



In the 4th and 5th centuries debates about the nature of Christ raged in the Church. The debate was about the relationship of Christ's divine and human natures. At the center of this debate was a title of Mary. Since at least the 3rd century, Christians had referred to Mary as theotokos, meaning "God-bearer." The first documented usage of the term is in the writings of Origen of Alexandria in AD 230. Related to theotokos, Mary was called the mother of God. Referring to Mary this way was popular in Christian piety, but the patriarch of Constantinople from 428-431, Nestorius, objected. He suggested that Mary was only the mother of Jesus' human nature, but not his divine nature.

Nestorius' ideas (or at least how others perceived his arguments) were condemned at the Council of Ephesus in AD 431, and again at the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451. The Church declared that Christ was fully God and fully human, and these natures were united in one person, Jesus Christ. Thus Mary could be called "mother of God" since she gave birth to Jesus who was fully divine as well as human.

Calling Mary "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace". This solemnity, falling on New Year's Day, is also designated the World Day of Peace. The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning that the faithful gather to celebrate Holy Mass this day as on a Sunday.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

St. Mary's Holy Day Mass Schedule is as follows:

Monday, December 31: 6:30 PM

Tuesday, January 1: 9 AM & 6:30 PM



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.marys2@verizon.net

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!

Reconciliation: 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.

CHRISTMAS THANKS!

The heartfelt gratitude of our parish goes out to all those who made our St. Mary's Christmas 2018 celebrations so very beautiful!

The St. Mary's Adult, Youth, Children, and Contemporary Choirs under the direction of Kevin Lyczak and Leo Racine respectively, offered glorious music to herald the Savior's birth. Deacons Marty, John and all the Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers brought great reverence and faith to our Christmas Masses. At the Hall Mass, Debra Frey led our children in a beautiful and meaningful Nativity Pageant. Outdoors, the efforts of the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus, and Stumpy's Tree Service provided a grand light display, with the Knights also setting up the lower lights, Manger and Nativity scene.

Inside, the Paltrineri's handmade ribbons adorned our wreaths, Mary Theresa Whalen, Jenna Calabrese, Marilyn Lourandos, Bea Hait, Maria Bomba, Stephanie Bonarrigo, Susan Martell, Margie, Ellie and Abby Winchenbach and Katie Smith, oversaw the decoration of the church Sanctuary and Christmas tree (also put up by the Knights), while Ann Connoni set up the Nativity scene before our altar. Bob Connoni, and Will Harrington put up all the wreaths in the Church.

Eileen Kampersal and Meghan Robshaw decorated the family tree in the Parish Center Lobby using all the lovely ornaments created several years ago by members of the Spirited Hands Craft Group. A wonderful team of many volunteers (too numerous to name) helped Najat Whalen and Linda Truitt, arrange the poinsettias on the Altar and in Father Haley Hall.

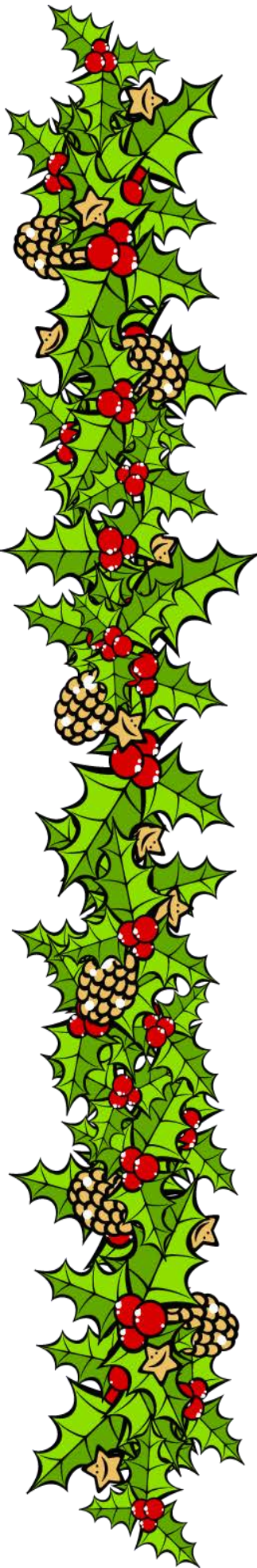
The old adage that "many hands make light work" was certainly true this year as we were able to quickly change the church from the solemnity of Advent to the celebration of Christmas. A sincere thank you to everyone who helped out.

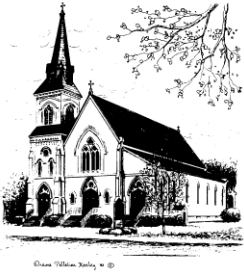
On behalf of the retired priests of our Archdiocese, we thank everyone who contributed to the 2018 Christmas collection which came to \$24,035.00. While very grateful, it should be noted that this was a \$3,592 drop from last Christmas' 2017 collection, the final total of which was \$27,627. Given that we know our people value our retired priests, we surmise that this drop was caused by travel and Christmas Masses celebrated with family away.

Due to the importance of this collection in the lives of our retired priests, we encourage anyone who may have been away from St. Mary's this Christmas, to please make their Christmas offering now. This may be done by mailing it to 8 Church Street, or placing it in any Mass collection. In either case, it must be in a separate envelope clearly labeled "Christmas Collection" in order to differentiate it from the parish offertory.

Anyone who did make a Christmas offering, but would like to do a little more in light of the shortfall, may do so in the same manner. Thank you for being there for our retired priests, who gave their lives in faithful service to God's people.

We thank anyone we may have forgotten to mention here, and most especially we thank all of you who made our Christmas celebrations meaningful by your prayers and presence. May our celebration of Christ's birth bring us all a renewed faith and increase our longing for His return.





Saint Mary's Parish

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

December 30, 2018
Feast of the Holy Family

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

Thank you to ALL who helped make Christmas 2018 at St. Mary's so beautiful and full of faith. As ever, the people of St. Mary's stepped forward, taking the lead and lending their hands wherever needed. So on this Feast of the Holy Family, I thank God for the generosity and support of the men, women, and children who make up our St. Mary's Family of Faith.

In a very real sense, every Catholic family is called to be like the Holy Family of Jesus, Joseph, and Mary. No family is perfect, and indeed the Holy Family knew trial, struggle, and suffering. Rather, a holy family is one that invites Christ into it, and then seeks to imitate His example of sacrificial love. Family prayer is always the essential means by which this invitation to God is made. In the words of Pope Saint John Paul II, "*Family prayer has its own characteristic qualities. It is prayer offered in common, husband and wife together, parents and children together. Communion in prayer is both a consequence of and a requirement for the communion bestowed by the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony. The words with which the Lord Jesus promises His presence can be applied to the members of the Christian family in a special way: 'Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.'*" (Familiaris Consortio, 59)

A special prayer for Parents follows, and another for Families is included in this bulletin. God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

THE PARENT'S PRAYER

O Heavenly Father, make me a good parent.

Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them or contradicting them.

Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me.

May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power.

Let me not tempt my child to lie or steal.

And guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do that honesty produces happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the meanness in me.

And when I am out of sorts, help me, O Lord, to hold my tongue.

May I be ever mindful that my children are children

and I should not expect from them the judgement of adults.

Let me not rob them of the opportunity to wait on themselves and make decisions.

Bless me with the bigness to grant all their reasonable requests,
and the courage to deny them privileges I know will do them harm.

Make me fair and just and kind.

And fit me, O Lord, to be loved and respected and imitated by my children.

All this I pray in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

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:	- \$ <u>147,201.00</u>
Parishioner support still needed to reach 2018 Grand Annual goal:	\$ 2,799.00
% of 2018 Grand Annual achieved to date:	98 %
% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	62 %

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

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

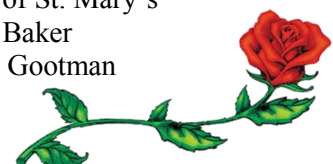
Mass Collections:	\$ 10,697.00
Automatic Giving:	\$ 1,006.50
Total Offertory:	\$ 11,703.50
Last week's deficit:	196.50

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!

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

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday		December 29
	5:00	George McAdams
	7:30	Special Intention
Sunday		December 30
	7:30	People of St. Mary's
	9:30	Barbara Caron
	11:30	Robert & Eva White & Christopher Budge
Monday		December 31
	9:00	Special Intention
	6:30	<i>Mary, Mother of God, Vigil</i>
Tuesday		January 1
	9:00	<i>Mary, Mother of God, Feast</i>
	6:30	<i>Mary, Mother of God, Feast</i>
Wednesday		January 2
	9:00	Merritt Moraski,
Thursday		January 3
	9:00	Jarlath Whalen
Friday		January 4
	9:00	Nicholas Rossini, 4 th Anv.
Saturday		January 5
	9:00	Holy Souls
	5:00	Carmela Camuso
	7:30	June McLean
Sunday		January 6
	7:30	People of St. Mary's
	9:30	Walter Baker
	11:30	Dianne Gootman



SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP: Boy Scout Troop 76 is getting ready for their Annual Christmas Tree Disposal to be held on Saturday, January 5. The cost is \$10 for trees under 6 ft. and \$12 for trees over 6 ft. To schedule a pick up, send an email with your Name, Address, and Phone number to Troop76Holliston@gmail.com. Trees should be clean (i.e. no tinsel, wreathes or swags) and placed curbside before 7 AM. Enclose check in an envelope and tape to your front door. Make checks payable to Troop 76 Holliston. HOLLISTON RESIDENTS ONLY, THANK YOU!

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, St. Mary's Parishioners. This winter we will hear inspiring talks on the upcoming Sunday Mass scripture readings. We will learn new methods to read and meditate upon scripture. Please join us for our winter program, whether you can attend each week or just some weeks. WINGS meets on **Wednesday** mornings from 9:45 – 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall. Nurturing childcare is available. For more information call Linda Calabrese at 508-893-7919.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Lord of all,
Bless our families.
Be they formed by blood or by circumstance,
Make them holy.
As you reveal yourself to us in three persons:
Father, Son, and Spirit,
And in the relationship that flows among the three,
May we find you in our relationships.
In our marriages, in our families
In our households, in our communities
In our global humanity.
May we look across all that divides us
And see family
And embrace as a family does.
And love as a family ought to.
For where two or three gather in your name
There are you in the midst.
There indeed are you,
The one for whom we long so deeply.
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



KOC BLOOD DRIVE: The 12th 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 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 leoracine@msn.com for more information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next trips are this 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 GROUP: The 2019 St. Mary's EPIC Mission Trip is headed to Gainesville FL on July 14! We will be working out of a Catholic Heart Workcamp; check it out at www.heartworkcamp.com. Interested teens have a very tight window for signing up for one of the 56 slots. All high school teens in the parish should watch for a mailing with the trip details and an **Indication of Interest** form to be turned in at the January 13 EPIC meeting – this will get you on our radar but will not guarantee you a space. As previously noted, potential teen leaders and chaperones should contact Jake Thiringer for an application via stmarysyml870@gmail.com.

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.

MUSIC	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Entrance	#78	#68	#68
Offertory	#59	#87	#87
Communion	#79	#59	#59
Recessional	#77	#83	#83

CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: There will be no CLOW on Sunday, December 30. CLOW resumes on Sunday, January 6, 2019 in the church.

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

WEEK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Dec. 30 - Thur. Jan. 03	NO CLASSES	
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	
Mon., Jan 07	GR-4 at 3:00 PM	GR-6 at 2:30 PM
	GR-6 at 5:00 PM	GR-8 at 6:00 PM
Tues., Jan. 08	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	
Wed., Jan. 09	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-7 at 6:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Thur., Jan. 10	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	

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. If a student is unable to attend the Sunday presentation then he/she should attend the Wednesday session.

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.

TEACHER / COORDINATOR MEETING: Grade 3, 4 5 and 6 teachers please mark your calendar for Monday, January 14 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM to meet with your Grade Coordinator. This meeting will cover the events and class sessions for the remainder of the year.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS: Tuesday, Jan. 15 in the Library at 7:45 PM.

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.

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 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: Explore the Birth of Christ. This fast-paced look at the true story of the Nativity clears away misunderstandings about Jesus's origin and is invaluable for learning more about the truth of Christmas. The Story of the Nativity " *I LOVE the biblical referencing tying the Old and New Testaments together....it shows the fullness and perfection of God's plan unfolding!* " - Sandy S., Eustis, FL

GRADE 5 CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS:

On **Thursday, January 17** at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM in Room 3 – 4 of the center. Each year St. Mary's Parish offers a workshop for Grade 5 children in March. Parents are invited to view the program ahead and decide if they want their child to attend. The program is a video broken down into specific topics regarding the physical, psychological changes that occur in children. The children's workshop will be held on **Saturday, March 23** at 9:00 AM. Parents or guardians wishing their child to attend the workshop on Saturday, March 23 must attend this workshop and submit a signed "Permission Form" or a signed "Previously Previewed Permission Form".



NEW YEAR BLESSINGS TO ALL! Wishing all our families and volunteers a grace filled and blessed 2019.