

**Meet Our New Sister Parish ~ Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour
The Shepherds Fields, Bethlehem!**



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.



From the Pastor's Desk

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

Thank you to all who made St. Mary's "Surge of the Heart" Parish Mission such a success. About four hundred people filled the church each night to reflect on and be inspired by the gift of our Catholic faith. Many thanks to Jon Leonetti for guiding us through these evenings of spiritual renewal. Our 150th Parish Anniversary celebrations are well begun!

About two years ago, when we first began planning St. Mary's 150th, parishioners stressed that it should be not only a celebration of our past, but also an opportunity to reach out to others in new ways. The idea was proposed of adopting a "sister parish" – a Catholic community of faith somewhere in the world with which we could enter into a relationship of mutual blessing and support. The criteria were as follows:

- 1) A parish in a part of the world where life is hard, and where our friendship would be a real balm.
- 2) A parish different from us in language and culture, allowing us a more diverse experience of Catholicism.
- 3) A parish accessible enough to receive gifts and visits from us.
- 4) A parish with enough electronic infrastructure that we could communicate and foster friendships.
- 5) A parish with leadership and people open to a "sister" relationship.

The first criterion led us to the Holy Land, where on our last St. Mary's Pilgrimage many parishioners were shocked at how difficult life is for the Arab Christian communities. As the result of government restrictions, discrimination, and at times outright persecution, the number of Christians in the Holy Land has plummeted. In 1950, for instance, Bethlehem and the surrounding villages were 86 percent Christian. But as of 2019, the Christian population has fallen to 11 percent. The territory of Bethlehem, (including Beit Sahour), is surrounded by an Israeli "security wall." In order to travel outside the city, residents must receive special, rarely granted permits, and then pass inspection by armed soldiers after waiting hours in line. This makes it very difficult to find work, go to the doctors, visit family, etc. Just this year, severe new restrictions were added to travel between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, a city just seven miles away. The Bethlehem territory itself is experiencing ongoing decay of its infrastructure.

Having settled on the Holy Land as a worthy prospect, we then reached out to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which provides the vast majority of funding for the Catholic Church in Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Cyprus. Together these areas make up the "Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem." Officials of the Order assisted us in getting permission from Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of the Patriarchate. We then began working with Dr. Sami El-Yousef, C.E.O. of the Patriarchate, who helped us narrow down the most likely candidate sister parishes.

At our January 12, 2020 meeting, St. Mary's Parish Council voted unanimously to select Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Beit Sahour, the Shepherd's Fields outside Bethlehem. On February 4, 2020, Fr. Issa Hijazeen, the Pastor of Our Lady's, accepted the sister parish relationship proposal. He will be writing soon to the people of St. Mary's, Holliston, and I am working on a letter to the Catholics in Beit Sahour. Already Fr. Issa has pledged that each First Friday the morning Mass at Our Lady's will be offered for our parishioners in Holliston. We will be reciprocating with a monthly Mass for them, shifting it to our First Fridays as the calendar allows. Both parishes will immediately begin supporting each other in prayer.

We look forward to seeing how our new relationship with our fellow Catholics in Beit Sahour will evolve. We hope it will lead to personal friendships, spiritual enrichment, and better understanding of the lives of Catholic in other lands. As we learn more about the specific needs there, we hope also to become a source of charitable support. Please take a moment to read about our new Sister Parish in this Newsletter. They also have a great Facebook page with many photos: Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Beit Sahour).

God bless you. And may God bless the people of our Sister Parish in the Land of Jesus' Birth.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

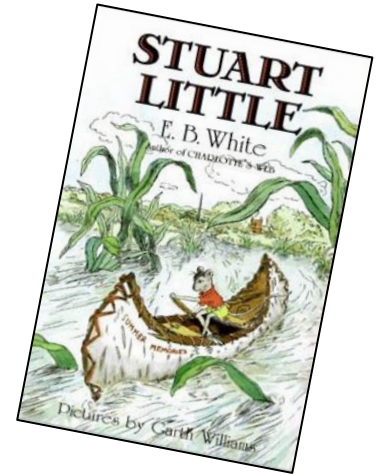
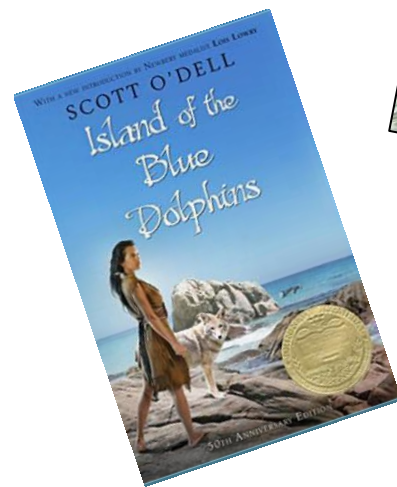
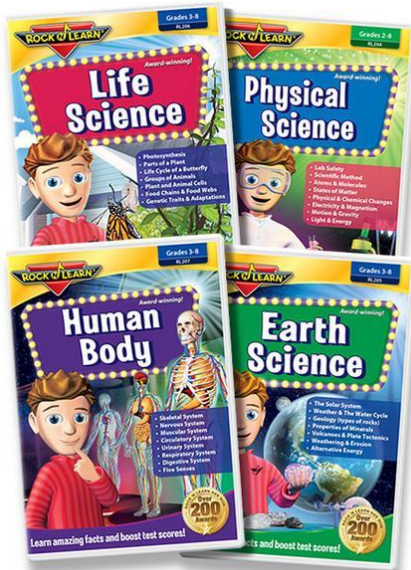
P.S. We look forward to visiting Beit Sahour and celebrating Mass with Fr. Issa and his parishioners on Wednesday, March 11, during our upcoming Parish Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. To that end, I asked Fr. Issa if there were any small, practical items we could collect and bring over in our luggage for the children in his parish school. He named these items:



- Good quality colored pencils; Educational Audio CD's for learning the English language.

- New "adventure" books in English, Grades 1-12, as all the students read in English ten minutes a day.

- Educational DVD's, Grades 1-12, in English, on science or other topics.



**A BIN TO COLLECT DONATIONS
OF THESE ITEMS WILL BE IN THE
PARISH CENTER LOBBY
THROUGH SUNDAY,
MARCH 1, 2020.**

Learn more about the current challenges for Christians and other Palestinians living in the territory of Bethlehem in this excellent article by Dalia Hatuqa:

*“We are living in a touristic prison”
Palestinians on life in the holy city of Bethlehem*

<https://bit.ly/39vj954>

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
 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

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	February 15
5:00	Nicholas Rossini
7:30	Anthony Stanton, 1 st Anv.
Sunday	February 16
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Rev. Francis McGlynn C.S.Sp.
11:30	Jack Sullivan
Monday	February 17
9:00	Maureen Jordan
Tuesday	February 18
9:00	Mary Miley, Month's Mind
Wednesday	February 19
9:00	Paul Haberski
Thursday	February 20
9:00	Ginny Sanning, Month's Mind
Friday	February 21
9:00	Mary Miley
Saturday	February 22
9:00	Rev. John Donovan
5:00	Paul T. Shea & Louis Zeramby
7:30	John Collins, 15 th Anv.
Sunday	February 23
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Timothy Clifford
11:30	Grade 5 Healing Mass

**STEWARDSHIP***Managing God's Gifts To Us*

WEEKLY OFFERTORY NEEDED TO PAY OUR PARISH'S BILLS: \$15,000.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Mass Collections: \$ 12,346.00
 Automatic Giving: \$ 3,976.00
 WeShare: \$ 1,621.73
 Total Offertory: \$ 17,943.73

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

Will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe and three important national Catholic missions: the Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your generosity will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world.

CATHOLIC APPEAL: Next month, the 2020 Catholic Appeal will be launched in all parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Each of us is responsible not only for the wellbeing of our parish, but also for the wellbeing of the Church throughout our Archdiocese. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this year's Appeal.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ~ SECOND COLLECTION DATED INCORRECTLY ON ENVELOPES: It is March 1, not Ash Wednesday, February 26. Ash Wednesday is the Annual St. Mary's Easter Flowers Collection.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by Maria Bomba. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. If you wish to sponsor the Rose in 2020 please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES: In honor of World Marriage Month, St. Mary's will offer a special blessing to all married persons at all Masses this weekend, February 15 and 16. As is our custom, the couple at each Mass present together and married the longest will be presented with roses, as we honor all our married couples and ask God's grace upon them.

NOW PLAYING IN THE PARISH CENTER LOBBY:

Learn about The history of St. Mary's in only 20 minutes! If you don't have 20 minutes, the video runs on a loop, so you can view parts as you have time. If this inspires you to look through your own collection of St. Mary's memories or memorabilia, please share them with me. Contact Betty Febo at 508-429-7190 or betty.febo@gmail.com.



COLLECTION OF OLD PALMS FOR BURNING:

Next Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23.

Please bring your old palms to any Mass next weekend. They will be collected and burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday a few days later, Wednesday, February 26.

ASH WEDNESDAY:

Wednesday, February 26 ~

6:45 AM Liturgy of the Word

9:00 AM Mass

4:00 PM Liturgy of the Word

5:30 PM Mass

7:00 PM Mass

* *Ashes will be given
at all 5 services*



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 may not be used at all.

Fasting -- Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th 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.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS: It is that time again when we will be preparing and enjoying the Lenten Soup Suppers at St. Mary's parish. The evenings scheduled for the Lenten Soup Suppers are: **February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, and April 3.** Dinners begin at 6:00 PM and end between 7:30-8:00 PM. The exception is the evening of March 27 where the dinner will begin at 5:30 PM and end at 7:00 PM so that parishioners can attend the musical concert offered by the St. Paul's Boys Choir of Cambridge. Dinner and a concert, how good is that! The suppers are wonderful events, time to share a meal, meet and get to know other parishioners, and greet and speak to our Confirmation student helpers. It is almost as if we are going backwards in time to the early Christian meetings, when the Church was young, and celebrations of the Eucharist occurred around meals in private homes. Spiritual reflections will be offered by our Deacons Marty and John, our own Juanita Campos-Rivera and Fr. Mark. Food contributions are homemade by the parishioners and they are all delicious! People make cauldrons of soup, trays of mac n' cheese/pasta, breads and desserts.



Please consider coming to one or all of the evenings. If there are free will donations, half the sum is given to the Parish Emergency Fund, and the other half to a charity. You can sign up to participate in the meal at: <https://bit.ly/2OwJRSE>. Pick your available date and what you would like to bring. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

MUSIC	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Entrance	#317	#721	#721
Offertory	#393	#122	-
Communion	#320	#322,338	#133
Recessional	#430	#598	#122

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: "[On what young husbands should say to their wives:] I have taken you in my arms, and I love you, and I prefer you to my life itself. For the present life is nothing, and my most ardent dream is to spend it with you in such a way that we may be assured of not being separated in the life reserved for us... I place your love above all things, and nothing would be more bitter or painful to me than to be of a different mind than you." - St. John Chrysostom

"If a man and a woman marry in order to be companions on the journey from earth to heaven, then their union will bring great joy to themselves and to others." - St. John Chrysostom



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next trip is this Tuesday, February 18 to Coco Key WaterPark. Departure is at 8:30 AM sharp, so be at the Parish Center by 8:15 AM. Return is 4:00 – 4:30 PM. Our February Meeting is Next Sunday, February 23 from **6:30 – 8:00 PM**. There will be a presentation on this summer's Whitewater Rafting Trips, including a video. Also, there will be sign-ups for hosting the St. Paul's Boys Choir on Friday, March 27, the Monday, March 16, 8th Grade BINGO service trip to St. Patrick Manor, and for the Friday, March 20 Late Night Cosmic Bowling Trip! All 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are welcome. Bring a friend!

ST. MARY'S EPIC – HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next Service Project is assembling Blessings Bags for the needy on Sunday, March 1 from 7:15 – 8:15 PM in Classrooms 3 and 4. Our next General Meeting will be Sunday, March 8 from 7:15 to 8:45 PM in Father Haley Hall. Please bring your \$5 dues. There are still spots remaining for the St. Mary's Summer Mission Trip from July 26 to August 1 to Gulfport, Mississippi. Please speak to Jake Thiringer (stmarysym1870@gmail.com) for more information.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): There is no WINGS this Wednesday due to February vacation. Please join us next Wednesday, February 26, when WINGS concludes its Winter 2020 Season on Great Themes of the Old Testament presented by Sr. Agnes Therrien. Session 5, on February 26, will be "Allowing God to be God." Job wrestles with evil and suffering, and in the process is purified. He bows to the mystery of God and we are called to do likewise. The WINGS ministry provides an opportunity for women to deepen their faith, no matter where they are on their spiritual journey. Please join us 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 Jennifer Schiller 617-852-9632 or to sign-up: betty.febo@gmail.com.

women in
WINGS
God's spirit

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Please join us at 10 AM on Friday, March 6, at Christ the King Lutheran Church at 600 Central Street in Holliston as the women of the World Day of Prayer Committee of Zimbabwe call us to worship with the words Jesus asked – "Do you want to be made well?" "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk". You are faced with this life-changing question. What are you going to do? The women of Zimbabwe challenge us all to widen our circles and to expand our communities. Let us walk in faith and prayerful action!



ST. MARY'S 150th ANNIVERSARY GALA SILENT AUCTION: Interested in donating to the St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Gala Silent Auction? We are looking for donations of all kinds. Perhaps you are a season ticket holder, a business owner, someone who owns a vacation house who can offer a weekend getaway, or maybe you have a special talent or service you could donate (culinary professional, massage therapist, painter, musician, personal health instructor). This would be a great opportunity to help make St. Mary's Anniversary celebration a great success! We would love to hear from you! Please contact Paula Watt at 401-256-8341 or Paula.Watt@ymail.com.

CALLING ALL LONG-TIME AND NEW PARISHIONERS: The St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Committee wishes to hear from those parishioners who have been members of St. Mary's for over 50 years. Do you have any photos or memorabilia we could use? We are also interested in hearing what brought new parishioners (5 years or less) to St. Mary's. Was there a particular parish program or ministry that interested you, or is our welcoming reputation just well-known far and wide! Please send any comments/anecdotes to betty.febo@gmail.com or if you would like to share a story in person, contact Sandy Liro at 508.429.6098. Your comments may be included in our new parish history, but no comments will be directly attributed without express permission.

2020 CORI RENEWAL ALERT: All active volunteers (18 years and older) must complete a 2020 CORI. Forms are being sent out to all volunteers via Constant Contact as an attachment. If you have access to a printer, you may fill them in at home and come to the Religious Education Office for verification and signature. You will need to show a photo ID and place your driver's license number on the form. Bring your completed CORI form to the RE office or to a Staff member. CORI forms are available on the table outside the Religious Education Office.

CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY

OF THE WORD: Today, Sunday, February 16, 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.

FEBRUARY VACATION IS SUNDAY, FEB. 16 TO FEB. 21. CLASSES RESUME ON SUN., FEB. 23.

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Feb. 23	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-5 at 11:30 AM	GR-1 at 2:00 PM
Mon., Feb. 24	GR-3 at 3:00 PM	GR-6 at 5:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues., Feb. 25	GR-6 at 4:30 PM	GR-9 at 6:30 PM
Wed., Feb. 26	GR-7 at 6:00 PM	GR-8 at 6:00 PM
Thur., Feb. 27	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	

HELP - MONITORS NEEDED: For details and training please call 508-429-6076.

GR-4/5: MONITOR: - Alt Sundays 10:45AM-12:15 PM.

GR-6: 1 MONITOR - Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 PM.

GR-8: 1 MONITOR - Alt Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 PM.

GR-9: 1 MONITOR - Alt Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM.

CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY WORKSHOP PREVIEWS FOR PARENTS WHO HAVE GR-5

CHILDREN: Parents who plan for their child to attend the student workshop on Saturday, March 21 must preview the program prior to their children attending the student workshop. Contact Fran and schedule a preview of the program. A signed parent Previously Previewed or Permission Form is required before March 8.

GRADE 5 SPONSORED HEALING MASS IS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 11:30 AM: The Grade 5 children will participate in the Scripture readings, greeting parishioners and witnessing the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the close of the Mass as part of their curriculum. Mary's has wheelchair access by using the elevator located on the Elm Street parking lot.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020 – JULY 20 - 24: Get ready for “**Rocky Railway**” - a program for train loving children who love adventure and travel.

GRADE 1 BAPTISM CLASS: Sun., Feb. 23 at 2:00 PM. Children must arrive in the church by 1:45 PM.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS: Meeting takes place in the Library on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:45 PM.

CONFIRMATION I: Grade 9 is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 25 and Thursday, February 27 at 6:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020: The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Reed on Saturday, September 26 at the 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM Masses this year.

GRADES 5 COORDINATOR IS STILL NEEDED:

Our Grade Coordinators are vital to our R.E. program and assist the DRE in planning, scheduling and contacting families during the year regarding class reminders and assist with events. Please contact Fran Crespi for information if you are interested and able to help. Training will be provided. Please call 508-429-6076 or email: st.marysdre1870@gmail.com.

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.

ADULT FAITH SERIES: On Tuesday, February 25, a short series on the Passion of Christ with Dr. Edward Sri called “**No Greater Love**” will be offered to prepare us for Lent. This series takes place in Room 3 – 4 from 10:00 AM to Noon. All are welcome!

THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST: Cardinal Sean O'Malley has named this year the year of the **Eucharist**. Are you aware that **75% of Catholics do not believe in the true Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist?** This most Supreme gift of God's Love is the Source and Summit of our Catholic Faith. Before the Incarnation of Jesus, the Israelites worshipped and offered their sacrifices to God once a year at Passover. They brought their unblemished lambs to the Temple in Jerusalem while the high priest released one lamb as a scapegoat to carry away the sins of the people. These practices were still ongoing at the time of Jesus. Over time the Israelites had become indifferent to God's Covenant and refused to listen to the many Prophets call to return to God. Because of this people suffered and there was no longer a soul who could offer a perfect sacrifice to God. God's love for His people would provide a Savior, a King, Who would lead them back to the Father in a New Covenant, sealed by the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, on the Cross. The Holy Eucharist instituted at the Last Supper is the living Christ Who sanctifies us with His Body and Blood. The Holy Mass is our Passover calling us back into intimacy and unity with God and with one another in love.