



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

Return Service Requested

**Non-profit
Organization
u.s. postage
paid
Holliston, MA
01746
Permit no. 2**

Palm Sunday



APRIL 9, 2017

**Full Holy Week
& Easter Schedule
Enclosed**

BEGINNING OF A PALM SUNDAY SERMON BY POPE FRANCIS ~

"Jesus enters Jerusalem. The crowd of disciples accompanies him in festive mood, their garments are stretched out before him, there is talk of the miracles he has accomplished, and loud praises are heard: 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' (Lk 19:38)."

"Crowds, celebrating, praise, blessing, peace: joy fills the air. Jesus has awakened great hopes, especially in the hearts of the simple, the humble, the poor, the forgotten, those who do not matter in the eyes of the world. He understands human sufferings, he has shown the face of God's mercy, he has bent down to heal body and soul."

"This is Jesus. This is his heart that looks upon all of us, who sees our sicknesses, our sins. Jesus' love is great. And so He enters into Jerusalem with this love and looks upon all of us. It is a beautiful scene, full of light—the light of Jesus' love, of his heart—joy, and celebration."

"At the beginning of Mass, we repeated all this. We waved our palms. We also welcomed Jesus; we too expressed our joy at accompanying him, at knowing him to be close, present in us and among us as a friend, a brother, and also as a King: that is, a shining beacon for our lives. Jesus is God but He lowered himself to walk with us. He is our friend, our brother. He enlightens us along the journey. And thus today we have welcomed him."

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

April, 2017 ~ Volume 42, Number 8



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.marysre@verizon.net
Parish Email Address: st.marys2@verizon.net
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Parish Clergy

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Shown below on March 17, our pastor Fr. Mark celebrates a St. Patrick's Day Mass with the residents of Timothy Daniel's Nursing Home. The theme of his homily was how God can take the evils in our lives and turn them to good purpose if we place them in His hands. That is what happened with St. Patrick, who was kidnapped from his home in Britain and sold into slavery in Ireland. God took that evil and through it caused Patrick to find faith and eventually bring the light of the Gospel to all of Ireland. Father Mark says Mass at Timothy Daniel's one Friday a month. Communion is brought to the residents there every week by St. Mary's Eucharistic Ministers. May God bless all our dear senior citizens and those who care for them. An Irish Blessing:

*"May the friendships you make, be those which endure,
And all of your grey clouds be small ones for sure.
And trusting in Him to Whom we all pray,
May a song fill your heart, every step of the way."*



HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, April 8:

5 PM & 7:30 PM Masses

Palms will be blessed &

Sunday, April 9:

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM Masses

the Passion read at all Masses.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 13:

9 AM Morning Prayer

7 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

The Mass of the Lord's Supper recalls the events the night before Jesus died, especially the institution of the Holy Eucharist. The ceremony of the washing of the feet reminds us of Jesus' call to serve one another. The Mass concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose in Father Haley Hall, where Adoration will continue until 10:30 PM. At Mass a collection will be taken up for the Holliston Food Pantry.

GOOD FRIDAY

Day of Fasting & Abstinence

Friday, April 14:

9 AM

Morning Prayer

12 Noon

(Kindergarten – Grade 5) Young Children's Stations of the Cross

7 PM

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

The 7:00 PM Lord's Passion Celebration is the official Good Friday Liturgy that continues the three day Triduum Celebration begun on Holy Thursday and concluding at Easter. It consists of the Liturgy of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion.

The Noon Stations are designed for younger children K – Grade 5, (accompanied by parents), and utilize a living tableau and special station prayers to help young children discover Jesus' love for them in the here and now. Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. In every single Catholic parish around the world this day, a collection is taken up to maintain the Shrines and struggling Christian communities in the Holy Land. This collection is taken up at both the Stations and Passion Services.

HOLY SATURDAY

Please Note: No Confessions on Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 15:

9 AM

Morning Prayer

8 PM

The Great Easter Vigil (brass quartet, adult choir)

The Great Easter Vigil is rightly called the "Mother" of all liturgies. It includes the blessing of the new Easter Candle, the sung Exultet Prayer, and readings that capture the fullness of God's saving work for humanity. The Church rejoices in a special way to receive new members this night. All Easter collections go to support the retired priests of our Archdiocese. Please generously support these men who have given their lives in your service.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 16:

7:30 AM

Church Mass

(organ, cantor)

9:30 AM

Center Hall Mass

(contemporary music)

9:30 AM

Church Mass

(youth choirs, organ, trumpet)

11:30 AM

Church Mass

(adult choir, brass quartet, organ)



From the Pastor's Desk

March 26, 2017
Laetare Sunday

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

Last night at about 10 PM, I switched on EWTN (Channel 56). It was the Feast of the Annunciation, and as the television flickered to life I saw the interior of the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, where Mass for the Feast Day was just beginning. I felt a jolt of familiarity, because last year at this time I was leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and I had celebrated Mass at the very altar, wearing the exact vestments, I now saw before me. I ended up watching the entire Mass, not the brightest idea as I was on for the 7:30 AM Mass the next morning. But I couldn't help myself. I felt drawn right back to the place I had been so privileged to visit, the very ground where Mary said yes to the angel and God and Man became forever united in her virgin womb.

It occurs to me that the coming celebrations of Holy Week are supposed to accomplish this very thing in our lives. They are meant to "draw us back," and make us feel part of the events of Jesus' life, death and Resurrection. As we experience the washing of parishioners' feet and share Communion on Holy Thursday, we are there in the Upper Room with the Apostles at the Last Supper. As we walk forward to kiss the Cross on Good Friday Evening, we are there on Calvary with Mary and the Beloved Disciple, who in the darkest moment did not abandon Our Lord. And then, at the Great Easter Vigil, we see the light of the Easter Candle – just as Our Risen Lord must have seen the first glimmers of dawn as He rolled aside the stone blocking His exit from the tomb.

This Holy Week, let us make a special effort to walk with Jesus through these sacred moments. In the Holy Land, I learned so many new things about the places and experiences of Jesus' final days. To help you do the same, I have provided on the next two pages an article by Monsignor Charles Pope, which he kindly gave me permission to reprint. It offers a day by day reflection of what Jesus did, and what happened around Him, from Palm Sunday through Easter. I invite you to read the appropriate section each day of Holy Week, to pray over the events described, and then to reflect on what God is trying to say to you through them today.

May the Lord of Our Lenten Journey continue to bless you and yours.

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

Welcome to St. Mary's!

With tremendous joy we welcome these eight new families who recently joined our parish, and these five infants newly baptized into Christ and His Holy Church. Welcome!

The Beesley Family ~ Chad, Anouk, Jules, Jean & Eleanor

The O'Day Family ~ Christopher, Samantha, Michael
& William

The Tate Family ~ Jason, Jennifer, Heidi & Sara

The Schare Family ~ Robert, Susan, Zach & Willow

The Reece Family ~ Jessica

The Stanek Family ~ Christopher & Erin

The Blackerby Family ~ Bryan, Jessica, David & Madison

The Adorno Family ~ Mike, Kerry, Ryan & Madeleine



Baptisms

Tyler Douglas Reeley

Carter Glenwood Guido

Lucca Marie Pomarico (*in photo with family*)

Camilla Randolph Baseel

William Christopher Georges O'Day

Walk With the Lord From Palm Sunday to the Easter Vigil

At the heart of our faith is the Paschal Mystery: the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. All of salvation history leads up to and goes forth from these saving events. The week starting on Palm Sunday and continuing to Easter is called Holy because it is when Jesus' public ministry culminates with his suffering, death and resurrection.

What follows is a brief description of each day of Holy Week. It is hoped that you might read it each day of this week. Prayerfully walk with Jesus in his most difficult and yet glorious week. Plan to attend some or all of the special liturgies of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday and Saturday at your parish. By celebrating them in community, we make them present today and learn again, in a new way, the reality of our Risen Lord alive in our midst.

APRIL 9 ~ PALM SUNDAY: Our celebration of Holy Week began Sunday as we remembered and made present the triumphal entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem to begin his final week and initiate his Passion. All four Gospels recount this triumphant entry that Sunday morning so long ago, but made present to us on this day. As you received your palms, I hope you considered that you are part of that vast crowd. How will you journey with Jesus this week? Let the palm remind you to praise him with your prayerful presence during the sacred Triduum. According to Mark 11:11, Jesus returned that evening to Bethany, a suburb of Jerusalem. Perhaps he stayed with his friends Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. Pray with Jesus as he considers the difficult days ahead of him.



APRIL 10 ~ MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK: According to Matthew 21, Mark 11, and Luke 19, Jesus returns to Jerusalem today and, seeing shameful practices in the Temple area, he cleanses the Temple. John's Gospel also records that he rebuked the unbelief of the crowds. Mark 11:19 records that he returned to Bethany that night. Pray with Jesus as he is zealous to purify us.

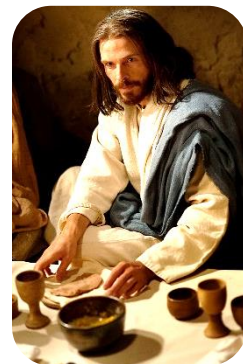
APRIL 11 ~ TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK: According to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus again returns to Jerusalem where he is confronted by the Temple leadership for what he did the day before. They question his authority. He also teaches extensively, using parables and other forms. There is the parable of the vineyard (cf Mt 21:33-46) and the parable of the wedding banquet, (cf Mt. 22:1). There is also the teaching on paying taxes (cf Mt 22:15) and the rebuke of the Sadducees who deny the resurrection (cf Mt. 22:23). There is also the fearful prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem if the inhabitants do not come to faith in him. He warns that not one stone will be left on another (cf Mt 24). Continue to pray with Jesus and listen carefully to his final teachings just before his passion.

APRIL 12 ~ WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK: Traditionally this day was called "Spy Wednesday" because it was on this Wednesday before the crucifixion that Judas conspired to hand Jesus over. For this he was paid 30 pieces of silver (cf Mt. 26:14). Jesus likely spent the day in Bethany. In the evening, Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus with costly perfumed oil. Judas objects but Jesus rebukes him and says Mary has anointed him for his burial! (cf Mt 26:6). The wicked are besetting Jesus and plotting against him. Are you praying?



APRIL 13 ~ HOLY THURSDAY: This marks the beginning of the sacred Triduum, or "three days." Earlier this day Jesus had given instructions to the disciples on how to prepare for this most holy meal, which will be his last supper. Through the day they make these preparations (cf Mt 26:17). In the Mass of the Lord's Supper conducted at our parishes, we remember and make present that Last Supper which Jesus shared with his disciples. We are in the upper room with Jesus and the Apostles and do what they did. Through the ritual of washing the feet (Jn 13:1) of 12 parishioners, we unite in service to one another.

Through our celebration of this first Mass and Holy Eucharist (Mt 26:26), we unite ourselves to Jesus and receive his Body and Blood as if for the first time. At this Eucharist, we especially thank God for his gift of the ministerial priesthood. After the Last Supper (First Mass), the apostles and Jesus made a short journey across the Kidron Valley to the Garden, where he asks them to pray and he experiences his agony (cf Mt 26:30). We too will process in Church with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to a garden (the altar of repose) which has been prepared. The liturgy ends in silence. It is an ancient custom to spend an hour before the reposed Blessed Sacrament tonight. We are with Jesus in the Garden and pray as he goes through his agony. Most of our parish churches remain open until close to midnight. It was near Midnight that Jesus was betrayed by Judas, was arrested and taken to the house of the High Priest (cf Mt. 26:47).



APRIL 14 ~ GOOD FRIDAY: All through the night Jesus has been locked in the dungeon of the high priest's house. Early this morning he was brought before Pilate who transferred his case to Herod. Herod sent him back to Pilate who, sometime in the mid-morning, bowed to the pressure of the Temple leadership and the crowds, and condemned Jesus to a horrible death by crucifixion.

In the late morning Jesus was taken by the soldiers through the city and up the hillside of Golgotha. By noon he is nailed to the cross where he hangs in agony for some three hours. He dies around three in the afternoon. He is taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb hastily before sundown. Today is a day of prayer, fasting and abstinence. Whenever possible, Christians are urged to keep today free of work, of social engagements, of entertainment, and to devote themselves to communal prayer and worship.

At noon many parishes gather for stations of the cross for recollections of the seven last words of Jesus. Many parishes also offer stations of the cross at 3 p.m., the hour of Jesus' death. In the evening, we gather quietly in our parish churches to enter into time of prayer as we reflect on Jesus' death on the cross. We also pray for the needs of the world. To acknowledge the power of the cross in our lives today, we one by one come forward to venerate the cross with a kiss. Our hunger from this day of fasting is satisfied with Holy Communion distributed at the end of this liturgy. Consider, too, how the apostles might have gathered that night together in fear and prayer reflecting on all that happened.



Holy Saturday: The body of Jesus is in the tomb but His soul is among the dead to announce the kingdom. The hour is coming, and now is when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it will live (John 5:25). Consider what it must have been like for the dead in Sheol to awaken to the voice of Jesus!



APRIL 16 ~ HOLY SATURDAY: Meanwhile, the Disciples, heartbroken at the death of Jesus, observed the Jewish Sabbath in sorrow. They had forgotten the promise of Jesus that He would rise. We cannot forget His promise. We cannot forget. Tonight in our parishes after sundown we gather for the Great Easter Vigil where we will experience Jesus rising from the dead. We gather in darkness and light the Easter fire which reminds us that Jesus is light in the darkness. He is the light of the world.

We enter into the church and attentively listen to Bible stories describing God's saving work of the past. Suddenly, the church lights are lit and the Gloria is sung as we celebrate the moment of Christ's resurrection. He Lives! In the joy of the resurrection we then celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and

Eucharist for our Catechumens and Candidates who have prepared for many weeks for this night. As a Church we sing "Alleluia" for the first time in 40 days. Do everything you can to be present on this evening and invite friends and family to join. Our vigil ushers in an Easter joy that never ends!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 April, 2017

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella

Deputy Grand Knight: Aaron Pyman

8th ANNUAL YOUTH FREE THROW CONTEST: Holliston boys and girls from 3rd Grade to 8th Grade participated in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest held January 28 in the Holliston High School Gym. They each had 10 free throw attempts and the winners in each Grade became eligible to qualify for the K of C State Free Throw Contest in March. The winners were feted to trophies and cake on February 15. 9-year-old winners: Logan Brewster and Sophia Lynch. 10-year-old winners: Rui Dorosario and Erin Kampersal. 11-year-old winners: Eben Salem and Makayla McHugh. 12-year-old winners: Colin Kerr and Mia Luisa. 13-year-old winners: Tommy Kantrowitz and Danielle Cummings. 14-year-old winner: Daniel Quinn. All of these winners qualified for the district championship held March 25 at Nichols College. The event was coordinated by Knight Donald Marden. **[Winners Photo Bottom of Page]**



COLUMBIA AWARD: On February 15, our District Deputy presented to Grand Knight Al Scaramella the Columbia Award for the Council's activities in Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, and Youth Activities.

[Photo Above Right]

ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: The Council is **now selling** raffle tickets for the 9th Annual Charity Raffle. The proceeds from ticket sales have allowed the Council to donate over \$135,000 to local charities such as the Holliston Pantry Shelf, Holliston Senior Center, several Veteran's charities, and our parish needs. Ticket sales began on March 15. Email ajscaramella@comcast.net or see any Knight to purchase tickets. In addition, local sales will be held at Superette, Fiske's and area markets on Saturdays and Sundays in April, May, and June – as well as after all St. Mary's Masses May 20 & 21. The Prize Drawing will take place June 21 at the Council's monthly meeting. The Grand Prize is \$1,000. The raffle team is led by Knight Aaron Pyman.

2017 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. For information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508 429-7588 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net.

MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be **Wednesday, April 19**. The Council recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church at 7:00 PM. As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer." **ALL** parishioners are invited to share in this beautiful and powerful prayer.



DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR CHURCH ...

... train holy priests for ministry? ... clothe the naked?
... feed the hungry? ... minister to the sick?
... shelter the homeless? ... educate the young?
... support women in crisis pregnancies? ... console the bereaved?



IF YES, THEN HAVE YOU GIVEN YET TO THE 2017 CATHOLIC APPEAL?

The Catholic Appeal supports all of the good works listed above and many, many more. The Appeal is to your Archdiocese what the weekly collection is to your parish – the critical support that makes its ministries possible. This includes essential services to the poor and needy, whose situation is more serious in this hard economy than ever before.

It is the duty of every Catholic to support the good works of the Church. Please do your part, and give to the Catholic Appeal by mailing in one of the special envelopes located at the church entrances, or by donating online at www.bostoncatholicappeal.org. Please be sure to identify your parish as St. Mary's, Holliston, so that your gift will count toward your parish's 2017 C.A. Goal.

Gifts of every size – even modest ones – all matter. The important thing is to participate. Remember what Jesus said when He saw the widow put her one tiny coin into the temple treasury: *"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."* (Mark 12:44)

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit)

"To accept the duty of this moment for God is to touch Eternity, to escape from time." - Fulton J. Sheen



Join us for "Nighttime" WINGS, on April 5 at 6:45 PM in the Church, when we welcome Pat Gohn who will share on her latest book, *"ALL In: Why Belonging to the Catholic Church Matters"*. All are invited, men and women! Our evening will begin with Sung Choral Vespers followed by our speaker. In this passionate and unapologetic account of why her faith in Christ and the Catholic Church are the source of meaning and joy in her life, Pat Gohn—popular speaker, retreat leader, catechist, and author, invites you to become more confident in the power of the Catholic faith to transform your life as well. Being a cradle Catholic, cancer survivor, wife, and mother are all a part of her story. But in this appealing, personal book, Gohn shares why her relationship with Jesus and her confidence in his Church are so much bigger than her

medical diagnosis, more powerful than her family history, and more significant than her career path. For more information on WINGS call Linda Calabrese at 508-893-7919.

Also coming to WINGS this April during our traditional morning hours, 9:30 - 11:30 AM:

April 12: 247 Days

Speaker: Daniel Kennedy Sr. will share the story of his son, Father Dan Kennedy, of his ordinary and high-achieving youth and then his extraordinary call to Holy Orders and the Roman Catholic priesthood.

April 26: Six Sacred Rules for Families

Speaker: Sue Muldoon, a therapist and religious educator who has worked in clinical, collegiate, and parish settings. Muldoon is the coauthor, with her husband, Tim, of *"Six Sacred Rules for Families"* and participated in the video production of *"Joined by Grace"* the new marriage preparation program from Ave Maria Press.

ST. MARY'S STEEPLE REPAIRS UPDATE



In July 2016 Structures North Consulting Engineers performed an interior survey of the steeple of the 1800's St. Mary's Church in Holliston. The steeple structure in question consists of two frames, an inner and outer. The outer frame supports the low roof structure with relatively complex geometry that matches the octagonal spire, which includes small lancet windows at the north, east, south and west faces. The inner frame is square (in plan) and provides supplemental lateral support for the outer frame. Both frames slope inwards to accommodate the diminishing plan dimension of the spire as it extends upward. Prior repairs have been made to the lower levels of the tower, and the work that was performed by Yankee Steeplejack Company in the late fall of 2016 and early winter of 2017 specifically addressed the upper belfry and spire levels.

During our survey we discovered many rotted and insect damaged wood members and a limited amount of rotted sheathing at the upper portion of the northwest corner belfry level walls (photo above left). The rotted timbers, studs and rafter members prevented the original hold-downs from being effective, as the nuts of the threaded rods were completely disengaged from the timbers. Per our recommendations, Yankee Steeplejack Company treated the existing timbers to remain with Boracare boric acid solution to prevent further rot and replaced or supplemented all rotted members with new material. As a preventative measure, all new material was pre-treated with Boracare.



New hardware was installed to secure the new members to the existing structure. This hardware includes new hold-downs from the bottom of the rafter members to the studs at the belfry level, and horizontal ties at braces that prevent a hinge-joint where replacement rafter sections butt-into existing rafter sections to remain, and tie these members back to the inner timber frame. This work was completed in late January 2017.



Music At St. Mary's

March 10 ~ Pitt Men's Glee Club: St. Mary's nave was packed this night with nearly 400 concertgoers there to enjoy the visit of this prestigious Glee Club from the University of Pittsburgh. The all acapella concert included many sacred works, such as Ubi Caritas, Bound For the Promised Land, and How Can I Keep From Singing? However, there were also love songs such as Night and Day, Til There Was You, and Say, Dear, Will You Not Have Me? All were performed with incredible beauty and skill, a true blessing that moved the heart. Thank you to St. Mary's Parishioner and Pitt Man Daniel Yates (photo right with Fr. Mark), who arranged for us to be part of the Club's 2017 Domestic Tour!



May 19 ~ Spring Choral Concert: BBB Buxtehude Back to Bach!

On Friday, May 19, 2017 at 7 PM, St. Mary's Adult and Youth choirs will together present a program of fine choral music by the composer Dieterich Buxtehude, who was a teacher of Bach. In this concert we will celebrate the legacy of the prolific composer Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707) who was born this May 380 years ago! Buxtehude was a remarkable influence in the young Johann Sebastian Bach. Like Bach, Buxtehude was an accomplished organist, and his music is the most elaborate and virtuosic of the period. In this concert, the choirs of St. Mary's Church will join to present two of Buxtehude's best known works: his cantata "Alles was ihr tut" BuxWV 4 and his "Magnificat" for choir and orchestra. Renowned organist Dongho Lee will perform Buxtehude's organ works, showcasing the beautiful St. Mary's organ, and a period orchestra will accompany our talented singers. The concert will be free and open to all!



As this will be a free event, and we are looking to raise \$4,500 in order to defray the production's costs. Help us achieve our fundraising goal! To make your gift, or to learn more, please visit www.stmarysholliston.com and find the tabs "Music Program > 2017 Spring Concert: Buxtehude Back to Bach!" and click the "donate" button. You may also scan the QR code to make your donation online, or you can make your donation by check by dropping it at any mass collection (payable to "Music at St. Mary's in Holliston"). Thank you for your support! Photos of last year's Spring Concert:





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders ~ Faith, Friendship, Service, Fun!



February Vacation Trips

On Tuesday, Feb. 21, the MSYG split for two adventures. The 6th & 7th Graders headed to CoCo Key Indoor Water Park in Danvers. There 68 teens enjoyed the 84 degree temperatures and attractions like the Coconut Grove Adventure River, Loco's Lagoon Wave Beach, the Shark Slam, Gator Gush, Barracuda Blast & Pelican Plunge.

Meanwhile, 27 MSYG 8th Graders were led by Fr. Mark and parents to BODA BORG in Malden. Here teams of 3-5 persons faced 17 different Quests – some physical, some mental, all challenging.

In the “ESCAPE FROM ALCATRAZ” Quest, teens had to find their way out of a prison cell, then crawl through walls as they tried to win free. In the “BARNYARD” Quest, teens had to identify which pressure plates to push according to animal sounds. When the final room of a Quest was reached and solved, the BODA BORG box opened, and the team could stamp their Quest Card.

The team composed of Sophia LoRicco, Nikki Nersession and Juliana Troland solved the most Quests, 6 in all, winning them free dessert at Quincy Market.

However, only one team solved “PIRATES” – the single most difficult Quest at Boda Borg. It took them almost the entire day! So congrats also to Timothy Aylward, Colin Daly, Jack Elliot, Brian Gonsalves and Ryan Stanwood. Lunch was enjoyed by all at Quincy Market after Boda Borg.





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders ~ Next Meeting, Sunday, April 9!



LENT IN MSYG

The three great spiritual disciplines of Lent are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. All of them were beautifully embraced by our MSYG teens at their February and March Monthly Meetings.

PRAYER: On February 26, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, our MSYG members wrote "Lenten Letters to God." These private letters expressed their goals to grow in holiness of life during Lent 2017. They identified people to pray for, people to forgive, and specific acts of charity to accomplish. Weeks later, just before Laetare Sunday, the letters were mailed home to them as a reminder and encouragement.

At this same meeting, teens each held palm branches from last year as Fr. Mark lead them through a guided meditation. He asked them to think of something they wanted to burn away / purify from their lives – some sin, some sorrow, some smallness. The teens then processed outside and placed their palm branches to be burned. The resulting ashes were used to mark foreheads on Ash Wednesday as a mark of repentance and humility.

FASTING & ALMSGIVING:

At their March 12 Meeting, the MSYG teens fasted – forgoing their usual End of Meeting Snacks and using the money instead to help feed the poor. Over 400 sandwiches were made in giant assembly lines by our teens. These were distributed the next day on the streets of Boston, at the Framingham Salvation Army, and at the New Challenge Program in Worcester. Our Bible Study this night was from MT 25: "Whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers, so you do unto me."



St. Mary's EPIC -

Endless Possibilities In Christ

Next Events:

- Assembling Blessing Bags for the homeless on Wednesday, April 12
- My Brother's Table on Sunday, April 30

EPIC Members look for info in the mail!



For me, going to Corpus Christi Parish in Lawrence to assist with the youth retreat was a highly memorable experience. It was my second time participating and it was an amazing event to be a part of. We started the morning with a general plan, but very few absolutes; we let God guide us through the day and the result was a retreat filled with laughter and unexpected surprises. I played indoor soccer with a few girls while kids of all ages wandered in, and spent much of the day reading poetry to the small groups of kids that the participants had been broken into. I remember one poem specifically, written by Shel Silverstein about a boy who was one inch tall, as it sparked a joyous conversation as to what each kid would do if they were only one inch tall - one of them explained that one inch was much too small to do anything so he'd do nothing at all. Another part of my day involved saying a decade of the rosary with one of the groups, and I was inspired by how devout the group of kids were despite the fact that they were all under the age of ten. The excitement, untamed joy, and religious curiosity of the children we were with was palpable and constant, while their enthusiasm and faith were both welcome and refreshing. It was an incredible day, and the experience was unforgettable. ~ Lillian MacLean

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 to 8:45 PM

Get ready for St. Mary's 11th Annual VBS!
Coming to St. Mary's July 24-28, 2017.
Maker Fun Factory: *Created by God, Made for a Purpose!*

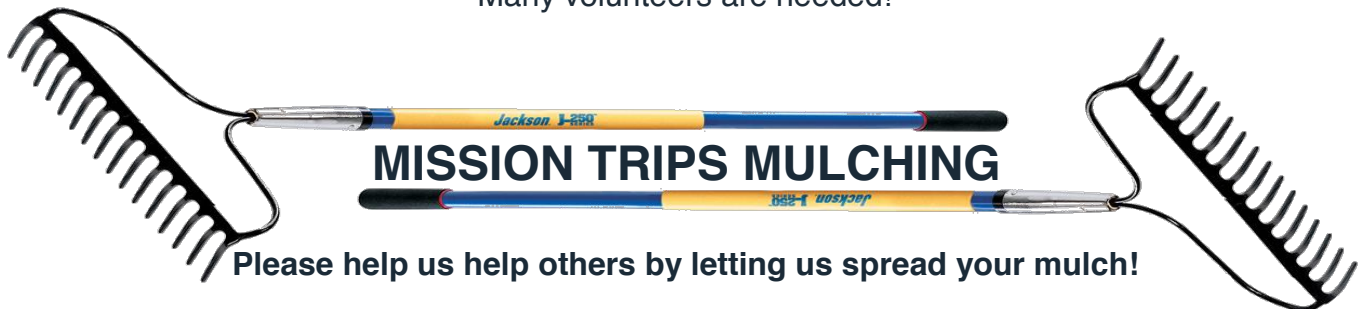
Imagine a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God. Spark creativity with interactive decoration and experiences.



Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, made for a Purpose will transform St. Mary's into a place buzzing with the excitement of faith. Join us!

Visit Sound Wave Sing and Play, Explore true adventures from the Bible with hands on adventures in Bible Discovery, Dive into experiments in Imagination Discovery. In Game Makers make a connection to each day's Bible point with challenging struggles by running Playing and laughing. Finally wrap up each day with a Funshop Finale. Remember God has BIG PLANS for all of Us! Join our Bible Buddies including Decker the Decorating Crab and Bubba the Humpback Whale as we learn that God made each of us for a purpose and that He loves us forever!

Registration has now begun. Print forms online at stmarysholliston.com under parish forms. Many volunteers are needed!



You'll be helping to rebuild homes and hope by letting us take care of your mulching this spring.

St. Mary's Mission Trip teams will be traveling to New Jersey and Mississippi again this summer to help communities still trying to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy and Katrina.

By letting us spread your mulch at your home, you can help, too – and claim a charitable donation on your income taxes. The money you spend on our labor will help fund our trips this year – bringing the mission of St. Mary's to families who need it most.

WHEN: Saturdays, April 8 - May 27, 2017, and school break April 18 - 22, 2017.

HOW MUCH: \$35 per yard of mulch (labor only).

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: Buy the mulch, have it delivered, do your spring cleanup & prep the beds.

CONTACT: Sandy Parnell at 508.395.9980, Momparnell@comcast.net or Ellen Kennedy at 508.498.4285, gebmkennedy@comcast.net.

Clients served on a first come, first served basis. Spots fill up quickly so call today!
Thank you for supporting St. Mary's Mission Trips!



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REJECTS ANTI-SEMITISM

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs: *On behalf of the Bishops and people of the Catholic Church, as the Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, I want to express our deep sympathy, solidarity, and support to our Jewish brothers and sisters who have experienced once again a surge of anti-Semitic actions in the United States. I wish to offer our deepest concern, as well as our unequivocal rejection of these hateful actions. The Catholic Church stands in love with the Jewish community in the current face of anti-Semitism.*

As Pope Francis recently said, "The grave danger is to disown our neighbors. When we do so...we deny the most important Commandments of Jesus." Herein lies the danger, dehumanization. But here we also find an opportunity: that the light of the love of neighbor may illuminate the Earth with its stunning brightness like a lightning bolt in the dark; that it may wake us up and let true humanity burst through with authentic resistance, resilience and persistence."

I encourage everyone to remember their neighbor, to find the opportunities to be lights of resistance, resilience, and persistence during these contentious times, especially with all our brothers and sisters of faith. As the sacred synod searches into the mystery of the Church, it remembers the bond that spiritually ties the people of the New Covenant to Abraham's stock.

From the DECLARATION ON THE RELATION OF THE CHURCH TO NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS,

NOSTRA AETATE: *The Church of Christ acknowledges that, according to God's saving design, the beginnings of her faith and her election are found already among the Patriarchs, Moses and the prophets. She professes that all who believe in Christ-Abraham's sons according to faith (6)-are included in the same Patriarch's call, and likewise that the salvation of the Church is mysteriously foreshadowed by the chosen people's exodus from the land of bondage. The Church, therefore, cannot forget that she received the revelation of the Old Testament through the people with whom God in His inexpressible mercy concluded the Ancient Covenant. Nor can she forget that she draws sustenance from the root of that well-cultivated olive tree onto which have been grafted the wild shoots, the Gentiles.(7) Indeed, the Church believes that by His cross Christ, Our Peace, reconciled Jews and Gentiles. making both one in Himself.(8)*

The Church keeps ever in mind the words of the Apostle about his kinsmen: "theirs is the sonship and the glory and the covenants and the law and the worship and the promises; theirs are the fathers and from them is the Christ according to the flesh" (Rom. 9:4-5), the Son of the Virgin Mary. She also recalls that the Apostles, the Church's main-stay and pillars, as well as most of the early disciples who proclaimed Christ's Gospel to the world, sprang from the Jewish people.

As Holy Scripture testifies, Jerusalem did not recognize the time of her visitation,(9) nor did the Jews in large number, accept the Gospel; indeed not a few opposed its spreading.(10) Nevertheless, God holds the Jews most dear for the sake of their Fathers; He does not repent of the gifts He makes or of the calls He issues-such is the witness of the Apostle.(11) In company with the Prophets and the same Apostle, the Church awaits that day, known to God alone, on which all peoples will address the Lord in a single voice and "serve him shoulder to shoulder" (Soph. 3:9).(12)

Since the spiritual patrimony common to Christians and Jews is thus so great, this sacred synod wants to foster and recommend that mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit, above all, of biblical and theological studies as well as of fraternal dialogues.

True, the Jewish authorities and those who followed their lead pressed for the death of Christ;(13) still, what happened in His passion cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive, nor against the Jews of today. Although the Church is the new people of God, the Jews should not be presented as rejected or accursed by God, as if this followed from the Holy Scriptures. All should see to it, then, that in catechetical work or in the preaching of the word of God they do not teach anything that does not conform to the truth of the Gospel and the spirit of Christ.

Furthermore, in her rejection of every persecution against any man, the Church, mindful of the patrimony she shares with the Jews and moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel's spiritual love, decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone.

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

APRIL 2017

got faith?



FAITH SPEAKING VOLUMES: This month we are featuring two books. The first, entitled *Christians at the Cross*, is a collection of talks/homilies given by Anglican bishop and scripture scholar N. T. Wright at Easington Colliery during Holy Week in 2007. The talks, presented at the Church of the Ascension in a community that had experienced much loss of human life and its way of life, are all about “finding hope in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus”, which is actually the subtitle to the book. The second is a book of basic and wonderful letters to Pope Francis from children around the world...and his responses. The book is called *Dear Pope Francis*. Both books are available in the parish library and from online booksellers.

SEASONS AND READINGS: This month we see the movement from the Lenten Season to the Easter Season as we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and the Second and Third Sundays of Easter. Join in the special celebrations of the Paschal Triduum which mark Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection. You can prepare for the Sunday readings at (<http://www.liturgy.slu.edu/>).

“JUST” WONDERING: This Lent we have explored several themes of Catholic Social Teaching during the Friday Night Soup Suppers. If you are “just” wondering what these themes are and where to find more information about them, you are in luck...we have just the place: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/index.cfm>, the website of the US Catholic Bishops. You can also go to <https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/> (click on *Learn Our Story*), the website for Communities of Salt and Light, a project of the US Catholic Bishops especially geared toward social ministry in the church and the world. Finally, you can go to <https://www.cctwincities.org/education-advocacy/catholic-social-teaching/>, the website of the Minneapolis/St. Paul diocese for FAQs about Catholic Social Teaching and tools to assist you in making your voice heard (advocacy tools) about these important issues.

CREATION CARE TEAM: Earth Day is April 22, 2017. You will find a video from the Catholic Climate Covenant called *Know the Creator through Creation* based on the teachings of Pope Francis at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIW5nIAKVvM&t=1s>. It urges us to care for creation and care for the poor. The Creation Care Team is encouraging you and your family to consider participating in National Screen Free Week, May 1-7. Screen Free Week (SFW) is presented by the Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood. At the SFW website, <http://www.screenfree.org/>, you can find tips on how to help your child to “unplug and play”. Our next Team meeting is Saturday, April 8, at 10:00 AM in the parish center.

CATHOLIC SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: This month’s spiritual practice is **Making the Stations of the Cross**. Thomas Groome, in a very brief chapter in the book *Catholic Spiritual Practices: A Treasury of Old and New*, which he edited with Colleen M. Griffith, calls the practice of celebrating the stations of the cross “Walking with the Suffering Jesus” (p 135). Groome states that Francis of Assisi is credited with “replicating” the walk of the pilgrims along the *via dolorosa* in Jerusalem through the creation of the stations of the cross, depictions of scenes from along Jesus’ *way of sorrow* on the way to his death (p 135). For a series of reflections on the Stations of the Cross devotion go to <http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/stations-of-the-cross>. At <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/station.php> or at <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations.html> you can make the Stations of the Cross online. Finally, see the US Bishops’ website for a Scriptural Stations of the Cross, based on Saint Pope John Paul II’s 1991 Good Friday celebration: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/stations-of-the-cross/scriptural-stations-of-the-cross.cfm>.

--Leo Racine

Parish Ministry Contacts

Ministry	Contact	Phone #'s (508)
A.A.	Staff	(617) 426-9444
Al-Anon	Staff	366-0556
Altar Servers	Tina Hein	429-9853
Art & Environment	TBA	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 Koziel	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
Wings	Linda Calabrese	893-7919

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.

