

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 18- Pat Marrkand, 2nd anniversary requested by Tricia & Rick, Parishioners of St. Philip

Dec 24- Christmas Eve 4pm- Fr. Anthony Marteka, parishioners of St. Philip

Dec 25- Christmas Day-9am- Deceased members of the Cardinale family requested by the parish. Parishioners of the St. Philip



Dec 18- Coffee Social

Dec 20- Evening Mass, 7pm St. Mary

Jan 15- Sunday Night Mass, 5pm St. Philip

Feb 4- Pasta Dinner @ St. Philip

Feb 12- Bake Sale- St. Philip

Sunday Collection

December 12 \$3849.00

Thank you for your continued support.

4th Sunday of Advent



4TH SUNDAY OF Advent

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (Matthew 1:24) Let us put our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, let us pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, 24 December, Christmas Eve:

St. Philip: 4:00pm

St. Mary: 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 10:30 (Choir begins singing at 10:00pm)

Note that there will be no live video/audio feed to the downstairs hall at St. Mary during the 12/24 4pm Mass; but there is a Mass on 12/24 at 4pm at St. Philip as well.

Sunday, 25 December, Christmas Day:

St. Philip: 9:00am

St. Mary: 10:45am

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Masses will follow the regular Sunday schedule.



St. Mary



Mass Intentions

St. Mary Parish

What is stewardship? It is the Christian's management of lifestyle which results in generous giving of time, talent and treasure.

Saturday

4:00 pm Stewardship Ministry Intention: For Finding Joy in Reconciliation, birthday & anniversary for Claudia Gentile requested by Judy, 1st anniversary for parishioners Joy Greenfield, Paul Horansky, Lloyd Nolan & David Kaczynski, anniversary for Fr. Oliver Hebert requested by the family

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m.

18th anniversary for Katherine Fleming requested by her Family, memorial for Dennis Flynn, memorial for Nancy McClure and 3rd anniversary for Patricia Allen requested by the family

10:30 a.m.

9th anniversary for Etta (Fleming) Dickinson and 29th anniversary for Arthur Fleming requested by the family

Monday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. For the Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Novena for Religious vocations from Grafton

7:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. For the Souls in Purgatory

Thursday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. For the Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00 pm Special Intention

6:00 pm For Peace in the World

10:00 pm Festival Choir

10:30 pm For the parishioners of St Mary, Laura Hogan

SUNDAY CHRISTMAS DAY

10:45 a.m.

4th anniversary for Edith Fleming requested by the family

1st anniversary for Deacon Nick CaraDonna requested by Danny

Sunday collections

December 12 \$6,115.00

Thank you for your continued support.

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.



Update on Viridian, Our Parishes' (and Your?) Electricity Provider — Earlier this year, both parishes started to use Viridian as their energy provider and became Viridian associates so that parishioners could enjoy the same cost-saving and green-promoting benefits while helping their parish save money. The response, in all candor, has been modest: St. Mary has 22 electric meters signed up, and St. Philip has 8. This means that, every month, St. Mary saves \$44.00 off its electric bill, which is about \$650.00 a month, and St. Philip saves \$16.00 off its bill, which is about \$275.00 a month.

So here is a thought: Wouldn't it be great if we signed up enough people to wipe out both electric bills? That means that if we get 300 more people to sign up through St. Mary, and 130 more people to sign up through St. Philip, then we will meet this goal. Can we make this a goal? Can we reconsider what a win/win situation this is for the parishes and you. Let's ask ourselves, do we like to pay more in taxes than we owe? Do we search out the most expensive gas station? Then why would we want to pay more for brown energy which creates CO2? The town is preparing to put everyone on a green energy plan, but why would we want to wait for a deal which isn't as good as Viridian's and which doesn't help the parish? Right now, you can choose a source which is at least 60% green, renewable energy from wind, solar or water AND less than what National Grid is charging. To sign up, go to www.Viridian.com/StMarysNGrafton or www.Viridian.com/StPhilipGrafton, click on "Become a Customer" in the upper, right corner and follow the prompts. Questions? Call Paul Oparowski at 774.293.1855.

Tuesday Night Masses/Sacrament of Reconciliation During Advent

As is our tradition here in Grafton, we have Mass on the Tuesdays during the Advent Season at 7:00pm instead of 8:00am. This means that Mass on Tuesday, December 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.

Spiritual Adoption of an Unborn Baby

Our Spiritually Adopted Babies will be born this month. As a thank you to the 103 parishioners who spiritually adopted an unborn baby and have been praying daily for that baby and his or her parents, the Pro-life Ministry would like to give you a small gift. Please stop by the Pro-life table and pick up a beautiful prayer card with a small figurine of the precious Baby Jesus. As you read the prayer card you will see that our prayers are still needed. You may also want to visit the web-site www.kissofmercy.org to learn more about this wonderful prayer. Thank you all for your commitment to the Gospel of Life.

Request from St Vincent de Paul Society: One of the families we support would welcome the donation of a new, twin sized mattress (do not need a box spring). If you are interested in donating this item, please call our line at: 508 839-3993 x 35. As always, we are so grateful for the generosity of the parishioners of St Mary/St Philip.



Christmas Card Sale to Sponsor 2017 Choose Christ Music Books

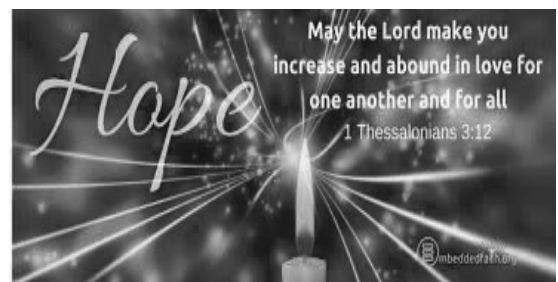
Join us in the Gathering Space and purchase your box of 20 Christmas Cards (full color inside and out, with matching envelopes) for just \$10.00. That's over 30% off the retail price! We received a donation of Christmas Cards in a box, so all money raised goes to sponsor the new Choose Christ music books.

Stewardship Mass Intention for December: For Finding Joy in Reconciliation

In this season of Advent, we seek the peace that God makes available to us through His Son Jesus. Human nature is weakened by Original Sin and while it was washed away by our baptism, our weakness and vulnerability to sin remain. The peace we seek though is easily attainable through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which reunites us with God and His mercy. Our joy is restored in forgiveness. Reconciliation is available each Saturday at 3 p.m. and through the remainder of Advent on Tuesdays after 7 p.m. Mass. Find your heart's peace and joy in Reconciliation and Penance, not only for Christmas but every day.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy that awaits us this Advent season. We pray to be drawn to the power of your endless Grace, even though we are often entangled by our own vulnerability. We pray you will fill us with the hope of your infinite strength and help us know that your reassuring arms are forever around us, especially in moments of weakness. Bless our hearts with the peace of this Advent season as we prepare to rejoice in the birth of your beloved Son, Jesus. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



St. Mary and St. Philip Religious Education



Class Schedule: Classes will be held as usual this weekend, Dec. 18/19. But then we will be on hiatus for a few weeks. Dec. 25 – Christmas, Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Jan. 8 – Epiphany but instead of class all students of Sunday and Monday, Grades 1 – 5, are expected to be present for the 10:30 Mass for the Epiphany Pageant. Children should check in with their catechists who will be in the Gathering Space before Mass. Jan. 15 – it’s the long weekend to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King.

Inclement Weather: Sundays and Mondays: watch WCVB Channel 5 on TV for class cancellation. If Grafton Public Schools are closed on Monday, we are, too. Phoning the RE Office may not help; if the weather warrants school cancellation, then reason dictates that we should stay home, too.

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2016, SUNDAY AFTER CONFIRMATION AT 9AM MASS AT ST. PHILIP CHURCH

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: soap (bar, soft soap), toothpaste, tooth brushes (single), 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 . 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.



Our 10th graders will be hosting a **Parish Pasta Dinner** on Saturday Feb 4th with a snow date of Feb 11th. Please mark your calendars and come support our young people as they grow in faith. Tickets will be available after the holiday. **Beginning in January**, 10 grade students have the opportunity to switch to Sunday morning class. Please email Carole if you are interested in the switch.

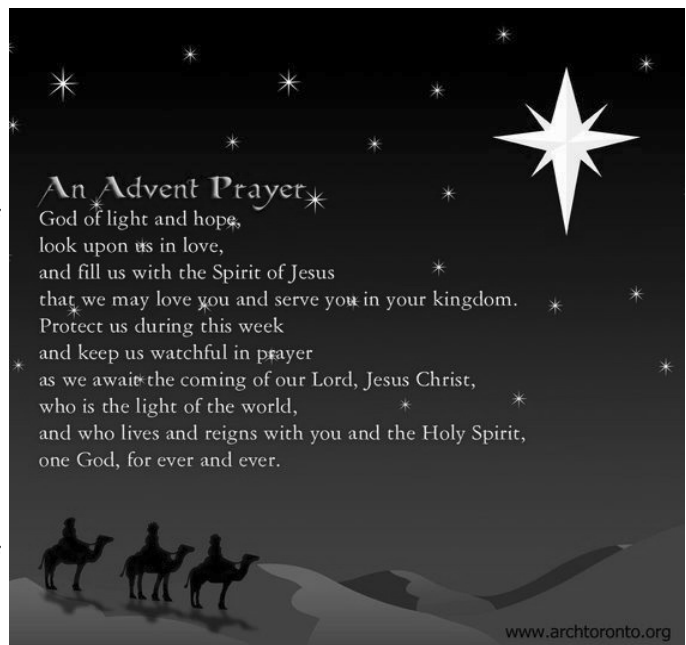
Our 6th grade students have been enjoying mini retreats based on the Old Testament with Sue Landry. Our remaining dates are January 22, February 26 and March 19 from 4:00 to 5:30pm. Please mark your calendar so that your child won’t miss this wonderful time.

A Note of Appreciation

A sincere thank you to Jordan Eddy, Jonathan Graveson, Katie Graveson, Liz Machado, Maeve Mahoney, Marc Salvatelli and Cassidy Waldo for their help with the Ice Cream Social after the cherubs celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Dec. 10. What a wonderful group of young members of our Grafton faith community!

Another Note of Appreciation

An equally sincere thank you goes to St. Mary’s Boy Scout Troop 106. Our Scouts and adult troop leaders spent the best part of their Saturday on November 27th cleaning up the slope above the upper parking lot, making sure that it is free of the leaves that inevitably fall this time of year. Truly, these boys are living examples of the Scouting tradition of service and self-giving. Thanks to all who helped.



RECONCILIATION: AN ADVENT GIFT

Advent is a wonderful time, as John the Baptist tells us, to “Repent!” and “Prepare the way of the Lord” through a thorough and fruitful celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. However, if one has been away from the Sacrament for a while, the idea of celebrating it again can be intimidating if not downright nerve-racking. One of the things which can make it difficult, no matter when we last celebrated the Sacrament, is identifying those ways in which we have failed to do God’s will. To help us with this, below is an Examination of Conscience, a meditation aid based on the Ten Commandments, to help us know what we need to confess.

- Have I put something ahead of God as most important in my life?
- Have I spoken in crude or vulgar ways? Have I gossiped or spread rumors? Have I shared something private about someone with no good reason? Have I damaged someone’s reputation? Have I taken the Lord’s name in vain?
- Have I failed to celebrate Mass on the Lord’s Day or Holy Days of Obligation through my own fault? Do I habitually arrive at Mass late or leave before the priest? Have I done unnecessary work or chores on Sunday, especially at the expense of enjoying God and loved ones? Have I not talked to God enough in prayer?
- Have I failed to respect and obey the legitimate authority God has placed over me? Have I appreciated and respected my friends and family, especially my seniors?
- Have I failed to protect and cherish all human life from the moment of conception until natural death? Have I placed myself or others in unnecessary danger? Have I over indulged in or abused food, drugs or alcohol? Have I used the weapon of a sharp tongue to wound or kill somebody’s spirit?
- Have I misused the gift of sexuality by expressing it in any way outside the context of Holy Matrimony? If married, have I lived chastely my state in life, following the Church’s teachings about the right expression of sexuality? Have I made bad choices in what I watched or read? Have I used my imagination inappropriately?
- Have I taken anything which wasn’t mine? Have I always put in an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay? Have I paid my bills and income tax with integrity? Have I supported my parish financially and donated to charity?
- Have I wanted someone or something which didn’t belong to me and to which I had no right? Have I been envious of what others have?
- Have I been stubborn and prideful when I should have compromised or been humble? Have I been judgmental? Have I turned away from someone who really needed me?
- What bad habits do I need to change to let God make me holier?

If we have done some or much of the above, we should not despair, panic or rationalize. We should simply and humbly come before our Lord with contrite hearts and avail ourselves of the great gift of his mercy through a celebration of Reconciliation. After our special 7:00pm Masses on Tuesdays during Advent, Fr. Ken is available for Reconciliation, as he is every Saturday at 3:00pm and after any weekday Mass. And of course you can make an appointment with him for another time.

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