

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

Luke 2:25-32



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

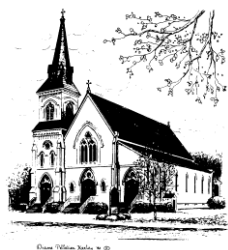
Dear Visitors: Welcome! We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this day. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and if you are interested in becoming a member of the parish then please call the rectory to register. Please also be aware that for generations it has been the custom at St. 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 31, 2017
Feast of the Holy Family

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

I love the story of Simeon in the temple. In fact, today's Gospel is the one I have assigned for my own Funeral Mass someday. Mary and Joseph have brought the infant Christ child to be purified in the great temple in Jerusalem, according to Jewish law. There in the temple is Simeon – a holy man, to whom God had made a promise: that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. And on this glorious day, God's promise to Simeon is fulfilled. He sees Mary and Joseph with their baby. He recognizes the presence of God – and gathers the Infant Christ into his arms. Then, with tears in his eyes, Simeon looks up to heaven and says:

"Lord, now let your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My eyes have seen the salvation You have prepared in the sight of every people; A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people, Israel."

I want this Gospel Reading, because I hope that I will be like Simeon when my time comes to depart this earth. Not necessarily very old, like Simeon was. But FULFILLED, like Simeon was. The reason that Simeon was able to raise his eyes to heaven and tell God that he was ready to die, was because Simeon was fulfilled. He was totally at peace, with God and neighbor. *"Lord, now let your servant go in peace."*

I hope that like Simeon, I may deserve one day to be called a faithful servant of the Lord. Because when this passing life ends, our fidelity to God is the only thing that will matter. The way that we have served God by loving God and neighbor is what will count, when at last we stand before Him. *"Lord, now let your servant go in peace."*

Simeon was promised that he would not die before he had seen the messiah – the Christ of God. And in Baptism, we have been promised that we will not die without seeing Jesus' face. No longer the tiny face of an infant. But the face of the Good Shepherd. The risen and triumphant Lord Who broke the chains of death on Easter Day. And Who faces down death again, and again, and again – when any member of His flock passes from this life to the next.

It occurs to me that at times Simeon's faith in the promises of God must have been sorely tested. At first, he was probably very excited to be promised a glimpse of the Messiah. But as days became months, and months became years without it actually happening – he must have wondered if the promise was true. Imagine if Simeon had given up! If that day he had decided not to go to the temple to pray. If the day Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple – Simeon was someplace else – putting other matters ahead of his faith. But Simeon *was* there that day. He kept faith with God even when it must have appeared that God was not keeping faith with him. And Simeon's perseverance was rewarded.

We should note that God's word to Simeon was not fulfilled as he expected. Most likely, like others of his time, Simeon was on the lookout for a great general – a military Messiah, to lead Israel to freedom and greatness. Instead, Simeon was shown an infant. An innocent. Who would lead the whole human race out of darkness. To be a light for all the nations, and the glory of God's people, Israel.

Just so will it be for you and me at certain hard times of life. We may doubt the promises of God. But if we keep faith with God, He will keep faith with us. Not in the time we expect perhaps; not in the way we might choose. But in a manner far beyond anything we could have imagined. For in the words of St. Paul, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has conceived the things that God has prepared for those who love him."*

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

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



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:

On behalf of the retired priests of our Archdiocese, we thank everyone who contributed to the 2017 Christmas collection which came to

\$20,577. **While very grateful, it must be noted that this was a \$7,237 drop from last Christmas' 2016 collection which was \$27,814 (2015 was \$27,909).** **This is a drop of 26%.** Given that we know our people value our retired priests, we surmise that this drop was caused by the bad weather Christmas Eve and Day.

Due to this being St. Mary's smallest Christmas Collection in 11 years, and the importance of this collection in the lives of our retired priests, we encourage anyone who may have been away from St. Mary's this Christmas, to please make their Christmas offering now. This may be done by mailing it to 8 Church Street, or placing it in any Mass collection. In either case, it must be in a separate envelope clearly labeled "Christmas Collection" in order to differentiate it from the parish offertory.

Anyone who did make a Christmas offering, but would like to do a little more in light of the shortfall, may do so in the same manner. Thank you for being there for our retired priests, who gave their lives in faithful service to God's people.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Mass Collections: \$11,381.00
 Automatic Giving: \$ 1,511.50
 Total Offertory: \$ 12,892.50

Thank you for your faithful support of your parish each week. May God bless you!

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	December 30
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
Monday	January 1
9:00	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
6:30	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday	January 2
9:00	Merritt Moraski
Wednesday	January 3
9:00	Walter "D" Robbins
Thursday	January 4
9:00	Nicholas Rossini, 3 rd Anv.
Friday	January 5
9:00	Carmela Camuso
11:00	Funeral ~ Pat Zack
Saturday	January 6
9:00	Holy Souls
5:00	Dianne Gootman
7:30	Kathi McCumber
Sunday	January 7
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Lucia Gargano
11:30	Robert Turcotte, 10 th Anv. & Marilyn Cleary, 5 th Anv.

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



K OF C BLOOD DRIVE: The 11th Annual Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus 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 more information, contact Rodman Burgett at 508-653-6130.

MUSIC	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Entrance	TM #20	TM #76	TM #76
Offertory	TM #28	-	-
Communion	#395	#86	#86
Recessional	TM #30	#77	#77





TOMORROW ~ SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD:

In the 4th and 5th centuries debates about the nature of Christ raged in the Church. The debate was about the relationship of Christ's divine and human natures. At the center of this debate was a title of Mary. Since at least the 3rd century, Christians had referred to Mary as theotokos, meaning "God-bearer." The first documented usage of the term is in the writings of Origen of Alexandria in AD 230. Related to theotokos, Mary was called the mother of God. Referring to Mary this way was popular in Christian piety, but the patriarch of Constantinople from 428-431, Nestorius, objected. He suggested that Mary was only the mother of Jesus' human nature, but not his divine nature.

Nestorius' ideas (or at least how others perceived his arguments) were condemned at the Council of Ephesus in AD 431, and again at the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451. The Church declared that Christ was fully God and fully human, and these natures were united in one person, Jesus Christ. Thus Mary could be called "mother of God" since she gave birth to Jesus who was fully divine as well as human.

Calling Mary "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace." This solemnity, falling on New Year's Day, is also designated the World Day of Peace. The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God is usually a Holy Day of Obligation, however the obligation is lifted when it falls on a Saturday or Monday. Still, what more beautiful way to usher in the New Year than by drawing close to Christ and His Holy Mother by observing this beautiful Feast?

St. Mary's Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is as follows:

Monday, January 1, 2018: 9 AM & 6:30 PM.

ST. MARY'S HAS A NEW WEBSITE FOR THE NEW YEAR:

Happy New Year from St. Mary's! May 2018 be for you and your loved ones a year blessed by peace, health, and many beautiful graces from Our Lord. This weekend St. Mary's launched her brand-new website. We loved our old one designed nine years ago, but it was largely incompatible with the hand-held devices that so many people now use. Check out St. Mary's New Website at:

<http://www.stmarysholliston.com/> And again, Happy New Year!

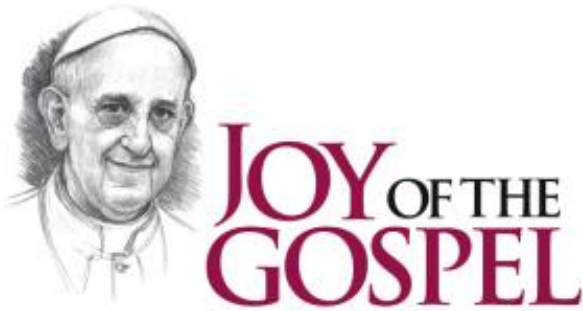
DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Father Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass next Sunday, January 7, for donuts, juice and coffee. Members of the Parish Council will be there if you want to share any thoughts or ideas regarding the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

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next Meeting is Sunday, January 28 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, a half hour longer because of the 11th Annual Battle of the Sexes. There will be faith, friendship, fun, and signups for the February Vacation week trips to SkyZone and Boda Borg! All 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are welcome!

EPIC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY: Our next EPIC nights are Wednesday, January 17 and Sunday, January 21 in Fr. Haley Hall from 7:30 to 8:45 PM. The next EPIC event is My Brother's Table on Sunday, January 28. Details to follow in email! Please join us for faith, fun and fellowship in 2018. Open to students in grade 9 to 12. Please contact Matthew Chick at stmarysym1870@gmail.com with questions.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: The Transformed in Love Marriage Preparation Program will be offered at St. Mary's Parish in Holliston on Saturday, February 10 and Saturday, February 17, from 9 AM - 5 PM. Learn the latest in researched practical skills for great communication, gain a deeper understanding of marriage as a Sacrament and vocation, learn fertility awareness and its application in family planning, consider how differences in personality can be used as a source of strength in your relationship, and more! Register at: www.bostoncatholic.org/marriageministries.





ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY: “We know that God wants his children to be happy in this world too, even though they are called to fulfillment in eternity for he has created all things for our enjoyment...” (#182). These are words of Pope Francis in his 2013 apostolic exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*. Join a reading and discussion group about this work and you will learn more about God’s call. The group will meet on six consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning on January 4. Leo Racine (429-7476) will be the group facilitator; he can be contacted for more information and 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 information on WINGS call Linda Calabrese at 508-893-7919.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL: Boy Scout Troop 76 is getting ready for their Annual Christmas Tree Disposal to be held on Saturday, January 6. The cost is \$8 for trees under 6 ft. and \$10 for trees over 6 ft. To schedule a pick up, send an email with your Name, Address, and Phone number to Troop76Holliston@gmail.com. Trees should be clean (i.e. no tinsel, wreathes or swags) and placed curbside before 7 AM. Enclose check in an envelope and tape to your front door. Please make checks payable to TROOP 76 HOLLISTON. Holliston residents only, thank you!



2017 GRAND ANNUAL THANK YOU! Thank you to all who have participated in the 2017 Grand Annual. The appeal goal of \$150,000 was reached this week. Combined with the weekly offertory, the Grand Annual covers our parish’s operating costs. This year’s Grand Annual included Exterior Church Painting, Installation of a New Flat Rubber Roof, Church and Classroom Heating Repairs, and Replacement of One of the Two Primary HVAC Roof Compressors. Your faithful stewardship, especially in these difficult economic times, is much appreciated.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: “*Simeon gave back Jesus to His Mother; he was only allowed to keep Him for one moment. But we are far happier than Simeon. We may keep Him always if we will. In Communion He comes not only into our arms but into our hearts.*” – St. John Vianney

“With his inspired words, Simeon, a man of the Old Covenant, a man of the temple of Jerusalem, expresses his conviction that this Light is meant not only for Israel, but also for pagans and all the peoples of the earth. With him, the ‘aged’ world receives in its arms the splendor of God’s eternal ‘youth’. However, the shadow of the Cross already looms in the background, because the darkness will reject that Light. Indeed, turning to Mary, Simeon prophesies: ‘This child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.’” (Lk 2:34-35). – Pope St. John Paul II

A CATHOLIC FAMILY PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing your will. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CLOW will resume on Sunday, January 14, 2018. Today, 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
Tues., Jan. 02	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-9 at 6:30 PM
Wed., Jan. 03	GR-6 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 6:00 PM
Thu., Jan. 04	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	
Sun., Jan. 07	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-6 at 2:00 PM	GR-7 at 5:30 PM
Mon., Jan. 08	GR-3 at 3:00 PM Mrs. Butler's Cass	GR-4 at 3:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues., Jan. 09	GR-3 at 4:00 PM	GR-5 at 4:00 PM
	GR-6 at 4:30 PM	GR-10 at 6:30 PM
Wed., Jan 10	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	

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.

GRADE 6 SAFETY SESSION: Our Grade 6 Safety Session will be held Sunday, January 7 from 2 – 3 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. All Grade 6 students on Sunday, January 7, Monday, January 8, Tuesday, January 9 and Wednesday, January 10 will attend this session presented by Mrs. Catherine Mitchell. There will be only one opportunity to have this presentation. Parents are always welcome to attend.

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. Presentation is in Fr. Haley Hall.

GRADES 3– 6 COORDINATOR /TEACHER MTG:

On Monday, January 29 at 7:15 PM there will be a Coordinator meeting in RM 3-4 to discuss the events and class activities for the second half of the year. This is an important meeting.

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

A BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL!

GRADE 9 RETREAT – 2018: On Wednesday, January 10 and Monday, April 30. Cards selecting your retreat date are to be sent in to Matt Chick.

GRADE 10 RETREAT: 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 8:45 AM to be checked in. Please contact Matt Chick with any questions regarding the retreat at 508-429-6076 or by Email at: stmarysym1870@gmail.com.

CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grade 9 meets on Tuesday, January 2 and Thursday, January 4 at 6:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

2018 CORI RENEWAL ALERT FOR ALL

VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES: Ministry Leaders are to make sure that **all** their active volunteers (18 years and older) renew and complete a 2018 CORI. These forms must be completed each year. Forms are being sent out to all known volunteers via Constant Contact as an attachment. If you have access to a printer, you can print out the CORI form, complete both sides, sign it, scan it in along with a copy of your license and send it back via Email it to: st.marysre1870@gmail.com. The other option is to stop by the R.E. office and complete the form and present a photo ID such as your license or passport. Your driver's license number needs to be on the completed form.

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 5 CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS:

There will be three dates available for parents to view the Grade 5 Sexuality program that has been offered at St. Mary's for over 25-years. Parents can review the material and decide if their child is ready to participate in the student workshop offered on Saturday, March 17. The parent workshop dates are: Sunday, Jan. 21 from 3 – 4 PM, Saturday, Jan. 27 from 10 – 11 AM, and Thursday, Feb. 1 from 7 – 8 PM. All workshops will be held in Room 3 – 4 in the Religious Education Center.