

ST. MARY'S PARISH



HOLLISTON, MASSACHUSETTS



SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:11-18

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down
his life for the sheep."*



St. Mary's Parish



Mass Schedule:

Monday through Friday
9:00 AM

Saturday Vigils
5:00 PM
7:30 PM

Sunday
7:30 AM
9:30 AM Family Mass
(C.L.O.W. Sept. – May)
11:30 AM Sung Mass

Holy Days: Announced

Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays from
9:30 - 10:30 AM.

Our Mission:

“To know Christ and to make Him known.”

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com
Email Address: parish@stmarysholliston.org
Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427
Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

Dear Visitors: Welcome! We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this day. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and if you are interested in becoming a member of the parish then please register through our website or by calling the rectory. Please also be aware that for generations it has been the custom at St. Mary's to kneel together for a silent Hail Mary at the end of Mass. Please join in!

Confession: Saturdays
Noon to 12:45 PM.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time by appointment. Please call as soon as you are aware of a serious illness or upcoming surgery.

Baptism: The 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month. To register for Baptism Preparation, call 429-4427. Welcome to Christ!

Marriage: Please call at least 6 months in advance of your desired wedding date. Congratulations!

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Ronald A. Dowding, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon
Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7
Mrs. Lisa Dufault, HS Youth Minister
Ms. Abigail Kelley-Lanser, Director of Music
Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Jennifer Burgett, Religious Education Secretary
Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager
Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan
Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities
R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care



CROWNING OF MARY:

Our parish will celebrate the May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the 11:30 AM Mass next Sunday.

This beautiful tradition serves as public recognition of Mary as the Queen of Heaven and Earth, symbolizing her unique role in the history of salvation. By placing a crown of blossoms upon her statue, we honor her “yes” to God and invite her maternal protection over our community during this month dedicated to her grace. We thank our 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders for sponsoring this annual event!

MASS INTENTIONS:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Saturday | April 25 |
| 5:00 | Patrick Keane |
| 7:30 | Carmen Chiango |
| Sunday | April 26 |
| 7:30 | Antoinetta Calabrese |
| 9:30 | People of St. Mary's |
| 11:30 | Marty Breinlinger's 50 th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving |
| Monday | April 27 |
| 9:00 | Giuseppe and Assunta Bomba |
| Tuesday | April 28 |
| 9:00 | Special Intention |
| Wednesday | April 29 |
| 9:00 | Joseph Sgarano |
| Thursday | April 30 |
| 9:00 | Holy Souls in Purgatory |
| Friday | May 1 |
| 9:00 | Fr. Salman and the People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour |
| Saturday | May 2 |
| 5:00 | Wanda Peloquin |
| 7:30 | Mission Trip Mass |
| Sunday | May 3 |
| 7:30 | People of St. Mary's |
| 9:30 | George J. Bourque, 15 th Anv. |
| 11:30 | Crowning of Mary |



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today at the 11:30 AM Mass, we have the special joy of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Ordination of Deacon Marty Breinlinger. Marty (Marty) Breinlinger was ordained to the diaconate on May 22, 1976. His was the first Class of Permanent Deacons to be ordained in the Archdiocese of Boston after that ministry was restored by Vatican II.

Marty's training took place at St. John's seminary. After ordination, he received a certificate in Pastoral Ministry from Emmanuel College. He has served at St. Mary's in Holliston since ordination. He and his wife, Mary Alice, were also involved in Family Life Ministry for the Archdiocese for many years.

Here in the parish, Deacon Marty has been involved in the RCIA program, Ministry to the Divorced and Separated, Adult Faith Formation, and Religious Education. Currently he is directing our Ministry to the Homebound.

Marty has served and preached countless Masses, Baptized generations of babies, married, buried, and been a friend and counselor to all. It has been a true gift to have him as a collaborator in ministry for the past two decades. During that time, he has always impressed me by his incredible commitment to his faith, his generosity, and his patience (including with me when I arrived at St. Mary's to be a pastor for the first time).

Today we thank God and Marty for the gift his ministry has been to all of us. Well done good and faithful servant.

AD MULTOS ANNOS!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



VIRTUE'S VOICE

Reflections on Faith and Freedom

ST. MARY'S IN HOLLISTON

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL



FRIDAY, MAY 29 | 7:00 PM

Join us for the return of our annual Spring Choir Concert, celebrating the United States' 250th Anniversary and the virtues that uphold the dignity of all people.

ST. MARY'S MUSIC MINISTRY

ABIGAIL KELLEY-LANSER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE HOLLISTON CULTURAL COUNCIL,
A LOCAL AGENCY WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL, A STATE AGENCY.

STEWARDSHIP

"A Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."



PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Automatic Giving: | \$ 3,456.50 |
| WeShare: | \$ 3,600.93 |
| Offertory Envelopes: | \$ 6,800.00 |
| Total Offertory: | \$ 13,857.43 |
| Weekly Need | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Shortfall: | \$ 1,142.57 |

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support. The fiscal health of your parish depends on it. Kindly consider switching to WeShare or Automatic Giving. See: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.



2026 CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE:

Dollar Goal: 100%
Donor Goal: 86%

Thank you to all who have already made their Appeal Gift. We have made our parish's assigned goal, in part due to a \$25,000 gift from a single family. We are very grateful to them and to all who have done what they could.

The challenge now is that 14% of those who donated last year have not done so yet, and many more families still have never donated.

No one is asked to do more than they can, but all are asked to do **something** - according to their means - to support the good works of our Catholic Church.



Printed Appeal materials are available outside the Religious Education Office. Please use them, or visit: <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/>. Thank you!

On Good Shepherd Sunday,

the Church invites us to contemplate the profound connection between the Risen Christ and His flock. In the Gospel of John, Jesus does not merely claim to guide us; He declares, *"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*



This imagery is a revelation of God's sacrificial love. The shepherd does not view the sheep as property or a commodity, but as a community known by name. In an age filled with competing "voices" - the noise of social media, the pressures of secular success, and the whispers of our own anxieties - the spiritual challenge of this Sunday is to refine our hearing so we can recognize the singular, steady voice of the One who leads us to "green pastures."

The spiritual significance of this Sunday lies in the concept of belonging. We belong to a God who actively seeks the lost and protects the vulnerable. To be a member of Christ's flock is to surrender the illusion of self-sufficiency. It is an acknowledgment that, left to our own devices, we often wander into thickets of sin or toward the cliffs of despair. The Good Shepherd provides a sense of security that the world cannot offer - a security rooted not in the absence of danger, but in the presence of a Protector who has already conquered death. In the words of St. Francis de Sales:

"Trust God that you are where you are in His fatherly care and design. Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear; rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God, whose you are, will deliver you out of them."

Living as the flock of the Good means cultivating silence to distinguish the Shepherd's voice from the "thieves and robbers" who seek to lead us astray. This is achieved through a consistent life of prayer and the Sacraments.

This Sunday is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We are called to pray for those who share in Christ's pastoral ministry - our priests, deacons, and religious. Furthermore, every baptized Christian is called to be a "shepherd" in their own sphere, looking out for the "lost sheep" in their families, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

As we receive the Eucharist today, let us ask for grace to follow the Shepherd wherever He leads, trusting that even the darkest valleys are merely paths toward the eternal refreshing waters of His kingdom.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 18th ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: The Knights have begun selling tickets to their Annual Charity Raffle. The proceeds from this raffle go to local charities such as the Holliston [Senior] Center, O'Connell House, Homes for our Troops, and the Doug Flutie Foundation for Autism. One ticket is \$5 and a book of five for \$20. First prize is \$1,000. The raffle drawing will take place at the K of C Golf tournament on June 26. Knights will sell tickets at Shaw's in Medway on May 22 and 23; at Roche Bros. in Millis on May 15 and 16; and at Shaw's in Ashland on June 6 and 7. The direct contact to purchase raffle tickets is stmaryshollistonkofc@gmail.com.

FY26 CORIs NOW DUE: It is that time of year again! CORIs must be renewed each year for all St. Mary's volunteers, along with reviewing the RCAB Code of Conduct. If you have not already completed your FY26 CORI, you can complete these forms in the Religious Education office.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES & FATIMA FROM OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE: We are organizing a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima from September 1 - 10, 2026. It will cost \$3,974.00 double occupancy, including all meals, tips, and local travel. It will be a marvelous opportunity to bring our prayers of peace and unity in our world today to Our Lady in very special ways. Contact our office at 508-429-2144 or holliston@xaverianmissionaries.org. You can also contact Fr. Carl Chudy for more information at cchudy@xaverianmissionaries.org.

FOR THOSE IN NEED

A REQUEST FROM OUR DAUGHTER PARISH: St. Joseph's Medway Homeless Ministry is looking for volunteers to join our Monday evening outreach! We travel to Boston from 5 - 8 PM to bring food and clothing to the homeless. We are looking for additional drivers to join our rotating team. No weekly commitment is required - serve as your schedule allows. Contact St. Joseph's Parish Center for more details at 508-533-7771. God bless you.



THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by the Harris Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Please call Mary Beth at 508-429-4427 to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life.

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: Food items needed at the Pantry: white vinegar (16 oz), juice boxes (apple, orange, fruit punch), canned regular coffee (11 oz), canned decaf coffee (11 oz), Chips Ahoy Cookies, Ritz crackers (13.7 oz Box), and canned beets (16 oz). Donations may be dropped off in the tan bin by the main parking lot doors right here at St. Mary's, or to the bins outside 73 Charles Street.

FOR EVERYONE

On Saturday, May 16, all are invited to attend a very special presentation by miracle recipient Deacon Jack Sullivan which will be followed by a Healing Service in the church. The event starts at 1 PM in the church. The Healing Service is from 2 - 2:30 PM. On August 15, 2001, Deacon Jack Sullivan was healed from a crippling spinal disorder after praying for the intercession of Cardinal John Henry Newman. His sudden, complete recovery was presented to the Vatican as part of its investigation into the beatification of Cardinal Newman. On July 3, 2009 Pope Benedict XVI announced that the healing was in fact a miracle which led to Newman's beatification in England on September 19, 2010. Deacon Sullivan participated as a Deacon in John Henry Newman's beatification Mass with Pope Francis as celebrant. Cardinal Newman was later canonized as a saint by Pope Francis on October 13, 2019. In his presentation, Deacon Sullivan will speak about his miraculous healing, his devotion to Saint John Henry Newman and the subsequent healings he has been blessed to be a part of, here and abroad, through the intercession of St. John Henry Newman. After his presentation, Deacon Sullivan will lead a healing service for all, followed by individual blessings for those seeking St. Newman's help. Deacon Sullivan has the only first-class relic of St. John Henry Newman other than the original relic in the UK and will bring the relic with him to the healing service.

FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us **this Tuesday, April 28 from 9:45 - 11 AM**, in Fr. Haley Hall as we pray together, read reflections by the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome with toys and coloring activities available. For information, please contact Lauren Onak at 954-803-9942.



WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): The 3rd meeting of our WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) 2026 Spring Season "One Body - Living Faith in a Fragmented World" is this Wednesday, April 29 at 10 AM in Father Haley Hall and over Zoom. Our speaker will be Jennifer Schiller, WINGS founder and writer of the blog [Choosing Joy](#). Jen will help us reflect on "The Dignity of the Invisible" by sharing her experience ministering to incarcerated women over the past seven years. These women have lived in tragic life circumstances but have never lost the virtue of hope. Babysitting is available; please register in advance. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.

FOR MEN

Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN: Our next **Cor** meeting will take place on Thursday, May 28. We will meet as usual in Fr. Haley Hall at 7 PM. This is our final meeting of the 2026 Spring season. The topic for the evening will be the Sacraments.

In previous meetings, we covered the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. In our next meeting we will discuss the remaining five sacraments of the Catholic Church. We will also talk about how the Sacraments are much more than they may appear on the surface, with each conferring unique spiritual benefits.

The mission of **Cor** is to provide Catholic men an opportunity to gather together and support each other as they seek to deepen their relationships with God through scripture, catechesis, prayer and small group discussions. All men of St. Mary's parish age 18 and older are welcome to join us for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

FOR OUR YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP! Our next TGIF Meeting is Tonight, **Chipotle Night**, (Note - Dues Will Be \$10 For This Meeting), Sunday, April 26, from 7 - 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall (bring a friend)! TGIF is open to ALL TEENS in Grades 9 - 12. For more information contact Lisa Dufault at tgif@stmarysholliston.org.



Mission Trip Paperwork Reminder: Mission Trip Paperwork Packets are due **TONIGHT**, at our TGIF meeting. Please also fill out the R & R Google Form as soon as possible. The link was emailed out April 1 and you can also view today's online bulletin at www.stmarysholliston.com for the link [Mission Trip R & R Form](#).



Also, Sign-Up tonight for the TGIF Boston Red Sox Trip on Sunday, May 24. Come cheer on the Red Sox as they take on the Minnesota Twins. More details in the TGIF mailing (this information was also emailed).



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP! Our End of Year Parent Potluck Meeting is Sunday, May 17, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM! Parents of our MSYG teens are invited to come and enjoy the night, which includes an awesome MSYG Slideshow. Raft-mate Sign-Ups and Brownstone Quarry Sign-Ups will take place at the May 17 Meeting.

On Friday, May 1, our 8th Graders will host a BINGO Event at Timothy Daniel's Nursing Home. And don't forget about the Giant Three Town Scavenger Hunt on Friday, May 15!



CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: The children will be dismissed to the lower church hall to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel. **Please note:** Younger children must be accompanied by their parents and able to sit and engage in the lesson. Older children are welcome to assist the adult leaders.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:

| DAY | GRADE | GRADE |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Sun., April 26 | CGS-B at 8:00 AM | GR-1 at 8:10 AM |
| | GR-4 at 10:45 AM | GR-5 at 10:45 AM |
| | GR-6 at 4:00 PM | |
| Mon., April 27 | GR-3 at 4:00 PM* | GR-5 at 4:00 PM* |
| | GR-8 at 7:00 PM | |
| Tues., April 28 | GR-4 at 4:00 PM | GR-6 at 4:00 PM |
| | GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM | |
| Wed., April 29 | GR-2 at 4:15 PM | GR-4 at 4:00 PM |
| | GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM | |
| Thur., April 30 | GR-8 at 7:00 PM | |

GRADES 3 AND 5 CLASS SESSION ON OUR BLESSED MOTHER ~ MONDAY, APRIL 27 AT 4:00 PM: Grade 3 and 5 students will come to Fr. Haley Hall to learn about our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Our Lady of Guadalupe and pray the Rosary together. All are welcome.

EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN SAFETY SESSION FOR GRADE 4: Any family wishing to Opt-Out their child must complete and submit an Opt-Out form to the Religious Education Office.

- Grade 4 - Tuesday, April 28 / Wed., April 29

PARISH MAY DEVOTION SPONSORED BY GRADES 3, 4 AND 5 CHILDREN: The May Devotion will take place on **Sunday, May 3 following the 11:30 AM Mass.** Children and families are to bring their Rosary beads and flowers. We will pray one decade of the Rosary during this devotion and honor Mary for her "Yes" to God's divine plan for our salvation. Everyone is welcome to join in this beautiful devotion.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 20 – 24

WHO: Children entering Kindergarten through Grade 6. Teens entering Grade 7 and up and Adults are needed as volunteers.



WHEN: July 20 - 24, 2026, 9 AM to 12:00 Noon.

COST: \$75/child, \$200/family max. Tuition assistance available if needed.

REGISTRATION: Open now through June 1, but our max is 100 campers. Use QR Code or click: <https://forms.gle/DfxUbFgn41QtqM7V7>

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) OPEN HOUSE ~ SUNDAY, MAY 3 FROM 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM: The parish community and families are welcome to come and view the Atrium where the children experience the Montessori model for faith formation at age 3 to 5 years old. Children already know at this tender age that God is real. If you have young preschool children, consider registering them for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program in the Fall. Classes will begin in October. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for dates and times. Ask about the opportunity to be trained as a CGS Catechist or Assistant. The reward is satisfying partnering on a child's faith journey!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR 2026-2027: Our classes for this year will soon be ending and planning for next year has started. There will be an opportunity to register online this year for your children's faith formation. The staff is working now to put this option together along with next year's schedule for CGS through Grade 8. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for notices regarding registrations in the month to come.