



# 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](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

Email Address: [St.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



# Saint Mary's Parish

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

December 23, 2018  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

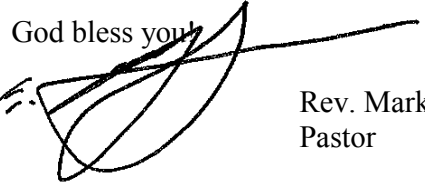
Dear Members of the St. Mary's Parish Family,

In these final days before Christmas, many will be rushing to purchase their final presents. As we do so, let us remember that the joy and hope brought to us by Christ is the most valuable gift any of us can possess. It is a gift we share with others by witnessing Christ's own love in our lives. At this time of year, however, that witness is well partnered with a more overt invitation to the Lord. Many "lapsed" Catholics mention that when they stopped practicing the faith, it seemed that no one missed them or even noticed. Those who returned to Mass, often cite the fact that someone invited them back.

As every year, therefore, I call upon you - our active parishioners - to reach out this Christmas to those friends and neighbors you know who for whatever reason have been absent from the Table of the Lord. Just as your family's celebrations would be less joyful and complete if a loved one couldn't get home for Christmas, so is the Church's Christmas celebration lacking when members of our faith family are away. Please, take a chance and invite someone you know to come to Mass with you this week. The worst that can happen is that they say no. The best that can happen is not just that they might say yes, but that a faith conversation might be opened between you.

Christmas is a feast that celebrates all that is true and best in our life as Church. It is a moment of hope, a moment of new beginnings, and a time when even the most cynical, angry and hardened of hearts often soften a little before the love of Christ. Christ came to invite all of us to follow Him along the royal road of the Cross and into the House of the Father. I hope that during these last hours of Advent many of you will join Christ in extending an invitation to others. I have been at St. Mary's long enough to know that the Father dwells here. His Spirit is very much alive here. And those you invite to Christmas Mass with you, may find something here that turns out to be their most precious Christmas gift of all.

God bless you!



Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor



**SOLEMNITY OF  
MARY MOTHER  
OF GOD**

**A Holy Day of Obligation**

**Vigil Mass: Monday,  
December 31, at 6:30 PM**

**Feast Day Masses: Tuesday,  
January 1, at 9:00 AM  
& 6:30 PM**

P.S. Our good friend Fr. Rocco at the Fatima Shrine asked me to post the following advertisement:

**Part time Office position available at Fatima Shrine, Holliston.** The Xaverian Missionaries at Fatima Shrine in Holliston are seeking a part time (20 hours) person to assist with light office work, data entry and reception and other responsibilities as needed. Hours and days are flexible. If interested, please contact Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x. By phone at 508 429 2144 or by emailing him at [frrocco@xaverianmissionaries.org](mailto:frrocco@xaverianmissionaries.org).

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:**  
*"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern."*

- Saint Theresa of Calcutta

**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

<b>2018 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 150,000.00</b>
<b>Grand Annual parishioner support received to date:</b>	<b>- \$ 136,576.00</b>
<b>Parishioner support still needed to reach 2018 Grand Annual goal:</b>	<b>\$ 13,424.00</b>
<b>% of 2018 Grand Annual achieved to date:</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:</b>	<b>59%</b>



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 John & Maureen Klauser. 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:	\$ 11,252.00
Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,278.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 14,530.00

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:**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 22</b>
5:00	John & Gloria Sullivan
7:30	Special Intention
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 23</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Paul & Emma Jensen
11:30	Walter J. Ciampa, Sr.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 24</b>
9:00	<u>NO MORNING MASS</u>
	Christmas Eve Masses
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 25</b>
	Christmas Day Masses
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 26</b>
9:00	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 27</b>
9:00	Cynthia Reschkle
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 28</b>
9:00	Mary Miller ~ Funeral
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 29</b>
9:00	Charlie & Rose Dahlgren
5:00	George McAdams
7:30	Special Intention
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 30</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Barbara Caron
11:30	Robert & Eva White & Christopher Budge



**FATIMA SHRINE LIGHTS DISPLAY:** Daily from 5 to 9 PM, through Thursday, December 27. Hot chocolate and cookies are provided for visitors!

MUSIC	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Entrance	#20	#20	#20
Offertory	#55	-	-
Communion	#819	#596	#364
Recessional	#22	#50	#50

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** Please note that the Midnight Christmas Mass will start at 11 PM, with carols at 10:30 PM. Also, parking is very packed and difficult for the 4 PM Masses Christmas Eve. Please plan accordingly.



**KOC BLOOD DRIVE:** The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus St. Mary’s Council will be held on Saturday, January 19, from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM in Father Haley Hall. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are strongly encouraged. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-REDCROSS or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and search by zip code (01746) in the “Search for Blood Drive” field. For further information, contact Knights of Columbus blood drive coordinator, Rodman Burgett, at 508-653-6130.

**THE CALL TO HOLINESS:** Leo Racine will be facilitating a three-week reading and discussion group on Pope Francis’ 2018 apostolic exhortation called *Gaudete et Exultate: On the Call to Holiness in Today’s World*. The group will meet on Thursday evenings, January 10, 17 and 24 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the Parish Center. Please contact Leo at 508-429-7476 or [leoaracine@msn.com](mailto:leoaracine@msn.com) for more info.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Our next trips are Friday, January 4, Celtics vs Mavericks; and Saturday, January 19, Snowtubing. Our next Meeting is Sunday, January 27 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, a half hour longer because of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Sexes. There will be faith, friendship, fun, and signups for the February Blue Man Group Trip!

**EPIC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Next Meeting is Sunday, January 13, 7:30 – 8:45 PM in Father Haley Hall.

## ST. MARY’S MISSION TRIPS ~ Announcing St. Mary’s EPIC Mission Trip for Summer 2019!

This year, following the devastation caused by Hurricane Michael (photo right), we will travel to Gainesville, FL, from July 14 to July 21. We will be working out of a Catholic Heart Workcamp; check it out at [www.heartworkcamp.com](http://www.heartworkcamp.com). As we plan for an information session in January and an exciting spring, we need leaders – both teens and adult chaperones (over age 24). If you are an active member of St. Mary’s and you are interested in sharing your faith and your talents in these roles, email our Youth Minister Jake Thiringer at [st.marysym1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysym1870@gmail.com) and he’ll send you the relevant application. A presentation on this summer’s Mission Trip will take place at the January 13 EPIC Meeting.



# Holy Silence

“Peace on earth,” was the song of the angels heralding Jesus’ birth, and “peace” was the first gift the Risen Lord offered His disciples. And yet the Christmas season can be anything but peaceful as we hurry to buy gifts, prepare feasts, and deal with the stress of family and friends. “Silent Night, Holy Night,” the carol goes - and Holy Silence can go a long way towards making our Christmas activities peaceful in the coming days. So as a pre-Christmas gift we offer you these thoughts from Sacred Scripture as to when we should embrace holy silence instead of opening our mouths to speak.

## God advises us not to open our mouth:

- In the heat of anger – Proverbs 14:17
- When you don’t have all the facts – Proverbs 18:13
- When you haven’t verified the story – Deuteronomy 17:6
- If your words will offend a weaker person – 1 Corinthians 8:11
- When it is time to listen – Proverbs 13:1
- When you are tempted to make light of holy things – Ecclesiastes 5:2
- When you are tempted to joke about sin – Proverbs 14:9
- If you would be ashamed of your words later – Proverbs 8:8
- If your words would convey the wrong impression – Proverbs 17:27
- If the issue is none of your business – Proverbs 14:10
- When you are tempted to tell an outright lie – Proverbs 4:24
- When you are tempted to flatter a wicked person – Proverbs 24:24
- When you are supposed to be working instead – Proverbs 14:23
- If your words will damage someone else’s reputation – Proverbs 16:27
- If your words will damage a friendship – Proverbs 16:28
- When you are feeling critical – James 3:9
- If you can’t say it without screaming it – Proverbs 25:28
- If your words will be a poor reflection of the Lord or your friends and family – Peter 2:21-23
- If you may have to eat your words later – Proverbs 18:21
- If you have already said it more than one time – Proverbs 19:13

### Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve Masses

**\*4 PM Masses in both the Church and Parish Hall**  
(Hall Mass includes the Christmas Pageant)

**5:30 PM Mass in the Church**

**7:30 PM Mass in the Church**

**11:00 PM Mass in the Church, Carols at 10:30 PM**

*Please be aware that the two 4 PM Masses are very crowded and parking is quite difficult. As good neighbors, please avoid parking in the First Congregational Church’s parking lot.*

### Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day Masses

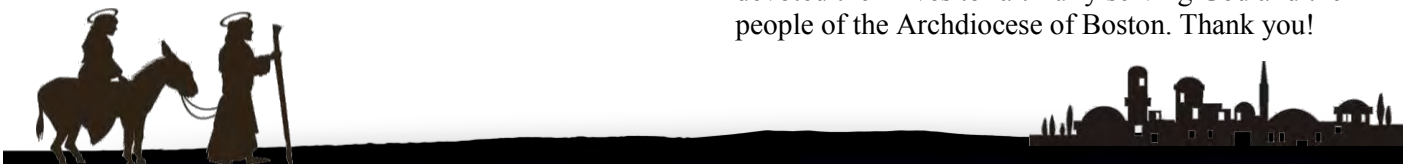
*\* Please remember that there is no 7:30 AM Mass this day.*

**9:30 AM Mass in the Church**

**11:30 AM Mass in the Church**

### ~ CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ~

The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, healthcare and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We encourage you to please give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to faithfully serving God and the people of the Archdiocese of Boston. Thank you!



**CLOW- CHILDREN K-6:** Today, Sunday, Dec. 23, 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 are welcome **but must be accompanied by their parents** and be able to sit and engage in the lesson. Older children are welcome to assist the adult leaders.

**CHRISTMAS BREAK ~ SUNDAY DECEMBER 23 THROUGH FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2019.**

**WEEK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Dec. 23	NO CLASSES	Christmas break
Mon., Dec. 24	NO CLASSES	Christmas Eve
Tues., Dec. 25	NO CLASSES	Christmas Day
Sun., Jan. 06	GR-2 at 8:10 AM	GR-2 at 10:45 AM
	GR-3 at 7:55 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	

**GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION MASSES 2019.**

Letters to families to select their child's First Communion Mass will be sent out on Friday, January 4 with a Green Index Card that must be returned by Friday, Feb. 15.

**GRADE 2 TEACHER / COORDINATOR**

**MEETING:** Grade 2 teachers are to attend one of the meetings on Thursday, January 3 at 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM in Room 3 – 4. This meeting covers the lessons and activities in preparation for First Communion. This is an important meeting.

**GRADE 7 CHASTITY PROGRAM:** On Sunday, January 6 at 5:30 PM and on Wednesday, Jan. 9, at 6:00 PM, Linda Thayer, our guest speaker, will address the importance of chastity in the Christian view of human sexuality with the Grade 7 students. All Sunday and Wednesday Students are required to attend. Parents are always welcome to join us for these presentations.

**COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS:** Tuesday, January 15 At 7:45 PM in the Library.

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL!**

The RE Staff wishes to thank our Grade Coordinators, Teachers, Monitors and Volunteers who have generously given their time, talents and gifts to nurture the Catholic faith of our children and youth. May the Christ Child bless you abundantly for your ministry and service to St. Mary's Parish community this Christmas and the New Year!



**GRADE 10 RETREAT- 2019:** On Saturday, January 5, there will be a retreat from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Students will report to Fr. Haley Hall by 8:45 AM to be checked in. Please contact Jake Thiringer with any questions regarding the retreat at 508-429-6076 or by Email at: [stmarysym1870@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysym1870@gmail.com).

**GRADE 10 – CONFIRMATION II:** Grade 10 meets on Tuesday, January 8 and Thursday, January 10 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.

**WINTER ADULT FORMATION PROGRAM:** Journey along with **Bishop Barron** as he explores the lasting influence of St. Augustine and St. Benedict beginning on Tuesday, January 15 from 10:00 AM to Noon in RM 3 – 4. Bishop Barron unlocks the truth behind the Catholic Church's most influential people to demonstrate how Christ's Incarnation is on display through the minds and lives of His Church's members.

**FORMED ~ PICK OF THE WEEK:** Celebrate the Birth of Jesus and recall the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation that will remind you Who we celebrate during the Christmas season! Watch Brother Francis: "O Holy Night. " *"This film is awesome for the children big and small."*, Toby J., Toledo, Ohio.

**A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS STORY:** This week a mother called the R.E. Office wanting to share good news for Christmas. Her three sons, Antoin in college, Isaac, Grade 9 and Noah, Grade 2 have been volunteering for the Boston Rescue Mission working with homeless men and women. Through their efforts they were able to share their faith, love, and allowance purchasing food, hats, socks, gloves and other necessary essentials to keep the homeless warm in the cold. Local churches donated fifty Bibles and Rosary beads. When Channel 25 News asked Isaac why they are doing this work he simply answered, "What do you want me to say **-God is alive!**" The boys want to be known as the "Angels on the Loose" using the Bible quote from Jeremiah 29:11, "*For I know well the plans I have in mind – Oracle of the Lord – Plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.*" The family will be honored by Channel 25 News on the Boston Common this Sunday, December 23, for their selfless work helping others in need.