



**ST. MARY'S PARISH**  
**8 CHURCH ST.**  
**HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

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01746  
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## **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER, 2017**

**\* ADVENT STARTS THIS  
COMING SUNDAY, DEC. 3**

**\* CHRISTMAS MASS  
SCHEDULE ENCLOSED**

**\* BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**  
*(photos below)*



### **ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL!**

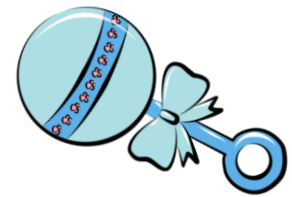
On Sunday, October 22, 2017, St. Mary's celebrated our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Blessing of the Animals. The Lower Church Hall echoed with barks, meows, gobbles, chirps and the voices of proud owners as creatures of all description assembled for this joyful prayer. Together we thanked God for the gift of our animal friends and asked His help to be good stewards of all the living creatures of the earth. Then we asked His grace upon all the pets present, and upon those too sick to attend. The celebration concluded with all singing the hymn, "All Things Bright and Beautiful." Then Fr. Mark went outside to bless sick animals in their cars, and also the bigger critters like donkeys. A few of the ninety or so participating pets are shown here – among them Loki, the St. Mary's Parish Pooch, who just turned 15 years old on November 20. That's 76 in Standard Manchester Terrier years. Happy Birthday Loki! *[Photos taken by Mikey Nash]*





# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

December, 2017 ~ Volume 43, Number 4



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

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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

**Piles of Love** ~ Shown below, Mrs. Amy Belger's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Religious Education Class displays some of the more than seven hundred brand new baby items donated as part of St. Mary's Annual Baby Shower for the Unborn. Collected at all Masses the weekend of October 21 & 22, these gifts were presented to the Pregnancy Help Ministry of our Archdiocese, supporting mothers in crisis pregnancies. They will make a huge difference in the lives of women and their little ones to come. Thank you to all who took part in this important effort. To learn more about Pregnancy Help, visit [www.pregnancyhelpboston.org](http://www.pregnancyhelpboston.org). May these gifts we have given be laid spiritually at the crib of the baby Jesus Himself.

*"The great sermon that Jesus preached in the poor stable and proclaimed from the poor crib was, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven' (Mt 5:3). Jesus' voluntary embracing of poverty inaugurates that new kingdom. The poor, coming to kneel at the crib, find the only thing that can bring them happiness in their poverty: Christ himself, the Savior, born poor like them." - St. John Vianney*



# *“Long lay the world, in sin and error pining ...*

## **The Five Stages in a “Fall”** (Archbishop Fulton Sheen)

\* **Neglect of prayer** – No soul ever fell away from God without giving up prayer. Prayer is that which establishes contact with DIVINE Power and opens the invisible resources of heaven. However dark the way, when we pray, temptation can never master us.

\* **Substitution of action for prayer** – Most of us, feeling the necessity of doing something for God, turn to the solace of activity; instead of going from prayer to action. We neglect the prayer and become busy about many things. We think we are doing God’s work, when we are only in motion or being fussy.

\* **Luke warmness** – Experience proves that religious activity without prayer degenerates into indifference. Some believe one can be too religious, too zealous, or spend too much time in church.

\* **The satisfaction of material wants, feelings and emotions** – The material begins to assert once the Divine fades in life. Too much leaning to luxury and refinement is an indication of inner poverty of the spirit. When we possess the treasure within, there is no need of those outer treasures that rust consumes, moths eat and thieves break through and steal. When the inner beauty is gone, we need luxuries to clothe our nakedness.

\* **Human respect** – The last fall is human respect, when we deny our faith or are ashamed of it under ridicule or scorn. We no longer recognize our value and dignity as children of God.

## *... till He appeared, and a soul felt its worth!”*

Advent is an opportunity, with the help of Christ, to rise, to renew, to rediscover who we really are. By embracing daily prayer, we open the door of our hearts to Jesus, allowing Him to walk with us in every circumstance.

By charitable giving and good works, we begin to live less for ourselves and more for others, as Jesus taught. We become less and less attached to the passing wealth of this world, and begin amassing riches of grace that are eternal.

By sacramental Confession, we allow Jesus to clear away the darkness of doubt, replacing it with the light of His healing presence. We become confident that we are beautiful in His sight.

And then, in the Sunday Mass, we allow God’s Word to speak to us - a joyful voice full of Good News and hope against the clamor of worldly voices.

Finally, we meet Jesus in Holy Communion, taking our place once more at the Table of God’s Children, and allowing Him to nourish us with the gift of His own divine Body and Blood. We are home.







# From the Pastor's Desk

November 16, 2017  
Feast of St. Margaret of Scotland

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

Very unusually, I recently had four emergency Anointing calls within the space of three days. All were beautiful in their way. But the call that left the deepest impression on me, was to a dying woman at a Nursing Home. She was a faithful participant in my monthly Mass there, fairly vigorous, who had a very sudden decline. When I arrived, she was no longer able to speak, but was alert – making the Sign of the Cross and nodding her desire for the Sacrament. She was, however, quite agitated, her hands and arms moving restlessly, her head turning from side to side, her lips groaning. This continued through our visit until I gave her the Apostolic Pardon. This is a special absolution from sin a priest may give to a dying person who cannot speak aloud to confess their sins.

The moment I spoke the words of absolution and made the Sign of the Cross over her, she was transformed. She gave a great sigh of relief, her limbs stopped moving, and a great peace seemed to come over her. She was still alive, and squeezed my hands when I left. But the agitation and restlessness were entirely gone. It was as though knowing she was forgiven allowed her to trust, to be at rest, and to face without fear her final passage to the Lord.

As I drove back from the Nursing Home, I felt so very humbled to have been part of this great gift of God's forgiveness. And as our thoughts now turn to Advent, I am reminded that the whole reason Jesus was born among us in Bethlehem was to give us this very gift. "You shall name him Jesus," said the angel to Joseph, "for he will save his people from their sins." (MT 1:21). Forgiveness of sin was the reason that Jesus was born, lived, suffered, died and rose for us. We experience it in the cleansing and lifegiving waters of Baptism, and then throughout our lives in the Sacrament of Confession.

One man who recognized the preciousness of Confession was St. Damien of Malachi. This heroic Belgian priest lived among the lepers of that colony, and ministered to them with selfless love and devotion until he himself contracted and died of leprosy. During all his years of privation, Father Damien said his greatest hardship was that since he was the only priest on Malachi, he could not go to Confession. By law, no one could set foot on the leper colony without having to remain. So when on very rare occasion a supply ship had a priest aboard, Father Damien would shout his confession from the beach up to the deck of the ship in order to receive absolution. Do we, who have the Sacrament of Confession so readily available to us, value it in the same way?

As we rush about buying gifts this Advent, let us make time to accept from Jesus the gift His very name represents, the gift He became a human being to make accessible to us. Let us confess our sins, and experience the fullness of God's healing, God's mercy, God's love.

In His Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

We have now received permission to share with you that a dear St. Mary's Parishioner, Melissa Bachman, has been diagnosed with a very rare and very aggressive cancer – NUT midline carcinoma. Melissa is a faithful Communicant, and is known to many through her ministry at various times as a Religious Education Teacher, Youth Group Volunteer, and Special Needs Group Volunteer. Please pray for her healing, and please consider donating towards her health care costs at:

<https://www.youcaring.com/melissabachman-994573>.

Please also consider praying the Nine Day Novena to St. Peregrine, asking his intercession for Melissa's strength and healing. It may be found at:

<http://stperegrine.org/devotions/>

May the blessings promised to the compassionate be yours in abundance!







The Holy Season of Advent is marked by increased prayer, fasting and good works. It is a time to renew our love of Jesus and through Him our love of others. It is a time in which we ask God's mercy and rededicate ourselves to His joyful service. In this way, even as we mark the birth of Jesus, we ourselves are making a new beginning as children of God.

## **“FORGIVENESS” ~ AN ADVENT MINI-RETREAT**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 3:30 – 4:30 PM.**

Come and prepare your hearts for the season of Advent by spending one hour of prayer and reflection with the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Eucharistic Adoration begins promptly at 3:30 PM. A gift table of books will be offered for sale by the sisters. Beverages and refreshments following in Father Haley hall.



## **“FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,” A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION ~**

**THURSDAY, DEC. 7 VIGIL MASS AT 6:30 PM. FRIDAY, DEC. 8 FEAST DAY MASSES AT 9 AM & 7 PM.** The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna's womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception.



## **CONTEMPORARY VESPERS ~**

**TUESDAYS, DEC. 5, 12, & 19, 7:00 PM.** Bring your day to a restful end with this twenty minute experience of the Psalms, calming your spirit and letting go of distractions and anxieties. The Liturgy of the Hours connects you to the whole Church in prayer worldwide.

## **CLASSICAL VESPERS ~ WED. DEC. 13,**

**7-7:30 PM.** Join our talented Youth Choir for this Sung Service on the second Wednesday of Advent. Vespers, which is also known as Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, and 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!



**COOKIE WALK ~ DECEMBER 9 & 10,**  
**AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES.** Long rows of tables will be set up in the lower church – tables loaded down with over 2,000 delicious homemade cookies baked by St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group Members. For \$6, you may purchase an empty cookie bag, then “walk” down the rows of tables and select a dozen cookies which youths (wearing plastic gloves) will place in your bag. All proceeds will benefit the poor of Haiti.



**GIVE A GIFT ~ DECEMBER 9 & 10 AT ALL MASSES.**

Once again we ask the people of St. Mary's to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. All items go to needy families in Boston, and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, unwrapped together in a plain bag or gift bag with a tag stating “Boy” or “Girl” and size or age up to age 18. No adult gifts please. Kindly place your gift in front of St. Mary's altar at any Mass the weekend of December 9 & 10. **Gift bags only please** - no wrapping.

**CONFESSION SERVICE ~ MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 6:30 PM IN THE CHURCH.**

Eight priests will be available for Confession, as together we drive the darkness of sin from our hearts and let in the light of God's healing grace. Nothing can help us “prepare the way” for Jesus to come into our lives anew better than the Sacrament of Confession. In this season of gift giving, Confession is one of God's most precious gifts, restoring our innocence and our capacity to live and love like Jesus. Confessions are also every Saturday in Advent from 12-12:45 PM. There are no Confessions Saturday, December 23.

**HARP, ORGAN, LESSONS & CAROLS ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 5-6 PM IN THE CHURCH.** Join us for an evening of beautiful music and scripture, anticipating the wondrous birth of our Lord Jesus. This year's Lessons and Carols will feature the combined choirs and ensembles of St. Mary's Church, as well as Harpist Anna Elsworth, and nationally-renowned Organist Brandon Santini, who will also offer a 30-minute organ concert at 4:30 PM. The program will include familiar carols as well as choral music by Rutter, Ireland, Britten, Carter, and others. Bring your family, and don't miss this opportunity to fill your Christmas preparations with plenty of holiday cheer!





# Christmas Mass Schedule



**Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

**4 PM Masses in both the Church and Fr. Haley Hall ~** (Hall Mass includes the Christmas Pageant)

**5:30 PM Mass in the Church**

**7:30 PM Mass in the Church**

**11 PM Midnight Mass in the Church ~**  
(Caroling starts at 10:30 PM)

**Monday, December 25, Christmas Day**

*\* Please remember that there is  
no 7:30 AM Mass on Christmas Day.*

**9:30 AM Mass in the Church**

**11:30 AM Mass in the Church**



***“Let us not skip Advent on the way to Christmas.***

***Arriving at Christmas Day without having lived out one’s Advent would be like arriving at a birthday party without having bathed or dressed up for the occasion.***

***It would be like coming to the party without a gift for the one Whose birth we are celebrating.***

***For truly, the only gift He wants, is our repentance and holiness of life.***

***The present to delight Him is to see the wonderful change in us when we arrive.”***



**THE SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION FOR THE WEEKEND OF SAT., DEC. 23 & SUN., DEC. 24 REMAINS.**

This year Catholics should therefore plan to attend Mass either Saturday Afternoon or Sunday Morning for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, *in addition* to whatever Christmas Mass they attend.

Catholics who choose to attend Mass twice on Sunday – in the morning for Advent and then later that day for Christmas, are permitted to receive Communion twice in the same day.

**St. Mary’s full regular weekend Mass Schedule will be celebrated for the Fourth Sunday Of Advent:**

Sat., Dec. 23 at 5 PM & 7:30 PM,

and Sun., Dec. 24 at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, & 11:30 AM.

# EVANGELIZING FRIENDS AND RELATIVES AT CHRISTMAS:

## Some Practical Suggestions

We all have family members, friends, and neighbors who have become distant from Jesus Christ and His Church. We want to invite them to return but often do not feel comfortable doing so, or fear that we will offend them. Here are some simple suggestions to use during the seasons of Advent and Christmas:



### During Advent: Pray and Invite

Pray! Pray! Pray! Start praying now for those you hope will return to Christ and His Church. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the courage to invite family or friends to attend Mass with you. Many people are simply waiting for an invitation. When you do extend the invitation do so with sensitivity and tact. For example, say, "Our family is planning to attend the 4PM vigil Mass at St. Mary's. Would you [and your family] like to join us?"

### At Christmas Mass: Smile and Move In

Christmas is the celebration of the great mystery of the Incarnation—the gift of God becoming man. When you encounter those who may not be "regulars," smile. Be a model of joy! Another way to be welcoming is to move to the center of the pew so that others may easily find a place to sit. Go even further by inviting people searching for seats to join you in the pew!

### After Christmas: Gather and Celebrate

Many people find themselves away from home or perhaps struggling through difficult family situations during Christmas. Invite them to join you for your traditional Christmas celebrations when appropriate. Continue celebrating throughout the Christmas season by sharing in family and parish gatherings. It is a common custom to keep Christmas lights on until the celebration of the Magi's arrival before the infant Lord on January 6th, the "Epiphany" or "Little Christmas." This is also a way of observing the "Twelve Days of Christmas." Remember that your witness may well inspire a deepening sense of God's love and invitation.



SECRETARIAT FOR  
EVANGELIZATION  
AND DISCIPLESHIP  
Archdiocese of Boston

"Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for he is going to say:  
'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'"

– Rule of St. Benedict 53: 1-2





## 2017 GRAND ANNUAL NOW UNDERWAY

\$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 Nov. 20, 2017:	- \$ 93,395.00
<b>Parishioner support still needed to reach 2017 Grand Annual goal:</b>	<b>\$ 56,605.00</b>
% of 2017 Grand Annual achieved to date:	62 %
% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	41%



# Taking a Cross Walk

*With Jack Evans, by Cathy Stenquist*



*"You don't know me, and I don't know you, but I sure would like to meet you"  
"But I got a feeling if you and I could just sit down and talk...two plain ordinary  
human beings... I feel that we might think a great deal alike".*

Kneeling in the quiet, I asked God to help me find the stories he needed telling. Pushing back in my seat I spied Jack slipping into the front pew. There would be comfort in taking my first Cross Walk with Jack, as we had been members of Arise several years ago at St. Mary's, so after Mass I invited him to walk with me. We agreed to meet the following Friday at Mass. A perfect start, I thought.

Heading toward the library, we passed a stained-glass window which was propped open. To my delight, looking through to the pavement, I spied a cross. "Jack, you have to see this!" I called to him. He turned around to take a look. "I guess that's our cross today," he added with a smile. *(Cross Photo Next Page)*

As we pulled out the chairs, I pointed out a cross I saw in the shelves near the bibles and we laughed. Neither of us knew where this Cross Walk would lead; but any anxiety on my part, dissipated as Jack smiled and his heartfelt story unfolded. He recalled being an altar boy and saying the rosary everyday with his family of 10. He added honestly, "Often times, I went through the motions, though I would really rather have been out playing baseball!"

At age 11, he heard a song called "Letter to Ivan" by Jimmy Dean about Russia and the Cold War. "We were supposed to hate the Russians," Jack said, "but instead I was deeply moved by the lyrics of this song and I wept." This strong sense of empathy stayed with him, and as we took our next steps, I could actually hear how this humble song had impacted his life, faith and actions.

In 1963, inspired by Pope John XXIII's call for Americans to go to South America, Jack's parents courageously packed up their 8 children and moved to Argentina to preach the Gospel and help the poor. Jack, age 12, had some fear initially, seeing the devastation of how the poor lived and getting accustomed to speaking a different language. He definitely was not in his comfort zone. They lived in simple, humble, low cost housing. As the children began playing together, his parents got to know the other families and began their outreach.

He had many challenging and meaningful experiences in Argentina, such as: using his English and altar boy skills to help an Argentinian nun who ran the American Chapel, taking a train to a Buenos Aires slum to help build a dispensary for medication and shoveling crushed rock into a pit to build a new outhouse.

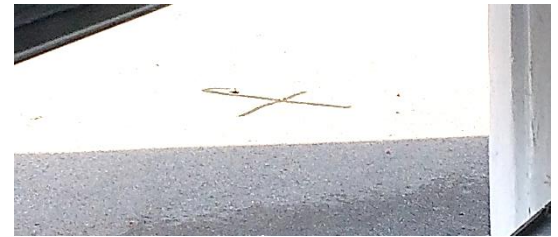
"One day, my brother Rich, fell ill with a bad stomach ache," He said, "A local doctor came and pressed and prodded but could find nothing wrong. My mother urgently asked me to find a phone and call the McClouds, local friends who might have a car to get Rich to the hospital. I ran to the only pay phone in town, at the local fire station. I reached into my pocket and pulled out a peso, but it would not go in the slot. Another man banged hard on the phone and got a dial tone. Mr. McCloud answered the call and was able to drive my brother to a British Hospital for treatment. It turned out Rich's appendix had ruptured and he easily could have died. The amazing thing is that Mr. McCloud's phone had been broken and out of order for some time, but miraculously, God helped it work for this one phone call, and it never worked again!"

Later, back in the states, tragedy struck. In 1969, 2 days after graduation from High School, Jack was riding in a car with five others when there was a terrible car crash. His two sisters, Connie and Cindy, and two others were killed, Jack ended up in a body cast for 6 months and his best friend, Dennis severed his spinal cord and had become paralyzed. "It was what it was," Jack added, "I tried to make the most of what I did have. My friend Dennis is doing great now. He was my best man at my wedding and is my daughter Colleen's godfather."

During this time, Jack met Dianne, his wife of 46 years. In 1967, just back from Argentina, his sister Connie had joined Vista, which was like an American Peace Corp. There she got to know Dianne through a mutual seminarian friend at the



Oblate Seminary in Springfield Mass. While Jack recovered, Dianne along with other friends, would come and keep him company, sharing music and keeping his spirits up. There, she charmed his mother Ginny, who encouraged their relationship. "When are you guys going to wake up?" She would ask. "Being the obedient son, I did!" Jack laughed. A few years later they were married. They have one daughter Colleen who blessed them with a grandson Derek, now 16.



In the years after the car accident, Jack continued to be a survivor, overcoming four distinct kinds of cancer during his life: Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Prostate Cancer, Melanoma and Lung Cancer. And then in 2013, he suffered a stroke on the first day of their summer vacation. "God keeps sticking his fork in me and saying, 'Nope, not done yet!' and throwing me back," he joked.

"I had been working in New Jersey commuting back and forth each week," Jack shared, "which had been very stressful. Diane and I went camping. During a heat wave, I began to feel dizzy, so I went to our car to lay down. When Diane came to check on me, my face was drooping." He added, "My life was defined by my music and my guitar. It was a big adjustment. I miss playing the guitar." He passed his guitars on to his nephew and grandson and enjoys mentoring them. Any given Saturday, you can find Jack playing tambourine and maracas at the 5:00 PM Mass. "Leo Racine and the Choir have become like family to me and are so supportive," he shared.

I was so touched to learn how much it means to Jack to attend daily Mass. "I have tried to attend since I was 13 years old. It feels like a calling to me." Asked why he tries to attend everyday, Jack replies, "I want to be a good person and being there helps me."

Inspired by the 'Dear Ivan', Jack's outreach to people of different cultures continues. He doesn't just build a bridge; he takes the first steps too. He has taken the time to learn 'thank you' in Vietnamese and Egyptian Farsi to thank those who help him. While volunteering at Whittier Rehab, he encouraged a Hindu man to do his reps, by learning himself, to count to 15 in the man's native language.

"I have a strong desire to help people feel welcomed and valued for who they are. "It's my way of letting people know they are truly appreciated." When Jack worked at a driving school, his boss assigned to him the people who could not speak English. In order to form a bridge with his clients, he would have them teach him numbers in their native language while they were taking their lesson. Over the years he recorded phonetically in his notebook how to say the numbers "1,2,3" in 21 different languages: English, French, German, Italian, Sri Lankan, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hebrew and Russian to name a few.

Looking forward to this Christmas, the Evans family will enjoy another traditional gathering at his mother's home. "I was always the music man, singing Rudolph and other songs. Once again, we'll sing the 12 Days of Christmas with each person taking a part and Derek will play the trumpet." He and Dianne are looking forward to it.

The ability to understand and share the feelings of another, truly has become the thread that continues to weave in and out of Jack's life. I am so thankful to Jack for taking this first Cross Walk with me. I have been touched by his stories. As I read the lyrics of "Dear Ivan" today, I realized Jack is on the right track. Through his simple outreach to understand, connect with and love others, he is making the world a better place - number by number, word by word. Imagine if each of us did the same? When I see Jack in that front pew or playing his tambourine now, I will feel a little more connected to him. He has taught me much on our walk together; about carrying your cross with trust and faith and being Christ to all we meet. After all, we're all in this together. Thank you Jack.

Merry Christmas!

Walking in His Name, Cathy Stenquist

*I'm gonna say a prayer for you and yours  
And if you in your own way, will say a prayer for  
me and mine,  
And maybe we can talk our neighbors into doing  
the same thing.  
This will be more powerful than any conference  
held, over any conference table,  
Anywhere in the whole wide world. And then  
maybe we can live as God intended,  
Peacefully, together.* (Lyrics from Dear Ivan)

Link to Dear Ivan -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmo0Kjhle9A>

*Check your January Newsletter to see  
who Cathy walks with next!*



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 December, 2017

## MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be Wednesday, December 20. 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**

## K of C ANNUAL TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE:

The Council received \$1,722 in donations from the Columbus Holiday weekend drive. This amount was presented to the State Council at the Annual Charity Ball on October 28. Total donations for all Councils present at the Ball exceeded

\$150,000. The State Council uses the funds to support Massachusetts families in need with handicapped children. Many thanks to all parishioners for your free will offerings.

**FOURTH DEGREE KNIGHT:** Congratulations to Council Deputy Grand Knight Aaron Pyman who received his Fourth Degree at the Exemplification held October 29 at the Doubletree Inn in Milford. Well done!

**MASS FOR DECEASED BROTHERS:** The Council remembered deceased brothers Tom Cuniff, Victor Terranova, and John Gatti at the 11:30 A.M. Mass at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, November 5. Our Pastor Fr. Mark Coiro was the celebrant.

**COUNCIL HONORS VETERANS CHARITIES:** The Council presented donations to *Homes for Our Troops* and *IPODS for Veterans* charities at the annual Lions Club/VFW luncheon for Holliston veterans on Veterans Day, November 11. The funds for these donations were raised from the Annual Council Charity Raffle. The Council again thanks all St. Mary's parishioners who bought raffle tickets this spring. Brothers and veterans Anthony Alexander and Cornelius McGaffigan made the presentations, photo above.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE for 2017:** 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. Pietro Cardinal Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, quoted in the October 2017 issue of *Columbia*, "His Holiness is especially appreciative ....of the unremitting efforts of the Knights of Columbus to defend and promote the sanctity of marriage and the dignity and beauty of family life." Our council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508 429-7588 or [ajscaramella@comcast.net](mailto:ajscaramella@comcast.net).



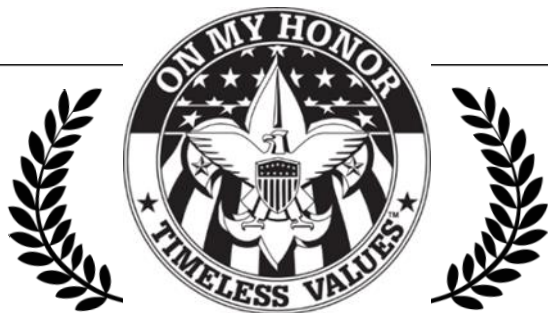
## WINGS (Women in God's Spirit)

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you ..." John 14:27

This fall the WINGS ministry shared on the theme "United in God's Love". Our fall season, also referred to as "The Treasures of Catholic Life," covered inspiring topics and insightful sharing from speakers including: Lynn Kenn, Allison Gingras, Fr. Carl Chudy, Dr. Nicki Verploegen, Deacon Tim Donohue, Sr. Tess Browne, and Cheryl Germino. If you are interested in viewing the talks, DVDs of WINGS speakers can be signed out of the Saint Mary's Library.

**On January 10, 2018** we look forward to the start of our Winter Season, "God's Living Word in Scripture", which will include study and sharing on Scripture. All women are invited! For more information on WINGS call Linda Calabrese at (508) 893-7919, visit the WINGS website at [www.Catholicwings.com](http://www.Catholicwings.com), or visit the Saint Mary's website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com) under Adult Faith Groups. Have a Blessed Advent.





## Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America

St. Mary's Parish \* December, 2017

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.

**SCOUTING FOR FOOD:** On October 28, fourteen Scouts took to the streets in the annual "Scouting for Food" service project. First, flyers were distributed throughout six neighborhoods in various parts of Holliston. The following Saturday, November 4, the Scouts collected 178 bags of food, brought them to the Holliston Food Pantry and assisted in sorting and stocking the shelves. *(Photo Below)*

**TURKEY ROAST:** From November 3-5, Troop 14's Annual Turkey Roast Campout and Dinner was held at the Holliston Sportsmen's Association. 99% of the Troop took part. The Troop invited the Webelos from the town Cub Scout Packs (future recruits) and a dozen Webelos and families enjoyed an afternoon of activities including setting up tents, knot tying, Dutch-oven cooking, tomahawk throwing, archery and a scavenger hunt. A delicious Turkey dinner with all the fixings was served to 90 Scouts & families and Webelos families. After dinner, the Webelos were treated to a campfire and camped overnight with the Troop.

### UPCOMING TROOP ACTIVITIES:

- Early winter weekend campout in December – Squanto Scout Camp in Plymouth, MA.
- January snow-shoe backpacking trip to Lonesome Lake in the White Mountains.



*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." MT 25:35*





# 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 Sun., Dec. 3, 2017



**Friday, October 20, Haunted Hayride Trip:** Fifty-one brave MSYG 8<sup>th</sup> Graders travelled two hours to South Hadley MA to face the biggest Haunted Hayride in New England. Happily, all managed to survive the forty minute trip trundling through woods and fields populated by chainsaw wielding clowns, mutants and various hideous creatures of the night. A surprisingly large haunted house and ice cream at McCrae's Country Creamery rounded out the evening. Remember – *Have Faith Not Fear!*







### **Saturday, October 21, Haunted Mansion**

**Trip:** This night was for the MSYG 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Graders – eighty-seven of them – who headed down to Barrett's Haunted Mansion in Abington for a night of screams and fun. The Mansion was especially spooky this year, designed as a Haunted Hotel with a terrifying elevator ride and rooms that were twisted holiday scenes. Our favorites were the snow falling on you with evil snowmen and the Halloween neighborhood with living Jack O' Lanterns. Papa Gino's delivered our pizza, then it was off to "Peaceful Meadows Cemetery," I mean "Peaceful Meadows Ice Cream Farm!"

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, Dec. 3, 6:30 – 8 PM  
Sign Ups for Caroling & Snow-tubing; Celtics payments also due tonight.

**Saturday, Dec. 9 / Sunday, Dec. 10:** Cookie Walk for Haiti, All Masses

**Friday, Dec. 15:** Christmas Caroling & Shrine Light Walk, 5:30 – 9:00 PM





ST. MARY'S

# EPIC

**Endless Possibilities In Christ**

## You are invited to a Christmas Party!

*Come join us and bring your holiday cheer as we hold a Christmas Party for the ladies of Bethany House in Framingham. Visit with the residents and sing along with musicians from St. Marys to bring the gift of music:*



**Saturday, December 16, 2:00 to 4:00 PM**

This event will be first come first serve as we are limited in spots!

**Cost: \$20**

*(Covers transportation)*

*Confidential financial assistance is available*

**Time:**

*Leave St. Mary's at 1:30 PM and  
return to St. Mary's by 4:30 PM*



**NEXT EPIC NIGHTS:** Sunday, Dec. 10 and Wed., Dec. 13. Permission forms will be emailed out to members.

Please contact Matthew Chick at [stmarysym1870@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysym1870@gmail.com) or 508-429-6076 with any questions.



## ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

### DECEMBER 2017

# got faith?



**“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES:** Three books are featured in this 2017 Christmas edition of “Faith Speaking” Volumes. The first is an Advent book for children called *Twenty-four Stories for Little Ones*. The stories have various authors and are about diverse Christmas cultural traditions as well as about the different people involved in the nativity story; this book can be purchased from online booksellers. The second book is a Christmas story/picture book entitled *The Road to Christmas Day*, by Jan Godfrey and Marcin Piwowarski. This book, which tells us that “now the world was different...the world had Jesus, born on the first Christmas day”, can only be found on <https://store.pauline.org>. The final book is one for adults, *Seeing Haloes: Christmas Poems to Open the Heart* by John Shea. These poems remind us of the holiness of our everyday lives and give a voice to all the “creche characters” who ask thought-provoking questions of us, the readers. This book can be purchased at <https://litpress.org> and on <https://www.amazon.com/>. All three books are in our parish library.

**PARENTS OF FAITH AND HOPE:** At our next meeting on **Friday, December 1**, we will gather in preparation for Christmas. How can we make this beautiful Season more joyously memorable and less stressful for our families? We are a very supportive group of parents of children, teenagers and young adults with special needs, and those struggling with mental health, learning disabilities and other life challenges. The meeting will be from 8:45 to 11:00 AM at 12 Kingsbury Drive, Holliston. For additional information, please contact Donna at (508) 429-6576 or [dmbrodo@comcast.net](mailto:dmbrodo@comcast.net).

**SEASONS AND READINGS:** In the month of December we celebrate the season of **Advent** and begin the season of **Christmas**. Advent is about our yearning for fulfillment in God’s time and the Advent Old Testament readings remind us of our need for God, a God who molds, comforts, heals and dwells with us. We hear from John the Baptist who proclaims the Lord’s coming and then from Mary who, in response to her visit from the angel Gabriel, simply, yet profoundly, says “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Christmas is a celebration of Jesus’ incarnation, *Emmanuel* or God with us. The readings on Christmas remind us that God has sent us His great light, Jesus, to dwell with us; we hear again, and are fascinated by, the story of Jesus’ birth. After Christmas, the celebration continues as we remember the Holy Innocents and the Holy Family, along with the first martyr, Saint Stephen. You can read about Advent and Christmas at <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/advent/>.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** Would you like to know more about Pope Francis’ ideas about the dignity of every person or about how we all **are** a mission on the earth. We are offering a reading and discussion group of Pope Francis’ 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* or *The Joy of the Gospel*. The group will meet on six consecutive Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM, beginning January 4. Call Leo Racine (429-7476) for info and to register. The University of Notre Dame’s online adult faith formation program (STEP) has 11 courses which begin on January 8, 2018; these include *An Introduction to the Catholic Faith* and *The Papacy*. STEP courses generally run for 4-6 weeks and cost about \$100. Check it out at <http://step.nd.edu/>.

**SACRAMENTS:** The Eucharist is the third sacrament of Initiation and is the “source and summit” of our Christian life (*Lumen Gentium* #11). In a book entitled *The Sacraments: How Catholics Pray*, Thomas Richstatter, OFM writes that the Eucharist is best understood by reflecting on all of the Paschal Mystery: banquet (Holy Thursday), sacrifice (Good Friday) and the unity of all creation (Easter) [p. 56]. We often refer to the Eucharist as Communion, as the Body of Christ. St. Augustine says that we ought to pray that we become what we eat; this is the real definition of communion, our unity as the Body of Christ. You can go to <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/sacrament-of-the-eucharist/> for an article about the Eucharist.

*Parish Ministry Contacts*

Ministry (508)	Contact	Phone #'s
A.A.	Staff	(617) 426-9444
Al-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.

