

# 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 Milkman, SSA x12 • [ymilkman@stmarysgrafton.org](mailto:ymilkman@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 19**– The deceased members of the Stone family requested by the parish. Parishioners of St. Philip

**March 26**– Parishioners of St. Philip

*Sundays during Lent, rosary at St. Philip after Mass*

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

March 19– Coffee social following 9am Mass, St. Philip

March 19– 6th grade mini-retreat with Sue Landry, 3-4:30pm, St. Philip

March 19– 9:30am, Stations of Cross, grades 3-5, St. Mary

March 20– 4:30pm, Stations of Cross grades 3-5, St. Mary

March 21– Christmas Fair meeting, 6:30pm St Philip, all invited

March 22– 1st Eucharist Meeting, 7pm, St. Mary

April 2– 6th grade mini-retreat with Sue Landry, 3-4:45pm

April 2– Sunday Evening Mass, 4:45pm, St. Philip

#### Sunday Collection

\$2,728.67\* vs. weekly budgeted amount = \$2,550.00

\* Includes weekly, fuel and maintenance collections

Thank you for your continued support

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

##### Spring Cleaning?

##### Maybe the Christmas Fair Can Help!!

Cleaning out your closets, attic, and the cellar now that spring is almost here? Need a home for those gently used baskets or other household items that are too good to throw away? The 2017 Christmas Fair Committee would like you to keep it and its needs in mind this spring cleaning season.

Although it may seem early, the team has begun preparations for the December event and members are making their wish lists.

Baskets to hold the theme baskets that fill the Chance Tables in the center of the floor .

Those with any questions or suggestions are invited to attend any of the fair committee meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, April 18 and May 23– or to contact either of the fair co-chairs– Patti Hart at 508-887-9933, pehart@aol.com, or Karen Jordan at kjordanfamily3@gmail.com



## St. Mary



### Mass Intentions

#### St. Mary Parish

*Stewardship opens an avenue of thought that allows us to give, "With no strings attached," and without questioning what we will get in return.*

Saturday

4:00 pm 1st anniversary for Parishioners of St Mary- Therese Auger, John Girard, Olive Maynard, Lillian Hutchinson, and Allan Unger. 2nd anniversary for Carl Lambert requested by the family

#### Sunday Third Sunday in Lent

7:30 a.m. Memorial for Dennis Flynn requested by the family

Month's mind for Charles Peterson requested by the family

10:30 a.m. Parishioners of St Mary

#### Monday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. The Souls in Purgatory

#### Tuesday

7:00 p.m. The Souls in Purgatory

#### Wednesday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. The Souls in Purgatory, followed by Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 3pm, concluding with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction and Reposition

#### Thursday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. The Souls in Purgatory

#### Next Saturday

4:00 pm Memorial for Madelyn Butkus requested by the family. In remembrance of his birthday Leopold LaMarche requested by the family

#### Next Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30 a.m. The parishioners of St Mary

10:30 a.m. 13th anniversary for Miriam Cofsky requested by the family

#### Sunday Collections

March 11 & 12 \$ 6,046.25

Thank you for your continued support

#### Colorful Cross

You will notice that the cross we venerate on Good Friday has made an early appearance this Lent in St. Mary church, to the left of the sanctuary where the baptismal font is located. 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. Last week, on the Second Sunday of Lent, the shroud was white to represent Jesus' brilliant white robe during the Transfiguration. This Sunday the shroud is blue. We will not tell you the colors or the ways they relate ahead of time—or what will happen with the colors at Easter—but we will discuss them during liturgies throughout these holy seasons.

19 March 2017

3rd Sunday of Lent

## Lenten Mission Returns! The Seven Last Words of Christ

Save the dates of Sunday, **2 April, Monday, 3 April, and Tuesday, 4 April** for a three night mission on *The Seven Last Words of Christ*. The mission will involve the entire Catholic Community in Grafton. Details are below:

### 1st night, Sunday, 2 April, 6pm

What: Penance service

Where: St. Philip

Speaker: Fr. Ed Hanlon

Topic: The first and second words of Christ, "**Father, forgive them, they know not what they do**" (Luke 23:34) and "**Amen, I say to you. Today you will be with me in Paradise**" (Luke 23:43)

### 2nd night, Monday 3 April, 7pm

What: Word service

Where: St. Mary

Speaker: Sr. Yvonne Millman

Topic: The third and fourth words of Christ, "**Woman, behold your son**" (John 19:26) and "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**" (Mark 15:34)

### 3rd night, Tuesday, 4 April, 7pm

What: Eucharist

Where: St. James

Speaker: Deacon Fred Coggins

Topic: The fifth, sixth and seventh words of Christ, "**I thirst**" (John 19:28, "**It is finished**" (John 19:30) and "**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit**" (Luke 23:46)

Come and prepare to focus on the Lord's Passion in a way we haven't done it before, or at least not in recent memory.

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### **News from The Soup Kitchen Ministry - Dismas House Receives Award**

On March 8, the Center for Nonviolent Solutions, a Worcester based non-profit, awarded Dismas House "The Community Peacemaker Award." This is an annual award presented to a deserving agency in Worcester that is working to promote peace and understanding. " This year we are very pleased to present the award to David and Colleen and to Dismas House for making a real difference in Worcester," said Denise Darrigrand, Board Co-chair. The Center for Nonviolent Solutions works to provide education and resources to help people in the Worcester Area to understand nonviolence and peacemaking as a way of life and to reject the use of violence in resolving conflict. Congratulations Dismas House and thank you, our parishioners, for your support of their mission through the St. Mary – St. Philip Soup Kitchen Ministry.

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**40 DAYS FOF LIFE**-Help save Moms, Dads and babies from the pain of abortion by joining in this worldwide campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil. Members of the Grafton Catholic Churches Pro-life Ministry will be praying across the street from Planned Parenthood at 470 Pleasant Street in Worcester on the following dates and times: Thursdays, March 23rd & 30th and Tuesday, April 4th from 1:00 - 7:00pm as well as each Tuesday during March from 3:00 - 4:00pm. Please consider joining for an hour in prayer as we come together to bear public witness to God's great love and mercy which can move hearts and forgive sins. You may contact Julie at 508-320-2965 for more information.

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### **17th Annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference at Assumption College — Serving Our Brothers in Christ**

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Assumption College on Saturday, April 1st. Visit the conference website at [www.firstmensconf.org](http://www.firstmensconf.org) for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Father Chase Hilgenbrinck, Shawn Carney, Chris Stewart, Tony Brandt, Joe Dittmar, and Jeff Cavins. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Julie Schroeder at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 15th, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

*If you would like information or tickets, go to their web site [www.firstmensconf.org](http://www.firstmensconf.org). If you would like to car pool from St. Mary or Phillip, call Bob Dascanio at 508-847-3777.*

## St. Mary and St. Philip Religious Education

**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.

**Registration for Religious Education** classes for next year will be held this weekend, March 18, 19 and 20.

At St. Mary: for children who will be entering Grades 1 – 5, registration will be held during class times on Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 am and Monday from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the Gathering space. Registration will also be held after all weekend Masses on Saturday and Sunday.

At St. Philip: for children who will be entering Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10, registration will be held on Sunday after the 9:00 am Mass, on Sunday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 pm and on Monday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

**Wednesday, March 22** at 7:00 pm, an important meeting will be held for the parents of children preparing for First Eucharist. At this time, banner materials will be distributed and planning for ministries and seating will be done.

### 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 and 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. Next to 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 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. Baked Beans, Rice mixes/Lipton sides, applesauce, Cookies/crackers/cake & brownie mix, coffee/tea/hot chocolate, sugar, jelly, school snacks, non sugared cereal, Chef Boyardee, paper products, pancake mix/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.

**Meeting for the Prayer Shawl Ministry 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 10-11am 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 Morse for confirmation or more information at (508)839-6070. Please join us in a rewarding ministry. Adults meet every third Saturday of the month.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock" (Rev. 3:20). How have we responded to the gospel call to serve Jesus through the poor and vulnerable? It is for this reason that we join with parishes around the country in the National Collection for Catholic Relief Services on the weekend of April 2. This collection reminds us that through your generosity, you can help ease the burdens of our brothers and sisters around the globe. Thanks to your donation, you can alleviate suffering and provide assistance to people in need through the international Catholic humanitarian agency, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), supply outreach and pastoral care to refugees, migrants, and travelers, provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world through the Holy Father's Relief Fund, advocate for poor and vulnerable people and for international justice and peace, actively help victims of human trafficking and refugees by providing resettlement services and public policy advocacy.



For example, in Niger, changes in climate in western Africa are adversely affecting poor and rural farmers. No matter how hard these farmers work, droughts are shortening the rainy season, leaving harvests too small to support families and communities. Your support of CRS is helping connect businesses that provide drought-resistant seeds to these communities. These new relationships are providing hope to these communities for a sustainable future.

Please be generous in the Catholic Relief Services Collection in your parish. By participating in this collection, you are responding to Jesus in disguise in some of the most marginalized communities in our world.

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

**Lenten Message Series: *The Eucharist: God's Inexhaustible Gift*** The latest Message Series is well under way and will run through the first five Sundays of Lent (the longest series yet). Two Sundays ago we started off the series with a Message called "**Soul Food for the Long Haul**", which discussed how Jesus is our Eucharistic food for the journey through life. Last Sunday's Message was called "**Life (Eternal) Is a Banquet**", which discussed how the Eucharist is a preview of and participation in the everlasting banquet in Heaven. This Sunday's Message is called **Every Body Needs Blood** and discusses how the Eucharist is the Lifeblood which courses through, connects and keeps alive Christ's Body, the Church. The rest of the series is as follows:

- **4th Sunday of Lent: He Is Really Here!: The True Presence** (*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.stmarysgrifton.org](http://www.stmarysgrifton.org)) soon after.

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**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. **Note that this is not the case on 4 April because of the Cluster Mission described in this bulletin.**

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**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.

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**Examination of Conscience** — Many of us heard the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" as ashes were put on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. This reminds us that Lent is a time of year when the Lord calls us to spiritually "clean house" and repent of our sins. That's why we priests throughout the diocese are asked to set aside time on Tuesday nights during Lent to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At St. Mary I will be available after our Lenten 7:00pm Tuesday Masses to do just that. And I am always available at 3:00pm on Saturdays before the 4:00pm Mass at St. Mary. I know, however, that if one has been away from the sacrament for a while, the idea of celebrating it again can be intimidating or even 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, I offer below 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 the most important thing 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? 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.

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