

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

St. Philip Office - 508-839-3325
Fax - 508-839-1310

Website for both parishes- www.stmarysgrafton.org

Parish Staff

Deacon: Rev. Fredrick Coggins x29 fcoggins@stmarysgrafton.org

Business Manager :Lisa Stewart x11 lstewart@stmarysgrafton.org

Director of Religious Ed St Mary/ St. Philip–
Darleen Farland x12 dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org

Administrator of Religious Ed St. Mary/St. Philip Carole LeBlanc cleb1329@aol.com

Dir. Music/Organist/St. Mary Pamela Cross x37 p.cross@shoplegacy.com

Music Coordinator Organist/ : Brittany Dyer St Philip bldyer85@gmail.com

Parish Secretary /Safe Environment Coordinator St. Mary: Jill Sullivan x10 jsullivan@stmarysgrafton.org

Parish Secretary /Safe Environment Coordinator St. Philip Carole LeBlanc cleb1329@aol.com

Custodian– Ron Dennis



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, 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

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 31- Mary O'Hara requested by parish
April 7- 3rd anniversary Robert Cournoyer & 1st anniversary Ashley Cournoyer requested by family

Calendar of Events St Philip & St Mary Parish

April 6- 1st Eucharist Retreat St Mary 9-12:30
April 28- Fr Leo 40th Anniversary of his Ordination

Sunday Collections St Philip
 3- 24-2019 \$2252.00

Thank you for your continued support

For Fr. Leo

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. .



The planning and preparation for our celebration continues. On Saturday, April 27th from noon until 3pm we will be organizing at St. James Parish Hall for the reception. On Sunday, April 28th we will need volunteers to help clean up after the event. Sign-up sheets are available (mounted on purple paper). If you are able to work with us, please leave your name and number. Thank you in advance for your time. We look forward to this day with joy and thanksgiving for Father Leo and his Ministry.

Fr. Leo's 40th Anniversary Celebration

On April 28th the parish will have the opportunity to help Fr. Leo's celebrate his 40th of his ordination after the 3 o'clock Mass. Light refreshments will be served in the church hall at St. James'. You will have the opportunity to wish him good wishes.

If you would like to take an active part in the preparation by baking there will be sign up sheets in the gathering space for you to select what you would like to do.

Thank you in advance for your help. Donna Verdolino (508-839-5794) and Rosemary Hirst (508-865-5002).



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St. Mary



Mass Intentions

St. Mary Parish

Saturday: 4:00pm – Birthday John Hebert by Family and Mary Ann Smith by Family
Sunday: 7:30am - 28th Anniversary John "Spitz" Stolunonis by Family
 10:30am - Deceased Members of St. Mary
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 – 4th Anniversary Marge Spence by Family, Mary Ann Smith by Family
Next Sunday: 7:30am – Memorial Chester and Madeline Zaleski by Family
 10:30am – Deceased Members of St. Mary

Sunday Collections St Mary
 3-24-2019 - \$4,521.00

Thank you for your continued support

2nd Collection this Weekend

March 30th & 31st 2nd Collection for Haiti Twinning
 April 7 2nd collection for Catholic Relief Services

Thank you to all who donated to the St. of St. Anne in memory of Sr. Yvonne. Your donation of \$826.00 is greatly appreciated.

Fr. Raymond M. Goodwin Jr. Is Celebrating His 50th Anniversary As A Priest

Fr. Ray will be celebrating Mass in honor of his 50th Anniversary of Priesthood. You are invited to join him on this special occasion. Date: Sunday, May 5th, 2019, Mass Time: 2:00pm, Place: St. John, Guardian of our Lady Church, 80 Union Street, Clinton, MA 01510. Reception to Follow: The Elks, 128 School Street, Clinton, MA. (directly across from the church). If you plan to attend the reception, please RSVP to: stjohncantonma@gmail.com or by calling St. John's Rectory at 978-368-0366 by April 16th.

Michael Cahill has recently informed us that he is no longer pursuing ordination as a deacon. We wish him well in his future endeavors. He asks everyone from both parishes to keep him in your prayers. We thank God for his involvement with us. May our prayers accompany him on his journey.



THE LOVING HANDS OF OUR COMPASSIONATE FATHER

If you have ever seen Rembrandt's painting of the Prodigal Son, we realize it should have been called "The Welcome of the Compassionate Father." (This is what Fr. Henri Nouwen would like to call it, and this text is a reflection of his Book *The Return of The Prodigal Son*.) It is significant that Rembrandt portrays an almost blind old man to communicate God's love. Being almost blind He now sees with the inner eye of his heart. His authority is primarily the authority of compassion. That authority comes from letting the sins of his children pierce his heart. His grief is so deep because His heart is so pure. The touch of his hands, radiating inner light, seeks only to heal. His only desire is to bless.



The Father wants to simply let us know that the love which we have searched for in such distorted ways has been, is, and always will be there for us. The true center of Rembrandt's painting is the Father's hands. On them all the light is concentrated; on them the eyes of the bystanders are focused; in them mercy becomes flesh; upon them forgiveness, reconciliation and healing come together, and through them, not only the tired son, but also the worn-out Father find their rest. These are the hands of God.

In Rembrandt's painting, the two hands are quite different. The Father's left hand touching the son's shoulder is strong and muscular. The fingers are spread out and cover a large part of the prodigal son's shoulder and back. The hand seems not only to touch, but, with its strength, also to hold. It is gentle and yet with a firm grip.

How different is the Father's right hand! It does not hold or grasp. It is refined, soft, and very tender. The fingers are close to each other, and have an elegant quality. It lies gently upon the son's shoulder. It wants to caress, to stroke, and to offer consolation and comfort. It is a mother's hand.

The Father is not simply a great patriarch. He is mother as well as father. He holds and she caresses. He confirms and she consoles. These are God's hands. The feminine hand of the Father parallels the bare, wounded foot of the prodigal son, while the strong masculine hand parallels the foot dressed in a sandal. It seems that the one hand protects the vulnerable side of the son, while the other hand reinforces the son's strength and desire to get on with his life.

If only we could let God's heart permeate our own heart. In God's way of thinking, those who have done only a little bit, are as much loved as those who accomplish much. Here lies the great hidden call to conversion: to look not only with the eyes of my own low self-esteem, but with the eyes of God's love. If I look at the world with the eyes of God's love, I discover that His vision is that of an all-giving and forgiving Father who does not measure out His love according to how well we behave, then our response can be nothing but deep gratitude. He so much desires to see all His children in His household.

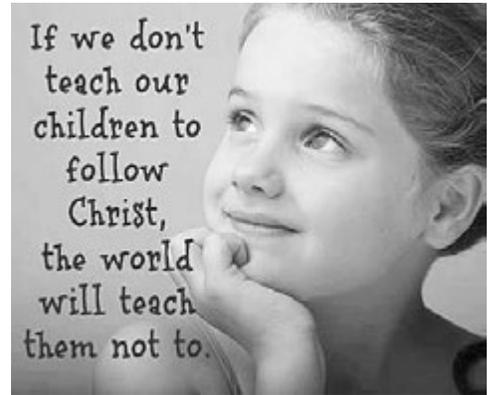
The question is not "How do we find God?" But "Will we let Him find us? Will we let His extravagant Love carry us home with great jubilation and celebration?"



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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@stmarysgrafton.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>>). Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Steubenville East Meeting

Sunday April 7 5:30-6:00pm at St. Philip
Students planning on attending Steubenville East are asked to bring their \$75.00 deposit (checks payable to St. Mary Parish).

The Walking With Jesus Adult Retreat

which was postponed due to weather is now re-scheduled for Saturday, May 18th from 8:30am-4:00pm at St. Roch's Parish Oxford, MA. Darleen Farland invites you to join her for this retreat opportunity to deepen our love of Christ as we journey with Him on the path of discipleship. Are you up for the adventure? Registration forms are available in the church gathering spaces and also by contacting Darleen at dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org.



WHAT: Lent/Easter Family Gathering Event
DATE: Palm Sunday-- April 14, 2019
WHO: All Sunday and Monday Religious Education students and their families.
WHEN: begins at 9:15 A.M.
WHERE: St. Mary Parish Hall
Follow the map and solve the clues as you and your family journey with Jesus through Holy Week. After the 10:30 A.M. Mass, join us for a light luncheon followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and Games. Prizes awarded. For more info or to help, please contact Darleen at dfarland@stmarysgrafton.org

Grade 5 classes will have guest speakers from our Grafton Catholic Youth Group. Parents and Gr. 5 students are invited to learn about upcoming Youth Group events and to consider being involved in this youth ministry endeavor.

Haiti Easter Card Project

There are blue bins for your children to leave Easter cards to send to the families in Haiti. If your child would like to start a pen pal with a child in Haiti, please let us know by emailing katiebhanna@gmail.com. Please specify if you prefer a boy or girl or specific age range. Let's make this a special Lenten season for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Haiti.

Congratulations to Connie Tancrell and Bridget Caya this month's Coffee Social Attendance prize winners. Our next social will be held after Mass on 4/14. The sign-up cards are located on the table in the church entrance. All your assistance is greatly appreciated.



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. **NEEDED: SVDP has a client in desperate need of a used car. If you have a car to donate or to sell at a reasonable cost, please call the church line at 508-839-3993 ext. 35. Leave your name and phone number and someone will get back to you. Thank you.**

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 signup sheet on the Soup Kitchen table in the gathering space. Your help is very much appreciated. Thank you!

Come join the GCYG for an evening of Food, Fun & Faith on Friday, April 5th!

We'll start at 6pm in St. Mary's Parish Hall with pizza & dessert and making Easter cards & crafts for Homebound parishioners. Then we'll head upstairs at 7pm to help lead Stations of the Cross. If you're interested in reading or attending, go to <https://stmarysgrafton.org/youth-group> to sign up!



Thank everyone who attended the fish dinner or made a donation to support the Youth Group activities

Nice Matters....when we do something nice because it matters

We are asking for your help to fill Easter baskets with yummy treats and toys.



Please bring your donation to Carole at St Philip Parish . The office is opened all day Sunday from 8am until 7:30 pm, Monday 9am –1 pm, Tuesday 9am to 4 pm. Donations can be left outside the office. Please help us help our neighbors in need this Easter.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Do we recognize Jesus when we see the poor and vulnerable? When we respond to those in need, we "help Jesus in disguise" as we are reminded by the national Catholic Relief Services Collection on the weekend of April 7. Through your generosity, you can help ease the burdens of our brothers and sisters in some of the most marginalized communities around the globe.



In a remote village in Ghor, one of the poorest provinces in Afghanistan, an estimated 80% of adults are illiterate, and the illiteracy rate is even higher for women. Most villagers are farmers who never attended school. The closest school was too far and the road too dangerous for young children to attend. Through your support of CRS, you helped bring a community-based classroom to this remote village. Your generosity made it possible for the children to attend school and has offered them a more hopeful and secure future.

Thanks to your financial support, you caalleviate suffering and provide assistance to people in need through the international Catholic humanitarian agency, Catholic Relief Services (CRS supply outreach and pastoral care to refugees, migrants, and travelers provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world such as the recent devastation cause by a cyclone in Mozambique and Malawi advocate for poor and vulnerable people and for international justice and peace actively help victims of human trafficking and refugees by providing resettlement services and public policy advocacy

Are you ready to answer the knock of Jesus in disguise? I ask that you prayerfully consider how you can support the Catholic Relief Services Collection this year. If you want to learn more about the collection and the people who are assisted, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus



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