Saint Mary Catholic Parish

A Stewardship Faith Community

25 North Road ▪ Chelmsford, MA 01824
Tel: 978-256-2374 ▪ Fax: 978-256-0122 ▪ Religious Education: 978-256-3541 ▪ www.saint-mary.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm
Sunday 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 6:00pm
Holy Days ..... As Announced
Daily ..... Monday thru Friday - 7:00am ▪ Saturday - 9:00am
Reconciliation ..... Saturday, 11:00am to 12:00pm or by appointment
Eucharistic Adoration ..... Saturday following the 9:00am Mass, until 12:00Noon
Rectory Hours ..... Monday thru Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Religious Education and Youth Ministry Office Hours ..... Monday thru Thursday*: 10:00am - 5:00pm (CLOSED Friday)

*Please call for an appointment

Parish Pastoral Staff

Rev. Stephen Donohoe, Pastor
Rev. William S. Dunn, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Ron Lawson, Sr. Priest in Residence
Deacon Jack Bortz

Parish Finance Manager ..... Paul Firicano
Director of Music ..... Cathy Martin
Parish Office Manager/Secretary ..... Mary Steiner
Stewardship Coordinator ..... Tina Sousa
Religious Education Director (Gr. K - 6) ..... Heather Hannaway
Religious Education Office Manager ..... Elaine Kindler
Director of Youth Ministry ..... Matthew Marchand
Spiritual Direction ..... Francine Gagnon

Welcome New Parishioners

We extend to you a warm welcome to our parish community. Please call the Rectory to introduce yourself and register. We wish to know you and serve you.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Directors: Deacon Jack Bortz & Carol Hanley
For adults interested in becoming Catholic and for Catholics who have not been confirmed. Candidates meet weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00pm.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 2:00pm and twice a month at Sunday Mass. Baptism Preparation takes place on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Please contact the rectory, 978-256-2374 ext. 16, for arrangements.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact a parish priest or deacon at least eight months prior to the wedding date. Marriage Preparation is required.

Anointing of the Sick

Every Saturday following the 4:00pm Mass

God is Just a Prayer Away

If you would like to have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, simply call The Prayer Line at the Rectory, *978-256-2374, ext. 18.*

Bulletin Deadline - Please submit copy to Mary Steiner at the Rectory by 6:00pm on Monday.

For families with small children, the Family Prayer Room is located to the left of the Altar.

Baptism of the Lord

The old African-American spiritual "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" has one verse that goes, "Jordan's river is chilly and cold / hallelujah / chills the body but not the soul / hallelujah." We don't know what the temperature of the Jordan River was when Jesus stepped into it in front of John the Baptist. But Luke's Gospel relates that after he had been baptized and while he was praying the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon him. A voice from heaven was heard, saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

It is unlikely that any such explicitly miraculous events occurred at our own baptism, or any that we may have attended. But something just as momentous did take place when we were baptized. In our baptism we became intimately connected to God; we became God's own children, just as Jesus is the Father's beloved Son. And when we were baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon us-not as a dove, but as the Spirit of God that always dwells in our hearts. That connectedness to God never disappears. Even when we are guilty of the worst sins, God is with us. We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, helping us to act more and more like Christ as we reaffirm our baptismal commitment.

While we celebrate the signs and wonders at the Jordan that herald Jesus' baptism and the beginning of his public ministry, we also recall that our own baptism begins the call to minister in this world. Our baptismal call is to act like Christ, to be his hands, and voice, and heart in this world. When we act like him, we can be assured we too will hear the Father's voice, "with you I am well pleased."

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Mass Schedule for weekend of January 17

4pm
Altar Servers: R. McMillan, O. Busser, F. Busser
EMHCs: D. Mancini, C. Larock, M. Hood
Lectors: R. Rock, C. Desfosse

7am
Altar Servers: D. de la Flor, M. Sousa
EMHCs: J. Serra, R. Noble
Lectors: C. Frassica, J. Sousa

9am
Altar Servers: T. Meal, S. Arnal, J. Arnal
EMHCs: L. Shattuck, J. Knox, K. Meal
Lectors: J. Morency, S. Hehn

11am
Altar Servers: L. Cardonne, K. Sousa, L. Early
EMHCs: T. Sousa, J. Renna, L. Ellis
Lectors: S. Soracco, J. Peters

6pm
Altar Servers: C. Krauch, E. Krauch, E. Krauch
EMHCs: C. Cahill Anderson, K. Falco
Lectors: G. Krauch, S. Oppedisano

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 9
9:00am Ann Leahy ..... 2nd Anniversary
4:00pm Jose Janeiro ..... 5th Anniversary

Sunday, January 10
7:00am .....*Pro Populo*, For the People of the Parish
9:00am Kathie Nisco ..... 31st Anniversary
11:00am Lillian Stott ..... 9th Anniversary
6:00pm Arthur St. Amand ..... 17th Anniversary

Monday, January 11
7:00am ..... For Members of the Spiritual Society

Tuesday, January 12
7:00am .....For Deceased Priests of the Archdiocese of Boston

Wednesday, January 13
7:00am Gail O'Dea Sayers .....Memorial Mass

Thursday, January 14
7:00am .....For Unborn Children

Friday, January 15
7:00am .....For Unborn Children

Saturday, January 16
9:00am .....For Unborn Children
4:00pm Kevin A. Murray ..... 20th Anniversary

Sunday, January 17
7:00am .....*Pro Populo*, For the People of the Parish
9:00am Ann Margaret Carey .....Month's Mind
11:00am William D. Doherty ..... 8th Anniversary
6:00pm .....For Unborn Children

Funeral John Jasinski (1/4/10)

Offertory Collection FY2010

	Amount Collected	Amount Budgeted	Variance
Envelopes (rec'd 309)	$9,173		
Loose Cash	$2,162		
Electronic Giving	$4,900		
Total – week of Jan. 3	$16,235	$15,300	$935
Fiscal YTD Offertory (thru 27 of 51 weeks)	$411,955	$413,100	($1,145)

Mary Mother of God Holy Day Collection: $3,061.

Please remember that the offertory is our main source of funds for paying our daily operating expenses. Thank you to all for your continued generosity!

Stewardship

"John tried to prevent him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?'" *Matthew 3:14*

Each of us has received the Baptism that John sought – a Baptism into the Church of Jesus. The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults states that "Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will." In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one simple gift that we need to give to Jesus. The only gift God wants is a complete offering of ourselves. Once we surrender ourselves to God in this way, we will know in our hearts what else God might call us to do.

March for Life - The upcoming anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision is on January 22nd. Approximately 200,000 people, including seven members of St. Mary Parish, will march in Washington D.C. on behalf of our preborn brothers and sisters. Their hope is to have an impact on our leaders to use their high offices to save pregnant mothers and preborns from abortion by eradicating this law from America's future.

Holy Hour for Life - January 21, 7:00pm – 8:00pm

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated January 22nd of each year as a *National Day of Prayer and Penance* in light of the Roe v. Wade decision. Please join us on the eve of this year's National Day of Prayer, on *Thursday evening, January 21, 2009 from 7:00 – 8:00*, *(followed by hospitality in the hall)* to show our support for life and pray for an end to legalized abortion. Each year, many people from the Archdiocese of Boston travel to Washington for the *March for Life*. We join in solidarity with the travelers, who will be praying with us while on their buses, and with thousands of parishioners from over the archdiocese of Boston, at parishes, college campuses, hospitals, and convents. For more information please contact the rectory, 978-256-2374.

Adult Faith Life Speaker Series - Please join us for the next Collaborative Faith Life Speaker Series engagement to be held at Saint John the Evangelist, 115 Middlesex St., No. Chelmsford on Thursday, January 21st, 2010, 7pm. Our speaker will be the Very Reverend Father Paul Ritt, who will give a presentation on the person and work of Jesus Christ, and the many ways Christ dwells among us: in the Scriptures we read, in the sacraments we celebrate, in our personal prayer and in the events of our lives. All are encouraged to attend and are welcome to bring a friend to this enlightening and informative meeting!

Discernment Retreats for Men - Know of a man who may be called? On the weekend of February 5-7, 2010, Cardinal Sean will lead two retreats for men to experience seminary life, pray and reflect upon the Priesthood, meet other men like themselves and discern God's call in their life. The Discernment Retreat at Blessed John XXIII Seminary for men age 40 and older will be held on February 5-6, 2010 and the Discernment Retreat at St John's Seminary and Connors Family Retreat Center for men ages 18-40 years will be held on February 5-7, 2010. The Vocation Office invites you to submit names of men you think might have a vocation to the Priesthood to be considered for this retreat. Please send their names and contact information to the Vocation Office at 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA 02184 or by email at Dfortin@rcab.org. For more info call 617-746-5949. One of the priests from the Vocation Office will contact the men to see if this retreat is right for them.

Adult Confirmation - Saint Mary Parish is offering a six week course for adults who have not completed their third sacrament of initiation, CONFIRMATION. The course begins on Monday evening, February 22 at 7pm and last for six weeks. The Confirmation Mass will be on Easter Wednesday, April 7 at St. Monica's Parish in Methuen at 7:30pm. Questions and additional information: Fr Dunn at 978-256-2374 or wdunn@saint-mary.org.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Did you know that the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for our adoration here at St. Mary's each Saturday following the 9:00am Mass, until Noon? Just imagine for a moment that we are living in Jesus' time and he has invited us to visit Him and spend some quiet time getting to know Him better. Being aware who He was, we would be humbled and honored by such an invitation!!! The good news is that He is here with us today, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. Your prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is a wonderful witness to our Catholic belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Will you come spend some time with Our Lord?

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Overnight Ski Trip

This event will be held on Friday, February 5th from 10pm (leaving Saint Mary's) – 7:00am (returning to Saint Mary's Feb. 6th). This event is open to High School, Middle School, Young Adults, and Families. The cost is $65 per person, $10 rentals, $10 Lessons. You may find more information at www.oymboston.org

If you are interested in participating consider these options:

If you would like to go as a family, providing your own transportation, please send me an e-mail notification and then you can either register and make your payment through us (total due to us by Jan. 15) or on your own (deposit due Jan. 22 $40 per person, full payment Feb. 1) at www.oymboston.org.

If you would like to go with St. Mary's Youth Ministry – Grades 6-12 only – Please fill out the Youth Permission form attached above and return it with the full amount by Friday January 15, 2010. The amount should include $65 per person, $10 per rental, $10 per lesson, and $15 per person for transportation. Please send me an e-mail ahead of time with Students Name, Grade, and whether they need rentals or lessons (Beginner/Intermediate).

Bible Study - We are looking to begin a Teen Bible Study in January, which will include a study of the Gospel of John, it will include pizza and snacks each meeting. Students in grade 7 and up are invited to attend but I need some feedback. There are four options for meeting times: Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00pm, Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:00pm; Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:00pm, Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:00pm

Religious Education

First Reconciliation for Grade 2 Students

Grade 2 students, who are preparing to receive their First Communion, will be making their First Reconciliation during the regular hours for Reconciliation on Saturdays between 11:00 am and 12:00 Noon in January and February. On January 23rd, January 30th, February 6th and February 13th, pews will be reserved for the students on either side of the church. Please pray for our children as they grow more fully into their Catholic faith.

Arts & Environment Committee Needs Help -

The Arts & Environment Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with removal of Christmas decorations from the Church on Tuesday, January 12 at 3:00pm. Give a little or a lot of your time! If you are able to help and/or would like more information, please contact Brenda Lovering, 978-256-0705.

Sextons Needed

We are currently in need of sextons for the 11:00am and 6:00pm Masses. This is a great opportunity for men and women to take part in the parish's stewardship program. This ministry will only take a few minutes of your time before and after Mass. If interested, please contact Tina Sousa at the rectory, 978-256-2374 or Al Beauregard at 978-256-6672 or algael@comcast.net. Training will be provided. Please prayerfully consider giving the gift of your time.

Thank You from St. Mary's Table Ministry...

During the month of December, 2009, the St. Mary Table Ministry served meals for nearly 150 people at the Community Table in Lowell. In addition to the meals, the Table Ministry was able to provide each adult and child with a Christmas gift. These gifts were provided by some of St. Mary's Religious Education classes. The guests were very pleased and moved by the generosity of St. Mary parishioners.

On behalf of all the people who work with the Table Ministry and the people whom they serve; a heartfelt thank you for the efforts of our fellow parishioners.

Chelmsford Rotary Club/Red Cross Blood Drive

The Chelmsford Rotary/Red Cross Blood Drive is on Thursday, January 28, 3:00-8:00pm in St. Mary Parish Hall. Blood is a medicine that cannot be manufactured. It only comes from healthy people who generously donate. For more information, please contact Leonard Doolan, 978-256-3604. Those who are 16 years of age may now donate blood with a signed parental consent form (available at the drive). (Valid ID required.)

College scholarships available

The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts in Merrimack, NH is offering incoming Freshmen 6 scholarships ranging from $10,000 to $30,000 for the winners of the 2010 Faith and Reason Essay Contest. Applicants are invited to reflect upon the Introduction to Pope Benedict XVI's social encyclical *Caritas in Veritate,* and to submit an essay of 2 to 3 pages in answer to the question: How does the exercise of charity in our day call for the courageous witness to truth? For more information, go to www.thomasmorecollege.edu or contact the Director of Admissions, Mark Schwerdt, at 800-880-8308 or admissions@thomasmorecollege.edu.

Franco American School Open House

Franco American School is enrolling students, grades Pre-K – 8 for the 2010-11 school year. We offer a strong religious and academic education in a safe and nurturing community. Join us for an Open House on Saturday, January 30, 2:00 - 4:00pm and Tuesday, February 2, 9:00 - 11:00am. Please call 978-458-0308 for more information.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 10 - Baptism of the Lord

- Table Ministry - 9:00am - Kitchen
- Family Mass followed by hospitality in the Hall - 9:00am - Church
- Bible Study - 12:30pm - Hall
- Table Ministry - 3:15pm - Kitchen
- Gr. 10 Confirmation II - 4:30pm - Hall
- Youth Mass - 6:00pm - Church
- Work Camp Information Meeting - 7:00pm - Hall

Monday, January 11

- Gr. 7 Pre-Confirmation I- 5:00pm - Hall
- Gr. 8 Pre-Confirmation II– 6:00pm - Hall
- Gr. 9 Accelerated Confirmation - 7:00pm - Hall
- Liturgy Commission Meeting - 7:00pm - Conf. Rm. B

Tuesday, January 12

- RCIA - 7:00pm - Conf. Rm. B
- Bible Study - 7:00pm - Hall

Wednesday, January 13

- Kindergarten Catechists Meeting - 9:30am - Lighthouse
- Kindergarten Catechists Meeting - 5:30pm - Lighthouse
- Teen Choir Instrumental Rehearsal - 5:30pm - Church
- Youth Mass Music Group - 6:00pm - Church
- Boy Scouts Troop 77 Meeting - 7:00pm - Hall
- Lector Preparation Workshop - 7:00pm - Conf. Rm. A
- Choral Singers - 7:15pm - Church
- Adult Contemporary Music Group Rehearsal - 8:15pm - Church

Thursday, January 14

- Rosary - 12:00Noon - Church

Friday, January 15

- Winds & Strings Rehearsal - 3:30pm - Church
- Youth Choir II Rehearsal - 4:00pm - Church
- Musicians Rehearsal - 5:00pm - Church
- The Way - 7:00pm - Hall

Saturday, January 16

- Catholic Men's Group - 7:45am - Hall
- Gr. 2 Family Gathering Session - 9:30am - Hall
- Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration 11:00am - Church
- Anointing of the Sick - Following 4:00pm Mass - Church

Sunday, January 17 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Gr. 2 Religious Education - 10:00am - Hall
- Family Mass - 9:00am - Church
- Bible Study - 12:30pm - Hall
- Baptism - 2:00pm - Church
- Gr. 9 Confirmation I - 4:30pm - Hall
- Youth Mass - 6:00pm - Church
- S.N.A.C. - 7:00pm - Hall

The Catholic Book Club meets Sunday, January 31, after the 6 PM Mass . The next selection is *The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene.