

# ST. MARY PARISH

1 CHURCH SQUARE | FRANKLIN, MA 02038 | 508-528-0020 | STMARYSFranklin.org

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](http://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](mailto:pastor@stmarysfranklin.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. John Tanyi  
[parochialvicar@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:parochialvicar@stmarysfranklin.org)

**Deacon:** Deacon Ron Gerwatowski  
[gerwat@verizon.net](mailto:gerwat@verizon.net)

**Pastoral Associate:** Leo Racine  
[pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@stmarysfranklin.org)

### RECTORY STAFF

#### 508-528-0020

**Finance & Operations Manager:** Patricia Murphy  
[businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org)

**Secretary:** Jennifer Lance  
[secretary@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:secretary@stmarysfranklin.org)

**Music Director:** Terry Kerr  
[Terry.kerr@att.net](mailto: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](mailto:jflanagan@stmarysfranklin.org)

#### Secretary:

Liz Bertoni - [reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org)

### ASSISTANCE

**St. Vincent De Paul:** 508-918-2291

### PARISH REGISTRATION

Register Online at [www.stmarysfranklin.org](http://www.stmarysfranklin.org) or call the Rectory at 508-528-0020.

## - SACRAMENTS -



### 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](mailto:baptism@stmarysfranklin.org) or call: 508-528-0020. To schedule a Baptism Zoom Class, contact Deacon Ron at: [gerwat@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 Finnane

## 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 Annese 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.



#### SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS

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



#### INTENTIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

Preventive health and wellness programs for all priests

#### REGINA CLERI

A residential faith community and care facility for senior priests

#### DEDICATED CARE TEAM

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

EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE AND IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION FOR THE PRIESTS WHO DO SO MUCH FOR SO MANY

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Learn more and give today at [clergytrust.org](https://clergytrust.org)

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



### Online Giving

At St. Mary Parish, Franklin, MA  
[www.stmarysfranklin.org](http://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.

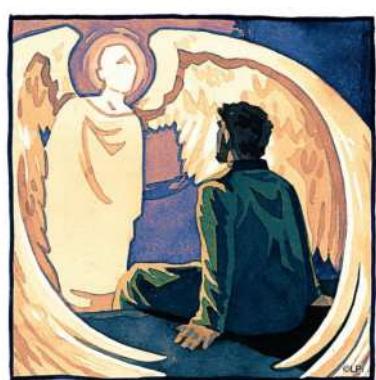
"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does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

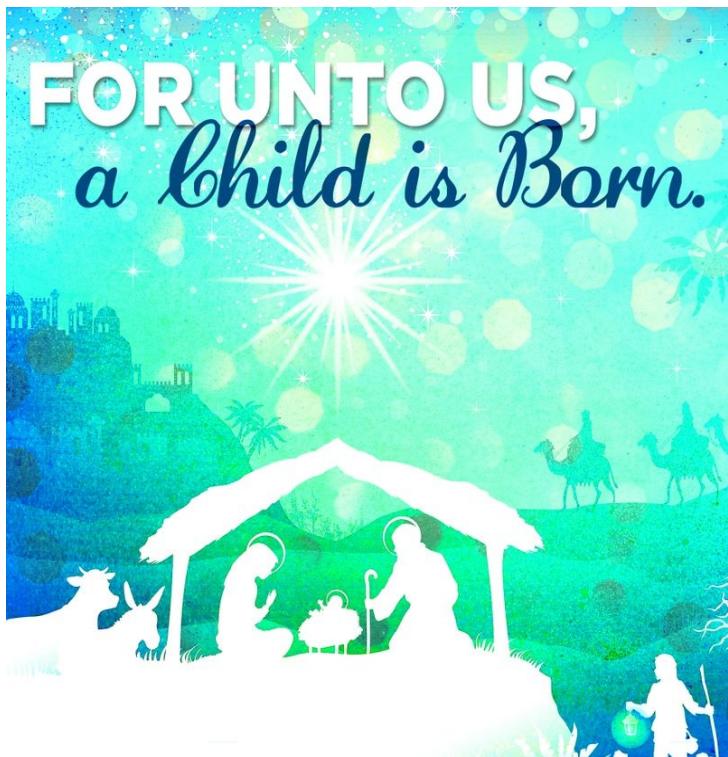
No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

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!

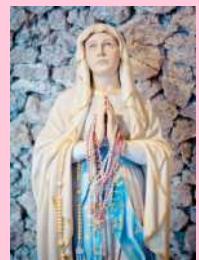


[bigy.2givelocal.com](http://bigy.2givelocal.com)  
Community Bag Program

## 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](mailto: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.



## 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.



## Upcoming High School Youth Ministry Events

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month - YM Event

(Social, Christian Service, Prayer, Speaker)  
January 4, February 1,  
March 1<sup>st</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday),  
May 3 & June 7<sup>th</sup>

### 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 16<sup>th</sup>  
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.



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