

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

FROM THE BUSINESS MANGER:



Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,

As you know, in order to make payroll and keep up with her bills, St. Mary's weekly offertory need is \$15,000. For the most part, we have reached this weekly need since last spring. Due to the Mass shutdown, however, St. Mary's has now lost her Mass collection income entirely.

Last weekend this caused a \$6,323.27 Offertory Shortfall.

If this large weekly shortfall continues, it will only be a short time before St. Mary's will be unable to make payroll and pay her bills. In order to make sure that this does not happen, it is CRITICAL that those parishioners not currently using Automatic Giving or WeShare, please sign up for one of those services right away.

Full details on how to do so are provided on the St. Mary's Website under the HOW TO GIVE tab: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.

We recommend setting up the WeShare option, which can be done right now on your computer by clicking here: <https://stmarysholliston.weshareonline.org/>.

If you are unable to do Automatic Giving or WeShare, then it is essential that you drop off or mail in your parish offertory support every week until you can place it in the basket at Mass again.

None of us knows how long the current COVID-19 Crisis, and subsequent shutting down of Masses, will continue. But we all want to make sure that St. Mary's remains strong and healthy throughout, able to pay her hardworking staff, maintain her buildings, and continue serving her people in love.

Thank you and God bless you.

Mary Sanning, Business Manager

P.S. A number of people have called asking about their Blue In Pew Catholic Appeal Envelopes. These may be dropped off at St. Mary's anytime and will be credited toward our St. Mary's "In Pew Count" when the new Catholic Appeal Launch Weekend is announced. Online pledges may be made at www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org. Please be sure to identify St. Mary's, Holliston as your parish. Thank you for your support of this important effort!



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:	\$ 0.00
Automatic Giving:	\$ 4,063.00
WeShare:	\$ 1,747.73
Offertory Envelopes dropped off/mailed to the office:	\$ 2,866.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 8,676.73

Offertory Shortfall Last Weekend:

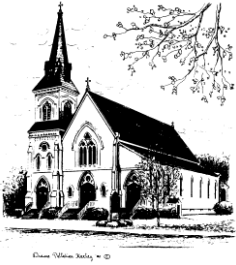
\$6,323.27

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish Support.

NEWSLETTER COLLATING ~ CANCELLED:

We thank the Senior Citizens who usually do this. Because of senior's health vulnerability, the April Newsletter is being collated by Parish Staff instead.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by Eileen Sheehan. 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.



Saint Mary's Parish

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

March 22, 2020
4th Sunday of Lent

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

It was a sad and empty feeling last weekend as five times I heard the St. Mary's Church bells ring the call to worship – knowing that there was no Mass to follow the call. Our church was open, and people came to pray privately here and there, but the Mass – the anchor of our faith and our week as Catholics – was unavailable. I offered Mass privately for the faithful, but how strange to do it behind locked doors!

Starting today, Sunday, March 22, St. Mary's will begin live-streaming an 11:30 AM Mass from our church. To be clear, this will be a Mass without a congregation, as public Masses are still prohibited due to the COVID – 19 Virus threat. Only a few necessary ministers will be present.

**Here is the link to the YouTube page that the video will be streamed on today: <https://bit.ly/2QrNzhH>
That link will only work for this Sunday.**

**All future livestreams will appear on our new YouTube Channel - St. Mary's Catholic Church Holliston, MA
<https://bit.ly/33uwRU2>**

By happy chance, today's 11:30 AM Mass was scheduled to be the Opening Mass for St. Mary's Annual 40 Hours Devotion. Immediately following the Mass, the church will be unlocked and remain open day and night for 40 continuous hours of Eucharistic Adoration until 9 AM Tuesday Morning. Those praying are asked to sit far from others and should the number of people in the church at any one time reach 25, then please return at another hour. Usually 4-5 people are in our 600-seat church for the 40 Hours at any one time. This year there will be no special prayer times or events during the 40 Hours, just Adoration.

As you know, historically the 40 Hours Devotion has been an effective prayer in times of national trial and calamity, so it is especially appropriate now. A few changes you will notice in the church:

- 1) The holy water fonts have been emptied and temporarily removed. The large, silver holy water dispenser by the elevator is being kept supplied for those who wish to bring in a small bottle and use holy water as a sacramental during their Lenten Journey. As always, please only access this water from the spigot – do not open the top of the dispenser or dip anything into it, which would cause contamination.
- 2) Because they are touched by many hands and cannot be effectively cleaned, the missals and songbooks have been removed.
- 3) All church and parish center doorknobs, push bars, etc., are being sterilized every morning. The pews are being decontaminated weekly.

Even after the 40 Hours concludes our church will be open each day for prayer from 9-5 PM. The exception is Sunday mornings prior to the 11:30 AM Mass which will be livestreamed every week from the church. On Sundays the church will open for private prayer at about 12:30 PM.

During this unprecedented time of no public Masses, we encourage you to watch the televised Catholic Mass together as a family. 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. And please know that I continue to offer Mass privately for all of you.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

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.

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.



ALL FUNERAL MASSES: Effective Monday, March 23, there will be no Funeral Masses celebrated in the Archdiocese of Boston. Graveside Services with immediate family only may take place, with Memorial Masses to follow after the Pandemic subsides. This is to comply with the Governor's ban on gatherings of over 25 people.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS: Canceled.

TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER: Canceled.

ST. PAUL'S BOY CHOIR CONCERT: Canceled.

SUNG CHORAL VESPERS: Canceled.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): Canceled.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY: This meeting has been tentatively rescheduled to Sunday, September 27.

KEEPING A HOLY LENT: Commemorating Jesus' 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 abstinence days, 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."

LENT 4.2: Is a faith formation program of prayer, fasting and almsgiving focused on the call we have received to care for the earth. The program was created by Fr. Joseph Mitchell, CP, and designed by the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center of Louisville, KY. Lent 4.2 talks about a different aspect of our relationship with the earth and its resources each week of Lent. The focus this week, the Fourth Week of Lent, is on energy and this week's Lenten practices are to use more clean energy and to consume energy more efficiently. There is a weekly feature in the Lent 4.2 program called "If you can do only one thing...". This week's action is to replace your home light fixtures with LED or compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL). You'll find other steps you can take as well as Church statements about the gift of energy on the program's website www.lent42.org: click on Online Resources.



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN ~ LENT 2020: 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!

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *“What is Jesus trying to convey to us by spitting on the ground, mixing his spittle with clay and putting it on the eyes of a blind man, saying: “Go and wash yourself in the pool of Siloam (a name that means ‘sent’)?” What is the meaning of the Lord’s action in this? Surely one of great significance, since the person whom Jesus touches receives more than just his sight.*

In one instant we see both the power of his divinity and the strength of his holiness. As the divine light, he touched this man and enlightened him; as priest, by an action symbolizing baptism he wrought in him his work of redemption.

The only reason for his mixing clay with the spittle and smearing it on the eyes of the blind man was to remind you that he who restored the man to health by anointing his eyes with clay is the very one who fashioned the first man out of clay, and that this clay that is our flesh can receive the light of eternal life through the sacrament of baptism.”

- St. Ambrose of Milan

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Due to the COVID - 19 Pandemic, all Middle School Youth Group Activities scheduled for March and April are cancelled. Activities will resume as soon as safety allows. Members will be kept informed by email. All Summer Events are still a GO at this time:

Kennebec Rafting, Thursday, June 25 - Friday, June 26

Brownstone Quarry Park, CT, Tuesday, July 28

Deerfield Rafting, Friday, August 14

ST. MARY’S EPIC – HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Pandemic permitting, EPIC General Meetings will be held on May 3 and May 31 from 7:15 – 8:45 PM in FHH - \$5 Dues.



BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarship Applications are now available in the R. E. Office. This \$2,000 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 2020; Accepted to a four-year college or university to commence classes in the Fall of 2020; 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 Easter Sunday, April 12. The Scholarship will be presented at St. Mary’s Mass for the Graduating Class of 2020, Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 AM.

KEEPING THE MISSION ALIVE/BOOK DISCUSSION: During St. Mary’s recent Parish Mission, Jon Leonetti provided his three books for sale. Given the response (he sold out), it seems that Mission participants are interested in continuing to think and pray about Jon’s message. Pandemic permitting, on Thursday, April 16, at 7 PM, we will have a discussion of his book ‘The Art of Getting Over Yourself’ in the Parish Library. All are welcome. Feel free to reach out to Lisa Dufault at lisadufault@yahoo.com or Diane Collins at diathome17@aol.com if you have any questions.

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.

NOW PLAYING IN THE R. E. CENTER LOBBY: We have a new segment of our Anniversary Video Series now playing in the Parish Center lobby: Parish Pastors. Learn about 150 years of our St. Mary’s shepherds!

CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: CLOW has been suspended until our Sunday Masses resume.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THIS DIRECTIVE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON IS IN ORDER TO PROTECT ALL THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DURING THIS TIME IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS.

FAITH FORMATION MATERIALS FOR GRADES 1 THROUGH 7: The Archdiocese of Boston has advised all religious education programs to provide materials for the families to home school their children until the suspension from religious education classes is lifted. We are sending materials to the families via email and other means so that parents do not have to visit the Center to pick up the classwork material in person. Virginia Calapa is preparing to load the lesson plans to a link to be sent to all teachers and families.

GRADE 2 FAMILY RETREAT: The Family Retreat for Grade 2 has been cancelled due to the Archdiocese directive that all large group activities, retreats, and meetings be suspended until further notice. Although we look forward to this event with joy every year with the children and their families it is for the protection of all concerned that we cooperate with the mandate. Instructions to pick up the children's First Communion Packets were sent out to the families by Email. Please follow the instructions carefully.

GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION MASSES: Unless the suspension of Masses is extended by Cardinal Sean O'Malley for a longer period of time beyond May 2, the First Communion Masses will be celebrated as planned. Remember, God has given us many days of blessings. If the First Communion Masses are delayed, we will plan to have them in late May/June, or whenever the health authorities believe it is safe to resume our daily activities with large groups of people.

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. Climb aboard for mountains of fun on this faith-filled adventure. Kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.



CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grades 9 and 10 will not hold classes until the suspension of large group gatherings is lifted. Jake will be sending out materials for the students to continue studies at home.

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 if you are interested and able to help. Training will be provided. Contact: 508-429-6076 or 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: The Eucharist "Discovering the Mass in the Bible" with Dr. Brant Pitre has been suspended until further notice.

THE EUCHARIST IN THE ECONOMY OF SALVATION - PART 1: Continuing with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) we learn that at the heart of the Eucharistic Celebration are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's Body and Blood. Faithful to the Lord's command the Church continues to do, in His memory and until His glorious return, what He did on the eve of His Passion: "He took bread . . .", "He took the cup filled with wine. . . ." The signs of bread and wine become, in a way surpassing understanding; the Body and Blood of Christ; they continue also to signify the goodness of creation. Thus in the Offertory we give thanks to the Creator for bread and wine, fruit of the "work of human hands," but above all as "fruit of the earth" and "of the vine" – gifts of the Creator. The Church sees in the gesture of the king-priest Melchizedek, who "brought out bread and wine." A prefiguring of Her own offering (CCC1333). To be continued next week.

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 FY 2020 CORI. If anyone needs to take a PGC workshop please watch the weekly bulletin for a scheduled announcement.