



# 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.

# 40 HOURS WITH JESUS CHRIST

By Fr. William Saunders



The Forty Hours Devotion is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. Of course, the focus of this devotion is on the Holy Eucharist. As Catholics, the words of our Lord burn in our hearts: "I myself am the living bread come down from Heaven. If anyone eats this bread, He shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51).

Affirming our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Vatican Council II taught that the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, #11). While the Mass is the central act of worship for us Catholics, an act which participates in the eternal reality of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, Vatican Council II upheld and encouraged the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. Of course such devotion derives from the sacrifice of the Mass and moves the faithful to both sacramental and spiritual communion with our Lord (Eucharisticum Mysterium, #50). As Pope Pius XII taught in *Mediator Dei*, "This practice of adoration has a valid and firm foundation." Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has repeatedly "highly recommended" public and private devotion of the Blessed Sacrament, including processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi and the 40 Hours Devotion (cf. *Dominicae Caeae*, #3, and *Inaestimabile Donum*, #20-22).

Second, the number forty has always signified a sacred period of time: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection. Actually in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the repository, "the Easter Sepulcher," for this period of time to signify our Lord's time in the tomb.

The Forty Hours Devotion begins with a Solemn Mass of Exposition, which concludes with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar in a monstrance. During the next 40 hours, the faithful gather for personal or public prayer in adoration of our Lord. At the end of the devotions, there is a solemn benediction and final reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Forty Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. Consequently, an appropriate time to schedule Forty Hours is either Advent or Lent.

While the Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, three special dimensions have also surrounded 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. Here the faithful implore our Lord to pour forth His abundant graces not only for themselves, but their neighbors, not only for their own personal needs, but for those of the world. Such practices are evidenced in the history of this devotion.

Having explored the spiritual dimension of the Forty Hours Devotion, a greater appreciation for this spiritual exercise is found through knowing its history. The practice of Forty Hours Devotion originated in Milan about the year 1530. Granted, prior to this time, the Church did have exposition and benediction, Eucharistic processions, and devotions to the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle.

## Sunday, March 31

11:30 AM	Opening Mass
6:00 PM	Sung Choral Vespers
7-7:30 PM	Organ Music
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

## Monday, April 1

9:00 AM	Morning Mass (Hall)
Noon	Holy Rosary
6:00 PM	Evening Prayer
7-7:30 PM	Organ Music
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

## Tuesday, April 2

9:00 AM	Closing Mass with Benediction
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In 1539, Pope Paul III responded to a petition from the Archdiocese of Milan asking for an indulgence for the practice: "Since our beloved son the Vicar General of the Archbishop of Milan, at the prayer of the inhabitants of the said city, amongst other pious practices, has established a round of prayers and supplications to be offered by day and night by all the faithful of Christ, before our Lord's Most Sacred Body, in all the churches of the said city, in such a manner that these prayers and supplication are made by the faithful themselves relieving each other in relays for forty hours continuously in each church in succession, according to the order determined by the Vicar... We approving in our Lord so pious an institution, grant and remit." While this pronouncement seems to be the earliest official approval by the Church of this devotion, the Forty Hours Devotion spread rapidly.

By 1550, both St. Philip Neri and St. Ignatius Loyola had also instituted this practice, especially for the reparation of sin. Recognizing the tremendous graces offered through this devotion as well as the dangers threatening the Church, Pope Clement VIII in his letter *Graves et diuturnae* (November 25, 1592) proclaimed, "We have determined to establish publicly in this Mother City of Rome an uninterrupted course of prayer in such ways that in the different churches, on appointed days, there be observed the pious and salutary devotion of the Forty Hours, with such an arrangement of churches and times that, at every hour of the day and night, the whole year round the incense of prayer shall ascend without intermission before the face of the Lord." He also issued regulations for the devotions, which were later collected and promulgated by Pope Clement XI in 1705, and known as the *Instructio Clementina*.

In our own country, St. John Neumann (1811-60), the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, was a strong promoter of the Forty Hours Devotion. While the practice had already existed in individual churches throughout the city (as well as in other places in the country), no organized, cohesive diocesan schedule for it had ever before been attempted. St. John had a tremendous devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and desired to foster such a spiritual life in his people.

Unfortunately at this time, a strong anti-Catholic sentiment plagued Philadelphia. During the Know Nothing riots of 1844, two churches were burned and another was saved simply by the threat of gunfire. Some priests, therefore, advised St. John that the introduction of 40 Hours Devotion would only flame the hatred against the Catholics and expose the Blessed Sacrament to desecration. St. John was left in a quandary.

A strange incident occurred which helped St. John decide. One night, he was working very late at his desk and fell asleep in his chair. The candle on the desk burnt down and charred some of the papers, but they were still readable. He awoke, surprised and thankful that a fire had not ignited. He fell on his knees to give thanks to God for protection, and heard His voice saying, "As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so shall I pour out my grace in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to My honor. Fear no profanation, therefore; hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory."

He introduced the practice of 40 Hours Devotion at the first diocesan synod in April, 1853, and the first devotions began at St. Philip Neri Parish, an appropriate place since that saint had initiated the devotion in the city of Rome. St. John himself, spent most of the three days in the Church praying. No trouble ensued. St. John then introduced the program for the whole diocese, so that each parish would have Forty Hours Devotion during the course of the year. He composed a special booklet for the devotions and obtained special indulgences for the faithful attending them. The Forty Hours Devotion was so successful it spread to other dioceses. At the Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866, the Forty Hours Devotion was approved for all Dioceses of the United States.

The Forty Hours Devotion provides a wonderful opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person and the parish as a whole. In a world where temptation and evil abound, where devotion to the Mass and our Lord in the Holy Eucharist have declined, where the practice of penance and confession have been forgotten by many, we need the Forty Hours Devotion more than ever.

**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, Director of Music  
 Mr. Leo Racine, Director of Contemporary Music  
 Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary  
 Mrs. Paula O'Brien, Religious Education Secretary  
 Ms. 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 Sullivan family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. To sponsor the Rose for Life for 2019 please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

**LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:**

Mass Collections: \$ 10,187.00  
 Automatic Giving: \$ 1,646.50  
 Total Offertory: \$ 11,833.50

**Last Week's Deficit: 66.50**

St. Mary's thanks all those who support their parish so faithfully each week. May God bless you for your beautiful stewardship!

**PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 30</b>
5:00	Beverly Boudreau
7:30	Jack Evans
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 31</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Maximino & Maria Rocha
11:30	40 Hours Devotion ~ <b>Opening Mass</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 1</b>
9:00	40 Hours Devotion ~ Fr. Haley Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 2</b>
9:00	40 Hours Devotion ~ Closing, Church
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 3</b>
9:00	Maureen Carroll
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 4</b>
9:00	Sr. Ricci
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 5</b>
9:00	Walter "D" Robbins
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 6</b>
9:00	Special Intention
5:00	Nicholas Rossini
7:30	Encarnacion de Guzman, 4 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 7</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Melissa Bachman
11:30	Sr. Ricci

**NEWSLETTER COLLATING:** Please join us this Friday, April 5 from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM in Father Haley Hall to assist in our collating of the May Newsletter. All are welcome and needed!

**2019 CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL ACHIEVED!**

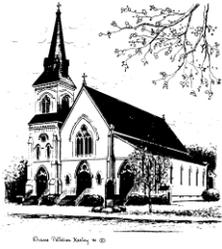
We want to thank everyone from our parish who contributed to the 2019 Catholic Appeal. Our Parish Goal of \$87,486 has now been reached.

*You did it!*

Whether you gave \$20 or \$2,000, what matters is that *you did what you could* according to your means to support the good works of our Catholic Church.

Please know that your parish is proud of you. And may the blessings promised to the compassionate be yours in abundance. Amen.





# Saint Mary's Parish

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

March 31, 2019  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

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

As you entered the church today, probably you noticed right away the lightening of the purple Lenten draperies to a rose color. This is in recognition of "Laetare Sunday," a call to rejoice as we reach the halfway point in our Lenten journey. On this day the purple of penitence is lightened to rose by adding the white of coming Easter joy. In the very midst of these forty days of fasting, almsgiving, prayer, and confession of sin, we pause to remember the triumph and joy that await us not only at the end of Lent, but at the end of earthly life. As Christians, we must be above all and always a joyful people. How could we not rejoice, when God has revealed to us so great a love, so vast a mercy, in the person of Jesus Christ?

It was Jesus Himself who offered us today's parable of the Prodigal Son, reminding us that God loves us with a Father's love and longs for us to turn back to Him. An important detail of the story, often overlooked, is that "*while the son was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.*" The Father was not content to wait for the son. Once the son took even a few, faltering steps towards the Father, the Father ran the rest of the way to meet Him. Just so, if we start to turn back towards God in even small ways, God will rush with His grace to bridge the rest of the distance. What is important is not to stand still – thus the urgency of "Laetare", a notice that Lent is half over and an invitation to consider what progress we have yet to make.

For many, one of the most important reminders of Laetare is to not put off any longer making a good Confession before Easter. The Parable of the Prodigal Son actually offers us a beautiful way to understand the gift of Confession. I have offered a reflection on the connection between the two on the next bulletin page. Let us imitate the Prodigal Son's humility and desire for mercy – that most precious of God's gifts, and one that He "runs" to offer us in the Holy Sacrament.

May the second half of your Lenten Journey be truly blessed!

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

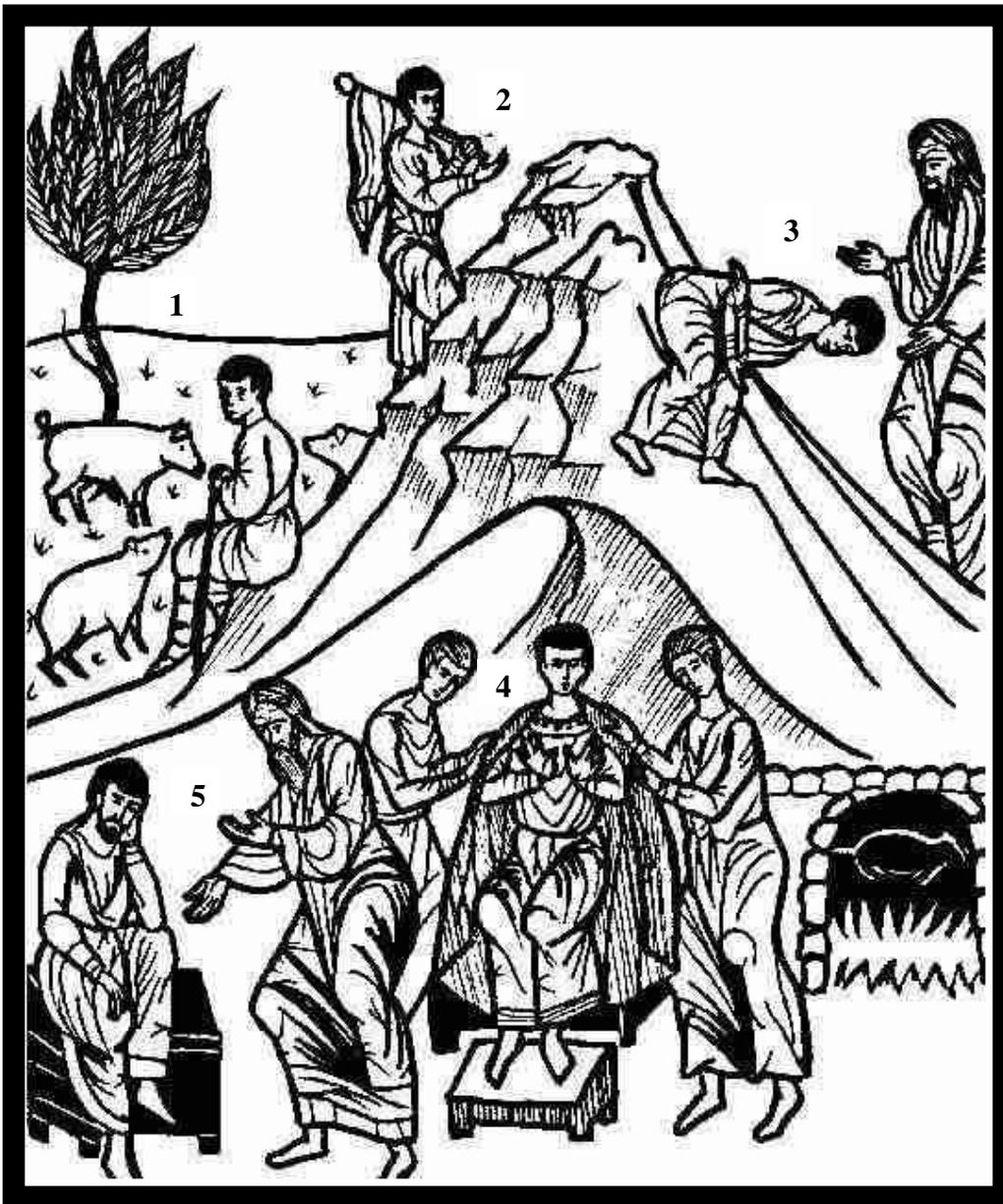
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## ***WELL DONE SAINT MARY'S HOLLISTON!***

There are 284 Parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston. As of this past Wednesday, St. Mary's Parish is one of only 9 of them to have reached or exceeded their 2019 Catholic Appeal goal.

Out of those 9, St. Mary's is the parish with the highest percentage over goal, currently at 109%.

It is also worth noting that in the history of our parish, St. Mary's has never before reached her Catholic Appeal goal in only four weeks. Thank you to all who were part of this very significant accomplishment. You have practiced Lenten Almsgiving, showed that you value the many good works of our Catholic Church, and have made possible holy ministries that bless and improve many lives. God bless you and well done!



In Luke Chapter 15, when Jesus was criticized for His ministry to sinners, He offered the parable of the Prodigal Son in reply. This parable remains the model for Jesus' continued forgiveness of sin today through the Sacrament of Confession.

**1) Contrition:** The prodigal son, reduced to herding pigs and coveting their food scraps, realizes that he has sinned. Similarly today, Reconciliation begins with realizing and admitting sin to ourselves.

**2) Confession:** The prodigal son undertakes a physical journey to see his father and confess his sins aloud to him. Similarly today, the penitent Catholic undertakes a journey to the Church, the earthly House of Our Heavenly Father. Once there, the penitent confesses his or her sins aloud to the priest.

**3) Satisfaction:** In confessing his sins, the prodigal son expresses a willingness to do anything to

make up for his transgressions (i.e. becoming the least of his father's slaves). In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a penance, usually of prayer, is assigned by the confessor.

**4) Absolution:** The father of the prodigal son bestowed rich gifts upon him; sandals, a robe, and a ring. Similarly, God showers the *fullness* of His mercy and healing grace upon us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Further, He fortifies us to resist future temptation. The great feast thrown by the prodigal son's father upon his return reminds us that sin is never a private affair. When we sin, it damages not just our relationship with God, but also with the Church. Our celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the Church's equivalent of the parable's great feast, with the whole Church community spiritually involved.

**5)** In the parable, the prodigal son's older brother denies the need for a public celebration over his return. Similarly, today some deny the need for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, proposing that a silent, private admission of sin between an individual and God directly is adequate. This idea is gravely lacking, as it does not take into account the affect of sin on one's relationship to the Church. It further ignores the chief consequence of sin, which is that it leaves us wounded and incapacitated. The sinners' inability to deal with sin on their own is represented scripturally by the "nakedness" of Adam and Eve, and in the case of the prodigal son by his tattered robes and shoeless feet. To have sinned is to have been made helpless, and only the healing power of Jesus Christ available today through His holy sacraments can bring about true forgiveness and a full restoration to grace. It was for this reason that Jesus specifically gave His apostles the authority to forgive sins after Him (John 20:21-23, Matt. 9:8, Matt. 18:18, 2 Cor. 5:18). Thank you Lord, for so precious a gift.

MUSIC	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Entrance	#546	#462	#462
Offertory	#657	#666	-
Communion	#658	#432, 334	#326
Recessional	#385	#396	#396



**CEMETERY CLEANUP:** R & R Landscape will begin the Spring Cemetery Cleanup in the coming weeks. Please remove all Winter baskets/arrangements that you wish to keep at home by April 1. Thank you.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:** *“The heart preparing to receive the Holy Eucharist should be like a crystal vase.”*  
 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Our April Meeting is *NEXT Sunday*, April 7, 6:30 – 8 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are welcome. There will be prayer, trip signups for Laser Tag & Movies (vacation week), 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Prom Night Service Trip to St. Patrick Manor, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade rafting roommate sign ups and pizza. Bring a friend!



**ST. MARY’S EPIC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP – MEETING**

**TONIGHT:** Sunday, March 31 from 7:30 to 8:45 PM. Join EPIC tonight for our second Meeting of the Month. The Meeting will include Games, Faith, Fun, Awesomeness, Food, Time for Prayer before Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration, and a visit from our Seminarian, Steven Booth. \$5 Dues. *(We are in need of adult chaperones. Must have current CORI form and completed VIRTUS).* Thanks to all who helped

last week with our Blessings Bags Service Project. We made 78 Blessings Bags containing socks, toiletries, snacks, soaps, razors, and other useful things that will be distributed to those in need through the Boston Sock Exchange! Please email our youth minister Jake Thiringer with questions at [stmarysym1870@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysym1870@gmail.com).

**EPIC MISSION TRIP:** Next Sunday, April 7, we will have a Mission Trip Mass at 11:30 AM. Those attending the Mission Trip will be sitting together as we pray for God’s blessing on our journey and for those we will serve in Gainesville, Florida this summer. There will then be a Mission Trip Meeting afterward from 12:30 – 1:30 PM in FHH to enjoy some doughnuts, spend time getting to know each other, and to go over pre-trip information - including prayer partners!

**BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP:** Scholarship Applications are now available in the Religious Education Office. This \$1,500 scholarship is granted in recognition of exceptional service to the St. Mary’s Parish Family. Applicants must meet the following criteria: Graduating from High School in the Spring of 2019; Accepted to a four-year college or university to commence classes in the Fall of 2019; Family registered at St. Mary’s Parish for at least two full years; Completed Religious Education and received the Sacrament of Confirmation; Attend Mass weekly at St. Mary’s and are otherwise living out their Catholic faith. Applications are due to the Scholarship Committee by Palm Sunday, April 14.



**WINGS (Women in God’s Spirit):** Is a ministry of encouragement and enrichment for women of all ages who seek to deepen their faith and grow in relationship with God and one another. Please join us Wednesday, April 3 from 9:45 to 11:30 AM, for the third session of our six week Spring Season: *“Surrendering to God’s Will”*. Our featured speaker will be Jim Orcutt, co-founder of My Brother’s Keeper. My Brother’s Keeper is a vibrant, welcoming Christian ministry in Southeastern MA which delivers furniture and food to local families in need. Their mission is *“To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.”* All women are welcome at WINGS whether they can just drop in once or attend each week. Nurturing childcare is provided for those with young children. For additional information about the WINGS ministry, please call Linda Calabrese at (508) 893-7919.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:** *“All our attention must be centered on the parable of the Prodigal Son. We all see ourselves in it as in a mirror. In a few words the Lord, the knower of hearts, has shown in the person of one man how the deceptive sweetness of sin separates us from the truly sweet life according to God. He knows how the burden of sin on the soul and body, experienced by us, impels us by the action of divine grace to return, and how it actually does turn many again to God, to a virtuous life.”* - St. John of Kronstadt

**K OF C 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE**

**TICKET SALES APRIL 6-7:** St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will be selling tickets after all Masses on the weekend of April 6-7. Tickets are \$5 each or a book of five for \$20. First Prize is \$1000. Your support has helped our Council donate \$185,000 over the past ten years. Beneficiaries include the Holliston Senior Center, Pantry Shelf, Veterans organizations, and many more. They are counting on your support to help those in need again this year!

**40 HOURS DEVOTION STARTS TODAY:**

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. Many graces flow from this love.

**FASTING:** Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> 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 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat is not used at all.

**EVENING PRAYER:** Come enjoy Lenten Evening Prayer, 7 PM in the Church, (15-20 minutes). This is the daily prayer of the Catholic Church consisting of psalms, hymns, and intercessions. Come find peace at day's end. April 2, 9, & 16.

**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS:** Bring the whole family and friends to enjoy a homemade meal, prayer and friendship every Friday during Lent from 6 to 7 PM. Come meet other families in the parish as we seek the Lord anew. Start a new tradition or continue with an old one by helping to prepare a soup, salad or delicious cheesy pasta. Don't like to cook? Bring a savory bread or just help out with setting up or breaking down. It's easy to volunteer, just visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2019-Lenten-Soup-Supper> and sign up. Have a blessed Lent!

**PENNIES FROM HEAVEN:** Please bring your pennies or spare change to the Religious Education Lobby during Lent to help the people of Sierra Leone. [There is a special wooden collection stand there – just use the round metal flap on top.] Here a child can go to Catholic school for \$1.00 a year. A little goes a long way in this poor country. Please check the Respect Life bulletin board for updates!

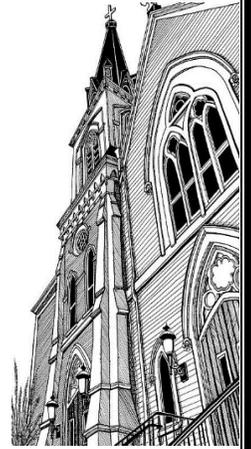


**WHAT IS DIVINE MERCY?** “My daughter, write that the greater the misery of a soul, the greater its right to My Mercy; (urge) all souls to trust in the unfathomable abyss of my Mercy.....” [#1182 Diary of St. Faustina Kowalska]. Beginning Monday, April 1, a DVD presentation in five sessions will begin entitled “Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told.” Narrated by Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, we will journey through God's Divine Mercy from Adam and Eve to Jesus' revelations in the diary of St. Faustina Kowalska. The sessions will consist of viewing the DVD, short discussion, and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Meeting dates: April 1, 8, 15, 22, and April 29 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in Room 3 in the St. Mary's Parish Center. For further information, contact Mitchell Liro 508 429-6098. Sessions are sponsored by St. John's of Hopkinton Divine Mercy Cenacle.

	
<b>When you present this flyer, Bertucci's of Holliston will donate up to 25% of what you spend - Dine In, or Carry Out to the Holliston Knights of Columbus.</b>	
<b>Bertucci's of Holliston</b> Tuesday, April 9, 2019 (11:30am - 9 pm) and Wednesday, April 10, 2019 (11:30am - 9 pm)	
<b>ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL AND GIVE TO A GREAT CAUSE</b>	
	414 Washington Street Holliston, MA 01746 (508) 429-4571

# TWO IMPORTANT THINGS TO “GIVE UP” FOR LENT THIS YEAR

*Lent is a time when we take a hard look at our lives as Catholics and as a Catholic Community. It is an ideal time to identify and work on any ways we may have become liturgically lax or spiritually sloppy at Mass.*



## **I will give up missing the Scriptures at Mass:**

Although we should do all we can to avoid it, occasionally circumstances beyond our control may make us a bit late for Mass. However, if we enter the Church so late that we miss *all* of the Scriptures, the Gospel being the last of these, then we have missed that Mass. Church teaching is very clear that the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist *together* constitute the Mass. If it is a Sunday Mass, entering after the Gospel does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation – that Mass has been missed. For this same reason, anyone entering a Mass after the Gospel, should refrain from receiving Communion.

In Catholic tradition, the celebration of God’s Word is considered necessary before receiving Communion. The Scriptures open, purify and prepare the soul to meaningfully receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. Remember on the Road to Emmaus, how the Risen Lord first shared the Word of God with the two disciples as He walked with them, and *then* they recognized Him in the breaking of the Bread? Even when visiting the sick, we never just give them Communion – a Scripture is always read first. Sadly, we have a growing number of persons habitually entering Mass after the Gospel – or even after the Consecration – and still receiving Communion. It has become an epidemic at our daily Masses, where people do this almost every day – many of them then walking right out the door after receiving.

The Mass is not a McDonald’s Drive Thru. It is the Upper Room, where Jesus gathered with His disciples, spoke God’s Word, and then shared the gift of Himself as Eucharist. It is not a place to “pop in and grab a bite on the fly,” but rather a place to rest and encounter Jesus meaningfully in Word and Sacrament. Please respect the Word of God, and acknowledge its importance, by arriving at Mass in time to experience it. And please refrain from receiving Communion if you have not first prepared to do so by hearing the Word of God at that Mass. Let us all honor and imitate the manner of Worship that Jesus Himself laid out for us.

## **I will give up reading the bulletin during Mass:**

Recently the priests who assist at St. Mary’s have noticed a lot of people reading the bulletin when they are trying to preach on the Gospel. All of our priests study and work hard to “open up” God’s Word through the Sunday homily. Imagine if you spent a whole week preparing to talk to someone about an important matter, choosing just the right words, trying to approach the topic in the best way. Then at week’s end you are finally with that person. You begin to talk to them, and they pick up a newspaper to read while you are speaking to them. How would you feel? You would feel that you do not have their full attention. Even if they said, “*I’m listening,*” while looking down at their newspaper or cellphone, you would still find their behavior to be rude and disrespectful. Reading the bulletin, or the Pilot, or whatever when the priest is trying to speak to you through the homily is extremely disrespectful - both to him and to the Word of God he is trying to proclaim. It also sets a terrible example for the young people of our parish.

The parish bulletin is meant to be taken home for reading. If you have fallen into the bad habit of reading it *during* Mass – especially at the homily – please use this Lent to reclaim your reverence. If you see a family member doing this during Mass, please talk to them about it at home. If you see a stranger doing this at Mass, please say a prayer for them. We would hate to become one of those parishes where the bulletin and Pilot can no longer be put out until the end of Mass. St. Mary’s Parish has a tradition of reverence and courtesy that a little self-control can help us all reclaim this Lent.

**CLOW- CHILDREN K-6 CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:**

Today, Sunday, March 31 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

**WEEK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Mar. 31	GR-K at 9:15 AM	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-7 at 5:30 PM	
Mon., Apr. 01	GR-4 at 3:00 PM	GR-6 at 2:30 PM
	GR-6 at 5:00 PM	
Tues., Apr. 02	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	
Wed., Apr. 03	No Classes	
Thur., Apr. 04	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	
Sun., Apr. 07	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

**GRADE 9 – CONFIRMATION I:** Grade 9 classes will meet this week on Tuesday, April 2 and Thursday, April 4 in Fr. Haley Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

**WINTER ADULT FORMATION PROGRAM:** On Tuesday, April 2 at 10:00 AM in Room 3-4, part 4 of the series "No Greater Love" a biblical walk through Christ's Passion will be shown. All are welcome.

**PROTECTING GODS CHILDREN (PGC)**

**WORKSHOP:** New volunteers 18 years of age and older serving in any capacity must complete a **2019 CORI**, have a signed **Code of Conduct** and complete a **PGC** workshop. For training classes scheduled in nearby parishes, please visit [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org), select "First-Time Registrant" button and follow prompts.

**2019 CORI RENEWAL ALERT FOR ALL**

**VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES:** Ministry Leaders are to make sure that **all** their active volunteers (18 years and older) renew and complete a 2019 CORI. These forms must be completed each year. You can request a copy of the form by calling the R.E. Office and one will be sent via Email. If you have access to a printer, you can print out the CORI form, complete both sides, sign it, scan it in along with a copy of your license and send it back to the Email address below: [st.marysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com). You may also stop by the R.E. office and complete the form and present a photo ID such as your license or passport.

**A GRADE 7 COORDINATOR IS NEEDED FOR THE 2019-2020 R.E. PROGRAM:** Our present GR-7 Coordinator, Mike Roberto, has served St. Mary's for twelve years and is stepping down from this position. We are so grateful that Mike dedicated his time to the GR-7 students. We will be seeking one or two good faithful people to replace Mike. Training will be provided and we have a great curriculum. Call 508-429-6076 or Email Fran at [st.marysre@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre@gmail.com) if you can inspire and lead our GR-7 students to be disciples for Christ.

*Please note that R.E. Coordinators are responsible for guiding and assisting both teachers and students in growing in their relationship with Christ and His Church. Since this is done best by example, all parish coordinators are required to be regularly practicing members of the St. Mary's Worshipping Community.*

**GRADE 2 FAMILY RETREAT:** On Saturday, April 6, at 12:45 PM the Grade 2 children and their families will meet in the church at 12:45 PM for Eucharistic Adoration and prayer. Children must be attended by at least one parent during the retreat. Parents are reminded to bring a picture of their child for the craft station and a letter or prayer to Jesus in a sealed envelope with their child's name on it.

**VBS 2019  
July 22 - 26**



Get ready for **ROAR!** This African adventure engages the whole herd. Kids will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. A single Bible point is presented at each station daily. This is a five day experience where kids learn *life is wild and God is Good*. Registration is available starting April 1.

**COORDINATOR MEETING ~ PRE-K – GR-7:** This meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 11 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM in RM 3 – 4. Coordinators are to attend for planning next year's R.E. Program and schedule.

**CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT NOON FOR GRADES K-5:** On Good Friday, April 19 families and their Grade K through 5 children are invited to the Noon Stations of the Cross. Holy week is also April Vacation. We are seeking children to take a role in the Stations of the Cross Tableau. Good Friday is a solemn day to remember Christ's Passion and death. Children who take a role must attend two rehearsals, one on Tue., April 16 and Wed., April 17 from 4 to 5:30 PM.