

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
Blessings from your St Mary Evangelization & Outreach Ministry team**

Did you ever think of what your life would be like if you did not attend Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday or weekday Mass? I have! Several times in the past 30 years! What would I do during the hours I now spend preparing for, travelling to, praying at mass, enjoying fellowship with our many parishioners and visitors at Mass and then driving home? I'm a Vigil Mass attendee, so I thought about replacing Mass with large dinners, naps, work for my clients, watching TV, going to the movies, visiting friends, and the list goes on and on! But when I could not make it to Mass during the ice storm and when we were on safari in Africa and were more than 50 miles from the nearest Catholic Church, I felt empty, lost in my thoughts, and very much missing the Eucharist. I wonder, am I alone in these thoughts?

I don't think feeling empty when missing Mass sets, me apart from my Catholic brothers and sisters. And many of our fellow Christian brothers and sisters who can't attend their weekend worship services feel the same way. And no, during the storm, I didn't spend the time I was unable to be at Mass in fervent prayer, I was too engrossed in trying to survive the storm and care for my family and horses. (But I did study the readings and Gospel for that weekend, and I completed my prayers each day.)

What do the words of our great Saints tell us about the joy and love of attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist? Please allow me to share their words:

"If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy," **Saint John Vianney.**

"The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass," **Saint Augustine.**

"It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass," **Saint Padre Pio.**

"Put all the good works in the world against the Holy Mass; they will be as a grain of sand beside a mountain," **Saint John Vianney.**

"Let the entire man be seized with fear; let the entire world tremble; let heaven exult when Christ, the Son of the Living God, is on the altar in the hands of the priest. That the Lord of the universe, God, and son of God, so humbles Himself that for our salvation He hides Himself under a morsel of bread," **Saint Francis of Assisi.**

"The heavens open and multitudes of angels come to assist in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass," **Saint Gregory the Great.**

"How happy is the guardian angel that accompanies a soul to Holy Mass!" **Saint John Vianney.**

"I believe that were it not for the Holy Mass, as of this moment the world would be in the abyss," **Saint Leonard of Port Maurice.**

Thank God for the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist!

If you are drawn to considering substituting some another event or action for the Mass, please pray the "Surrender Prayer" for His guidance to bring you back to the healing and joy of the Mass.

"O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, please take care of everything! Amen."

Please know that I am also praying for you in my simple way.

May Jesus bless you and your family and friends. Duane Wolter



**The Ladies Guild will host A Bingo Party on Saturday March the 14.
Mark your calendar and make plans to attend!**

Do you have a business you would like to advertise in the bulletin? We have discussed adding a business card page to the bulletin and would like to gauge the level of interest and get feedback. Please email stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com

"We are very excited and pleased to announce that Joshua Wagner, St Mary's Music Director, has successfully procured, at minimal cost, a brass quartet to join with our choir at the Easter Sunday 8:30 Mass to joyfully proclaim Jesus' resurrection. Please join us and invite your friends to attend this celebration of Easter joy - giving thanks for our risen Lord!
— Your Administration & Finance Committee"



ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 14-15, 2026

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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](mailto:stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com)

Diocese of Owensboro www.owensborodiocese.org

The deadline for Calendar submissions for the March Calendar Bulletin is 2/18/2026



Saturday, March 14	5:00 PM	4th Sunday of Lent – Intentions: For the Soul of Crystal Becker
Ladies Guild Bingo Party		
Sunday March 15	8:30 AM	4th Sunday of Lent –Intentions: For the Soul of Jesus Echipare
Sunday Marzo 15	6:00 PM	4th Domingo de Cuaresma- Para la gente de la parroquia
Monday, March 16	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Julie Keim
Tuesday, March 17	Noon	Intentions: For the Soul of Apt Zimmerman
Wednesday, March 18	6:00 PM	Intentions: For the Soul of Patrick Collins
Thursday, March 19	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Brenda Moore
Eucharistic Adoration 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM		
Friday, March 20	8:00AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Roger Farley
	5:00 PM	Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Saturday, March 21	5:00 PM	5th Sunday of Lent – Intentions: For the Soul of Elizabeth Stoll
Sunday March 22	8:30 AM	5th Sunday of Lent –Intentions: For the Boone Family
4:00 PM Seder Meal		
Sunday Marzo 22	6:00 PM	5th Domingo de Cuaresma- 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: 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.

The Living Way of the Cross (bilingual) will be held outdoors (weather dependent) on Palm Sunday March 29 at 4:00 pm. All are welcome.

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

You are invited to join us on Sunday March 22 at 4:00 pm for a Seder Meal. Everyone is invited to come and participate in this re-enactment of God's saving actions from the Book of Exodus in which the Jewish people still celebrate as their Passover Meal today. Please sign up by March 15. For more information contact Fr. Tom Buckman



St Mary Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus are hosting a fish fry on Friday evening, March 20th from 5 to 7PM. It's a full meal: fish, sides dishes, dessert, and drinks! \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 5 to 10 years old. All proceeds will benefit the Franklin community.

Looking Ahead- SAVE THE DATE	
Every Friday during Lent	2:30 Stations of the Cross
Every Friday during Lent	7:00 PM Stations of the Cross in Spanish
March 20 5:00 PM	Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
March 22	Seder Meal
March 23	Penance Service at St Mary
March 31	Chrism Mass- Owensboro
April 2 6:00 PM	Holy Thursday
April 3 5:00 PM	Good Friday Service
April 4 8:00 PM <i>at Christ the King</i>	Easter Vigil Mass

As of 03/2/2026			
Budget Needs 2025-26	Weekly	\$ 4,038	Budget YTD Needs \$ 145,645
Received last week		\$ 3,926	Received YTD \$ 140,974
Difference		\$ (- 112)	\$ (- 4,671)
On Going Projects	Last Week	\$ 62	YTD \$ 3,655

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 th Sunday of Lent 8:30 AM Mass	16 8:00 AM Mass	17 10:30-2PM SVDP Noon Mass	18 6:00 PM Mass 6:30 PM Religious Ed	19 8:00 AM Mass 9:00 AM- 10:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration	20 8:00 AM Mass 2:30 Stations of the Cross in English	21 1:00 PM Marriage-Roy and Maria O'Bryan
6:00 PM Misa	6:00 PM Bible Study - Spanish	1:00 PM Bible Study		5:00 PM Admin Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM OCIA	5:00 PM K of C Fish Fry 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross in Spanish	3:30 Confessions 5:00 PM Mass

Mass Attendance— 03/07 5:00 PM-75 3/8 8:30 AM-88 3/8 6:00 PM-140

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

Dear Padre,

I am left-handed. Why doesn't the church allow the sign of the cross to be made left-handed?

A Catholic who is unable to make the sign of the cross with the right hand is certainly permitted to do so with the left. There is no rule against it. When Pope Saint John Paul II injured his right arm, he used his left hand to impart his blessing.

The sign of the cross is a sacramental, one of the symbols that identifies you as a Roman Catholic. Just like all such symbolic gestures, there is an expected uniformity. To use a secular example, at a University of Texas football game, fans of the Longhorns give the "hook-'em horns" sign. You wouldn't give the "thumbs-up" sign instead. It would be confusing.

It's true that at one time, the left hand was associated with evil. Jesus sends the goats to sit at his left and the sheep to his right. (See Matthew 25:33.) And, throughout the Scriptures, we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19.) The word "sinister" is from the Latin *sinister*, meaning "left."

Left-handedness is no longer associated with evil. If you wish to make the sign of the cross with your left hand, you may. But do consider why you are doing it. Most left-handed people have no trouble using their right hand for many simple tasks. If your purpose is a bit rebellious, maybe realize that signifying unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ is more important. ●



ALFONSO / CATHOPIC

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, 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*.



MARCO IACOBELLI / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, let us trustfully bring our ailments before Jesus, and also those of our loved ones; let us bring the pain of those who feel lost and without a way out. Let us cry out for them too, and we will be certain that the Lord will hear us.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 11, 2025

Monday	Thursday	Saturday
MARCH 16 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 65:17-21 Jn 4:43-54	MARCH 19 <i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a	MARCH 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53
Tuesday MARCH 17 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16	Wednesday MARCH 18 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30	Sunday MARCH 22 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
	Friday MARCH 20 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	