

ST. MARY PARISH

1 CHURCH SQUARE | FRANKLIN, MA 02038 | 508-528-0020 | STMARYSFRANKLIN.ORG

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

STRIVE
TO ENTER
THROUGH THE
NARROW GATE.

— LUKE 13:24 —



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00pm Sunday: 7:30am and 10:30am
Monday - Friday 7:00am

Wi-Fi: StMarysChurchMesh Password: STMarysGuest

RECTORY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Very Rev. Robert A. Poitras
pastor@stmarysfranklin.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. John Tanyi
parochialvicar@stmarysfranklin.org

Deacon: Deacon Ron Gerwatowski
gerwat@verizon.net

Pastoral Associate: Leo Racine
pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org

RECTORY STAFF

Finance & Operations Manager: Patricia Murphy
businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org

Secretary: Jennifer Lance
secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

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

Cemetery Caretaker: Joe Spencer
508-498-8271

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

508-528-1450

201 Main Street, Franklin, MA 02038

Director: Jim Flanagan

Secretary

Liz Bertoni - reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

ASSISTANCE

St. Vincent De Paul: 508-918-2291

PARISH REGISTRATION

Register Online at www.stmarysfranklin.org or call the Rectory at 508-528-0020.



Baptism

Baptisms are held on Sunday afternoons at 12:30pm. First time parents need to attend a Baptism Class held by Deacon Ron via Zoom. Classes are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month. To schedule a Baptism, please call: 508-528-0020 or email: baptism@stmarysfranklin.org. To schedule a Baptism Zoom Class, contact Deacon Ron at: gerwat@verizon.net

Penance

Penance/Reconciliation is held each Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Chapel's Reconciliation Room 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. Please call the Parish office at 508-528-0020 to arrange a meeting with the priest in preparation for marriage and schedule a date.

OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

If you are interested in become a Catholic, please call the Rectory at 508-528-0020.

Eucharist for the Homebound

if you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who is unable to attend church due to age or infirmity, please call the rectory or email the Pastoral Associate (pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org). We will provide pastoral visits.

Anointing of the Sick

If you or a loved one would like the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Offices at 508-528-0020. For after hours Emergency Anointing of the Sick please call 508-528-0020 and select Emergency Anointing of the Sick. Please do not leave messages on this line.



To make a donation online, you can go to the St. Mary Website at www.stmarysfranklin.org and choose Online Giving where you can make donations for Regular Sunday Offering, Mass Intentions, The Grand Annual, Catholic Appeal, Special Collections and general donation to St. Mary Parish. You can also access this feature by scanning the QR Code below.



READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk 6:17-29

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14



Saturday, August 23

4:00pm Norman Remillard

Sunday, August 24

7:30am Antonio Pereira

10:30am Theresa Raleigh & Rautenberg Family

Monday, August 25

7:00am Rosa Vandenberg

Tuesday, August 26

7:00am Claire Excellent

Wednesday, August 27

7:00am Albert Peter Palumbo

Thursday, August 28

7:00am Maria & Jose Periera

Friday, August 29

7:00 am Guy Lochard

Saturday, August 30

4:00pm Beverly Theriault

Sunday, August 31

7:30am Gwendoline Hirsch

10:30am Edward Vroman



Last week, Maeve Ann Reilly was Baptized by Fr. Bob. May God bless her.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

There are certain phrases that serve as a kind of shibboleth for millennials, a dog whistle that only ears formed between 1981 and 1996 can discern. “You can’t sit with us!” is one of those phrases.

It’s from the movie *Mean Girls*, (which, I hear from my younger family members, has now become cool with the kids again, so maybe my point about it being niche is incorrect). The character Regina George, merciless ruler of the cool kids, is rejected from the ultra-exclusive lunch table she herself formed when her minions, tired of her cruelty, serve her the most devastating words a teenager can hear in public: “You can’t sit with us.”

So passes earthly glory, as they say.

At first blush, this Gospel gives “*Mean Girls*” vibes. We have an image of the unlucky masses clamoring for entry into the kingdom of heaven as God locks the door against them, saying, “I do not know where you are from.” Very “you-can’t-sit-with-us.”

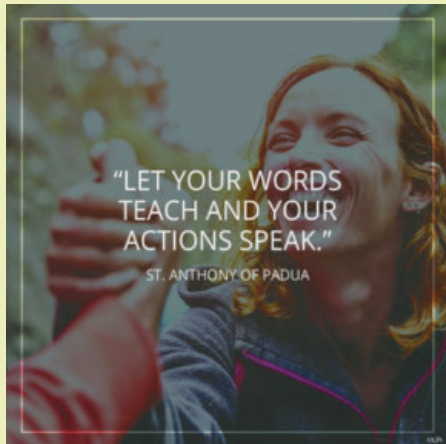
But we need to remember that the people pounding on the door of heaven in today’s Gospel aren’t people who wanted a seat at God’s lunch table — at least, not until it was the only lunch table left, because they had Regina George’d their way out of all the other ones.

Jesus’ whole thing was that you can sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you’re from and whatever you’ve done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like “repent” and “be good to that person you really don’t like.” It’s not always an easy table to sit at, especially when there are so many other options.

We have to choose heaven before heaven becomes our only choice. ©LPI



TELL THE GOOD NEWS



Today’s responsorial psalm tells us to “*go out to all the world and tell the Good News.*” In their 1999 document on adult faith formation, *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us* (<https://bit.ly/OHWWBU>), the United States Bishops, remind us that the “evangelizing spirit” is an “integral element of [our] baptismal calling, of the Church’s nature and mission, and of a Catholic way of life.”

So, how can we live out this calling? Here are a couple of simple ways, which might involve courage and risk...or at least a big breath before undertaking them. First, we can let other people, such as relatives and friends, know how being Catholic affects our daily lives. We can tell them, not in a preachy but in a conversational kind of way, how knowing Jesus and belonging to a community of other believers has a positive impact on our thoughts and behaviors. We might even offer to pray with or for a person we know, or invite someone to Mass or to events sponsored by the Church. Second, we can get involved in a ministry in the parish or help out in another setting. Some examples are to become a Lector or Eucharistic Minister at Mass, join the choir, assist our young people by teaching in our faith formation program, volunteer with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and help people in need, or give time or financial support to an organization that reaches-out to those less fortunate. These are all great ways we can live out our call to tell the Good News. Let’s give it a try!



Save the Date!
St. Vincent DePaul
Annual Fund Raiser

Saturday,
September 27, 2025

Registration at 8:30 a.m. Blessing for the Walk will be at 9:00 a.m. on the Town Common. Participants can either walk with us or donate via our online collection link at the St. Vincent DePaul page on our parish website or use the barcode below:



St. Vincent DePaul Society
508-918-2291

The St. Vincent DePaul Society would like to thank all the parishioners who have so generously donated to the SVdP Food Pantry. Donations from these lists help us to keep the pantry well-stocked with many items for our neighbors in need.

The St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is looking for the following items to help our Franklin neighbors in need.



Paper Towels
Detergent/Regular (Free of Clear)
Deodorant
Cut Green Beans
Bars of Soap

Thank you for your help in supporting those most in need in our community. God bless our neighbors.



WORCESTER CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

All women are invited to an exciting, faith-building Conference, which will be held on Saturday, September 27th at St. Joseph School in Webster, MA on Saturday. Now in its 7th year, this year's theme is **"I Thirst for the Salvation of Souls."**

Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: **Noelle Mering, Dr. Madeline Colon-Uowicz, Tim Francis, and Adam Janke.** Diocesan and religious priests will hear confessions; Bishop McManus will celebrate Mass, and there will be many interesting exhibitors. For more information and to register, call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969 or go to:

www.wcwconference.com

Register today!



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The Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council 1847 would like to thank everyone who donated to their Red Cross Blood Drive on August 16. It was a great success and the Knights are grateful to the donors for helping to save a life.



HOPE FOR LIFE Conference

October 4, 2025

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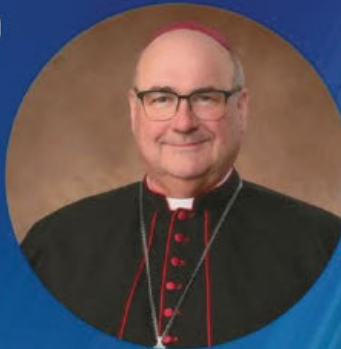
hopeforlifeboston.com



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Band



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Richard Henning



Mother Olga
of the Sacred Heart



Montse Alvarado

Special guest speakers Jonathan Roumie
& Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart

Music provided by The Vigil Project and special moderated
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for high school and CCD groups, contact: hopeforlifeboston@gmail.com



Mark Carey



Lisa Wheeler



Mia Armstrong



Michelle & Asis Lopez



AJ De La Rosa



Julianne Carey



Sara Loy

The Archdiocese of Boston's Pro-Life Office, in collaboration with the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth and the Men of Divine Mercy Prayer Group, are excited to invite you to this special conference as we honor the sanctity and the beauty of life from the womb to the tomb and embrace the virtue of hope in all circumstances of every age and stage of life.

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