

Brothers and Sisters

Blessings from your St. Mary's Evangelization Ministry team

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd—one who knows His people, calls them by name, and leads them to life. In a world filled with noise, distraction, and competing voices, the question for each of us is simple but profound: *Do we recognize His voice?*

This Sunday also reminds us that following the Good Shepherd is not meant to be a private experience. As members of the Church, we are called not only to hear His voice, but to help others recognize it as well. This is the heart of evangelization. It is not about having all the right answers or winning arguments. More often, it begins with a simple invitation: *"Come and see."*

Many people are searching—for meaning, for belonging, for hope. What they often need first is not explanation, but encounter. A warm welcome, a genuine conversation, or a simple act of kindness can open a door in ways we may never fully see. Our parish is called to be a place where people feel known, welcomed, and loved—just as the Good Shepherd knows and loves His flock.

Each of us has a role to play in that mission. This week, take one small but meaningful step. Take a moment to greet someone you do not know before or after Mass or reach out to a friend or family member who has been away from the Church. Offer a simple invitation to join you at Mass or for a conversation. These small gestures, offered with sincerity, can have a lasting impact.

Before anyone hears the message of the Gospel, they often see it lived. Our patience, compassion, and generosity become signs of Christ's presence in the world. In this way, others begin to recognize His voice—not only in words, but in the witness of our lives.

As we continue through the Easter season, let us ask the Lord to help us listen more closely to His voice and to follow Him more faithfully. And may we become instruments through whom others come to hear that same voice calling them by name.

This week, pray for someone who may be searching and/or struggling. Ask the Good Shepherd to guide them—and to use you, in whatever simple way He chooses, to lead them closer to Him.

May God bless you all.

Robert Loza

Looking Ahead- SAVE THE DATE	
May 2	First Communion Breakfast
May 3	First Communion
May 9-10	Hispanic Marriage Retreat
June 27-28	Bethlehem Wood Carvings
July 6-10	Vacation Bible School

Office Hours at St Mary: Erin is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday 9AM-4 PM (Fr Tom leaves about 3:00). Fr Tom's office hours are by appointment. Please call the office or the rectory to make an appointment.
Building and Grounds Committee: Fr Tom Buckman, Mark Pais (Chair) David Duncan, Kenneth Bracy, Allan Cravalho, Casmiro Moratin, and Thom Boyne, and Josue Cabrera
Administration & Finance Committee Meets 3rd Thursday @ 5:00 PM Chairman- Duane Wolter , John Janicek, Darrell Fenley, and Andrew Tamm
Ladies Guild: President-Sheila Jeffers , Secretary- Terri Tyler, Treasurer- MaryAnn Forney
Religious Education Committee: DRE- Robin Clark , Maria Molina, Hannah Clark, Fabiola Humphrey, and Kateri Edwards.
Music Director- Joshua Wagner stmaryccmusic@gmail.com Cantors: Valerie McGowen, and Margaret Wolter
Worship/Liturgy Committee: Fr. Tom Buckman, Margaret Wolter (Chair), Joshua Wagner, and Maggie Tamm.
Evangelization and Outreach Ministry: Fr. Tom Buckman, Duane Wolter (Chair) , Eli Gantt, Colleen Rafferty, and Robert Loza
Librarian- Kathleen Kaapcke
Archivist- Sheila Harrington, Marian Becker, and Andrew Tamm

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 25-26, 2026 The 4th Sunday of Easter

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

Bienvenidos a los Visitantes y Huéspedes!

Pastor/Párroco Fr. Tom Buckman tom.buckman@pastoral.org

stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com

PO Box 388, 403 N. Main St., Franklin, Kentucky 42135

Office: 270-586-4515 Rectory Phone: 270-253-3230

Music Director: Joshua Wagner

Erin Denny- Office Administrator email: stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com

Diocese of Owensboro www.owensborodiocese.org

The deadline for Calendar submissions for the June Calendar Bulletin is 5/19/2026

Saturday, April 25	5:00 PM	4 th Sunday of Easter-Intention for Soul of Patrick Collins
Sunday April 26	8:30 AM	4 th Sunday of Easter-Intentions for the Soul of Jesus Echipare
Sunday April 26	6:00 PM	4 th Domingo de Pascua- Para la gente de la parroquia
Monday, April 27	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Marion Sloan
Tuesday, April 28	Noon	Intentions: For the Soul of Jimmy Boone
Wednesday, April 29	6:00 PM	Intentions: For the Soul of Timothy Reilly
Thursday, April 30	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Souls of Olin & Marie Buchanon
Eucharistic Adoration 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM		
Friday, May 1	6:00 PM	1 st Friday Mass-Intentions: For the Soul of Patrick Collins
Saturday, May 2	8:00 AM	1 st Saturday Mass-Intentions: For the Soul of Beverly A Wargo
9:00 AM First Communion Breakfast		
Saturday, May 2	5:00 PM	5 th Sunday of Easter-Intention for Soul of Leonard Fenley
Sunday May 3	8:30 AM	5 th Sunday of Easter-First Communion-Intentions Honoring Kenny Garrett
Sunday Mayo 2	6:00 PM	5 th Domingo de Pascua- Para la gente de la parroquia

If you have Mass intentions, please contact Fr. Tom or Erin in the office.

Mass Ministers: Please try to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass.

When/if you are unable to fulfill your scheduled Mass Ministry, please find a replacement Thank You, Fr. Tom

Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement (270) 586-7425 or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1).

The Diocese of Owensboro seeks to help all who have been sexually abused and especially those abused by a person working for the Church, paid or unpaid, either past or present. To report such abuse, please call the diocesan Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (270-852-8380). The revised sexual abuse policy, which explains fully the diocese's efforts to address sexual abuse in the Church, can be found in the back of the church on the parish bulletin board and on the diocesan web site (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>).

If you are sick, or know someone who is ill, we want to include them in our prayers.

Please contact Erin in the parish office on 270-586-4515 or by email so our parish can pray for you and your caregivers.

Please Remember in Your Prayers the Following Parishioners, Family and Friends: David Kelly, Regina Cozzy and Family, Cindy & John Janicek, Harry & Mae King, Richard Hearn, Judy Cates, Helen, Ed, and Ben Berry, Tom, Margaret, Roger, and Sherrie Berry, Gail Hall, Gail Briley, DeWayne, Susie, Kassidie, Katie, and Kennedie Kirkham, Mary, and Bill Sloan

Please keep our deceased family and friends in your daily prayers:

Patrick Collins, Gracie Scott, Carol Sue Durbin, Charles Andrew Yanov, Jason W. Bracy, Mary Barnes, Conner Sheahan, Marie Watson, Debbie Head, Crystal Becker, Andrew & Michael Garrett, Angela Berry Maynard, Sarah Drake, Basil Trouten Sr., Hilda Trouten, Dorthy O'Bryan, Joseph Hagan, Susie Wyatt, Miriam Harbin, Roger Farley, Dr A.V. Wilwayco, Frank & Marie Farmer, Keith Obriskie, Helen Garst, Lois Oshefsky, John Herrmann, Sharon Henderson, Sr Maretta Murphy IHM, Dr John Kelly, Ellie Mirgaux and Rose Vogt.

Mission Statement

We, the people of St Mary Catholic Church, are a welcoming Catholic community called to live our faith by celebrating Mass, Sacraments, and Prayers; proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ; seeking life-long faith and formation; sharing our time; talents and reaching out in compassionate service to others.



St Vincent de Paul thanks you for your generosity

In the Gospel, Jesus says, “*This is how it is with the reign of God. A man scatters seed on the ground. He goes to bed and gets up day after day. Through it all the seed sprouts and grows without his knowing how it happens.*” Through your almsgiving you are sowing seeds that grow far greater than you know. The money you place in the St. Vincent de Paul coin shake collection next weekend brings Christ’s love and compassion to the poor. Thank you from your St. Vincent de Paul team and the neighbors we serve.

As of 04/19/2026						
Budget Needs 2025-26	Weekly	\$	4,038	Budget YTD Needs	\$	170,917
Received last week		\$	2,117	Received YTD	\$	169,824
Difference		\$	-1,921		\$	(- 1,092)
On Going Projects	Last Week	\$	68	YTD	\$	4,063
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Misa	27 8:00 AM Mass 6:00 Parish Council Mtg.	28 10:30-2PM SVDP Noon Mass	29 6:00 PM Mass 6:30 PM Religious Ed	30 8:00 AM Mass 9:00 AM- 10:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration	1 6:00 PM 1st Friday	2 8:00 AM 1st Saturday Mass 9:00 1st Communion Breakfast. 3:30 Confessions 5:00 PM Mass
Mass Attendance— 04/18 5:00 PM- 57 04/19 8:30 AM-101 04/19 6:00 PM-141						
Please pray for our military: Jack Jeffers, Army, Ft Carson, Colorado Springs, CO.; Eric Rafferty, Air Force, England; Korbin Bray, US Navy, Japan; Capt. Ryan Berry, USMC California; Jonathan Thompson, Navy, Jacksonville, FL; Ariel Molina Jr, Marines, Pensacola, FL. Please call the office to add a name						
Prayer For Our Men and Women in Military Service: O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity, and devotion to the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded in justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen						

Please call or email Erin in the office the names and schools of any graduating seniors.

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Support our church today using your debit or credit card or checking account.

- 1 Go to: <https://giving.myparishsoft.io/app/giving/WeShare-20001528>
- 2 Select the collection or event of your choice.
- 3 Set up your donation or payment. That's it!



STILL NEED HELP?
Call Erin in the office
for assistance
270-586-4515

Dear Padre,

Should Christians avoid practicing qigong or tai chi? Or even meditation in which you empty your mind? Thank you.



This is one of those questions that has been debated for a long time. Social media offers many so-called experts with vastly different opinions. It can be very confusing, particularly if you are looking for a black-and-white answer, a yes or a no.

The pope who provides us with the most helpful direction to answer this question is Pope Benedict XVI. He did not forbid Eastern spiritual practices entirely but warned against their integration into Christian life without proper discernment. His perspective was rooted in a theological understanding that Christian spirituality is a unique path focused on a relationship with Christ. He emphasized that our Catholic spiritual tradition is distinct from the goals and methods of non-Christian traditions. He believed the practice of such non-Christian traditions, without preparation and without awareness of the challenge they present, could lead to spiritual error if not approached with caution and discernment.

So, the answer is nuanced. If you are using the practice as a spiritual practice, you should proceed with the utmost caution. If, on the other hand, you are using these practices for the more common physical or psychological—not spiritual—reasons, then it is permissible. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday April 27 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 11:1-18 Jn 10:11-18	Tuesday April 28 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 11:19-26 Jn 10:22-30	Wednesday April 29 <i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 12:24-13:5a Jn 12:44-50	Thursday April 30 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 13:13-25 Jn 13:16-20	Friday May 1 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 13:26-33 Jn 14:1-6	Saturday May 2 <i>St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 13:44-52 Jn 14:7-14	Sunday May 3 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 6:1-7 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12
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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did.... Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 24, 2025

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