

ST. MARY'S PARISH

Corner of Main & Summer Streets, Shrewsbury, Mass. 01545 • Website: www.stmarysparish.org

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Mass

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm.

Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 am, 11:00 am
& 5:30 pm.

Weekdays & Saturday: 8:30 am.

Holy Days: 8:30 am., 12:00 pm. & 7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30–4:00 pm.; anytime by
appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday: 6:00–9:00 pm, Church

Friday: 9:00–1:00 pm, Pastoral Ctr. Chapel

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Michael F. Rose, *Pastor*

Rev. Javier Julio, *Parochial Vicar*

Philip E. Devine, *Deacon*

Jeannie MacDonough, *Principal*

Gina Kuruvilla, *Director of*

Religious Education & Youth Ministry

Kathy Canfield, *Gr. K–8 Rel. Ed. Coord.*

Richard Vacca, *Director of Liturgical Music*

Viola Jefferson, *Parish Nurse*

CONTACT US

Pastoral Center 508-845-6341

School Office 508-842-1601

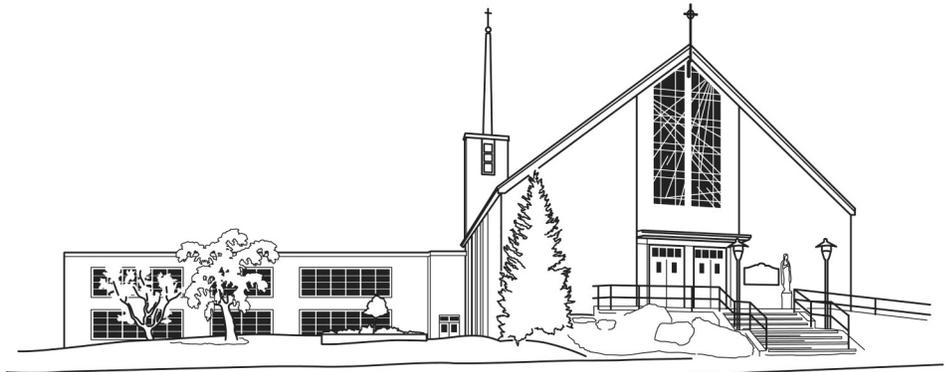
Religious Ed. Office 508-925-7801

Youth Ministry 508-925-7801

Parish Health Ministry 508-925-7647

Our Parish Mission

St. Mary Parish is a diverse and welcoming Catholic community giving witness to Jesus Christ through love, worship, faith formation, and service. We fulfill our mission by living the Gospel through word, action, and evangelization within and beyond our community.



NEW PARISHIONERS: We are always happy to welcome new people into our parish family. Please contact the Pastoral Center to register or for more information.

BAPTISMS: Baptisms at St. Mary are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 12:30 PM. Parents may also schedule to have their child baptized during one of the Sunday Masses. A preparation session for parents preparing for the baptism of their first child is held on the second Monday of the month in the Pastoral Center. Call the Pastoral Center for more information.

MARRIAGES: The policy for the Diocese of Worcester requires a period of one year preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage, which includes sessions with the parish priest and participation at either the pre-cana conferences or the Engaged Encounter weekend. Contact one of the priests for arrangements.

PASTORAL CARE: Arrangements for the reception of the Sacraments for homebound parishioners can be made by contacting the Pastoral Center. Please also notify the Pastoral Center when a parishioner is in the hospital or otherwise confined. Emergency sick calls at anytime.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Marilyn Blanchard508-845-1567
Jean Campaniello508-842-8288
Lynne Grden508-363-3636
Samer Hannoush508-615-2760
Matthew Hastings.....508-845-5012
Adib Karam774-253-9814

Silvester Norohna.....508-925-4581
Kelly Paulina.....774-275-1911
Sheila Seed.....508-842-6326
Robert Terry.....508-798-8734
Sheryl Zarozny.....508-842-2159
Susan Zybert.....508-842-7554

COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

Finance: Maria Lemieux
Respect Life: Kurt Brenner
Seniors Jet Set: Evelyn Baroni
Social Justice: Gina Kuruvilla
Outreach: Maryanne Damico
Stewardship: Kelly Paulina

508-845-8732
508-842-0322
508-845-3511
508-925-7801
508-845-9674
774-275-1911

FR. JAVIER & MSGR. MIKE WILL BE CELEBRATING PRIVATE MASSES DURING THE WEEK FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. MARY'S AND FOR YOUR INTENTIONS LISTED BELOW. PLEASE CALL KERRY AT THE PASTORAL CENTER IF YOU WISH TO MOVE A SCHEDULED MASS INTENTION TO ANOTHER DATE.

MASS INTENTIONS		
Date	Time	Intention
Saturday, March 21	8:30 am	†Stacey Ann Baisley By Dad and Mom
	4:30 pm	†Hughes Family †Rourke Family By the family
Sunday, March 22	7:30 am	
	9:00 am	†Paul Kozakevich By the family
	11:00 am	†Fay Ritter By her friend
	5:30 pm	†Lynn Cote By Ray and Sue Cote
Monday, March 23	8:30 am	†Richard Arent Birthday Remembrance By the family
Tuesday, March 24	8:30 am	†John and Virginia Sheehan By the family
Wednesday, March 25		
Thursday, March 26		
Friday, March 27	8:30 am	For all those in Prison By the Respect Life Ministry
Saturday, March 28	8:30 am	
	4:30 pm	†Peter and Laura D'Amelia By Michell & Joe
Sunday, March 29	7:30 am	
	9:00 am	†Roger Descheneaux 3rd Anniversary by the family
	11:00 am	
	5:30 pm	†Nick Mazzamuro By the Surette family



The Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Mary Parish offers you a source of comfort and God's love. If you or someone you know would like to receive a shawl, please contact Deborah at 508-842-8653 or Sue at 508-842-8518 and they will make arrangements to deliver a "hug from God."



Please pray for: Repose of the soul of Joe Carroll; Kristen's safe delivery and health for her daughter 3/18; all health care workers and first responders to be safe and have every precaution available for their wellness; baby twins Mason & Caleb to recover from serious condition; all those whose elective medical procedures have been postponed to remain patient and at ease in the meantime; all those whose lives have been disrupted to have the energy needed to cope and retain hope; an increase in compassion and awareness of our neighbors and all those at greater risk, and to provide aid where necessary and safe; all those suffering financial hardship if they cannot work from home; for all families to use this time wisely to reconnect with each other; for all Americans to work together to keep each other safe from illness; our parish and Catholic community as we all deal with the suspension of Mass; our opportunity this Lenten season to experience it in a new and deeper way; and for our world, to work together to support and learn from this pandemic.

Continued prayers for: Mary O; Pat; Marilyn; Paul; Frank; Sherri; Darlene; Velma; Colleen's pregnancy; BO; SD's knee replacement; Bruce; Megan; Mickey; Marge, Carol; Judy; Fr. Marcin; Gloria; MF; M.; Jackie; Sue; Sarah; John; Sara; K.; David Cargill after cardiac bypass surgery; Martin Finnegan; Angelo; Gloria; RSM; Martin; Kendra; Scott; Michael; Tim M.; Tim C.; Charlie; Dan W.; Darla; Fred H.; Ron; Janine; Christin; Wesley; Jacob; Carlos; Joe; Matthew; Jeremiah; Chris; Mary; Ray; Lilly; Angelo; Marilyn; Toni; Caleb; Stan; Megan; Pam; Mark; Bailey; Richard; and Helen.

Thanksgiving for John Revoir's encouraging diagnosis and prayers for successful surgery and recovery; those of us with homes to stay in; compassion and aid to those who need services and protection; Andrew's safe return from Europe; all those who follow the safety instructions to stay home and physically distance from one another; everyone working cooperatively to contain the spread of illness and serve those who are ill; the opportunity to learn; and for all the answered prayers we receive but may fail to recognize.

Prayer Line: Call or text Tracy at 508-450-0137

BEWARE THE SCAMMERS

Emergencies offer golden opportunities for con artists to launch fraudulent campaigns that feed off, and cash in on, the climate of concern. Scammers have wasted no time in playing on people's fears or evoking feelings of compassion. During this unprecedented time of crisis, please be aware that SCAMMERS are still at work.

Our pastor, Msgr. Mike, will never request gift cards from you through email or a cellphone text. Last Saturday several parishioners received an email requesting the purchase of several eBay gift cards for a woman suffering from cancer. If you receive a suspicious looking email with such a request, it will usually come from a gmail address. Please DELETE the email.

Earlier this week the Diocese was informed that a few donors to Partners in Charity were receiving calls asking for gifts of support for the Bishops' Fund. A wise donor knowing that our appeal is no longer identified as the Bishops' Fund reported this to the Diocese. Please know that the Diocese does not solicit gifts of support for Partners in Charity over the phone. Gifts are solicited by mail, online, or through the parish.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Sunday, March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Dear parishioners of St. Mary's,

When we were in the seminary, none of us could have dreamed that we would one day be faced with the situation we are in today with no public celebrations of the Liturgy, including Sunday Mass and all our other gatherings being cancelled. This present reality is compounded with trying to figure out how to assist the sick and dying spiritually, how to help those who are hungry receive food, trying to educate children who are home from our parish school and those unable to gather for the final weeks of religious education classes.

Fr. Javier and I want you to know that you are constantly in our thoughts and prayers. You are not alone even if you find yourself confined or remaining at home. Although we must remain physically apart, we are united in our prayer with and for one another. We continue to find new way to "shepherd the flock" while we are so scattered. With facebook, skype and social media many younger people are able to stay connected. For those of us from an older generation, there are still telephone calls and written notes and cards. We will continue to communicate with one another at St. Mary's through phone, email, Flocknote, and the parish website. In addition, Fr. Javier will celebrate a private Mass from the pastoral center chapel. It will be live-streamed on the St. Mary's Parish facebook page on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9:00 am. (stmarysshrewsbury) Sunday Mass will also be posted on the parish website (stmarysparish.org) and emailed in a Flocknote (sign up for Flocknotes today if you have not already joined the 500+ parishioners who have already done so). The Sunday Mass will also be shown sometime on Sunday through Shrewsbury Media's Channel 28

As Bishop McManus reminded the priests of the Diocese of Worcester earlier this week, we are people of hope, a hope which is grounded in faith and does not fail us. As stewards of the bodies with which we have been entrusted, we must heed the sound advice of healthcare professionals and government official to protect ourselves, our loved ones and the entire community. The St. Mary Parish & School staff join in prayer for your safety during these days. God's Peace & Blessings

Msgr. Michael Rose



FLOCKNOTE CONNECT WITH US!

Subscribe to flocknote and receive news & updates from St. Mary Parish via text message and email.

3 Ways to Subscribe

1. Visit the parish website at stmaryparish.org
2. Text STMARYPARISH TO 84576 from your phone
3. Scan the QR code on the posters in the church

SHOPPING FOR SENIORS

Volunteers are ready to assist our Seniors or any parishioners who wish to remain in their homes as a precaution. If you need groceries or someone to run an errand for you, please contact Msgr. Mike at 508.845.6341 ext. 2 or Michael.rose@stmarysparish.org

Fourth Sunday of



O God, never permit the powers of darkness to hold your people captive, but open our eyes by the grace of your Spirit, that we may be able to look on you Son and see the One you sent to illumine the world.

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR LENT can be found on our parish website at www.stmarysparish.org. We also encourage you to sign up for FLOCKNOTES on the parish website to receive additional updates and information.

- NO DAILY MASS**
- NO SUNDAY MASS**
- NO CONFESSIONS**
- NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
- NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**
- NO LENTEN SOUP SUPPER**

ST. MARY CHURCH will remain **OPEN** during the day for people to make a visit for personal prayer.

NO LIGHT OF THE WORLD RETREAT THIS WEEKEND

NO 24 HOUR ROSARY in the Church. Volunteers will pray the rosary in their own homes over the 24 hours. Join them in your own home any hour and pray the rosary for an end to abortion. We continue to pray for women facing a crisis pregnancy as well as women who have had an abortion.

NO LENTEN CLUSTER MISSION—
March 29, 30, & 31

NO SHADOW OF THE CROSS on Friday, April 3

PALM SUNDAY

There will be no Palm Sunday Masses in the church April 4 & 5. We will be receiving our shipment of palms. We will bless them privately and then find the best way to have parishioners stop by to pick them up.

EASTER FOOD GIFT CARDS for ST. ANNE'S HUMAN SERVICES NOW....MORE THAN EVER

With children home from school and adults with reduced work schedules, the need to keep our food pantries stocked is vitally important. The Easter Food Gift Tags can still be found at the entrances of the church. Even if you do not take a tag, we will be collecting food gift cards from any local supermarket for St. Anne's Drop them off in the Pastoral Center mail box or mail them.



A PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP MCMANUS



My dear friends in Christ,

As we confront almost hourly reports about rising cases of Coronavirus, additional measures to restrict exposure to the threat of this insidious virus, and concerns about our own health and the wellbeing of our loved ones, we can become very anxious. Yet we are a people of hope, grounded in the faith that God is always with us. As your bishop, I write to you today in these troubling times to remind you of this unshakable tenet of our Catholic faith.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in his encyclical *Spe Salvi* (Saved by Hope) stressed how the virtue of hope is critical for anyone who encounters suffering: “The present, even if it is arduous, can be live and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey” (*Spe Salvi* 1). What is that goal for us today? I propose that our first goal is to maintain a courageous spirit of optimism and perseverance during this health crisis. We are responsible for being good stewards of our bodies and for following the advice of medical professionals to minimize the risk. By virtue of our baptism we are also called as good citizens to care for others in need, in good times and in bad.

In *Spe Salvi*, Benedict XVI noted that “It is not science that redeems man: Man is redeemed by love. This applies even in terms of this present world....The human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39). (SS26)

As people of faith, let us not lose sight of the fact that our ultimate goal is life eternal, to one day enjoy God’s life and love eternally. That love is experienced even in this life when we are cared for in times of sickness with compassion, and we in turn become agents of God’s love when we help others in need.

So what can we do? I suggest we consider three things: Pray, Listen, and Respond.

Pray the *Prayer in Time of Pandemic* which we are sharing through our parishes and institutions, Why? Prayer will ground us in the realization that, first of all, we are not alone. Even when seemingly no one else hears us in our pleas, God always hears us. It reminds us that the truly important things in life are bigger than us and we must set aside our pride to focus on what is truly important in life.

Listen and Respond. Our faith reminds us that grace builds in nature. If we are attentive to the instructions of those around us we will be given the grace to respond. Hence, we must be attentive to the advice of healthcare professionals to protect ourselves but we must also be attentive to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of others. Pope Francis has observed that his greatest concern regarding how this crisis is unfolding in Italy is that of isolation. Feeling alone and feeling abandoned engender fear, not hope. Are young and elderly family members scared or at risk and need our assurances and help? Are neighbors alone and in need of wellness checks so as to not feel abandoned?

As baptized members of the Body of Christ, we also have a responsibility to the greater community of faith. In the weeks ahead, our faith life may be greatly challenged by not being able to attend Mass. We will have to fast from the very sustenance for which our souls yearn during this Lent, the Holy Eucharist. Again I stress—do not lose hope. As your parishes communicate with you, I hope they will remind you that you can at least pray together with the Catholic community in our diocese through our Sunday and Daily Masses on the internet and on Spectrum (Charter) Channel 193. You may also have access to the Mass on Catholic TV from Boston if you are on a different cable company or satellite TV. You can make a Spiritual Communion as you spiritually prepare for the day, God willing, when you can return to the Banquet of the Lord at Easter.

As members of the Diocese of Worcester, I also implore you not to lose sight of how we are serving so many people in need every day through our parish ministries and our diocesan agencies. Your call to be good stewards through the parish offertory is needed now as much as ever, as well as your continued support of the annual Partners in Charity Appeal which is a lifeline for diocesan-wide service to thousands of people who are physically and spiritually in need. However, in light of these difficult times, I have suspended the activities of our diocesan capital campaign, Legacy of Hope, until these difficult times are behind us, in order to stay focused on addressing present needs. I encourage you to take advantage of online giving portals for our parish and Partners in Charity or simply continue to support your offertory by mail.

In closing, I ask that you join me in the following Prayer in Time of Pandemic and that you do so every day until this health crisis has passed.

O God, whose Only Begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation.

Hear the prayers of your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial.

Open our ears and our hearts to the voice of your Son: Be not afraid, for I am with you always.

Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants;

Give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour,

That we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church,

Delivered from all distress and confident in your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God protect you and your loved ones through this time of trial.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus

Bishop of Worcester



PARTNERS IN CHARITY 2020

The 2020 Partners in Charity Appeal will continue over the coming weeks and months. THANK-YOU to the many parishioners who have already made their gift/pledge for this appeal.

Please support this important lifeline for our local church when you are able and as you are able. After St. Mary's most generous response to the Legacy of Hope Campaign this past Fall, which will fund endowments for our future, the Partners in Charity Appeal will support 25 ministries and agencies that are currently assisting tens of thousands of people throughout Worcester County.

Partners in Charity encompasses three specific areas in our diocese: Charity, Education and Ministry. Children in parish religious education classes and Catholic schools have their eyes, hearts and minds opened to Christ thanks to support for catechists and catechetical leaders. Men discern Christ's call to serve as priests or deacons and priests who have dedicated their lives in service to our people receive support. Through Catholic Charities and other agencies, families and individuals have their basic needs met in a safe, welcoming environment. Please watch the Appeal Video at home this week at www.partners-charity.net. Pledge envelopes can be mailed to or dropped off at the Pastoral Center. You may also make your gift on line at www.partners-charity.net.



ON LINE GIVING THROUGH WE SHARE

As Disciples of Jesus we are called into community – a community where we are family and where we share our many gifts generously. Thank-you for your support of our parish which is expressed in many ways throughout the year. The sharing of “treasure” with your parish is not only appreciated, but it is also necessary for us to continue to thrive and reflect the Kingdom of God.

In these present days with the suspension of Sunday Masses I invite and encourage you to continue your support of St. Mary's through our online giving tool called WeShare. WeShare has implemented the safest security standards for online transactions and your privacy will be protected at all times. You will be able to set up one-time or recurring donations and choose when and how to give to any of our different collections. You will also be able to view your complete, accurate financial records at any time during the year.

Sign up on our parish website www.stmarysparish.org. If you have any questions about the WeShare program, please do not hesitate to call Kerry at the parish office at 508-845-6341.