

ST. MARY PARISH

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE VIRGIN SHALL
CONCEIVE.

MATTHEW 1:23



MASS SCHEDULE

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

Wi-Fi: **StMarysChurchMesh** Password: **STMarysGuest**

All weekend Masses are Live Streamed at:
stmarysfranklin.org

RECTORY HOURS

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Very Rev. Robert A. Poitras V.F.
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

508-528-0020

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 - jflanagan@stmarysfranklin.org

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 at 12:30pm. First time parents need to attend a Baptism Class held by Deacon Ron. Classes are held one evening each month via Zoom. To schedule a Baptism email: baptism@stmarysfranklin.org or call: 508-528-0020. 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.

WEEK 4 Advent



The Fourth, and final Sunday of Advent is upon us. *Alleluia!* Today we hear Isaiah's prophecy regarding the birth of a son to a virgin, or young woman, who will be called *Emmanuel*, "God with us."

In the gospel, we listen to the story of how "the birth of Jesus came about..." We are reminded that, while Old Testament prophets spoke to the people about events and circumstances of their time, their words often have meaning for believers in Christ. Thus, Isaiah's prophecy about a boy yet to be born who will be called *Emmanuel*, is understood by Christians to foreshadow Jesus' birth to his mother, Mary. Our celebration of Jesus' coming is the high point of our Advent preparation for Christmas. You can listen to a beautiful recording of the song *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* by the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of the Apostles at <https://bit.ly/EphesusEmmanuel>.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

Sun: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Mon: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Tue: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Wed: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thu: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 **Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Fri: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Sat: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday, December 20

4:00pm Sabino Coscia

Sunday, December 21

7:30am Peggy Yanuskiewicz

10:30am Bob Scipione

Monday, December 22

7:00am Alexander M. Hughes

Tuesday, December 23

7:00am Grace Finnan

Wednesday, December 24

4:00pm Parishioners of St. Mary Parish

6:00pm Parishioners of St. Mary Parish

Thursday, December 25

8:30am Parishioners of St. Mary Parish

10:30pm Parishioners of St. Mary Parish

Friday, December 26

No Masses

Saturday, December 27

4:00pm Antonio Pereira

Sunday, December 28

7:30am Bernadette O'Connor

10:30am Hank Versprille



Last week, Chloe Mae Prairie was Baptized by Deacon Leo Martin and Gabriella Tish Annesse was baptized by Fr. John. God Bless these children.

HOLIDAY Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4pm and 6pm

Thursday, December 25, 2025

8:30am and 10:30am

Christmas Collection

Next week, at all our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.



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Christmas collection supports the health and wellness of all active and senior priests in good standing



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Preventive health and wellness programs for all priests

REGINA CLERI

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DEDICATED CARE TEAM

One-to-one support and advocacy to priests with health concerns

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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SCAN HERE for Venmo, Google/Apple Pay, PayPal via Givebutter.



Online Giving

At St. Mary Parish, Franklin, MA
www.stmarysfranklin.org



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

The First Transfiguration

I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby — a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life — will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

He rises, and goes to Mary.

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

©LPi





OCIA Candidates 2026

On December 7, in the name of the parish community, Fr. John, officially welcomed ten candidates for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church and the catechetical process of the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). The candidates are: *Susan Daddario, Connor DeVarney, Timothy Evans, Kelsie Frasca, Matthew Fricker, Albert Marchionda, Sam Merten, Andrea Olmstead, Brett Olmstead, and Kevin Sanderson.*

Fr. John leads a team of ten parish catechists in the OCIA program; they are: Rob Browne, Jean Clark, Janet Donovan, Faith Flaherty, Anne Gilberti, Lina Mateus, Jennifer Moccia, Elaine Noonan, Leo Racine (pastoral associate), and Judith Webb. These catechists, along with Fr. John, represent our parish response to Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations. Please pray that the candidates and catechists all grow in their love for God and are strengthened in their faith journeys.

'Tis The Season for Giving Back & Spreading Warmth!



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Community Bag Program

This **December**, when you buy a reusable \$2.50 Community Bag at our selected Big Y store, it will send us \$1.

**Purchases made at the Big Y on
East Central Street, Franklin**

**Proceeds go to
St. Vincent DePaul Society
St. Mary Parish, Franklin, MA**

Zoom Rosary

Deacon Guy continues a Zoom Rosary every Monday night at 7:00pm. This is open to parishioners, family & friends from all communities. You are welcome to join, relax, pray and/or and just listen.

Link info is on the Parish Web Site under Parish Life and Prayer. For more information contact Deacon Guy at:
deaconguy@verizon.net.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

The Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 would like to thank everyone who donated blood, last weekend at their American Red Cross Blood Drive. Thank you for giving the gift of life.





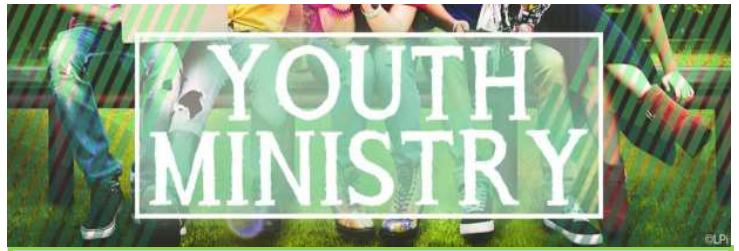
St. Vincent de Paul 2025 Caring Gift Tree

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is still sponsoring the Christmas Caring Tree gift giving program. We provide gift cards to those in need so they can purchase gifts at the store of their choice for Christmas.

If you were unable to purchase a gift card, you can still donate to the **St. Mary's SVDP Caring Tree** program by placing a check made out to "**SVdP Caring Tree**" in the collection baskets, or drop-off / mail the check to at the Rectory:

SVdP Caring Tree Program
1 Church Square
Franklin, MA 02038

Thank you all for your willingness to help those in our community who will benefit from our support during the holiday season! May God Bless the generous parishioners of St. Mary Parish.



Upcoming High School Youth Ministry Events

1st Sunday of the Month - YM Event

(Social, Christian Service, Prayer, Speaker)

January 4, February 1,
March 1st, April 12th (2nd Sunday),
May 3 & June 7th

Christmas in the City Weekend

December 20 and 21

Saturday we will be wrapping presents; Sunday, we deliver gifts.

Boston College/Providence College Hockey

Friday, January 16th

Leaving the parking lot at 5:15 p.m.

Returning after the game

Cost is \$40.00 (ticket & bus transportation)

Parking Alert

195 Main Street, Franklin

The Anglican Church of the Redeemer at 195 Main Street, Franklin now holds services on Sundays at 8:30am and 10:30am. The Church of the Redeemer has asked that St. Mary Parishioners **NOT park in their lot on Sundays** during Mass. They need the space for congregants going to their services.

Please park in the St. Mary School lot or on the street around the Town Common. You may still use the 195 Main Street lot on Saturday afternoons for our 4pm Mass. Thank you.



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

Paper products, especially tissues (Kleenex)
Jam/Jelly
pasta
Spaghetti Sauce
Laundry Detergent

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

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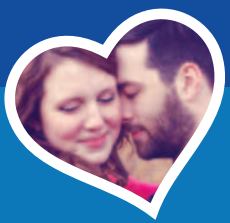


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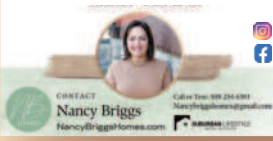
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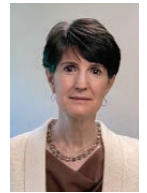
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