

Parish Communities

St. Mary & St. Philip



Office - 508-839-3993
Fax - 508-839-1330
Website - www.stmarysgrafton.org

Mass Schedule:
Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 7:30 & 10:30 AM
Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM

Mailing Address:
17 Waterville St., North Grafton, MA 01536

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Parish Secretary: Janice Sears x10 •
jsears@stmarysgrafton.org
Director of Religious Education:
Sr. Yvonne Millman, SSA x12 • ymillman@stmarysgrafton.org
Religious Education Secretary:
Jill Sullivan x13 • jsullivan@stmarysgrafton.org
Organist/Director of Music:
Pamela Cross x37 • p.cross@shoplegacy.com
Property Manager: Al Crespo

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth R. Cardinale x24 • krcardinale@gmail.com
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Frederick A. Coggins x29 • fcoggins@stmarysgrafton.org
Business Manager: Lisa Stewart x11 • lstewart@stmarysgrafton.org

BULLETIN NOTICES: To Parish Secretary by 6:00 PM Mondays.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 3:00 PM on Saturday and by appointment. Monday - Thursday, following the 8:00 AM Mass.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Usually celebrated on the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. Please talk to Fr. Cardinale after Mass to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact Fr. Cardinale at least one year prior to the tentative wedding date.

CARE FOR THE SICK: Please contact the church office if you know of anyone who is hospitalized or confined to home because of age or illness.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please introduce yourself to Fr. Cardinale, Deacon Coggins or a greeter after Mass. Visit the office or log into the website (St. Mary only). We want to know and serve you. We hope that you will become members of our parish community.



Office - 508-839-3325
Fax - 508-839-1310
Religious Education - 508-839-9130
Email - stphilipsgrafton@gmail.com

Mass Schedule
Sunday 9:00 AM

Mailing Address
12 West St., Grafton, MA 01519

Office Hours:
Monday - Wednesday 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Parish Secretary/Administrator of Religious Education:
Carole LeBlanc

Organist/Coordinator of Music:
Jonathan Capece •
jcapece.stphilip@gmail.com

St. Philip



Mass Intentions

St Philip Parish

Dec 4- Parishioners of St. Philip
Dec 11- Helen LaPan, Maryann L'Esperance and Gerry Lauria requested by St. Philip Parish, Parishioners of St. Philip
Dec 18- Pat Marrkand, 2nd anniversary requested by Tricia & Rick, Parishioners of St. Philip

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 9- Confirmation Ceremony 7pm Cathedral of St. Paul
Dec 11- Presentation of Newly Confirmed 9:00 St. Philip
Dec 11- Coffee Social
Jan 15- Sunday Night Mass, 5pm St. Philip

Sunday Collection

November 20 \$3209.00
 November 27 \$1026.00

Thank you for your continued support

ST. PHILIP'S ANNUAL GIVING TREE



Giving Tree gifts are due in two weeks! Please bring your gifts to church in a gift bag with the ornament attached by Sunday, 12/11/16. Questions? Call Rachel Costello at 508-839-2767.

Baby Tree

When doing your holiday shopping, please remember the **Baby Tree** set up year round at St. Philip. We collect wonderful, generous donations during the year, but Christmas is a special time for these sweet babies and moms. So please consider picking up something for them and dropping it off at our Baby Tree at St. Philip. All donations are greatly appreciated and cherished by those moms and babies who will benefit from your wonderful act of kindness this Christmas Season.



Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

2nd Sunday of Advent

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:10) Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?



St. Mary



Mass Intentions

St. Mary Parish

Never measure your generosity by what you give but rather by what you have left.
 -Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Saturday

4:00 pm- 4th anniversary for Irving Shanley requested by the family, 4th anniversary for Steven Desmarais requested by the family, in remembrance of her birthday Rosa Jackson requested by Janet LaMarche

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. For the parishioners of St Mary, 14th anniversary for Walter Fleming requested by his family
 10:30 a.m. Memorial for Alban & Helena Maillet requested by the family, 4th anniversary for Helen Kenny and 1st Anniv for Lawrence Kenny Jr requested by the family

Monday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:00 a.m. For the Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday

NO MORNING MASS
 7:00 pm Novena for Religious Vocations from Grafton
 7:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:00 a.m. For the Souls in Purgatory
 7:00 p.m. Parishioners of St Mary

Thursday IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESS VIRGIN MARY

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:00 a.m. In remembrance of his birthday Don Houde requested by the family

Next Saturday

4:00 pm Parishioners of St Mary
Next Sunday Third Sunday of Advent
 7:30 a.m. 5th anniversary for Majorie Crepeault requested by the family
 10:30 a.m. Memorial for Pat Szczur requested by a friend

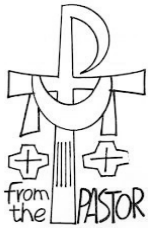
Sunday collections

November 19 & 20 & \$5,328.30
 November 26 & 27 \$5,494.25
 Thank you for your continued support

Giving Tree Is Here



St. Mary's Giving Tree has been placed in the Gathering Space and decorated with tags for people in need from the Grafton and Worcester Area. Please consider taking a tag and helping to brighten someone's Christmas holiday. Thank you in advance for taking a tag and making our Giving Tree Campaign a success.
Jesus is coming...are you ready?

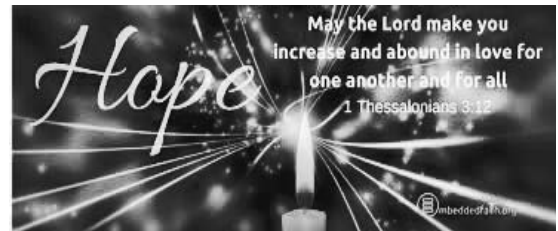


Message Series Continues — Today, the 2nd Sunday of Advent, we continue with our message series, “St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta: A Light in Darkness”.



This weekend we continue with Part 2: “We Are All Missionaries: Mother Teresa Includes Everyone in the Work”.

And next weekend, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 10-11, we will conclude with Part 3: “A Light in Darkness: Mother Teresa Seeks the Light of Jesus Even as She Brings Him to Others”.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception — Holy Day of Obligation — This Thursday, 8 December, is the Solemnity of All Saints, a Holy Day of Obligation.

I hesitate to use the word “obligation” because it may detract from the positive reality that we have the opportunity to gather for Eucharist together on this extraordinary day when we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of one of our parishes.

Because Jesus invites us to partake of such a wonderful opportunity for our own nourishment, the Church calls some celebrations obligatory because failure to say yes is an offense against Christ our Host.

Meet Your Leadership Teams for St. Philip and St. Mary Parish Councils

St. Philip meets the 4th Monday of each month

- John Campbell jbcambell92@verizon.com
Pete Cardoza pcardoza@csrfinancial.com
Patti Hart pehart@aol.com
Jim Jordan Jordan@ai3architects.com
Janet Krause krausejan@yahoo.com
John Medina jcmtam12450@yahoo.com
John Riemer johnriemer@associates.com
Karen Jordan- Jordanfamily3@charter.net

St. Mary meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month

- Carol A Fiorvanti cfio70@outlook.com
James Gallagher irishjimgal@verizon.net
Laura Deschenes mbrook13@verizon.net
Nancy Malone nanmal@aol.com
Ed Romeo eromeo795@gmail.com
Gina Koss-Stephany gksvet2b@gmail.com
Steven Skowronek Steven Skowronek@verizon.net
Joan Shanley jfs34@msn.com
Bill Szymczak szymczakwj@aol.com

Please contact anyone of your Parish Council members with any questions or concerns.

St. Mary and St. Philip Religious Education



Confirmation Celebration with Bishop McManus will take place this Friday night, December 9th, at 7pm at St. Paul Cathedral. Please keep our young adults in your prayers as they continue to grow and flourish with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. On Sunday December 11th, the newly confirmed will gather at St. Philip for the 9am Mass and reception following.

Sacraments: Let's join in prayer for 79 special people who will be celebrating sacraments next weekend. 35 of our teens will celebrate Confirmation with Bishop McManus at St. Paul Cathedral on Friday, December 9 at 7:00 PM. 44 of our cherubs will celebrate Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, December 10 at 1:00 PM. May God's love become ever more real for them and empower them to be the person that God wants them to be.

Advent: a season of joyful hope that begins the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas). Advent devotions remind us of the meaning of this special season. The website of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org, contains great Advent resources to help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ. There is a great family Advent calendar for 2016; just follow the cursor for more info. When you have arrived at the website, look for liturgical year and Advent. More explanations are given about the Advent Wreath, the O Antiphons, and the Jesse Tree.

Epiphany Pageant: The first practice for this wonderful event will be held this Sunday evening, December 4 at 6:00 PM at St. Mary's hall. Roles will be determined at this time. Participation is open to all children in Grades K - 6 (and younger children are welcome, too!)

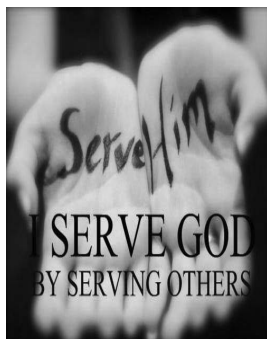
Preschool Session—Our younger children and an adult companion are invited to explore seasonal faith themes through stories, crafts, and songs. These are occasions for parents/grandparents or nannies to assist their preschoolers in fostering a sense of church and community. Pre-registration is required before each session so that adequate materials may be prepared. Our next session will be held this Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 10:00 to 11:30 am.

Note: Siblings are welcome, even if they are too young to participate. No babysitters needed! Sharon Doane has graciously offered to lead these sessions, assisted by Jill Sullivan. Please phone Jill at 508-839-3993 X13 to preregister.

Market Sunday's Outreach Program "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" is set up by our St. Vincent de Paul and Market Sunday ministries to communicate with our parishioners on seasonal food items that would help to broaden our food pantry. The items being requested are: Non-sugared cereal, cookies that adults would prefer (Fig Newtons, Ginger Snaps, etc), canned coffee, tea, hot chocolate, rice, rice pilaf, rice mixes, Hamburger Helper, mayonnaise (small jars), pan cake mix and syrup, canned carrots, soap (bars and soft soap). Please remember this is only a suggested guideline; any and all items are appreciated. Food items can be left in the Gathering Space at St. Mary on the Market Sunday food cart, downstairs on the cart located by the food cabinets, or on the table to the left of the cabinets. At St. Philip, you may leave them in the basket marked SVDP located at the entrance of the church. We are blessed to have the generous parish families of St. Mary and St. Philip and very grateful for all the food you donate.



Please make sure to check our parish sign ups for our Soup Kitchen Ministry. Help is always needed and appreciated. So many people are in need of assistance, and helping to feed our friends is just one way that we answer our call to serve. Come join us and see what a rewarding experience this is. Sign ups are at both St. Mary and St. Philip parishes.



St. Mary's Festival Choir Music Ministry

Singers are invited to join the Christmas Choir We will be rehearsing on Sundays 11:30-12:30 p.m. in the church from November 13th - December 18th. We sing at the "Midnight Mass" (which really starts at 10:00 p.m.) on Christmas Eve.



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Reflecting on the fruits of the Year of Mercy, I cannot help but recall the example of thousands of now elderly women and men religious who, for so many, were a living sign of God's mercy. These women and men – Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests – were indeed the hands of Christ as they educated the young, cared for the sick, and ministered to the neediest among us. Through their service and witness, they modeled the compassionate love of Jesus and showed us that we, too, could be instruments of peace and mercy.

Today, many senior religious continue to be vessels of mercy, serving in a wide range of volunteer and prayer ministries. Others are frail and need assistance. Most older religious ministered for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. With the ever-rising cost of health care and the increased number of those needing care, many religious communities struggle to provide for aging members.

On the weekend of December 10 & 11 our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an annual collection that benefits nearly 33,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift provides vital support for medications, nursing care and more. It also helps religious communities implement long-term retirement strategies that ensure both quality eldercare and continued service to the People of God.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of support. I ask simply to give what you can. In thanksgiving for the lessons of mercy senior religious have shared with us, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester



Our teens are ready to fight hunger by participating in the **24-hour Famine**. We will be starting Friday March 17th and going through until Saturday March 18th ending our Famine with Eucharist at Mass. Our teens will be having a "Free Will" Bake Sale on Sunday, February 12th, at St. Philip after Mass. Every \$35 raised by them will feed a hungry child for one month. Please support them as they make this commitment to help feed the children.

Christmas Card Sale to Sponsor 2017 Choose Christ Music Books. Join us in the Gathering Space and purchase your box of 20 Christmas Cards (full color inside and out, with matching envelopes) for just \$10.00. That's over 30% off the retail price! We received a donation of Christmas Cards in a box, so all money raised goes to sponsor the new Choose Christ music books.

Tuesday Night Masses During Advent

As is our tradition here in Grafton, we will be having Masses on the Tuesdays during the Advent Season at 7:00pm instead of 8:00am. This means that Mass on Tuesday, November 29 and December 6, 13 and 20 will be at 7pm, followed by the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please take this opportunity to celebrate the wonderful sacramental gifts Jesus wants to give us in this season of longing and expectation, mystery, history and majesty.

Meeting for the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2016 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. downstairs in room #5 of the church. All are welcome to attend including non knitters and beginner knitters. The ministry is looking for knitters or crocheters to assist us in making hats and mittens for those in need. Easy patterns are available. We would like to extend an invitation to parishioners from St. Philip church to join us in our ministry. For more information contact Pat Morse at 508 839-6070. Please join us in a rewarding ministry. We meet every third Saturday of the month.

Spiritual Adoption, The 8th Month Now our Lord Jesus is finished developing and is concentrating on gaining weight; He might be making His mother Mary uncomfortable with His size! Your prayers these past eight months have helped give your spiritually adopted baby's mother the grace she needed to bring her baby to term. Many assume that abortion is only legal through the first trimester of pregnancy, when in fact abortion is legal through birth. As it stands today, American women have the right to obtain an abortion in all 50 states, through all nine months of pregnancy, for virtually any reason at all. Jesus, hidden in the womb of Mary, have mercy on us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration Come celebrate with the parish on Sunday, December 11th, to pray Chaplets to Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego and learn more about the incredible apparition that occurred in 1531 in Mexico. We will begin in church with prayer at 2:30pm and then move down to the church hall to watch a one hour movie on this blessed occurrence. Please bring a friend and join us!

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 Baptism - First Communion Receptions
 Rehearsal Dinners - Baby/Bridal Showers
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