



# 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](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.

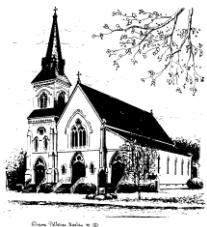
Please join in!

**Confession:** Currently 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 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!



# Saint Mary's Parish

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

December 20, 2020  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

This past Friday saw the shared Funeral Mass of our dear friends Vasco and Pauline Brovelli. I am most grateful to Fr. David Lewis for accepting my invitation to come back to St. Mary's and preside, as I was still in quarantine. The Brovelli's were St. Mary's parishioners for over sixty years, and it was important to have a priest who knew them well. Thank you also to Deacon Marty for preaching at that Mass. Please keep Vasco, Pauline, their family and many friends in your prayers during this difficult time.

For many, there is no harder time to lose a loved one than in the midst of Christmas preparations. But in a sense, there is no more beautiful time. Why was Christ born in Bethlehem, after all, but to bring new hope and light to a world darkened by sin and death? In that little baby boy, God became a Son of Man, so that we all might become children of God. On the "Holy Night" we soon shall celebrate, God made His home with us, so that one day, we all might make our home with God in heaven. So, if you are one of the many who have lost, and always remember, a loved one at Christmastime – take heart. When you hear this week the story of the Savior's birth, think of your own loved one, newborn into the Kingdom of God. And when you look upon the nativity scene, and see Mary and Joseph reaching to embrace the infant Christ, think of the hands of God, waiting to receive and embrace and welcome, every one of His children safely home.

May the Lord of Our Journey continue to bless you and yours.

Under His Mercy,



Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

P.S. Having been symptom free since December 9, I have been found non-contagious and was released from quarantine yesterday. Thank you for those who shared prayers, food, and kindness during my convalescence. Please continue to pray for our sacristan Najat Whalen, who is still in quarantine with more serious symptoms. May the New Year 2021 see us finally delivered from this Pandemic that has caused such suffering and loss.



## ADDITIONAL LIVE-STREAMED MASS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Although we already had arranged for St. Mary's Christmas Morning 11:30 AM Mass to be live-streamed to Holliston Cable Access and Facebook, we received many requests to please live-stream a Christmas Eve Mass from St. Mary's as well. We will therefore also be live-streaming our 5 PM Church Mass on December 24. Please note that this will be available on FACEBOOK ONLY, since that timeslot was already taken on the local cable channels. Please see pages 6 and 7 of this Bulletin for more details.

## 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

<b>2020 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:</b>	<b>\$150,000.00</b>
<b>Grand Annual parishioner support received to date:</b>	<b>- \$143,845.00</b>
<b>Parishioner support still needed to reach 2020 Grand Annual goal:</b>	<b>\$ 6,155.00</b>
<b>% of 2020 Grand Annual achieved to date:</b>	<b>96 %</b>
<b>% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:</b>	<b>45 %</b>



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 funds both staff salaries and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary interior repairs and painting of St. Mary's Church interior. Your generous support will assure that the financial health of our parish continues.

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

**PARISH STAFF:**

- Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
- The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
- Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon
- 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
- 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

**LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:**

Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,988.00
WeShare:	\$ 3,902.39
Offertory Envelopes	
Dropped off/mailed in:	\$ 5,360.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 13,250.39
Weekly Need:	\$ 15,000.00
<b>Offertory Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$ - 1,749.61</b>

**PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 19</b>
5:00	Veronica Lizotte
7:30	Robert Hamm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 20</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Bill and Kathleen Henry
11:30	Emelia Bourque
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 21</b>
9:00	Dan Willman <i>(for his healing)</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 22</b>
9:00	Jioseph T. Teixeira Jr.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 23</b>
9:00	Walter Ciampa Sr., 5 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 24</b>
	Christmas Eve, 6 Masses
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 25</b>
	Christmas Day, 2 Masses
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 26</b>
5:00	Teotima Bolandrina
7:30	Donna LaRosa
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 27</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Barbara Caron
11:30	Geraldine Keegan



**St. Mary's Adult Choir returns (virtually) this weekend!** Silent since last March, the Choir has been remotely recording an anthem, *'Lord For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake,'* to be presented during Advent. Over 20 Choir Members sent in audio recordings of themselves singing, which were then professionally mixed. The piece will be presented at the Offertory for the 11:30 AM Mass this Sunday, December 20. Enjoy!

## 2020 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ~

The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, healthcare, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We encourage you to please give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to faithfully serving God and the people of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Christmas Offertory Envelopes, Regular Offertory, and Grand Annual envelopes all may be dropped off **through the brass mail slot to the left of the Rectory Office door at 8 Church Street, (photo left).**

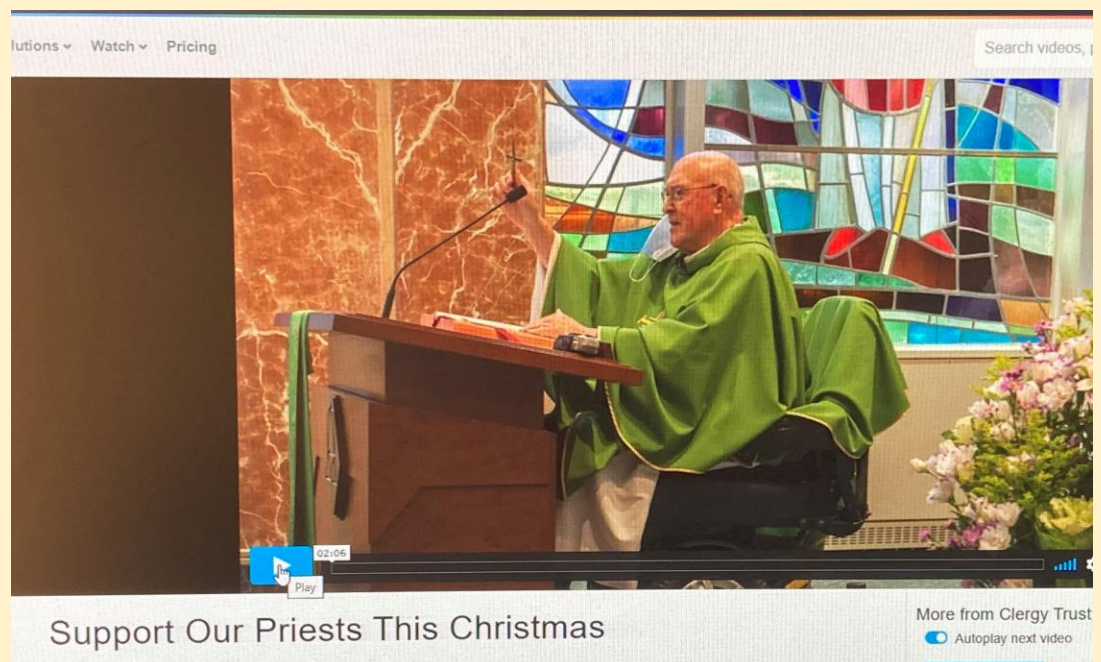
If you use Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may indicate your Grand Annual or Christmas gift electronically through those same services. See the next page for more Christmas Giving Options. Thank you for your faithful stewardship in these difficult times.

**For more information, please visit <https://clergytrust.org/>.**



Watch a wonderful VIDEO here about our Retired and Disabled Priests at Regina Cleri, and the Clergy Fund that your Christmas gift supports each year:

<https://vimeo.com/481374460>





# Healthier Priests. Stronger Communities.

The strength of our communities depends on the well-being of our priests who tirelessly serve others.

**SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS AT CHRISTMAS**

Supports our priests in good standing

**DONATE AT**  
**[clergytrust.org](https://clergytrust.org)**

— OR —

SCAN HERE for  
Venmo, Google/  
Apple Pay, PayPal  
via Givebutter.



# All Christmas 2020 Masses are 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 was emailed to all Parishioners  
on Monday, December 14 at 7 AM. It is also available at:

**<https://stmarysholliston.com/>**

You may also register by phone at 508-429-4427  
through Noon on Wednesday, December 23.

**However, some Masses are already full,  
so please leave your phone number for a call back!**

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

\* Please sign up together as a single group all who will be sitting together.  
This will help us keep the seating reservations as accurate as possible,  
so that no seats go unused. Thank you!

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

**3:00 PM** Masses in both the Church (**FULL**) and Fr. Haley Hall (**FULL**)

**5:00 PM** Masses in both the Church (**FULL**) and Fr. Haley Hall  
*(5 PM Church Mass Live-streamed to Facebook Only)*

**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 *(11:30 AM Mass Live-streamed to Facebook AND Holliston Cable Access)*

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

Our Facebook Page is: <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!*





### ADVENT 2020 ONLINE RESOURCES ~

Advent 2020 Calendars may be downloaded for free at:

<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/14012/>

Advent Resources of many types are available for free at:

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/site-index.html>

**FINAL ADVENT LIVESTREAMED VESPERS ~ Tuesday, December 22 at 7 PM:** This year, Advent Vespers is being 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: <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>.

**OFFERTORY HYMN, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** Due to COVID-19, St. Mary's did not have a Lessons and Carols Service this Advent for the first time in thirty-seven years. However, the Choir has been remotely recording an anthem, 'Lord For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake,' to be presented during Advent. Over 20 Choir Members sent in audio recordings of themselves singing, which were then professionally mixed. The piece will be presented at the Offertory for the 11:30 AM Mass this Sunday, December 20.



'Lord For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake.' "Chesed" is a Hebrew word used in the Old Testament which can be translated as kindness, love, lovingkindness, goodness, grace, compassion, mercy or favor. Bishop Robert Barron believes that the closest translation to the word in the New Testament would be "Agape." The King James Bible translates the word as "tender mercy," a beautiful description of God's providence and care for us. The text of the piece, which is taken from the 1568 book *Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations* by John Bull and set to music by English composer Richard Farrant during the same time period, clearly is influenced by this translation and concept. The piece concludes with an Amen sequence that musicologists widely view as one of the most exquisite in the whole canon. In keeping with the Advent message of tender mercy, preparation and amendment of life, this piece will be premiered at the 11:30am Mass this weekend. Click Image below to listen now!

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,  
lay not our sins to our charge,  
but forgive that is past  
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives;  
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,  
that we may walk in a perfect heart  
before thee now and evermore.*



**WINGS (Women in God's Spirit)** has concluded our 2020 Advent Season. If you missed a week or if you would like to watch the season, the recordings are linked from our St. Mary's WINGS page. Scroll down to the bottom. This Advent program will not be kept past Christmas. WINGS will be on hiatus until January 2021, but we are busy preparing for our Winter Season beginning on January 27. Watch for further details in future Bulletins. Have a joyous and peaceful Christmas everyone!

**WISDOM:** "Christmas isn't just a temporal celebration or the memory of a beautiful event; Christmas is more ... Christmas is an encounter!" - Pope Francis





**START THE NEW YEAR 2021 WITH THE SACRAMENT OF LOVE:** In recognition of the Archdiocesan Year of the Eucharist, St. Mary's will offer a three-session discussion of Pope Benedict's 2007 Post-synodal Exhortation on the Eucharist, *Sacramentum Caritatis* (Sacrament of Love). The group will meet on Zoom, from 10 to 11 AM, on three Saturdays, January 9, 16 and 23. Contact Leo Racine at 508-429-7476 or [leoracine@msn.com](mailto:leoracine@msn.com) for information about, or to register for the program. Please register by Tuesday, January 5, in order to ensure that Leo can send you the Zoom link needed to participate and that you have a chance to review the first section of the Exhortation online before the initial meeting.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPONSORING RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:**

On Saturday, January 16, 2021 in St. Mary's Father Haley Hall, the Council will sponsor its annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Hours are from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, appointments are required, no walk-ins will be allowed. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-REDCROSS or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and search by zip code (01746) in the "Find a Blood Drive" field for the 1/16/2021 Blood Drive. For further information, contact the Knights of Columbus Council #14224 Blood Drive coordinator, Rodman Burgett at 508 653-6130.



**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** Is sponsored this week by the Reilly Family. 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](mailto:st.marys1870@gmail.com). Many sponsors are needed for 2021! After the rose is purchased, the rest of your donation goes to Pregnancy Help!

**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:** 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.



## 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.

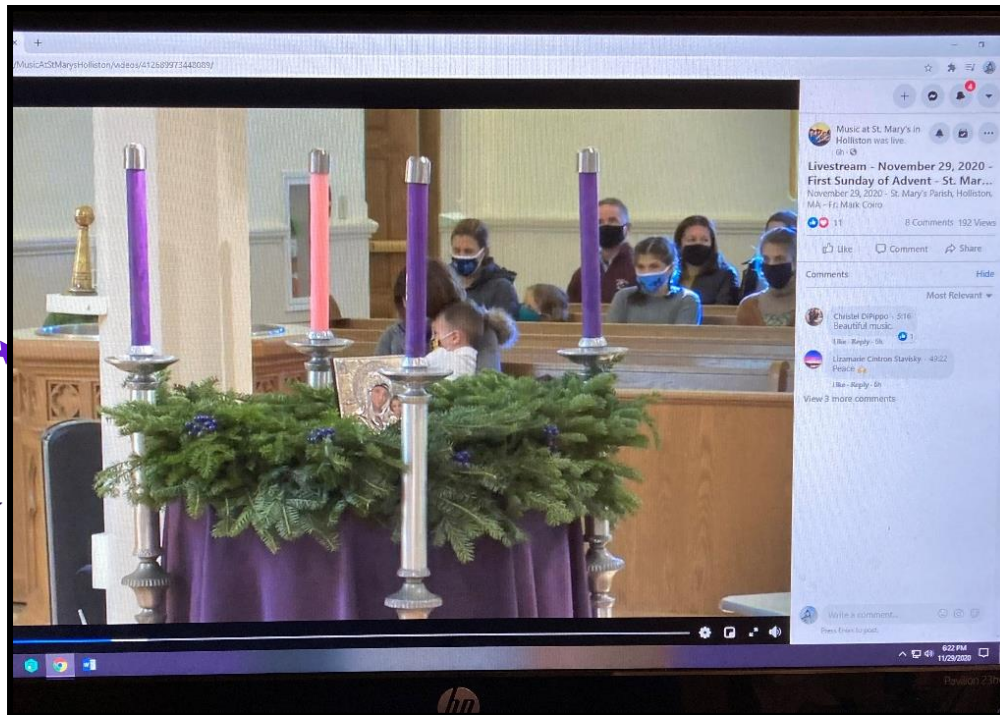
For their protection, the elderly and those with underlying health vulnerabilities are discouraged from attending in Phase One. Anyone with a fever or other symptoms of illness should also not attend.

- 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 140 -150 people per Mass (usually 600). Sign Ups are here: <https://stmarysholliston.com/>
- 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. 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 arrange 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: <https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>.

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: <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!



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.

**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-liturgy-of-the-word/>



## Religious Education

**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.

**GRADE K-7 NOTICE:** Families must check their child's grade level LINKS for updated sessions weekly as sessions for each grade are in constant development. Since families have expressed difficulty keeping up with the lessons, it is important to know that your children can self-pace the lessons according to your schedule to avoid stress in completing the sessions. However, the sessions should be completed by June 30, 2021.

DAY	GRADE	MODEL
Sun. Dec. 20	GR-K at 10:00 AM	Remote - Zoom
	GR-10 at 2:30 and 4:30 PM	Remote - Zoom

**CHRISTMAS VACATION:** Classes will resume on Sunday, January 3, 2021.

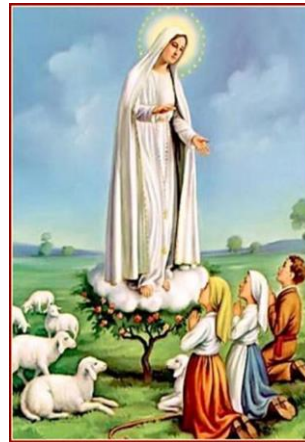
**CONFIRMATION II – GRADE 10:** Two Virtual Zoom meetings today, Sun., December 20 for Session 5 at 2:30 and 4:30 PM.

**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/>

**THE HOLLISTON FOOD PANTRY NEEDS HELP:**

Due to the pandemic the Food Shelf in Holliston is in need of non-perishable food items. If you are able, please donate directly the following food items that have not been opened or have not gone beyond their expiration date: brownie mix, chunky peanut butter, Clorox Wipes (or any brand), paper towels, pasta sauce, tuna fish - 5 oz. cans, Campbell Chunky Soups, Progresso Soups, canned fruit. Items may be placed in the black bin located at the Holliston Food Pantry. *Thank you!*



## THE FAMILY ROSARY MISSION

The Family Rosary Mission is an initiative to invite families to pray the Rosary together. Join us again this Sunday, December 20 with St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Norwood to pray the Rosary at 4:00 PM. The Rosary will be live-streamed. Families anywhere can pray with families from other parishes by going to:

[www.stcatherinenorwood.org](http://www.stcatherinenorwood.org)

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS:** Our Religious Education staff and Grade Coordinators wish you a blessed and holy Christmas. Even though these times are trying and we are unable to be together with our families as in years past, we should ponder the difficulties Mary and Joseph had traveling to Bethlehem while she was in her ninth month with child. The journey was long and arduous traveling several days from Nazareth to Bethlehem. There was no mode of transportation, but the donkey Mary sat upon. When they arrived in this small town there were many others traveling from afar to register for the census. It was also time for Mary to give birth to our Savior and all the rooms in the inns were taken. Humbly, they accepted the offering of an innkeeper to take up lodging in the stable where the animals were kept. It was on this Holy Night that Jesus was born without a bed to lay His head. It was the warmth and love of Mary and Joseph that provided our King with His needs. Let God's love be your comfort and hope and joy during these trying times. Share your love for God and one another in thanksgiving and generosity to those who need our help and encouragement. May God's love bless you this Christmas and always.



### TODAY IS THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The last purple candle is lit today on the Advent wreath along with all the other candles. The light of the candles symbolizes the Light of Jesus Christ Who came into our world to be our Lord, King, our Savior. This is the last Sunday of Advent before Christmas. With anticipation we wait with faith to once again celebrate Christ's Holy Birth in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago.

This fourth Sunday of Advent also symbolizes **LOVE**. God's pure essence is Love and Mercy, a love that is unconditional and that which holds each soul in the depths God's of Divine Heart. As we look back to the beginning of Advent we know that there is always **HOPE**, **PEACE** and **JOY** - that which the birth of the baby Jesus has brought to the broken hearted, the weak, the poor, and lonely.

God's plan for our salvation is beyond our human comprehension, for He could have raised an army or sent one of His legions of angels to destroy the wickedness in the world that had overtaken the human heart over time. Yet in God's infinite divine wisdom and love for His creatures He sent His only begotten Son, Emmanuel, (God with us) as a baby to proclaim the kingdom of God and to take upon Himself the Cross to satisfy and atone for our sins.

Thus with Hope we have Peace in our hearts knowing that Christ's promise to be always with us until the end of time is His truth. This same Flesh and Blood that Mary bore within her and gave birth to is the same Flesh and Blood we receive in the living Word, Jesus Christ, in the Eucharist. For Jesus Christ has kept His solemn promise to be always with us as the Sacrament of His Bride, the Church. Let us in return bring the light of God's love to others and give to God right praise and thanksgiving for His faithfulness to us.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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 and complete the registration process.

Once the 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

