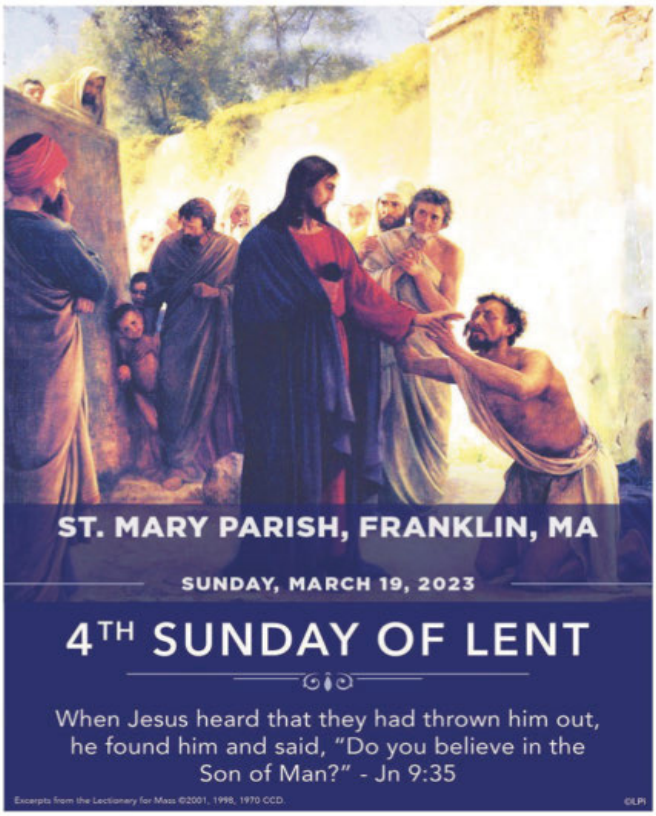
Saint Mary Church
One Church Square, Franklin MA 02038

Phone: 508-528-0020 Website: stmarysfranklin.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
508-918-2291

Religious Education Office
Phone: 508-528-1450

201 Main Street



WELCOME

If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to the priests after Mass. We want to know and serve you. To register, please email your name and address to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org. We will send you a Welcome Package that will help you register.

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Brian F. Manning
bmanning@stmarysfranklin.org

Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Sullivan
jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

Deacons
Deacon Ron Gerwatowski
deaconron@stmarysfranklin.org

Pastoral Associate
Leo Racine
pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org

Staff

Religious Education
Karen Ackles — Director
Grades 1-8 and Confirmation Program
reled.director@stmarysfranklin.org
Liz Bertoni -— Secretary
reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

Rectory Office
Patricia Murphy — Business Manager
businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org

Jennifer Lance — Secretary
secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

Bulletin
parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

Music Director
Terry Kerr terry.kerr@att.net 508-541-3286

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses: **Saturday:** 4:00 **Sunday:** 7:30 , 10:30, and Noon
Daily: Monday-Friday: 7:00am
Confession : Saturday: 8:00am

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: By appointment only. Consult our website: stmarysfranklin.org

Penance: Saturdays 8 to 9 a.m. in Reconciliation Room in Chapel, and by appointment anytime

Marriage: Couples planning to be married at St. Mary should schedule their wedding one year in advance and attend a Marriage Preparation program.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please call the rectory if you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who is unable to attend church due to age or infirmity. We will provide pastoral visits, with administration of the Sacraments.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children (Grades 1-8)
Guided remote and in-person learning

Confirmation Preparation
(Confirmation 1 + Confirmation 2)
Guided independent, remote and in-person learning

Programs run from September—April

Adults
RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
October to Easter

Pastoral Letter

Saint Patrick's Day – Friday, March 17th: Cardinal Sean has granted a Dispensation from the Lenten Fast and Abstinence on Fridays because of this feast being the Patronal Feast of the Archdiocese.

Pastoral Reflection: This weekend in our first scripture reading we read of the story of the journey of Samuel to Bethlehem to the house and family of Jesse. It is in this city that God informs Samuel that he should anoint the future king of Israel. Samuel met all the older sons of Jesse and concluded that they could each be sufficient to the role, but surprisingly none of them were the choice of God. God reminded Samuel that He as God, sees differently, namely that He can see into people's hearts. Finally in the story the youngest son is summoned for Samuel, and this youngest son named David is the choice of God.

Both first reading and also the Gospel of today are about seeing. The man born blind called for the attention of Jesus. The blind man then followed the complicated directions of Jesus so he could be able to see again. As a result the blind man returned being able to see. Sadly the now sighted man had no insight into what had happened. He simply knew he could not see and now he could. He was then taken to the Pharisees for their approval, but they started to cross examine him intensely. They were more concerned about how this had happened, than they were that the man had regained his sight in violation of a Sabbath law. By the end of the Pharisees' questioning, the man was all alone, even his parents had deserted him out of fear. In the end he was thrown out of the temple which is symbolic that he was exiled from the common life and now was to be shunned. All this had happened because he had regained his sight on the Sabbath. Jesus had seen him all this and had asked him what did he really want. The man now had not only sight, but also faith as he says to Jesus "I so believe, Lord."

The readings are clearly about sight and insight. Often we do not have insight because we simple do not really see. And because we do not really see, we do not understand and cannot have insight. This Lent we are asked to see, to look closely at our life and see what is there and what needs to be there. If we look honestly and openly, then we will see and gain the insights we need to have a better life which is based on faith in the Lord Jesus.

Update on 201 Main Street: The letter I wrote last week which I published in Weekly Bulletin, the Weekly Constant Contact to Parishioners and the Parish's Facebook Page, announced that I am planning to retire in early June 2023, three months from now. At this point in time some due diligence, mostly behind the scenes, is taking place for 201 Main Street so that I am going allow all the known due diligence to finish, but suspend going forward with the Project. This will allow the new Pastor to act upon this Project when he has established himself here. The Historic Commission's decision to put a one year delay on demolition of "the barn' will not be problematic. This will possibly allow someone to come forward with a practical solution for the barn. It will all fit within the newer time frame.

Thank you to the many who sent an email or a Facebook comment which expressed appreciation for the many years I have served at Saint Mary Parish.

Fr. Brian

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 18

4:00 pm John and Claire Moran

Sunday, March 19

7:30 am Jeanne M. Delorie Hayes

10:30 am Margaret Roach

12:00 pm Sabino Coscia

Monday, March 20
7:00 am Edith Flaherty
Tuesday, March 21
7:00 am
Wednesday, March 22
7:00 am
Thursday, March 23
7:00 am
Friday, March 24
7:00 am Rachael DiMartino

Stations of the Cross
Downstairs Chapel

March 24 @ 7pm - Knights of Columbus
March 31 @ 7pm - Deacon Ron
April 7 @ 3pm Good Friday - Deacon Ron

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Sunday Collection:	$ 4,869.60
Online Donation:	$ 5,332.62
Drop Off:	$ 4,706.00
	$14,908.22

Altar-Sanctuary Care Ministry:
Volunteers needed for Light Cleaning/ Linen Care

Cleaning: Light cleaning and dusting of Sacristies, Sanctuaries and some in the church. This is for twice a year, with cleaning once during the month that you are scheduled. Timing is about an hour to an hour and a half depending on the time of year. I will be training during the first time scheduled.

Linen Care: This involves the washing and ironing of the linens used by the priest for the celebration of the mass. The linens are the Corporals, finder towels and Purificators. They are picked up once or twice a month as you see fit. This is for two months during the year.

For more information, I can email the instructions for either jobs or to sign up please contact Cathy Pokorny: cathyp@jhpokorny.net or 617-462-0080 Thank You for your consideration.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of March 19, 2023

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/
Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a,8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Hello! Our names are Leslie and Meredith, and we are high school students at Montrose School in Medfield. This weekend, we will be speaking at all masses about the mission trip over April Break. Our school is partnering with Mustard Seed Communities Inc., an organization that serves marginalized communities that include children and adults with disabilities, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and teen mothers.

Through this mission trip we hope to grow closer to God, our classmates and to grow in the habits of service, empathy, and compassion. We are fundraising for the costs of our Dominican trip (supplies, flight, lodging, materials) and overall support for the Mustard Seed Community. There will be collection baskets at the doors of the church.

You can also donate via St. Mary Parish's Online Giving page under **"Teen Missionary Trip Fund"** or the GoFundMe at: https://www.gofundme.com/manage/montrose-dominican-republic-service-trip. There are no minimums or maximums, and all gifts are truly appreciated! Thank you for considering supporting our trip.

St. Mary's Catholic Women's Club Annual Communion Breakfast

All women of the parish are invited to join St. Mary's Catholic Women's Club at their annual Communion Breakfast on March 19, 2023, right after the 10:30 Mass and held at **Restaurant "3".**

The guest speaker will be Dr. Aldona Lingertat, the former Director of the Master of Arts in Ministry Program (MAM) and the Master of Theological Studies Program (MTS) at St. John's Seminary, Boston. Dr. Lingertat will have just returned from the Holy Land and will speak about the Pilgrimage. RSVP to Pat Tomasetti at ptoma2245@gmail.com

The cost of the ticket is $30.00. Please write check to "St. Mary's Catholic Women's Club, " and mail it to Pat Tomasetti, 3 Mackintosh St., Franklin, MA

Food Resources for Franklin Residents

Franklin Food Pantry

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Indoor shopping : 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Appointment Required. Curbside Pickup: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. No appointment needed.

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: Indoor shopping: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Appointment Required.

Friday: Indoor shopping: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Appointment Required .

*No walk-ins. *No curbside distribution

YMCA: "Drive up Groceries." Nonperishable food Wednesday 1pm to 2pm. Expanded time for Senior Citizens 12:30-1:00 pm. Some Delivery available—Need to sign up 508-528-8708.

Meals on Wheels for seniors and homebound. Call 800-286-6640

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Non-perishable food, hygiene items and paper products. Delivery available. Call 508-918-2291 and leave a message.

Women's Faith Formation - March Meeting

The Women's Faith Formation group is pleased to announce that we will be viewing the Symbolon series: "The Catholic Faith Explained" by Dr. Edward Sri. This series from the Augustine Institute consists of ten videos on a variety of topics. We will view one 1/2 hour video each session and allow time for discussion and sharing.

Our meetings will be via Zoom and are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 7 - 8 pm. Please visit our web page (**https://www.stmarysfranklin.org/womens-faith-formation**) for further information and to access the Zoom link. All women are welcome to attend!

Welcoming New Members in 2023

Are you looking for a new way to get involved in your church community in 2023? The St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul is always welcoming new members. If you are interested in helping others, we would certainly love to hear from you.

The St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul is quietly at work in the community. Our mission is to support and assist any person in need living in Franklin. Through the generosity of our parishioners, we provide Neighbors in need with financial help, food, and resources.

If you are interested, please call us at 508-918-2291 and leave a message and someone will be in touch with you. Come join us and get involved! You will find the work to be tremendously rewarding!

SVdP Easter Meal Program 2023

Once again, this year the St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society will be assisting neighbors in need with an Easter meal. Similar to last year the SVdP will be providing a Shaw's gift card to 70 of our neighbors so they may purchase their meal.

Thanks to the generosity of the St. Mary's parishioners, this Easter initiative will be funded by previous donations. The SVdP would like to thank all of the generous donors who enable us to help our neighbors most in need.

SVdP Food Pantry Collection

The St. Vincent de Paul Society cannot thank you enough for your donations to our food pantry. It is a blessing for us to be able to serve our neighbors and for them to experience the support of our parish. At this time we would like to request:

- **Solid white tuna**
- **Apple and Cranberry Juice**
- **Chef Boyardee canned pasta**
- **Grape Jelly**

SVdP members will put together grocery bags for those who call St. Mary's in need of help. Thank you in advance from all who will benefit from your generosity. Donations may be placed in the boxes at the doors of the church anytime during the month.

Parish Volunteers!

New Forms to Be Filled-Out

The Archdiocesan Office of Child Advocacy has directed us to require **ALL** volunteers to complete a **Volunteer Information Form**; references are to be required of all volunteers who have direct contact with children. The Archdiocesan directive now **requires** us to extend the use of the form to **all volunteers, experienced and new**.

The new Volunteer form is available on our parish website, ***www.stmarysfranklin.org*** to complete online or download, print complete and send. Click on "About" and then choose "Volunteer" under the heading "Volunteer at St. Mary." You will find all the information you need on the website.

If you do not have access to a computer, please call Leo Racine at 508-528-0020, ext. 13 and a copy of the Volunteer form will be mailed to you. Copies will be available in the church, as well. We ask that all Volunteer Information forms be in to our office by **May 1, 2023**.

In the Arms of the Shepherd: A Morning of Reflection for Those Impacted by Divorce and Separation

Jesus wants to heal the residual pain of divorce and separation. Refresh your spirit with a morning of reflection at the Pastoral Center on Saturday, April 22 from 8:30AM-12:30PM.

This half-day retreat will feature inspiration from Mother Olga, founder of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth; a witness by Irina Robinson of the Fall River Diocese; music, adoration, confession, Mass, and small group sharing. The original date (3/4) was canceled due to inclement weather. For more information or to register visit bit.ly/MorningOfReflection

Lenten Service for Ukraine: Praying for Peace (3/25, 2pm)

Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church, 146 Forest Hills St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Cardinal Sean O'Malley OFM Cap. and Bishop Mark O'Connell will be in attendance for the service. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Calling all Seniors at St. Mary's Parish

The Knights of Columbus is accepting applicants for its **2023 *The Robert Simmler PGK, Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council #1847 Scholarship Award***.

Applicants must be a registered member of St Mary's Parish in Franklin, and must be graduating from High School in spring 2023 and progressing onto their first year of study at a 2 or 4 year college/university. Please submit a completed scholarship application postmarked on or before **the application deadline of March 24, 2023. We are awarding 2 scholarships this year a $3000 and $1000 .**

The application form is available from the banner on the parish website or on the Knights of Columbus website https://www.kofc1847.org/. Please fill in ALL information and submit the completed application to: ***The Robert Simmler PGK Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 Scholarship Committee, St. Mary's Parish c/o Michael Swan 38 Madison Ave Franklin MA 02038***
The award will be given to the recipients upon completion of their 1st semester of studies and upon proof of enrollment in the 2nd semester. Please contact Michael Swan for more information: 508-404-4792.

Easter Food Gift Card Drive

The **Knights of Columbus (Sacred Heart Council)** is holding our annual **Spring Fundraiser** for those who are "in need". **ALL** proceeds will **benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society.** The Knights will have a table set up outside the church **after each Mass on Palm Sunday, April 1st and 2nd.** We will be selling Stop & Shop gift cards (5% of sale benefits St. Vincent DePaul Society).

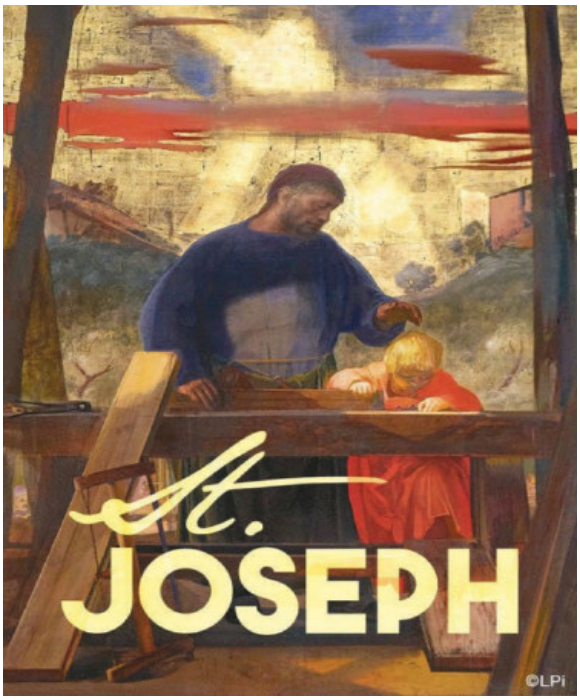
In recognition of significant need, we are also suggesting a second way you can share your generosity: by donating *one or more* of the gift cards you purchased (100% of donated cards benefits St. Vincent). **Simply drop a purchased gift card into the Donation Box.**

ONLINE GIVING OPTION: If people would prefer to contribute online, please visit our Website: kofc1847.org/food-card-drive-donations to donate through credit card. **(Please note that the website will accept donations for this food card drive from March 17 until April 16)**. We thank you in advance for your continued support and charitable giving for those less fortunate.

Baptism

Anthony Matthew DiVenere and Michelle Lee received the **Sacrament of Baptism** at St. Mary's in the month of March. May the Lord watch them always.

The next Zoom Baptismal Catechesis class is on Wednesday, March 8th, 7-8pm for first-time parents. Zoom Classes are held every 2nd Wednesday of each month. Sign up with Deacon Ron at eaconron@stmarysfranklin.org



St. Joseph and The Annunciation of the Lord

This is a great week for the celebration of saints in our Church. Monday, March 20, is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Joseph is often referred to as Jesus' foster father. Mentioned only a few times in the gospels, he is nonetheless known as a "just" man, a man who heeds God's will.

Then, on Saturday, March 25, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, the day that we remember the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary who talked with her about God's plan that she be the mother of His Son. Her *fiat*, "may it be done to me according to your word", changed the course of history and still resounds in our hearts to this day.

You can learn more about these feast days, and those of other saints, at *https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/*.

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