





Saint Mary's Parish

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

December 27, 2020
Feast of the Holy Family

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

I love the story of Simeon in the temple. In fact, today's Gospel is the one I have assigned for my own Funeral Mass someday. Mary and Joseph have brought the infant Christ child to be purified in the great temple in Jerusalem, according to Jewish law. There in the temple is Simeon – a holy man, to whom God had made a promise: that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. And on this glorious day, God's promise to Simeon is fulfilled. He sees Mary and Joseph with their baby. He recognizes the presence of God – and gathers the Infant Christ into his arms. Then, with tears in his eyes, Simeon looks up to heaven and says:

"Lord, now let your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My eyes have seen the salvation You have prepared in the sight of every people; A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people, Israel."

I want this Gospel Reading, because I hope that I will be like Simeon when my time comes to depart this earth. Not necessarily very old, like Simeon was. But FULFILLED, like Simeon was. The reason that Simeon was able to raise his eyes to heaven and tell God that he was ready to die, was because Simeon was fulfilled. He was totally at peace, with God and neighbor. *"Lord, now let your servant go in peace."*

I hope that like Simeon, I may deserve one day to be called a faithful servant of the Lord. Because when this passing life ends, our fidelity to God is the only thing that will matter. The way that we have served God by loving God and neighbor is what will count, when at last we stand before Him. *"Lord, now let your servant go in peace."*

Simeon was promised that he would not die before he had seen the messiah – the Christ of God. And in Baptism, we have been promised that we will not die without seeing Jesus' face. No longer the tiny face of an infant. But the face of the Good Shepherd. The risen and triumphant Lord Who broke the chains of death on Easter Day. And Who faces down death again, and again, and again – when any member of His flock passes from this life to the next.

At times, Simeon's faith in the promises of God must have been sorely tested. At first, he was probably very excited to be promised a glimpse of the Messiah. But as days became months, and months became years without it actually happening – he must have wondered if the promise was true. Imagine if Simeon had given up! If that day he had decided not to go to the temple to pray. If the day Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple – Simeon was someplace else – putting other matters ahead of his faith. But Simeon *was* there that day. He kept faith with God even when it must have appeared that God was not keeping faith with him. And Simeon's perseverance was rewarded.

We should note that God's word to Simeon was not fulfilled as he expected. Most likely, like others of his time, Simeon was on the lookout for a great general – a military Messiah, to lead Israel to freedom and greatness. Instead, Simeon was shown an infant. An innocent. Who would lead the whole human race out of darkness. To be a light for all the nations, and the glory of God's people, Israel.

Just so will it be for you and me at certain hard times of life. We may doubt the promises of God. But if we keep faith with God, He will keep faith with us. Not in the time we expect perhaps; not in the way we might choose. But in a manner far beyond anything we could have imagined. For in the words of St. Paul, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has conceived the things that God has prepared for those who love him."*

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor



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: 429 - 4427

Religious Education Phone: 429 - 6076

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!

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

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by Tony and Janet Alexander. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. If you wish to sponsor the Rose in 2020 please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Mass Collections: \$ 4,943.00
Automatic Giving: \$ 3,996.50
WeShare: \$ 2,980.08
Total Offertory: \$ 11,919.58
Weekly Need: \$ 15,000.00

Offertory Shortfall: \$ - 3,080.42

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	December 26
5:00	Teotima Bolandrina
7:30	Donna LaRosa
Sunday	December 27
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Barbara Caron
11:30	Geraldine Keegan
Monday	December 28
9:00	Dianne Gootman
Tuesday	December 29
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday	December 30
9:00	William Flannery
Thursday	December 31
9:00	Fr. Issa & the People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour
7:00	Mary, Mother of God, Vigil Mass
Friday	January 1
9:00	Mary, Mother of God, Feast Day Mass
Saturday	January 2
5:00	Michael James Poole
7:30	Merritt Moraski
Sunday	January 3
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Vasco and Pauline Brovelli
11:30	Timothy McGuinness





Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Vigil Mass:

Thursday, December 31, at 7:00 PM

Feast Day Mass:

Friday, January 1, at 9:00 AM

The Story of Mary, Mother of God ~

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the *fruit of your womb*. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.

Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that "God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!'" helps us realize that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Some theologians also insist that Mary's motherhood of Jesus is an important element in God's creative plan. God's "first" thought in creating was Jesus. Jesus, the incarnate Word, is the one who could give God perfect love and worship on behalf of all creation. As Jesus was "first" in God's mind, Mary was "second" insofar as she was chosen from all eternity to be his mother.

The precise title "Mother of God" goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form *Theotokos*—God-bearer—it became the touchstone of the Church's teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin *Theotokos*. At the end of this particular session, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: "Praised be the *Theotokos*!" The tradition reaches to our own day. In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* calls Mary "Mother of God" 12 times.

Reflection

Other themes come together at today's celebration. It is the Octave of Christmas: Our remembrance of Mary's divine motherhood injects a further note of Christmas joy. It is a day of prayer for world peace: Mary is the mother of the Prince of Peace. It is the first day of a new year: Mary continues to bring new life to her children—who are also God's children.

By Franciscan Media



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.

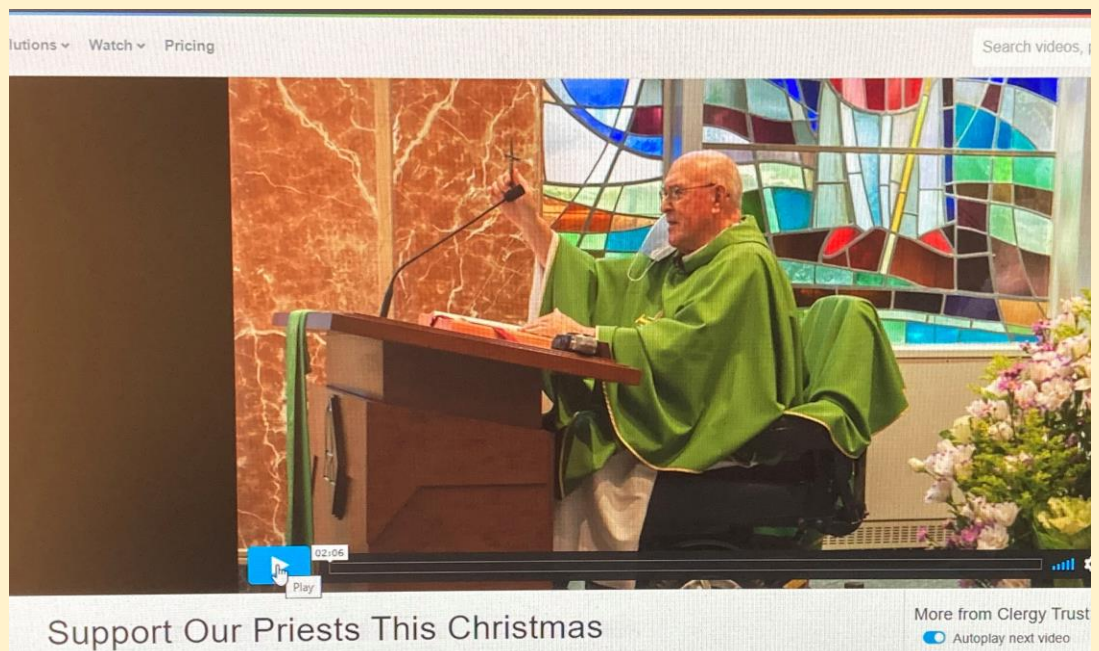
Christmas Offertory Envelopes, Regular Offertory, and Grand Annual envelopes all may be dropped off **through the brass mail slot to the left of the Rectory Office door at 8 Church Street, (photo left).**

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

— OR —

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



THE PARENT'S PRAYER ~ O Heavenly Father, make me a good parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say, and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them or contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power.

Let me not tempt my children to lie or steal. And guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all that I say and do that honesty produces happiness.

When I'm out of sorts, help me, O Lord, to hold my tongue. May I ever be mindful that my children are children and I should not expect of them the judgments of adults. Let me not rob them of the opportunity to wait on themselves and to make decisions.

Bless me with the bigness to grant them all their reasonable requests and the courage to deny them privileges I know will do them harm. Make me fair and just and kind and fit me, O Lord, to be loved and respected and imitated by my children. Amen

2020 GRAND ANNUAL THANK YOU! Thank you to all who have participated in the 2020 Grand Annual. The appeal goal of \$150,000 has been achieved. Combined with the weekly offertory, the Grand Annual covers our Parish's operating costs. This year's Grand Annual was designated to fund a portion of Staff Salaries and all of the 150th Anniversary repairs and painting of the interior walls and ceiling of St. Mary's Church. May God bless you for your stewardship!



The Eucharist is a never-ending sacrifice. It is the Sacrament of love, the supreme love, the act of love.

— Katharine Drexel —

**Adoration, St. Mary's Church,
Monday Jan. 18, 7-8 PM.**

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 leoaracine@msn.com for information about, or to register for the program. Please register by Tuesday, January 5, in

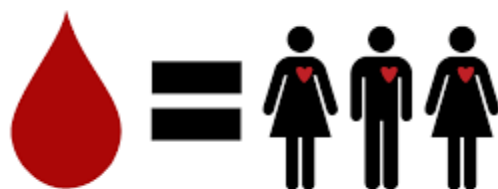
order to ensure that Leo can send you the Zoom link needed to participate and that you have a chance to review the first section of the Exhortation online before the initial meeting.

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!

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 and search by zip code (01746) in the "Find a Blood Drive" field for the 1/16/2021 Blood Drive. For information, contact the K of C Council #14224 Blood Drive coordinator, Rodman Burgett at 508-653-6130.

one pint of blood



can save up to three lives

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.

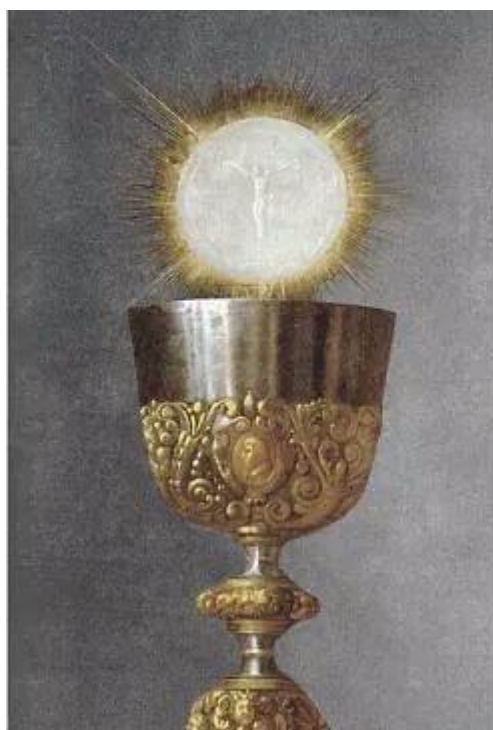
SUNDAY MASS: Every Sunday, the 11:30 AM Mass is being live-streamed from our beautiful St. Mary's Church. You may watch this Mass live on Holliston Cable Access:

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!



Act of Spiritual Communion

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.

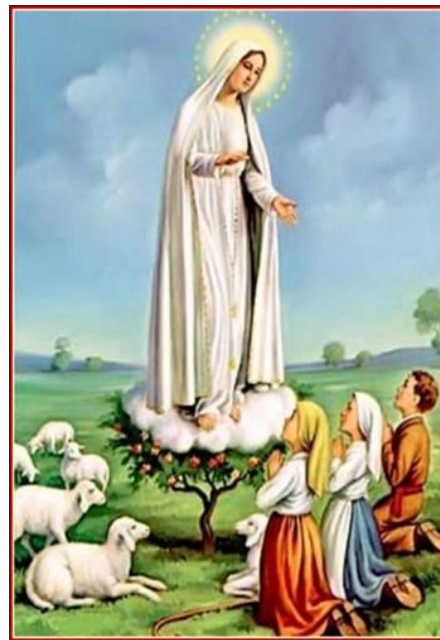
CHRISTMAS VACATION: Classes will resume on Sunday, January 3, 2021.

CONFIRMATION I AND II – GRADES 9 and 10: Classes resume for Grade 9 on Tuesday, January 5 and Thursday, January 7, 2021.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES 2021: Classes will continue remotely until the Archdiocese of Boston states that it is safe to allow small group gatherings.

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 FAMILY ROSARY MISSION

The Family Rosary Mission is an initiative to invite families to pray the Rosary together. Join us again this Sunday, December 27 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

KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER

CONTEST WINNERS: The Knights of Columbus have chosen the winners for the 2020 "Keeping Christ in Christmas" posters submitted by children in Grades K through 8. Three posters have been selected to enter the state competition. We are grateful for the children who submitted their poster entries this year.

The judging was based on how clear the theme "Keep Christ in Christmas" was presented, how well the visual conveyed the message and how effective the poster was to capture our attention and to reflect on the topic.

Each of the four winners will receive \$25.00. We offer our Congratulations to the 2020 winners below:

- Grade K-2: Declan Hanlon – First place.
- Grade 3 -5: Nolan Browne – First place.
- Grade 3 -5: Samuel Hann – Honorable Mention
- Grade 6 - 8: Eleanor Browne



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This Feast was formally begun in the 17th century by Saint François de Laval, the first Bishop of New France, who founded a Confraternity. Pope Benedict the XV inserted the Feast Day of the Holy Family into the Latin Rite general calendar on October 26, 1921. Popes before and including Benedict XV and Leo XIII promoted this Feast as a way to counter the breakdown of the family unit.

The Feast of the Holy Family is not only about the Holy Family, but also about our own families. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families and domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "**domestic church**" or the "church in miniature." St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, this sanctifies the family unit. How does a family make Christ the center of their life? Ways to do this are no different than what our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph did in raising Jesus and being an example by placing God first in the heart of their family by teaching Jesus Scripture, praying together and honoring the Sabbath. As Catholics, our homes can become a domestic church by spending time reading Sacred Scripture regularly, praying daily, going to confession, and receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation as a family. Having a Crucifix in our homes is a reminder of Christ's love and sacrifice for us and can be the central place for a family to gather and pray together.

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 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. 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.

"It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start." - St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta