

"LORD

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I FORGIVE
SOMEONE WHO SINS AGAINST ME?
SEVEN TIMES?"

"NO, NOT SEVEN TIMES, BUT SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN!"

MT 18:21-22



St. Mary's Parish



Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

Mass Schedule:

Monday through Friday
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: Currently by appointment only due to Pandemic.

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. Congratulations!

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
 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
 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:

Saturday	September 12
5:00	Ricardo Lachica
7:30	People of St. Mary's
Sunday	September 13
7:30	Kevin Muzzy
9:30	Khalil Hasrouni, 16 th Anv.
11:30	Dianne Gootman
Monday	September 14
9:00	Franco DiCenso
Tuesday	September 15
9:00	Edwina Moore
Wednesday	September 16
9:00	Rev. Lawrence F. Sullivan
Thursday	September 17
9:00	George Flanagan
Friday	September 18
9:00	Paul T. Shea
Saturday	September 19
5:00	Jack Evans, 2 nd Anv.
7:30	MASS OF INITIATION: Usually,

adult converts to the Catholic Faith are received at the Easter Vigil. That was not possible this year because of the COVID 19 Pandemic. We therefore look forward to fully receiving the following individuals into our Catholic Family of Faith at the 7:30 PM Mass, Saturday, September 19.

WELCOME!

Yucchabelle Cote:

Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation

Samantha Flynn:

First Communion, Confirmation

Matthew Kallas:

Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation

Katherine Sanders:

First Communion, Confirmation

Sunday	September 20
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Timothy Clifford
11:30	Fr. Haley

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *Do you think anyone can be found in the entire human race who has not in turn wronged another in some way, incurring a debt to that person? No, all are debtors, and have others in debt to them. Accordingly, God who is just has told you how to treat your debtor, because he means to treat his in the same way. There are two works of mercy which will set us free. They are briefly set down in the gospel in the Lord's own words: "Forgive and you will be forgiven, and Give and you will receive." The former concerns pardon, the latter generosity.*

– St. Augustine



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

2020 CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL ACHIEVED!

We want to thank everyone from our parish who contributed to the 2020 Catholic Appeal. Our Parish Goal of \$87,486 has now been reached. Whether you gave \$20 or \$2,000, what matters is that *you did what you could* according to your means to support the good works of our Catholic Church. Please know that your parish is proud of you. And may the blessings promised to the compassionate be yours in abundance. Amen.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

Next week's second collection is for the care of our active and senior priests. The Mission of the Clergy Funds is to ensure the highest quality care and quality of life for our priests, especially when age or health dictates, and we need your help. Remember the priests who have made a difference in your life, and consider honoring them with a gift that helps care for them in their time of need, just as they have cared for us when we needed them. Thank you for your support.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY NEEDED TO PAY OUR PARISH'S BILLS: \$15,000.00

Mass Collections:	\$	0.00
Automatic Giving:	\$	5,214.00
WeShare:	\$	3,039.60

Offertory Envelopes dropped off or mailed to the office:	\$	5,443.00
--	----	----------

Total Offertory: \$ 13,696.60

Offertory Shortfall Last Weekend: \$1,303.40



Saint Mary's Parish

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

September 13, 2020
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

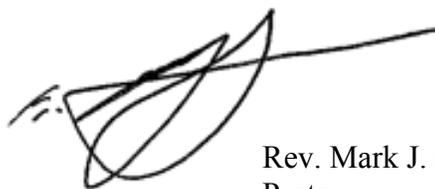
This past Friday we marked the Nineteenth Anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We commend to the hands of God all those who lost their lives that day, and we ask His strength and blessing upon their grieving loved ones. As a nation we also offer prayers of gratitude for the men and women who courageously responded to the disaster, many of them laying down their own lives as they tried to save the lives of others. Their sacrifice speaks to us of Christ's own love, a love so great that He died on the Cross to rescue us from destruction.

Whenever evil touches our lives, as individuals or as a nation, it is an opportunity to be strengthened in our own Christian identity. With contrast can come clarity. I remember reading, for instance, how as a young man Pope Benedict XVI observed firsthand the violence and hatred of the Nazi regime. He saw his own parish priest badly beaten by Nazi soldiers. He heard the rhetoric of intolerance proclaimed by Nazi propagandists. In stark contrast to all this, however, the future pope saw the Church standing up for the oppressed and proclaiming God's love for all people and the universal offer of salvation. This made on him a profound impression.

Just as Pope Benedict's experience of the evils of Nazism made him more determined to commit himself to the good work of Christ's Church, so our 9/11 experience of the evils of terrorism should make us more committed to the good of our Catholic faith. Central to that faith is the belief that all human life has an innate dignity, being created in the image and likeness of God. For this reason, Catholics consider all human life to be sacred – from the moment of conception, to the moment of natural death.

If there is one way above all that we should honor the memory of those whose lives were taken on 9/11, it is by reaffirming the value of all human life regardless of race, creed, politics, or even personal guilt or innocence. Every time we act to defend human life – especially where it is most vulnerable or threatened – that is when we offer worthy tribute to the victims of 9/11. In the end, it is our respect for the sanctity of all human life that forever separates us from those who took so many lives on September 11, 2001.

In Christ's Service and yours.



Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor



P.S. As St. Mary's gears up for a new year of Religious Education, we need many teachers, monitors, and other volunteers in order to comply with all state and Archdiocesan pandemic safety guidelines. The health and well-being of our students is paramount. Please see the last two pages of this bulletin to see how you can help. Thank you!

POPE BENEDICT XVI

O God of love, compassion, and healing,
look on us, people of many different faiths and traditions,
who gather today at this site,
the scene of incredible violence and pain.

We ask you in your goodness
to give eternal light and peace
to all who died here—
the heroic first-responders:
our fire fighters, police officers,
emergency service workers, and Port Authority personnel,
along with all the innocent men and women
who were victims of this tragedy
simply because their work or service
brought them here on September 11, 2001.

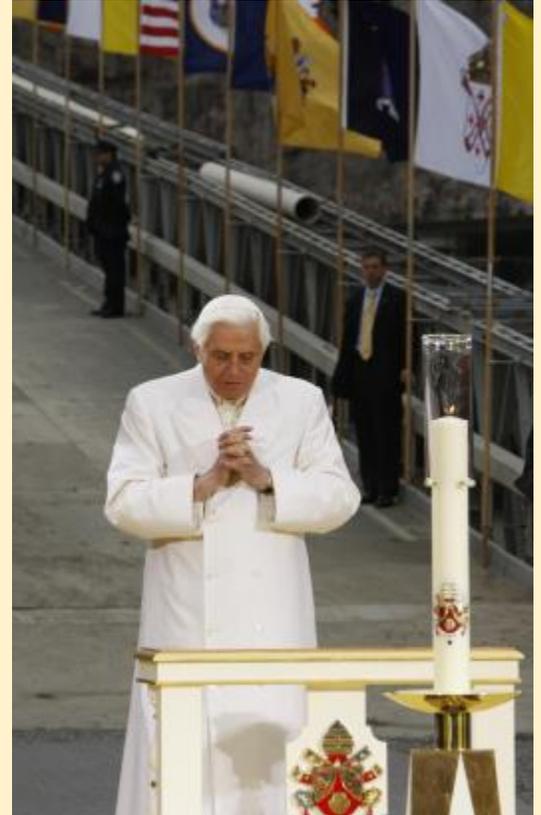
We ask you, in your compassion
to bring healing to those
who, because of their presence here that day,
suffer from injuries and illness.
Heal, too, the pain of still-grieving families
and all who lost loved ones in this tragedy.
Give them strength to continue their lives with courage and hope.

We are mindful as well
of those who suffered death, injury, and loss
on the same day at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.
Our hearts are one with theirs
as our prayer embraces their pain and suffering.

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world:
peace in the hearts of all men and women
and peace among the nations of the earth.
Turn to your way of love
those whose hearts and minds
are consumed with hatred.

God of understanding,
overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy,
we seek your light and guidance
as we confront such terrible events.
Grant that those whose lives were spared
may live so that the lives lost here
may not have been lost in vain.
Comfort and console us,
strengthen us in hope,
and give us the wisdom and courage
to work tirelessly for a world
where true peace and love reign
among nations and in the hearts of all.

Pope Benedict XVI visited ground zero in 2008. He knelt alone and prayed inside the cement-walled crater where the World Trade Center Towers once stood. This was his prayer with those gathered.





SCAM ALERT: Recently, multiple parishioners received fake texts and emails purporting to be Fr. Mark’s. Once again, a scammer is trying to get people to “buy gift cards for the sick.” Those whose email addresses or phone numbers appear in our bulletin or on our website as ministry contacts are especially likely to be targeted, but all should be alert. The only authentic email that would be used by Fr. Mark for correspondence with parishioners is St.Marys1870@gmail.com. Any other email account claiming to be from him is a scam. If you receive a fake email, please alert Gmail or the appropriate Email provider of the fraud right away. Thank you.

ORDINATION OF PARISHIONER RON DOWDING TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE!

For the past five years, St. Mary’s Parishioner Ron Dowding has been studying and working in the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program of the Archdiocese of Boston. Ron is well known in our parish through his past work leading our RCIA Program, Adult Faith Offerings, and his ministry as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister.

On Saturday, October 3, at 10 AM, Ron will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders, being ordained a Permanent Deacon by Cardinal Sean O’Malley at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Because of the Pandemic, attendance is very limited and by invitation only. However, all are invited to pray along with the Ordination Mass which will be broadcast live on Catholic TV (FIOS: 296, COMCAST: 268), and webcast at: www.bostoncatholic.org. Ron’s First Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated right here at St. Mary’s on Sunday, October 4 at 11:30 AM. As always, you may attend in person or pray at: <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston/>. You may also watch St. Mary’s Sunday, 11:30 AM Mass live on Holliston Cable Access: Verizon Fios Ch. 33 or Comcast Xfinity Ch. 96.



PROJECT NAZARETH: What do you think of when you ponder the holy family living in their little house in Nazareth? Joy, peace, laughter? What about the strength to bear the hardships of living in turbulent times and the sorrows of life? Just as God gave the grace for Joseph and Mary to raise Jesus in daily ordinary life, so too has He given you the grace to raise your children. Now available via sign-up at projectnazareth.com. Faith begins at home!

Learn more at <https://www.bostoncatholic.org/project-nazareth> and by watching this video: <https://vimeo.com/453707592>



MASS GREETERS NEEDED! St. Mary's is required to have greeters to count and guide Mass-goers during the Pandemic. We are still short of volunteers for this essential safety ministry. **When Christmas comes, the extra Masses needed to accommodate our people will not have enough greeters unless more volunteers are found. No greeters = no Mass.** Please volunteer by emailing Mary Beth Harris at st.marys1870@gmail.com.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Daily Mass Community. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. To sponsor the Rose for Life, call Mary Beth at 508-429-4427, or email st.marys1870@gmail.com.

UPDATE ON TIMMY CAKES 2020: Due to Covid restrictions where Joanne and her baking team make the cakes, Timmy Cakes have been postponed until Winter or Spring of 2021. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation promises to keep this publication updated. We all know how anticipated and loved Timmy Cakes are!

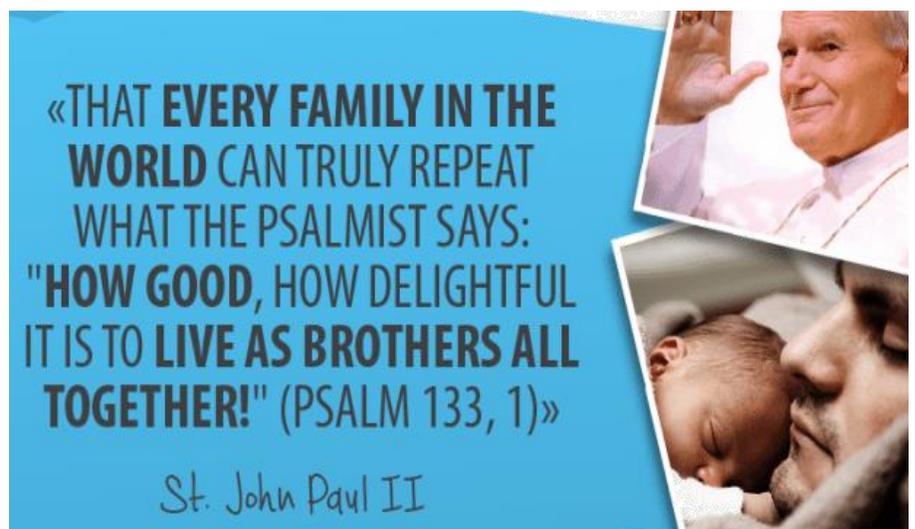
UPDATE ON TIM'S TROT 2020: Due to Covid restrictions on the number of people who can safely gather, the 10th Annual Tim's Trot has been postponed. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation hopes to have Tim's Trot in 2021. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation promises to keep this publication updated. The Foundation wishes to thank 2020 virtual Boston Marathoner Max Athy for his creation of Tim's Trot! Over the last 9 years, Tim's Trot has raised \$150,000 for Tim's Foundation. That is a very successful Holliston High School National Honor Society Service Project!

ANNIVERSARY GALA RESCHEDULED: Due to the Pandemic, the St. Mary's Gala originally planned for this coming November has been postponed. The new date is Saturday, November 13, 2021. It will still be held in the Regency Ballroom, DoubleTree Inn, Milford.

NEW TENTATIVE DATE FOR CARDINAL O'MALLEY'S 150th ANNIVERSARY MASS AT ST. MARY'S: Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 11:30 AM.

SEASON OF CREATION:

We continue our celebration of the Season of Creation, remembering that all of creation is one great family. You can listen to a song on YouTube, written by Marty Haugen, called *One Ohana* (One Family); here's the link: <http://bit.ly/OneOhana>. You can also hear two different settings of the hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth*, which calls us raise our voices in praise to God for all the gifts of creation. The traditional hymn is found at <http://bit.ly/FortheBeautyTraditional>; a setting by the English composer John Rutter can be heard at <http://bit.ly/FortheBeautyRutter>.

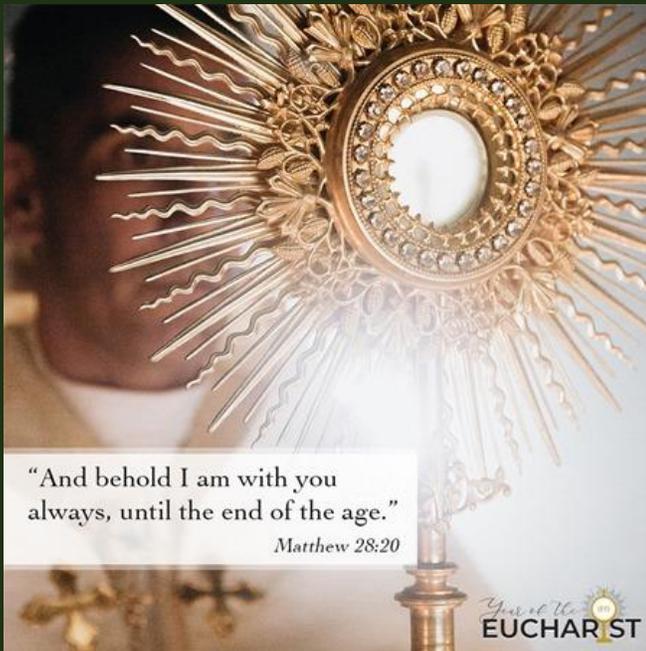


“May all of you, the Christian faithful, rediscover the gift of the Eucharist as light and strength for your daily lives in the world, in the exercise of your respective professions amid so many different situations. Rediscover this above all in order to experience fully the beauty and mission of the family.”

- St. Pope John Paul II

BE A YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST MISSIONARY

What is a Year of the Eucharist Missionary?



A person who believes in the True Presence of the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and will dedicate themselves to pray, participate in, and promote the Year of the Eucharist.

Who can be a Missionary?

We welcome anyone within and outside of the Archdiocese of Boston to join us as Missionaries, deepening your own love of the Eucharist, and praying for this Eucharistic Year to bear fruit in the whole Church. St. Mary’s Year of the Eucharist Coordinators are Fran Crespi and Jim Merski. Please contact Fran Crespi (st.marysdre1870@gmail.com) or Jim Merski (mjmerski@gmail.com) to become a Year of the Eucharist volunteer.

What does a Year of the Eucharist Missionary do?

We call it the Three P’s — **Pray, Participate, Promote.**

1. **PRAYER** – Commit to praying an additional 1% each day. That’s 15 minutes. This can be done at home, in front of the Blessed Sacrament, by going to Mass, or reading Scripture, etc.

- Families and/or youth under 12 promise to say at least 3 prayers a day, such as the morning offering, grace before meals, and a bedtime prayer.

2. **PARTICIPATION** – Commit to helping with and attending Year of the Eucharist events at your parish, school, shrine, campus ministry, and ecclesial community.

- Consider ways to help homebound missionaries participate, such as picking them up to attend an event and/or have them assist with an administrative task.

3. **PROMOTION** – Commit to witnessing to the power of the Eucharist in your life. You can do this a few different ways: give a witness talk at the end of Mass, on a video, or at a faith formation gathering; write something for the bulletin; make a picture to hang up at home, at church, or at school; spread the word about the Year of the Eucharist events at your parish and in the Archdiocese.

To participate, please go to the Year of the Eucharist website at:

<https://www.bostoncatholic.org/yearoftheeucharist/missionaries> to register and become a Year of the Eucharist

Missionary and we will send you a Year of the Eucharist pin and prayer card! Once you register, you will be sent a link to the recorded virtual commissioning ceremony which took place with Cardinal Sean on Thursday, June 11th.

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. 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>



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!

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.



Religious Education

NOTICE FOR GRADES 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 7: A REMOTE MODEL WILL BE IN PLACE UNTIL JANUARY 2021. A HYBRID MODEL WILL BE CONSIDERED IN JANUARY IF COVID-19 IS NOT A THREAT TO THE COMMUNITY. Please know that no family will be mandated to send their child to a live class. This decision will be made by the families if they at any time feel that it is unsafe during the course of the year for their child to be in a live class. Families will always receive their child's lesson plans remotely.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION START DATES

DAY	GRADE	MODEL
Tues., Sept. 29	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	Live, in-person
Thur., Oct. 1	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	Live, in-person
Sun., Oct. 4	GR-2 Family time	Remote-program
Sun., Oct. 4	GR-3 Family time	Remote-program
Sun., Oct. 4	GR-10 at 4:30 PM	Remote program
	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	Remote program
Mon., Oct. 5	GR-3 Family time	Remote program
	GR-5 Family time	Remote program
	GR-6 Family time	Remote program
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	Live, in-person
Tues., Oct. 6.	GR-5 Family time	Remote program
	GR-6 Family time	Remote program
	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	Live, in-person
Wed., Oct. 7	GR-2 Family time	Remote program
	GR-3 Family time	Remote program
	GR-4 Family time	Remote program
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	Live, in person
Thur., Oct. 8	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	Live, in person

NOTE: Family time is time the parents will schedule time for their children to do their lesson during the week.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020: The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Reed on **Saturday, September 26 at THREE LITURGIES.** Because of social distancing requirements, candidates have been assigned which Confirmation they will attend. This will assure an even division of attendees between the three celebrations. If you have not received your Confirmation time with full details please contact the R.E. Office at 508-429-6076.

FIRST COMMUNION MASS SIGN-UP: Please remember that only 40% of the normal capacity of church attendees are permitted at scheduled public Masses during this time. Our September Mass schedule is below. If a family wants to schedule a Sunday Mass for their child's First Holy Communion please contact Fran at 508-429-6076 or st.marydre1870@gmail.com

MASSES OPEN FOR FIRST COMMUNION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

DAY	TIME	No. of Children
Sun., Sept. 20	11:30 AM	2 openings

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/>

IN-PERSON CLASS REQUIREMENTS

The Archdiocese of Boston has provided us with clear Faith Formation Guidelines to follow for this year. They are subject to change and will more than likely do so over the weeks and months.

1. No large groups will be allowed to meet for any event until further notice.
2. Adult faith formation classes are on hold until further notice.
3. Children age 5 and above must wear a face mask at all times.
4. Physical distancing must be observed at all times.
5. Hand hygiene: children, volunteers and staff must hand sanitize when entering the premises and when taking off and putting on their mask.
6. Screening: Children, volunteers, staff must be screened before entering the building with a non-touch thermal scanner.
7. Food will not be allowed or sharing of pencils and supplies.
8. If a child or teen is sick they must stay at home and do their lesson remotely.

CATHOLIC ANSWERS TO CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

CLASSICAL PROOFS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD: Our faith does not depend on any scientific or philosophical “proof” to establish it. Our faith rests on the gift of grace given by God at Baptism. We know deep in our hearts and conscience that there is something beyond our reach that is greater than we are. For many of us this is God present in the Holy Blessed Trinity.

Our faith also rests on the Words of Jesus Christ and the divine revelation in Him given by God to man. These proofs of God’s existence serve to strengthen and help us to search for truth and to have a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Catholic Tradition distinguishes at least twenty distinctive proofs of God’s existence. Listed are some of the best known compelling proofs:

1. Nothing created itself (premise).
2. Therefore everything that exists either exists necessarily and eternally, or receives its existence from something else (extension of first premise).
3. Receivers of existence do exist (premise).
4. Two possible conclusions: The chain of being is infinite or finite.
5. An infinite chain of receivers of existence is possible (first conclusion eliminated).
6. Therefore there exists a First Uncaused cause of all existence.

“Existence is like a gift given from cause to effect. If there is no one who has the gift then the gift cannot be passed down the chain to receivers, however long or short the chain may be. If everyone has to borrow a certain book, but no one actually has it, then no one will ever receive it. If there is no God Who has existence by His own eternal nature, then the gift of existence cannot be passed down the chain of creatures and we can never receive it. But we do receive it – we exist. Therefore there must exist a God; an Uncaused Being Who does not have to receive existence like we do – and like every other link in the chain of receivers.” (Kreeft & Tacelli, *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*, 51)

Continued next week.

IMPORTANT CORI AND PGC INFORMATION ~

FY2021 CORI VOLUNTEER RENEWAL ALERT: Ministry Leaders must make sure that **all** their active volunteers (18 years and older) renew and complete a **FY 2021 CORI**. If you are planning to volunteer in any ministry, you must complete a **2021 CORI** form. You can scan in your license and completed 2021 CORI form and send it back to: st.marysre1870@gmail.com. Please call the R.E. Office if you need a **2021 CORI** Form.

NOTICE: Due to the current restrictions and health concerns presented by the pandemic, the office of Risk Management at the Archdiocese has made the following **temporary adjustments** to their adult child protection training requirements. All employees and all volunteers who may have contact with children are required to complete Protecting God’s Children training. However due to our current inability to gather together for live trainings, volunteers can currently meet this requirement through participation in two online trainings: VIRTUS online PGC training and Massachusetts online Mandated Reporter training.

To complete the online PGC training, volunteers should go to www.virtusonline.org.

- Click on “First time registrant
- On the next page click on “Begin the registration process”
- Select “Boston” from the drop down list of dioceses
- Complete the registration process.

Once registration is complete you will be directed to an [online PGC training through VIRTUS](#). Upon completion of that training, individuals will be directed to a link to an [additional online training on mandated reporting in Massachusetts](#). Both online trainings must be completed to be in compliance with child protection requirements.

The mandated reporter training can be found at: <http://51a.middlesexcac.org/>. Copies of the mandated reported certificates should **be** sent to Michelle Gee at MGee@rcab.org. It is not necessary to submit a copy of the PGC certificate. Anyone with questions can contact Vivian Soper at VSoper@rcab.org or at **617-746-5995**. While staff are working from home, email and phone messages are checked at least hourly during normal work hours.

