



St. Mary's Parish



Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

Mass Schedule:

Monday through Saturday
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

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Email Address: St.marys1870@gmail.com

Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427 or (508) 879 - 2322

Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

Fax: (508) 429 - 3324

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 call the rectory to register. 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 from Noon – 12:45 PM 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.

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.

2018 ST. MARY'S PARISH GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

"What return can I make to the Lord for all He has done for me?" Psalm 116

2018 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:	\$ 150,000.00
Grand Annual parishioner support received to date:	- \$ 101,951.00
Parishioner support still needed to reach 2018 Grand Annual goal:	\$ 48,049.00
% of 2018 Grand Annual achieved to date:	68 %
% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	44 %



As the Grand Annual continues, contributions may be placed either in the orange G.A. envelope you received in the mail, or in one of the extra G.A. envelopes available at the church entrances. G.A. envelopes may be placed in any Mass collection basket or mailed or dropped off at the rectory.

As explained in the November mailing to all parishioners, the \$150,000 goal will be applied to cover a number of parish operating expenses, including but not limited to: Interior Church Floor Replacement, Installation of New Pew Kneelers, Rectory Repairs, New Air-conditioning / Heating System for the Parish Library, Designated Improvements for our handicapped members to include exterior Church Lighting, and Salaries for St. Mary's dedicated and hardworking staff. Your generous support will assure the financial health of our parish continues.

Thank you for your support of this most important annual collection!

PARISH STAFF:

- Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
- Rev. Jim Flynn, Weekend Assistance
- The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
- Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon
- Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon
- Mr. Steven Booth, Seminarian
- Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7
- Mr. Jake Thiringer, D.R.E., Grades 8-12
- Mr. Kevin Lyczak, Parish Music Director
- Mr. Leo Racine, Director of Contemporary Music
- Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary
- Mrs. Paula O'Brien, Religious Education Secretary
- Mrs. Mary Sanning, Business Manager
- Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan
- Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities
- R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Carver Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. If you wish to sponsor the Rose in 2019 please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Mass Collections:	\$ 9,036.00
Automatic Giving:	\$ 1,801.50
Total Offertory:	\$ 10,837.50
Last week's deficit:	1,062.50



St. Mary's thanks all those who support their parish so faithfully each week. Please be sure to make up parish support for weekends you are away. Thank you!

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	December 1
5:00	Alfonso Barcinas
7:30	Melissa Bachman
Sunday	December 2
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Frank and Olga Proto
11:30	Emelia Bourque
Monday	December 3
9:00	Saverio & Emilia DeCenso
Tuesday	December 4
9:00	Special Intention
Wednesday	December 5
9:00	Melissa Bachman
Thursday	December 6
9:00	Walter "D" Robbins
Friday	December 7
9:00	Pasquale & Francesca DiCenso

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

6:30	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>
Saturday	December 8
9:00	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>
12:00	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>
5:00	Nicholas Rossini
7:30	June McLean
Sunday	December 9
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Jacqueline O'Neill, 1 st Anv.
11:30	Deceased Members of the Knight of Columbus





Saint Mary's Parish

8 Church St. ~ Holliston, MA ~ 01746 ~ (508) 429-4427

December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent

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

Happy New Year! Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the Church calendar, as we recall the First Coming of Jesus among us as the Babe of Bethlehem, and as we look forward to His Second Coming as the King of Glory. The Advent Mass readings today through December 16 focus on Jesus' return at the Last Judgment, then on December 17 shift to His birth 2,000 years ago. In a real sense, the Advent readings capture the way a faithful Christian lives – reflecting on the Jesus Who once walked among us as man, and also preparing to meet Him face to face one day.

The shift in Church seasons is evident in our worship space in several ways today. Those attending daylight Masses will be able to see that the sanctuary skylight has been tinted Advent shades of purple and rose. The effect is something like a dawn or sunset sky; appropriate as Advent encompasses both the birth (dawn) of Christ into the world, and the promised final return (sunset) of Jesus to establish His Kingdom on the earth. The colored skylight also darkens the sanctuary slightly, bringing to mind the darkness of a world without Christ. On Christmas Day the white skylight will return, allowing bright light again as we commemorate the birth of Jesus, Who is forever the "Light of the World."

For Advent the sanctuary draperies have been changed to purple, the Church's color of penance and preparation. Likewise the priest's and deacon's vestments are purple – the darker "royal" purple of Jesus the newborn King or returning triumphant King. This is different from the more "violet" purple of Lent, the redder tint of which suggests the blood spilt for us by Jesus on Calvary. For this same reason the Advent vestments are much richer in ornamentation than the simple vestments worn during Lent. To the right of the sanctuary stands the St. Mary's Advent wreath, the candles of which will count down for us the weeks until Christmas, even as time itself counts down to the return and final judgment of Jesus. We hope that an Advent wreath will grace your own family table tonight, as it is a beautiful way to bring prayer into your home and teach children about the two comings of Jesus.

As we look at the way our church building has been transformed for Advent, we are each invited to consider the transformation that God is calling us to in these four short weeks of grace. How can we move from fear to courage, doubt to trust, covetousness to generosity, sorrow to joy, and loneliness to the sure knowledge that GOD IS WITH US in the person of Jesus Christ? How can we make sure that Christmas finds us spiritually closer to God than we are right now today?

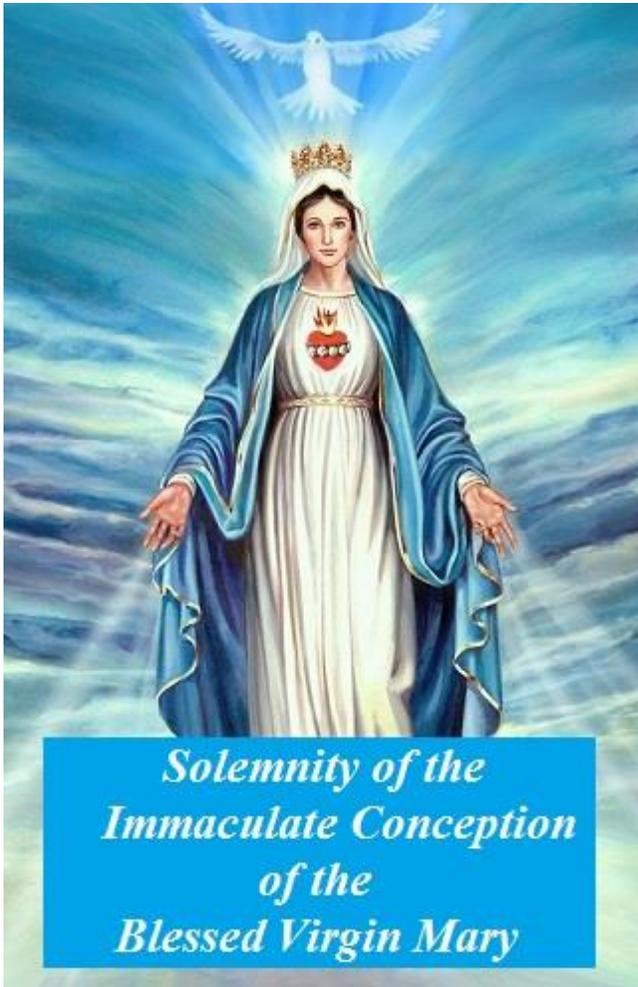
Prayer is always the foundation of our relationship with God, and Advent prayer books have been made available at the church entrances for you to take home. We hope they will enrich both your four-week journey to Christmas and your greater journey to God. I encourage you also this Advent to invite home to Mass a Catholic friend or neighbor who has fallen away. Advent represents Jesus drawing closer to the human family through His Incarnation and Birth. How appropriate at this time, then, to invite and welcome a Catholic home to Mass – the place where each week Jesus draws powerfully near to us in Word and Sacrament.

In the end, Advent invites each of us to look honestly at our relationships with God and neighbor so as to make whatever changes and fresh starts are needed to be more faithful disciples. Above all, we must avoid the trap of spending all our time and energy on external Christmas preparations, and none on our interior / spiritual life. May a good Advent find us all a little more like Christ this Christmas, and full of His peace in the New Year to come.

May the Lord of Our Advent Journey bless you and yours.

Under His Mercy,





**“IMMACULATE CONCEPTION” ~
A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:
This Friday, December 7 Vigil Mass at
6:30 PM. Saturday, December 8 Feast Day
Masses at 9 AM & 12 Noon.**

The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna’s womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception.

MUSIC	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Entrance	#20	#20	#20
Offertory	-	#55	-
Communion	-	#596	-
Recessional	-	-	#21

DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE ~ TODAY: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Father Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass today, Sunday, December 2, for donuts, juice and coffee! Members of the Parish Council will be there if you have any comments or issues regarding the Parish that you would like to share with them.

SPIRITED HANDS CROCHET GROUP/ST. MARY’S WOMEN’S GROUP ~ TODAY: The members of the Crochet Group known now as "Spirited Hands" and the St. Mary’s Women’s Group will be holding their annual sale of handmade crochet items in the Center Lobby after the 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses. All of the items will be unique and well made. The Spirited Hands even prayed for the people who will be receiving their finished products. So these gifts will be precious! All proceeds go to help the needy.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP MEETING ~ TONIGHT: Sunday, December 2 from 6:30 – 8 PM in the Parish Center. There will be faith, friendship, fun and signups for the December 14 Caroling, Pizza Party, Christmas Lights Trip, as well as for our Snow Tubing trip to Nashoba in January. Celtics payments are also due tonight – check your email to see if you have a ticket or are on the waiting list. Any and all 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are invited. Bring a friend!

EPIC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: It is not too late to sign up for our December 8 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) afternoon Christmas Party with Caroling at the Doolittle Nursing Home in Foxboro (check your email for info and forms for that trip). Our next monthly meeting is Sunday, December 9 from 7:30 – 8:45 PM in Father Haley Hall. Come for a great time of faith, friends, fun, and food! Open to anyone in High School. Contact Jake Thiringer at stmarysym1870@gmail.com with any questions.

FATIMA SHRINE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY: The Xaverian Missionaries will hold their traditional Christmas Lights Display from Saturday, December 1 to Thursday, December 27, from 5 to 9 PM. Hot chocolate and cookies are provided for visitors. All are most welcome!

ADVENT 2018 - PREPARING FOR HIS COMING!



NEXT WEEKEND, GIVE ~ A ~ GIFT, DECEMBER 8 & 9:

(GIFT BAGS ONLY, PLEASE NO WRAPPING): Once again we ask the people of St. Mary's to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. Give a gift to someone who has none. A teen to a teen, a child to a child, a toddler to a toddler. All items go to needy families in Boston, and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, unwrapped together in a plain bag or gift bag with a tag stating "Boy" or "Girl" and size or age up to age 18. No adult gifts please. Please place your gift in

front of St. Mary's altar at any Mass the weekend of December 8 & 9. Please note that all items are driven into Boston early Sunday afternoon (December 9), so gifts dropped off late cannot be distributed. Thank you and God bless you! Please note: The "no wrapping" is requested by the receiving parishes as they otherwise have to tear the wrapping off to see which gifts are most appropriate for specific individuals.

NEXT WEEKEND, COOKIE WALK, DECEMBER 8 & 9:

After all Masses on December 8 and 9 long rows of tables will be set up in the Lower Church – tables loaded down with over 2,000 delicious homemade cookies baked by St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group members. For \$6 you may purchase an empty cookie bag, then "walk" down the rows of tables and select cookies which youths (wearing plastic gloves) will place in your bag. All proceeds will directly benefit the poor of Haiti.



CONTEMPORARY VESPERS ~ TUESDAYS, DEC. 4, 11, & 18, 7:00 PM: Bring your day to a restful end with this twenty minute experience of the Psalms, calming your spirit and letting go of distractions and anxieties. The Liturgy of the Hours connects you to the whole Church in prayer worldwide.



CLASSICAL VESPERS ~ WED., DEC. 5, 7-7:30 PM: Join our talented Youth Choir for this Sung Service on the second Wednesday of Advent. Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, takes place as dusk begins to fall. Evening Prayer gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Vespers is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, part of the daily prayer of the Universal Church worldwide. It consists of the singing of psalms, intercessions, and prayers. Come experience the beauty of sung prayer!

ORGAN, LESSONS & CAROLS ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 5-6 PM

IN THE CHURCH: Join us for an evening of beautiful music and scripture, anticipating the wondrous birth of our Lord Jesus. This year's Lessons and Carols will feature the combined choirs and ensembles of St. Mary's Church, as well as nationally-renowned organist Brandon Santini, who will also offer a 30-minute organ concert at 4:30 PM. The program will include familiar carols as well as choral music by Rutter, Handel, Pearsall, Brahms, and others. Bring your whole family and fill your Christmas preparations with plenty of holiday cheer!



WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *"You perceive it in the depths of your heart: all that is good on earth, all professional success, even the human love that you dream of, can never fully satisfy your deepest and most intimate desires. Only an encounter with Jesus can give full meaning to your lives."* - Pope St. John Paul II



CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: Today, Sunday, December 2, the children will remain in the church with Fr. Mark and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel reading.

WEEK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Dec. 02	Pre-K at 9:15 AM	GR-1 at 8:10 AM
	GR-4 at 7:55 AM	GR-4 at 10:45 AM
	GR-5 at 10:45 AM	GR-6 at 12:45 PM
Mon., Dec. 03	GR-3 at 3:00 PM	GR-5 at 3:00 PM
	GR-6 at 2:30 PM	GR-6 at 5:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues., Dec. 04	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:30 PM
	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	
Wed., Dec. 05	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Thur., Dec. 06	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	
Sun., Dec. 09	GR-K at 9:15 AM	GR-2 at 8:10 AM
	GR-3 at 7:55 AM	GR-2 at 10:45 AM
	GR-3 at 10:45 AM	GR-6 at 12:45 AM
	GR-6 at 5:00 PM	GR-7 at 5:30 PM

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY REHEARSALS: All the children participating in the Nativity are to attend the rehearsals. Saturday, December 8 is a Holy Day of obligation and the Mass is at 9:00 AM. Please check with Debra Frey for the complete rehearsal schedule at: specialinnkeeper1224@gmail.com

GRADE 2 FIRST PENANCE: Our Grade 2 children participated in their First Confession this weekend. We are thankful for our Grade 2 Coordinators, Derri Cole, Patty Baribeau, Liz Woodhouse, Stephanie Grey and the teachers who prepared the children to receive this Sacrament of Forgiveness and Mercy from Jesus Christ.



GRADE 4 CHRISTMAS HAPPENING GENERAL SESSION: On Tuesday, **December 11** from 3 to 4:30 PM, all Sunday and weekday children in Grade 4 are to attend the General Session and enjoy the wonder of making Christmas ornaments and gifts for the needy children in the parish community. Over fifty gift bags will be assembled by the Gr. 4 children while they enjoy special homemade treats and listen to the wonderful Christmas story about the birth of our Savior in Bethlehem.

GRADE 6 JESSE TREE: Our Grade 6 students will decorate the Jesse Tree located in the parish lobby today. Jesse was King David's father and as we are told in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah that one day a shoot would "sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his root a bud [would] blossom." This blossom would be the promised Messiah Who would save the people from their sins. As we enter the season of Advent let us rejoice and be glad and welcome Jesus into our hearts!

GRADE 10 - CONFIRMATION II: Grade 10 meets on Tuesday, December 4 and Thursday, December 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.



PROTECTING GODS CHILDREN (PGC)

WORKSHOP: New volunteers 18 years of age and older serving in any capacity must complete a **2018 -2019 CORI**, have a signed **Code of Conduct** and complete a **PGC Workshop**. Please check the RCAB website for PGC Workshops scheduled in nearby parishes.

FALL ADULT FORMATION PROGRAM: Bishop Robert Barron's "The Mass" will continue on Tuesday, December 4 from 10AM-Noon in Room 3 – 4. All are welcome.

NORFOLK PRISON MINISTRY: Don't forget to bring in your bars of soap donations. Please no liquid soap, lotions or travel soap. Donations will be collected the first week of December. *Thank you for your help!*



ADVENT WREATHS AND CANDLES

AVAILABLE: On Sunday, December 2, we enter into the Church's Liturgical Season of Advent. One of the symbols used in the Church today is the Advent wreath. Many families gather around their Advent wreaths before their evening meal to light the candles and pray together. We have Advent wreaths with the brass candle holder available for \$15.00 each and a set of Advent candles for \$6.00. These will be available on **Sunday, December 2** following each Mass. Please see Fran in the Religious Education Office.

ADVENT MINI-RETREAT: Today, Sunday, December 2 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM in the church, there will be an Advent Retreat with Eucharistic adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Deacon John Barry will give a reflection on the true meaning of preparing our hearts for the season of Advent. Refreshments will be served following the retreat.



GRADES 3, 5 AND 8 ADVENT PARISH PENANCE SERVICE:

Our Advent Penance Service is scheduled for Monday, December 10 at 6:30 PM for Grades 3, 5 and 8. It is the duty of every Catholic parent to make sure that their child has the opportunity for confession once a year. During this season Advent of waiting we ask for God's forgiveness and mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Tuesday, December 4 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in the Library.