



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

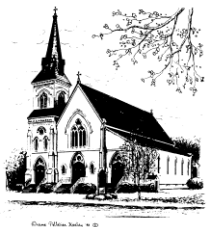
Dear Visitors: Welcome! We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this day. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and if you are interested in becoming a member of the parish then please call the rectory to register. Please also be aware that for generations it has been the custom at St. 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 17, 2017
3rd Sunday of Advent

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

Today marks the Third Sunday of Advent, known also as "Gaudete" or "Rejoicing" Sunday. Today the purple of Advent penitence is lightened by the white of anticipated Christmas joy. The rose color thus created represents subdued rejoicing, or relieved repentance. The rose color of today's Advent Wreath candle and vesture reminds us that Christians are first and foremost a Rejoicing People – a community of believers filled with joy by the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even in the very midst of Advent - a season of penance for sins - we pause to remember the goal toward which these efforts are leading, which is nothing less than salvation.

Today's message of joy in the midst of sorrow is especially poignant for those of us who have lost loved ones. We are filled with sorrow at their passing. But we also have the joy of knowing they are not gone forever, but only hidden from our sight for a time. One day, by the grace of Jesus, we will meet them again in glory.

As we light today the rose-colored candle of our Advent Wreath, I draw your attention to the final, unlit, purple candle that will be lit next weekend at Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent. I encourage you to make sure you are present to see that candle lit! With Christmas on a Monday this year, the Tempter has a prime opportunity to try and seduce us away from Sunday Mass next weekend. "You are so busy," he will say. "You are going to Mass on Christmas," he will say, "Why bother going twice in such a short time?" Nothing would please the Enemy more than for us to violate the Sabbath right before Christmas, thereby narrowing the way into our hearts that we have worked so hard throughout Advent to widen and clear for God.

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 we should therefore plan to attend Mass either Saturday Afternoon or Sunday Morning for the 4th Sunday of Advent, in addition to whatever Christmas Mass we attend.

Remember that God has given us every hour of every day of our lives as a gift. Is it really so much to ask that we give Him two hours within a few days to honor both His Sabbath and the Birth of His Son?

In His Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

ADVENT WISDOM: Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac, p. 196

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present. An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.' The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos—the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all."



o all and
singular,



JOIN US THIS WEEKEND FOR A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

This is an evening of beautiful music anticipating the wonder of Advent and Christmas. This year's Lessons and Carols will feature the combined choirs and ensembles of St. Mary's Church, Harpist Anna Elsworth, and nationally-renowned Organist Brandon Santini who will also offer a 30-minute organ concert at 4:30 PM. The evening will include familiar carols for you to sing along with, as well as choral music by Rutter, Britten, Ireland, Carter, and others.

Bring your family, and don't miss this opportunity to hear world-class music right here in St. Mary's Church!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017, 5:00 PM

MINI ORGAN RECITAL AT 4:30 PM

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.



PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	December 16
5:00	Vincent & Joan Mullen
7:30	Dr. James Boyd
Sunday	December 17
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Paul Brunaccini & Claire Maguire
11:30	Paul & Emma Jensen
Monday	December 18
9:00	Gerald Roy
Tuesday	December 19
9:00	Paul T. Shea
Wednesday	December 20
9:00	Stella Gincauskis
Thursday	December 21
9:00	Cynthia DiDonato
Friday	December 22
9:00	Carol Baxter
Saturday	December 23
9:00	Thomas Lunter, 20 th Anniversary
5:00	Gaetano Urbano
7:30	Agnes Hickey
Sunday	December 24
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	John & Ann Murphy
11:30	Greg Schmall

MUSIC	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Entrance	TM #20	TM #20	TM #20
Offertory	TM #28	-	-
Communion	#395	#596	-
Recessional	TM #30	#50	#32

ST. MARY'S MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP: Is a parish ministry that provides opportunities for married couples to connect and grow together spiritually. The ministry meets monthly for fellowship and a brief reflection on topics related to marriage, raising children, faith formation, and service. Whether you are newly married or have been together for many years, we'd love to meet you! Our next gathering is this Thursday, December 21 from 6:30-7:45 PM in the Parish Annex. Free onsite childcare will be provided. Please bring an appetizer/dessert to share and be certain children have already eaten dinner. We hope you can join us! For questions, please contact Heather Nunes at: stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com.

“Whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.” This is a quote from *The Joy of the Gospel*, written by Pope Francis in 2013. There’s much more welcoming wisdom throughout this document. Why not join a group in reading and discussing *The Joy of the Gospel*? The group will meet on six consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning on January 4. Leo Racine (429-7476) will be the group facilitator and can be reached for more information and to register.

K OF C BLOOD DRIVE: The 11th Annual Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Knights will be held on Saturday, January 20 from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-REDCROSS or redcrossblood.org and search by zip code (01746) in the “Search for Blood Drive” field. For info, contact Rodman Burgett at (508) 653-6130.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Sereno Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Mass Collections:	\$ 8,976.00
Automatic Giving:	\$ 6,080.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 15,056.00

Thank you for your faithful stewardship.



PANTRY SHELF HELP: Coffee, applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, sugar, toilet paper, paper towels, Progresso soups. Please drop off in the blue bin by the main parking lot entrance. Thank you!

WINGS: We hope that you will join us for our Winter season which begins Wednesday, January 10. WINGS provides loving childcare and encourages women with young children to attend. For more information on our beautiful WINGS ministry, please call Linda Calabrese at (508) 893-7919. God bless you!



WEEK FIVE ~ 2017 GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

\$19,800	Exterior Church Painting, completed during Summer of 2017.
\$5,714	Exterior Church carpentry repairs, including rosettes.
\$7,488	Heat out in Church and problems with heat in Classrooms 3-5. These expenses cover the cost of troubleshooting to find problems and 1) repair and replace defective low water cut off pump for the Church, 2) remove and replace gas valve on Church boiler, and 3) repair leaking relief valve on the Center boiler to fix problems with the classrooms.
\$1,713	Sealcoating of the Main Parking Lot.
\$1,200	Removal of dying trees and branches.
\$1,200	Cost to repair Exhaust Fan on roof to fix AC problems with the offices in the Parish Center.
\$2,000	New Parish Website Design – old site is not well formatted for smart-phones / handheld devices.
\$9,000	Cost of a new rubber roof between the Church and Parish Center.
\$ 994	Purchase and Installation in rectory of four combo CO detectors/fire alarms (required by law).
\$8,300	Cost of one HVAC roof compressor (replacement of damaged unit) to cool sections of the Parish Center and Church, includes installation.
\$55,000	Staff Salaries: The eight men and women of St. Mary's Staff are hardworking, dedicated individuals. This portion of the Grand Annual will go toward their salaries.
\$1,800	Repairs and repainting of the rear Annex Classroom Building Emergency Exit / Porch.
\$3,960	Replacing the Annex area wooden walkways (now falling apart) with pavement.
\$2,175	Replacement of one rectory door.
\$20,000	Makeup of Sunday Offertory budget shortfalls this Fiscal Year to date.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR 2017 GRAND ANNUAL GIFT

Please carefully review the Grand Annual information provided to you by the St. Mary's Finance Council in the mailing you received in November. You may also find it at:

<http://www.stmarysholliston.com/newsletters/Bulletin2017-11-05.pdf>. This year's need is \$150,000.

Pray about it, and **decide as a family** what gift you can make according to the means with which God has blessed you. If you have children, make them aware of your Grand Annual support so that they can learn good stewardship by your example.

Place your Grand Annual Gift in an orange Grand Annual envelope. Extra Grand Annual envelopes are provided at the doors, but for tax purposes the one coded for your family should be used. This was in your direct mailing.

Your 2017 Grand Annual gift may be made at any time by mailing it in to 8 Church St., dropping it off at the Parish Office, or placing it in any Mass collection basket.

If put in a Mass offertory basket, however, the orange envelope, or an envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual" must be used.

Thank you for doing your part to support this essential annual stewardship effort!

2017 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses: \$150,000.00

Grand Annual parishioner support received as of Dec. 10, 2017: - \$128,160.00

Parishioner support still needed to reach 2017 Grand Annual goal: \$ 21,840.00

% of 2017 Grand Annual achieved to date: 85 %

% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift: 58 %



Advent Summons

Come forth from the holy place,
Sweet Child,
Come from the quiet dark
Where virginal heartbeats
Tick your moments.

Come away from the red music
Of Mary's veins.
Come out from the Tower of
David
Sweet Child,
From the House of Gold.

Leave your lily-cloister,
Leave your holy mansion,
Quit your covenant ark.
O Child, be born!

Be born, sweet Child,
In our unholy hearts.

Come to our trembling,
Helpless Child.
Come to our littleness,
Little Child,
Be born unto us
Who have kept the faltering vigil.
Be given, be born,
Be ours again.

Come forth from your holy
haven,
Come away from your perfect
shrine,
Come to our wind-racked souls
From the flawless tent,
Sweet Child.

Be born, little Child,
In our unholy hearts.



CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: Today, Sunday, Dec. 17, the children will be dismissed and led to the Lower Church hall for the Gospel. **Please note:** Younger children are welcome **but must be accompanied by a parent** and be able to sit and engage in the lesson. Older children are welcome as assistants to the adult leaders.

WEEK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Dec .17	GR-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	GR-7 at 5:30 PM
Mon., Dec. 18	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. 19	GR-3 at 4:00 PM Mrs. Browne's Class	GR-5 at 4:00 PM
	GR-6 at 4:30 PM	GR-10 at 6:30 PM
Wed., Dec. 20	GR-6 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 6:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Thu., Dec. 21	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	
Sun., Dec .24	NO CLASSES	

CHRISTMAS BREAK ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 THROUGH MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY: Children participating in the 4:00 PM. Mass on Christmas Eve must arrive at the center no later than 3:40 PM to be dressed in their costumes. Parking for the 4:00 PM. Mass will be difficult, so be early to get a parking space.

GRADE 6 SAFETY SESSION: Our Grade 6 Safety Session will be held on Sunday, January 7 from 2 – 3 PM. All Grade 6 students on Sun., Jan 7, Mon., Jan. 8 and Tue., Jan. 9 will attend this session presented by Mrs. Catherine Mitchell.

GRADE 7 CHASTITY PROGRAM: On Sunday, January 7, Linda Thayer, our guest speaker, will address the importance of chastity in the Christian view of human sexuality with the Grade 7 students. All Sunday and Wednesday Students are required to attend. Parents are welcome to attend.

GRADE 2 TEACHER MANUALS: Please turn in your First Penance Manuals to the R.E. Office. The First Communion teacher manuals have been distributed to the teachers.

GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION MASSES 2018. Letters to families to select their child's First Communion Mass will be sent out on Friday, January 5 with a Green Index Card that must be returned by Friday, February 2. Mass assignments are based on cards being received on a first- received basis.

CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grade 10 meets on Tuesday, December 19 and Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

GRADE 10 RETREAT- 2018: On Saturday, January 6, there will be a retreat from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Students will report to Fr. Haley Hall by 5:45 PM to be checked in. Please contact Matt Chick with any questions regarding the retreat at 508-429-6076 or by Email at: stmarysyn1870@gmail.com.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: The second part of the *EPIC* twenty session series on Church History will resume on Tuesday, January 9 at 10:00 AM in Room 3 – 4.



R.E. CLASS SNOW CANCELLATIONS:

When Holliston public schools are closed due to inclement weather, religious education classes will not be held. Weather cancellations will be aired on Channel 5 and Channel 7 during the week day and on Channel 4 on Saturday & Sunday only. You can also call the R.E. Office at 508-429-6076 and press ext. 28 for cancellation notices.

GRADE 4 CHRISTMAS HAPPENING: Thank you to our Grade 4 Coordinator, Virginia Calapa, the teachers, parents, and volunteers who made this year's Christmas Happening a great success. The Grade 4 children brought in a toy for a needy child, created and decorated Christmas cards and ornaments for the gift bags that were donated to the Holliston Food pantry to be distributed to needy children. The gift bags were filled with hats, gloves, socks, toys, candy and school supplies. The children also decorated posters that are hanging in the parish center reminding us that Jesus is the true meaning of Christmas.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Tuesday, January 2, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in the Library.

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT (PCA) NEEDED: Call Cathy Disciullo at 508-429-4990 if you can assist her three days a week.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL! The RE Staff wishes to thank our Grade Coordinators, Teachers, Monitors, Volunteers and parents who have generously given their time, talents and gifts to nurture the children and youth in the Catholic faith. May the Christ Child bless you abundantly for your ministry and service to St. Mary's Parish community this Christmas and the New Year!

THANK GOD EVERY DAY FOR THE GIFT OF FAITH, HIS GRACE, HIS PEACE, AND HIS LOVE FOR YOU.