

My dear Church family,

I reached out to a new friend that I have known a couple of years now. I wanted to wish them a Merry Christmas. I kept forgetting to invite them to our Church for Mass. My husband Tim had told me previously that they said they were both raised Catholic. I took this opportunity to invite them.

I could tell as we talked, they haven't attended Mass in along time. There was anger at God along with a lot of unforgiveness towards others for past hurts. I immediately asked God in my mind how to I help someone who is so far away from him? I was told just to listen. Not only to them but to him. When they were done, I told them what God gave to me at that moment to say. I shared some of the past hurts in my life and then I said that once I had TRULY forgiven the awful things others have done to me that all the hurt lifted. I wasn't going to let them continue to hurt me and God wasn't either. The pain and anger were gone. I also told them what I have learned, if I can't forgive, how can I expect to be forgiven.

They listened and were receptive. I told them I am always available to listen and wished them a Merry Christmas.

**Matthew 6:14-15.** *“If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.”*

I didn't include this verse with my discussion to them, but I wished I would have. I also wish I would have included the sympathy and empathy I felt for those who have hurt me, replacing the anger. I could not have done this without our Lord and the true desire to forgive and let it go. Do you want to do even better? Pray for those who hurt you!

May you all have a Happy and Forgiving New Year!

Colleen Rafferty

**Office Hours at St Mary:**  
Erin Denny is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday  
**Monday 9AM-3:00 PM Fr Tom only**  
**Tuesday 9AM-4 PM (Fr Tom leaves about 3:00).**  
**Thursday 9Am-4 PM**  
**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.  
**Archivist-** Sheila Harrington, Marian Becker, and Andrew Tamm  
**Librarian-** Kathleen Kaapcke

**Music Director- Joshua Wagner**  
[stmaryccmusic@gmail.com](mailto: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



**Invites you to Lunch**


**Please RSVP (270) 776-6177**  
Please leave a msg. or text # of party  
Tables are limited

**SUNDAY 25 JAN 2026 @ 1p.m.**

Agenda: Safe Haven Baby Box & Post Abortive Help

St. Mary's Church Parish Hall  
403 N. Main St., Franklin, KY 42134

**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.




# ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 3-4, 2026

## The Epiphany of the Lord

Welcome Visitors and Guests!  
Bienvenidos a los Visitantes y Huéspedes!  
Pastor/Párroco Fr. Tom Buckman [tom.buckman@pastoral.org](mailto:tom.buckman@pastoral.org)  
[stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com](mailto: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  
email: [stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com)  
Erin Denny- Office Administrator  
Diocese of Owensboro [www.owensborodiocese.org](http://www.owensborodiocese.org)  
*The deadline for Calendar submissions for the Febuary Calendar Bulletin is 01/21/2026*



Saturday, January 3	5:00 PM	The Epiphany of the Lord– Intentions: For the Soul of Harold & Florence Tegge
Sunday, January 4	8:30 AM	The Epiphany of the Lord –Intentions: For the Soul of Donna Rossi
Sunday, Enero 4	6:00 PM	Epifanía del Señor- Para la gente de la parroquia
Monday, January 5	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Repose of the Soul of Elizabeth Mueller
Tuesday, January 6	Noon	Intentions: For the Repose of the Soul of Helen Garst
Wednesday, January 7	6:00 PM	Intentions: For the Repose of the Soul of Don Steigelbauer
Thursday, January 8	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Repose of the Soul of Marilyn Posimato
Eucharistic Adoration 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM		
Friday, January 9	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Rigoberto Agustin Mario Cortes
Saturday, January 10	5:00 PM	The Baptism of the Lord– Intentions: For the Repose of the Soul of Joan Mueller
Sunday, January 11	8:30 AM	The Baptism of the Lord –Intentions: For the Repose of the Soul of Mae Sloan
Sunday, Enero 11	6:00 PM	Bautismo del Señor- 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: Cindy & John Janicek, Harry & Mae King, Richard Hearn, Judy Cates, Helen, Ed, and Ben Berry, Tom, Margaret, Roger, and Sherrie Berry, Gail Hall, Gail Biley, DeWayne, Susie, Kassidie, Katie, and Kennedie Kirkham, Mary, and Bill Sloan

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

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.

As of 12/30/2025						
Budget Needs 2024-25      Weekly		\$	4,038	Budget YTD Needs		\$ 104,435
Received last week		\$	2,483	Received YTD		\$ 96,015
Christmas Donation		\$	4,558			4,558
Difference		\$	3,003			\$ (- 3,862)
On Going Projects    Last Week		\$	51	YTD		\$ 2,834
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 The Epiphany of the Lord 8:30 AM Mass      6:00 PM Misa	5 8:00 AM Mass	6 10:30-2PM SVDP Noon Mass	7  6:00 PM Mass 6:30 Religious Ed	8 8:00 AM Mass 9:00 AM- 10:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration   6:00 PM OCIA	9 8:00 AM Mass    6:00 PM Evangelization and Outreach Mtg.	10 10 AM Baptism Prep Class   3:30 Confessions 5:00 PM Mass
	Mass Attendance— Christmas Eve 4:00 PM- 146, Christmas Eve Midnight- 105, Christmas Day STM- 61 Christmas Eve CTK- 92					
Mass Attendance— 12/27-66    12/28 8:30 AM- 89, 12/28 6:00 PM- no count						

Many thanks for the Christmas cards and gifts. May God bless you in 2026! *Fr. Tom Buckman*

# Good News!

January 4, 2026  
*The Epiphany of the Lord (A)*

Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Matthew 2:1-12

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage” (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God’s universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God’s grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—”in the weeds,” so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more “gray” than “black and white.” There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God’s grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God’s will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●

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# Dear Padre,

*I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?*

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can’t accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, “Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...” ) weren’t successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It’s because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●

*Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org*

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Let us resolve to bring [God’s] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC



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