

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

# FASTED

FOR 40 DAYS.

— MATTHEW 4:2 —

**ST. MARY PARISH**

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

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### 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:**  
businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org

**Secretary:** Jennifer Lance  
secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

**Music Director:** Krishan Oberoi  
krishan.oberoi@gmail.com

**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](http://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

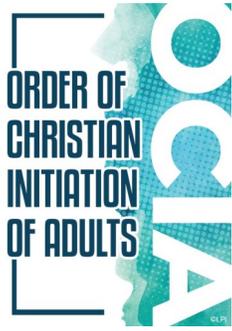
If you are interested in become a Catholic, please call the Rectory at 508-528-0020.

### 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.



### Welcome OCIA Candidates

At this weekend's 10:30am Mass, the Baptized candidates from St. Mary parish's Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) program, will participate in the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion. This rite acknowledges their desire for full initiation with the Catholic Church, and reception of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. It also helps them deepen their faith and strengthen their commitment to the Church.

The OCIA Program invites the candidates into an intensive period of preparation to receive Confirmation and Eucharist. Please pray for our candidates, along with their sponsors and catechists, as they continue on their spiritual journeys.

### SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection will support the Catholic Relief Services' mission to care for the underdeveloped areas of the world. Your generosity will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world.

[www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief)

### READINGS THIS WEEK

#### Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

- Sunday:** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11
- Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
- Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
- Next Sunday:** Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



#### Saturday, February 21

4:00pm Rae Ann and Charles Donoghue

#### Sunday, February 22

7:30am Beverly B. Horowitz  
 10:30am John Willinski, Elena Willinski,  
 Walter & Catherine Cusson

#### Monday, February 23

7:00am

#### Tuesday, February 24

7:00am Robert T. O'Leary

#### Wednesday, February 25

7:00am Keshia Mathieu

#### Thursday, February 26

7:00am

#### Friday, February 27

7:00am Antonio Pereira

#### Saturday, February 28

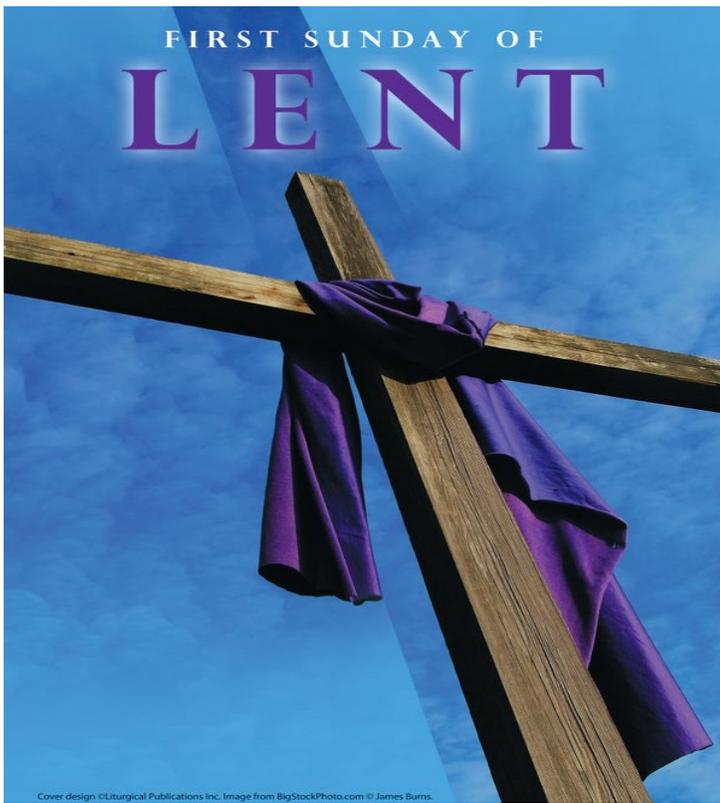
4:00pm Richard & Stephen Tomasetti

#### Sunday, March 1

7:30am James Duffy  
 10:30am Roland & Katherine "Topsy" Pruvot



Last weekend Gavin Pierce Crook and Gracie Mae Gavin were Baptized by Deacon Ron. May God Bless these children.



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## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday Eve- ©LPI

**Friday Evenings at 7pm**  
*Sacred Heart Chapel*

- Feb. 27 – Men’s Faith Formation
- Mar. 6 – Knights of Columbus
- Mar. 13 – St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Mar. 20 – Family Faith Formation
- Mar 27 – Woman’s Faith Formation



## Adoration & Confession Prayers Services Thursdays During Lent

February 18, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Season of Lent. In Ash Wednesday’s first reading, the Old Testament prophet, Joel, tells of God’s invitation to return to him with our whole heart. Joel also reminds us that God is gracious and merciful, “slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.”

St. Mary Parish will be holding Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the opportunity of Confession, on **Thursdays mornings and evenings during Lent**. The Lenten Adoration/Confession dates are Thursday, February 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26, and April 2, from **7:30am to 8:30am** (after 7am Mass) in the Lower Church. Evening Adoration and Confession will take place at **7pm**, followed by Evening Prayer.

Evening Prayer or Liturgy of the Hours is one part of the Church’s official daily prayer. It consists of psalms and canticles, prayers, petitions, and a reading. Following Evening Prayer, participants will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A simple Benediction just before 8:00 will complete the service. Join us for some quiet time with God and others in our community during this season of Lent.

# SNOW TUBING AT NASHOBA VALLEY SKI AREA

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH**

WE WILL ATTEND THE 4:00 P.M. MASS AND THEN HEAD TO LITTLETON. WE WILL GO TUBING FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WE WILL STOP FOR FOOD ON THE WAY HOME!

**Cost is \$65.00**

ticket and transportation

Register by February 25<sup>th</sup> by using QR Code  
Must have a waiver on file - <https://shop.skinashoba.com/forms>



**RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it. Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack. I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious. It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... hard.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's so hard to be good? Why do we go to the desert? Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him. And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!" Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made. ©LPI



**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  
2026 Scholarship**



The Knights of Columbus is accepting applicants for its 2026 college scholarship award program - ***The Robert Simmler PGK, Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council #1847 Scholarship***. Applicants must be a registered member of St Mary's Parish, Franklin and graduating from High School in the spring 2026 and progressing to their first year of study at a 2 or 4 year college/university. **We are awarding 2 scholarships this year: \$3000 and \$1500**

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 accurately and clearly, and submit the completed application by March 27, 2026 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 1<sup>st</sup> semester of studies and upon proof of enrollment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. For more information, please contact Michael Swan: 508-404-4792

**Catholic Women's Club  
Annual Brunch**

The St. Mary's Catholic Women's Club Breakfast will be held at **"3" Restaurant** on **March 15<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 Mass**. Our guest speaker will be Jim Flanagan, our Family Faith Director. The cost will be \$30/pp.

Please send your check to Patricia Tomasetti, 3 Mackintosh St, Franklin. The deadline will be March 1st.





Knights of Columbus  
Sacred Heart Council



St. Patrick's Day

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 15 from 11am - 12:30pm

after the 10:30am Mass  
Sacred Heart Hall

\$5 donation per adult;  
children under 12 are free

Pancakes, Sausage, Juice, Coffee, Water



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

(Social, Christian Service, Prayer, Speaker)

March 1<sup>st</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday), May 3 & June 7<sup>th</sup>

For more Info contact Jim Flanagan at:  
jflanagan@stmarysfranklin.org



### Bereavement Ministry Volunteers Wanted

St. Mary Parish is looking for new  
volunteers to join the Bereavement

Ministry Team. The Bereavement Minister offers  
comfort and support to families who have  
suffered the loss of a loved one. They help the  
families select the readings, music for the funeral  
as well as choose the family/friend participation  
in the funeral liturgy.

Typically, a Bereavement Minister meets with  
one or two families a month to help them plan  
the funeral. For more information, please  
contact Pat Netto at 508-528-5610.



FAMILY MASS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>  
AT 10:30 A.M..

OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES IN GRADES 1 THROUGH 12  
STUDENTS WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE MINISTRIES  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER MASS

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