

Parish Communities

St. Mary & St. Philip Benizi



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
Religious Education Secretary:
Jill Sullivan x13 • jsullivan@stmarysgrafton.org
Organist/Director of Music:
Pamela Cross x37 • p.cross@shoplegacy.com
Safe Environment Coordinator: Joan Shanley
jfs34@msn.com

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 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Parish Secretary/Administrator of
Religious Education/ Safe Environment Coordi-
nator:** Carole LeBlanc
cleb1329@aol.com
Organist/Coordinator of Music:
Jonathan Capece •
jcapece.stphilip@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Leo LeBlanc x24 • fathrleb@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: The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated at either the 4pm Saturday Mass or the 10:30 Sunday Mass at St. Mary & 9am Mass Sundays at St. Philip. Please speak to Fr. Leo after Mass. (The sacrament may be celebrated at another time for serious reason.)

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact Fr. LeBlanc 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. LeBlanc, 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

Dec 31– Deceased Members of St. Philip
 Jan 7– Helen LaPan requested by the parish, Parishioners of St. Philip

Calendar of Events for St. Philip and St. Mary

Jan 7 & 8– No RE classes either parishes.
 Jan 7– Epiphany Pageant St. Mary, all grades are expected to be at this Mass.
 Jan 7– Parish Open House 10:30 St Mary Rectory
 Jan 14–1st Reconciliation Celebration 1pm @ St. Mary
 Jan 15 & 16– No classes either parish
 Jan 15– Coffee Social St Philip
 Jan 21 & 22– Religious Ed resumes both parishes.

P.O.P.E

Projects Our Parish Envisions
 As of 08-20-17

Pope Project -> Renovating Lower Level Classroom

Pope Project Cost: \$19,364.00
 Pope Envelope Donations to Date: \$5418.00
 Estate Donation: \$10,000.00
 Balance to Raise: \$ **4582.00**
 Expenses incurred to date- \$12600.92

Christmas Fair Results

What a great event this year's Christmas Fair was! It was filled with lots of fun and festivity that was had by all who were there. The added blessing was that it brought in a profit of \$11,268. We were counting on this to help us even out our budget for this fiscal year and this has definitely started us down that path.



Thanks to all who gave of their time, talent and treasure to make this another wonderful community event. It was a great way for parishioners, family, friends and neighbors to come together to jump start their Christmas season.

Coffee Social at St. Philip

Our next coffee social will take place after Mass on 1/15/18. Please check the signup cards on the table in the church entrance. All assistance is greatly appreciated.

Due to the holiday schedule, collection totals are not available at this time. As always, thank you for your generous support.

St. Mary



Mass Intentions

St. Mary Parish

"The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord."-J. L. Kraft

Saturday

4:00 p.m. Special Intention

Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30am 5th anniversary for Edith Fleming requested by the family, 10th anniversary for Etta (Fleming) Dickin-son requested by the family, 30th anniversary for Arthur Fleming requested by the family

10:30 a.m.

4:00 p.m..

Monday (Holy Day of Obligation Mass-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

11:00 am-St. Mary's

Tuesday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. Open Intention

Wednesday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. Open Intention

Thursday

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 a.m. Open Intention

Next Saturday

4:00 p.m. Special Intention

Next Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 a.m. 24th anniversary for William Cournoyer & 18th anniversary for Michele Foley requested by the family

10:30 am Epiphany Pageant 2nd Anniversary for Lloyd Nolan by family Parishioners of St. Mary's



MARY, OUR MOTHER AND OUR MODEL

Thanks be to God for this year of grace 2018. As the world has its revelry on New Year's eve to welcome this New Year with celebration and hoopla, we as Christians welcome that it's a New Year of grace. For all is grace, all is gift. As we proclaim at Easter Vigil, all times belong to Him. For He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is the Source of all that is. And He is the Destiny of all that is.

We celebrate three things on this Feast as Catholics: Mary, the Mother of God, the day of Circumcision when the sacred Name of Jesus is announced by Joseph, and thirdly, the Church proclaims this Feast to be World Day for Peace. Shortly after Pope Francis became pope, he presented to us a teaching on motherhood and the Church, stressing that: **a mother generates life. And Mary is the Mother of the Life by which we live, that is, the Life of Christ.**

Pope Francis goes on to say that there is a common temptation among us to reduce Jesus to His teaching and moral example. What we need, he tells us, is the Person of Christ. For this reason in the Eucharist Jesus leaves us His very Self. In sharing our humanity, Jesus understood that we need concreteness. Principles, and dogmas and commandments are not enough. We need Jesus and His Presence in a substantial way.

And from the cross Jesus anticipates our need for a real mother. So He appoints His own Mother to be our Mother as well. In giving birth to Jesus, she has somehow given rebirth to all those who live the Christ Life. "Her womb," Pope Francis says, "carried a child only once, yet it remains ever fruitful, never ceasing to bring forth the fruits of her motherly compassion."

The Church gives her rightly the title: Theotokos, that is, "God-bearer". For Christ who is fully human is also fully divine. If you and I are having problems with our faith, whether disillusionment, anger, or frustration, go to Mary. With sincere humility seek her counsel and her consolation. **She is the Mother of our Person.** She does not stop at just giving life. With great care she helps her children to grow, teaches them the way of life, and accompanies us always with her care, her love and her affection, even when they are all grown up. In other words **she helps us become ourselves.**

Pope Francis goes on to say: "We all take part in the motherhood of the Church, so that the light of Christ may reach the far confines of the earth, bringing Him to the unlikeliest of places. **Mary is our model for a new evangelization.** LET THIS BE THE YEAR OF EVANGELIZATION for our Parishes in North Grafton and Grafton Center.





Sunday, December 31st
 St. Mary: 7:30 am
 St. Philip: 9:00 am
 St. Mary: 10:30 am
 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Vigil)
 (Holy Day of Celebration)
 St. Mary: 4:00 pm
Monday, January 1st
 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 (Holy Day Celebration)
 St. Mary: 11:00 am

1ST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION: The 1st Reconciliation Celebration will take place at St. Mary on Sunday, January 14th at 1:00pm. There will be an Ice Cream Sundae Party afterwards downstairs in the Parish Hall for all in attendance. Please sign up on the easel in the Hall for planning purposes and to help with the sundae party following the Penance Service.

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. In order to get us ready for Winter, we welcome donations of: Spaghetti and pasta sauce, children's cereal, juice boxes, jello/pudding and snacks; rice pilaf, Lipton Sides and Hamburger Helper, tissues and paper towels, pancake mix and syrup, frosting, coffee and tea, Chef Boyardee, jelly, sugar, mayonnaise, salt, pepper and seasonings

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.



Grafton Catholic Youth Group Schedule for 2018

January 12, 2018 - Social Night - Bowling in Shrewsbury (Cost \$20 for bowling, pizza and drinks)
 February 2, 2018 - St. James Parish Hall
 March 2, 2018 - St. Mary's Parish Hall
 All events are from 6:30pm - 8pm. Check the website for registration and more information

Epiphany Pageant

The live presentation of this Gospel will take place during the 10:30am Mass at St. Mary on Sunday, January 7. **REMINDER TO PARENTS:** The Epiphany Pageant is listed on your Religious Education Calendar. The Epiphany Gospel is part of your child's curriculum. Grade 1-10 in both Sunday and Monday sessions are expected to attend this Mass with you. We will be taking attendance before Mass in the Gathering Space that morning.

Religious Education

Classes will resume on January 21st and Jan 22nd.
 Enjoy your holiday break.



All grades are expected to go to the Epiphany Mass on January 7th



Members of the St. Philip Pastoral Council would like to invite you to the first of hopefully several workshops on Jan 7th to actively participate in a visioning session to discuss the needs, values, and priorities of our evolving Parish. The Pastoral Council is asking for your assistance, prayerful reflection, and thoughtful discernment to formulate a mission statement supported by clearly defined goals for St. Philip Parish. Vibrant and successful parishes all share a common thread: a mission statement with supporting goals that serves as a roadmap (of sorts) to help focus our efforts to service each other and the greater community. We are asking the parishioners of St. Philip to assist the members of the St. Philip Pastoral Council to formulate a mission statement which summarizes the vision of your Parish. The mission statement will then be supported by 2 or 3 goals which will help guide our Parish in not only servicing our parishioners, but the greater community and beyond. The visioning workshop will be approximately 90 minutes and is scheduled after Sunday Mass on January 14th here at St. Philips. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the entrance foyer so we can make sure we have enough refreshments for those planning to attend. We hope you will join us.

Have you seen me?
 I am St. Francis
 I live in the back yard at 15 Waterville Street
 I am visible from St. Marys Parking Lot
 Someone took me
 Do you know where I am??
 All I want for Christmas is to go HOME.
 Please help me.



If anyone has any information on this please contact the church office at 508-839-3993.
 At this holyday season, no questions will be ask, we just ask that he is returned.
 Thank you

PART TIME CUSTODIAN POSITION AVAILABLE

St. Mary and St. Philip Parishes are seeking a part time custodian (15-20 hrs. per week). Good opportunity for recently retired person or a second job, and who has basic electrical, plumbing and carpentry skills and be able to lift 25 to 40 pounds. The person must be available on some weekends, especially during winter season. Experience preferred. They must be self-directed ,motivated, and must have own transportation. Please send resume to Pastor, St. Mary's Parish, 17 Waterville St., N. Grafton, MA 01536. *No phone calls please.*

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP SERVICE

Boy Scout Troop 106 will be offering residential Christmas tree pick up on January 13th from 9am-12pm for a nominal fee of \$10.00. The funds raised will help support Scouting related activities.

If you are interested, please email your name, address and phone number to troop-106-leaders@googlegroups.com no later than 1/11/18. Please call Tim Rodrigue on 774-545-6689 with any questions. We accept payment (check or cash) at pickup time. If you will not be home between 9am and 12pm on 1/13/18, please mail in advance your check payable to Troop 106 to "Chris Chiu, 3 Peters Way, Grafton, MA 01519". Please have your tree on the curb by 9am on January 13th. We thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve the Grafton community. Happy Holidays from Grafton Boy Scout Troop 106!

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN—Children are one of the most precious gifts which any community, parish, or church has. The Catholic Church in the United States continues to make every effort to protect the children in its care since the tragic revelations of its failure to do so in the past. The procedures for reporting suspected or actual abuse are: If anyone suspects that a child is being abused, immediately call the Department of Social Services (DSS) area serving the child's residence and ask for the Protective Screening Unit. Area offices are Leominster (978-466-1500), Whitinsville (508-234-1000), and Worcester (508-929-2000). Offices are staffed on weekdays between 9:00am and 5:00pm. To report any other time, call the Child at Risk Hotline (800-792-5200). If you suspect that any employee or volunteer of the parish or the diocese is involved, you should also call the diocese's Office for Healing and Prevention, at 508-929-4363. If a person wants to make an initial complaint about past sexual abuse inflicted on a minor who is now an adult, the procedure is also to call the Office for Healing and Prevention at 508-929-4363.

More information about the diocese's policies and procedures for the protection of minors is available online. Go to the diocesan website www.worcesterdiocese.org<<http://www.worcesterdiocese.org/>>. Click on Office for Healing and Prevention, then click on Policies and Procedures. For those who want hardcopies, you can call the Office for Healing and Prevention at the above number or the rectory.

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