

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

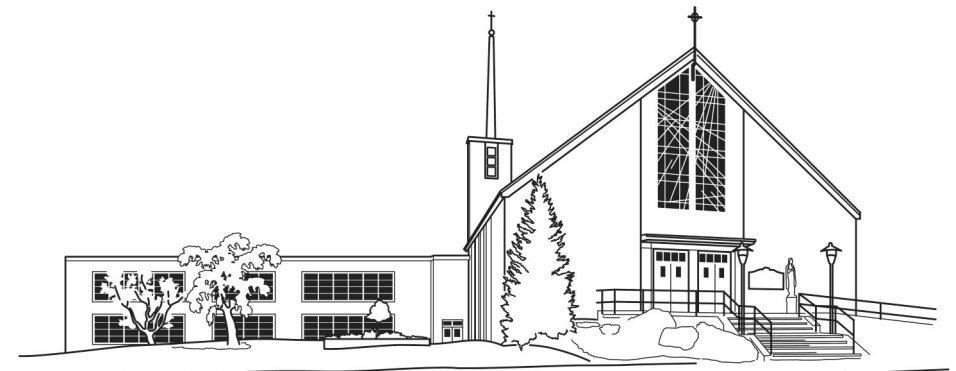
Religious Ed. Office 508-925-7801

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 and MSGR. MIKE WILL CELEBRATE 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 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 |
| Monday, March 30 | 8:30 am | |
| Tuesday, March 31 | 8:30 am | †Dolores Smolinski By the family |
| Wednesday, April 1 | 8:30 am | The Parishioners of St. Mary |
| Thursday, April 2 | 8:30 am | †Jack Conley 5th Anniversary by the family |
| Friday, April 3 | 8:30 am | |
| Saturday, April 4 | 8:30 am | |
| | 4:30 pm | †Esther Bialecki 1st Anniversary By the Bialecki/Kerekon family |
| Sunday, April 5 | 7:30 am | Safe Baseball Season for SHS By the Lo family |
| | 9:00 am | †James Capello, 15th Anniversary By the family |
| | | †James Goodwin, 1st Anniversary By the Children's Choir |
| | 11:00 am | †David A. Rose, Sr. 18th Anniversary By the family |
| | 5:30 pm | †June Maloney, 4th Anniversary By the family |
| | | †Paul and Dorothy Tivnan By the family |



Please pray for: Repose of the souls of Dave Logue, Joan Jewett, and Bonnie O'Brien; Mickey to have a peaceful passing and for his daughter, Karen, who cannot be with him; a safe drive home for Clare; Beverly to have comfort, peace and strength as she awaits a treatment plan for cancer; Elaine's full recovery from complex surgery; all our brothers and sisters who are suffering around the world with Covid 19 illnesses and/or death; all health care providers, researchers and scientists and those supporting them to receive what they need and to maintain healthy; an increase in patience with the many levels of challenges we are facing including financial losses and uncertainty; and for all of us to find new ways to aid others and be of service.

Continued prayers for: babies Mason and Caleb; Mary O.; Pat; Marilyn; Paul; Frank; Sherri; Darlene; Velma; GR; BO; SD; Bruce; Megan; Carol; Judy; Fr. Marcin; Gloria; MF: M.; Jackie; Sue; Sarah; John; Sara; K; David C.; Martin F.; Angelo; RSM; Martin Kendra; Scott; Michael; Tim C.; Tim M.; Dan W.; Darla; Fred; Ron; Janine; Christine; Wesley; Jacob; Carlos; Matthew; Jeremiah; Chris; Mary; Ray; Lilly; Toni; Caleb; Stan; Pam; Mark; Bailey; Richard and Helen.

Thanksgiving for: for all those who were able to make it back to their homes from other countries during this time in crisis; Ellen Dolan's tenure as Shrewsbury Public Library's Director; all those working tirelessly in less than optimal conditions to aid those with Covid 19; advocacy by Matt and Charlemagne; all the knitters and deliverers of prayer shawls to those in need of a "hug from God"; the many on-line opportunities to pray, see our masses, participate in retreats and connect for spiritual communion and growth; donors to Partners in Charity; donors to our Senior Center and the Towers to aid others; all donations to St. Anne's Human Services; Flocknote; and all prayers.

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



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF GREATER WORCESTER

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester has been providing English language skills to help people thrive since 1973. We offer free, flexible, confidential, and individual one-to-one tutoring for adults learning to speak English as well as adults developing basic literacy skills. In recent years, the demand for our English services has continued to grow. With over 100 students waiting for a volunteer tutor, we are calling on you to dedicate up to two hours a week to change someone's life. If you are over 18, have at least a high school diploma, and speak English proficiently, you can learn to tutor someone who is learning English. We provide a free, 18-hour training before matching you with a student, and we provide ongoing support and workshops to help you become the best tutor you can be! For more information or to apply, please visit www.lvgw.org or call us at 508-754-8056.

FROM THE *Pastor's Desk*

Sunday, March 29, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's,

The Covid-19 Pandemic continues to impact every aspect of our daily lives. The uncertainty of when life will return to normal can be overwhelming and even frightening. We long to return to our familiar routines at home, at work and in the community. It is also difficult for us to be separated from one another in our St. Mary's community of faith. Yet we remain together and united through our prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop McManus has continued the suspension all public Masses in our diocesan churches with the exceptions of weddings and funerals. This past Tuesday (March 24) Governor Baker reduced the number of persons allowed to gather from twenty-five to ten and has decreed the closing of "all businesses and organizations that do not provide COVID-19 Essential Services". However, **Churches, temples, mosques and other places of worship "shall not be required to close their brick and mortar premises to workers or the public"** provided that they observe the limitation in the number of persons to ten. While all parish activities have been cancelled, St. Mary's Church will remain open during the day for private prayer.

As we come to the second weekend without Sunday Mass in our church, be assured that you are with me and Fr. Javier in our prayers and private Masses. Our seminarian, Juan Parra, has also returned home to our parish from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He will complete his courses on-line like most college and university students across the country. This coming week we will continue to livestream daily Mass from the Pastoral Center Chapel at 9:00 am. Join us on Facebook @stmarysshrewsbury. We will also record Sunday Mass and invite you to watch on the parish website www.stmarysparish.org, through our parish Flocknotes and on Channel 28 on TV again this Sunday at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm.. I also invite you to take a look at Formed The Catholic Faith. On demand. Go to: Formed.org FORMED provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. It offers thousands of movies, children's programs, ebooks, audio, parish programs and studies. St. Mary's has just signed up for a 40 day FREE parish subscription trial. Sign in as a "member of a parish" with your name and email (no password necessary).

While there will be no Masses in the church on Palm Sunday (April 5), we will be recording and livestreaming the Mass and the Blessing of Palms. Palms will be distributed in the church parking lot from 9:00 – 11:00 am on Palm Sunday. We will be wearing gloves and will keep a respectable distance from parishioners who will receive them in their cars.

As the St. Mary Parish & School staff continue to pray for your health and safety during these difficult days, please join us as we offer the following prayer.

God's Peace & Blessings.

Msgr. Michael Rose

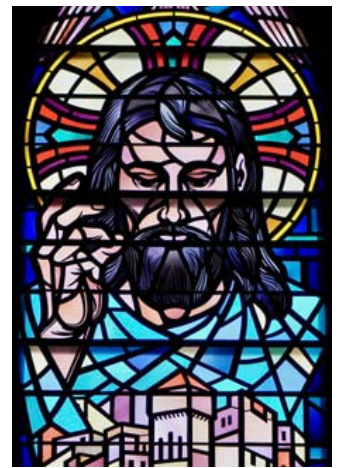
A Prayer in Time of Pandemic

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.



ONLINE
GIVING
By WeShare

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.



**FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF LENT**

O God of eternal life, whose glory is the human person fully alive, in the tears that Jesus shed for Lazarus his friend we see the living incarnation of your tenderness and compassion. Graciously behold the distress of your Church. By the power of your Spirit call us back to life!

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 IN THE CHURCH
Livestreaming on Facebook weekdays at 9:00 am
[@stmarysshrewsbury](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysshrewsbury)

NO SUNDAY MASS IN THE CHURCH
View on www.stmarysparish.org, Flocknotes and Channel 28 at 8am & 6pm

NO CONFESSIONS IN THE CHURCH
(see below for outdoor 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 more than ten (10) people allowed in the church at any one time.

NO LENTEN CLUSTER MISSION – March 29, 30 & 31
NO SHADOW OF THE CROSS on Friday, April 3
NO PRE-CANA CONFERENCE

**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 supermarkets for St. Anne's. Drop them off in the Pastoral Center mail box or mail them to 20 Summer Street, Shrewsbury, MA.



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



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.



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

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.

What do we do when we can't go to Mass?

Receiving Holy Communion at Mass

The reception of Holy Communion is one of the most intimate moments in the life of every Catholic. The great mystic and Doctor of the Church, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, writes eloquently of the first time she ever received Holy Communion: I knew that I was loved and said, "I love You, and I give myself to You forever."

But what do we do when we can't go to Mass?

Many of the Saints have recommended that we should make a "Spiritual Communion," a prayer professing faith in Jesus' presence in the Eucharist and inviting him to come to live in our heart.

Our beloved Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI reminds us that even when we cannot go to Mass and cannot receive Holy Communion "it is beneficial to cultivate a desire for full union with Christ through the practice of spiritual communion, praised by Pope John Paul II and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life." (Sacramentum Caritatis, no. 55) This practice is also recommended by many of the Saints, including Saint Thomas Aquinas, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Jean Vianney.

How to make a Spiritual Communion

Begin by examining your conscience and making a good Act of Contrition. Then pray one of the prayers recommended by the Saints for inviting Christ into your heart. Here is one by Saint Alphonsus Liguori:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

A Spiritual Communion can never fully take the place of receiving Holy Communion at Mass, but in these extraordinary times it can help us to stay close to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of his Body and Blood

What do I do if I can't go to Confession?

Each of us should regularly examine our consciences. When we are conscious of sin, we should go to Confession and seek absolution from the priest. When this is not possible, the Church recommends that we make as perfect an Act of Contrition as possible. Contrition is "sorrow of the soul and detestation for the sin committed, together with the resolution not to sin again." The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that when such contrition "arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called "perfect" (contrition of charity). Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible."

There are many forms of the Act of Contrition. Here are two of them.

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against You Whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us.
In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee,
and I detest all my sins because
I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of hell,
But most of all because they have offended Thee, my God,
Who art all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace,
to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen,

**CONFESSIONS will be heard on SATURDAY, MARCH 28 AND APRIL 4 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm
IN THE PARISH PARKING LOT.**