

ST. MARY PARISH

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026



A photograph of three camels with their handlers, seen from behind, walking across a desert landscape. The camels are adorned with traditional headgear and saddle pads. The handlers are wearing traditional robes and turbans. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting or rising sun.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

WE SAW HIS
STAR AT ITS
RISING.

MATTHEW 2:2



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.

- 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 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

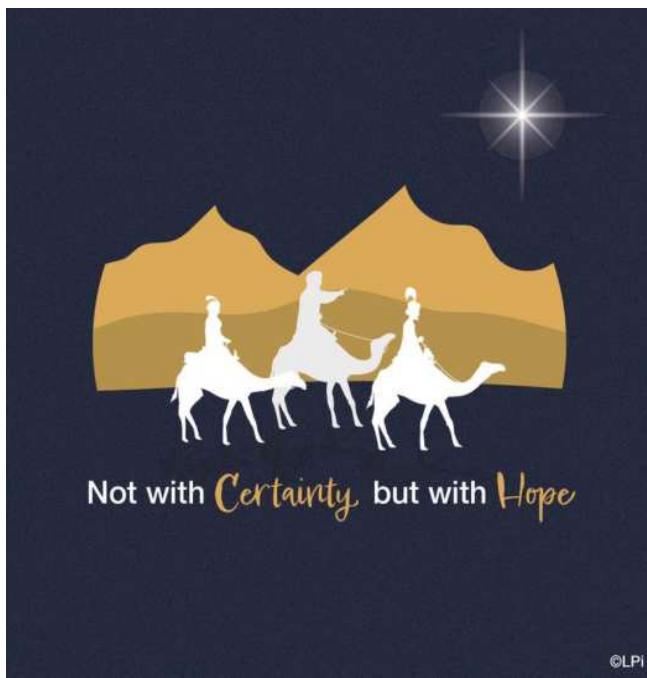
If you are interested in become a Catholic, please call the Rectory at 508-528-0020.

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.



Today, January 4, we celebrate the **Epiphany of the Lord**. This feast was traditionally celebrated on January 6 and in many cultures, it is known as "Little" or "Old" Christmas. Its eve (January 5) is referred to as the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Currently, on our Catholic liturgical calendar, it is celebrated on the first Sunday after January 1st.

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentile (non-Jewish) world. This manifestation is symbolized by the coming of the Magi to the place of Jesus' birth. Perhaps we Christians can, consider the Magi to be our spiritual ancestors, as we too are the recipients of the grace of God's presence among us because of God's *epiphany* to all peoples of the world.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



Saturday, January 3

4:00pm Beverly Theriault

Sunday, January 4

7:30am

10:30am St. Vincent DePaul

Monday, January 5

7:00am

Tuesday, January 6

7:00am

Wednesday, January 7

7:00am Laetitia Pierre-Louis (living)

Thursday, January 8

9:00am Carol McDermott

Friday, January 9

7:00am

Saturday, January 10

4:00pm Gerald P. Hart

Sunday, January 11

7:30am

10:30am



Last weekend, Keith Vincent Chambers, Payton Jean DeVarney, Miles Ray Fadding, Harper Valentina Leary and Charlie Josh Sheran were Baptized by Fr. John. May God Bless these children.

K of C Free Throw Contest

The St. Mary Parish, Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847, Franklin, MA are holding their Annual Girls and Boys Basketball Free Throw Contest. It will be at the Hockomock YMCA, Franklin, MA on Saturday January 17, 2026 at 3PM-5PM. We welcome all 9-14 Years old Girls and Boys and would like the parent to accompany the participant.

Come and join us for a great day of competition and basketball. You do not have to be an expert, just come and have fun! The Winners will be decided after the shooting is complete and will be invited to the "Districts" to compete among the other Council Champions.



Many Thanks!

The St. Vincent DePaul Society would like to thank everyone who so generously donated to the Caring Tree project. We were able to assist many local families. Thank you for making Christmas special to so many people.



Holy Hour For Life

Friday, January 29 from 7-8pm

The St. Mary Respect Life Commission is having a Holy Hour for Life on in the Chapel. All are welcome!



VS.



SOUper Bowl



The Franklin Food Pantry is gearing up to defend its title as SOUper Bowl Champion against the Weymouth Food Pantry in the highly anticipated SOUper Bowl 2026 canned soup competition. The two pantries are asking their communities to donate cans of soup starting January 8, 2026. The pantry that receives the most soup by February 8, 2026, will be named SOUper Bowl Champ 2026. The Franklin Food Pantry and Weymouth Food Pantry previously faced off in 2025. The competition resulted in a combined total of 4,967 cans of soup, with Franklin edging out the win by a mere 205 cans.

While SOUper Bowl 2026 is a friendly, spirited competition, the stakes are profoundly serious. Hunger in Massachusetts is reaching crisis levels, with a staggering 1 in 3 people experiencing food insecurity.

- **When:** January 8 to February 8, 2026
- **To Donate:** Bring donations to the Franklin Food Pantry, 341 W Central St., Franklin, MA, 02038, or donate via the Franklin Food Pantry's [Amazon Wish List](#)

Dilexi Te: On Love for the Poor

Zoom Discussion

Are you interested in reading more about “the close connection between Christ’s love and his summons to care for the poor?” Our Pastoral Associate, Leo Racine, will be facilitating a Zoom discussion of Pope Leo’s October 2024 apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te: On Love for the Poor*. The discussion will happen via Zoom on Saturday January 24 and Saturday, January 31st, both at 10:00am.

To register or get more information, please call Leo at 508-429-7476 or email him at leoaracine@msn.com for more information or to register. When you register, you will receive the reading plan and be asked to share your email address for participation purposes. Parishioners from Leo’s home parish, St. Mary (Holliston) will be invited to participate in this discussion as well.



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
(esp. 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

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 7

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)

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 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.

Sanctuary Care Volunteers Needed

Looking for a meaningful New Year's Resolution? The Altar & Sanctuary Care Team needs volunteers to help a few times a year with:

- Light cleaning
- Sacred linen care

Contact Kate Boragine (508-440-5330) for more details if you are interested in joining the team. Thank you!!





St Vincent De Paul Society

St Mary Franklin

Year at a glance: Fiscal year ending 9/30/2025

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." **Mother Teresa**

Thank you to all the parishioners, the Knights of Columbus and all the other organizations for their support of SVDP by generously donating food and financial assistance so we could offer help to Franklin residents in need. Special thanks to Fr. Bob, Fr. John, and Deacon Ron for spreading God's message of the importance of helping others.

Our 37 members volunteered 5,200 hours meeting with families in need a total of 1,098 times, with 2,952 people helped. In 2025 we have continued our mission of providing assistance to neighbors in need. Two members meet with neighbors in need and do an intake to assess how best to help. Any financial assistance is paid directly to the provider of services and not to the person seeking assistance.

Your support helped us:

Distribute 626 bags of donated food & 100 personal hygiene bags

Give out 54 Complimentary SVDP Thrift Store vouchers worth \$3,000

Provide Caring Tree gifts cards to 108 families / 266 people totaling \$12,800

Deliver gifts for Mother's Day (51), Father's Day (20) and Veterans (6) of \$3,100

Financially, your donations served families 288 times for a total over \$ 56,200

Housing assistance 30 times for \$21,800

Utilities 51 times for \$15,100

Automobile related assistance 20 times for \$8,600

Easter Meal Food Cards 79 families for \$3,900

Grocery store, Gas & Other gift cards 91 times for \$3,800

Medical, Furniture, Other Bills 12 times for \$3,000

We continue to have strong relationships with other town organizations and businesses. We gave families 159 referrals to town, state, federal, and other agencies that might help them.

In the coming year neighbors in need face significant **challenges** due to increases for housing, utilities, food & gas. These costs put added pressure on them to make ends meet.

The most important members of this Ministry are each of you, our Contributing members, without whom we would not be able to serve. We thank you for your generosity, and want you to know your contributions are very appreciated by the people we serve.

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