



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

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# Palm Sunday

**MARCH 28, 2021**

**Full Holy Week  
& Easter Schedule  
Enclosed**



## HIS LIGHT STILL SHINES

It has now been a full year since that awful March when all Masses were cancelled. That very weekend, the Blessed Sacrament was placed in the large, third floor window of St. Mary's Rectory facing Washington Street. Many still pull in their cars there to say a prayer before our Eucharistic Lord, and barring snow others pray from the lawn or sidewalk. For those still unable to come to Mass, the Sacrament remains Exposed in the window for prayer and adoration.

Happily, between St. Mary's excellent safety protocols and vaccinations starting to be available, more and more families are returning to Mass in person. It is wonderful to hear crying babies and see little ones romping down the aisles again! May this Easter see many such signs of new life – many little resurrections, as families are able to live out their faith more deeply. Welcome home.



# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

April, 2021 ~ Volume 46, Number 5



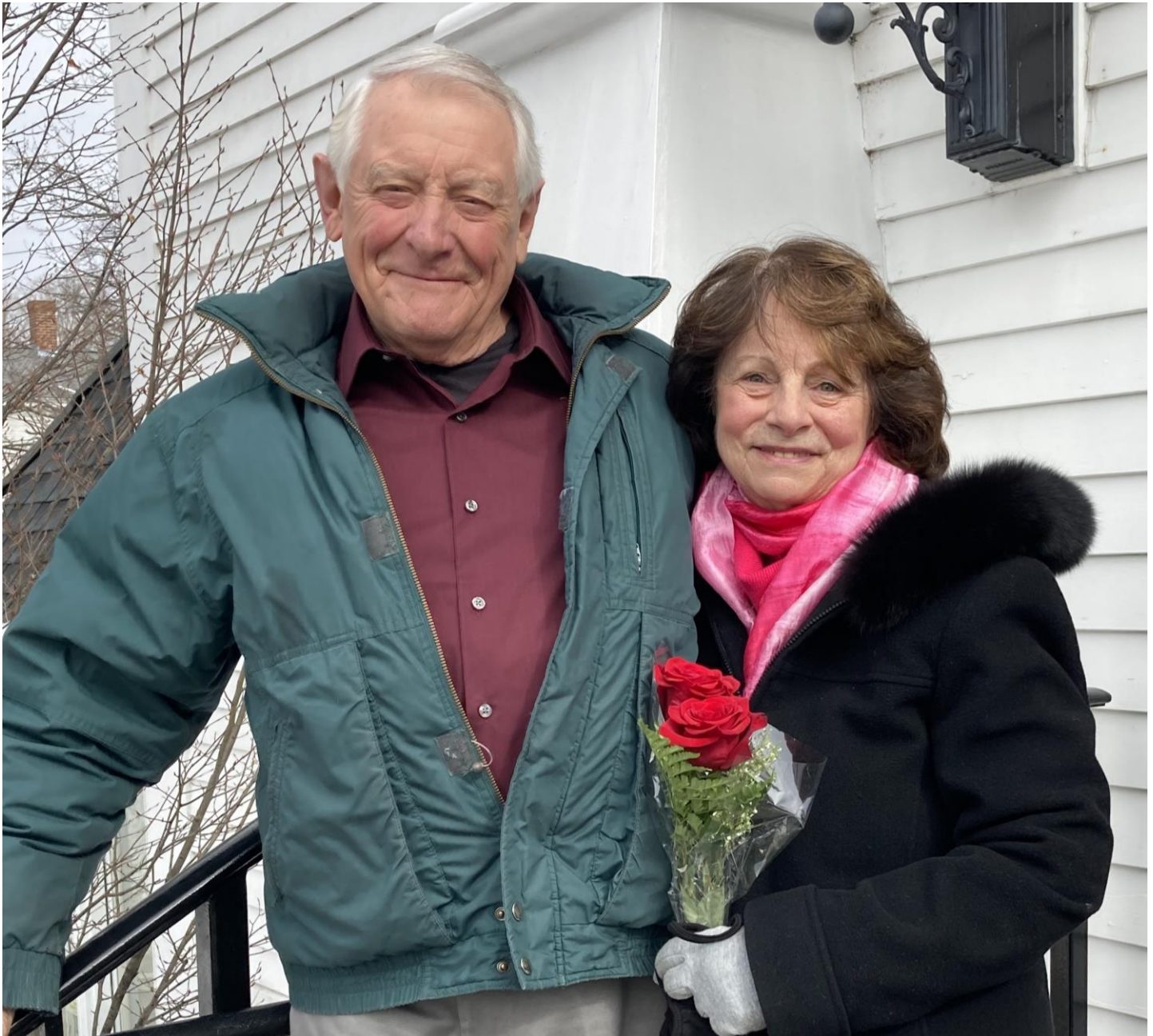
St. Mary's Parish  
8 Church Street  
Holliston, MA 01746

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## LOVING WITNESS

Sunday, February 14, was both St. Valentine's Day and World Marriage Sunday this year. A special blessing of Married Couples was offered at all St. Mary's Masses. As is our parish custom, the couple present together and married the longest at each Mass was recognized and presented with a gift of roses. In honoring them, we honor all our married couples, who give us such a beautiful witness of love. Shown below, St. Mary's Parishioners John and Cynthia Pratt were married fifty-five years ago in St. Joseph Church, Medway. Congratulations! *"Let us love, since that is what our hearts were made for."* - Saint Therese of Lisieux.







## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Recently, I stumbled upon an animated movie called "Rise of the Guardians." While like all things this movie would have been better with more God in it, I did enjoy its theme of "trying to find your center." The character of Santa Claus, for instance, has "wonder" as his center - the ability to see all creation with awe and delight in its beauty. The main character, Jack Frost, has to figure out what his center is, and why he has been chosen as a guardian of the world's children. (The latter answer reveals him to be very Christ like).

We are soon to celebrate Palm Sunday, the day when Jesus reveals to us *His* center – the truth about Who He is deep within. Jesus' center, of course, is love, and He proves this on the Cross. For "there is no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for a friend." (Jn 15:13) Love is the center of Who Jesus is and all that He does. And as Christians, love should be our center too - the reality that guides our decisions and priorities. We reveal our love in the same way that Jesus did, by dying to ourselves.

Every time a child obeys their parent instead of doing what they themselves want, they prove their love. Every time a parent sacrifices time and energy to put the needs of their child or spouse first, they prove their love. Every time we sacrifice resources to respond to the needs of the poor, we die to ourselves and prove our love. Whenever we imitate Jesus on the Cross by forgiving someone who has injured us badly, then above all we prove our love and reveal that Christ's own love is alive as the center of our being.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

P.S. As once previously in this pandemic, St. Mary's will soon be calling all our parishioners to check in on their wellbeing. We will also use the calls to update your email information so as to improve our communication with our people.



## CARDINAL O'MALLEY TO VISIT ST. MARY'S, HOLLISTON

After two postponements due to the pandemic, Cardinal Sean O'Malley will celebrate Sunday Mass in our parish for the first time ever on

**Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 11:30 AM.**

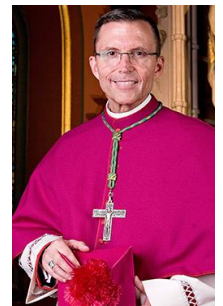
The occasion is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Mary's, well worth celebrating even though we are now a few months past 2020, our official anniversary year. We are honored by the visit of our Archbishop, and hope that this joyful moment will uplift and brighten the lives of all who call St. Mary's their spiritual home. Save the date!

## NEW 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA DATE SET

Originally set for last fall, but delayed by the pandemic, the Gala will now be held

**Saturday, November 13,**

in the Regency Ballroom, Double Tree Inn, Milford. There will be dinner, dancing, a silent auction and a Keynote Address by His Excellency, Robert P. Reed, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston and President of Boston Catholic Television. Save the date!



## NEW HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE DATES SET

The third try is the charm! Our new Pilgrimage dates are now confirmed for

**March 11-20, 2022.**

Visit <https://www.pilgrimages.com/frcoiro/> for all details about this beautiful opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Our Lord. We will also finally get to visit our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour, "The Shepherd's Fields," Bethlehem.



# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



## PALM SUNDAY

**Saturday, March 27:**

**5 PM & 7:30 PM Masses**

**Sunday, March 28:**

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

Palms will be distributed by volunteers as you exit Mass.

## HOLY THURSDAY

**Thursday, April 1:**

**7 PM**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper** (In Person by reservation and live-streamed to Facebook & Holliston Cable Access).

The Mass of the Lord's Supper recalls the events the night before Jesus died, especially the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Due to the pandemic there will be no post-Mass Adoration this year.

## GOOD FRIDAY

*Day of Fasting & Abstinence*

**Friday, April 2:**

**12 PM**

Kindergarten - Grade 5, Younger Children's Stations of the Cross. (Live-streamed only to Facebook & Holliston Cable Access – no in person attendance).

**7 PM**

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion** (In Person by reservation and live-streamed to Facebook & Holliston Cable Access).

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, and utilize a living tableau and special station prayers to help young children discover Jesus' love for them in the here and now. Download and print out these prayers in advance at <https://stmarysholliston.com/> under REGISTER / PARISH FORMS.

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.

## HOLY SATURDAY

**Saturday, April 3:**

**8 PM**

**The Great Easter Vigil** (In Person by reservation).

The Great Easter Vigil is rightly called the "Mother" of all liturgies. It includes the blessing of the new Easter Candle (given this year in loving memory of Louis and Treva Paltrineri), the sung Exultet Prayer, and readings that capture the fullness of God's saving work for humanity. All Easter collections go to support the retired priests of our Archdiocese. Please generously support these men who have given their whole lives in your service.

## EASTER SUNDAY

**Sunday, April 4:**

**7:30 AM**

Church Mass

(In Person by reservation).

**9:30 AM**

Center Hall Mass

(In Person by reservation).

**9:30 AM**

Church Mass

(In Person by reservation).

**11:30 AM**

Church Mass

(In Person by reservation and live-streamed to Facebook & Holliston Cable Access).



## 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 2021 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 than ever due to the pandemic crisis.

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 a Catholic Appeal Envelope, or by donating online at <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/>. Please be sure to identify your parish as St. Mary's, Holliston, so that your gift will count toward your parish's 2021 Appeal 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)

## Easter Collection for Retired Priests



Due to the Pandemic's impact on in-person Mass attendance, St. Mary's 2020 Christmas Mass Collection for Retired Priests was down by 66% from the previous year.

Please help us avoid a repeat of that drop by generously supporting the 2021 Easter Collection for Retired Priests. These good and holy men gave their whole lives in dedicated service to us. Now let us be there for them in their need.

Please mail in or drop off to St. Mary's the special Easter Envelope shown below. Or you may contribute online at <https://clergytrust.org/>. WeShare and Automatic Giving gifts may also be designated for the Easter Collection. Thank you!





# **WE ARE IN A RACE AGAINST TIME, AND IT IS A RACE TO SAVE LIVES**

**By MC SULLIVAN  
Thursday, March 4, 2021**



Much attention has been given to recent statements made about the most recently FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine from Johnson & Johnson by Archbishop Joseph Naumann, chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee of Pro-Life Activities, and Bishop Kevin Rhoades, chair of the conference's Committee on Doctrine.

The Church has always and must always oppose abortion. The use of aborted cell tissue from an abortion performed in the latter half of the 20th century to develop this and other vaccines has raised many questions and concerns about the use of those vaccines.

The Holy See, through the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy for Life has addressed the question of using vaccines that have employed aborted tissue cells in their development or production in the light of the critical need to control and stop COVID-19, as it continues to ravage the global population.

The aborted cell tissue that was used in the development of the COVID vaccine approved last month comes from a morally illicit act. That act occurred in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the abortion was not done with the intention of using the tissue for research or drug development. The circumstances of that act, which we continue to decry as a violation of the sanctity of the gift of life, are significantly distant and remote from where we find ourselves today, in the battle to save the lives of billions of people around the globe, so as to not impute those who might receive the vaccine into the immoral action.

Rather, there is a positive duty to save lives whenever we are able and have the opportunity to do so. In the face of a disease that still threatens the lives and wellbeing of people around the globe, there is an urgent need to get as many people vaccinated as soon as possible. We have a moral obligation to save lives, to support public health and to contribute to the common good.

We look forward to the broad availability of advances in research and technology that now provides for the use of morally acceptably-sourced adult stem cells, and that converts them into pluripotent cells that could preclude the future use of or need for aborted stem cell tissue to develop diagnostics or therapies in the fight against disease.

The presence of new variants of the coronavirus from around the world in our Commonwealth and region has been reported, as has been the case across our country and others. These variants are being studied in "real time," but we are seeing a possible dramatic increase in the transmissibility and the acuity of the coronavirus attributed to them.

It would seem that the only way to stop this disease is to get people vaccinated so that they are immune to the illness before the variants possibly cause or result in a resistance to the vaccine's being effective in stopping the virus.

While the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has seen a general week-to-week and month-over-month trend in an encouraging direction of key indicators, the CDC is reporting a slight upward trend in those same key indicators. An alarming trend which needs to be halted, these reports have the new CDC director calling for even more vigilance in

the safety precautions with which we are all familiar to continue to control the presence of COVID-19 in our communities.

In addition, between the increasingly possible and dangerous impact of these variants on the strides made to this point in the fight against COVID, as well as the possible short to midterm limited duration of naturally acquired immunity in those who have recovered from bouts of the illness early in the pandemic, the possibility of reinfection is an added threat that must be prevented.

It is clear that there is an urgent race against time, in the growing presence of these variants, to get as many people vaccinated as possible and to do that as soon as possible.

People of faith have raised concern about the development of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the newest weapon in the arsenal to fight this dangerous disease, related to the use of aborted stem cell tissue. They are right to raise the question, but it is extremely important to understand that the Church has addressed those concerns, not just with this SARS-2 virus that we call COVID-19, but earlier, at the time the world faced the SARS-1 virus. The teaching related specifically to this issue of vaccines and their sources is not something that was hastily or thoughtlessly constructed in just the last few weeks; rather, it was thoughtfully and carefully analyzed, tested against centuries of moral reasoning, and has been applied for more than a decade.

In fact, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine -- because it can be transported and stored more easily, and because it requires just a single injection to provide immunity to the coronavirus -- will help to boost the efficient and equitable access to immunization in many places around the globe where the logistics of some of the other vaccines could serve as a deterrent to providing the protections that come from vaccination.

As most of the people who have already been vaccinated have discovered, the opportunity to request a specific vaccine is generally not offered to people as they work hard to find and book an appointment for vaccination. They learn what vaccine they're receiving as it is being administered. Whenever, if ever possible, of course, the expectation and hope is that people will request a vaccine that is not morally compromised in its development. We continue to urge the scientific and pharmaceutical research communities to forego the use of aborted tissue cells in research.

Given the challenges to rolling out a vaccination initiative for billions of people globally in the situation where producing and maintaining supplies of the approved vaccines are even more challenging, it is unlikely that the possibility of requesting a specific vaccine will become available to most, if any.

Church teaching about the duty to save lives where possible, which the broad distribution of whatever vaccines deemed safe and effective will help do, should reassure the faithful of the moral permissibility of accepting the available vaccine. We hope that they will ask questions, receive the relevant information about that teaching, and not delay in their acceptance of the vaccination -- whichever approved vaccine is offered -- when it becomes available to them.

**Photo Previous Page:** Seventy-six-year-old Cardinal Sean O'Malley receives his vaccine shot at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Brighton. Both Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict have also been vaccinated.

**This article articulates the position of the Archdiocese of Boston in addressing the vaccines and the desire for everyone to be vaccinated. Reprinted with permission.**







## ST. MARY'S HOSTS VATICAN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT OF EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES ~

From Friday, February 26 through Sunday, February 28, St. Mary's hosted this special exhibit in Father Haley Hall. Since the actual relics and miracles cannot travel, the

exhibit consists of Vatican-approved text and photographs arranged like an art exhibit. What is a Eucharistic miracle? A Eucharistic miracle is any miracle that involves the Eucharist. Catholics believe that the consecrated host used in Holy Communion is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Many of the miracles documented occurred during times of great doubt. The exhibit displayed around forty of the miracles from many countries around the world, including the miracles of Lanciano, Italy, and Santarem, Portugal. These two miracles are considered by many to be the most important miracles involving the Eucharist.

Many thanks to parishioner and Knight of Columbus Jim Merski for organizing this event, and to all the Knights and other volunteers who assisted as guides, greeters, and set-up crew to make it possible. Attendees were invited to write down their thoughts after viewing the Exhibit. Here is what a few of them said.

*"An exhibit such as this should be convincing for all those who ever doubted the true presence of Jesus when they receive Holy Communion. It also stresses the importance of holding sacred all the elements on the altar at the Transubstantiation."*

*"So awesome! Will now see Communion in a more miraculous light."*

*"Really taken by this exhibit. Lots of emotions ran through me. Wasn't aware of all these wonderful miracles. Quite worth it. This should be more published and going to different states."*

*"Fascinating details of the scientific research done on these miracles. Lord, I want to believe."*

*"Wonderful experience to see and read about these miracles. We are also grateful the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed in the St. Mary's Rectory window for prayer during this pandemic."*

*"Very beautifully displayed and very fortunate to be exposed to such great truths even to a doubtful mind. Our ways are not his ways and thoughts are not his thoughts. All of us are in a way doubtful 'Thomases' and exhibitions like these bring us back to what a beautiful faith we have as Catholics!"*

*"Added a lot of spiritual knowledge of Jesus' constant loving presence. I was deeply moved. Thank you."*





# Eucharistic Miracle of BLANOT

FRANCE, 1331

The Eucharistic miracle of Blanot took place during the Easter Mass of 1331. During Communion, a Host fell to a cloth that was held below the communicant's mouth. The priest tried to pick up the Holy Eucharist, but it was not possible. The Host had transformed into Blood, resulting in a stain the same size as the Host, on the cloth. That cloth is preserved today in the village of Blanot.



Monstrance containing the relic of the miracle

LE JOUR DE PÂQUES MCCCXXXI  
HUGUES DE BAUME VICAIRE DE BLANOT  
CÉLÉBRANT LA MESSE  
UNE PARCELLE D'HOSTIE TOMBA  
ET SE TRANSFORMA EN GOUTTE DE SANG  
SUR LA NAPPE DE COMMUNION.  
L'OFFICIAI DE PIERRE BERTRAND  
EVÊQUE D'AUTUN  
FÎT L'ENQUÊTE CANONIQUE.  
LE PAPE JEAN XXII  
ACCORDA DES INDULGENCES

Ancient tombstone that describes the miracle



Parish of Blanot



A 17th century display case containing the cloth stained with blood, preserved in a crystal tube, Blanot



Details of paintings that decorate the Monstrance



View of the village of Blanot



Procession in honor of the miracle

In the 14th Century, Blanot was a small village in the center of France and part of the diocese of Autun. The bishop of this town, Pierre Bertrand, was involved in certain canonical discussions with an official of his curia, Jean Jarossier, which resulted in documentation that gives us many details about this Eucharistic miracle.

The miracle occurred on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1331, at the first Mass of the day, which was offered by Hugues de la Baume, the vicar of Blanot. One of the last people to receive Communion was a woman named Jacqueline, the widow of Regnaud d'Effour. The priest placed the Host on her tongue, turned, and started walking toward the altar. He did not notice that a Particle from the Host fell and landed upon a cloth that

covered the woman's hands. Thomas Caillot, who was assisting at the Mass went to the altar and said: "Father, you must return to the rail because the Body of Our Lord fell from the mouth of this lady onto the cloth."

The priest immediately went to the woman, still kneeling at the railing, but instead of finding the Host on the cloth, he saw a small spot of blood. When Mass was over, the priest took the cloth into the sacristy and placed the stained area in a basin filled with clear water. After washing the spot and scrubbing it numerous times, he found that it had become darker and larger (reaching about the size and shape of a Host). Moreover, the water in the basin turned bloody. The priest took a knife and, after washing the cloth, cut from it the piece bearing the

Bloody imprint of the Host. He held up the Sacred Host and said: "Good people: here is the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I sought in every way to wash and to wring the stain from the cloth, and in no way was I able to do so." This square of cloth was reverently placed in the tabernacle. Every year, on the feast of Corpus Christi, the relic is solemnly exposed in the church of Blanot.

An additional note: The Hosts that remained in the ciborium after the distribution of Holy Communion on that Easter Sunday were also returned to the tabernacle, never to be distributed. Hundreds of years later they were found to have been perfectly preserved.





## Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America  
St. Mary's Parish \* April, 2021

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
(Currently online).

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster  
508.579.4357

Email: [Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com](mailto:Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.hollistonTroop14.com](http://www.hollistonTroop14.com)

St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 is meeting outdoors and online during the Pandemic.

If interested in joining Troop 14, contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for Boys 11-17 years old.

**TROOP MEETINGS:** Troop 14 continues to hold weekly virtual meetings and we are hopeful we can start meeting in person soon and resume campouts as the Governor continues to release COVID restrictions. A few highlights of the things we are doing at our Troop Meetings over the past couple months:

- Scouts completed the Salesmanship Merit Badge which included a virtual visit by Grace Bicycle owner Roy Cervantes who talked to the Scouts about his business and answered many questions from the Scouts.
- Scouts continued working on requirements for various rank advancement.
- Scouts started working on two merit badges, Architecture and Law, taught by an Architect and a Lawyer respectively.
- On February 22, the Troop held the first of several Diversity and Inclusion presentations and discussions that will be held throughout the coming year.
- Scouts held a couple of virtual recruitment meetings for Second Year Webelos Scouts who will be deciding which Scout Troop they want to join later this Spring.

**COURT OF HONOR - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8:** Troop 14 held its Winter Court of Honor in St. Mary's Church so Scouts and their families could socially distance, while others participated via Facebook livestream. The evening began with a BSA Charter ceremony led by Rob Pomponio, Metacomet District Commissioner, Mayflower Council resulting in the presentation of the BSA Charter to St. Mary's Church, represented by Father Mark. (Photo below left). The Charter grants St. Mary's the right to continue using the Scouting program for the next year. It also obliges the Troop to live according to the ideals of Scouting, and to support Scouting as a major youth program for St. Mary's Parish.



BSA membership cards were distributed to the Scouts and leaders. Troop 14 Scouts earned a total of 34 merit badges since October with seven Scouts advancing in rank, including Rudy DeMeo and Luke Roberto – Second Class; Jack Baribeau and Colby Magoon – First Class; Andrew McWilliams – Star; Adam Dunnagan and Ryan Lukowiak – Life. (Photo above right).

**WINTER SNOWSHOEING HIKE AT ROCKY WOODS IN MEDFIELD:** On February 20, Troop 14 set out for a hike at Rocky Woods. Nine Scouts and three leaders were among the first to break the trail after 8 inches of fresh snow fell a couple days earlier. (Photo below). The 4-mile hike brought the Scouts around a couple ponds and up Tower Hill where they could see Gillette Stadium off in the distance. After the hike they built a big fire and had some hot chocolate to warm up, then shoveled off snow from a pond to play some hockey. The day ended after eating a well-deserved hot cooked meal.





## ASHES RECEIVED

Most of St. Mary's February 17 Ash Wednesday Services were at near pandemic capacity, as hundreds of the faithful came to mark the beginning of Lent. The 9 AM Mass that day was also livestreamed to Facebook and Holliston Cable Access. Due to the pandemic, ashes were distributed by ministers wearing plastic gloves and using six-inch Q-Tips. Catholics receive ashes as an acknowledgement of our mortality and ultimate dependence on God. They are also a sign that we intend to repent of sin through the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. A well-kept Lent readies us to experience fully the grace and joy of Easter.



## Women in WINGS God's spirit

*Are You Feeling Empty?  
Give yourself the gift of God's Grace.*

"As a woman in today's world, as a wife and mother of children ages 19, 12 and 10, life can sometimes seem overwhelming. For this reason, it is so important to me to grow in faith beyond the Sunday Mass. Wings is such a beautiful ministry that nurtures my weary spirit. The speakers each season breathe life into me. After each gathering there is always a takeaway that spiritually nourishes me. The women of Wings are a beautiful mix of younger women and older women who walk side by side in faith. There is such importance of multigenerational women fellowship. We need each other to model lives of grace and holiness, to speak truth and understanding. I encourage all you exhausted, stressed, busy women to carve out the time to feed your soul by attending a Wings meeting! Currently Wings meets on Zoom. Perfect for those with children at home who would normally find it difficult to attend in person." - Lisa Dufault, St. Mary's Parishioner, WINGS member



Save the Date: St. Mary's  
WINGS Spring Season  
**Recognizing God's  
Grace in our Lives**  
Wednesdays,  
March 17 – April 14, 2021  
10:00 - 11:00 AM via ZOOM

The WINGS Spring Season is also known as the faith focus season. This speaker series program enables women to discern ways of putting faith into action in their personal life, family life, community and the world. Women of all ages are encouraged to participate in WINGS. Email: [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com) to sign up or call Jennifer Schiller 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins 508-259-7795 with questions. If you have received our Fall, Advent and Winter Zoom links, you will automatically be sent the link for the Spring program.



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 April, 2021

## MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be  
Wednesday, April 21.

This Rosary will be a  
group "ZOOM" at 7 PM.  
"ZOOM" details will be  
sent to all Council Knights.



**Grand Knight:** Albert Scaramella  
**Deputy Grand Knight:** Tom Anguish



## STATE WINNER IN "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" POSTER

**CONTEST:** The Council congratulates Eleanor Browne of Medway who took second place in the state-wide finals for her poster submitted in the age 11-14 group.

**COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD BY "ZOOM":** Due to COVID-19, the Council recites the Rosary and holds the business meeting via "ZOOM". We hope to meet in person as soon as COVID-19 protocols allow.

## SUPREME KNIGHT RETIRING AND THE FOURTEENTH SUPREME

**KNIGHT ELECTED:** After twenty years in leadership of the Knights of Columbus, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson is retiring this month and the Supreme

Board of Directors elected Patrick Kelly as the fifteenth Supreme Knight. The Installation of Patrick Kelly took place on March 1, 2021. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson served three Popes, expanded the Knights to two million members worldwide, and established new programs honoring charity, family life, protecting new life, and led the Knights effort to beatify founder Father Michael McGivney. Our Council thanks Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and welcomes Supreme Knight Elect Patrick Kelly, photo left.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2021:** All St. Mary's men eighteen and older who are practicing Catholics in good standing 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 membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR [ajscaramella@comcast.net](mailto:ajscaramella@comcast.net) OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus). On-line membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council. A special is offered for new e-members-annual dues are waived till June 30, 2021 by using the coupon code MCGIVNEY2020 when signing up online for membership.

**PHOTO RIGHT:** Shown from left to right, Knights Jim Merski, Henry Febo, Nick Calapa, and Richard Masson helped unload and set up St. Mary's Lenten Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit in Father Haley Hall. Full pandemic procedures were put in place, with hand sanitizer, guiding arrows placed six feet apart, and of course a mask requirement. The displays were also spaced out widely to create more social distancing. The Eucharist of course does just the opposite – bringing us all closer to God and one another in love.





# ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

## APRIL 2021

got faith?



**SEASONAL READINGS:** Easter is upon us, this year celebrated on April 4. And while we have been fasting liturgically for a year now with strict rules around attendance and the reception of communion, no congregational singing, and other modified practices and procedures, the feast, and season, of Easter remind us that we are a people of joy. Alleluias return and the Responsorial Psalm for Easter day, Psalm 118, has as its refrain “*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad*”. Indeed, we rejoice for Jesus

has risen, conquering sin and death. Interestingly, on three out of the four Sundays in April, including Easter Sunday itself and then on April 11 and April 25, Psalm 118 is the psalm that we pray following the first reading. This psalm is one of the *Egyptian Hallel* psalms, sung by Jewish people on Passover to give thanks to God for their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. You can read a brief talk on Psalm 118 by Pope St. John Paul II at <http://bit.ly/Psalm118JPII>. To prepare for the readings, go to <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

**AMORIS LAETITIA:** *Amoris Laetitia* Year, was announced by Pope Francis on March 19, 2021 and will continue until June 26, 2022 when the Tenth World Meeting of Families will take place in Rome. One of the stated objectives of the year is to share the contents of the Pope’s 2016 post-synodal exhortation on love in the family, *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*), more widely. *Amoris Laetitia* was written after the 2014 Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Family and the 2015 Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the same topic. You can find a copy of the document on the Vatican website at <http://bit.ly/AMORISLAETITIA>. The US Bishops posted material about *Amoris Laetitia* on their website, <http://bit.ly/USCCBAmorisLaetitia>. The information posted there includes official statements, a sampling of articles about the document and a section of Frequently Asked Questions. Finally, here is the Vatican site dedicated to the *Amoris Laetitia* Year: <http://bit.ly/FamilyLifeVatican>.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Earth Day is April 22, 2021, the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of this day of environmental action. Due to the pandemic, the annual Framingham Earth Day Festival has been cancelled. However, you can go to the official Earth Day website, <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/>, and find a list of 51 ways to restore our earth. Tip #40 is “Turn off and unplug electronics you’re not using. This includes turning off your computer at night.”

**SAINTS:** During the month of April we remember two very important saints in the Roman calendar: St. Mark the Evangelist (April 25) and St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church (April 29). You can find information about Sts. Mark and Catherine, as well as all of the saints, on the Franciscan Media site, <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day>.

**YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST:** In January, a small group of St. Mary’s parishioners met to discuss Pope Benedict’s Eucharistic exhortation, *Sacramentum Caritatis* (<https://bit.ly/SacramentumCaritatis>). One of the highlights of the discussion was the reminder that “in the Eucharist Jesus does not give us a ‘thing’, but himself...and reveals the ultimate origin of this love” (7). A second important point was found in the next paragraph, where we are called to realize that the God that we meet in the Eucharist is none other than the love that is the Trinity, the love that is a perfect communion of Father, Son and Spirit; it is “God’s whole life” that we encounter and share in this sacrament (8). A third significant element of the discussion centered on the fact that this love is to be extended to others: “The love that we celebrate in the sacrament is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature, it demands to be shared with all.” (84) Finally, it was enlightening, and perhaps challenging, to see our parish mission in this document: “Truly, nothing is more beautiful than to know Christ and to make him known to others.” (84) --Leo Racine