



St. Mary's Parish

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

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

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!

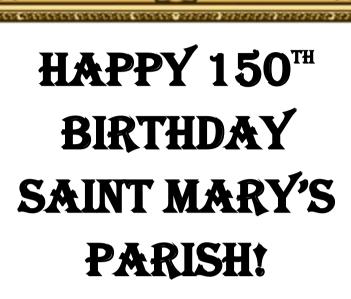


Confession: Currently by appointment only due to the Pandemic.

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!



WINGS

150 years ago today, on November 29, 1870,
St. Mary's was canonically established as a Parish. Those 150 years represent untold moments of ministry and grace that have
blessed generations of Catholics in Holliston and the surrounding communities. We give thanks to God for this beautiful family of faith and ask Him to watch over and guide us into the future.





CARDINAL'S OFFICE 66 BROOKS DRIVE BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS 02184-3839

Reverend Mark J. Coiro Pastor, Saint Mary Parish 8 Church Street Holliston, MA 01746

Dear Father Coiro:

Please allow me this opportunity to congratulate your parish community on its 150th anniversary. Our records indicate that Saint Mary Parish was canonically erected as a parish on November 29, 1870.

It is my hope that this anniversary serves as an opportunity to reflect in gratitude upon the graces that have come from the life of the parish, the Sacraments received at Saint Mary's, the abundant and varied contributions of the people of the parish, as well as the gifts and leadership of its pastors and parochial vicars. It is also my hope that this anniversary serves as an opportunity for the parish community to look to the future enthusiastically and with fervent hope, so that the mission of Saint Mary Parish continues and thrives, bringing God's love and salvation to all of its parishioners, those who are currently members and those who have yet to meet Christ through his bride, the Church.

With all good wishes and assurance of a remembrance in my prayers, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Boston



From the Pastor's Desk ~

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

Today our beloved St. Mary's marks her "official" 150th Anniversary date. How humbling to think that on this very day in 1870, our parish existed mostly just on paper and in the hearts of the Catholics here. The labor, sacrifice and faith that followed laid the foundations of the St. Mary's we know today. Let us be thankful for what we have inherited from the men and women who came before us here, and let us commit not only to preserve, but to grow what has been given us.

This past week I spent many hours going through parish photos, trying to assemble a collection for this weekend's anniversary bulletin collage. The experience made me both grateful and sad – grateful that I have been privileged to serve in such a wonderful parish for sixteen of the twenty-six years of my priesthood, but also sad that so many of our ministries, celebrations and traditions have lapsed due to the pandemic.

When this is all over, we will have a lot of rebuilding to do, strengthening and restoring the ties of community, worship and outreach that make St. Mary's such a special place. So much that was bright has dimmed. But God is ever faithful. And aided by His grace we will recover, heal, and resurrect. Thank you to all who have supported and stood by St. Mary's in these difficult times. And know that St. Mary's is always here for you.

God bless you.

Pastor

Rev. Mark J. Coiro Pastor

150th Anniversary Prayers of the Faithful ~

This Anniversary Weekend, each Mass had been designated for a St. Mary's Parish Intention – one for our departed, one for our sick, one for our senior citizens, one for our children and teens, and one for our families. These special prayers of the faithful will be used at every Mass. We are grateful to God for so much!

O God, our Father, today we thank You for everything You have been to us at St. Mary's Parish in the days that are past: for every time we have come to church depressed and discouraged, and have gone out again with the light of hope in our eyes; for every time we have come to church in sorrow, and found comfort for the wounds upon our heart; for every time we have come to church in temptation, and found the grace which alone can keep us clean.

For every sermon that has been preached from the pulpit; for every visit that has been made in the home of this congregation; for all those who in the day of darkness have been pointed to the light that never fades, and who in the days of sorrow have found the joy that no one takes from them; for every time when we have knelt at the altar table of Our Lord and taken the Host and the Chalice of His love in our hands and upon our lips.

For all who in this, Your church, have pledged their faith in marriage; for every baby born to one of our families; for all those who in childhood and youth were taught and trained here in the faith until they chose to be Confirmed.

For all who in this, Your church, have served You nobly and served You well and have gone to their rest; for the blessed dead who rest from their labors; for the unseen cloud of witnesses who compass us about.

O Lord, bless this, Your Church of St. Mary's, in her 150th year. Grant that this may always be a place where boys and girls find Jesus as their Friend; where young men and women glimpse the vision splendid; where those in their middle years find strength for the long haul and the steep climb; where those whose days are ending find light at eventide.

Grant that here the sorrowing may find comfort and the weary rest; that the doubting may find certainty and the tempted strength; that the seeker may find truth and the sinner forgiveness; that the lonely may find Your friendship and the friendship of their fellow human beings so that all loneliness may be taken away. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.





SAINT MARY'S GETS AN ANGEL FOR HER 150th BIRTHDAY!

This week, to mark her canonical establishment as a parish on November 29, 1870, a new stained glass window was installed at St. Mary's. The gift of a parishioner, the window has been in fabrication for some months. It was installed this week above the double glass Parish Center doors that lead to our parking lot. A detailed history will follow in your upcoming January Newsletter. But know that the angel originally was part of a window in a church torn down in 1989. For thirty-one years it has been in a dark crate in warehouse storage. But now the angel has a new home with us, offering light and beauty to God's people. As we begin this First Sunday of Advent, a new year of the Church, let the angel invite us to leave darkness and walk anew in the light of Christ. Let us bless the Lord!

A ST. MARY'S ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Gracious God, as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future.

We pray that You will continue to make Your love known among us and through us.

Give us a zeal for mission. Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know You.

Make this parish a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with faith, hope, courage and love toward what lies ahead. In all things may we seek Your will.

In Jesus' Name we pray, now and forever. Amen.

2020 ST. MARY'S PARISH GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

"What return can I make to the Lord for all He has done for me?" Psalm 116

2020 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:	\$150,000.00
Grand Annual parishioner support received to date:	\$150,000.00 - \$ <u>117,375.00</u>
Parishioner support still needed to reach 2020 Grand Annual goal:	\$ 32,625.00
% of 2020 Grand Annual achieved to date:	79 %
% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	35 %

As the Grand Annual continues, contributions may be placed either in the gold G.A. envelope you received in the mail, or in a separate envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual". G.A. envelopes may be mailed to 8 Church Street or dropped through the Rectory Office Door Mail-slot.

As explained in the special mailing to all parishioners, the \$150,000 goal will fund both staff salaries and the 150th Anniversary interior repairs and painting of St. Mary's Church. Your generous support will assure the financial health of our parish continues.

DDAVEDS AND MASS INTENTIONS.

Thank you for your support of this most important annual collection!

PARISH STAFF:

PARISH STAFF:	PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:	
Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon	Saturday 5:00 7:30	November 28 All Departed Members of St. Mary's All Sick Members of St. Mary's
Deacon Ronald A. Dowding, 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	Sunday	November 29 ~ Official Date of St. Mary's Canonical Establishment as a Parish in 1870. Happy 150 th Birthday St. Mary's!
Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary Mrs. Robin Rogers, Religious Education Secretary Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager	7:30 9:30 11:30	All of St. Mary's Senior Citizens All of St. Mary's Children and Teens All the Families of St. Mary's Parish
Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care	Monday 9:00 Tuesday	November 30 Agrippina Bender, 18 th Anv. December 1
SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:	9:00 Wednesday 9:00	Stephen Fogarty, 32 nd Anv. December 2 Joseph Cossetti
Retired Women Religious ~ \$1,661.00. Thank you. LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY: Automatic Giving: \$ 2,366.50	Thursday 9:00 Friday	December 3 Frank and Olga Proto December 4
WeShare: \$ 3,164.23 Offertory Envelopes Dropped off/mailed in: \$ 7,138.00	9:00	Fr. Issa & the People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour December 5
Total Offertory: \$ 12,668.73	Saturday 5:00 7:30	Alfonso Barcinas June McLean
PARISH WEEKLY OFFERTORY NEED: \$15,000 Parish Offertory Shortfall Last Weekend: \$2,331.27	Sunday 7:30 9:30 11:30	December 6 People of St. Mary's Jackson Paul Owens Stephen Rothrock
		1

<u>NEXT</u> WEEKEND ~ GIVE A GIFT

GIVE A GIFT ~ DECEMBER 5 AND 6 AT ALL MASSES: Once again we ask the people of St. Mary's to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. All items go to needy families in Boston, and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, <u>unwrapped</u>, together in a plain bag or gift bag with a tag stating "Boy" or "Girl" and size or age <u>up to age 18</u>. No adult gifts please. Kindly place your gift in front of St. Mary's altar at any Mass the weekend of December 5 & 6. Gift bags only please – no wrapping as they need to see what the gift is for proper distribution.

The Pandemic has hit inner city, low income families especially hard. Many are in service industries and have been laid off, many have jobs that cannot be done from home. Please be generous! (Photo from last year's pre-pandemic Give A Gift below).



TODAY ~ ADVENT MINI-RETREAT

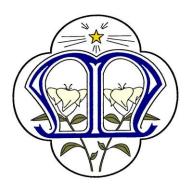
LIVESTREAMED ADVENT MINI-RETREAT: This will be celebrated today, the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM in the church with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Deacon Ron Dowding will offer his reflection for Advent entitled "Bethlehem, City of Bread." The Retreat will be livestreamed to <u>https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston</u>. Join us!



ADVENT 2020 ONLINE RESOURCES ~

Advent 2020 Calendars may be downloaded for free at: <u>https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/14012/</u>

Advent Resources of many types are available for free at: <u>https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/site-index.html</u>



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ~ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, Masses at 9 AM & 6:30 PM.

The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna's womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception. St. Mary's Mass is not livestreamed this day, but many Masses will be broadcast on Boston Catholic Television: <u>http://www.catholictv.org/</u>

LIVESTREAMED VESPERS ~ TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 1, 15, & 22 at 7 PM.

This year, Advent Vespers will be celebrated at St. Mary's and livestreamed for your virtual participation. Vespers, or "Evening Prayer," is part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours. You can participate in the prayer via the Music at St. Mary's Facebook page, <u>https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston</u>.

ADVENT MORNINGS OF PRAYER ~ "TAKING A HOLY PAUSE TOGETHER."

Advent invites us to pause our busy lives to prepare in wonder for God's coming into our world, an invitation we need now in new ways. Let's practice that holy pause together!

Join WINGS for three Advent Mornings of Prayer with speaker Crista Mahoney, who will offer an opportunity to be together in stillness, prayer, and reflection.

Each week we will explore the different themes of Advent - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love - as we focus on creating stillness in our hearts to hear God moving in our world.

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, December 2, 9 and 16 at 10:00 AM via Zoom. Email <u>stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com</u> to sign up. A donation of \$10 is suggested to help cover the cost of the professional speaker. Make checks payable to St. Mary's Parish and mail to Betty Febo at 41 Holly Lane, Holliston, MA 01746. All are welcome to attend, regardless of ability to pay.

If you have received our Fall Season reminders, you will automatically be sent the Advent Zoom link.





ADVENT WISDOM ~ "Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern." - Saint Teresa of Calcutta

All Christmas 2020 Masses will be by advance Sign-Up Only, (no walk ins).

Only in this way can we assure that there is a seat waiting for all who come. With seating greatly reduced by the pandemic, we want to make certain that there is "room at the inn!"

A Sign-Up link for Christmas will be emailed to all Parishioners, and will also be available on the Parish Website, on <u>Monday, December 14.</u>

You may also register by phone as of December 14 through Noon on Wednesday, December 23.

> Online Sign-Ups will end at Midnight, Wednesday, December 23.

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

- 3:00 PM Masses in both the Church and Fr. Haley Hall
- 5:00 PM Masses in both the Church and Fr. Haley Hall

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

11:00 PM Midnight Mass in the Church

* All worship areas will be fully cleaned, aired out, and sanitized between Masses. So dress warmly because we will have opened the windows to change out the air.

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

11:30 AM Mass in the Church ~ Live-streamed

You may watch the 11:30 AM Christmas Morning 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 ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by Steve and Lorri Palmer. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. To sponsor the Rose for Life, call 508-429-4427, or email st.marys1870@gmail.com.

CEMETERY REQUESTS: In preparation for the upcoming winter season, please remove all plant, chime, birdfeeder and ornamental hangers from your Cemetery Lots. With the ground becoming frozen, they can be very dangerous if broken or leaning into the right of way of funeral vehicles. St. Mary's has begun compiling our own historical cemetery documents and those of the Archdiocese regarding rules and regulations pertaining to the maintenance of our beautiful grounds.

PANTRY SHELF REMINDER: Thank you to all who contributed to St. Mary's Pantry Shelf Thanksgiving Day Mass Collection this past Thursday. The Pantry is fully re-opened to shoppers with extensive new safety measures in place. Shoppers may come to the Pantry during any open hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 10 AM to 2 PM and Wednesday from 4 to 7:00 PM. If you have an illness or emergency, you may call the pantry (508) 429-5392 to receive a pre-filled grocery delivery if available. Food items needed at the pantry: Clorox Wipes (or any other brand), Paper Towels, Pasta, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Tuna Fish - 5 oz. cans, Campbell Chunky Soups, Progresso Soups, Tomato Soups, Chicken Noodle Soup and kids snacks.

NO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT THE FATIMA SHRINE: Due to the Pandemic, the Fatima Shrine is unable to offer the annual Festival of Lights this year. The Christmas Concert is also cancelled. Confessions are still being heard Saturdays from 3-5 PM in the Shrine Hall.

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 <u>shut off your cellphone entirely</u>.

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: <u>https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading</u>.

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. (Prayer to right).

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: <u>https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston/</u> and scroll down.

You do <u>not</u> need a Facebook account to access this page. If you arrive "early," you may need to hit the refresh button. Welcome!



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.

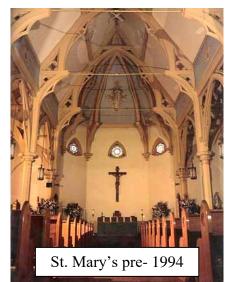
HOW TO ATTEND WEEKEND MASS ~ PANDEMIC PROCEDURES

(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, but we must follow 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 160 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: <u>http://www.usccb.org/bible/</u> by calendar date, or at <u>www.magnificat.com/free</u>. 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: <u>https://vimeo.com/421142581</u>

THE PARISH CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.

VIRTUAL CLOW: The Children's Liturgy of the Word is offering prerecorded weekly lessons online until we can meet again in person. These are engaging and enriching lessons for parents and children to participate in together. Click on the following link and then once on the web page click on prerecorded lessons. Pat Campo LeBlanc/Coordinator.

https://stmarysholliston.com/st-marys-childrens-liturgyof-the-word/



IMPORTANT COVID NOTICE: Please note that if the Town of Holliston is classified in the RED ZONE due to COVID-19, then in-person classes will not be in session. This is in line with the Archdiocesan Guidelines and do not reflect what the public school guidelines are for health and safety during the pandemic.

<u>GRADE K-7 NOTICE</u>: Families must check their child's grade level LINKS each week for updated sessions. The sessions are constantly being developed and automatically populated on each grade level link. Please use the **Grade Level Calendars** provided for your child to follow and complete the sessions.

GRADE DAY MODEL Sun. Nov 29 GR-K at 10:00 AM Remote - Zoom Tues., Dec. 01 GR-10 at 6:30 PM Remote - Zoom Thur., Dec. 03 GR-10 at 6:30 PM Remote - Zoom Sun., Dec. 06 GR-10 at 2:30 and **Remote - Zoom** 4:30 PM

THANKSGIVING BREAK – NOVEMBER 23 – 29.

FIRST COMMUNION: Today, we welcome the following child to come before the Altar of God and receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Margaret (Millie) Louise Keefe

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/ CONFIRMATION II - GRADE 10: Tuesday,

December 1 and Thursday, December 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. Virtual Zoom session are also on Sunday, November 15 for Grade 10 from 2:30 to 4:00 PM and 4:30 - 6:00 PM. Jake will inform families when in-person classes will resume.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" POSTER CONTEST: The contest is open to all youth between the ages of 5-14. There are three age groups: ages 5-7, ages 8-10, and ages 11-14. The suggested poster size is 11x14 inches. Each poster must be submitted with an entry form by December 5, 2020. Council prizes for winners. Winners will enter State Council Contest. Entry forms are available in the Grades K-7 Religious Education Office or can be downloaded from

https://kofc14224.org/docs/Poster2020001.pdf

The contacts are D.R.E. Fran Crespi and Council Knight Mitchell Liro.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY" CONTEST: The Supreme Council sponsors this international annual essay contest "....to give students an opportunity to define the role of a Catholic citizen in many different scenarios and to strengthen the bond between the Knights of Columbus and local schools." Eligibility is open to all Catholic students in public, private, or parochial schools in grades 8-12. Theme information and entry forms will be in the Grades 8-12 Religious Education Office or can be downloaded from

https://kofc14224.org/docs/Essay2020001.pdf

Judges from our Council and the Religious Education Directors will judge the 500-750 word essay and acknowledge all entrants. The winner for each grade will be entered in the State Council Contest. Council level awards will be presented to all winners. **Essays must be completed by December 5, 2020.** The contacts are D.R.E. Jake Thiringer and Council Knight Mitchell Liro. ADVENT MINI-RETREAT The First Sunday of Advent Today, November 29, 2020 From 2:00–3:00 PM In the church with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



Deacon Ron Dowding will offer his reflection for Advent on "Bethlehem, City of Bread" (Live Streamed)

The **first purple candle** symbolizes **HOPE** with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

DARKNESS AND LIGHT: Advent candles readily demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light, which is an important biblical image. Jesus referred to himself as the "Light of the World" that dispels the darkness of sin: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Human history spanned long ages shrouded in the darkness of sin before the prophets declared a Savior would finally make his appearance to free us from its dominion. As the Messiah's "Advent" (or "coming") draws nearer another candle is lit, with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate, who comes to redeem the human race and make all things new (Rev. 21:5). It also reminds us that, as Christians, we're meant to shine the light of Christ in this world. As Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

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: <u>st.marysre1870@gmail.com</u>. 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 <u>www.virtusonline.org</u>.

Click on "First time registrant."

On the next page click on "Begin the registration process." Select "Boston" from the drop-down list of dioceses and complete the registration process.

Once the registration is complete you will be directed to an <u>online PGC training through VIRTUS</u>. Upon completion of that training, individuals will be directed to a link to an <u>additional online training on mandated</u> 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: <u>http://51a.middlesexcac.org/</u>. Copies of the mandated reported certificates should be sent to Michelle Gee at <u>MGee@rcab.org</u>. It is not necessary to submit a copy of the PGC certificate. Anyone with questions can contact Vivian Soper at <u>VSoper@rcab.org</u> or at 617-746-5995. While staff are working from home, email and phone messages are checked at least hourly during normal work hours.

