



St. Mary's Parish



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

Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Him known."

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

All Parish Schedules are currently suspended in light of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

We pray and look forward to the day that we can gather again as God's People.

May God watch over you and keep you and those you love physically healthy and spiritually safe!

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

May 10, 2020 5th Sunday of Easter

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

Happy Mother's Day! A blessed and happy Mother's Day to the moms of St. Mary's and to all our mothers wherever they may be. A mother's love speaks to us so powerfully of God's own love - a love that is sacrificial, unstinting and always ready to forgive. The prophet Isaiah put it so beautifully when he said, "Can a mother forget her infant? Be without tenderness for the child of her womb? I tell you, even should she forget, I will never forget you." (Is 49:15)

This truth was known also to the anonymous Irish poet who penned these words:

There is but one and only one, Whose love will fail you never. One who lives from sun to sun, With constant fond endeavor. There is but one and only one On earth there is no other. In heaven a noble work was done When God gave us a Mother.

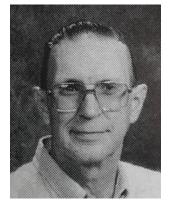
It is no accident that the Church herself is referred to as a Mother, guiding her children in love and always ready to welcome them home. In John 14:18, Jesus promised that He would not leave us orphans, and that promise was fulfilled with the creation of His Church on Pentecost. Filled that day by the Holy Spirit of God, our Mother the Church began her long mission of raising up children in faith to know and love the Lord. "As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms, and fondled in her lap; as a mother comforts her son, so will I comfort you." (Is 66:13)

This Mother's Day is a hard one for many of us unable to visit, hug or otherwise be with our moms due to the Pandemic. But although we cannot be physically present, we can ask God to draw very close to them by the gift of our prayers. I will be saying a private Mass for my mom's intentions later this afternoon. You might pray a rosary for your mom, or start today a Novena of prayers for her, or in some other meaningful way invoke God's grace upon the woman without whom you would not be here.

Finally, let us remember that the greatest gift we can give our moms is a life honorably lived. To be hardworking, honest and faith filled sons and daughters is a powerful tribute to our moms. To try and live out the values they instilled in us by keeping our vows and promises, loving God and neighbor, and seeking the right and the just – these are precious gifts indeed. Our moms will always love us no matter what. But let us try to live in ways that make them proud and do them honor, even if we have to start over fresh today.

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro Pastor



Kindly keep in your prayers our dear brother Earl King, who passed on Friday, May 1. A devoted teacher and parishioner for nearly forty years, Earl led countless Adult Faith Courses and Programs here at St. Mary's. He had an intimate knowledge of Sacred Scripture and enjoyed nothing more than helping others to grow in their knowledge of the Lord. It is an understatement to say that Earl was a Pillar of our Parish. His inspired offerings came as regularly as the seasons, and it is hard to imagine a St. Mary's without him. But we are consoled to know that Earl's relationship to Jesus was one not only of the intellect but of the heart. Earl taught us not only by his words but by his generosity, humility and unfailing kindness. May he now see face to face the God he helped us all to glimpse before.

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor

Rev. Jim Flynn, Weekend Assistance

The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance

Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon

Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon

Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7

Mr. Jake Thiringer, D.R.E., Grades 8-12

Mr. Kevin Lyczak, Director of Music

Mr. Leo Racine, Director of Contemporary Music

Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary

Mrs. Paula O'Brien, Religious Education Secretary

Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager

Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan

Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities

R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

WEEKLY OFFERTORY NEEDED TO PAY OUR PARISH'S BILLS: \$15,000.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Mass Collections: \$ 0.00 Automatic Giving: \$ 5,650.00 WeShare: \$ 3,539.59

Offertory Envelopes

dropped off or

mailed to the office: \$ 6,519.00 **Total Offertory:** \$ 15,708.59

Thank you for making up any missed weekly support!



HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: The policy for requesting assistance has changed: Presently

assistance has changed: Presently any Holliston resident in need who does not have a Pantry ID card or has not registered

with the Pantry can simply email

info@hollistonpantrysheil.org or call 508.429.5392. A delivery will be scheduled to your door. You provide only your name, address, and phone number to verify Holliston residency. Every call is kept confidential, and no personal information is elicited. The Pantry Shelf, 73 Charles Street, is busier now than ever. Current needs include: Pasta Sauce, Cereal, Tuna Fish (5 Oz. Cans), Campbell Chunky Soup, Progresso Soups, Canned Carrots. Tomato Soup & Chicken Noodle Soup (10.75 Oz. Cans), Juice Boxes and Snacks. The Pantry Shelf protects each patron's privacy.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER:

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,

As you know, due to the Pandemic Church Closings, St. Mary's has lost her Mass Collection income. This has understandably led to some Offertory Shortfalls:



 April 25/26 Shortfall:
 \$ 573.30

 April 11/12 Shortfall:
 \$ 941.65

 April 4/5 Shortfall:
 \$1,737.19

 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. May God bless you for your faithful stewardship!

In order to assure that St. Mary's can continue to pay her staff and bills, we do ask those parishioners not already using Automatic Giving or WeShare, to please consider signing up for one of those services as your means allow.

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.



CLASS OF 2020 ~ ANNUAL MASS FOR GRADUATES:

Next Sunday, May 17, at 11:30 AM, St. Mary's will offer her Annual Mass for Graduates, live-streamed. Class speaker Isabelle Larche will be present to deliver her address to the Class, and the Mass readings and prayers will be done by members of the graduating Class of 2020. We will also be presenting the Blessed Mother Scholarship to the winner at this Mass. Additionally, please know that the names of all St. Mary's Graduates will be scrolled through on the screen during "Pomp and Circumstance" - the traditional closing music for the Mass. Your parish is proud of you, and we look forward to honoring you and recognizing your achievement as fully as these strange days of pandemic allow. The Mass will be available for your virtual participation at https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston/ or live on Holliston Cable Access: Verizon Fios Ch. 33 or Comcast Xfinity Ch. 96.



MASKS NEEDED: Dear People of St. Mary's, My name is Ashley Bryant and I am reaching out to you as a Case Coordinator at Amego Inc., we are a local non-profit who serves people with autism. We have a group home right in Holliston and are reaching out to see if you or anyone in the community has access to cloth masks for donation. We are currently serving 203 people in 44 group homes throughout Massachusetts and any donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you! Ashley Bryant, Case Coordinator, Amego, Inc. 122 Grove St., Franklin, MA 02038, (401) 588-9978, abryant@amegoinc.org.

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. You may leave your message at extension 5.

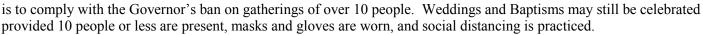
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Due to the COVID - 19 Pandemic, all Middle School Youth Group Activities scheduled for May and June are cancelled. Activities will resume as soon as safety allows. Members will be kept informed by email.

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

Deerfield Rafting, Friday, August 14 - STILL ON AT THIS TIME.

ST. MARY'S EPIC – HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: The EPIC General Meetings scheduled for May 31 is CANCELLED.

FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS: There are currently 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



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



WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: "The Most Important Person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body... The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation... What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?"

- Venerable Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

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).

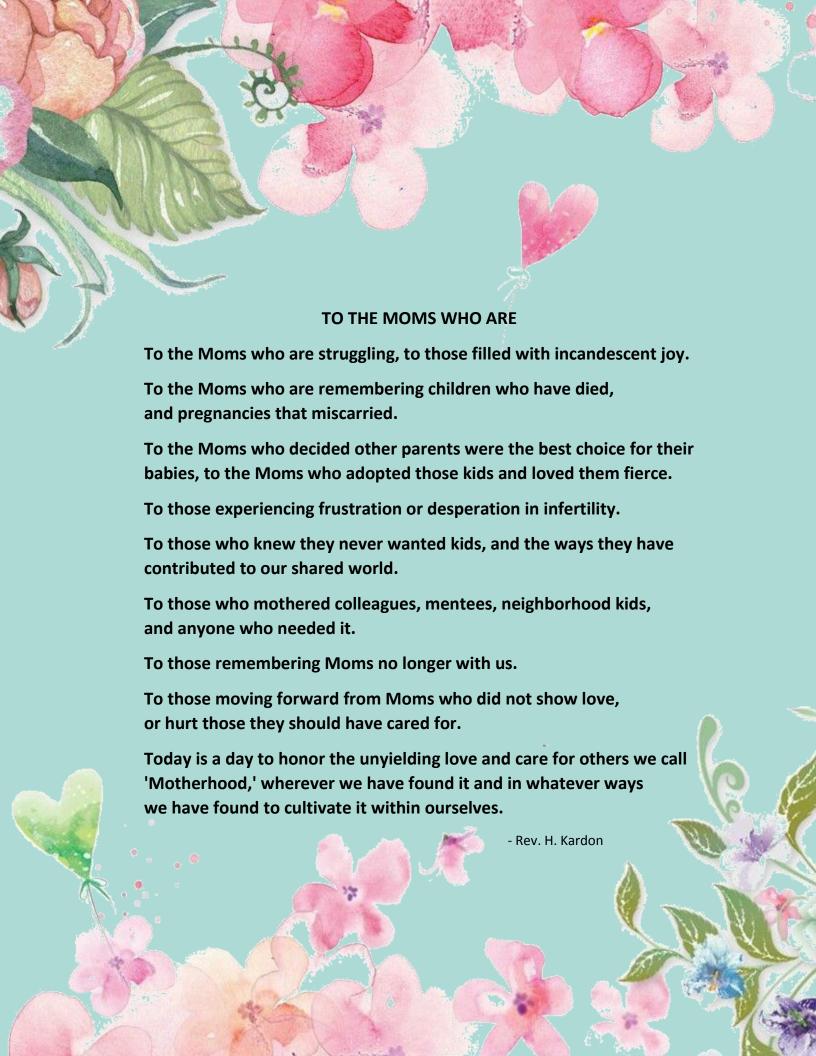
ST. MARY'S 150th ANNIVERSARY GALA SILENT AUCTION: Interested in donating to the St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Gala Silent Auction? We are looking for donations of all kinds. Perhaps you are a season ticket holder, a business owner, someone who owns a vacation house who can offer a weekend getaway, or 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.

PARISH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK UPDATE:

Is time starting to hang heavy for you? Would you like an exciting and engaging project? I am using this time to work on the St. Mary's Video and History Book projects. I would love some parishioner stories about your experiences and remembrances of being a member of St. Mary's Parish. Perhaps you have been a



parishioner for decades and you have a wealth of knowledge of St. Mary's through time. Or maybe you are somewhat new to the Parish – what drew you here? I would love to hear your anecdotes in your own words for inclusion in the history book. You can email them to me, Betty Febo, at betty.febo@gmail.com or send them to me by mail to 41 Holly Lane, Holliston.



WORSHIPING VIRTUALLY WITH ST. MARY'S

PREPARING A PLACE TO PRAY:

Pick a place where you will be as free from as many distractions as you can. A TV or Radio in the background will never let you listen to the service, or God. So do your best to rearrange a spot and be sure to shut off your cellphone entirely.

Set your laptop, iPad or phone into a good position on a table. Clear everything else off.

If you have a candle, put that near you. An Icon, Cross, or Statue of Mary is great, too.

Print out and have handy the Mass Readings: www.magnificat.com/free.



When ready, have your family pray together the following prayer of preparation:

Throughout time, Almighty God has moved people to set apart places to pray, to worship, and to meet with God. Almighty God, we thank you for making us in Your image, for making Your presence known, and for calling us to know You. We set apart this time and this place for Your worship. Sanctify it all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May all we do here be to Your glory. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

At this time, light your candle.

COMMUNION TIME: If watching Mass, make an Act of Spiritual Communion at Communion time.



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.

SUNDAY MASS: Every Sunday, the 11:30 AM Mass is being live-streamed from our beautiful St. Mary's Church. You may watch this Mass live on Holliston Cable Access:

Verizon Fios Ch. 33 or Comcast Xfinity Ch. 96.

Or you can visit: https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston and scroll down. You do not need a Facebook account to access this page. If you arrive "early," you may need to hit the refresh button. Welcome!



MORNING PRAYER: Live-cast from St. Mary's Church every weekday morning with Deacon Barry at 7:30 AM: https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston/.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AND THE PARISH CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS.

2020-2021 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE BY JUNE 15:

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 children and youth to form 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 has mailed home Registrations for 2020-2021. They are also available at: https://stmarysholliston.com/ under the top right corner REGISTER tab / under PARISH FORMS. We hope you will also consider joining Christ's mission as a Teacher or Monitor. May God bless 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 from online resources 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:

The Archdiocese of Boston has **postponed First**Communion Masses until public Masses can safely resume and the danger of the COVID-19 has been lifted. First Communion Masses will be scheduled when Cardinal Sean O'Malley receives the good news that groups can once again gather together in public places. Until then, our Sacred Liturgy, the Mass, will be live-streamed to the parishioners.

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** will be scheduled once the directives have been lifted and groups can safely meet in public. Please watch the bulletin for future scheduled PGC Workshops.



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 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Because of likely social distancing concerns, candidates will be assigned which Confirmation they will attend. This will assure a 50/50 split between the two celebrations. For this reason, candidates should keep the times of both Confirmations free on their calendar. All candidates must turn in their completed Mass Reflection Sheets to the Pastor by the end of May in order to be recommended for the Sacrament.

THE LITURGICAL CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST: Part II – The Mass of all ages continued.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist unfolds according to a fundamental structure which has been preserved throughout the centuries to our own day. It displays two great parts that form a fundamental unity:

• The gathering, the Liturgy of the Word, with readings, homily and general intercessions; the Liturgy of the Eucharist, with the presentation of the bread and wine, the consecratory thanksgiving, and communion.

The Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist together "form one single act of worship", the Eucharistic table set for us is the table of both the Word of God and the Body of the Lord (CCC 1346). Is this not the same movement of the Paschal meal of the Lord Jesus with His Disciples? Walking with them He explained the Scriptures to them; sitting with them at table "He took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them." (CCC 1347).

The movement of the celebration: All gather together. Christians come together in one place for the Eucharistic Assembly. At its head is Christ Himself, the principle Agent of the Eucharist. He is High priest of the New Covenant; it is He Himself Who presides invisibly over every Eucharistic celebration. It is in representing Him that the bishop or priest acting in the person of Christ the Head

(in Persona Christi capitas) presides over the assembly, speaks after the readings, receives the offerings, and says the Eucharistic Prayer. All have their own active parts to play in the celebration, each in his own way: readers, those who bring up the offerings, those who give communion and the whole people whose "Amen" manifests their participation (CCC 1348).

As stated above from the Catechism of the Catholic Church both parts of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are intimately united to form the Mass. Jesus Christ is the Word of God born Incarnate and His Body and Blood are offered as an unbloodied sacrifice in the Eucharist on the altar. As listeners of the Word of God it is essential that, by hearing the readings from both the Old and New Testaments and the Holy Gospel, we mindfully engage and imagine Jesus telling us what happened in the days before He came to save us from the darkness and slavery of sin. For God's chosen people told in the Old Testament had moved away from the Covenant of Sinai (The Ten Commandments) and were exiled from the promised land God had promised to Abraham. Over generations many of the exiled tribes slowly returned to the land of Israel but they had been looking for a savior for generations, the one prophesied by the prophet Isaiah. Who would ever have believed then that God would send His own Divine Son on a rescue mission to tell the world the Good News of salvation and to offer Himself as a perfect sacrifice to God the Father to atone for our sin – for in those days there was no one worthy to offer such a sacrifice to God.

THE APPARITIONS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA IN PORTUGAL IN 1917



The Three Shepherd Children of Fatima Lucia, age 10, Francisco, Age 9 and Jacinta, Age 7

Every year in the Month of May around the world, we honor our Blessed Mother with Marian Devotions such as May Processions and the crowning of beautiful statues of Mary. The Church over the years has also approved many Marian apparitions where the Blessed Mother has appeared to children to reveal an urgent message from heaven. As a Mother, Mary loves, cares, prays and

warns us to return to God. She is our advocate before the throne of God. Her beloved Son, our Lord Jesus, would never refuse His Mother anything we ask of her if it is for the good of our soul and salvation.

Such was an event on May 13th in 1917 when our Blessed Mother appeared to three shepherd children doing their chores in the field. Lucia and her two cousins Francisco and Jacinta were startled by a flash of light and noise. When they looked up they saw this beautiful young girl dressed in white with a smile and concern on her brilliant face. She told the children not to be afraid. Lucia asked the lady where she came from and was told that she was from heaven. Lucia inquired further and asked the lady what she wanted and the heavenly lady told them that she wanted the children to return to the same spot near the cove on the 13th for the next six months.

We know now that this heavenly lady as Our Lady of Fatima, the Mother of God and Queen of heaven and earth. God was sending His Daughter to earth with an urgent message for the children and the world that if people did not return to God and amend their lives, pray and do penance that a greater war would come upon the world. At the time of the apparitions, World War I engulfed the world. The children were to deliver this message to priests to make it known to the world.

The Blessed Mother asked the three children if they would offer themselves to God and accept all the sufferings that He will send them in reparation for the numberless sins which offend God. Will you suffer to obtain the conversion of sinners? Immediately Lucia answered for all three of them and said, "Yes."

When the children went home to tell their parents what they were told and witnessed by the heavenly lady, they were scolded and punished for telling a lie for they were not believed. Their sufferings had just begun.

The three children continued to go to the cove where the Blessed Mother came on the 13th of each month and as each month came more people started to go to the Cove. On the last month, October 13th, 70,000 people were gathered in the pouring rain and mud when the clouds parted revealing the sun spinning and dancing in the sky. As the crowd looked up, they witnessed the sun falling from the sky and almost touch the earth. The crowd was praying, weeping and afraid that the world was going to end. This event would be known throughout the world as the Miracle of the Sun. The sun stopped and went back into its place in the sky. Even people forty kilometers away witnessed the miracle. Only the children were able to see the visions of the Blessed Mother not the people. Let us pray for the conversion of sinners and the world!