

# Parish Communities

## St. Mary & St. Philip



**Office** - 508-839-3993

**Fax** - 508-839-1330

**Website** - [www.stmarysgrafton.org](http://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](mailto:jsears@stmarysgrafton.org)

**Director of Religious Education:**

**Sr. Yvonne Millman, SSA** x12 • [ymillman@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:ymillman@stmarysgrafton.org)

**Religious Education Secretary:**

**Jill Sullivan** x13 • [jsullivan@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:jsullivan@stmarysgrafton.org)

**Organist/Director of Music:**

**Pamela Cross** x37 • [p.cross@shoplegacy.com](mailto:p.cross@shoplegacy.com)

**Property Manager:** Al Crespo

**Safe Environment Coordinator:** Joan Shanley \*  
[jfs34@msn.com](mailto:jfs34@msn.com)

**Office** - 508-839-3325

**Fax** - 508-839-1310

**Religious Education** - 508-839-9130

**Email** - [stphilipsgrafton@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipsgrafton@gmail.com)

**Mass Schedule**

Sunday 9:00 AM

**Mailing Address**

12 West St., Grafton, MA 01519

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Parish Secretary/Administrator of Religious Education/ Safe Environment Coordinator:** Carole LeBlanc

[cleb1329@aol.com](mailto:cleb1329@aol.com)

**Organist/Coordinator of Music:**

**Jonathan Capece** •

[jcapece.stphilip@gmail.com](mailto:jcapece.stphilip@gmail.com)

**Pastor: Rev. Kenneth R. Cardinale** x24 • [krcardinale@gmail.com](mailto:krcardinale@gmail.com)

**Deacon: Rev. Mr. Frederick A. Coggins** x29 • [fcoggins@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:fcoggins@stmarysgrafton.org)

**Business Manager: Lisa Stewart** x11 • [lstewart@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto: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.

**St. Philip**



*Mass Intentions*

**St Philip Parish**

**March 5 9am Mass**– Stephen L'Esperance birthday remembrance requested by the family, Parishioners of St. Philip

**March 5– 4:45**– Parishioners of St. Philip

**March 12**– Helen LaPan & Maryann L'Esperance requested by a friend, Parishioners of St. Philip

**March 19th**– The deceased members of the Stone family requested by the parish, Parishioners of St. Philip

*Sundays during Lent, rosary after 9am Mass at St. Philips*

**Calendar of Events for St. Philip and St. Mary**

- March 5– Sunday evening Mass 4:45pm St. Philip
- March 8-Parents' Meeting for First Eucharist at 7:00 pm St. Mary Church
- March 10– Fish Fry St. Mary 5pm
- March 11 -First Eucharist Retreat, 9:00 to 12:30 St. Mary, child accompanied by at least one parent
- March 12– 4th grade level Mass , 10:30 at St. Mary
- March 17– 24-hour Famine
- March 19– Coffee Social following 9am Mass St. Philip
- March 19– 6th grade mini-retreat with Sue Landry 3-4:30pm St. Philip
- March 21– Christmas Fair meeting, 6:30 St Philip all invited

**Sunday Collection**

02/26/17 \* = \$1,973.00\* vs. weekly budgeted amount = \$2,325.00

\* Includes weekly, fuel and maintenance collections

Thank you for your continued support

**St. Philip's Christmas Fair is Coming Back!**

After a two-year hiatus, a growing group of Parishioners have come together to begin building plans to bring our Christmas Fair back. The date has been set for **Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017**. We currently have a very engaged committee of 12 that has met twice and put the foundation in place. We are still looking for more people and their ideas for this special event. **WE SO NEED YOUR HELP!!**

*Upcoming meetings are planned for the following dates:*

*Tuesday, March 21... Tuesday, April 18... and Tuesday, May 23.*

Meetings start promptly at 6:30pm in one of the upstairs RE classrooms and will go no longer than one hour. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Follow this space for periodic updates as the plan and our needs for this event grow. If you have questions or thoughts before our next meeting on how you can help, please contact one of two co-chairs for the event: Patti Hart at pehart@aol.com or 508-887-9933, or Karen Jordan at kjordanfamily3@gmail.com.



**St. Mary**



*Mass Intentions*

**St. Mary Parish**

*Don't set your lifestyle based on your income, set your lifestyle based on how you believe God wants you to live. If God provides you with extra funds, pray about what He wants for this excess*

**Saturday**

4:00 pm Memorial for Margaret & Ellen Grace Reardon requested by the family

**Sunday First Sunday in Lent**

7:30 a.m. Parishioners of St Mary

10:30 a.m. 29th anniversary for Rev Daniel Driscoll requested by the parish

**Monday**

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

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

**Tuesday**

7:00 p.m. Special Intention, followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Wednesday**

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. Novena for Religious Vocations from Grafton, followed by Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, concluding at 3pm with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction and Reposition

**Thursday**

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

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

**Next Saturday**

4:00 pm Parishioners of St Mary

**Next Sunday Second Sunday of Lent**

7:30 a.m. Special Intention

10:30 a.m.-10th anniversary for Elizabeth Flynn Barry requested by the family

**Sunday Collection**

February 25 & 26 \$4,152.75

Thank you for your continued support

**St. Mary's LENTEN FISH MEAL**

Come join fellow parishioners for a fish meal and camaraderie on Friday, March 10th, 5pm – 7pm. The meal will consist of fish, roasted potatoes, baked macaroni, vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert and beverage. Tickets will be on sale after each Mass at St. Mary's on February 18th/19th, 25th/26th and March 4th/5th and from Janet Krause at St. Philip each weekend after the 9:00Mass. Tickets are also available in the office of St. Mary's (Monday through Thursday). Cost of an adult ticket is \$10, for children under 13 the cost is \$5. We look forward to seeing you on March 10th.





My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Pope Francis has recently reminded us that “Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ...” From his first encyclical to the present day, by word and deed, the Holy Father has shown us that the hearts of those who truly encounter Jesus Christ are filled with the joy of the Gospel. Our lives, our Church, nation and world need that joy. We all need that renewed encounter.

Pope Francis has also warned us that sin can cool, distance and even break our relationship with Christ leaving us not with joy but with an interior emptiness, a weariness about life and a blindness to our true needs and the needs of those around us.

In urging us on to conversion, the Holy Father challenges us not to settle for mediocrity but to use the Lenten practices of prayer, penance and almsgiving to draw closer to Christ, detach ourselves from the false idols of this world and to accompany more closely those in our midst who are suffering, needy and vulnerable. Pope Francis invites us this Lent to hear and ponder more deeply the word of God. He particularly directs us to the parable of the rich man who dressed extravagantly and dined sumptuously each day while the poor man Lazarus lay unnoticed at the rich man’s gate.

While we may not consider our clothing extravagant or our daily fare sumptuous, the Gospel challenges us to look through the eyes of the poor in our midst and beyond. Can I live more simply? Do I really need all I have or plan to acquire? Am I putting more emphasis on my wants rather than my needs and the needs of others?

A recent news article reported that psychologists have found that people derive more satisfaction and pleasure from providing things for others in need rather than acquiring something unnecessary for themselves. In Gospel terms, “whatever you do for the least of your brothers and sisters, you do it for me.” Our charity and almsgiving become an encounter with Christ that brings us joy. Prayer and penance help us to take our eyes off ourselves and to see others in our midst. They liberate us to respond and, in doing so, to find joy. This is the journey of Lent--- taking up the Cross, dying to self that we may better love God and others. It is a journey that leads to the joy of Easter.

I pray that you may take this journey seriously and that, through the grace of God, it will lead you to a renewed encounter with Christ and a deepened awareness of the joy of the Gospel.

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

**Spring Retreat Offered**

Father Leo LeBlanc and I are offering another spring retreat at the Marie-Joseph Spiritual Center, 10 Evans Rd., Biddeford Pool, Maine.

The last few retreats have been one day longer than most of them in the past. This has been an obstacle for some people. So we’re going back to the shorter, two-day format to see if that will enable more people to come. Therefore, the retreat is starting on Monday, 22 May, at noon when we will gather for dinner. It will conclude on Wednesday, 24 May, at 12:00pm after Mass.

The topic will be the life of St. Joseph, husband of Mary and foster-father of our Lord Jesus Christ. St. Joseph is a paradox: No word he ever spoke is recorded in the Bible, and he is only mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke—a seemingly minor biblical character. Yet, when we realize the enormity of the role God the Father gave him in the plan of salvation—to be the head of the Holy Family—we realize what a towering figure he truly is.

Our retreat will be based primarily on the book *The Mystery of Joseph* by Dominican priest Father Marie-Dominique Philippe, O.P. This book is readily available by downloading it on your e-reader, such as a Kindle, or ordering it through Amazon.com. Through this book, we will explore the relationship of Joseph with Mary, Joseph with Jesus, Joseph with God the Father and Joseph with us. These areas may well deal with the call of God, obedience to God’s will, fidelity and duty, courage and humility, and the invitation to totally embrace the mystery of Christ.

A typical full day of the retreat starts with breakfast at 8:30am with a presentation by Fr. Leo or me at 9:30am, Mass at 11:00am, lunch at 12:00pm, free time in the afternoon which includes the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, another presentation at 4:00pm, dinner at 5:30pm and showing a segment of a film at 6:30pm. All activities are optional, the beach is steps away, and the food is very good.

The total cost is \$200.00, a real bargain. The rooms are simple but comfortable. Each room has its own sink, showers are down the hall, and there are individual stalls. To reserve your spot, you need to get a \$40.00, non-refundable deposit to Fr. Leo by 15 March, then another non-refundable \$60.00 by 20 April. The remainder is paid to Fr. Leo at the retreat. Make all checks to Fr. Leo LeBlanc, and mail them to him at St. Anthony rectory, 84 Salem St., Fitchburg, MA 01420. Fr. Leo collects all the money and pays the retreat center himself. Call me at the rectory with any questions, or call Fr. Leo at (978)342-2491.

—Father Ken

## St. Mary and St. Philip Religious Education

**Incllement 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.

**March 19/20:** The children of grades 3, 4, and 5 will pray the Stations of the Cross at 9:30 am on Sunday and at 4:45 pm on Monday. All parishioners are welcomed. The presence of the cherubs in Grades 1 and 2 is the catechist's decision.



One visual, to which we are accustomed during Lent, is a cross with a purple cloth draped on it. Then it is changed to white or gold for Easter. This cloth is a reminder of the shroud in which Jesus was buried (John 20:8-10) and that Jesus no longer needs it. In the sanctuary at St. Mary you will see a similar but different visual for Lent. The color of the shroud will change each week. Your Lenten challenge is to scrutinize the Sunday Gospel to determine how the color relates to the Gospel.

### The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a worldwide, living reality founded by Blessed Frederick Ozanam. It is a charitable group that assist families in need due to layoffs, loss of work due to illness or injury, addiction, illness of a child or loss of a spouse.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Mary & St. Philip helps over 17 families in need. A way you can give of yourself during this Lenten Journey is by accepting a "Mite Box" that is available at each entrance in the Gathering Space. At St. Philip's the boxes are available on the table located to the left of the entrance. Accompanied beside the "Mite Box" is the story of "The Widow's Mite Offering" for you to take as well. Giving up a cup of coffee, a muffin, a candy bar and putting the money into the "Mite Box" during the 40 Days

of Lent is a way we can help those families in need.

Beginning on Palm Sunday, April 9th and throughout Holy Week, bring the "Mite Box" together with the funds you have sacrificed to a Mass and offer it up. Place the Box in the baskets provided in the Gathering Space or at St Philip's on the table located to the left of the entrance. Your donations will go to support The Society of St. Vincent de Paul here at St. Mary and St. Philip to help our families in need. By all of us giving a little we can give a family hope and love. No sacrifice is too small. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity

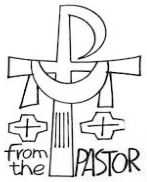


**Market Sunday's Outreach Program "Neighbor Helping Neighbor"** is set up by our St. Vincent de Paul and Market Sunday ministries to communicate with our parishioners on seasonal food items that would help to broaden our food pantry. We are critically low in Chef Boyardee canned meals (Spaghettios, Beefaroni, etc.), coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. crackers & cookies, non-sugared cereal, rice/rice mixes, baked beans, Ramen Noodles, mayonnaise, tissues & paper towels. 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.



**Meeting for the Prayer Shawl Ministry** will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. downstairs in room #5 of the church. All are welcome to attend including adult non-knitters and beginners. 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. Special note: For children 8-12 interested in learning to knit (limited to 8) for those in need there will be a special meeting on Saturday, March 25, from 10-11 downstairs in room #5. PLEASE bring the following supplies a 16" number 13 circular knitting needle and one skein of Lion's Brand Wool Ease Thick and Quick yarn (color of your choice) to make a winter hat. Please call Pat for confirmation. For more information contact Pat Morse at (508)839-6070. Please join us in a rewarding ministry. Adults meet every third Saturday of the month.



Well, Lent started last week with Ash Wednesday, so we're off and running. We have a number of things happening, so this week's column will try to inform us of what we can take advantage to observe Lent well. Lent is that special 40 day retreat time in the universal Church when we prepare for Holy Week and to rededicate ourselves to our baptismal promises at Easter. We should have already prayed about what the Lord wants us to do in the way of fasting (abstaining from), almsgiving (works of mercy, giving of our time, talent and treasure) and prayer. To help with the prayer and reflection, we offer the following:

**Lenten Message Series: *The Eucharist: God's Inexhaustible Gift*** The latest Message Series will run through the first five Sundays of Lent (the longest series yet). At the beginning of this year, from the altar and in the bulletin, I mentioned that I was inspired to declare, at least unofficially, 2017 to be The Year of the Eucharist in our parishes. I'm not sure what that meant at the time (and am still not), but I did feel moved to develop a series on the Eucharist, which is called ***The Eucharist: God's Inexhaustible Gift***. The topics the homilies will touch on during Masses are:

- **1st Sunday of Lent: Soul Food for the Long Haul** (*The Eucharist is our food for the journey through life.*)
- **2nd Sunday of Lent: Life (Eternal) Is a Banquet** (*The Eucharist is a preview of and participation in the everlasting banquet in Heaven*)
- **3rd Sunday of Lent: Every Body Needs Blood** (*The Eucharist is the Lifeblood which courses through, connects and keeps alive Christ's Body, the Church*)
- **4th Sunday of Lent: He Is Really Here!** (*The Eucharist is the True Presence of Christ with us on earth.*)
- **5th Sunday of Lent: His Life for Ours: The Holy Sacrifice** (*The Eucharist joins us to Christ's sacrifice on the Cross so we have access to its saving action.*)

If you don't get a chance to hear the homilies, they are available on the website ([www.stmarysgraffon.org](http://www.stmarysgraffon.org)) soon after.

**Lent Small Group Days, Times and Leaders** The faith-sharing which takes place in these groups continues the conversation the homilies begin. The power of God in the groups' sharing brings people closer to God and each other. As the saying goes, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone; if you want to walk far, walk together". You can join one of the following groups:

- Sunday, 9:15am, St. Mary rectory, Pam Cross, leader
- Wednesday, 9:30am, St. Mary's conference room, Sue Robbins and Denise Spence, leaders
- Wednesday, 7:00pm, St. Mary's parish hall, Lori Dewar, leader
- Wednesday, 7:00pm, St. Mary's conference room, Jim Gallagher and Ceil Phillips, leaders
- Saturday, 9:00am, Hopkinton home, Rolande Parent, leader

**Tuesday Evening Masses/Sacrament of Reconciliation** As has become our tradition here during Lent and Advent, we celebrate Mass on Tuesdays at 7pm (instead of 8:00am) so that people who may not ordinarily get a chance to celebrate Mass during the week may do so. Mass is followed by the opportunity to celebrate privately the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Friday Stations of the Cross** As is also a tradition in our parishes, the ancient practice of making the Stations of the Cross is done in community on Fridays during Lent: at 12 noon at St. Philip church, followed by a light lunch each person brings, and at 7pm at St. Mary church. History tells us that St. Francis of Assisi created the Stations as a means for people who could not visit the Via Dolorosa in the Holy Land to follow Christ on His sorrowful way up Calvary.

**Colorful Cross** Speaking of the Cross, you will notice that the cross we usually venerate on Good Friday has made an early appearance this Lent in St. Mary church. If you look to the left of the sanctuary where the baptismal font is located, you will see it. In the past, this cross was draped in purple during the Triduum and white or gold at Easter. This fabric is meant to represent the shroud in which Jesus was wrapped when he was buried in the tomb, left on the Cross and no longer needed after his resurrection. Each Sunday of Lent, this cross will be draped in a fabric of a different color which relates to the Gospel reading for that Sunday. We will not tell you the colors or the ways they relate—or what will happen with the colors at Easter—but we will discuss them during liturgies throughout these holy seasons

**Reflections/Buttons Available** You can read a new reflection from Bishop Robert Barron every day during Lent from the home page of the parish website ([www.stmarysgraffon.org](http://www.stmarysgraffon.org)). Please take a copy of the prayer and reflection aid *Five Minutes with the Word* from the Gathering Space/church entrance, as well as a button with a black cross on it which reminds us of the ashes we receive at the beginning of Lent. Wearing this button reminds us that we need to "Repent, and believe in the Gospel".

**Lenten Mission Returns** Save the dates of Sunday, 2 April, Monday, 3 April, and Tuesday, 4 April for a three night mission on The Last Seven Words of Christ. This is a teaser—more details to follow as Lent unfolds!

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