



Merry Christmas!

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:1-14



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: 429 - 4427
Religious Education Phone: 429 - 6076

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday	December 26
9:00	Holy Souls
Wednesday	December 27
9:00	Maureen Jordan
Thursday	December 28
9:00	Gloria A. Sullivan
Friday	December 29
9:00	John T. Sullivan
Saturday	December 30
9:00	Charlie & Rose Dahlgren
5:00	Fran & Agnes Hickey
7:30	June Mclean
Sunday	December 31
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Phyllis Weidig
11:30	Christopher Chick

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: The entire Christmas Collection supports the retirement and medical needs of the retired priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church and you. Thank you for your generosity to this very important collection.

GIVE A GIFT: St. Mary's 2017 Give A Gift project would like to thank all those who donated Christmas presents at Masses on the weekend of December 9 & 10. The project resulted in a total of 451 gifts for two inner city parishes - St. Mary of the Angels and St. Patrick's. With economic times so difficult, your generosity was especially timely, and will make a big difference in many families' lives this Christmas. God bless you!

COOKIE WALK: St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group is delighted to announce that this year's Advent Cookie Walk, held after all Masses on December 9 & 10, made \$2,311! Every penny of this will go to support the poor of Haiti through the Pope John Paul I Missionary Society. Thank you for reaching out to Christ "in His most distressing disguise."

Pastor's Christmas Greeting

December 25, 2017



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

Christmas Greetings in the Lord! I pray that today's celebration of our Saviour's birth may find you joyful, hopeful and at peace with God and neighbor.

As I looked upon the cover of this Christmas bulletin, I was struck by how tiny the figure of the Christ child is – and yet how He is the brightest of the figures, the One from Whom the light of God's love is emanating.

The figure of the tiny, newborn Christ reminds us that God prefers to work through the smallest and most ordinary of things. We need only consider the circumstances of Jesus' birth to see that this is true. "O Little Town of Bethlehem," is not just a Christmas song title. It is also an accurate description of the place where Jesus was born – a tiny, insignificant hamlet. And yet it was there that God chose to come among us as a human being, a helpless baby with legs too weak even to stand, but Who one day would shake the world.

Still today, God continues His work in the world through the smallest and most ordinary of things. First among these is the Holy Mass. The one hour we give to God each Sunday in worship and thanksgiving is such a small part of all the many hours He has given us; but with this small amount of time He accomplishes so much. He calls us out of the busyness and worries that can so easily distract us from His love. He speaks to us through the Holy Scriptures, recalling us to our innocence as His children, and guiding us through the tangled paths of this life onto the only road that leads to Him - the narrow but royal road of the Cross.

If you are a Catholic who has been away from Jesus in the weekly Eucharist, then our parish rejoices at your presence here today. We also invite you to return here on Sunday to meet the Lord again. You might wonder if receiving so small a thing as the Communion host each Sunday can really make a difference in your life. But God does His greatest works through the smallest and most ordinary of things, from a tiny baby born in a stable, to a tiny white wafer of Holy Communion.

May God's love find countless "tiny" ways to enter your home and your heart anew in this joyous season.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor



DOES YOUR PARISH HAVE YOUR EMAIL?

If you receive the monthly St. Mary's Newsletter then you are already a registered member of St. Mary's Parish. But do you receive the once or twice a month parish wide emails? If not, kindly email us at:

St.Marvs1870@gmail.com, providing your family name and mailing address so that we can communicate Christmas, Easter and Holy Day schedules, as well as other news and opportunities for faith enrichment.

St. Mary's Parish offers so many beautiful ministries and ways to grow in knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus. Make sure you know about them!



SPIRIT OF THE SEASON PHOTO: One hundred thirty-three teens from St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group spent the evening of Friday, Dec. 15 singing Christmas Carols at area nursing homes. In this photo, two of them visit with a resident of St. Patrick Manor in Framingham.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next MSYG Meeting will be on January 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The meeting is an extra ½ hour long because of the 11th Annual Battle of the Sexes Competition. Sign Ups will be held that night for both February Vacation Week Trips (Skyzone & Boda Borg). All 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are welcome. Bring a friend!

EPIC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY: Endless Possibilities in Christ is off to a great start and wishing you all a blessed Christmas! Our next meetings will be on Wednesday, January 17 and Sunday, January 21 at 7:30 PM. Our next event will be to My Brother's Table on Sunday, January 28. Contact Matt Chick with any questions at stmarysym1870@gmail.com.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *"Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on coming into the Virgin's womb, willed to appear despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that men who were in dire poverty and suffering great need of heavenly food might be made rich in him."* - St. Clare of Assisi

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY: "Let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ." This is a line from Pope Francis' 2013 apostolic exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*. If you need a Catholic pick me up, this book can do that for you; it is filled with great JOY and HOPE. Why not consider joining a reading and discussion group on *The Joy of the Gospel*? The group will meet on six consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning on January 4, 2018. Leo Racine (429-7476) will be the group facilitator; he can be contacted for more information or to register.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): Please join us, Wednesday, January 10 when Saint Mary's Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Fran Crespi, kicks off the Winter Season. Fran reminds us that "as we read Scripture it is important to invite the Holy Spirit to guide us to understand the knowledge God wants to impart to us. Each person may have their own revelation of truth as God speaks to them. This is the amazing miracle of Sacred Scripture". Please join us for our winter season, whether you can attend each week or just some weeks. WINGS meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 – 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall. Nurturing childcare is available. For more info. call Linda at 508-893-7919.

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

2017 GRAND ANNUAL: If you have not yet done so, please return your orange Grand Annual envelope as soon as possible. It may be mailed or placed in any Mass collection basket. Thank you for doing your part for this important collection that this year is covering essential facilities repairs and operating costs.

DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday, January 7, for donuts, juice and coffee. Members of the Parish Council will be there if you want to share any thoughts or ideas regarding the Parish.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Tuesday, Jan. 2	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-9 at 6:30 PM
Wed., Jan. 3	GR-6 at 4:00 PM	
Thur., Jan. 4	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	
Sunday, Jan. 7	GR-2 at 8:10 AM	GR-3 at 7:55 AM
	GR-2/3 at 10:45AM	GR-6 at 2:00 PM
	GR-7 at 5:30 PM	

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: There will be no CLOW on Christmas Day. CLOW resumes on Sunday, January 7, 2018. Share the joy of Epiphany that day!

SPECIAL NEEDS: Tues., Jan. 2 in the Library at 6:30 PM.

GR-10 RETREAT: Sat., Jan. 6 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

GR-7 CHASTITY PRESENTATION: Sunday, Jan. 7 at 5:30 PM with Linda Thayer in Fr. Haley Hall.

