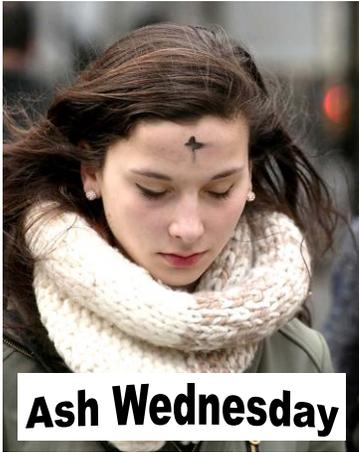


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**Ash Wednesday**

**Feb. 14**

**Five Services with Ashes ~**

**6:45 AM Liturgy of the Word**

**9:00 AM Mass**

**4:00 PM Liturgy of the Word**

**5:30 PM Mass**

**7:00 PM Mass**

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.**

Why do we wear ashes on this day? Ashes symbolize two main things in the Old Testament – death and repentance. Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7). For example, Abraham told God, “I am but dust and ashes” (Genesis 18:27), a reference to his human mortality. We use ashes on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own mortality. We are all born here, but none of us is staying here. Death may come sooner, or it may come later, but it will surely come. This is not a cause for fear, but for urgency to embrace the Gospel with new vigor. We only have so much time to accept Jesus’ offer of salvation, and follow Him on the Way of the Cross, the way of sacrificial love.

Ashes are also a symbol of repentance for past sins. When the prophet Daniel shamefacedly clothed himself in sackcloth and ashes, they were a sign of his people’s contrition for their rebellion, wickedness and treachery (Daniel 9:3). When Jonah warned the Ninevites that God planned to destroy their city because of their corruption and depravity, the people covered themselves with sackcloth and ashes as a sign of their intention to turn from their evil ways (Jonah 3:6,10). Ashes are a plea to God for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness. Moreover, they are a public admission of guilt, an expression of sorrow for sins that have been committed, a promise to reform and a pledge to resist temptation in the future.

In His own words, Jesus “came to call sinners.” We, too, are sinners. When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy. **Our ashes say that we want to come back to Jesus.**

# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

February, 2018 ~ Volume 43, Number 6



St. Mary's Parish  
8 Church Street  
Holliston, MA 01746

Rectory: 429-4427, 879-2322  
Religious Education Center: 429-6076  
Fax: 429-3324 ~ Music: 429-4427  
Religious Education Email: [st.marysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com)  
Parish Email Address: [st.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marys1870@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

Mission ~ "To Know Christ and to make Him Known."

## Parish Clergy

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor  
The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance  
Rev. James Flynn, Weekend Assistance  
Deacon John Barry, Permanent Deacon  
Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon

## Children of God ...

Saint Mary's Parish rejoices to welcome the following eight children recently Baptized into Christ and His Living Body the Church. (*The McCarters and Gregory Shea are shown below.*)

Tanner Lee Reed	Isabelle Nora Roy
Kameron James DeCastro	Camden Luca Stenstream
Greta Isobel McCarter	Georgia Gail McCarter
Vivian Simone McCarter	Gregory Keith Shea

In this beautiful sacrament one is immersed into the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. In the waters of Baptism original sin is washed from the soul, as we are reborn in the Lord. To be baptized is to be adopted by God as His very own child, and to receive the promise of eternal life. "Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God." - St. Vincent Ferrer



*"Through baptism, bring this child into your Church. Throughout his (her) life, help him (her) to be a faithful witness to your Son, Jesus Christ. As he (she) is being buried in the likeness of Christ's death through baptism, may he (she) also share in the glory of Christ's Resurrection. Teach him (her) by the words and example of his (her) parents and godparents, and help him (her) to grow strong as a living member of the Church. May all Christ's followers, baptized into one body, always live united in faith and love." - Prayers from the Catholic Rite of Baptism*

# Special February Events



## Solemn Sung Vespers: Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7:00 PM

Join our talented Youth Choir for this 30 minute meditative sung service. Vespers, which is also known as Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours. It aims to give thanks to God before the end of the day through the singing of psalms, intercessions, and prayers. Come experience the beauty of sung prayer!

## Healing Mass With the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Sunday, Feb. 11, 11:30 AM

This Sunday, Feb. 11, (the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes), St. Mary's will mark the World Day of the Sick. On this day we are encouraged to remember in our prayers all persons who are seriously ill. At the 11:30 AM Mass, helped by our 5<sup>th</sup> graders, St. Mary's will offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anyone diagnosed with a serious illness is invited to receive this holy sacrament as a source of hope, strength and healing (James 5:13-15). Anyone needing a ride to the Healing Mass should contact the Rel. Ed. Office at 429-6076. *"The special grace of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has as its effects: the uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his own good and that of the whole Church; the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of illness or old age; the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of penance; the restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his soul ..."* (CCC 1532).



## Collection of Old Palms for Burning: Saturday, Feb. 10 & Sunday, Feb. 11

Bring your old palms to any Mass this weekend. They will be collected and burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday a few days later, Wednesday, February 14.

**Teaching Mass:** On Saturday, February 17 at 9 AM, the usual daily Mass will be a "Teaching Mass," with commentary and reflection throughout. Although this Mass is part of our Transformed in Love Marriage Program, any parishioners desiring to understand the beauty and meaning of the Mass more deeply are welcome to participate.

## Blessing of Married Couples: Saturday, Feb. 17 & Sunday, Feb. 18

In honor of World Marriage Month, St. Mary's will offer a special blessing to all married persons at Masses this weekend. As is our custom, the couple at each Mass *present together* and *married the longest* will be presented with roses, as we honor all our married couples and ask God's good grace upon them. By the Holy Sacrament of Marriage, God becomes the Third Partner in this Vocation.





# From the Pastor's Desk

February 1, 2018

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

It hasn't happened since 1945 that Saint Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday have occupied the same date. The most obvious consideration is that Ash Wednesday is one of only two obligatory days of Fasting *and* Abstinence from meat each year, the other being Good Friday. Catholic boyfriends and husbands making romantic dinner plans for Valentine's this year, will therefore be wise to schedule them for a day near but not on February 14.

Saint Valentine himself was a Catholic priest in ancient Rome. When the Emperor Claudius banned new marriages (hoping single men would be more likely to join his army), Father Valentine continued to perform marriages in secret. Valentine believed marriage was a gift from God - a way for husbands and wives to serve each other and God. Eventually he was arrested. The Emperor tried to get Father Valentine to renounce his faith in marriage and in Jesus, even having him beaten with clubs. Valentine, though, remained faithful. He was beheaded on February 14, 269 A.D., becoming a martyr of the Church. Valentine left behind in his cell a beautiful note to a friend who had visited him in prison, signing it, "*Love from your Valentine.*" Thus began the custom of giving love messages on his feast day.

In a real sense, our observance of Ash Wednesday might be considered a love message from us to God. By setting aside earthy food that day, we tell God that we love heavenly things more. By smearing our foreheads with ashes, we tell God that we love Him enough to repent of our sins. By embracing the Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving, we show God by our actions that we love Him enough to invest time and real effort into our relationship with Him. Valentine's Day is traditionally associated with giving gifts to those we love. As we consider what to give God this Valentine's Day / Ash Wednesday, Jesus' words in today's Gospel are a good guide.

*"Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back."* Luke 6:32-38

Hopefully your sweetheart's eyes will light up when she sees the Valentine's present you got her this year. But if we would make a gift pleasing to God, it will involve this: extending to others the same forgiveness we have received from Him; giving to those who cannot repay us; and treating not just our friends but our enemies with love in Jesus' name.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

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## Keeping a Catholic Lent ~

**Abstinence** -- Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on **Ash Wednesday** and on **all Fridays of Lent**. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

**Fasting** -- Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> year are bound to the obligation of fasting. **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended. Commendable, particularly during Lent, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the Christian concept of "mortification."



## Meet Him In Ashes ~ Wednesday, February 14



6:45 AM	Liturgy	5:30 PM	Mass
9:00 AM	Mass	7:00 PM	Mass
4:00 PM	Liturgy	<i>"Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return ..."</i>	

*"The sign of the cross we wear on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is not there only one day a year. It is the cross that is burned on our foreheads by the fire of the Holy Spirit to mark us as God's own lambs in Baptism. We show it once a year to remind ourselves that we belong to God. We remind ourselves that we die, daily to sin. We remind ourselves that Jesus' resurrection is our future. We will return to dust, but God is not finished with us. We renew the Baptismal covenant of God in this season of repentance, renewal and rejoicing. We all will be cleansed in the Vigil's Baptismal Flood." - L. Bouman*

## Meet Him In The Evenings ~ Every Tuesday

Come enjoy Lenten Evening Prayer, 7 PM in the Church, (15-20 minutes). This is the daily prayer of the Catholic Church consisting of psalms, hymns, and intercessions. Come find peace at day's end. Feb. 20, & 27, March 6, 13, 20 & 27

## Meet Him For Forty Hours ~ Sun., March 4 - Tues., March 6

### Sunday, March 4

11:30 AM	Opening Mass
6:00 PM	Sung Choral Vespers
7-7:30 PM	Organ Music
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

### Monday, March 5

9:00 AM	Morning Mass (Hall)
Noon	Holy Rosary
6:00 PM	Evening Prayer
7-7:30 PM	Organ Music
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

### Tuesday, March 6

9:00 AM	Closing Mass with Benediction
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**40 Hours Devotion:** In celebrating this devotion, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar at St. Mary's for forty continuous hours. The church will be open throughout and people may stop in at any time to visit with the Lord in prayer. The Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Additionally, three special dimensions surround this devotion:

- the protection from evil and temptation;
- reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory;
- and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities.





## *Meet Him In Art ~ March 3 & 4*

100 Christian families in Bethlehem support themselves by the carving of olive wood. The religious objects so carved have a unique beauty and quality. The Al-Sahouri family will have their olive wood carvings available for purchase after all Masses March 3 & 4. Your purchase helps preserve the presence of Christians in the land of Our Savior's birth. Olive wood items from the Holy Land may be viewed and purchased in the Parish Center Lobby. (Olive Wood Praying Hands).



## *Meet Him In Confession ~ Monday, March 12*

Eight Priests will be available for Confession at a special Penance Service, Monday, March 12 at 6:30 PM. Additionally, Confessions will be heard every Saturday from Noon -12:45 PM, excepting Holy Saturday on which sacraments are not celebrated before the Great Easter Vigil that night. In this beautiful Sacrament we experience the fullness of God's mercy, healing and peace.

## *Meet Him In The Miserere ~ Sunday, March 18*

**Praying Psalm 51, the "Miserere."** On Sunday, March 18, at 6:30 PM in the church, our Pastor Fr. Mark Coiro will offer a reflection on Psalm 51. Known as the "Miserere," this Psalm is prayed every Friday morning as part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours. Attributed to King David, it is one of the most eloquent expressions of human repentance and the awesome, healing mercy of God. Join us as we dig deeper into the history and meaning of this Psalm, reflecting together on the forgiveness of God available to all who long for His pardon. If ever you have had trouble believing that you can be forgiven, then this night is for you ...

## *Meet Him In Music*

**Sung Choral Vespers:** Sunday, March 4

from 6-6:30 PM. Vespers, part of the Liturgy of the Hours, is meant to give thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Sung by our talented Youth Choir, Vespers includes the singing of psalms, intercessions and prayers. Come experience the beauty of sung prayer.

**Taizé Service:** Friday, March 9, Taizé Service, 7:30-8:30 PM. Join us for an hour of musical prayer following the tradition of the Taizé community. This service incorporates the singing of easy and memorable refrains, which are repeated to create an atmosphere of prayer and contemplative meditation. Modeled after the practice of the Taizé community in France, the purpose of this repetitive singing is to help us contemplate a single aspect of God.

**Faure Requiem Mass:** Friday, March 16 at 7:00 PM in St. Mary's Church. See the next Newsletter page for details about this magnificent music performed as part of the Holy Mass.





# Requiem by Gabriel Fauré

St. Mary's Adult Choir  
Brandon Santini, Organ  
Friday, March 16, 7:00 PM



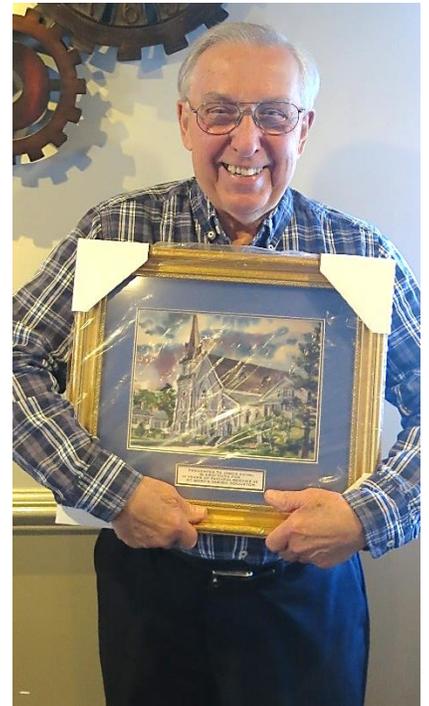
This Lent, St. Mary's Adult Choir will perform the Requiem Mass by Gabriel Fauré. The Requiem by the French composer Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) is perhaps one of the best known musical settings of the Requiem Mass, and the best-known work by the composer. The term "Requiem" designates a musical setting of the Catholic Mass of the Dead: "Requiem" in this sense is used as an abbreviation for the words that comprise the opening of the Introit for the Mass of the Dead, "Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine," which means: "Grant them eternal rest, O Lord." Composed in seven movements, Fauré's Requiem provides a musical setting for every one of the sung portions of the ordinary of the Latin mass (Introit and Kyrie, Offertory, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) and, in addition, for two texts which are exclusive to the Mass of the Dead: *Libera me*, and *In Paradisum*. Fauré composed this work between 1887-1888 and premiered it at the church of the Madeleine in Paris in 1888 for a Funeral Mass. It was not until 1931, however, that the work was first performed in the United States, quickly gaining popularity after its North-American premiere.

Just as it was first performed in France, we will perform this work in the context of the celebration of Mass, accompanied by the beautiful St. Mary's organ. The Mass and music are in honor of our beloved friend **Patrick D. McDonald (1944-2017)**, who was an active parishioner at St. Mary's Church for 43 years. Patrick, an avid lover of music and choral singer, wished that the Fauré Requiem could be performed for his Funeral Mass, which took place in August 14, 2017. Unable to fulfill his request at that time, we decided to remember him by performing the work in the context of a full Mass on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, March 16, 2018. All are invited to this moment of sacred music and prayer.

## Fond Farewells



**Rev. Joseph Matteucig**, Superior of the Xaverian Missionary community in Holliston, Massachusetts, as well as Director of the Fatima Shrine, was transferred February 4 to the Xaverian Community in Franklin, Wisconsin. Fr. Joe, who celebrated 34 years as a missionary priest, has worked in the United States in vocation ministry, thirteen years in Taiwan, and the last 12 years here in Holliston. On Friday, January 12, Fr. Mark held a farewell dinner for Fr. Joe at St. Mary's Rectory, with all the current Fatima Shrine priests attending. Fr. Mark expressed his great respect and fondness for Fr. Joe, and his gratitude for the friend Fr. Joe has been to St. Mary's Parish. At the end of dinner, Fr. Mark presented a farewell gift to Fr. Joe from St. Mary's – an icon painted on steel of Saint Francis Xavier praying before the image of Christ the Mother Pelican (photo left). May God bless Fr. Joe as he answers God's call to ministry in the Midwest.



**Mr. James Koval**, Head of St. Mary's Facilities Maintenance, was honored for his 14 years of faithful service at the annual St. Mary's Staff Christmas Luncheon, held on Thursday, December 14. As anyone who visits our facilities knows, Jim keeps our buildings in an immaculate state. This is accomplished through hard work, good humor, friendship, and a genuine pride in the parish at which he is a faithful member and communicant. Jim was presented with a beautiful framed print of St. Mary's Church (photo above right). May God bless him in his retirement!



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 February, 2018

## MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be Wednesday, February 21. The Council recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church at 7:00 PM. ALL parishioners are invited.

**Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella**  
**Deputy Grand Knight: Aaron Pyman**

**ST. MARY'S ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE:** The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus St. Mary's Council was held on Saturday January 20 (photo right). More than 60 donors gave blood. Thank you to all who participated. Coordinator was Rodney Burgett.



**SEMINARIAN SUPPORT:** Our Council annually supports a seminarian studying for the priesthood in our Boston Diocese. As part of our Council's regular December meeting, we held a Christmas Pizza Party which included a raffle for a lottery ticket tree. Brothers contributed \$240 which was sent to a seminarian at St. John's Seminary.

**SUFFERING OF MIDDLE EASTERN CHRISTIANS:** Vice President Michael Pence praised "faith-based groups with proven track records and deep roots" [in the Middle Eastern] communities at the fourth annual Solidarity Dinner of the In Defense of Christians held in Washington D.C. in October. Pence "... singled out Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and the Knights of Columbus for 'extraordinary work caring for the persecuted around the world.'" The Knights of Columbus have actively donated food and medical supplies to threatened Christian communities in the Middle East targeted for genocide by terrorists in the region. [December 2017 Columbia]

**2018 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:** All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish is an initiative conducted by the Knights of Columbus to help "... brother Knights take up their leadership roles within their families." [December 2017 Columbia] For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508 429-7588 or [ajscaramella@comcast.net](mailto:ajscaramella@comcast.net).



## WINGS (Women in God's Spirit)

No matter where we are on our individual spiritual journey, we can each benefit from taking time to nourish ourselves spiritually. Take time for yourself this winter, to join together with other women, and enrich your faith. Our Winter WINGS season is the season where we reflect on "God's Living Word in Scripture." This winter season we are reading and reflecting on "Love Crosses Boundaries" by Kevin Perotta. Perotta writes: *"By reading Scripture, reflecting on its deeper meanings, and incorporating it into our daily life, we can grow not only in our understanding of God's word, but also in our relationship with God."*

Below are the WINGS speakers for February:

- February 7 Marybeth Harmon, A Chance Meeting (Chapter 4)
- February 14 Maureen Eagan, Ruth Makes a Proposal (Chapter 5)
- February 21 No WINGS ~ Public School Holiday
- February 28 Beth Comstock, Boaz Takes Care of Business (Chapter 6)

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) is a faith enrichment group for women of all ages. Please join us for our winter season, whether you can attend each week or just some weeks. WINGS meets on Wed. mornings from 9:30 AM – 11:15 AM in Fr. Haley Hall. For more information on WINGS please call Linda at 508-893-7919 or Lisa at 774-286-1844.

# A Cross Walk with Matt O'Connell

By Cathy Stenquist

My husband Scott and I have a handful of trails, roads and loops around ponds that we love to hike, but occasionally we seek out new places to explore. We've even been known to just start driving back roads to 'get lost!' It's invigorating to experience new sights and sounds, giving us a fresh perspective on nature and our community.

It occurred to me that this same approach might help me on my Cross Walk journey. Admittedly, going to church had become routine; I parked in the same spot, entered through the same door and sat with the same familiar faces. It was comfortable to be sure, but if my goal was to meet new people I needed to get out of my comfort zone. So, on Christmas Eve, instead of middle left of the church, I scooted into the front pew sitting next to a lovely young mother and her children. With a simple handshake, stranger became acquaintance praying side by side. Another Sunday, sitting in the side transept felt like I was in a small chapel with a unique side view of the altar. Choosing different seats each week feels like a treasure hunt now with many new doors and pews to choose from.

Last Sunday I fell back into old habits and caught myself heading to my old seat. I quickly changed direction. Slipping into the back pew, I assumed I would feel disconnected being so far back, but the grand view of the nave and the closeness of the organ music made me smile. Being part of a larger church family was laid out visually before me.

As the procession began, the tall altar server carrying the cross caught my eye as he walked next to his very young apprentice. Several weeks before, I had been brought to tears seeing the children being dressed in their white robes by their parents after a prayerful dedication to their new ministry. Watching this young man so tenderly mentoring his young partner up at the altar spurred me to introduce myself after Mass and soon we had plans to meet.



**The O'Connell Family**

(front) Chris and Tim (back) Matt, Joanne, Brendan and Kevin

Born and raised in Holliston, Matt O'Connell has had a very full and interesting life even at the young age of 17. "Wanting to get out of the city, my family moved from New York right before I was born. My Dad was from Ashland and my Mom

from Milton, and with my grandparents close by, it was a good choice." Matt said. He attended the French Immersion Program, and proudly added, "My grandfather, James O'Connell, was assistant superintendent for a while. The Placentino Elementary School Library is named after him."

His summers as a counselor at Camp Patoma nurtured his interest in behavioral science. He has always been fascinated by groups of people and why they do what they do. Now a senior in High School, Matt has been busy researching and applying to colleges to study Sociology and Political Science. He certainly is a hard worker and very busy these days, being a student employee at St. Mary's, and now also working at an assisted living home in Ashland. "I have seen all the work that goes into managing a church. Much like a house, Father Mark has to make sure that it is kept clean and functioning along with his ministerial duties. It's a lot."



**Matt O'Connell**

"In fourth-grade," Matt continued, "my friends and I decided to sign up to be altar servers at one of the ministry fairs. I remember the older kids helping to teach me. I like that I can do the same for the new altar servers." After serving for 8 years, Matt is now a senior altar server having earned the gold cross he wears each week. "It's easy when you first start out to forget some of the steps you are supposed to do. I remember at my first Mass, I forgot to ring the bells the second time. Another time, Father Joe gave me a quiet 'washing hands signal' that reminded me of my next steps," Matt laughed, "I have used that same 'signal' with the younger servers when they have forgotten. I think as a whole serving Mass had made it more meaningful. When you know what is going on, you feel more a part of it."

Matt enthusiastically shared stories with me about his many mission trips to Mississippi – the poorest state in the union, to help with Hurricane Katrina relief. "I got interested when my older brother Brendan went on a trip. Quite a lot of prep goes into getting the volunteers ready, including learning how to use tools and the basics of construction. We stayed at a church outside of Gulfport/ Biloxi, doing everything from demo and painting of homes to setting up a Bible Camp for the kids from low income housing. "There were tough situations with the kids getting violent and acting out. I had to help teach them the proper way to handle their emotions," Matt said. "One special time, I helped build bunk beds for some foster kids. They were made of 2x4's and the beds did not even have mattresses, but the kids were so happy just to

have them.” Matt has discovered the gifts that service brings for him and for others, and it has become part of who he is. It would not surprise me if he seeks out ways to help others in his college community when he heads off this fall.

The most touching moments of our conversation were when he spoke of his brother Tim who died of Leukemia in 2008 at the tender age of 10. “In second grade, Tim was 8 and I was 6 or 7, when he got sick,” Matt began. “He was very strong boy, very fair about the rules, but he also loved getting into mischief with his brothers. Tim loved Legos. He built a lot of things in the hospital when he was there.” In a college essay he shared with me, Matt reflected on his experience of loss, “I observed the determination to make it to your tenth birthday if you want to, because you had the humility to understand it was the last one you’d see. I saw a ‘few more weeks’ of life turn into months, and in those months, more living done than most people do in years.”



Tim and Matt O'Connell

As Matt spoke, I could see that losing his brother at such a young age had profoundly affected him and that he is still processing it all, but now through a man’s eyes. “Tim thought it was so neat that his name was the first to be read in the prayers of the faithful,” Matt smiled and shared, “When he felt up to it, he liked to go to Mass to hear his name read out loud.”

**Matt shared a prayer that Father Mark had written for Tim to pray in his last months. I think this is a good one for all of us to pray.**

*Lord Jesus, fill me with Your strength this day.  
Give me strength of mind and body.  
Give me strength of spirit.  
Help me to feel Your presence, trust in Your love,  
and to know that You are with me always.  
Lord Jesus, on the Cross You gave Your life for me,  
and now I give myself to You.  
Amen.*

Tim’s gym teacher who was also the High School Football coach, invited Tim to be part of the team where he would help with the coin flip and at practices. Tim was given the #7 jersey and they retired his number. Matt got to wear the #7 jersey for the games during his senior year and it now hangs proudly in his room.

“One of the most important things I took away from Tim’s illness,” Matt reflected, “was how he never gave up. He was committed to living to his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and he did it, passing away two days later. He pushed through.”

I took some time to visit the Timothy O’Connell Foundation website (<http://timsteam.org/foundation-goals/>) that Matt mentioned had been created in 2008 as a tribute to his brother. It explains, “Since its organization, The Timothy O’Connell Foundation has granted over \$400,000 in gifts to worthy cancer-related causes, and has awarded over \$32,000 in scholarships to students pursuing health-related fields of study.” A beautiful tribute to Tim, and worth checking out.

As our conversation drew to a close, Matt showed me the gold cross he was wearing. “I picked out my cross for my first communion from Fatima Shrine. My mom had shown me Celtic crosses and explained the Irish heritage. I decided I wanted a cross different than the regular crosses my brothers had, and liked that one the best.” He added, “Tim’s stone at the cemetery has a Celtic cross on it. I got my cross a few years prior, but that does add to its significance.”

**Lyrics from Tim’s favorite song: ‘Home’ by Chris Daughtry**  
*Well I’m going home,  
Back to the place where I belong,  
And where your love has always been enough for me.*

I am so grateful to have taken this faith walk with Matt. He has learned much that has made him wise beyond his years. I wouldn’t have thought that a 58-year-old grandmother and a high school senior could find much in common, but to my delight we shared many things: we are both writers, we have navigated a loved one’s serious illness, we have mothers who are excellent self-taught cooks, we both care for the elderly and love to discover people’s stories. What a delightful surprise!

When I mentioned that it is a Cross Walk tradition to find our own cross in an unusual place, Matt pointed out a cross in the library table where we sat. Looking closer it reminded me of Matt; like the wood - very strong, standing tall on a good foundation, but also like the glass - able to let the light shine through. God bless you Matt. I am sure He has many amazing things in store for you!



**Check back in March to see who I’ll be walking with next!  
Walking in His name, Cathy Stenquist**

## ADULT FAITH RESOURCES FEBRUARY 2018

# got faith?



**“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES:** The noted book for this month’s “Faith Speaking” Volumes feature is *The Long Loneliness* by Dorothy Day. Dorothy Day was a 20<sup>th</sup> century Catholic social activist who, along with Peter Maurin founded the Catholic Worker Movement; she also started Houses of Hospitality in New York City where she was known for meeting people where they were, respecting the dignity of all of the houses’ guests. *Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story*, a movie about the beginning of her public life as a social activist is also a great introduction to her work. The book, a spiritual autobiography written in 1954, is available through online booksellers and is in our parish library. The DVD is available through the Minuteman Library network.

**SEASONS AND READINGS:** The month of February gives us the gift of two weeks of Ordinary Time and two Sundays of Lent, as Lent begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday on February 14. On February 11, the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, we are reminded of Jesus’ mission to heal and welcome, as he takes away the physical and social scourge of leprosy from one who approaches him (Mark 1:40-45). As Lent begins, and we celebrate the first two Sundays of this holy season, we remember, through our reading of the Old Testament (Noah and Abraham), that God seeks a covenant with us, calling us to be in “right” relationship with Him and with all of our world. Three of the ways which our Catholic tradition offers us during Lent as means to respond to God’s call are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. You can go to [www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com) or its social media sites on Facebook or Twitter for inspirational quotes paired with a challenge focused on fasting, prayer, or almsgiving every day of Lent! To prepare for hearing the Sunday readings, you can go to the US Catholic Bishops website at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

**CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT:** Our parish Creation Care Team invites you to experience Lent from a “green” perspective by reading and living an online article entitled *Ten Faithful Ways to Live a Green Lent with Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*. You can find this article at <https://darlenegoesgreen.com/10-faithful-ways-to-live-a-green-lent-with-prayer-fasting-almsgiving/>. You will also find a great video about care of the environment as a component of Catholic Social Teaching at <https://www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/climate-change-and-el-nino>, the Catholic Relief Services agency media website. The teams’ meetings over the next three months will be held on Saturdays: February 17 (10-11 AM), March 10 (10-12 Noon) and April 14 (10-12 Noon) in the parish center. In March and April, respectively, we will be watching *An Inconvenient Truth* and *An Inconvenient Sequel*, both of which are movies about climate change. All parishioners are welcome to join the Team and/or to join us in watching the movies. Contact Leo Racine (429-7476) for more information.



**ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** Get **FORMED!** See the January 14 bulletin (fifth page) for information on how to participate in this exciting opportunity for online faith formation. To view the bulletin, go to the St. Mary’s website at <http://stmarysholliston.com/weekly-bulletins/>.

**SACRAMENTS:** The Anointing of the Sick is our sacrament in focus this month. In the Didache Series book, *The Sacraments: Source of Our Life in Christ*, we are reminded that “[i]n his public ministry, Jesus showed a special concern and compassion for those who were suffering...[t]oday, Jesus continues his ministry of healing through the Church, which has always identified closely with Jesus’ concern for the sick” (p. 134). This sacrament, which used to be called Extreme Unction, can be administered to anyone facing serious illness or surgery, or to elders experiencing weakness/declining health. It can also be administered to the dying. You can read about this sacrament in the US Bishops Catholic Catechism for Adults, Chapter 19 at <http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/#276>.

--Leo Racine



## Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America  
St. Mary's Parish \* February, 2018

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
Lower Church Hall  
Contact: Charlie Paradie, Scoutmaster  
617.697.8200

Email: [Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com](mailto:Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.Troop14Holliston.com](http://www.Troop14Holliston.com)

If interested in joining or supporting Troop 14, come to any of our meetings on Monday nights. Boy Scouts is an ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.

**SCOUT SUNDAY:** Annually, during the 1st week of February, the Boy Scouts of America celebrate its founding. In the mid-1940's, Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration and reminds the Scouts of the 12th Point of the Scout Law "Scout is Reverent" and the promise to do their "Duty to God". Scout Sunday 2018 was this past Sunday, Feb. 4, and Troop 14 hosted Cub and Boy Scouts to the 9:30 AM Mass at St. Mary's. That same day we held our annual Pancake Breakfast, which is both a time to bring our community together and a fund-raising event to help support the many activities we do through-out the year. Thank you to all who made both events a great success.

**EAGLE SCOUTS:** Two of Troop 14's senior Scouts, Ben Cappello and Harrison Smith, completed all their requirements and passed their Board of Review in January and are now Eagle Scouts, achieving Scouting's highest rank. Ben's Eagle Project was to build a boardwalk on Holliston Conservation land near Adams Street. Harrison's Eagle project cleared a section of the Holliston Rail Trail north of Rte. 16. Their Eagle Court of Honor will be scheduled in the next few months.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Indoor Rock Climbing overnight in mid-February.
- Swim Night at the Milford High School pool late February.



## REMEMBERING WALTER BAKER

Walter Baker, a dear friend of Troop 14, passed away on Jan. 10 at the age of 85 (photo above left). Walter and his wife Alice were actively involved in Holliston Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts for 48 years holding various positions, but maybe best known as the Commissioner for the three Boy Scout Troops in Holliston. At the same time, Walt held a number of leadership positions in Troop 14, including Scoutmaster from 1975 - 1976. Many of the Troop's Leaders and past Eagle Scouts have developed a great respect and a good friendship with Alice and Walt that continues to this day. Troop 14, with over 30 Scouts and leaders, assembled and filed in together at Walter's Wake to pay their last respects and offer condolences to his family. It was a moving tribute to the impact Walter had on Holliston Scouting and Troop 14. The Troop, along with past leaders and Eagle Scouts attended his Funeral at St. Mary's. Six Eagle Scouts had the special honor to serve as pallbearers (photo above right). Walter thought very highly of Troop 14, its Scouts and leaders. Walt and Alice attended almost all of Troop 14's 70 Eagle Scout Court of Honors over the Troop's 52-year history. A devout Catholic and man of great faith, we know that Walter "was prepared," to meet his God. May he rest in peace.



# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders ~ Next Meeting is Sunday, February 25!



## Middle School Youth Group Caroling

Friday, Dec. 15, saw 133 MSYG teens caroling for the elderly at 3 area Nursing Homes. Our army of singers brought joy to Timothy Daniel's, St. Patrick Manor and the Residence at Valley Farm. Small groups of carolers led by adults split up and visited patients in their rooms. The evening ended with pizza and lights at the Fatima Shrine. Thank you to all who helped spread Christmas cheer!

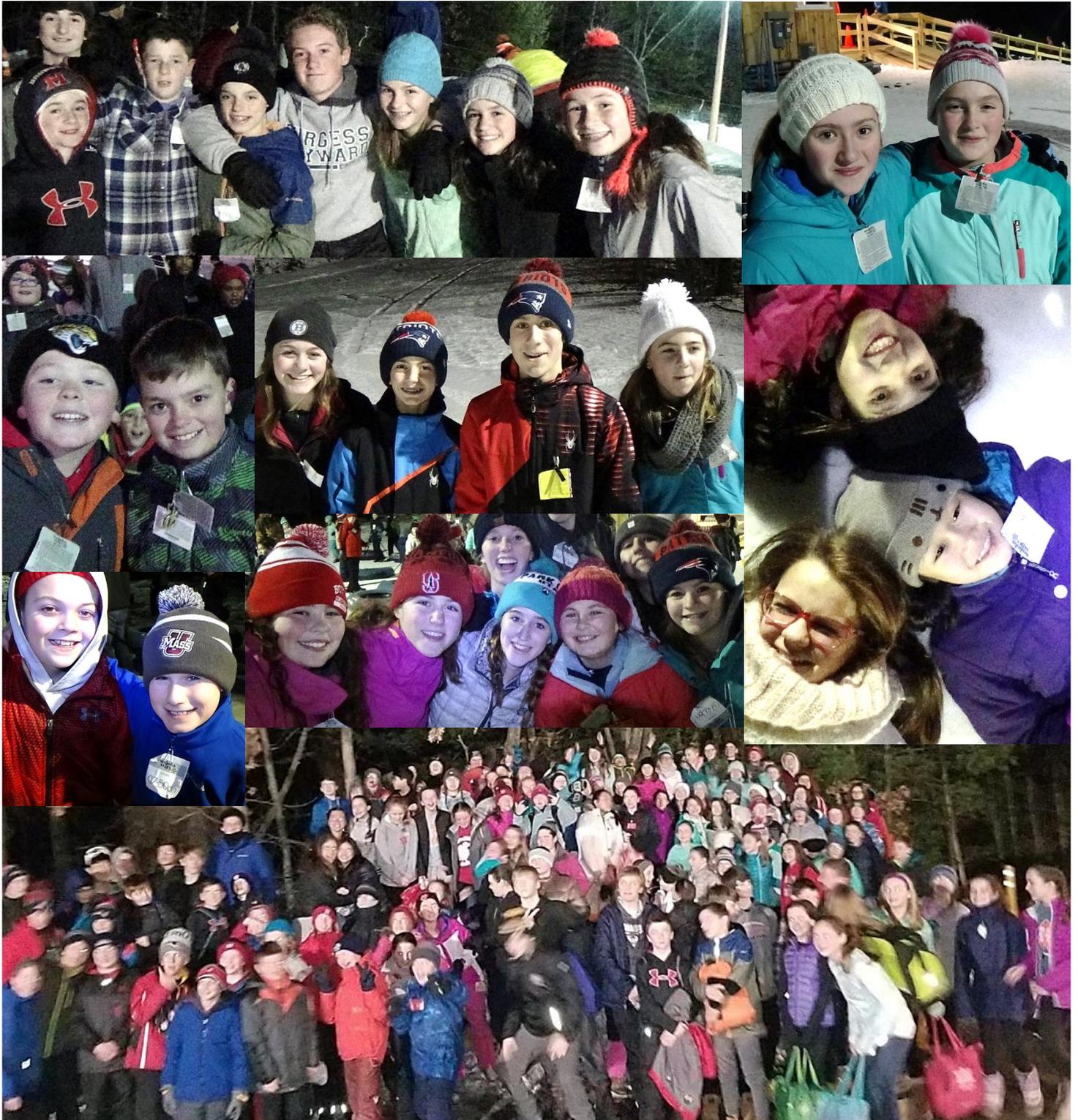




# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders. Next Meetings are Feb. 25 & March 11.

**MSYG SNOW TUBING!** Saturday, Jan. 20, found 163 MSYG teens enjoying a night of Snow Tubing at Nashoba. Temperatures were in the 50's, but amazingly the runs were icy and fast. They were so fast that only single tubes were allowed on each run at a time. Between runs teens enjoyed hot chocolate, fried dough, and other treats at the lodge. An awesome night! *And God said to Job: "Have you ever visited the place where the snow is kept, or seen where the hail is stored up, which I keep for times of stress, for days of battle and war? ... What womb brings forth the ice, and gives birth to the frost of heaven, when the waters grow hard as stone and the surface of the deep congeals?"* (Job 38:22-30)



ST. MARY'S

# EPIC +

Endless Possibilities In Christ

# TEXAS Mission Trip Scouting Report

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10*

From Thursday, October 19 through Sunday, October 22, parishioners Jeff McLinden, Bob Whiting and Mike Roberto traveled to Texas to begin researching options to help the people affected by Hurricane Harvey. The three of them spent several days meeting with organizations and volunteers, and they worked at a couple of homes badly damaged by the storm.

They witnessed incredible damage, particularly in the Rockport, Texas area - a small town where the Hurricane first made landfall. In this community, the streets were lined with debris stacked 6-8 feet high for mile after mile even now nearly two months after the storm. (The locals sadly referred to the gigantic pile as Mount Harvey).

Jeff, Bob and Mike met volunteers from throughout the country, some of whom had stayed in Rockport and worked for six weeks helping homeowners in the region. The faithful Christian service to neighbors demonstrated by these volunteers proved very inspiring. Several volunteer relief centers have been established in this region, some of whom may be able to provide work and housing for our mission trip volunteers.

Please stay tuned as plans continue to unfold for *this summer's St. Mary's Mission Trip to Texas*. We hope that many young people will participate in this effort to aid Hurricane Harvey's victims. Please pray for the people whose lives have been overturned by this devastating storm, as well as for the dedicated volunteers working to help them rebuild their homes and their lives. Our likely Mission dates are: July 28 – Aug. 4/5.



ST. MARY'S

# EPIC +

Endless Possibilities In Christ

Next Event:

Youth Retreat at  
Corpus Christi in Lawrence  
Monday, February 19



On December 16, a group of St Mary's teens, including myself, visited the beautiful sisters of Bethany House in Framingham. We went to share our time, voices and spirit of the holiday. After the first few songs we were asked to socialize with the sisters. All they would say at first was how happy they were that we had come. They revealed that they don't get many visitors although they do have activities to pass the time such as bingo and a wine and cheese hour.

One of the sisters even told me she was so disappointed when we couldn't come last year due to weather conditions. It really stuck with me that she had not only remembered our parish but that we were not able to come the year prior. It made me think about how little things can make a difference. My dad starts his every day off with a prayer "Lord, please bless me and make me a blessing in someone's life today." It is so simple to be a blessing. Spending time with someone, opening a door or just giving a smile. Be a blessing in someone's life today just as we were to the wonderful women of Bethany House. – Liv Skerry

**Next Meetings: Wednesday, February 7 & Sun., February 11 - 7:30 to 8:45 PM**

*Parish Ministry Contacts*

Ministry (508)	Contact	Phone #'s
A.A.	Staff	(617) 426-9444
AI-Anon	Staff	366-0556
Altar Servers	Tina Hein	429-9853
Art & Environment	Rectory	429-4427
Adult Faith Formation	Leo Racine	429-7476
Compassionate Friends	Ed Motuzas	473-4239
C.L.O.W.	Pat LeBlanc	(508) 533-6714
Eucharistic Ministers	Joe DeMarkey	429-5401
Food Pantry	Sylvia Stickney	429-5392
Give A Gift	Tony Alexander	429-5405
Greeting Ministry	Bob Whiting	893-8007
H.S. Youth Ministry	Matt Chick	429-6076
Homebound Ministry	Marty Breinlinger	429-4427
Hospitality	Joanne Davenport	533-7948
Hospital Ministry	Henry Woods	429-1037
Knights of Columbus	Mike Kerrigan	429-8696
Lectors	Ron Turcotte	429-5396
Marriage Prep	Ken/Mary Hammond	533-5258
M.S. Youth Group	Fr. Mark Coiro	429-4427
Music Ministry	Juan Mesa	429-4427
Newsletter	Marilyn Lourandos	429-4032
Parish Council	Diane Collins	435-9246
Pine Street Inn	Laura Kozial	429-7174
Project Just Because	Cherylann Walsh	435-6511
Religious Education	Fran Crespi	429-6076
Respect Life	Rosemary Rainsford	429-1527
S.M.C.W.G.	Patricia Strozzi	654-2723
Vacation Bible School	Kristin Roberto	429-4716

*Mass Schedule*

Monday through Saturday: 9:00 a.m.  
 Saturday Vigils: 5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
 Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., & 11:30 a.m.

*Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday, 12 Noon to 12:45 p.m. 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.

*Marriage*

Please contact a priest at least six months in advance to allow for Pre-Marriage program and arrangements.

*Baptism*

Baptisms are celebrated the Second and Fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m., please register by calling the rectory. Baptism Instruction must take place prior to the Baptism itself. Please contact the Rectory to register for Baptism Instruction. Please note that universal practice in the Catholic Church is that one man and one woman (other than the parents) serve as Godparents. Godparents must be at least 16 years old, Confirmed, regularly attending Sunday Mass, and otherwise living a life in harmony with the Catholic faith. They are to serve as Catholic role models for the child being baptized.

*RCIA*

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is an engaging program for individuals who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith. The program is a gradual process paced at the needs of the individual. RCIA welcomes anyone who seeks to be baptized into the Catholic Church. Also, anyone baptized in Christian tradition other than Roman Catholic who would like to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church is invited to attend. In addition, RCIA welcomes individuals who are baptized Catholics and have never received First Communion, First Reconciliation, or Confirmation. If you or someone you may know is interested, please contact the rectory at 508-429-4427. Meeting times are set up as needed by each year's participant schedules. Welcome!

*C.L.O.W.*

The Children's Liturgy of the Word is a special celebration of the scriptures with readings from the Children's Lectionary. These readings are brought alive for the children using methods that include drama, props, and an interactive homily style. At St. Mary's, the C.L.O.W. is celebrated from mid-September through May every Sunday at the 9:30 AM Mass.

On most of these Sundays, the parish children are invited to process down to the lower church following the Opening Prayer. The exception is on the First Sunday of each month, when the children remain upstairs at the 9:30 a.m. Mass for a special Children's homily with the priest and the main assembly.

