

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 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!



Saint Mary's Parish

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

January 3, 2021
Feast of the Epiphany

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

On this Feast of Epiphany, we recall the Wise Men who arrived in Bethlehem following a long journey. Scripture tells us that the Wise Men brought gifts for the newborn Christ – Gold, to show that He was a King; Frankincense, used in worship, to show that He was God; and Myrrh, a funerary ointment, to show that Jesus was mortal, and that one day He would die to save us from our sins. The truest gifts are always sacrificial, requiring us to give of that which is most precious to us. We remember therefore on this Feast of Epiphany that Jesus was God's great gift to the world, His only and beloved Son.

The gift of Jesus is one that we are all called to share, particularly by our willingness to forgive others even as He has forgiven us by the shedding of His blood. Over and over again, the scriptures call on those who are "cherishing" anger and resentment in their hearts to turn these things over to God. Job 36:13 *"The godless in heart cherish anger; they do not cry for help."* Psalm 66:18 *"If I had cherished vengeance in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."* If on this Epiphany Sunday we are cherishing some grudge or enmity, holding it tight to us like a treasure, then that is the very gift that Jesus most desires us to lay down at His manger this year.

St. John Chrysostom once observed the following about the Epiphany. He said, *"If the Wise Men had come in search of an earthly King, they would have been disconcerted at finding that they had taken the trouble to come such a long way for nothing. Consequently, they would have neither adored nor offered gifts. But since they sought a heavenly King, though they found in Him no signs of royal pre-eminence, yet, content with the testimony of the star alone, they adored: for they saw a man, and they acknowledged a God."* Let us like the Wise Men look for the heavenly king Jesus, and be ready to accept Him when He manifests His presence in very humble and surprising ways. Let us look for Him especially among the poor and those people God places in our lives who are hurting and in need of our help. To paraphrase St. John, let us "see men and women, and acknowledge God within them."

Even as we mark the Wise Men's journey to the Land of Jesus' Birth, our own Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land has again been postponed by the pandemic. It will now take place early in 2022, the exact new dates to be announced as soon as hotel reservations are confirmed by our Tour Company. We thank all our pilgrims for their patience and understanding. We will get there yet!

May the Lord of Our Journey bless you and yours with holiness, health, and happiness in this New Year of His Grace, 2021.

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

P.S. Normally I send out hundreds of Christmas cards to parishioners. This year I was sidelined by my COVID Quarantine and regret that I was unable to do so in time. I am still working on my thank you notes to all those who remembered me personally this Christmas. If I accidentally forget anyone, please know that I am grateful for your gifts and for your many kindnesses during the year. Please know what a blessing and privilege I consider it to serve such a beautiful family of faith.



CHRISTMAS THANKS!

The heartfelt gratitude of our parish goes out to all those who made our St. Mary's Christmas 2020 celebrations so very beautiful!

Kevin Lyczak, Leo Racine, and several cantors and instrumentalists offered glorious music to herald the Savior's birth. Our Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Greeters brought great reverence and faith to our Christmas Masses.

Outdoors, the efforts of the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus and Stumpy's Tree Service provided a grand light display, with the Knights also setting up the lower lights, Manger, and Nativity scene.

Inside, the Paltrineri's handmade ribbons adorned our wreaths, Cindy Pratt, Emily Bukow, Bea Hait, Maria Bomba, Milda Hueca, Marjorie Graham and Susan Martell oversaw the decoration of the Church Sanctuary and Christmas tree (also put up by the Knights).

On both Christmas Eve and Day the technical efforts of William and George Martell made our Masses accessible via Facebook to those unable to worship in person this year. We look forward to your safe return!

We thank anyone we may have forgotten to mention here, and most especially we thank all of you who made our Christmas Masses meaningful by your prayers, presence, or virtual participation. May our celebration of Christ's birth bring us all a renewed faith and increase our longing for His return.

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



STEWARDS

IN ALL SEASONS

LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Offertory Envelopes
 Dropped off/mailed in: \$ 7,432.00
 Automatic Giving: \$ 3,315.00
 WeShare: \$ 1,552.33
 Total Offertory: \$ 12,299.33
 Weekly offertory
 needed for Parish Bills: \$ 15,000.00

Offertory Shortfall Last Weekend: \$2,700.67

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

"Holliston – Holy Land Friendship Scholarship."



Beit Sahour - the Shepherd's Fields outside Bethlehem. The Inaugural Scholarship recipients are Andrea Elias Salim Jaraisseh, (he goes by Andy), 11 years old, Grade 5; and Malak Majdi Hanna Odeh, 15 years old, Grade 9, photos above. Thank you!

This Scholarship will fully fund the education of one boy and one girl for a year at the Patriarchate School of our Sister Parish, Our Lady's in

2020 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:

This year's Christmas Collection for our retired priests was: **\$ 8,720.00**

Last year's Christmas Collection for our retired priests was: **\$ 25,605.00**

We are most grateful to everyone who gave to this very important collection that covers healthcare and other costs for our retired priests. It is obvious that the Pandemic's effect on Christmas Mass attendance had a major impact on the collection. If you have not already done so, please make your Christmas gift soon.

This may be done at any time by placing an envelope clearly labeled "Christmas Collection," through the brass mail slot to the left of the Rectory Office door at 8 Church Street. Christmas Collection gifts can also may also be mailed to that address.

If you use Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may indicate your Christmas gift electronically through those same services. You may also donate for our retired priests at: <https://clergytrust.org/> or by scanning above for Venmo, Google/Apple pay, and Paypal via Givebutter. Thank you for being there now for these faithful men who were always there for us.



If you have lost your job in the pandemic and are unable to give, may God bless you and guide you to new opportunities in this New Year of Grace!

MAKING THE SWITCH ~ This year's Christmas Collection demonstrates the challenge of stewardship without in person Mass attendance. Many are now praying along with St. Mary's Masses virtually, but with no basket being passed, the Parish Offertory and important Second Collections can be significantly impacted.

We therefore urge all parishioners to please make the switch to Automatic Giving or WeShare. These online services protect your Parish from the impact of travel, illness, severe weather, etc. They allow you to maintain your support without having to remember to mail or drop off envelopes. Learn how to do make the switch at: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.

MASS Intentions

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
Monday	January 4
9:00	Special Intention
Tuesday	January 5
9:00	Gerard Cocuzzo
Wednesday	January 6
9:00	Dianne Gootman
Thursday	January 7
9:00	Ann Feloney
Friday	January 8
9:00	Carmine and Loreta Gizzi
Saturday	January 9
5:00	Dianne Gootman
7:30	People of St. Mary's
Sunday	January 10
7:30	Theresa Merski
9:30	Walter Baker
11:30	John and Gloria Sullivan

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Ward Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. If you wish to sponsor the Rose in 2021 please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

K OF C 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.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *"Give me, I pray Thee, this gold, this incense, and this myrrh. Give me the gold of Thy holy love; give me the spirit of holy prayer, give me the desire and strength to mortify myself in everything that displeases Thee. I am resolved to obey Thee and to love Thee; but Thou knowest my weakness, oh, give me the grace to be faithful to Thee!"*

- St Alphonsus Liguori

BLESSING OF THE HOME WITH EPIPHANY CHALK:

Again this year we invite parishioners to take part in the tradition of "chalking the door" to celebrate the Epiphany, the day that marks the arrival of the Magi to the place where Jesus was born.

Chalking the door is a prayer and symbol of asking God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit your home throughout the New Year.

In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the angel of death would pass over their homes. In this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and protection upon our homes.

In Deuteronomy 6:9 God tells the people of Israel: *"These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."* Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God and remember to invite Him into our family life throughout the New Year.

How to Participate - At Mass today, hold up the chalk you brought to be blessed at the proper time. Then at home, with the whole family gathered together, inscribe the following on the outside of your house or inside above the front main entrance:

20 + C + M + B + 21

The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also an abbreviation for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," which means, "May Christ bless this dwelling!" The first and last numbers refer to the current year.

Pray - Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house, and all who live here, and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may shine forth to all. We ask this together as a family, in the words that Jesus taught: Our Father ... Amen.



Sacramentum Caritatis



Benedict XVI

POST SYNODAL EXHORTATION ON THE EUCHARIST

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. Register **by this 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 first meeting.

SAVE THE DATES ~ WINGS WINTER PROGRAM ~

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 24, 2021: (Women in God's Spirit) is pleased and excited to present our 2021 Winter Bible Study via Zoom. Building on the theme of the Centrality of the Eucharist which we began in the fall, WINGS has chosen Kevin Perrotta's John 1-10, I am the Bread of Life as our guide. Please note that it is not mandatory to purchase the book to participate in the Winter Bible Study if it is a hardship for your family. WINGS will share references to the relevant bible verses with you each week and may even be able to provide you with a book.

Please use the email below if you are not able to purchase a book but would

like one. WINGS charges dues of \$10 per season; however, all women are most welcome regardless of ability to pay. Details of the Winter Program will be announced in an upcoming bulletin and on our Facebook Page. www.facebook.com/WingsHolliston. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Jen @ 617-852-9632.

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 Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Chunky Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit, Brownie Mix and kids snacks.

HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE: A Holy Hour for Life with Adoration, Music and Benediction will be held on Monday, January 18 at 7 PM at St. Mary's Church in Holliston. It will be presided by Fr. Michael Zimmerman, who will witness to the cause for life and the power of the Eucharist. Deacon John Barry will assist.

This Holy Hour is held in observance of the National Day of Prayer and Penance, which supports in prayer those attending the annual March for Life pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. We will pray also for anyone affected by life's tragedies, including those who have been wounded by the Covid pandemic, abortion, euthanasia or suicide.

Let us pray for a greater awareness and respect for the dignity of all human life – from the moment of conception to natural death, and that those who govern us may be guided by justice, truth, and a love for the gift of life.

The Holy Hour for Life is organized by the Boston Deacons for Life in collaboration with the Pro-Life Office of the Archdiocese of Boston. Please join us, all are welcome!

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *"Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!"*

– Pope Saint John Paul II



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:

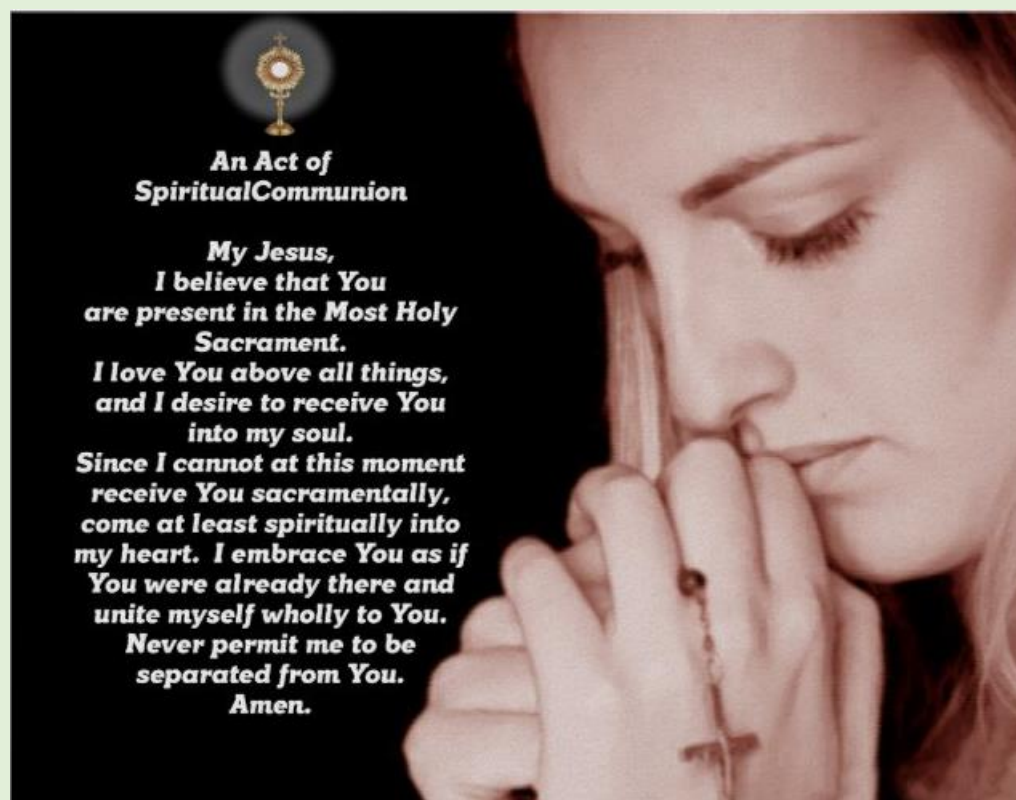
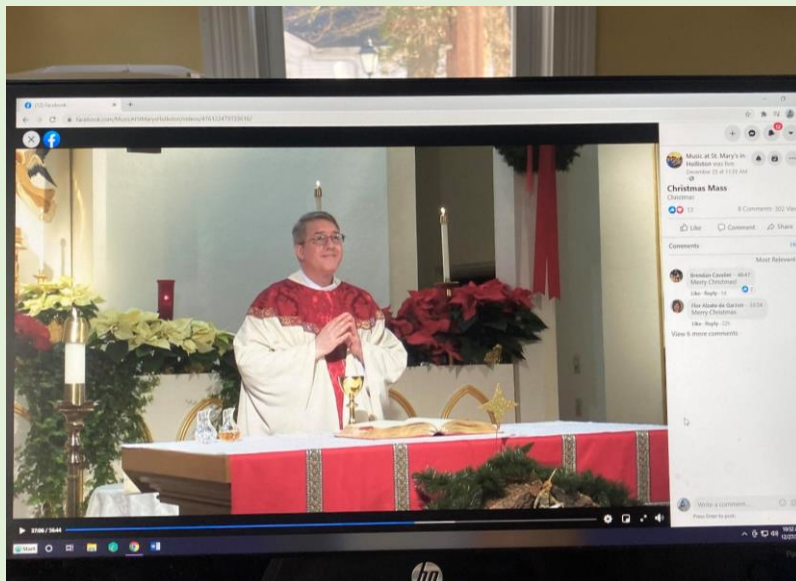
Pick a place where you will be as free from as many distractions as you can. A TV or Radio in the background will never let you listen to the service, or God. So do your best to arrange a spot and be sure to shut off your cellphone entirely.

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!

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.

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

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 remember 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.

THE FAMILY ROSARY MISSION:

The Family Rosary Mission is an initiative to invite families to pray the Rosary together. Join us again this Sunday, January 3 at 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

CONFIRMATION I – GRADE 9: Classes resume for Grade 9 on Tuesday, January 5 and Thursday, January 7, 2021.

DAY	GRADE	MODEL
Mom., Jan. 04	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	Remote - Zoom
Tues., Jan. 05	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	Remote - Zoom
Wed., Jan. 06	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	Remote - Zoom
Thur., Jan. 07	GR-9 at 6:30 AM	Remote - Zoom
Sun., Jan 10	GR-9 at 4:30 PM	Remote - Zoom

GRADE LEVEL SAFETY SESSIONS: Beginning in January through April Grades 1 – 7 will have a “Keeping Children Safe” session scheduled. This year due to the pandemic these safety sessions will be recorded and presented to the families to preview. All parishes are required to offer these safety classes each year. The program is designed to teach both the spiritual and personal content of safety lessons that will help empower children to recognize situations that are unsafe and dangerous. The content of the program is blended into the religious education program during the year with one designation session for each grade level. The lessons are rule based such as safety at home, at school, fire safety, gun safety, home alone, bullying, neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse and the touching rules. Once parents have had the opportunity to review the material in text form and video they can decide to opt-out their child from a virtual class. It is important that as children develop through their childhood they understand the safety rules. The safety lessons progress in grade level material each year to inform and provide the children and young teens a means to recognize and get out of a dangerous situation and ask for help when needed. Documents will be sent out this week by email to families explaining the safety program.

GRADE 7 CHASTITY PROGRAM: The scheduled Chastity Program with Linda Thayer for Grade 7 this Sunday, January 3 and Wednesday, January 6 will not take place due to the pandemic. Group meetings in the center have been cancelled. We will be working with Linda Thayer, our presenter, to schedule a Zoom meeting or a pre-recorded session with her at a later time.

GRADE COORDINATOR ZOOM MEETING: On Thursday, January 7 at 7:00 PM an important meeting has been scheduled to discuss the progress of the pre-programmed virtual lessons for Grades 1 through 7.

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 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

May we surrender our gifts of faith, grace and blessings back to God and invite Him to rule over our hearts through His Son, Jesus Christ, our King and Savior.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:
And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary His mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..... *Matthew 2:1-12*

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.marysrel870@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.





Massachusetts Catholic Conference
66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, MA 02184
617-746-5630
www.macatholic.org

Roman Catholic Bishops Statement on Abortion Expansion

The unborn child is a human life that must be protected. That precious child has no voice to protect itself from the evils of abortion. The Catholic Church recognizes that it has a primary moral responsibility to speak for the most vulnerable among us - the unborn. That responsibility is at the center of the Catholic moral vision. Because of its centrality, the Church must oppose the directly intended taking of human life through abortion at any stage of pregnancy. It is a serious moral wrong and directly undercuts our unyielding goal to promote the common good throughout a civil society.

We are deeply disappointed by the failure of the Massachusetts legislature to uphold Governor Baker's veto of legislation which further expands access to abortion in the Commonwealth beyond 24 weeks of pregnancy. The new legislation also reduces from 18 to 16 years old the requirement for a teenager to have the benefit of adult counsel (parental or judicial) prior to seeking an abortion.

With the issue of abortion at the forefront of our ministries, we recommit ourselves to defend life from conception to natural death. Our commitment to human dignity also includes strongly opposing capital punishment and physician assisted suicide, but it does not end there. We will also continue to defend life by protecting immigrants and refugees seeking our assistance, by serving the poor in our communities and by a constant appeal to others in our society to see the fragile ties which hold us together as a civil community.

His Eminence Seán P. O'Malley, OFM, Cap.
Archbishop of Boston

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, SDV
Bishop of Fall River

Most Reverend William D. Byrne
Bishop of Springfield

December 31, 2020