

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

\* Deacon: Rev. Mr. Frederick Coggins x29 [fcoggins@stmarysgraffton.org](mailto:fcoggins@stmarysgraffton.org)  
\* Business Manager: Lisa Stewart x11 [lstewart@stmarysgraffton.org](mailto:lstewart@stmarysgraffton.org)  
\* Parish Secretary St. Mary: Jill Sullivan x10 [jsullivan@stmarysgraffton.org](mailto:jsullivan@stmarysgraffton.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@stmarysgraffton.org](mailto:dfarland@stmarysgraffton.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@stmarysgraffton.org](mailto:youthgroup@stmarysgraffton.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**

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

*Rosary cited Sunday mornings after Mass @ St Philip*  
**March 17**– Memorial Mass for Sr. Yvonne 2pm St Mary  
**March 17**– 3rd grade level Mass 10:30 St Marys  
**March 17**– Steubenville East Parent-Student Informational Meeting 5:30-6:00  
**March 22**– Fish Dinner Fundraiser @ St Mary 6pm  
**March 25** -Parish council meeting at 6:30 - all are welcome to attend  
**March 27**– Lenten Penance Service St Marks Sutton 7pm  
**April 28**– Fr Leo 40th Anniversary of his Ordination  
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**Sunday Collections St Philip**

3– 17-2019 \$3323.00

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 by April 1st. We look forward to this day with joy and thanksgiving for Father Leo and his Ministry.  
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**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.  
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**A Warm Welcome to our Newly Baptized**

*It is with great joy that the faith community of St. Mary welcome's Colette Michele Godlewski who was baptized on Sunday, March 10, during the 10:30am Liturgy*



**St. Mary**



*Mass Intentions*

**St. Mary Parish**

**Saturday:** 4:00pm – Deceased Members of St. Mary  
**Sunday:** 7:30am – Memorial Dennis Flynn by Family  
 10:30am – Memorial Joseph Carmichael by Family, Months Mind Sr. Yvonne Millman  
 2:00pm – Special Months Mind Mass for Sr. Yvonne Millman with Reception to Follow  
**Monday:** 7:45am – Morning Prayer  
 8:00am – Morning Mass  
**Tuesday:** *NO 8:00am Morning Mass during Lent*  
 7:00pm – Mass / Adoration / Penance  
**Wednesday:** 7:45am - Morning Prayer  
 8:00am – Morning Mass –  
**Thursday:** 7:45am Morning Prayer  
 8:00am – Morning Mass –  
 Friday - 7:00pm - Stations of the Cross  
**Next Saturday:** 4:00pm – Birthday Leopold LaMarche by Family, 22nd Anniversary John Sheridan II by Family, 1ST Anniversary Susan Dussault  
**Next Sunday:** 7:30am – Deceased Members of St. Mary  
 10:30am – 15th Anniversary Miriam Cofsky by Family  
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**Sunday Collections St Mary**

3-17-2019 - \$4,689.60

Thank you for your continued support

**MITE BOX LENTEN OFFERING**

**FOR THE POOR:**

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.  
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**2nd Collection this Weekend**

There will be a second collection at all Masses at both St Philip and St Mary to benefit St. Vincent de Paul  
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**Memorial Mass for Sr. Yvonne**

All are welcomed to come to a Memorial Mass for Sr. Yvonne today at 2pm at St. Mary. A second collection will be taken up for the Sr. of St. Anne. If you can't make the Mass but would like to make a donation to the Sr. of St Anne in memory of Sr. Yvonne, please drop donation into the collection at your convenience.



**RISK A DEEPER LISTENING TO JESUS**

Ah! The art of listening! This is more and more a lost art. I am not talking about superficial listening but rather a deeper and deeper listening. It requires to what, on our own, we cannot hear. It calls us to temporarily suspend our own assumptions to struggle and work with words that, perhaps on first hearing, are strange to us. This is so because we tend to dismiss what cannot accommodate our present worldview. Are you and I willing to listen deeply? This requires our letting go of some mental defenses and the letting in of Jesus' strange words. (It also means that we suspend our belief that we already understand what Jesus is saying in order to excuse ourselves from the need to dwell on what He said.



In today's Gospel, Jesus is at prayer and suddenly Peter, James and John witness Jesus becoming luminous and brilliantly transfigured before them. This highlights that He is the One who is transparent to the Father's Light. And with Moses and Elijah (who represent the summary of the old covenant ) He discusses with them His mission as Messiah who is to save all of humanity.

In witnessing Jesus at prayer, we and the disciples learn that prayer is very much a two way street. It is a process of humanity ascending to the heights of God, symbolized in the mountain, and the divine descending to our humanity, symbolized in Jesus coming down the mountain. Therefore, prayer is a combination of human effort and divine grace. The disciples see Jesus connected to God in the deepest part of Himself.

And the Holy Spirit of God permeates Jesus entirely. It radiates in His face and it moves through His body and garments. (Clothes symbolize the whole outer world and the arena of engagement and action in the world.) We and the disciples see that what begins in the interior of Jesus flows out into the world. Prayer on the mountain is therefore always a preparation for action in the world.

But like Peter and the other disciples, we get it and don't get it. In this Gospel we find ourselves in somewhat of a "twilight zone." It is something that we see and yet sense that there is something yet to come. Peter is so overcome with the experience that he blurts out: Let's pitch three tents, Lord: one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." At these words, a thick cloud envelopes them and a voice is heard: "This is my Son, my chosen; listen to him!" The cloud suggests that the divine Presence envelopes them.

God's words are a strong imperative: "Listen to him!" And with this, Moses and Elijah disappear. These words shatter the cloud and reveal Jesus alone. (Get it, Peter? Get it, everyone?) This revelation brings us and the disciples into not talking which is the first step. Profound silence in one's being is what creates an empty and open mind. The goal is deep listening. But it will take time to appropriate and penetrate what they have seen and heard.

Learning to listen to the events of Jesus' life is an important way for his followers to pray. We meditate on these events until the truth of these events deepen in our hearts, and come to know and understand what we must do. Are we willing to listen more deeply which may require us to suspend our interpretations which often accommodate our worldview, so that the Spirit can bring us to embrace Jesus as He truly is: Son of Man and Son of the Living God?

*Because*  
**He bends down**  
*to listen I will pray*  
*as long as I have breath*  
 -Psalm 116:2 NLT

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Steubenville East Parent-Student Meeting

Join the Youth Group this summer at Steubenville East July 12-14 at the Tsongas Center at UMASS Lowell. Come learn more about this exciting opportunity open to incoming Freshman through outgoing Seniors under the age of 18. This year the theme for Steubie East is "Belong". To provide additional information to parents and students, we will be having a parent-student meeting before regularly scheduled religious education classes at St. Philip on Sunday, March 17th from 5:30-6:00pm. At this meeting we will be taking an initial deposit of \$75.00 (checks payable to St. Mary Parish) to secure a spot for those who definitely know they are interested in attending. However if you are unsure, please just come and get more information about this weekend conference that can bring young people into a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ through testimony, song and prayer.

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## Registration for Religious Education for Academic Year 2019-2020

Registration for Academic Year 2019-2020 is now occurring. If you haven't yet registered your son/daughter, forms can be found on the Faith Formation tab of our parish website.. Please print them out and complete and bring to next scheduled class or drop them off at either St. Mary or St. Philip office. We also are looking for catechists and aides to help with classes for next year. There are sign-up sheets located in the Gathering Space at St. Mary for Grades Kindergarten-5 or you can contact Darleen Farland at [dfarland@stmarysgraffton.org](mailto:dfarland@stmarysgraffton.org). . If you are interested in helping with Grades 6-11, please contact Carole LeBlanc at St. Philip ([cleb1329@aol.com](mailto:cleb1329@aol.com)<<mailto:cleb1329@aol.com>>). Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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## RE Stations of the Cross

On Sunday, March 24 and Monday Mar 25 Lori Dewar will pray the stations of the cross with students in Grades 1-5. Parents are invited to join our religious education classes upstairs in St. Mary church for these sessions.

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**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](mailto:TRodrique@aol.com). Tickets, plus a small handling fee, can also be purchased online

at: <https://stmarysgraffton.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.





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.**

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**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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**Lasagna Night for Veterans Shelter**



The Grafton Veterans Ministry of St. Mary, St. Philip, and St. James, is sponsoring our semi-annual Lasagna Night for the veterans at the shelters in Worcester, and Shrewsbury, and the women veterans shelter and their kids also in Worcester, on April 15, 2019. We are asking for your help with lasagna and brownies. If you volunteer to prepare lasagna, please do not bake it. A pan with cover will be provided. All donations should be dropped off in the kitchen by 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 14, 2019. There is a sign up sheet on the Soup Kitchen table in the gathering space. Your help is very much appreciated. Thank you!

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*Please check out the sign up sheets in the gathering spaces at both parishes . We are always in need of volunteers to help us feed our friends. Please consider doing this wonderful act of kindness as a true disciple of Jesus . What better time than Lent to pick up a good habit?*



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**Haiti Twinning Website**

Our Haiti website tab is open! <https://stmarysgrafton.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!

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Next weekend, March 24, 2019, is In Pew Commitment Weekend for the 2019 Partners in Charity

Appeal. Once a year, we commit ourselves to this ongoing work by supporting this life giving appeal. We reflect on God's great generosity, and respond with generous giving of our own. With your support, faith in action is visible every day in the compassionate outreach of Catholic Charities, to the least among us; in the prayerful witness of

our retired priests and the joy of new priestly vocations; to the many diocesan ministries and programs that heal, teach and care for others. Watch the Appeal Video at home this week at [www.partners-charity.net](http://www.partners-charity.net). Please come to Mass next weekend prepared to make a commitment to the appeal. Thank you.

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