

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;  
for I am meek and lowly in heart:  
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.  
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

**Matthew 11:29-30**



## 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](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)  
Email Address: [St.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto: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:** Currently suspended due to Pandemic risk level.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Congratulations!

## I AM GENTLE AND HUMBLE IN HEART

Our Master is always the same, gentle and benevolent. In his constant concern for our salvation, he says explicitly in the gospel just read to us: “Come, learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.”

What great condescension on the part of the Creator! And yet the creature feels no shame! “Come, learn from me.” The Master came to console his fallen servants.

This is how Christ treats us. He shows pity when a sinner deserves punishment. When the race that angers him deserves to be annihilated, he addresses the guilty ones in the kindly words: “Come, learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.”

God is humble, and we are proud! The judge is gentle; the criminal arrogant! The potter speaks in lowered voice; the clay discourses in the tones of a king! “Come, learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.” Our master carries a whip not to wound, but to heal us.

**You can see that I am gentle and humble in heart from what I have become.**

Reflect upon his indescribable kindness. Who could fail to love a master who never strikes his servants? Who would not marvel at a judge who beseeches a condemned criminal? Surely the self-abasement of these words must astound you.

I am the Creator and I love my work. I am the sculptor and I care for what I have made.

If I thought of my dignity, I should not rescue fallen humankind. If I failed to treat its incurable sickness with fitting remedies, it would never recover its strength. If I did not console it, it would die. If I did nothing but threaten it, it would perish. This is why I apply the salve of kindness to it where it lies.

Compassionately I bend down very low in order to raise it up. No one standing erect can lift a fallen man without putting a hand down to him.

“Come, learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.” I do not make a show of words; I have left you the proof of my deeds. You can see that I am gentle and humble in heart from what I have become.

Consider my nature, reflect upon my dignity, and marvel at the condescension I have shown you. Think of where I came from, and of where I am as I speak to you.

Heaven is my throne, yet I talk to you standing on the earth! I am glorified on high, but because I am long-suffering. I am not angry with you, “for I am gentle and humble in heart.”



**- St. John Chrysostom**



# open wide our hearts

the enduring call to love *a pastoral letter against racism*

## Practical Steps for Eradicating Racism: An Invitation

This Guide was prepared to assist Catholics and people of good will in reflecting on the evil and harm of racism. While this is not a comprehensive list, it provides actionable steps that may assist Catholics to reflect and respond in faith. With the aid of Holy Scripture, Catholic social teaching, and sacred tradition, this is an open invitation to journey toward reconciliation.

Racism is evil because it attacks the inherent dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God. The persistence of racism demands our attention now. Racism emerges in the actions and inactions of individuals; and it is embedded in our institutions and public policies. Our faith calls us both to personal conversion and to transformation of our society.

The following are some actionable steps pastors and their communities may undertake to this end:

1. Read (or re-read) ***Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism*** using the accompanying Study Guide. Visit [usccb.org/racism](https://usccb.org/racism).
2. Create various large and small group opportunities for family and community members to process their feelings in the midst of news and commentary about vulnerable populations and law enforcement. Encourage participants to reflect or share their own upbringing regarding comments in the home, from parents and individuals, media and entertainment, even practices of the Church about the merits or demerits of certain groups of people made to be “the other.” Ask, “How have I knowingly or unconsciously made this formation part of my world view? Where could I have spoken up but didn’t?”
3. Arrange a safe space for young people to reflect and pray about racism and recent events. Listen to the current experiences of young people. Encourage and allow their creative expression. Invite them to generate methodologies that are meaningful to them.
4. Attend an intergenerational interracial virtual town hall discussion on racism. Respect that for some African Americans, Hispanics and others, talking about personal racial experiences in a mixed race setting is painful as it is like reopening a wound that hadn’t fully healed.
5. Use a pastoral and non-partisan lens to respond to concerns of family and community members about racism, policing and public safety. Do not politicize this. Lean on Gospel values, instead.
6. Contact your pastor, parish council or diocesan office to discuss possible ways to dialogue with local law enforcement. Some community organizations funded by the bishops through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) are leading these efforts in their communities. [See what is happening near you.](#)
7. [Learn about structural racism](#) and its roots in in your community and get involved in the work to address it. It might look like housing discrimination that continues to contribute to segregated communities or disparate access to quality education.
8. Invite your parish to incorporate regular dialogue among parishioners about their experiences with racism, prejudice and racial discrimination.
9. Invite your parish or faith-sharing group to host a conversation with a group of African American, Latino, Indigenous or African men and/or young people about their personal experiences with law enforcement.
10. Encourage religious education classes and faith-sharing groups, as well as priests and deacons at your parish to speak out against racism and for personal responsibility to eradicate it. With children, use the storybook [Everyone Belongs](#) as a starting point for conversation. With teens and adults, explore how anti-racism action looks. Continue to study and understand racism as it manifested in the past and does so today.





# Saint Mary's Parish

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

July 5, 2020  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

As we celebrate this weekend the birth of our nation, I invite us all to pray for our country's leaders. May God guide, inspire and empower them to serve His people well. Our nation was founded by men and women of faith fleeing other lands where they were forced to live in ways contrary to their moral convictions. For that reason, religious freedom is part of the very foundation of our United States, a precious right which every generation must cherish and protect.

Religious freedom is never about forcing people to live according to another's faith, but rather making sure that government never forces people of faith to compromise their beliefs in the way they live, work or worship. Many would like to see religion locked up in church on Sunday and kept as a strictly private matter, when in fact true faith becomes part of every aspect of one's life. It is the light which guides us, and the ruler against which we measure every choice that life presents. In the words of George Washington, "*Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism who should labour to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness, these firmest buttresses of the duties of Men and citizens.*"

In recent days, the question of what Religious Freedom does and does not mean, has been very much part of the public debate. I therefore share as food for thought the following insights from PBS's "Rediscovering George Washington" series.

"Given the importance of religion to Washington and the other Founders, it is difficult to understand the common view today that government should merely tolerate but never support or promote religion. Nothing could be further from the intentions of the Founders, as can be seen by simply looking at the First Amendment. The First Amendment states, '*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...*' In writing the First Amendment, the Founders had two concerns. The first was that in America there would be no established church like in 18th century Britain, France, and other European countries where one's political rights were protected only if one belonged to the official religion of the government. But the Founders never for a moment suggested that government ought not promote religion and morality generally.

Many people today think the First Amendment is built upon the idea that there is or should be a '*wall of separation between church and state.*' That phrase is found not in the First Amendment, but in a letter Thomas Jefferson wrote while he was President of the United States to a group of Baptists (who were often persecuted in colonial times for their religious beliefs and practices). Jefferson wrote to assure them that their religious liberty would be protected. When Jefferson wrote of the '*wall of separation between church and state,*' he did not mean that religion must be kept entirely out of politics, or law. If he had meant that, he would have violated the '*wall of separation*' at the very time he declared it. For, at the end of the letter to the Baptists, Jefferson, acting in his official capacity as President, concluded with a prayer: '*I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man.*'

For the Founders, government support of religion is not the same as an '*establishment*' of religion. How could it be, when the Founders themselves believed our natural rights to be gifts of God? In September 1789, the House of Representatives authorized the first official Thanksgiving. The resolution they passed called for '*a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God.*' Moreover, they passed this on the very same day they passed the First Amendment, which said '*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.*' Clearly those in the first Congress did not see any conflict between the First Amendment's prohibition on an established religion, and government sanctioning an official day of thanksgiving to God."

In Christ's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Coiro". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor



**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. Robin Rogers, Religious Education Secretary  
 Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager  
 Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan  
 Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities  
 R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care

**PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 4</b>
5:00	Vincent Mullen
7:30	Frederick Vergen
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 5</b>
7:30	Mary Flanagan
9:30	Catherine Martha Whalen, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Anv.
11:30	People of St. Mary's
<b>Monday</b>	<b>July 6</b>
9:00	William Archambault
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>July 7</b>
9:00	Kirsten Riley
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July 8</b>
9:00	Anne "Nanci" Goguen, 7 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 9</b>
9:00	Christopher Glenn Budge, 5 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>July 10</b>
9:00	Steven Jiencke
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 11</b>
5:00	Milan Cesnek, 17 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
7:30	Frederick J. Shoff
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 12</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Jarlath and Elsie Whalen
11:30	Daniel Connors



**2020 CATHOLIC APPEAL:** 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](http://www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org). Please be sure to identify St. Mary's, Holliston, as your parish.

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** Is sponsored this week by the Miley 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.

**HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF:** The policy for requesting 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](mailto: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.

Please leave donations in the large grey chest outside the Pantry Shelf door. Current needs include: Paper Towels, 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.

**HELP US KEEP THE DOORS OPEN – VOLUNTEER TO BE A GREETER!**

St. Mary's is required to have greeters to count and guide Mass-goers during the Pandemic. Several have retired, and with summer vacation schedules for the rest we soon may have to cancel certain of our weekend Masses for lack of door greeters. Please help us keep our doors open by volunteering to greet at them!

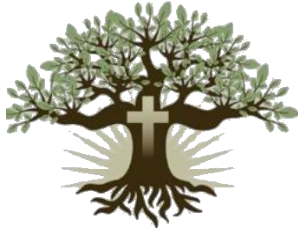
Volunteer by emailing your greeter availability to Mary Beth Harris at

[st.marvs1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marvs1870@gmail.com)

**TRAVELING?** Visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) to find out the name, location and Mass schedule of the nearest Catholic Church anywhere in America.

God never takes a vacation from us; let us make time on vacation for God.





# 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:	\$ 3,620.00
WeShare:	\$ 3,202.82
Offertory Envelopes dropped off or mailed to the office:	\$ 5,903.00
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b><u>\$ 12,725.82</u></b>

**Offertory Shortfall: \$ 2,274.18**

**Thank you for your faithful stewardship!**

## **PANDEMIC PERIOD**

### **OFFERTORY SHORTFALLS:**

<b>June 27/28 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$2,274.18</b>
<b>June 20/21 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$2,544.63</b>
<b>May 23/24 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$3,318.56</b>
<b>May 16/17 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$1,066.91</b>
<b>April 25/26 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$ 573.30</b>
<b>April 11/12 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$ 941.65</b>
<b>April 4/5 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$1,737.19</b>
<b>March 28/29 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$3,375.53</b>
<b>March 21/22 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$9,194.54</b>
<b>March 14/15 Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$6,323.27</b>

## **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 (see above).

Even though Masses have now resumed, please note that for health safety reasons ...

## **Parishes are not permitted to take up the Offertory Collection at Mass.**

In order to assure that St. Mary's can continue to pay her staff and bills, we therefore 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 mail in your parish offertory support each week, or drop it through the Rectory Office Door mail slot until you can place it in the basket at Mass again.

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! - Mary Sanning

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"Let the Children Come to Me"  
Matthew 19:13-15



## REGISTRATIONS NOW PAST DUE FOR FALL 2020 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

The deadline to register children for Religious Education Classes in the Fall of 2020 was Monday, June 15. Class time choices are on a first come first served basis, and students are now being assigned classes. The Registration Forms are still available on the St. Mary's Website:

<https://stmarysholliston.com/> under Register/Parish Forms on the main page. Forms should be accompanied by full payment made out to St. Mary's Parish. Scholarships or payment plans are available. Open to families with children entering Pre-K through Grade 10. If you are new to Holliston and want to register your children please contact us at [st.marysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com). Welcome!

**GRADE 10 REGISTRATION:** Registrations for Year II, Grade 10, of our Confirmation Program require a

"COMPLETE" in Year I in order to be fully processed. Any Grade 9 makeup work, including Mass Reflection Sheets, must be received before a final class assignment for Grade 10 can be made.

**FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS:** Funeral Masses are now permitted again in the Archdiocese of Boston, with all the same new procedures and restrictions as other Masses. Weddings and Baptisms may now be celebrated under the same safety rules.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE:

We've donated over \$210,000 in the past eleven years, but this year is especially important because the pandemic has really hurt many charities. We're trying our best to help support them. Council Knights are now selling raffle tickets. One raffle ticket is \$5 or five tickets for \$20, and we have five prizes from \$100 to \$1000.



Due to the current pandemic, Knights will follow all social distancing rules and Knights will happily deliver or mail your tickets. You may purchase tickets by sending your check payable to KofC #14224, name, address, and phone number to TOM ANGUISH, 542 WINTER STREET, HOLLISTON. We'll fill out your tickets and send your portion back to you. Live sales at local stores have been put on hold. New schedules will be announced once the state of emergency has been lifted.

We're donating to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and food pantries in other local towns, the Holliston Senior Center, local Habitat for Humanity projects, Homes for our Troops and other veteran's charities. The Drawing is scheduled to take place at Celebrate Holliston on September 26. Raffle co-chairmen are Knights Tom Anguish, Bill Heuer, Aaron Pyman and Grand Knight Al Scaramella.

**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.

**EPIC ~ HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** We are all heartbroken that the scheduled Mississippi Mission Trip was cancelled due to the current health crisis. Last weekend, refund checks were mailed to families who have paid mission trip fees. Have a great summer and we will let our EPIC members know if we are able to schedule any events or prayer activities later in the summer as we try to keep the spirit of the mission trip alive.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:** "Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." - St. Augustine

## HOW TO ATTEND WEEKEND MASS ~ PANDEMIC PROCEDURES

*(Daily Mass is exactly the same, except that there is no preregistration or sign in upon arrival. To save cleaning, only nave seating will be used on weekdays. To allow deep cleaning, the Saturday 9 AM Mass is suspended).*

Please note that these rules have been mandated for all churches for health safety compliance. We did not devise them, we are just following them in order to reopen.

For their protection, the elderly and those with underlying health vulnerabilities are discouraged from attending in Phase One. Anyone with a fever or other symptoms of illness should also not attend.

- 1) Pre-sign up for a Mass via Sign Up Genius. After taping the church pews apart by 6 feet, our allowed capacity is now 200 people per Mass (usually 600).
- 2) Bring hand sanitizer with you and wear a mask at all times. Children under the age of two should not wear masks. Parents should judge for children between the ages of two and five whether they should wear a mask. All people who claim an exemption because of health can forego wearing a mask.
- 3) Bring a printout of the Mass Bible Readings if desired. To avoid possible cross-contamination, we are not permitted to provide missals or handouts. You may find the readings easily at: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/> by calendar date, or at [www.magnificat.com/free](http://www.magnificat.com/free). You can also access these on your smartphone, but please shut that ringer off for Mass! :)
- 4) Enter the church through the front center door facing the Town Hall, or the elevator if handicapped. Only these entrances will be accessible. If using the elevator, PLEASE hand sanitize before touching the glass entry door handles and elevator push buttons.
- 5) Sanitize your hands immediately upon entering the church. We have a limited supply of sanitizer for anyone who forgets to bring some, but please try to bring your own.
- 6) Sign in with the door volunteers at the Mass for which you preregistered.
- 7) Upon entering the church proper, keep your mask on at all times and follow 6 foot social distancing - except for families who may sit together as a group. Every other pew is taped off, and blue tape in each pew center marks out a 6 foot area between opposite ends of the same pew.
- 8) Please refrain from singing – spoken responses only.
- 9) For Holy Communion, follow the blue arrows which are spaced 6 feet apart. Receive with your mask on, in the hands only. Then step away from the Communion table. Once 6 feet from the priest or minister, remove your mask, place the Host in your mouth, and then immediately put your mask back in place.
- 10) If using the bathrooms in the Parish Center, follow the arrows to use one stairwell to go down and the other to come back up. This avoids people passing each other closely on the stairs.
- 11) Participants at Mass are asked to leave the church within a couple of minutes of the end of the Mass so as to allow time for cleaning the church before the next Mass. No social gatherings are permitted after Mass.
- 12) Please remove any papers or trash from your pew when you exit, and place it in the receptacles provided at the church entrances. Please do not leave anything in the pew where a cleaner would have to touch it!
- 13) Shared collection baskets are not permitted, so no collection can be taken up at Mass. Please continue to make your weekly offertory support via Automatic Giving, WeShare, or by mailing in or dropping off your envelope via the rectory mail-slot. Thank you!

This is a long list and hardly ideal. But we will do what we must to comply and open again.

**A good video to help you visualize reopening procedures is here:** <https://vimeo.com/421142581>



Watch Video



# 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](http://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!

**THE PARISH CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS.**

**NOTICE FOR THE 2020-2021 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATIONS:** Registration forms are 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.

Many families have contacted our office to inquire about classes in September and if they should send in the registration for their children. It is important that you send in the registrations so we can plan ahead with either the classroom model, remote home classes or a hybrid model of both. St. Mary's will have faith formation for your children and youth in September. At this time we are waiting to learn how the Holliston Public School system will decide when and how classes will be held or if there will be a hybrid classroom or remote learning at home. Families will decide if it will be safe for their children to return to school by September. We are also obligated to honor what the Archdiocese of Boston mandates for the safety and protection of the children, youth and volunteers as the months go forward. There are so many unknowns at this time regarding the behavior of the virus as it mutates and is still infecting people. The past three months have been difficult for families and their children. God fashioned our lives to be in relationships and for children this means being with their friends. All this has been on hold. A mother mentioned that it was difficult for her to get her children off to school every morning and now her children miss their teachers and friends and want to be back in school. To help you through this crisis we know that our faith in God gives us hope. Take the time to pray together as a family before your meals and thank God for the gift of blessings that you have. Our loving God does not ignore our prayers and He will provide the grace needed to meet our needs if we trust in Him. May God bless you and keep you and your loved ones safe.

**PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE 1:** If you have children entering these grades you can register them in our religious education program. Go to the website listed above and download the registration form. **Please note that children must complete Grade 1 before entering Grade 2.**

**WINGS (Women in God's Spirit):** 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/>

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NOTICE

After much discernment and prayer our VBS will be suspended this summer. As public activities slowly resume, social distance and wearing masks may be the norm for many more weeks. It is first prudent and necessary to measure the safety risks of the children and adults who would be engaged in VBS group activities. Good news is that Group has developed a home VBS program with great activities and projects the family can enjoy and engage in at home this summer. The program will be sent out to you next week.

*Thank you for your understanding.*

### 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. See page 5 of this bulletin for more Grade 10 Information.

### GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION MASSES:

The Archdiocese of Boston has **postponed First Communion Group Masses** until normal public Masses can safely resume and the danger of COVID-19 has been lifted. Even though Public Masses are permitted now there is a mandate in place allowing only 40% of the normal capacity of church attendees to attend any one scheduled Sunday Mass. Thus, First Communion Masses are not permitted on Saturdays separate from the Sunday Masses until Cardinal O'Malley believes it is safe to do so. The safety and health of our priests in all the parishes are of great concern while the pandemic is still ongoing.

A schedule of Masses with Fr. Mark as celebrant has been sent to the families with Grade 2 children. Families have the option to schedule their child to receive his/her First Holy Communion at one of the public Sunday Masses in July. Our August Mass schedule will be available in a few weeks or sooner. Please call Fran or Robin at 508-429-6076 with any questions. Families will be instructed to use Sign Up Genius to register their family members on the parish website on the Wednesday before their selected Mass. Each family member must be signed up. Our office must know ahead of time in order to have the First Communion Certificates ready to distribute at the Mass their child will attend. All safety protocols must be observed during the Mass. Masks are worn, safe distance is observed, hand sanitizer is used before entering the church and before receiving Holy Communion.

**FAITH FORMATION MATERIALS FOR GRADES**

**K THROUGH 7:** Our Religious Education Office will provide families with spiritual educational materials during the summer via Email 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 and 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.

**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.

**THE EUCHARIST ~ THE SACRAMENTAL SACRIFICE: THANSIVING, MEMORIAL, PRESENCE ~ The Sacrificial memorial of Christ and of His Body, the Church.**

The Eucharist as the Sacrifice and Presence ~ continued from last week. Augustine admirably summed up this document that moves us to an even more complete participation in our Redeemer's sacrifice which we celebrate in the Eucharist: *This wholly redeemed city, the assembly and society of the saints, is offered to God as a universal sacrifice by the high priest Who in the form of a slave went so far as to offer Himself for us in His Passion, to make us the Body of so great a Head ..... Such is the sacrifice of Christians: "we who are many are one Body in Christ." The Church continues to reproduce this sacrifice in the Sacrament of the altar so well-known to believers wherein it is evident to them that in what She offers She Herself is offered.* (CCC 1372).

**The presence of Christ by the power of His Word and the Holy Spirit.** "Christ Jesus, Who died, yes, Who was raised from the dead, Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed intercedes for us," is present in many ways to His Church: in His Word, in His Church's prayer, "where two or more are gathered in My name," in the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned, in the sacrament in which He is the author, in the sacrifice of the Mass, and in the person of the minister. But "He is present ... most especially in the Eucharistic species" (CCC 1373). Continued next week.

*The Year of the Eucharist  
and the Mass*

We entered the Year of the Eucharist on Corpus Christi Sunday recently and it is important that we as Catholics know the importance the Eucharist is as believers. Jesus has already saved us through His Passion, death and Resurrection; however, one must not be complacent in believing that it is acceptable to ignore attending Mass occasionally when there is no valid reason not to receive the Sacrament that Christ surrendered His life on the Cross so that we may have the means to attain eternal life.

If we think that attending Mass is interfering with week-end plans or just to fulfill our obligation to satisfy God's Commandment, "to keep Holy the Sabbath" then souls are missing out on the most powerful source of God's Grace, Love and Mercy.

As Scott Hahn, a convert to the Catholic Church, writes in His book "The Supper of the Lamb" ... Of all things Catholic, there is nothing so familiar than the Mass with its unchanging prayers, the Mass fits Catholics like their favorite clothes. Yet most Catholics sitting in the pews on Sunday do not realize the powerful super-natural drama unfolding before them.

Scott Hann reveals a long-lost secret of the Church: The early Christians' key to understanding the mysteries of the Mass was the Book of Revelation in the New Testament. He tells us that we need to attend Mass each week with new eyes, pray the liturgy with a renewed heart, and enter into the Mass more fully, intelligently, enthusiastically, and more powerfully than ever before.

To attend Mass is to go to heaven, where "God Himself ... will wipe away every tear" (Rev 21:3-4). Yet heaven is more than that ... Heaven is where we place ourselves under judgment, where we see ourselves in the clear morning light of eternal day, and where the just judge reads our works from the book of life. Our deeds go with us when we go to heaven. Our deeds go with us when we to Mass.

To go to Mass is to renew our covenant with God, as at a marriage feast – for the Mass is the marriage supper of the Lamb. As in marriage, we take vows, we pledge ourselves, we assume a new identity. We are changed forever ... we receive the fullness of grace, the very life of the Trinity. No power in heaven or on earth can give us more than we receive in the Mass, for we receive God into ourselves



**KEEPING THE MISSION ALIVE/BOOK DISCUSSION:**

During St. Mary's 150<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lisadufault@yahoo.com) or Diane Collins at [diathome17@aol.com](mailto:diathome17@aol.com) to sign up, and we will let you know the date.

**ST. MARY'S 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA SILENT AUCTION:**

Interested in donating to the St. Mary's 150<sup>th</sup> 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@gmail.com](mailto:Paula.Watt@gmail.com).

**PARISH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK UPDATE:**

Covid-19 is not stopping the progress of the anniversary history book! It is still being written, and I am working on the chapter between 1950 and 1970 (Prior to Fr. Haley).

I could use your help. I am hoping the collective memory of St. Mary's parishioners will provide me with some information. The past few weeks I was looking for info on CYO activities at St. Mary's and St. Mary's Teen Center from the 1960s. Did you know the land to build Cole Court was sold by the Archdiocese of Boston? Early Holliston Town Reports mention a Mission in East Holliston but I have not found any services held there or any structures on the property.

If you have any information on any of these topics, please contact me. No names will be used unless explicit permission is given. [Betty.febo@gmail.com](mailto:Betty.febo@gmail.com) or call 508-429-7190. Thank you!