

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.

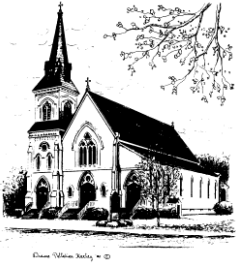
Please join in!

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 29, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent

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

By directive of Cardinal O'Malley, in compliance with the Governor's Coronavirus Prevention Policy, all Masses in the Archdiocese, and all Parish Activities, remain suspended until further notice. All churches and church offices are closed. With most of St. Mary's Staff now working from home, they are best reached by email.

We invite you to watch Mass live-streamed from St. Mary's Church, every Sunday at 11:30 AM. Just visit: <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston/> and scroll down. You do not need a Facebook account to access this page. A prayer to offer at Communion time is provided below.

Additionally, Morning Prayer will be live-streamed from St. Mary's Church starting March 30, every weekday at 7:30 AM on the same Facebook page.

If you have not been receiving the Pandemic Update Constant Contacts from St. Mary's, please give us your correct email at st.marvs1870@gmail.com.

Today's Gospel offers us one of Jesus' most impressive miracles – the raising of Lazarus from the dead. At first it must have seemed that Jesus did not care much for Lazarus. After all, He delayed coming for several days after receiving word that Lazarus was at death's door. Yes, Jesus could have come right away and restored the sick Lazarus to health. But by waiting, Jesus was able to offer an even greater witness to the power and love of God - releasing Lazarus from the bonds of death itself. In so doing, Jesus gave us a glimpse of the final victory over death that He would accomplish through His own death and Resurrection.

If, therefore, we feel that Jesus is being slow to reply to some urgent prayer we make of Him, let us remember Lazarus. Let us consider that in His own time Jesus may be planning to bring about a greater good even than we have asked of Him. And if in this life we still feel forgotten by Jesus, let us remember Lazarus again, who shows us that Jesus' best gifts are sometimes given to us after we have passed through death's door. In fact, Jesus wants us to look to Him first and always for that greatest of His gifts – Resurrection, and the hope of eternal life in Him.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

PRAYER OF 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.

LOOK UP AND SEE THE LORD!

With the churches now closed, St. Mary's has placed the Blessed Sacrament in the 3rd floor rectory window facing the Town Hall.

Now people can park on Washington Street, look up, and pray before the Holy Eucharist in safety.

May the Body of Christ now visible, remind us of the abiding presence of God in this hard time, and the greatness of His love for us.

Please help spread the word!



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the Cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon Himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.



COMPLIMENTARY MAGNIFICAT

During these difficult times, we all continue to look for ways to remain close to Jesus, his Blessed Mother, and his Church.

MAGNIFICAT is now offering complimentary access to its online edition, as well as iOS and Android Apps, throughout May. To register for free access in English, visit www.magnificat.com/free. For free access in Spanish, visit and register at www.magnificat.com/gratis.

We are also happy to make available complimentary access to MagnifiKid. Visit www.magnifikid.com/free to view and download each weekly booklet of our colorful Sunday missalette for children ages 6 through 12. While so many children are missing formal religious instruction and are unable to attend Mass, MagnifiKid! can be their special guide, accompanying them through each week as they prepare to attend Mass or watch it at home.

It is our hope that everyone will take this opportunity to pray with MAGNIFICAT in union with the Church each Sunday and weekday.

Please pray with us for a speedy and safe end to this time of difficulty in our world.

Sincerely in Christ,



Romain Lizé
President

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 \$9,194.54 Offertory Shortfall. The weekend before that it caused a \$6,323.27 Offertory Shortfall.

If these large weekly shortfalls continue, it will only be a short time before St. Mary's will be unable to pay her employees and 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 each 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:	\$ 2,331.50
WeShare:	\$ 740.96
Offertory Envelopes dropped off/mailed to the office:	\$ 2,733.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 5,805.46

Offertory Shortfall Last Weekend:

\$9,194.54

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by a St. Mary's parishioner. 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.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: "Watch, O Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep tonight, and give your angels and saints charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones. And all for love's sake." – St. Augustine

ALL FUNERAL MASSES: Effective Monday, March 23, there are 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.



One of the effects of the current Pandemic is uncertainty regarding what food products are available on any given day. At this time, we are called to make the best of what we have at hand or is available for purchase. Many people are using what they have stored in their freezers and on their shelves. Others are depending upon pre-packaged meals or food delivered through support agencies, which are providing an important service for individuals and families in our communities, especially for children and our senior citizens.

In light of these circumstances, Cardinal Seán is dispensing all Catholics in the Archdiocese from the obligation of abstaining from meat during the remaining Fridays of Lent.

The Cardinal encourages those who can partake of this traditional Lenten practice of abstention to do so and to offer it up for those who are suffering in any way from the pandemic we are experiencing.

Regarding other weekdays of Lent, 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."

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN ~ LENT 2020: Because the Religious Education Center is closed, for now please save up your pennies and spare change. When the Pandemic allows reopening, please bring your coins to the Religious Education Lobby to help the people of Sierra Leone. [There is a special wooden collection stand there – just use the round metal flap on top.] A little goes a long way in this poor country.



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 at the Parish Website under REGISTER / PARISH FORMS: <https://stmarysholliston.com/>. 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.

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 Fifth Week of Lent, is on transportation and this week's Lenten practice is to reduce our carbon emissions by exploring alternative ways of getting around. 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 try abstaining from using your car for one day. You'll find other steps you can take as well as Church statements about transportation on the program's website www.lent42.org; click on Online Resources.



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.

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 DUE TO THE DIRECTIVE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS.

THE PARISH CENTER WILL BE CLOSED AND LOCKED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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. Since all parish offices have been directed to close as of Tuesday, March 24 all materials will be sent electronically. Virginia Calapa, our Grade 4 Coordinator, is preparing to load the lesson plans to a link that will be sent to all teachers and families later this week.

GRADE 2 FAMILY PACKETS: All Grade 2 Family Packets have been picked up. If any family did not receive their packet please let us know. Most families picked up their packets. Due to the generosity of Kevin Lyczak, our music director, the remaining packets were delivered directly to the homes of the families on Monday, March 23, during the rain storm. Please contact us by Email at st.marysdre1870@gmail.com if you did not receive your packet or have any questions.

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 II: The signs of bread and wine. Continuing with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) we further learn that in the Old Covenant: bread and wine were offered in sacrifice among the first fruits of the earth as a sign of grateful acknowledgment to the Creator. But they also received a new significance in the context of the Exodus: the unleavened bread that Israel eats every year at Passover commemorates the haste of the departure that liberated them from Egypt; the remembrance of the manna in the desert will always recall to Israel that it lives by the bread of the Word of God; their daily bread is the fruit of the promised land, the pledge of God's faithfulness to His promises. The "cup of blessing" at the end of the Jewish Passover meal adds to the festive joy of wine as an eschatological dimension; the messianic expectation of the rebuilding of Jerusalem. When Jesus instated the Eucharist, He gave a new and definitive meaning to the blessing of the bread and the cup (CCC 1334). To be continued.

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.