



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.

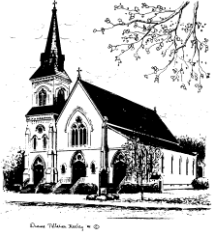
Please join in!

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.



Saint Mary's Parish

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

March 15, 2020
Third Sunday of Lent

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

It would have been so very easy to judge her, the Samaritan woman. She was after all, a Samaritan, a people loathed and rejected by devout Jews in Jesus' day. She was by Jewish law also an adulteress, having been married many times, and living with a man who was not her husband. But instead of offering words of harsh judgment, Jesus makes a request: *"Give me a drink."* And then He talks with the woman, treating her with a respect that shocks her.

Respect is at the heart of today's Gospel and of all true Christian discipleship. It means looking again at one another; looking beyond differences of race, nationality, and creed; beyond the hurts and injuries of the past. Respect means to see every person as Jesus saw the woman at the well - as a gift to be celebrated - rather than as a specimen to be critiqued.

Jesus' respect for the Samaritan woman culminates halfway through the Gospel when He says, *"Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."* *"Woman."* That is what Jesus calls the Samaritan. It's not remarkable in English, but a very particular Greek word for woman, "gune," is used here. "Gune" is not a term used with strangers or for one being critically judged. Rather, it is a word of great endearment that can be translated as "special lady." In fact, Jesus uses this exact same word "gune" for His mother, Mary, at the wedding in Cana and at the Cross.

"Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.'" Jn 2:4

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.'" Jn 19:26

A sinful Samaritan - respected as much as the Mother of God. How could that happen? Because the water drawn from the well that day was just a prelude to the blood and water that would flow from Jesus' wounded side. Washing away the sins and sorrows of this world. And the changing of water into wine at Cana, was nothing, compared to Jesus' greatest miracle. The transformation of human hearts. Teaching us to see one another as God sees us. As precious, as sacred, as worthy of love. The Samaritan woman had brought her jar out to the well to draw water. But in her encounter with Jesus she received something far more significant. Living water. The truth of God's love for her. And the possibility of redemption in His Son.

It is not by accident that the Eucharist is often called the "font" and "wellspring" of salvation. To be in the Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, is to be with Jesus just as surely as the Samaritan Woman was when they had their beautiful encounter. I thank everyone who has signed up to spend time with Jesus during the Forty Hours Devotion next Sunday through Tuesday. I pray that you drink deeply of His True Presence in the Eucharist. I pray that you will be spiritually refreshed by His grace and by His love.

May the Lord of Our Lenten Journey continue to bless you and yours.

Under His Mercy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Coiro'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

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

These past few days have been ones of rapid change as we all reorient ourselves to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Please be advised of the following latest information.

Following Governor Baker's Emergency Order concerning the Commonwealth's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak Cardinal O'Malley has established the following policies for the Archdiocese of Boston effective immediately:

All Masses and religious services in all parishes, missions, and shrines within the Archdiocese are suspended until further notice. This begins immediately. To be clear there are to be no daily, Sunday or Vigil Masses.

The Cardinal has issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time to the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Archdiocese of Boston parish schools and Archdiocesan elementary and high schools will be closed for two weeks from Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 27. Going forward we will consider whether this period needs to be extended.

Cardinal O'Malley encourages Catholics, and all people who would find it helpful, to participate in the daily and Sunday Mass by way of Catholic TV. Schedules and access to the televised Mass and rebroadcasts are available at www.WatchtheMass.com or www.catholicTV.org and by consulting local cable providers or network listings.

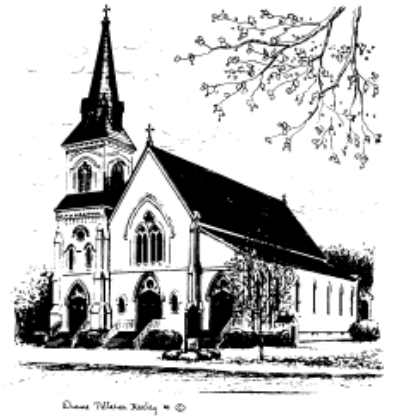
During this time of extraordinary challenges Cardinal O'Malley holds as among the highest priorities the safety and well-being of all people in the communities served by the Archdiocese. The Cardinal asks all to join in prayer for the health care professionals and civic officials who are striving to respond to the needs of those who are ill and as best possible prevent further transmission of the virus.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Archdiocese's emergency policies related to the Coronavirus please contact: corona@rcab.org.

All of the Archdiocese communications regarding the response to the Coronavirus outbreak can be found on the risk management website: www.rcabrisk.org.

In response to Archdiocesan Pandemic Directives the following changes are also in effect at St. Mary's, Holliston until further notice:

- All Middle School and High School Youth Group large meetings and field trips are suspended. (St. Mary's Troop 14 has likewise suspended all activities through March).**
- All parish lunches, dinners and social events are cancelled, including Thursday Morning Library Coffee, First Sunday D, J & C., and the Lenten Soup Suppers.**
- As of an update this afternoon, Religious Education Classes at all grade levels are cancelled until further notice.**
- WINGS Meetings are suspended, as is Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound, Nursing Homes and Hospitals.**



- Our 150th Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been postponed until next year. Please pray for Fr. Issa and the people of our Sister Parish, Our Lady's in Beit Sahour. All of Bethlehem is now sealed off due to the pandemic, making daily life extremely difficult for the people there.

- Confessions will be held Saturday, and the church will be open for private prayer this weekend.

It goes without saying that persons feeling ill should remain home and not go anywhere in public. Let us all keep well informed and follow the counsel of our medical professionals.

May we feel in this moment a special solidarity with the sick, the poor and all those who suffer.

Please know that I will continue to celebrate Mass privately for the safety and well being of our parishioners, and the recovery of those stricken by this new illness.

In Christ's Service and Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Coiro', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.