



St. Mary's Parish



Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

Mass Schedule:

Monday through Saturday
9:00 AM

Saturday Vigils
5:00 PM
7:30 PM

Sunday
7:30 AM
9:30 AM Family Mass
(C.L.O.W. Sept. – May)
11:30 AM Sung Mass

Holy Days: Announced

Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays from
9:30-10:30 AM

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Email Address: St.marys1870@gmail.com

Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427 or (508) 879 - 2322

Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

Fax: (508) 429 - 3324

Dear Visitors: Welcome! We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this day. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and if you are interested in becoming a member of the parish then please call the rectory to register. Please also be aware that for generations it has been the custom at St. Mary's to kneel together for a silent Hail Mary at the end of Mass. Please join in!

Confession: Saturdays from Noon – 12:45 PM in the church or anytime by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time by appointment. Please call as soon as you are aware of a serious illness or upcoming surgery.

Baptism: The 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month. To register for Baptism Preparation call 429-4427.

Marriage: Please call at least 6 months in advance of your desired wedding date.



Saint Mary's Parish

8 Church St. ~ Holliston, MA ~ 01746 ~ (508) 429-4427

December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent

Dear Members of the St. Mary's Parish Family,

Happy New Year! Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the Church calendar, as we recall the First Coming of Jesus among us as the Babe of Bethlehem, and as we look forward to His Second Coming as the King of Glory. The Advent Mass readings today through December 16 focus on Jesus' return at the Last Judgment, then on December 17 shift to His birth 2,000 years ago. In a real sense, the Advent readings capture the way a faithful Christian lives – reflecting on the Jesus Who once walked among us as man, and also preparing to meet Him face to face one day.

The shift in Church seasons is evident in our worship space in several ways today. Those attending daylight (and sunny) Masses will be able to see that the sanctuary skylight has been tinted Advent shades of purple and rose. The effect is something like a dawn or sunset sky; appropriate as Advent encompasses both the birth (dawn) of Christ into the world, and the promised final return (sunset) of Jesus to establish His Kingdom on the earth. The colored skylight also darkens the sanctuary slightly, bringing to mind the darkness of a world without Christ. On Christmas Day the white skylight will return, allowing bright light again as we commemorate the birth of Jesus, Who is forever the “light of the world.”

For Advent the sanctuary draperies have been changed to purple, the Church's color of penance and preparation. Likewise the priest's and deacon's vestments are purple – the darker “royal” purple of Jesus the newborn King or returning triumphant King. This is different from the more “violet” purple of Lent, the redder tint of which suggests the blood spilt for us by Jesus on Calvary. For this same reason the Advent vestments are much richer in ornamentation than the simple vestments worn during Lent. To the right of the sanctuary stands the St. Mary's Advent wreath, the candles of which will count down for us the weeks until Christmas, even as time itself counts down to the return and final judgment of Jesus. We hope that an Advent wreath will grace your own family table tonight, as it is a beautiful way to bring prayer into your home and teach children about the two comings of Jesus.

As we look at the way our church building has been transformed for Advent, we are each invited to consider the transformation that God is calling us to in these four short weeks of grace. How can we move from fear to courage, doubt to trust, covetousness to generosity, sorrow to joy, and loneliness to the sure knowledge that GOD IS WITH US in the person of Jesus Christ? How can we make sure that Christmas finds us spiritually closer to God than we are right now today?

Prayer is always the foundation of our relationship with God, and Advent prayer books have been made available at the church entrances for you to take home. We hope they will enrich both your four-week journey to Christmas and your greater journey to God. A special Advent Penance service has been scheduled for December 11, with eight priests available for Confession. A good Confession, especially if it's been awhile since we last experienced the healing grace of that sacrament, can help us open up and allow Jesus to come anew into our hearts like few things can.

In the end, Advent invites each of us to look honestly at our relationships with God and neighbor so as to make whatever changes and fresh starts are needed to be more faithful disciples. Above all, we must avoid the trap of spending all our time and energy on external Christmas preparations, and none on our interior / spiritual life.

In Christ's Service & Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

MAKE YOUR FAMILY PLAN NOW FOR ATTENDING MASS TWICE BETWEEN DEC. 23 & DEC. 25!



The Sunday Mass Obligation for the Weekend of Sat., Dec. 23 & Sun., Dec. 24 remains. The 4th Sunday of Advent is a distinct and essential part of our spiritual journey to Christmas, even though Christmas Eve is that same Sunday afternoon. This year Catholics should therefore plan to attend Mass either Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning for the 4th Sunday of Advent, in addition to whatever Christmas Mass they then attend. Catholics who choose to attend Mass twice on Sunday – in the morning for Advent and then later that day for Christmas, are permitted to receive Communion twice in the same day.

2017 ST. MARY'S PARISH GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

"What return can I make to the Lord for all He has done for me?" Psalm 116

2017 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:	\$150,000.00
Grand Annual parishioner support received to date:	- \$108,637.00
Parishioner support still needed to reach 2017 Grand Annual goal:	\$ 41,363.00
% of 2017 Grand Annual achieved to date:	72 %
% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	50 %



As the Grand Annual continues, contributions may be placed either in the orange G.A. envelope you received in the mail, or in one of the extra G.A. envelopes available at the church entrances. G.A. envelopes may be placed in any Mass collection basket, or mailed or dropped off at the rectory.

As explained in the November mailing to all parishioners, the \$150,000 goal will be applied to cover a number of parish operating expenses, including but not limited to: Exterior Church Painting, Installation of a New Flat Rubber Roof over the long hallway between the Church and Parish Center buildings, Church and Classroom Heating Repairs, Replacement of One of the Two Primary HVAC Roof Compressors and Salaries for St. Mary's dedicated and hardworking staff.

Your generous support will assure the financial health of our parish continues.

Thank you for your support of this most important annual collection!

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
 Rev. Jim Flynn, Weekend Assistance
 The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
 Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon
 Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon
 Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7
 Mr. Matthew Chick, D.R.E., Grades 8-12
 Mr. Juan Mesa, Director of Music
 Mr. Leo Racine, Director of Contemporary Music
 Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary
 Mrs. Kim Lisbon, Religious Education Secretary
 Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager
 Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan
 Mr. James Koval, Parish Facilities
 R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care



THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by Estella Rubalcaba. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child.

TO ALL AT ST. MARY'S: *Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and well wishes during my recent illness. It has meant so much to me. God bless you!*
 - Barbara Richardson

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

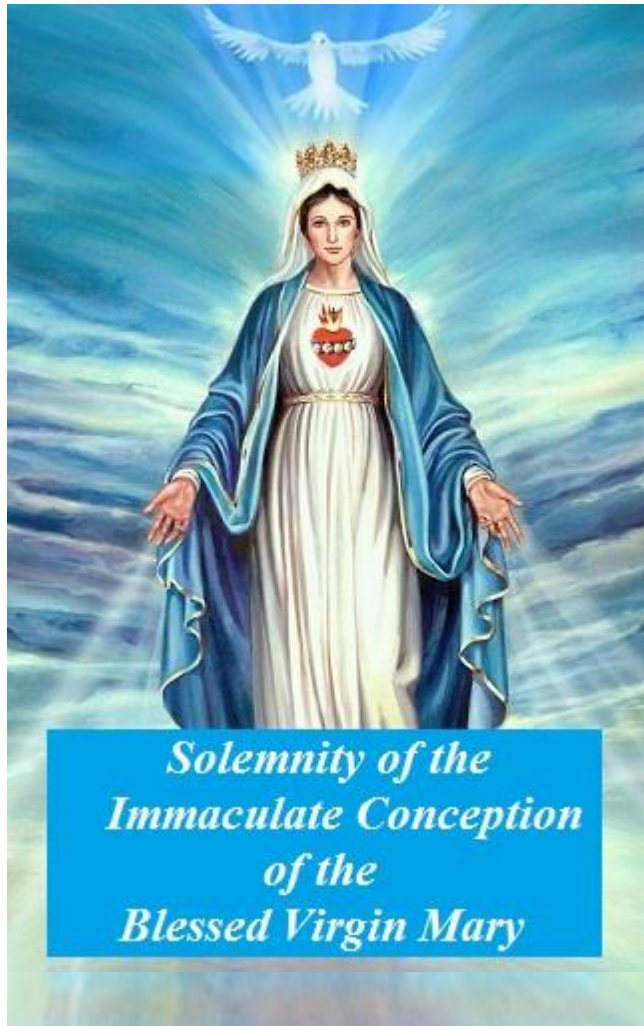
Mass Collections: \$ 11,031.00
 Automatic Giving: \$ 2,033.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 13,064.00

Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	December 2
9:00	Holy Souls
5:00	Frank Simonetti, 13 th Anv.
7:30	Katrina Petery
Sunday	December 3
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Frank & Olga Proto
11:30	Pat McDonald
Monday	December 4
9:00	Mary Louise Giangreco
Tuesday	December 5
9:00	Walter "D" Robbins & Larry Marsell, Jr.
Wednesday	December 6
9:00	Antonia, Maria & Mario Aversa
Thursday	December 7
9:00	Paul Chudy
6:30	Immaculate Conception
Friday	December 8
	(Holy Day of Obligation)
9:00	Immaculate Conception
7:00	Immaculate Conception
Saturday	December 9
9:00	Holy Souls
5:00	Nicholas Rossini
7:30	Charles Myers, Sr.
Sunday	December 10
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Michael Eden & Mary Martell
11:30	Emelia Bourque



**“IMMACULATE CONCEPTION” ~****A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:**

This Thursday, December 7 Vigil Mass at 6:30 PM. Friday, December 8 Feast Day Masses at 9 AM & 7 PM.

The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna's womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception.

MUSIC	5:00 PM	9:30 PM	11:30 AM
Entrance	TM #20	#20	#20
Offertory	TM #27	-	-
Communion	#748	#54	-
Recessional	#576	#21	#21

TODAY, DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Father Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass today, Sunday, December 3, for donuts, juice and coffee! Members of the Parish Council will be there if you have any comments or ideas regarding the Parish that you would like to share with them.

SPIRITED HANDS CROCHET GROUP~ TODAY, SUNDAY: The members of the Crochet Group known now as "Spirited Hands" will be holding their annual sale of handmade crochet items in the Center Lobby after the 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses. All of the items will be unique and well made. The Spirited Hands even prayed for the people who will be receiving their finished products. So these gifts will be precious! All proceeds go to help the needy.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~ TONIGHT: Sunday, December 3 from 6:30 – 8 PM in the Parish Center. There will be faith, friendship, fun and signups for the December 15 Caroling, Pizza Party, Christmas Lights trip, as well as for our Snow Tubing trip to Nashoba in January. Celtics payments are also due tonight – watch your email this week to see if you have a ticket or are on the waiting list. Any and all 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are invited. Bring a friend!

EPIC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY: Our next EPIC nights are Sunday, December 10 and Wednesday, December 13 in Fr. Haley Hall from 7:30 to 8:45 PM. Our next EPIC event is a Christmas party at Bethany House on December 16. Details to follow in email! Please join us for faith, fun and fellowship in 2017-2018. Open to students in grade 9 to 12. Please contact Matthew Chick at stmarysym1870@gmail.com with questions.

FATIMA SHRINE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY: The Xaverian Missionaries will hold their traditional Christmas Lights Display from Saturday, December 2 to Thursday, December 28, from 5 to 9 PM. Refreshments will be served in the hall. All are most welcome!

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER ~ TUESDAYS, DEC. 5, 12 & 19 AT 7:00 PM: Bring your day to a restful end with this twenty minute experience of the Psalms, calming your spirit and letting go of distractions and anxieties. This part of the Liturgy of the Hours connects you to the whole Church in prayer worldwide.

ADVENT 2017 - PREPARING FOR HIS COMING!



NEXT WEEKEND, GIVE ~ A ~ GIFT, DECEMBER 9 & 10:

(GIFT BAGS ONLY, PLEASE NO WRAPPING): Once again we ask the people of St. Mary's to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. Give a gift to someone who has none. A teen to a teen, a child to a child, a toddler to a toddler. All items go to needy families in Boston, and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, unwrapped together in a plain bag or gift bag with a tag stating "Boy" or "Girl" and size or age up to age 18. No adult gifts please. Please place your gift in front of St. Mary's altar at any Mass the weekend of December 9 & 10.

Please note that all items are driven into Boston early Sunday afternoon (December 10), so gifts dropped off late cannot be distributed. Thank you and God bless you! Please note: The "no wrapping" is requested by the receiving parishes as they otherwise have to tear the wrapping off to see which gifts are most appropriate for specific individuals.

NEXT WEEKEND, COOKIE WALK, DECEMBER 9 & 10: After all Masses on December 9 and 10 long rows of tables will be set up in the Lower Church – tables loaded down with over 2,000 delicious homemade cookies baked by St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group members. For \$6 you may purchase an empty cookie bag, then "walk" down the rows of tables and select cookies which youths (wearing plastic gloves) will place in your bag. All proceeds will directly benefit the poor of Haiti.



ADVENT CONFESSION SERVICE ~ MONDAY, DECEMBER 11,

6:30 PM IN THE CHURCH: Eight priests will be available for Confession, as together we drive the darkness of sin from our hearts and let in the light of God's healing grace. Nothing can help us "prepare the way" for Jesus to come into our lives anew better than the Sacrament of Confession. In this season of gift giving, Confession is one of God's most precious gifts, restoring our innocence and our capacity to live and love like Jesus. Confessions are also every Saturday in Advent from 12-12:45 PM. There are no Confessions on Saturday, December 23.



HARP, ORGAN, LESSONS & CAROLS ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 5-6 PM IN THE CHURCH.

Join us for an evening of beautiful music and scripture, anticipating the wondrous birth of our Lord Jesus. This year's Lessons and Carols will feature the combined choirs and ensembles of St. Mary's Church, as well as Harpist Anna Elsworth, and nationally-renowned Organist Brandon Santini, who will also offer a 30-minute organ concert at 4:30 PM. The program will include familiar carols as well as choral music by Rutter, Ireland, Britten, Carter, and others. Bring your family, and don't miss this opportunity to fill your Christmas preparations with plenty of holiday cheer!

CREATION CARE TEAM: The Creation Care Team of St. Mary's encourages you to have a "Green Christmas" this year! To think about the gifts you give, the wrappings that you use and the long-term effects that they will have on the earth. Apply the basic principles of caring for the environment this Christmas by reducing, reusing and recycling. Think outside the box, give a donation in someone's name, give a gift card to a nursery to plant a tree, give a share to a community farm, sponsor a child in a third world country, give a gift of time to help someone with babysitting or repairs at their home, give an "experience" such as a day at the museum, a dinner out, or a concert. Make a commitment to bring some food to a family in need once a

month. Tuck smaller gifts in a new kitchen or bath towel, a purse, or a pair of socks, or a scarf, wrappings that are useful afterwards. The links below contain wonderful and practical ideas for having a Green Christmas! All the best to you and yours this Christmas season from the Creation Care Team. newdream@newdream.org.

http://eartheasy.com/give_sustainchristmas.htm,

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ethicalivingblog/2007/dec/12/toptipsforagreenchristmas>.

EVANGELIZING FRIENDS AND RELATIVES AT CHRISTMAS:

Some Practical Suggestions

We all have family members, friends, and neighbors who have become distant from Jesus Christ and His Church. We want to invite them to return but often do not feel comfortable doing so, or fear that we will offend them. Here are some simple suggestions to use during the seasons of Advent and Christmas:



During Advent: Pray and Invite

Pray! Pray! Pray! Start praying now for those you hope will return to Christ and His Church. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the courage to invite family or friends to attend Mass with you. Many people are simply waiting for an invitation. When you do extend the invitation do so with sensitivity and tact. For example, say, "Our family is planning to attend the 4PM vigil Mass at St. Mary's. Would you [and your family] like to join us?"

At Christmas Mass: Smile and Move In

Christmas is the celebration of the great mystery of the Incarnation—the gift of God becoming man. When you encounter those who may not be "regulars," smile. Be a model of joy! Another way to be welcoming is to move to the center of the pew so that others may easily find a place to sit. Go even further by inviting people searching for seats to join you in the pew!

After Christmas: Gather and Celebrate

Many people find themselves away from home or perhaps struggling through difficult family situations during Christmas. Invite them to join you for your traditional Christmas celebrations when appropriate. Continue celebrating throughout the Christmas season by sharing in family and parish gatherings. It is a common custom to keep Christmas lights on until the celebration of the Magi's arrival before the infant Lord on January 6th, the "Epiphany" or "Little Christmas." This is also a way of observing the "Twelve Days of Christmas." Remember that your witness may well inspire a deepening sense of God's love and invitation.



SECRETARIAT FOR
EVANGELIZATION
AND DISCIPLESHIP
Archdiocese of Boston

"Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for he is going to say:
'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'"

– Rule of St. Benedict 53: 1-2

CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: Today, Sunday, December 3, the children will remain in the Church with Fr. Mark and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel reading.

WEEK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Dec. 03	Pre-K at 9:15 AM	GR-1 at 8:10 AM
	GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 at 10:45 AM
	GR-6 at 1:00 PM	
Mon., Dec. 04	GR-3 at 3:00 PM	GR-5 at 3:00 PM
	GR-6 at 6:00 PM	GR-8 at 6:00 PM
Tues., Dec. 05	GR-3 at 4:00 PM Mrs. Janine Browne	GR-5 at 4:00 PM
	GR-6 at 4:30 PM	GR-10 at 6:30 PM
Wed., Dec. 06	GR-6 at 4:00 PM	GR-8 at 6:00 PM
Thu., Dec. 07	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	
Sun., Dec. 10	GR-2 at 8:10 AM	GR-3 at 7:55 AM
	GR-2 at 10:45 AM	GR-3 at 10:45 AM
	GR-7 at 5:30 PM	EPIC at 7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY REHEARSALS: All the children participating in the Nativity are to attend the second and third rehearsals on Saturday, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16 at 9:00 AM in Fr. Haley Hall.

GR-2 TEACHER MEETING: On Sunday, Dec. 3 there will be an important teacher meeting from 3 – 4 PM in RM 3-4 covering Lessons 1 – 6 on the Eucharist. Teacher guide books, syllabus and other materials will be given out to the teachers at this meeting.

GRADE 4 CHRISTMAS HAPPENING GENERAL SESSION: On Tuesday, December 12 all Sunday and weekday children in Grade 4 are to attend the General Session held in Fr. Haley Hall from 3 – 4:30 PM and enjoy the wonder of making Christmas ornaments, cards and gifts for the needy children in the parish community. Sixty seven gift bags will be assembled by the Grade 4 children. The Christmas story will be presented by the teachers. Adults are needed to bake snacks and bring in beverages of water and juice. Help is needed at the various craft and food stations.

GR-1, 2 AND 3 KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

PARENT WORKSHOP: On Sunday, December 10, there will be a workshop held in RM 3-4 from 2 – 3 PM for parents to review our Safety Program. Information on the program was sent out back in November. Parents may opt-out their child from participating in the safety class by signing an Opt-Out form that must be returned to the R.E. office.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in the Library.

CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grade 10 meets on Tuesday, December 5 and Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

ADULT FORMATION: EPIC continues on Tuesday, December 5 in Room 3 – 4 from 10:00 AM to Noon.



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FORMED: ACCESS CODE: NW3N3Q

PARISH ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: On Monday, December 11, there will be a parish wide Penance Service. **Grades 3 and 5** along with their families will report to Fr. Haley Hall and **Grade 8** reports to the church by 6:15 PM. Several priests will be available for the Sacrament of Confession in the library, and the church. Please visit the "FORMED" website at www.formed.org and watch session 3 of "FORGIVEN.". This session presents a wonderful review of the Sacrament of Confession.

ADVENT WREATHS AND CANDLES AVAILABLE:

On Sunday, December 3, we enter into the Church's Liturgical Season of Advent. Many families gather around their Advent wreaths before their evening meal to light the candles and pray together. We have Advent wreaths with the brass candle holder available for \$15.00 each and a set of Advent candles for \$6.00. These will be available on **Sunday, December 3** following the Masses.

NORFOLK PRISON MINISTRY: Soap donations are due the second week of December. A bin is located in front of the Library for your donations. *Thank you for your help!*

GRADE 6 JESSE TREE: Our Grade 6 students have decorated the Jesse Tree located in the lobby. Jesse was King David's father and as we are told in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah that one day a shoot would "sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his root a bud [would] blossom." This blossom would be the promised Messiah Who would save the people from their sins. As we enter the season of Advent let us rejoice and be glad and welcome Jesus into our hearts!

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT (PCA) NEEDED: Call Cathy Disciullo at 508-429-4990 if you can help.