tea & hot chocolate, rice and rice mixes, kids snacks, crackers & cookies, jelly, mayonnaise, pancake mix and syrup.** We thank you for your on going support!. If you know of anyone struggling to provide for themselves or their family or are in a temporary financial challenge, please contact the St Vincent de Paul of St Mary/St Philip at our church line: 508 839-3993 ext 35. All information is kept strictly confidential.

**We are very much in need of Size 6 diapers for one of our families. If you are willing to donate any, please leave them in the gathering space at either church.**

**Celebrate St Patrick's Day At St Roch Church**

On Sunday, March 17 at 2 pm, join us at St. Roch Parish for a humorous celebration of St. Patrick's Day with Dave Kane & his "Jokes My Irish Father Told Me." Located at 334 Main St, Oxford, doors open at 1:30 pm. Tickets \$15in advance \$18 at the door. Contact Terry Renaud for tickets at 508-987-2382.

**Veteran's Sock Drive for Local Veterans – February 1st – 28th**

We are collecting new socks for men and women, all colors, sizes and styles (no ankle socks please. This sock collection will be on-going from February 1st through February 28th. Collection boxes are located at all 3 parishes; St. Mary, St. Philip, and St. James. Please help us to fill them all so we can be sure everyone has warm feet in this cold weather.

**19th Annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference at Assumption College**

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Assumption College on Saturday, April 6. Visit the conference website at [www.firstmensconf.org](http://www.firstmensconf.org) for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Kevin Dunn, Francesco Cesareo, Trent Horn, Father Warren Savage, Mike Aquilina and Eric Mahl. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Sara Smillie at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 25, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

**An awesomely powerful Lenten activity, 40 Days for Life....the beginning of the End of Abortion**

March 6th (Ash Wed.) thru April 14th (Palm Sun.) Straight for the Bible:40 days Noah endured the flood,40 days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai,40 days Jesus fasted in the desert

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion.

Choose your location

- 1) GOOD, 2 out of 3: right in the comfort of your own home, Prayer & Fasting.
- 2) BETTER, 2 out of 3: church, weekly adoration, any-time before the blessed sacrament, Rosary after 9:00am Sunday Mass
- 3) BEST, 3 out of 3: vigil any time from 7:00am till 7:00pm in Worcester beside Problem Pregnancy @ 495 Pleasant Street (and across the road from Planned Parenthood). You can register @ <http://www.40DaysForLife.com> and follow prompts for Worcester location

..... Your presence makes a huge statement for LIFE, in this current culture of death.

**Interfaith Prayer – Outreach for Hope and Recovery**

On Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. there will be an interfaith prayer service hosted by the Congregation Beth Israel, 15 Jamesbury Drive, Worcester. This service is an important component of the Community Outreach to Hope and Recovery Program at Blessed Sacrament Church in Worcester. Following a brief prayer service, an exhibit area will be open so we can visit with representatives from support and recovery agencies in the Worcester area. All are welcome to come pray and to speak with experts in this field. Exhibitors will include the Office of the Worcester District Attorney, the Worcester Program for Addiction and Recovery, Pathways for Change, the Worcester Public Library, the National Library of Medicine (New England Region), and more. Dr. Mattie Castiel, Commissioner of Health and Human Services for Worcester, will also be available for discussion, questions and answers. This event will provide informal opportunities to ask questions about local services available in support of loved ones suffering from addiction. All are welcome. Please join us.

**Adult Retreat Walking with Jesus**

St. Roch's Parish Oxford—8:30am-4:00pm , Saturday, Mar. 2nd  
Please contact Darleen if interested in attending

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