

# ST. MARY'S

## ROMAN CATHOLIC BASILICA

*Franciscan Friars*

231 North Third Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

[www.saintmarysbasilica.org](http://www.saintmarysbasilica.org)



*First Sunday of Lent  
February 26, 2012*

### ***Parish Mission Statement***

As children of a loving Creator, baptized into Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Mary's Faith Community believes in the power of the Sacred Liturgy which challenges us to faithfully live out Gospel values of peace and justice.

Following the example of Mary's openness to God's call and in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, we minister with courtesy and compassion to all people, especially the poor and marginalized.

Reflecting God's all-inclusive love, we commit ourselves to welcome and affirm the whole diversity of God's people.

Our commitment includes educating and forming ourselves into a community that joyfully celebrates our oneness in Christ. Acknowledging that all gifts come from our Creator, we seek to become good stewards of all God's gifts.

**Mass Schedule**

Monday—Friday.....12:05 pm  
 Saturday Vigil.....5:00 pm  
 Sunday.....9:00 am and 11:00 am\*  
 \* **Interpreted for the deaf/hard of hearing**  
 Holy Days.....12:05 pm and 5:15 pm  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
 Saturday.....4:00 pm  
**Holy Hour and Adoration**  
 Thursday.....11:00 am and 5:00 pm

**Parish Office Hours**

Monday—Friday.....9:00 am—4:00 pm  
 Saturday.....by Appointment Only  
 Sunday.....Closed

**Basilica Hours**

Monday—Friday.....10:00 am—4:00 pm  
 Saturday.....10:00 am—6:00 pm  
 Sunday.....8:00 am—1:00 pm

**Phone Numbers**

Parish Office.....602-354-2100  
 Fax.....602-354-2060

**Clergy and Staff**

**Rector and Pastor**

Fr. Vincent J. Mesi, OFM..... 602-354-2072  
 vmesi@saintmarysbasilica.org

**Parochial Vicar**

Fr. Micah Muhlen, OFM.....602-354-2070  
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**Parish Manager**

Jerome Doris.....602-354-2069  
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**Administrative Assistant**

**Nullity Minister**

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**Adult Formation/RCIA Director**

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**Music Director**

Gordon Stevenson.....602-354-2061  
 g Stevenson@saintmarysbasilica.org

**Via Assisi Gift Shop Manager**

Br. Tito Garcia, OFM.....602-354-2100

**Gift Shop Hours**

Monday –Wednesday.....Closed  
 Thursday and Friday.....10:00 am—3:00 pm  
 Saturday.....10:00 am—6:30 pm  
 Sunday.....9:00 am—1:00 pm  
 St. Vincent de Paul.....602-354-2097


Dear Friends,  
 Peace and all Good!

This past week on Ash Wednesday, from dawn until evening, men and women on their way to or from work, mothers with infants and toddlers in hand, teens, and school children all crowded the churches across the globe to be marked with a cross of ashes on their foreheads. It was as if even before they listened to the First Reading for Ash Wednesday, they had heard the prophet Joel cry out: “Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call the assembly; gather the people, notify the congregation!” Why do so many Catholics keep this day so holy? There are many reasons, but one reason for sure is that the rituals and prayers of Ash Wednesday call us to remember that being a Christian is serious business. The exhortation, “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” strikes at the core of the meaning of Lent. Even the more traditional formula for the marking with ashes, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”, is a helpful reminder that our lives here on earth are bounded in time, and that we are responsible for how we use this precious gift of our lives. Lent is a liturgical time of preparation for the manifestation of God’s love in Jesus’ self giving in his suffering, death and resurrection. This we will celebrate in the Sacred Three Days “The Triduum”. In the words of the marvelous spiritual writer Fr. Thomas Keating, OSB, “Easter, with its grace of interior resurrection, is the radical healing of the human condition. Lent which prepares us for this grace, is about what needs to be healed.” (The Mystery of Christ, p. 36)

These forty days of Lent are an extended retreat for all of us and in a special way, for our catechumens who will participate in the Rite of Election today at the cathedral. This morning we will send to the Bishop our catechumens Michael Mizell, Robin Lilly and Ashley Andrews, for the Rite of Election. In this ceremony, they will be joined more fully to the Church universal. Congratulations and God’s Blessings!

One of the traditional spiritual practices of Lent is *prayer*. This holy season calls us to give more time to God in prayer so that we can make this retreat of more beneficial to us. As you see in today’s bulletin there are many opportunities to participate in community prayer. I call your particular attention to our beautiful Sunday Evening Vespers at 5:00 p.m. We started this tradition in Advent and it was well received. Vespers consists of sung psalms, readings, short reflection and the Magnificat, Mary’s prayer of praise to God for God’s goodness.. Along with the Mass, The Liturgy of the Hours, of which Vespers is a part, is a very central component of the Church’s public prayer. Also, you are invited on Wednesday evenings for some very beautiful contemplative Taize prayer. In the midst of flickering lights and lovely chants, we will have some quiet and calming time of prayer. We then will venerate the Taize cross—a replica of the cross used by the monks at Taize, France.

This Tuesday evening we will have our first Soup and Study for Lent. Our study is “Catholicism: Journey around the World and Deep into the Faith.” I will be showing some amazing CDs with excellent commentary by Fr. Robert Barron, a noted scripture scholar. Then, we will have time for some conversation and prayer. Please register in the vestibule of the church today. Come for delicious soup at 6:00 p.m. and study at 6:30 p.m. See today’s bulletin for more details.

Love,  


## First Sunday of Lent



## A POWERFUL PROCLAMATION

As we reflect on how we spend our time, we could well ask ourselves, “What would you want to be caught dead doing?” If we take seriously Jesus’ Gospel proclamation, if we chew on the words until they become part of us, we will find our answer.

After coming out of the desert and learning of John’s arrest, Jesus knew it was time to act. Forty days of prayer and fasting had prepared him well. He knew exactly what he wanted to be caught dead doing. His desert experience had prepared him. Fully aware that his actions would put his life in jeopardy, he went to Galilee, where he made the powerful proclamation found in today’s Gospel.

## “THIS IS THE TIME OF FULFILLMENT”

*This* is the time. Not tomorrow, or after Lent, or after you finish your degree, or after you feel a little better about yourself, or after you retire. *This* is the time and the place. Here, today, this minute, now. By your baptism, you *are* fulfilled. All you need to do is realize it.

“The kingdom of God is at hand.” It is in the present moment, mirrored back to us many times each day. It is everywhere, even in the darkest corners of the world. To gain access to the kingdom, we just give ourselves to Jesus each morning, and examine ourselves in light of his love each evening. Submit and commit—day after day.

“Repent, and believe in the gospel.” For those preparing for full Church membership this Lent, today’s message is especially liberating. When we drop our own agendas and tune in to God’s, miracles begin to happen. And if angels ministered to Jesus in the desert, we know that they will be there for us, too. So as we begin our Lenten observances, let’s listen openly and trustingly to the still small Voice whispering in the silence of the season and then pray for the courage to believe and act on what we hear. We will be changed, and the world along with us.

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## Legion of Mary

## “They were sent two by two”

Christ sent out his apostles two by two to make his word known. This is the primary focus of the Legion of Mary.

Many are seeking more fulfillment in life—what can be more than the fullness of Christ in the Catholic church? A knock on a door can lead to a heart that is seeking; a sincere invitation in door to door visits can bring back someone to the faith they that was lost.

This is one of the many works Legion members do: bringing Christ to our neighbor, where they are, in an open and caring manner. This Lenten season or in preparation for it, you are invited to see what the Legion is about Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. in the parish office.

## The 3rd Annual Nun Run

The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration are proud to announce the 3rd Annual Nun Run on Saturday, March 10, 2012 in Tempe, AZ. Mark your calendars now! you won’t want to miss the fun! For registration and fundraising information please visit [www.desertnuns.com](http://www.desertnuns.com) or email us at [nunrun@desertnuns.com](mailto:nunrun@desertnuns.com)



# Stewardship UPDATE

## Your Parish’s Account for week ending February 19, 2012

Total Expenses

\$13,627.48

Total Plate Contributions

\$9,486.00

Shortfall Amount

\$4,141.48

Please always consider your pledge  
as we all work to close this gap.

*Thank you for your continued  
stewardship and generosity.*

## The Annual Charity and Development Appeal



As we begin the season of Lent, our thoughts turn to the message of praying, of serving and of giving. The Charity and Development Appeal (CDA) provides each and every family the opportunity to put their faith into action.

Because of you, the CDA is able to support critical services to those in need: counseling, food, shelter and assistance in finding a job. It provides opportunities for faith education through Catholic schools, parish religious education programs, Kino Institute and college Newman Centers. The CDA also provides much needed support to our clergy, religious and seminarians.

Our parish goal is 100% participation and **\$30,000**. Currently 31.17% of our parish has raised **\$9,352.00** toward our goal. Please take time to make your gift today. Gifts can be made online at [www.diocesephoenix.org/cda](http://www.diocesephoenix.org/cda) or by completing a donor envelope. Thank you for your support of the Charity and Development Appeal.

### “Dreameed about Visiting the Holy Land?” “Pilgrimage to Israel, Rome and Assisi with Fr. Vince!”

September 21-October 6, 2012

**\$4,499 (per person / double occupancy)**

**Only Several Spaces Left, Hurry!!!**

Welcome as we make this spiritual journey to the land where Jesus walked and taught and healed. As we journey together the Scriptures will come to life in a new and inspiring way. We will spend several glorious days on the stunning Sea of Galilee and then move to Jerusalem—a city rich in history and richer still in God’s marvelous deeds! We will have the opportunity to celebrate Eucharist at some really amazing places including the Church of Holy Sepulcher and the Garden of Gethsemane. Then, it’s off to Rome and Assisi! The highlight of our time in Rome will be a Papal Audience with Pope Benedict XVI, and Mass at the tombs of Peter and Paul! We then celebrate the Feast of St. Francis in Assisi on October 4th with its beautiful and colorful processions and pageants! And, by the way, this trip will be lots of fun! We have even included a delightful afternoon Wine Tasting event in the picturesque Umbrian countryside!



The cost of the 16 day pilgrimage is \$4,499 (double occupancy). Unless you have already paid, a \$600 deposit is required as soon as possible, preferably before February 1st. Hotels are asking for down payments to hold our rooms and so we do need these deposits as soon as possible. For more information please contact Fr. Vince at 602-354-2072.

## You’re invited to participate in Catholic Relief Services’ Operation Rice Bowl.



### God's Covenant

In today's first reading, we hear about God's covenant with Noah, with his descendants and with all living creatures. During Lent, we are called to deepen and strengthen our baptismal and covenantal relationship with God, which includes our responsibility to care for God's creation. This week through Operation Rice Bowl, we learn about subsistence farmers in Madagascar. We pray for all who struggle to feed their families on depleted lands, and we fast in solidarity with those who hunger. We give so that CRS can help farmers improve their growing methods and act as good stewards of God's creation.

Robin is a farmer in Madagascar living in a dry part of the country. But thanks to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the farms in his community are thriving. Before CRS came to his village, farmers spent many hours carrying water buckets to their crops. When CRS gave the farmers a new pump, their productivity changed dramatically, so did their lives. Now they water three times as much land in half the time it took with a bucket. Today, Mr. Robin grows corn, lettuce, sorghum, cucumbers, pumpkins, and orange trees.



### St. Vincent de Paul Lenten Food Drive

Dear St. Mary's Family in Christ! During this Lenten season of penance and preparation for the Resurrection, your blessed gifts of generosity are requested for the many needs of the poor. Each weekend during Lent, we are asking you to bring those food items most needed to fill the food boxes from our pantry. St. Vincent de Paul bins will be available at the entrance to the Basilica throughout Lent. God bless you for sharing your hearts of Jesus!

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|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3/3 & 3/4   | Cereal and Powdered Milk             |
| 3/10 & 3/11 | Tuna and Canned Soup                 |
| 3/17 & 3/18 | Canned Fruit and Canned Vegetables   |
| 3/24 & 3/25 | Spaghetti Sauce; Pasta; Rice; Cereal |



**If you have any questions, please contact:**  
**Diane Phagan**  
St. Mary's Basilica Conference  
[dianephagan@aol.com](mailto:dianephagan@aol.com)  
**623-221-6410**

*Lent at St. Mary's Basilica*  
*Start planning your*  
*Lenten Season with St. Mary's*



**Sunday's of Lent**

Solemn Evening Vespers with Fr. Vince, OFM and the Basilica Choir  
 5:00 pm in the Basilica

**Mondays of Lent**

Centering Prayer with Fr. Luis Baldonado, OFM  
 7:00 pm in the Friary Chapel

**Tuesdays of Lent**

Soup & Study Sessions with Fr. Vince Mesi, OFM  
 "Catholicism"  
 Journey Around the World & Deep into the Faith  
 6:00 pm in the Social Hall

**Wednesdays of Lent**

Taize Prayer Around the Cross  
 7:00 pm in the Basilica

**Thursdays of Lent**

Holy Hour and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament  
 11:00 am and 5:00pm in the Basilica

**Fridays of Lent**

Stations of the Cross  
 12:45 pm in the Basilica  
 (Immediately following the Noon Mass)



*Taize Prayer Around the Cross*  
*Wednesday's Of Lent*  
*At 7:00 p.m.*  
*In the Basilica*

*The Stations of the Cross*  
*Every Friday of Lent at 12:45 p.m.*



For centuries, Christians have gathered in Jerusalem and walked the Via Dolorosa in memory of Christ's journey to Golgotha. Since the 13th century, the Franciscan Friars have brought this devotional journey with Jesus to crucifixion to communities throughout the world. On Fridays of Lent at 12:45 p.m., everyone is invited to participate in this devotional walk with Jesus, calling to mind the suffering and death of the Lord and the suffering of his brothers and sisters throughout the world.

**Lenten Soup and Study Series**  
**"Catholicism: Journey around the World and Deep into the Faith"**



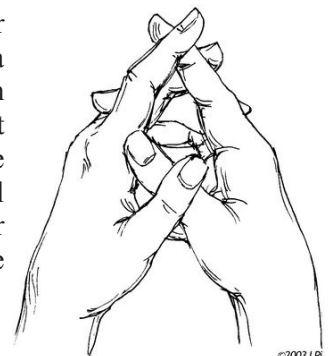
Tuesday Evenings of Lent  
 6:00 p.m. Soup and 6:30 p.m. Study

Beginning on Tuesday, February 28th you are invited to attend four beautiful and amazing presentations: "Catholicism: Journey around the World and Deep into the Faith". With creator and host Father Robert Barron, you will learn what Catholics believe and why, while being immersed in the art, architecture, literature, beliefs, and practices of the Catholic tradition. Filmed in 50 locations throughout 15 countries, the Catholicism DVD series is on location and in the streets illustrating the splendor of the global Church. Following the video, Fr. Vince will give added commentary and questions for understanding and application. Then, on March 27, our parish Faith in Action Committee will sponsor a special evening around the topic of immigration. A member of the "No More Deaths" Project in Phoenix will give the presentation including a powerful film: "Dying to Get In". And so, come along for the Tuesdays of Lent. We will gather in the social hall at 6:00 p.m. for some delicious homemade soup and then at 6:30 p.m., we will begin our study. This would be an excellent way to enrich your observance of Lent.



**Lenten Vespers**  
**Each Sunday Evening of Lent**  
**at 5:00 p.m.**

On the Sundays of Lent, you are invited to take part in one of the Church's most blessed liturgies: "Sunday Vespers" or "Evening Prayer". Throughout the centuries, the Church has gathered daily at various hours, especially in the morning and evening to consecrate the day through prayer. This is not a Mass. It is a service which includes the singing of several assigned psalms from the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), the most hallowed prayers in the scriptures. We then listen to the Word of God and conclude with the singing of Mary's words in the Magnificat, "My soul gives glory to God my Savior", the General Intercessions, The Lord's Prayer and the Dismissal. It is truly a beautiful way to keep our Lenten Sundays holy. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Basilica. The Basilica Choir will add beautiful music. Please prepare for Christmas in the best way: in the Sacred Liturgy.



*Readings for the Week of February 26, 2012*

<b>Monday:</b>	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Mt 25:31-46
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32
<b>Thursday:</b>	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Mt 7:7-12
<b>Friday:</b>	Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26
<b>Saturday:</b>	Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

<b>Saturday 5:00 pm</b>	William and Hilda Kramer (Deceased)
<b>Sunday 9:00 a.m.</b>	The People of St. Mary's
<b>Sunday 11:00 a.m.</b>	Dorothy Zeimet (Deceased)
<b>Monday 12:05 pm</b>	William P. Mahoney, Jr. (Deceased)
<b>Tuesday 12:05 pm</b>	Rosemary Palmer (Deceased)
<b>Wednesday 12:05 pm</b>	Alice D. Mahoney (Deceased)
<b>Thursday 12:05 pm</b>	Victor Kramer (Deceased)
<b>Friday 12:05 pm</b>	Deceased Franciscan Friars



*Sanctuary Candles  
in Memory of  
William and Hilda  
Kramer*

**Donate Your Vehicle**  
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- Tax Deductible
- We Will Complete All IRS & Title Docs
- Any Condition, Running or Not
- All Proceeds Benefit Our Local Community

*What's Happening At St. Mary's*

**Sunday, February 26th—1st Sunday of Lent**

Mass—Rite of Sending	9:00 am	Basilica
ASL Mass	11:00 am	Basilica
Solemn Evening Vespers	5:00 pm	Basilica

**Monday, February 27th**

Count Team	6:00 pm	Parish Center
Centering Prayer	7:00 pm	Basilica

**Tuesday, February 28th**

Soup & Study—“Catholicism”	6:00 pm	Social Hall
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**Wednesday, February 29th**

Taize Prayer Around the Cross	7:00 pm	Basilica
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**Thursday, March 1st**

Holy Hour and Benediction	11:00 am	Basilica
Holy Hour and Adoration	5:00 pm	Basilica
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Choir Loft

**Friday, March 2nd—Day of Abstinence**

Stations of the Cross	12:45 pm	Basilica
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**Saturday, March 3rd**

Legion of Mary	2:30 pm	Parish Center
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**Sunday, March 4th—2nd Sunday of Lent**

Mass	9:00 am	Basilica
ASL Mass	11:00 am	Basilica
Solemn Evening Vespers	5:00 pm	Basilica

**Monday, March 5th**

Count Team	6:00 pm	Parish Center
Centering Prayer	7:00 pm	Basilica

**Tuesday, March 6th**

Soup & Study—“Catholicism”	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Adult Confirmation Class	7:00 pm	Parish Center

**Wednesday, March 7th**

Memorial of Sts. Perpetua and Felicity	Noon	Basilica
Taize Prayer Around the Cross	7:00 pm	Basilica

**Thursday, March 8th**

Holy Hour and Benediction	11:00 am	Basilica
Memorial of St. John of God	Noon	Basilica
Holy Hour and Adoration	5:00 pm	Basilica
Faith in Action Committee Meeting	6:30 pm	Parish Center
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Choir Loft

**Friday, March 9th**

Memorial of St. Frances of Rome	Noon	Basilica
Stations of the Cross	12:45 pm	Basilica

**Saturday, March 10th**

Legion of Mary	2:30 pm	Parish Center
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**Sunday, March 11th—Third Sunday of Lent**

Mass	9:00 am	Basilica
ASL Mass	11:00 am	Basilica
Solemn Evening Vespers	5:00 pm	Basilica

**Monday, March 12th**

Count Team	6:00 pm	Parish Center
Centering Prayer	7:00 pm	Basilica

**Tuesday, March 13th**

Soup & Study—“Catholicism”	6:00 pm	Social Hall
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