

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.stmarysgraffton.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 - stphilipsgraffton@gmail.com
Mass Schedule
St. Philip Sunday 9:00 AM

* Deacon: Rev. Mr. Frederick Coggins x29 fcoggins@stmarysgraffton.org
* Business Manager: Lisa Stewart x11 lstewart@stmarysgraffton.org
* Parish Secretary St. Mary: Jill Sullivan x10 jsullivan@stmarysgraffton.org
* Parish Secretary St. Philip: Carole LeBlanc—cleb1329@aol.com
* Director of Religious Ed St Mary/ St. Philip— Darleen Farland x 12 dfarland@stmarysgraffton.org
* Administrator of Religious Ed St. Mary/St. Philip— Carole LeBlanc
* Organist/Dir. Music: Pamela Cross x37 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
* 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@stmarysgraffton.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

Mar 10– Tim Winslow requested by family
Mar 17– Helen Stone requested by parish
Mar24– Helen LaPan requested by parish
April 7– 3rd anniversary Robert Cournoyer & 1st anniversary Ashley Cournoyer requested by family

Calendar of Events for St. Philip and St. Mary
Rosary cited Sunday mornings after Mass @ St Philip
March 9, 10, 11– Religious Education Registration
March 13– Eucharist Parent meeting @ St Mary 7pm
March 16– Prayer Shawl Ministry 10am St Mary
March 17– Memorial Mass for Sr. Yvonne 2pm
March 22– Fish Dinner Fundraiser @ St Mary 6pm
March 27– Lenten Penance Service St Marks Sutton 7pm
April 28– Fr Leo 40th Anniversary of his Ordination

Sunday Collections St Philip

3-3-2019 \$1653.00

Thank you for your continued support

A Parish Family Celebration

The parish family of Saint Mary and Saint Philip will be celebrating with Father Leo on Sunday, April 28, 2019 the Fortieth Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. The day will begin with the celebration of Mass at three o'clock in the afternoon at Saint Mary with a reception to follow at Saint James Parish Hall in South Grafton. Invitations are available in baskets decorated with purple bows (Father Likes purple).

Please return the response in the collection basket or to Saint Mary Parish Office. We look forward to this day with joy and thanksgiving for Father Leo and his Ministry.

Visiting Eucharistic Ministry

With Lent starting on Wednesday March 6th we want to make you aware that if you or someone you know is unable to attend Mass due to age, illness, mobility issues or post hospital recovery, the Visiting Eucharistic Ministry is available to visit and bring the Eucharist to you at home. Please call the church office 508-839-3993, or 508-839-1330 to request a visit.

The GCYG invites you to help prepare a meal for IHN on Monday, March 11th at 3pm at St. Mary's Kitchen. It's a half day of school, so we hope you can come! GCYG leaders will bring the meal to the homeless shelter in Worcester that evening. Who says you can have too many cooks in the kitchen!?:)

Haiti Twinning Website

Our Haiti website tab is open!
<https://stmarysgraffton.org/haiti-twinning>
 Please check it out for more info, a message from Ft. Serge, and photos! We invite all parishioners, children and adults, to make an Easter card to send to our Haiti parish. Cards can be put in the "Haiti bins" in the gathering space at both parishes. Thank you!

St. Mary



Mass Intentions

St. Mary Parish

Saturday: 4:00pm – 1st Anniversary Shawn Contois by Friend
Sunday: 7:30am – Memorial Rosemary Smith by Family
 10:30am – Memorial Margaret Brosnan by Family
Monday: 7:45am – Morning Prayer
 8:00am – Morning Mass
 7:00pm – Parish Mission at St. Mary
Tuesday: 7:45am – Morning Prayer
 8:00am – Morning Mass
 7:00pm – Parish Mission at St. Philip
Wednesday: 7:45am - Morning Prayer
 8:00am – Morning Mass
 7:00pm Parish Mission at St. James
Thursday: 7:45am Morning Prayer
 8:00am – Morning Mass –
Friday - 7:00pm - Stations of the Cross
Next Saturday:4:00pm – Deceased Members of St. Mary
Next Sunday: 7:30am – Memorial Dennis Flynn by Family
 10:30am – Memorial Joseph Carmichael by Family
 2:00pm – Month's Mind Mass Sr. Yvonne Millman by Parish

Sunday Collections St Mary

3-3-2019 \$4,513.50

Thank you for your continued support



Meeting for the St. Mary's Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held on Saturday March 16th 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.

MITE BOX LENTEN OFFERING FOR THEPOOR:

Please consider taking a Mite Box to collect money throughout the Lenten season. SVDP will use any funds donated to help Grafton families who are in need. At St. Mary, Mite Boxes are available at each entrance in the Gathering Space. At St. Philip the boxes are available on the table at the back wall as you enter the church. Beginning on Palm Sunday and throughout Holy Week, you may return your offering. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.



INVITATION BY THE LORD AND OUR LADY

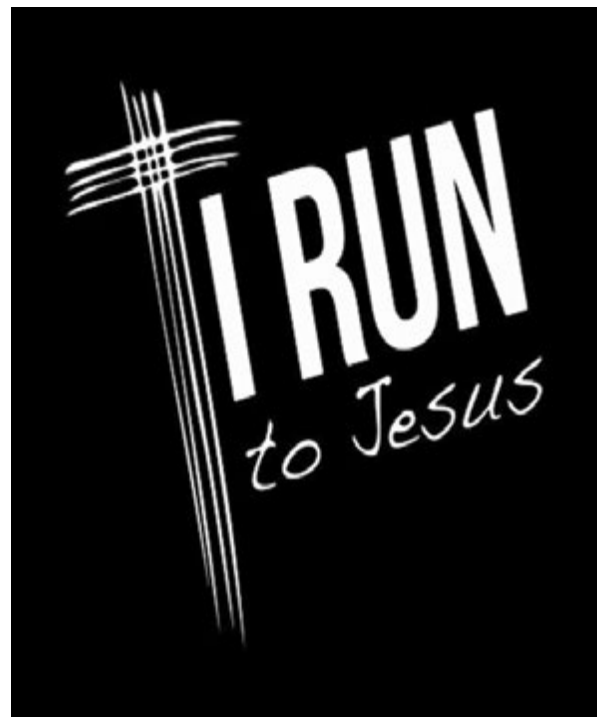
You and I have been personally invited by the Lord and Our Blessed Mother to two powerful ways to be nourished and healed during Lent, 2019: A Mission for our parishes in the Graftons given by Nicki Verploegen on Our Lady Undoer of Knots and deepening our faith with a personal encounter with the Lord through the Gospel of John as presented in a DVD series entitled Turning Point by Dr. Allen Hunt. Will you accept one or both powerful graces this Lent? I ask each of you personally to please pray on these two wonderful opportunities not only for yourself but for your family and for those you care about that you believe might greatly benefit from them.

Our lives are often filled with stress, complications and misunderstandings which leave us feeling knotted inside and also put a strain on the relationships which are important to us. These knots leave us frazzled, upset and sometimes get into a negative streak with the people we care about. If we didn't love them, none of it would bother us. But we are stuck in a rut, often unable to untie or loosen the knots that have been created between us.

Mary, Our Mother, whose whole life centered on her son, Jesus, and her husband, Joseph, very much understands family life and the many things of this world that add stress and strain to the fabric of family life. That is why she is a powerful intercessor whom we can invoke to help us loosen the knots that negatively impact us as individuals, as families, and as communities who struggle to keep God at the center of their lives. These may be knots of financial burdens, strained or broken relationships, health issues, addictions of various kinds, the cultural pressures of our society, the peer pressures that our children face each day, and the lack of communication and coping skills necessary to loosen and/or untie the knots that have formed over time. St. Paul says, "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (1 Cor. 6:2) Come to the water of God's grace and let His words refresh you!

The DVD series will be viewed and discussed in small faith sharing groups where you can listen and/or share as you want with others who are also searching for a deeper faith and a personal encounter with Jesus. It's one thing to know about Jesus but it's a whole different matter to come to know Him personally. Jesus, without forcing anyone, is waiting to share Himself and indeed His very Life and Love with you. "Do not let your hearts be troubled," he says to you. "You have faith in God. Have faith also in me." (John 14:1)

Blessed Clelia Merloni tells us, "Don't delay being converted to the Lord... We imagine that later our conversion will be easier (because now we are so busy with our lives). On the contrary, our procrastination makes it even harder by weakening grace, and hardening of our hearts... Throw yourself into the loving arms of Jesus and with Him you'll be able to take giant steps along the way of true happiness." **NOW IS THE TIME TO LET YOURSELF BE LOVED. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR ?**



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Steubenville-East July 12-15, 2019

REGISTRATION OPENS ON JANUARY 15, 2019. Although July may seem a long time away, spaces for the conference tend to go quickly, so please reserve your spaces as soon as possible! See the Worcester Diocesan Announcement here. If you are interested in joining a Grafton group, please email Darleen Farland at dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org ASAP!

This year's theme is "BELONG" and has an inspiring YouTube video. More details are on their website!

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES for next year will be held the weekend of March 9th and 10th and 11th .

At St. Mary: Registration will be held after all weekend Masses and forms will be available in the Gathering Space during class time on Sunday from 9:15-10:15am and Monday from 4:30-5:30pm. **At St. Philip** forms will be available all day on Sunday March 11th.

First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Due to the weather cancellation of our First Eucharist Parent meeting in January, we will be adding information from that meeting to our upcoming Cluster Parent Meeting on **Wednesday March 13th at 7pm** in St. Mary parish hall. Mr. Kevin Dowd will be our speaker for this evening. After his presentation St. Mary & St. Philip parents will be asked to remain for additional information pertaining to those parishes. Please contact Darleen at dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org with any questions.



Grafton Catholic Youth Group will be hosting a **Fish Dinner fundraiser** on Friday, March 22, 2019 at 6 pm in St. Mary's Hall. Once again, Bushel and Peck will be providing delicious food for the meal. The cost is \$20 for baked fish and rice pilaf and \$12 for macaroni and cheese. Ticket price includes bread, salad, vegetable, beverage and dessert. Proceeds will benefit the Grafton Catholic Youth Group. Tickets will be sold after Masses the weekends of March 9th and March 16th. If you have questions, contact Tim Rodrique 774-545-6689 or TRodrique@aol.com. Tickets, plus a small handling fee, can also be purchased online at: <https://stmarysgrafton.org/youth-group> through March 17th.

Lenten Fish Dinners in Leominster

Sponsored by the ladies of the St. Ana Society, Lenten Fish dinners will be served on Fridays from March 8 through April 12 from 4 – 7 pm or until sold out!. Adults \$11; Child's half portion for \$6. Includes Baked haddock cole slaw potato, vegetable, Ma & Cheese or Pastsa with Marinara, Desset and beverage. (Alt: meal without Fish for \$5; chowder for \$4.) St. Anna Church hall is located at 199 Lancaster St., Leominster. All are welcome!

Lenten Fish Dinners in Dudley

St. Andrew Bobola Lenten Fish Dinners: St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main St., Dudley, MA will serve Lenten Fish Dinners starting on Ash Wednesday, March 6 and every Friday during Lent through April 12. Baked or Fried fish is available, served with potato or French fries, cole slaw, and a roll. Meals are available for lunch/dinner from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. You can eat in or take out. Dinner includes a beverage. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for a child's portion. So join us for a great meal, and let us do the cooking for you! For more info, please visit the rectory of St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 W. Main St. Dudley or call 508-943-5633.

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?
WE ARE LOOKING FOR ANY
YOUTH INTERESTED IN SINGING
AT ST. PHILIP. NO EXPERIENCE IS
NECESSARY. PLEASE EMAIL
BRITTANY DYER IF INTERESTED. A
SCHEDULE WILL BE CREATED
ONCE WE HAVE ENOUGH
INTEREST.

BRITTANY DYER
BLDYER85@GMAIL.COM

ARE YOU READY TO ENCOUNTER JESUS?

Small group sign-ups are 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 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'.



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.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Lent comes late this year. Late though it may be, most of us are not immediately eager for the austerities of Lent. Though perhaps not ready for it, we all nonetheless need Lent. We need Lent because we are sinners called to repentance. We need it because we are Christ's disciples called to holiness and we need Lent because the demands, distractions and allures of modern life can imperceptibly skew our priorities and dampen the spiritual joys that rightly belong to those whose faith is fervent.



For forty days Lent calls us to re-prioritize our lives that they may be centered on Jesus Christ and His Gospel. We do this through deepened prayer, more frequent penances and more generous almsgiving. We undertake these practices not to revert to old ways six weeks later. We undertake them that, through conversion of life, we may know Christ better and share more deeply in the joy of His Easter triumph throughout the whole of our lives.

The Lenten season is austere in its observances, reserved in its liturgies and sacrificial in its call for generosity. But because its practices draw us closer to Christ, Lent is also renewing, inspiring and exciting. So often we let things come between us and the radical call to take up the Cross and follow Christ with a selfless love of God and neighbor. Lent gives us the incentive, framework and communal support to acknowledge the primacy of God in our lives and to seek our consolations by putting God first. When we do that, we realize that the security, happiness and peace for which we daily strive come not from the acquisition of things, the esteem of others or the experience of pleasures. Rather, they are found in drawing close to God, experiencing His love and being confident in His promises. That continuing discovery can make our lives simpler, happier and more meaningful. What we "give up" is more than compensated by what we gain.

We all have so much to gain this Lent. I urge you to reflect on Christ's love and mercy. Examine your life, confess your sins and draw close to God through your prayer and acts of penance, regular celebration of the sacraments and sacrifice for those in need.

Lent may start late this year but it is also just in time. May we embrace its opportunities that we may reap its rewards --- Christian joy, not only at Easter, but throughout our lives on earth and forever in Heaven.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus

Do You Have a Special Crafting Talent To Share with the Christmas Fair This Year?

Do you have a special craft talent? Do you make cards, stationery, jewelry, holiday decorations (not just for Christmas!), wall art or knitted goods, Do you love to sew? ,Do you carve or create art from wood? ,Are you working on Cricut projects? Are you a student who can help us expand our horizons? Do you have some ideas of what you would like to buy from our crafts table? And, most importantly, would you consider donating a few samples of your creativity and/or your time to the St. Philip Christmas Fair this year?

If the answer is yes, we would love to have you join the team and showcase your work. We are looking to expand our table this year and are looking for all kinds of crafters to donate their work or help us with planned craft items. The 2019 Christmas Fair Crafts Table team — headed by Peg Atchue — would love to hear from you. Please call or e-mail Peg Atchue at 774-271-1189 or mjatchue@gmail.com for details. We are offering assistance with the purchase of materials. Thank you for your continued support of this major fundraiser for St. Philip Church and keep your eye on future bulletins for more details about this wonderful event.

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