

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

April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday

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

There is a great comfort that comes from being with people who understand. Recovering alcoholics, for instance, find strength in gathering with others who share their addiction. Parents who have lost children come together and find solace in being with others who know their particular and terrible pain. As a priest, I go once a month to "Emmaus," a group of priests who meet for prayer, friendship, and fraternity. Spending the day with these other men who understand priestly life and ministry always leaves me feeling relieved and refreshed. There is a great comfort that comes from being with people who understand.

As we celebrate Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week, let us remember that Jesus understands. The story of His Passion and death should above all remind us that He embraced humanity in its fullness, sparing Himself none of the struggles and pains that we experience in life. On Good Friday we will see Jesus abandoned by almost all of His friends. We will see Him humiliated and physically tortured. And finally we will see Him die that most ignominious of deaths – death on a Cross.

Whatever sorrow, wound or challenge you may be personally facing today, be comforted by the fact that Jesus understands. He understands because He has been there, suffering betrayal, hurt and loss to a degree most of us cannot imagine. In the words of St. Paul, "*We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*" (Hebrews 4:15) There is a great comfort that comes from being with people who understand. And Jesus understands us better than anyone.

As we enter into this strange Holy Week of Masses without congregations, schools without children, businesses empty of workers, and loved ones unable to enjoy the comfort of physical contact – let us remember that Jesus understands exactly how we are feeling. Our fears, our uncertainty, our sense of disorientation – these were Jesus' same companions as He journeyed toward the Cross. Jesus questioned, He wept, He prayed. He opened His heart to His Heavenly Father, sharing His fear in Gethsemane and on the Cross. He opened His heart for us, making a place for us to take refuge in time of trial. He showed us that forever and always - He understands.

God bless you.

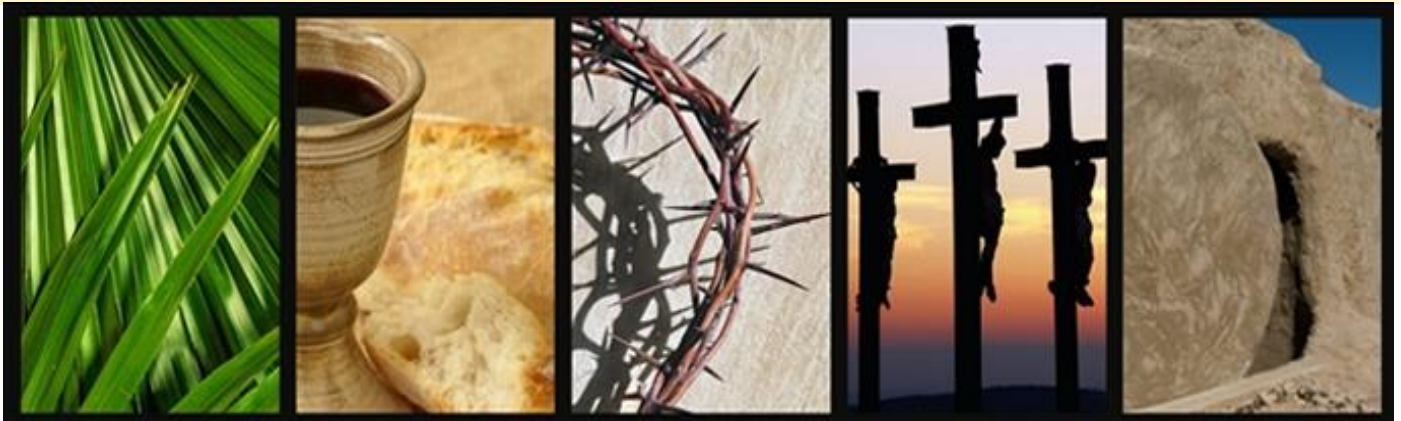
Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

*Bowed beneath your burden, is there none to share?
Weary with the journey, is there none to care?
Courage, way-worn traveler, heed your Lord's commands,
There's a thought to cheer you, Jesus understands.*

*Yes, He understands, all His ways are best.
Hear, He calls to you, "Come to Me and rest."
Leave the unknown future in the Master's hand,
Whether sad or joyful, Jesus understands.*

- Verses from a Hymn by Birdie Bell

AT HOME RESOURCES FOR HOLY WEEK 2020



PALM SUNDAY, April 5, 11:30 AM:

Watch Palm Sunday Mass Live-Streamed from St. Mary's at:
<https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>. You do not need a Facebook account to access this, just scroll down once Mass has begun.

HOLY THURSDAY, April 9, 7:00 PM:

Watch the Mass of the Lord's Supper Live-Streamed from St. Mary's at:
<https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 10, 7:00 PM:

Watch the Lord's Passion Service Live-Streamed from St. Mary's at:
<https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>.

For younger children, we recommend this excellent Narrated, Children's Stations of the Cross Video to help them prayerfully enter into the spirit of the day:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0qv7c4PsrA>

HOLY SATURDAY, April 11, 8:00 PM:

Watch the Easter Vigil Mass Live-Streamed from St. Mary's at:
<https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 12, 11:30 AM:

Watch the Easter Sunday Mass Live-Streamed from St. Mary's at:
<https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>.



Readings for all Holy Week Liturgies are available for free at:

www.magnificat.com/free and www.magnifikid.com/free.

Other Resources for Holy Week are provided here:

1. Holy Week resources for families (Sadlier Religion)

<https://www.sadlier.com/religion/blog/holy-week-resources-for-families>

2. Activity centers for Holy Week (Loyola Press)

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/parish-ministry/intergenerational-catechesis/passion-and-resurrection/activity-center-good-friday-intergenerational-event>

3. Liturgical Press resources for Holy Week at Home, liturgy and music

<https://offers.litpress.org/coronavirus-response-to-customers>

4. Video: Holy Week in 3 Minutes (Busted Halo)

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/watch-holy-week-in-three-minutes>

5. Video: Palm Sunday for teens (Intense & Challenging)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3Vor55BoE0>

6. A Catholic Guide to Holy Week Symbols (Busted Halo)

<https://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/a-catholic-guide-to-holy-week-symbols>

7. Guided meditation – Holy Thursday (Ave Maria Press)

<https://www.avemariapress.com/engagingfaith/2010/03/guided-meditation-jesus-washes-his>

8. Guided meditation – Good Friday (Ave Maria Press)

<https://www.avemariapress.com/engagingfaith/2011/04/guided-meditation-peter-denies-jesus>

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 Pandemic Mass shutdown, however, St. Mary's has now lost her Mass collection income entirely. This has understandably led to significant Offertory Shortfalls:



March 28/29 Shortfall: \$3,375.53
March 21/22 Shortfall: \$9,194.54
March 14/15 Shortfall: \$6,323.27

We are very grateful to all those who have continued to give, especially in this time when many have been laid off from work. In order to assure that St. Mary's can continue to pay her staff and bills, we ask that those parishioners not already 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 please 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. Blue In Pew Catholic Appeal Envelopes 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 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: | \$ 2,900.00 |
| WeShare: | \$ 2,266.47 |
| Offertory Envelopes dropped off/mailed to the office: | \$ 6,458.00 |
| Total Offertory: | \$ 11,624.47 |

Offertory Shortfall Last Weekend: \$3,375.53

**Thank you for making up
any missed weekly parish support.**

Easter Sunday Collection:

If parishioners mail in or drop off the special Easter Envelope that designates the Clergy Benefit Trust as recipient, (retired priests), then these donations are designated funds and will go to the Clergy Benefit Trust of the Archdiocese.

However, because of the current extraordinary situation, any Easter Offertory received *other* than in the special Clergy Benefit Trust Envelopes, may be used for the running of the parish. Thank you for your kind support of your parish and / or our retired priests.



MORNING PRAYER WITH DEACON JOHN BARRY: Live-cast from St. Mary’s Church every weekday morning at 7:30 AM: (photo left)

<https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston/>

Psalm 16:8 ~ Eternal Saviour, thank You for the day that You have made, I rejoice in my anticipation for this day because I have set You always before me. Because You are at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Lord, I know that today I will not be moved by what I experience, because You have gone before me, and I acknowledge that with You as my rock and my fortress, I will overcome anything that may be thrown in my direction. Amen.

CHRIST OUR LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: Join Cardinal Seán O’Malley on this six-part retreat, using these final days of Lent to grow in your relationship with Christ: <https://www.bostoncatholic.org/virtualretreat>.

Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to watch the 6 videos in order.

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Mercy and Forgiveness
- 3) Faith: The Key to Meaning and Call to Friendship
- 4) Who is My Neighbor? The Good Samaritan
- 5) The Seven Last Words
- 6) The Eucharist



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.

WINGS (Women in God’s Spirit): Canceled. However, WINGS has a facebook page and would love to have folks (not just members) access it and respond to posts. They have a new post almost daily.

<https://www.facebook.com/WingsHolliston/>.

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

HOPE: St. Mary’s Parishioner and electrician Mike Perkins has placed this sign in front of his home as a light and prayer for all during these days of Pandemic.

ROMANS 5:5-9: *“Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.”





“SING OF MARY” 150th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

POSTPONED: We are sorry to announce that due to the number of rehearsals we have already missed due to the Pandemic, as well as the number we will likely miss going forward, there is no other option but to postpone our 150th Anniversary Spring Concert originally scheduled for May 22.

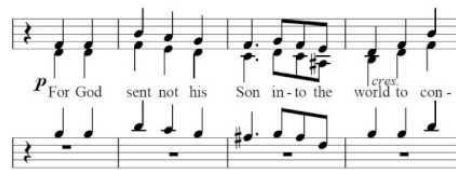
GOOD FRIDAY MUSIC: The offertory anthem for St. Mary’s Live-streamed Good Friday Service this year is “God So Loved the World” by John Stainer. The piece is the most performed part of Stainer’s oratorio, *The Crucifixion*. Although most critics today view it to be one of the most exquisite gems of the Victorian Era, Stainer himself considered the work to be “rubbish.” Perhaps this might have been because he did not feel worthy setting to music what is arguably the most quintessential verse in the entire Bible: John 3:16. “*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*”

This text can be interpreted with a distinctive meaning during the Coronavirus Pandemic, and the word that is especially applicable is “world.” For centuries, monastic communities have prayed continuously to intercede for the world. Nuns and monks have long given up their worldly ways to pray on behalf of humanity, in all its division. The word pandemic is derived from the Greek word *pandemos*, *pan* meaning “all” and *demos* meaning “people.” Although still divided, the world is sadly now united in the suffering of all its people. But it is important to remember that the world is also united in something far greater than itself - the love that comes from God, creator of the universe, and His promise of eternal life through His son Jesus Christ.

Below are the text and translations for music that will be sung by a vocal quartet (spaced 6 feet apart), during the Live-streamed St. Mary’s Triduum this year:

Good Friday, *God So Loved the World* – John Stainer (1840-1901)

God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world
to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved.



Holy Thursday, *Ego Sum Panis* – William Byrd (1540-1623)

Ego sum panis vitae.
Patres vestri manducaverunt manna in deserto,
et mortui sunt.
Hic est panis de coelo descendens:
si quis ex ipso manducaverit,
non morietur.
Ego sum panis vivus,
qui de cælo descendi.
Si quis manducaverit ex hoc pane,
vivet in æternum:
et panis quem ego dabo,
caro mea est pro mundi vita.
Hosanna.

I am that bread of life.
Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness,
and are dead.
This is the bread which cometh down from heaven:
that a man may eat thereof
and not die.
I am the living bread,
which came down from heaven.
if any man eat of this bread,
he shall live forever:
and the bread that I will give is my flesh,
which I will give for the life of the world.
Hosanna.

Easter Vigil, *Dextera Domini* – Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

Dextera Domini fecit virtutem,
dextera Domini exaltavit me.
Non moriar, sed vivam,
et narrabo opera Domini.

The right hand of the Lord hath wrought strength,
the right hand of the Lord has exalted me.
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.

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.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Kampersal Family. Please join them 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: *"We give glory to you, Lord, who raised up your cross to span the jaws of death like a bridge by which souls might pass from the region of the dead to the land of the living. ..You are incontestably alive. Your murderers sowed your living body in the earth as farmers sow grain, but it sprang up and yielded an abundant harvest of men raised from the dead."* - Saint Ephrem the Syrian



KEEPING THE MISSION ALIVE/BOOK DISCUSSION: During St. Mary's recent 150th Anniversary 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. Please reach out to Lisa Dufault at lisadufault@yahoo.com or Diane Collins at diathome17@aol.com to sign up, and we will let you know when the date will be (post-pandemic).

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.

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.

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, Holy Week, is on gratitude and generosity and this week's Lenten practice is almsgiving- exploring new ways of opening our hearts. 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 join the microfinancing movement, funding at least one \$25 loan. 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.



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 AND THE PARISH CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS DIRECTIVES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATIONS

2000-2001: As Christ has called us to continue His Mission here on earth, St. Mary's is honored to provide religious education and faith formation to assist families with religious education and formation for their children and youth in forming a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Your home is the **domestic church** where God is present in your daily life. If children are to be true disciples for Christ they need to witness your love for God and living in His will. We accomplish this path by continuing to teach our children about Jesus Christ and the beauty of the Gospels. Our Religious Education office is mailing Registrations for 200-2001 soon. When you receive the forms we hope that you will answer the call to volunteer and join Christ's mission as a Teacher or Monitor. May God bless and protect you.

FAITH FORMATION MATERIALS FOR GRADES

K THROUGH 7: Our religious Education office will continue to provide families with spiritual educational materials during this time through Email and information of online resources that that will be helpful for your family to share together. There are wonderful free children's and adult movies that will inspire your heart along with study resources offered for a trial period from the Augustine Institute on the "FORMED" website. At the end of the trial period you may want to consider a yearly subscription for your family with wonderful Catholic programs for just \$100.00 a year.

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.

FY2020 CORI VOLUNTEER RENEWAL ALERT: Ministry Leaders must make sure that **all** their active volunteers (18 years and older) renew and complete a FY 2020 CORI. **PGC workshops** ~ watch the bulletin.



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: Classes are suspended. 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. All Mass Reflection Sheets are due to the Pastor by the end of May. No student will be recommended for Confirmation who has not turned these in / does not attend or watch Mass.

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.

THE EUCHARIST IN THE ECONOMY OF SALVATION - PART III- The signs of bread and wine.

From last week's signs of the bread the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches that the miracles of the multiplication of the loaves when the Lord says the blessing, breaks and distributes the loaves through His disciples to Feed the multitude, prefigures the superabundance of this unique bread of His Eucharist. The sign of water turned into wine at Cana already announces the hour of Jesus' glorification. It makes manifest the fulfillment of the wedding feast in the Father's kingdom, where the faithful will drink the new wine that has become the Blood of Christ (CCC 1335). To be continued.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Tuesday, April 7 Meeting Canceled.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS A SAINT CORONA?

According to the Ecumenical Encyclopedia of Saints, she is the patron saint against epidemics. Much of Corona's existence remains in the dark. She became a Christian at the age of 15 and gave her life at the age of 16 to help her brother-in-law, a fellow Christian named Victor. Victor was a Roman soldier and he was put to death by the Roman judge Sebastian who despised Christians. Sebastian decided to make an example of Victor and had him tied to a pillar and whipped until his skin was hanging from his body. Then Sebastian had Victor's eyes gouged out. Throughout this torture Victor never denied Christ. Now Corona was married to a Roman soldier and he was unaware that his wife was a Christian.

As Corona witnessed Victor being tortured she decided to help him by announcing to everyone that she was also a Christian. She knelt beside Victor and prayed for him. The Roman soldiers took her before Sebastian where he sentenced her to prison and had her tortured to death. Both Victor and Corona are considered martyrs for their Christian faith (c.165).

At present, right in the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic is the city of Anzu, Italy. There is a basilica in Anzu where the relics of St. Victor and St. Corona have been preserved since the 9th century. The word Corona is Latin for crown. Ironically, St. Corona is considered as one of the saints of pandemics.

Miracles have been attributed to St. Corona and St. Victor to those who have prayed to these two martyrs who laid down their lives for Christ.

Prayer to Saint Corona

O Saint Corona, who fearlessly gave your life to bring comfort to the suffering, we beg your intercession during this time of pandemic. By your holy martyrdom you gave us an example to follow, that we may lay down our lives for one another. May you intercede for us all, that we may imitate your compassion and courage. May almighty God, Whom you so faithfully loved and served, grant us every grace and protection from the ravages of disease. May we not give into anxiety or fear which would cause us to lose confidence in God's divine providence. Amen. – *Padre de la Cruz*



Prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, *Health of the Sick*. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cans of Galilee, joy and feasting may return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us. He Who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.
-Pope Francis, March 11, 2020

We seek refuge under your protection, *O Holy Mother of God*. Do not despise our pleas – We who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, *O glorious and blessed Virgin*. Amen.

More Resources and Prayers for Home Use During the Pandemic:

1. Resources from Catholic Education Ministries for faith formation with children

<http://familytogether.stcdio.org>

2. Watch daily Mass online. 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.

3. Livestream of Morning Prayer, 7:30 AM each weekday at St. Mary's by Deacon John Barry: <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>.

4. Livestream of Pope Francis' Masses

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxlsefyI9g9A5SGWA4FvGIA/videos>

5. Give Us This Day, a monthly publication centered on the Word of God, is making available at no charge a digital file of its periodical, which includes daily Mass texts: www.GUTD.net/Digital.

6. Steps for Spiritual Communion: <http://stcdio.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/spiritual-communion.pdf>

7. Downloadable prayer card seeking intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe

(English) <http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/upload/prayer-coronavirus-2020-card.pdf>

8. Text of pope's prayer to Mary during coronavirus pandemic

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/11/read-pope-francis-prayer-mary-coronavirus-pandemic>

9. Free online courses – University of Notre Dame

McGrath Institute for Church Life -

The Pillars of the Church

Saturdays with the Saints

Journey with The Saint John's Bible

<https://mcgrath.nd.edu/resources>

