



ASH WEDNESDAY
February 26, 2020

6:45 AM	Liturgy
9:00 AM	Mass
4:00 PM	Liturgy
5:30 PM	Mass
7:00 PM	Mass



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.

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

**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:	\$ 9,853.00
Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,508.00
WeShare:	\$ 1,549.88
Total Offertory:	\$ 14,910.88
Shortfall:	\$ 89.12

SECOND COLLECTION THIS 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.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

Catholic Charities ~ C.C. 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.

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.

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	February 22
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
Monday	February 24
9:00	Vilio DiCenso & Family
Tuesday	February 25
9:00	Ed Fitzgerald



Let today be the day
 you give up who
 you've been for who
 you can become.

Blessed Ash Wednesday

Wednesday	February 26
	<i>(Day of Fasting & Abstinence from Meat)</i>
6:45	Liturgy with Ashes
9:00	Mass with Ashes
4:00	Liturgy with Ashes
5:30	Mass with Ashes
7:00	Mass with Ashes
Thursday	February 27
9:00	Barbara Brown
Friday	February 28
9:00	Mary Miley
Saturday	February 29
9:00	Rev. Roger Brady
5:00	Richard Burrows II
7:30	George T. Oswald
Sunday	March 1
7:30	Joseph Calpa 18 th Anv.
9:30	People of St. Mary's
11:30	Carol Howland, 17 th Anv.

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism."

- Pope Benedict XVI



Saint Mary's Parish

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

February 23, 2020
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

We stand at the very threshold of Lent, the Church's great Season of Purification that starts this coming Ash Wednesday. Recently I came across a beautiful reflection by St. Brigid of Ireland, Virgin of the Church. In it she recites the desires of her heart. And it occurs to me that if by the end of Lent these same desires have taken hold in us, then we will count these forty days as having been fruitful indeed. St. Brigid writes:

"I would like the angels of Heaven to be among us. I would like an abundance of peace. I would like full vessels of charity. I would like rich treasures of mercy. I would like cheerfulness to preside over all. I would like Jesus to be present. I would like the three Marys of illustrious renown to be with us. I would like the friends of Heaven to be gathered around us from all parts. I would like myself to be a prayer to the Lord; that I should suffer distress, that he would bestow a good blessing upon me."

“Angels of heaven to be among us” – This hope represents our awareness of the spiritual; our trust in the sometimes invisible, but constant presence of God. “An abundance of peace” – In a world wracked by war, terrorism, and hatred, what could be more timely than to offer a special prayer for peace each day of Lent? “Vessels full of charity” – We are the vessels, and true charity means looking for the best in others, speaking only well of others, and acknowledging Christ’s presence in every human being. “Rich treasures of mercy” – Even as this Lent we share our earthly wealth with the poor, let us not be stingy in handing out a wealth of forgiveness to those against whom we have been hoarding anger and enmity. “Cheerfulness” - This is very much the hallmark of a Christian, not a giddy happiness, but a peace and quiet joy that comes from trusting in God no matter what may come.

“Jesus to be present” – On Ash Wednesday the ashes on our foreheads identify us as Catholics, but on every day our loving kindness should let people know that Jesus in their midst. Let us also strive to realize Christ’s presence by spending more time with Him in the Holy Eucharist these forty days. “The three Marys” – Let us like Mary Magdalene turn away from sin and begin a new life of purity in the Lord; let us like Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus “sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to Him” by making the Scriptures a daily part of our Lenten journey; let us like Mary the Mother of Jesus, remain true to her Son even when the whole world seems to reject His Gospel of love. “The friends of heaven” – a reference to the saints, whose life stories when read can encourage us in our own struggles. Let us also humbly beg the prayers of these holy men, women, and children, who now see God face to face. “To be a prayer to the Lord and know blessing through suffering” – this is the essence of Lenten fasting, abstinence, almsgiving, and prayer; that by emptying ourselves in sacrificial ways Christ might make His home more fully in us, and we in turn might become more of a blessing to others.

God bless you.



Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

HOLY LAND PRAYER INTENTIONS: Please neatly print your prayer requests on the papers provided in the front of the church today. Fold them in half and place them in the baskets. They will be distributed among our Pilgrims and prayed every single day at Mass during our journey through the Holy Land, including Bethlehem, Nazareth & Jerusalem.

HOLY LAND SCHOOL ITEMS: We asked our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour, the Shepherd's Fields, Bethlehem, if there were any small items we could carry for the school kids in our luggage. A box is available in the Parish Center Lobby through March 1 if you can donate one of the following: English Language Learning CD; Educational DVD's in English, especially Math & Science; new Adventure Books in English, Grades 1-12; good quality colored pencils. We will deliver these when we celebrate Mass in Beit Sahour on March 11 as part of our 150th Anniversary Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Thank you to those who have already made a gift!



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our February Meeting is TONIGHT - 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): Please join us this Wed., Feb. 26, when WINGS concludes its Winter 2020 Season on Great Themes of the Old Testament presented by Sr. Agnes Therrien. This Session will be about "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. WINGS will not meet if Holliston schools are canceled or delayed due to bad weather. 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 Wed. 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.

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 Zimbzbwe 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.



KEEPING A HOLY LENT ~ FULL ST. MARY'S LENTEN SCHEDULE AT: <https://bit.ly/37Mvq41>

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. The name "Lent" is from the Middle English "Lencten," meaning spring. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a time of preparation for the "spiritual springtime" of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

Lent is marked by fasting, prayer and almsgiving. The sacrifices Catholics make during Lent are a reflection of Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and on the Cross, as well as a test of self-discipline. It is a time of "detachment" from earthly goods and pleasures, in favor of spiritual and eternal ones. Whereas Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus after His death on the Cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome.

Fasting: Catholics over eighteen and up to the beginning of their sixtieth 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.

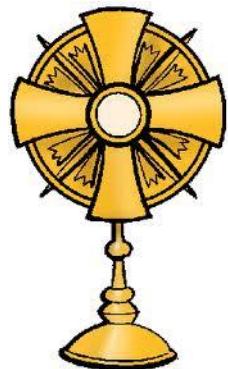
Abstinence: Catholics over fourteen years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended. Commendable, particularly during Lent, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the concept of "mortification."

STARTING THIS FRIDAY ~ 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!

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 1 ~ LENTEN MINI-RETREAT, 2 - 3 PM WITH ADORATION:

Everyone is welcome to join together and prepare our hearts for this Lenten journey with Our Lord. Deacon John will Expose the Blessed Sacrament for one hour of Adoration and deacon – candidate Ron Dowding will offer a reflection for Lent. The reflection is titled – "Jesus' Gifts of Grace Along the Way of the Cross."



CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, Sunday, February 23, the children will be dismissed from the main assembly and led to the lower church hall to hear what Jesus has to tell them in the Gospel. **Please note:** Younger children are welcome **but must be accompanied by their parents** and be able to sit and engage in the lesson. Older children are welcome to assist the adult leaders.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

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 want their child to participate in the student workshop on Saturday, March 21 must contact Fran and schedule a preview of the program before March 8 along with a signed ‘Permission’ or “Previously Previewed” form to the R.E. Office. .

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020 – JULY 20 - 24:

Get ready for “Rocky Railway” - a program made for train loving children who dream of adventure and travel.

GRADE 1 BAPTISM CLASS TODAY, FEB. 23:

Children in Grade 1 will witness Deacon Marty Baptize Isabela Hope Piersiak as part of their lesson on the Sacrament of Baptism. Parents must bring their first grade children to the church by 1:45 PM and picked up at 2:45 PM in the church.

FY2020 CORI RENEWAL ALERT FOR

VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES: Ministry Leaders are to make sure that **all** their active volunteers (18 years and older) renew and complete a FY2020 CORI.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Meeting takes place in the Library on Tuesday, March 3 at 6:30 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 - CONTINUED:

It is surprising to note that 75% of Catholics do not believe in the true Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist where grace abounds and heaven and earth meet at the Altar of Sacrifice. Not only does Christ feed us spiritually in this Sacrament, He enters our hearts intimately for those precious moments when the Blessed Sacrament is placed into our hands or mouth and we respond to the words of the priest “Body of Christ” with an “Amen.” When we say “Amen” we are saying to God, “I believe” Who I am receiving is the true Living Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches us the parable of the Great Feast (*Lk.Ch. 14:16-24*) about a man who - prepared a great dinner and invited many to come. Those he invited gave so many excuses not to attend so the man told his servant to go out into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the blind, the crippled and lame. They all came and there was still room for more. So the man ordered his servant to go out to the highways and hedgerows and make people come to fill his home for the dinner. - Jesus concludes His parable by saying, “*For, I tell you, none of these men who were invited will taste my dinner.*” You see, Jesus is the Master and we are His guests at Mass. How can anyone refuse God’s divine invitation to be fed supernaturally in this Sacrament?