



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.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Members of the St. Mary's Parish Family: Tonight and tomorrow we will celebrate the great Feast of Christmas. But this morning's Advent Gospel reminds us that the Incarnation, Jesus' "taking flesh" among us, actually happened nine months earlier. Faith teaches that when Gabriel gave his joyful invitation and Mary said yes to God's plan for her, that Jesus became fully human, fully incarnate, fully with us in His Virgin Mother's womb. Last year during our parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we had the awesome privilege of praying in the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth – below which is the house where Gabriel appeared to Mary. A simple stone marker before the altar there reads, "Verbum Caro Hic Factum Est", "Here the Word became flesh." It is, I think, the holiest spot on earth – the place where the eternal God entered time and space, the place where the Author of All Life humbled Himself to take on our mortal nature as His own.

None of this would have happened if Mary had not said yes to God. It was a yes that evidenced great trust in God, even though it put this unmarried young Jewish girl at risk. It was a yes that involved many future sorrows and sacrifices for Mary, culminating in seeing her Son die upon the Cross. It was a yes given to a plan that was only partially revealed to her, and that contradicted all human wisdom. But it was a yes that brought Christ to us, and that brought Mary herself to God in heaven by the merits of the Son she carried, bore and stood by to the end.

As we stand at the threshold of Jesus' Nativity, what "yes" is God asking you to offer as a holy birthday gift to His Son? Maybe it is a yes to greater generosity to those in need, or a yes to more often put the needs of your spouse or children before your own. Perhaps it is a yes to forgiveness, setting aside a grudge you have carried for so long it has almost become a part of you. Maybe God is asking you to say yes by casting down your idols – sports or work or possessions or anything else that may have supplanted Him as the priority in your life. Whatever God is asking you to say yes to this Christmas and New Year, know that He never asks anything without providing the grace you need to accomplish His holy will. The same Holy Spirit that overshadowed Mary to make the impossible come true, is available also to all those who belong to her Son.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS: *Next Weekend's Mass Intentions are listed in the Christmas Bulletin.*

Saturday, December 23, 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

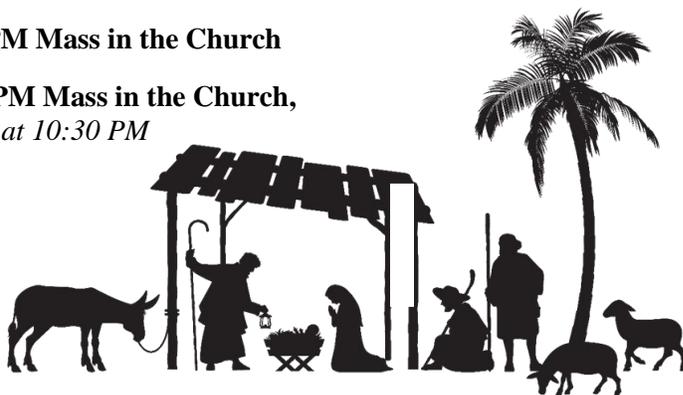
Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve Masses

***4 PM Masses in both the Church and Parish Hall**
(Hall Mass includes the Christmas Pageant)

5:30 PM Mass in the Church

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

11:00 PM Mass in the Church,
Carols at 10:30 PM



Monday, December 25, Christmas Day Masses

** Please remember that there is no 7:30 AM Mass this day.*

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

11:30 AM Mass in the Church

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ~

The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, healthcare and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We encourage you to please give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to faithfully serving God and the people of the Archdiocese of Boston. Thank you!

Santa's Prayer on Christmas Eve

By Warren D. Jennings

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,
But Santa still knelt by the side of the bed.

"Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me tonight.
There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.

I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,
Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.

I will visit each household before the first light,
I'll cover the world and all in one night.

With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,
Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.

To get in the house is the difficult part,
So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.

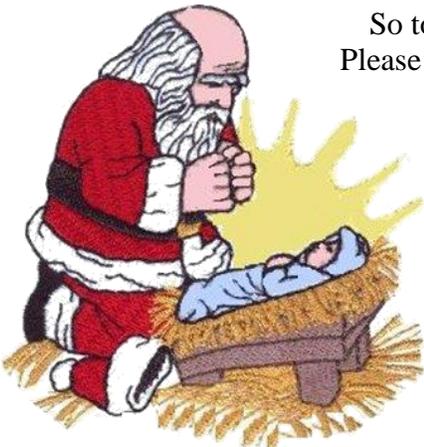
My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.
An endless supply, like the loaves and the fishes.

I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track.
I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.

I can do all these things Lord, only through You,
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.

All this is to honor the birth of the One,
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.

So to all of my friends, lest Your glory I rob,
Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job."



Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley Statement on the Passing of Cardinal Bernard F. Law



December 20, 2017

Cardinal Bernard F. Law, my predecessor as Archbishop of Boston, has passed away at the age of 86 following a prolonged illness.

I recognize that Cardinal Law's passing brings forth a wide range of emotions on the part of many people. I am particularly cognizant of all who experienced the trauma of sexual abuse by clergy, whose lives were so seriously impacted by those crimes, and their families and loved ones. To those men and women, I offer my sincere apologies for the harm they suffered, my continued prayers and my promise that the Archdiocese will support them in their effort to achieve healing.

As Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Law served at a time when the Church failed seriously in its responsibilities to provide pastoral care for her people, and with tragic outcomes failed to care for the children of our parish communities. I deeply regret that reality and its consequences. Since the day I arrived in the Archdiocese of Boston, my primary objective has been to work for healing and reconciliation among survivors, their families and the wider community of Catholics for whom the abuse crisis was a devastating experience and a great test of faith. In the midst of these groups that were most affected have stood priests and religious sisters of the Archdiocese who have tried to minister to any and all seeking assistance, even when they have been deeply challenged by the crisis that unfolded in the Church.

It is a sad reality that for many Cardinal Law's life and ministry is identified with one overwhelming reality, the crisis of sexual abuse by priests. This fact carries a note of sadness because his pastoral legacy has many other dimensions. Early in his priesthood in Mississippi Cardinal Law was deeply engaged in the civil rights struggle in our country. Later, he served in the Archdiocese and nationally as a leader in the ecumenical and interfaith movement following the Second Vatican Council, developing strong collaborative relationships with the Greek Orthodox and Jewish communities in Boston. He was well known for visiting the sick, the dying and the bereaved at all hours of the night and day, a ministry that extended to the rich and poor, the young and elderly, and people of all faiths. He also held the care for immigrants and their families in a special place in his ministry.

In the Catholic tradition, the Mass of Christian Burial is the moment in which we all recognize our mortality, when we acknowledge that we all strive for holiness in a journey which can be marked by failures large and small. Cardinal Law will be buried in Rome where he completed his last assignment. I offer prayers for him and his loved ones as well as for all the people of the Archdiocese.

***Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.
Archbishop of Boston***