





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: 429 - 4427
Religious Education Phone: 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 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.

A TIME FOR FEASTING! After four weeks of Advent fasting, penance and almsgiving, we now celebrate the great Feast of the Nativity and begin a season of feasting in the Church. Let us savor each celebration and drink deeply of the grace God offers. Let us taste and see the good things of the Lord!

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: December 29 and 30, regular Weekend Mass Schedule. We honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We look to their example and pray that our own families may be holy - enjoying healing, unity and peace.

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD ~ A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: The Holy Day Mass Schedule is Monday, Dec., 31 at 6:30 PM, and Tuesday, January 1 at 9 AM & 6:30 PM. One of our most beautiful Catholic traditions is welcoming the New Year by worshipping God and honoring Mary, our model as the first and most faithful follower of Jesus. May the Lord truly bless you and your loved ones in 2019!

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: January 5 and 6, regular Weekend Mass Schedule. The Wise Men arrive in Bethlehem bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We thank God for all the many gifts He has given us and offer Him the gift of our worship and lives spent in loving service of His Son.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: The entire Christmas Collection supports the retirement and medical needs of the retired priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church and you. Thank you for your generosity to this very important collection.

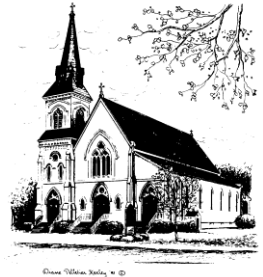
GIVE A GIFT: St. Mary's 2018 Give A Gift project would like to thank all those who donated Christmas presents at Masses on the weekend of December 8 and 9. The project resulted in a total of 479 gifts for two inner city parishes - St. Mary of the Angels and St. Patrick's. With economic times so difficult, your generosity was especially timely, and will make a big difference in many families' lives this Christmas. God bless you!

COOKIE WALK: St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group is delighted to announce that this year's Advent Cookie Walk, held after all Masses on December 8 and 9, made \$2,140! Every penny of this will go to support the poor of Haiti. Thank you for reaching out to Our Lord Jesus "in His most distressing disguise."



Pastor's Christmas Greeting

December 25, 2018



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

Christmas Greetings in the Lord! I pray that today's celebration of our Saviour's birth may find you joyful, hopeful and at peace with God and neighbor.

I offer a special welcome to those who are visitors to St. Mary's. If visiting from afar we wish you safe travels. If local, we invite you to join us again for Holy Mass – that awesome mystery and gift by which the same Jesus Who was once born in Bethlehem, comes down to us anew each Sunday to be with and sustain His people.

As we look at this year's Christmas bulletin cover, we see a Nativity scene with one unusual detail. While the figures of Mary and the angels are gazing adoringly at the newborn Christ Child - Joseph is not. Instead, he is looking intently heavenward, his aspect one of reverent prayer. What is Joseph saying to God? We cannot know for certain what the artist intended, but I think that Joseph is offering a prayer of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for a safe delivery. Thanksgiving for the gift of a healthy, beautiful baby. Thanksgiving above all that after long ages of darkness, finally God had sent a Saviour to enlighten the world.

As Catholics, we take time each week to stop and do exactly what Joseph did – to give thanks to God, Who is the source of every good thing in our lives. The word Eucharist literally means “thanksgiving.” And that hour we dedicate to God each Sunday in sacred worship is our thanksgiving to Him for every breath, every moment, every beauty, every joy, every love, every grace received. Far from being a burden, the Mass is the great gift by which God *relieves* our burdens and refreshes our souls. It is a source of light and hope and goodness in a world that seems to become darker and uglier every day. If we lose the Sunday Mass in our lives, then our Catholic faith becomes a pale reflection of what God intends for it to be. It is no longer the strong help and blessing that we *need* it to be.

For me this Christmas is rather bittersweet, as my home parish of St. Bernard's in Simsbury, CT just closed a few weeks ago. I received my Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation there, and it was while ministering as an Altar Server at St. Bernard's that I first felt the stirrings of a priestly vocation. A few times a year, when visiting home, I would still go to Mass at St. Bernard's. I was no longer a regular there, but it was always very nostalgic to worship in the place where my faith began. Unfortunately, nostalgia cannot keep a parish alive. Less and less people attended St. Bernard's on Sundays, less and less people made their weekly stewardship contributions, and on December 12, 2018, Mass was celebrated there for the very last time. Today, Christmas Day, my home parish is shuttered, silent and dark.

So, as we gather here at our bright and beautiful St. Mary's this Christmas, I ask you to consider this question. Are you here today out of nostalgia? Or are you here because you are committed to your Catholic faith? This question will be answered not by words, but by your presence or absence at Mass next Sunday and the Sabbaths that follow. It will be answered by the value you place on hearing God's Word each week, receiving His Eucharist and living out your faith as part of a community of believers. If Joseph was filled with gratitude at Jesus' birth, then how much more should we desire to thank God for Jesus' life – a life He laid down in order to save us from our sins?

Christmas is really all about commitment. It was through the Incarnation and birth of His Son that God proved His commitment to us. By taking on our human nature as His own, God demonstrated that He would be *for* us and *with* us forever, no matter what should come. In Jesus' own words, “Behold, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Mt. 28:20) And so this Christmas, I ask you to consider your commitment to Jesus, the One Whose birth we have gathered to celebrate. I ask you to consider your commitment to the Church, Jesus' Living Body. I ask you to hear again the words of Jesus as He gathered with His disciples in the upper room for Passover. When He taught His followers how to give thanks to God - by listening to the Scriptures and sharing the bread made His Body and the wine made His Blood. When Jesus said at that very First Mass, “Do this, in memory of me.”

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Photo Left – some of our MSYG Carolers spreading cheer to the elderly! 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 12th Annual Battle of the Sexes. There will be faith, friendship, fun, and signups for the February Blue Man Group Trip!

EPIC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY: Thanks for all who came to our fall meetings and helped out at our Christmas party with Caroling at the

Doolittle Home in Foxboro earlier this Christmas Season! Our next monthly meeting is Sunday, January 13 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! Bring your friends! Contact our youth minister Jake Thiringer at stmarysym1870@gmail.com with any questions.

KOC BLOOD DRIVE: The 12th Annual Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the K of C will be held on Sat., January 19, from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM in Father Haley Hall. Contact 1-800-REDCROSS/ Rodman Burgett, at 508-653-6130.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): Please join us, Wednesday, January 23 when WINGS begins its Winter Program: Study & Sharing on Scripture. Our first week we will welcome speakers Sandy & Mitch Liro, Denver Scripture Course Graduates and St. Mary's Parishioners. WINGS meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:45 – 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall. Nurturing childcare is available. For more information on WINGS call Linda Calabrese at 508-893-7919.

2018 GRAND ANNUAL: If you have not yet done so, please return your orange Grand Annual envelope as soon as possible. It may be mailed or placed in any Mass collection basket. Thank you for doing your part for this important collection that this year is covering essential facilities repairs, including the church floor and kneelers.

DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into the Father Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday, January 6, for donuts, juice and coffee. Members of the Parish Council will be there if you want to share any thoughts or ideas regarding the Parish.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES RESUME ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Jan. 6	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 PM	GR-6 at 5:00 PM
	GR-7 at 5:30 PM	

GR-7 CHASTITY PRESENTATION: Sunday, January 6 at 5:30 PM and Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00 PM with Linda Thayer in FHH.

GR-8: Meets on Monday, January 7 and Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00 PM.

GR-10: Meets on Tuesday, January 8 and Thursday, January 10 at 6:30 PM.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: CLOW resumes on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

GR-10 RETREAT: Saturday, January 5 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM in FHH. Contact Jake at stmarysym1870@gmail.com with questions.

GR-2 IMPORTANT TEACHER MEETING: Thur., Jan. 3 from 10 to 11:30 AM and 7 to 8:30 PM in Room 3 – 4.

Christmas Blessings to all of St. Mary's Grade Coordinators, Teachers, Monitors and Families. May the graces the Christ Child gained for us transform your hearts this day!