

Ash Wednesday February 14

6:45 AM Liturgy
9:00 AM Mass
4:00 PM Liturgy
5:30 PM Liturgy
7:00 PM Mass



Ashes will be distributed
at all five celebrations.
Our Lenten Journey begins.
Forty Days of grace.
A time to turn back to the Lord.



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 9:30 - 10:30 AM,
Thursdays in Lent 7 - 8 PM

Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com
Email Address: St.marys1870@gmail.com
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,
Thursdays in Lent 7 - 8 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.

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
 Ms. Abigail Kelley-Lanser, Organist, 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

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

Catholic Charities, serving the poor.

LAST SUNDAY’S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 6,729.50
 WeShare: \$ 5,390.31
 Offertory Envelopes
 Dropped/mailed
 to the office: \$ 8,325.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 20,444.81

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/>.



JOIN US FOR MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP and THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES:

How can we make our marriages more intimate and fruitful? Do we truly take the time to communicate to our spouses in the way they wish to receive it? It is generally believed

that there are five dominant ways in which any of us wish to demonstrate and receive love. St. Mary’s Marriage Fellowship will be gathering with Deacon John Barry to learn about five unique approaches of giving and receiving love by analyzing the book “The Five Love Languages” by Gary Chapman. Please join us for a monthly couples retreat each 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:30 - 8 PM in Sr. Ricci House. By identifying the preferred way in which your partner wishes to receive love, you can contribute to a more meaningful and intimate connection with your spouse and enhance your relationship. Nurturing and fun childcare will be provided by parish teens. We would love to see you at our next meeting this Thursday, February 15.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 10
5:00	Holton Hewitt
7:30	Ray Finn
Sunday	February 11
7:30	People of St. Mary’s
9:30	Marie Sweeney
11:30	Grade 5 Healing Mass
Monday	February 12
9:00	Levon Francis Charlson
Tuesday	February 13
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory

ASH WEDNESDAY



FASTING: Catholics over eighteen and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the obligation of fasting. **Ash Wednesday** and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

ABSTINENCE: Catholics over fourteen years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on **Ash Wednesday** and the Fridays of Lent. On abstinence days, meat may not be used at all. Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended. Commendable, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the concept of “mortification.”

Thursday	February 15
9:00	Helen Medwid, 4 th Anv.
Friday	February 16
9:00	Paul T. Shea
Saturday	February 17
5:00	Theresa Feloney
7:30	John Collins, 19 th Anv.
Sunday	February 18
7:30	Isaac DeGuzman
9:30	People of St. Mary’s
11:30	Donald Parnell

~ For Our Youth ~

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



MSYG LAST WEEKEND: Thank you to all who made the Friday, February 2 Luau Dance a huge success! Over \$ 2,300 was made toward our Summer 2024 Middle School Youth Group Adventure Trips! Congratulations to the Boys who on Sunday, February 4 won the 17th Annual Youth Group Battle of the Sexes Competition! (Victory photo top right). Congratulations also to the Girls for a hard and well fought effort! Congratulations to *both* for the reverent and beautiful Intercessory Prayer Service that started out the Meeting. It was so special to pass the Cross that Cardinal Sean blessed for our St. Mary's Youth Groups!

MSYG COMING EVENTS:

- Tuesday, Feb. 20:** HC Cathedral, Quincy Market, and Blue Man Group Trip.
- Friday, March 1:** Host the St. Paul's Boy Choir for a pre-concert dinner.
- Sunday, March 3:** Monthly Meeting, 6:30 – 8 PM (Homeless Sandwich Making Project).



TGIF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



TGIF LAST WEEKEND: Thank you to all who volunteered to make lunches for the homeless on Saturday, February 3. Each lunch bag was beautifully decorated with affirming messages and Bible quotes – feeding the soul as well as the body!

TEENS GATHER IN FAITH COMING EVENTS:

DATES TBD: Young Men's Bible Study. TGIF Youth Leader Ryan Kramer (photo right) will be offering a Bible Study for young men (aged 14-18) who desire to grow closer to God and learn more about the faith. The Bible Study will be focused on who God is and why He is essential for our lives.

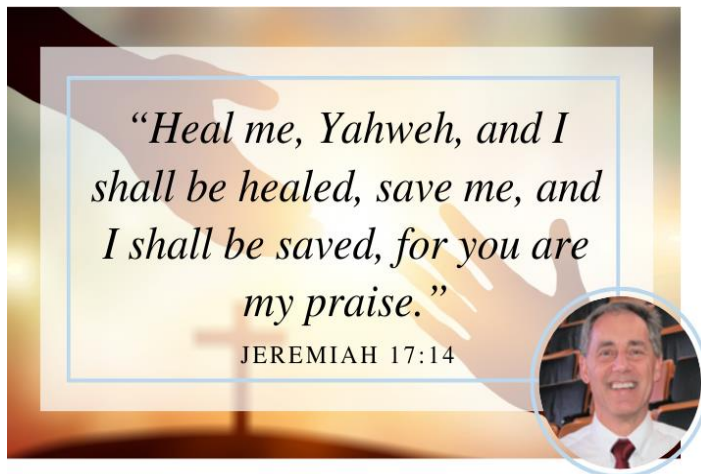


The study will focus on an examination of Catholic teachings in the scriptures as well as how we can pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ. If interested, please email st.marystgif1870@gmail.com. A time will be set up once we have a participant's list and consult with all interested teens.



- Sunday, Feb. 25:** TGIF Monthly Meeting, 7 – 8:45 PM.
- Saturday, March 9:** Homeless Lunch Making, Shelter Tour, and Mall Scavenger Hunt.
- Sunday, March 17:** Mississippi Mission Trip Mass, 11:30 AM.

ANNUAL MASS OF ANNOINTING TODAY: On this date, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Church marks the World Day of the Sick. At the 11:30 AM Mass, helped by our 5th Graders, St. Mary's will offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anyone diagnosed with a serious illness is invited to receive this holy sacrament as a source of hope, strength and healing (James 5:13-15). Anyone needing a ride to the Healing Mass should contact Religious Education at 429-6076. Thank you to our 5th Graders for the beautiful posters they made to advertise this celebration!



WINGS WINTER SEASON (Women in God's Spirit): Our WINGS Winter Bible Study in person and via Zoom continues this week, Ash Wed., February 14 at 10:15 AM. (Note the later time for this week only to accommodate 9 AM Ash Wed. Mass goers). Our speaker will be Ron Dowding. Ron is currently a Deacon at St. Mary's Parish. WINGS is using Kevin Perrotta's book *Becoming a Praying Person* as our study guide. This week's chapter 3: "A Prophet Wrestles with God" focuses on Jeremiah 12:1-5; 15:15-20; 17:14-18; and 20:7-9. These readings may be found here. Please join us even if you don't have access to the study book. Babysitting is available. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Diane @508-259-7795.

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, February 13 from 10:30 AM - 12 noon in Fr. Haley Hall. Every week, we will pray together, read reflections according to the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome, there will be a few toys and coloring activities available. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Contact 508-429-4427 with any questions.

BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES: February is World Marriage Month, and at all Masses on the weekend of February 24 and 25 a special blessing will be offered to all married persons present. As is our custom at St. Mary's, the couple at each Mass present together and married the longest will be presented with roses. In honoring these couples, we honor all our married couples, and allow all at the Masses to witness married love that with God's help has flourished and endured.

SAVE THE DATES NOW FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024:

St. Mary's invites you to participate in our St. Mary's 17th Annual Vacation Bible School "SCUBA - Diving into friendship with God!" from July 22 - 26, 9 AM to 12 PM, Monday through Friday. Dive below the surface to build a strong Faith.

Take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about! As always, space is limited to one hundred kids on a first-come basis. Let's dive deep!

CARITAS IN VERITATE (CHARITY IN TRUTH): Last month, a group of parishioners read and discussed Pope Benedict's encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth)*. This encyclical, released in 2009 during the world-wide banking and financial crisis, is a "revisiting" of and a theological reflection on the themes of Pope St. Paul VI's 1967 encyclical *Populorum Progressio, On the Development of Peoples*. In *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict tells us that the authentic development of people needs to be seen as holistic in nature; development can only truly happen if there is a recognition of the spiritual nature of humans. Pope Benedict does not have his head in the sand; he believes in the necessity of technology, economics and material progress. However, he also clearly states that these need to be in the service of the common good of all people, a statement very much in tune with Catholic social teaching and papal writing before and after him. In the encyclical's conclusion, Pope Benedict writes that [w]ithout God man neither knows which way to go, or even understands who he is" (78). This appears to be the true focus of *Caritas in Veritate*, as Pope Benedict, and our Catholic faith, sees God as the beginning and end point of our human lives.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Mongelli Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. If you wish to sponsor the Rose in 2024 please call the Rectory at 429-4427.



Blessing
of Married
Couples



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

"Do everything for the glory of God." This is St. Paul's advice to us in today's second reading, an invitation to shine the spotlight away from ourselves and onto God. Our human instinct is to show off our own accomplishments and seek the approval and praise of other people – heaping glory upon ourselves.

The Christian, though, is called to give the credit, the praise, the glory to God in all things great and small. It is in this way that we become the very conduits for the grace of God. God is the creator of all. God has no need for our glory, so when we offer it to Him He enhances it and reflects it back on us and we become luminous in His light – beacons of His love in the world. The leper healed by Jesus in today's Gospel did this when he praised God for his good health, and in sickness or in health we are called to glorify God, proclaiming His goodness even when we are afflicted, even when His presence is difficult to discern.

Today, February 11, is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and also the World Day of the Sick. Sickness is a very particular opportunity to glorify God. When sickness is deliberately united with the suffering of Christ Himself, the witness and power of faith becomes brilliant and unmistakable. To quote Pope Benedict XVI, *"every trial accepted with resignation is meritorious and draws divine goodness upon the whole of humanity."*

I will never forget how humbled I was when a Poor Claire nun I knew was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease and promised to offer her sickness as a prayer for all the priests who said Mass for their community, myself included. During the months of her decline a serenity and a light surrounded her that is probably the closest thing I have ever seen to the glory of God.

Let us continue to commend our sick brothers and sisters to God in prayer, to seek the Anointing of the Sick for anyone facing a serious illness, and in all things, in sickness or in health, to give God the glory in our lives.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



SAINT MARY'S LENTEN PRAYER



**Loving God,
during this sacred season of Lent,
bring me closer to You.**

**Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence
and solitude, so that I may re-discover
the grace of a prayer filled life.**

**Help me to fast from those things that threaten
the well-being of body and soul,
and remind me of the grace of simplicity.**

**Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need
and, in so doing, rediscover
the grace of gratitude and generosity.**

**May this season be a grace-filled time
to rekindle my love and faith in You.**

Amen.

MEETING JESUS ~ LENTEN OFFERINGS

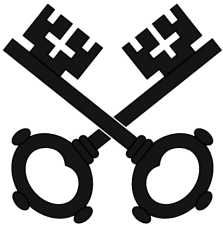


**MEET HIM WITH THE
SISTERS OF LIFE ~
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

Lenten Holy Hour with the Sisters of Life - Thursday, February 15 at 7:00 PM at St. Mary's Church in Holliston, MA.

This Lent, St. Mary's is excited to host the Sisters of Life for a special talk and Holy Hour, with a reception to follow. This will be a beautiful opportunity for prayer, contemplation, and fellowship with the Sisters of Life - a vibrant and thriving religious order doing courageous work to support a culture of life. Enjoy live music performed by the Sisters, a Lenten reflection by them, spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and gather for fellowship and refreshments afterward in Fr. Haley Hall.

This evening is being offered in conjunction with St. Benedict's, and high attendance is expected. IT IS THEREFORE A TICKETED EVENT, WITH PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. You may register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holy-hour-with-the-sisters-of-life-tickets-775640831607?aff=oddtcreator>.



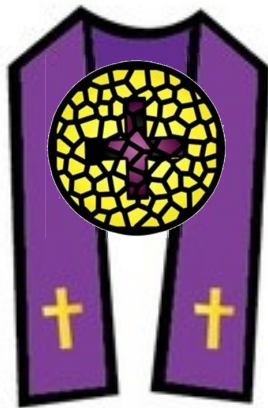
MEET HIM ON THE ROAD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 ~

Join us for a Lenten Retreat Hour from 10:30 - 11:30 AM in St. Mary's Church. *[A special 9 AM Mass at St. Mary's will precede this event]*. Deacon John Barry will Expose the Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration. During this time of prayer, he will offer the reflection, "Lent – The Road To Hope!" We live in a world where attachment to material things, status, work and even loved ones can dominate our attention and confine our spiritual life. The things we have become attached to, if they are not of God, can enslave us and lead us away from the Lord and His plan for our holiness. Some of our unnatural attachments may arise from suppressed emotional wounds or from misconceptions about our true identity and our purpose in life. Our retreat will focus on reclaiming who we are and recognizing some potentially unhealthy attachments. By shifting our thinking, and our habits of excess during the Lenten season, we can open pathways for God's grace to help us in our journey toward freedom and a holier and more meaningful life.

MEET HIM IN ADORATION AND A GOOD CONFESSION ~

In addition to the usual Saturday Noon to 12:45 PM Confession time, during Lent St. Mary's Thursday night Eucharistic Holy Hours will also have the opportunity for Confession, from 7 - 8 PM in the church. Each Lenten Holy Hour includes an intention for which we ask you kindly to pray during your time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament:

- February 22: Please pray for Peace in Palestine and Israel.
- February 29: Please pray for Peace in Ukraine.
- March 7: Please pray for Peace and Unity in our Nation.
- March 14: Please pray for Reverence for all Human Life.
- March 21: Please pray for Freedom from Addictions.



MEET HIM AROUND THE TABLE, FRIDAY LENTEN SUPPERS ~

Join us for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's Family!

Fridays at 6 PM: February 16, 23; March 1 (beginning at 5:30 PM as the St. Paul Boys Choir performs at 7 PM), 8, 15 and 22.

Our Lenten Suppers will take place in Fr. Haley Hall and will include a range of food options while observing Friday's abstinence from meat - as well as child friendly food.

Families with young children are encouraged to come and not feel burdened about bringing a meal, please let your St. Mary's community lift you up. This also applies to any individual / couple / family feeling burdened where bringing a meal would prevent you from attending. We are all in different seasons of life, let your St. Mary's family be a safe landing spot for you this Lent!

If you'd like to help, please email Natalie Pomarico at st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com. You will be added to the Lenten Supper Volunteer Group. A weekly 'Sign Up Genius' goes out via email to the volunteer base and individuals sign up for available food/drink slots. Volunteer participation varies week to week, some volunteer once during the six weeks, some commit to every week and others dip in and out of helping. Thank you!



MEET HIM WITH THE ST. PAUL'S BOY CHOIR ~

Friday, March 1, 7 - 8 PM in St. Mary's Church. Bless your Lent with an evening of rapturous music by the internationally acclaimed Boys Choir of St. Paul's Choir School in Cambridge. Directed by Richard Webster, the Choir will perform selected works from the classical repertoire, including pieces by Dering, Bach, Vivaldi, Rheinberger, and Lallouette.

The Concert is free and open to all. For more information about St. Paul's Choir School, please visit www.saintpaulschoirschool.us.

* The Lenten Friday Soup Supper will start early this night, at 5:30 PM, so that you can attend both.

MEET HIM WITH THE SAINTS, SUNDAY, MARCH 17 ~

The Holy Relics of more than one hundred saints will be Exposed for Veneration at St. Mary's on Sunday, March 17, from 6 – 8 PM in the church. They include relics of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower), and St. Anthony of Padua. Also, some of the rarest relics of the Passion will be present.



The Exposition will begin with a presentation and teaching about relics that is aimed at answering most questions the guests come with. Spiritual points are made about praying, intercession, and healing. Emphasis is on the Gospel message of healing to bring people to encounter Jesus.

There is no cost, but a free will offering basket will be available to support the Relic Ministry. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be available during the Relic Exposition for anyone facing serious illness – mental or physical.

MEET HIM FOR FORTY HOURS, SUNDAY, MARCH 10 to TUESDAY, MARCH 12 ~

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



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

Sunday, March 10

11:30 AM	Opening Mass
6:00 PM	Evening Prayer
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

Monday, March 11

9:00 AM	Morning Mass (Hall)
Noon	Holy Rosary
6:00 PM	Evening Prayer
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

Tuesday, March 12

9:00 AM	Closing Mass with Benediction
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Anyone and everyone is welcome at any time without signing up. But we need a minimum of two people committed to each specific hour the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed for Adoration. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-40hours2>.



Relics of over one hundred saints will be at St. Mary's on March 17.

CLOW - CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD, today, Sunday, February 11, the children will be dismissed from the main assembly and led to the lower church hall to hear what Jesus has to tell them 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 THIS WEEK

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Feb. 11	GR-K at 9:15 AM	GR-1 AT 8:10 AM
	GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 - 11:30 Mass
	*GR-6 at 4:00 PM	*GR-7 at 5:00 PM
Tues., Feb. 13	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-9 at 7:00 PM
Wed., Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday	No Classes
Thurs., Feb. 15	GR-9 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., Feb. 18	No Classes	February Vacation

***NOTE:** Grade 6 class will be dismissed by 5:00 PM and Grade 7 by 6:00 PM today.

GRADE 3 SAFETY SESSION: This session is scheduled for Sunday, February 25 at 7:55 AM and 10:45 AM. Presenter is Mrs. Crespi. View the program at: www.VIRTUSonline.org. Enter the **User Name: Parent_Boston** and then the **Password is: EGCBoston1**. When you are in the landing page click on the **education tab** at the top. You can view the Lesson plans for Grades K - 12. *Please view this program before the Safety classes.*

GRADE 6 SAFETY SESSION: Our presenter is Catherine Mitchell. A Safety session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 at 4:00 and 5:00 PM. Students will learn what God's gifts are for their personal safety such as their instincts, senses, intuition, fear, trusted adults, healthy relationships, getting out of a tight spot, being assertive, friends, and keeping in control of their surroundings.

GRADE 5 HEALING MASS AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK ~ TODAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, AT THE 11:30 AM MASS: Our Grade 5 classes are sponsoring the Healing Mass for the Anointing of the Sick. The children are learning about this Sacrament as part of their curriculum. Fifth graders **must remain at the end of Mass today to witness the Sacrament administered to the sick** as part of their class lesson. If you have loved ones who are ill in any capacity, bring them to this Mass.

CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grade 9 classes meet on Tuesday, February 13 and Thursday, February 15 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Students are to check into Fr. Haley Hall for their classes.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING WORKSHOP: All new volunteers in any capacity and Ministry must take the Protecting God's Children (PGC) Training. Please check our bulletin each week for the newly scheduled **PGC Workshops**.

CORI RENEWAL ALERT: All active and new volunteers (18+ years) must have a completed **2024 CORI** form on file in our office to serve in a ministry. Volunteer renewals may submit a copy of driver's license, along with signed/completed CORI form and email directly to st.marysre1870@gmail.com for processing. New volunteers must have information verified in person by any staff member.

GRADE 5 GENERAL SESSION ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS ~ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT 4:00 PM IN THE CHURCH: All Grade 5 classes and home-schooled children are to attend this session as part of their curriculum on the seven Sacraments. Deacon John Barry will present to the fifth graders this Sacrament and discuss the call to the Priesthood and the Deaconate. Then the children will view a film in Fr. Haley Hall on the priesthood. Pickup will be at 5:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

GRADES 3 - 7 COORDINATOR MEETING: On Monday, February 12 there will be a Grade Coordinator Meeting to discuss planning for the 2024 - 2025 Religious Education Program.

GRADE 9 AND 10 VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED: Our Grade 2 Family Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 12:30 to 4:30 PM. We will need several teens to assist the children with crafts, a play, and many other activities.



R.E. CLASS SNOW CANCELLATION:

When Holliston public schools are closed due to inclement weather, religious education classes will not be held. Class cancellations will be aired on Channel 5 and Channel 7 during the weekday and on Channel 4 on Saturday and Sunday only. Families will also receive notice by email.