



St. Mary's Parish

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!

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:

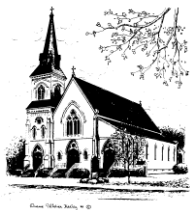
First Fridays from
9:30-10:30 AM

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

March 14, 2021
4th Sunday of Lent

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

As you entered the church today, probably you noticed right away the lightening of the purple Lenten draperies to a rose color. This is in recognition of "Laetare Sunday," a call to rejoice as we reach the halfway point in our Lenten journey. On this day the purple of penitence is lightened to rose by adding the white of coming Easter joy. In the very midst of these forty days of fasting, almsgiving, prayer, and confession of sin, we pause to remember the triumph and joy that await us not only at the end of Lent, but at the end of earthly life. As Christians, we must be above all and always a joyful people. How could we not rejoice, when God has revealed to us so great a love, so vast a mercy, in the person of Jesus Christ? As today's Gospel says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

The Cross is the great proof of Jesus' love for us, a love so great that He died to save us. In our own lives, the Cross represents the challenging part of our faith. It stands for discipline and self-denial. It represents service and sacrifice. The Cross means taking our eyes off ourselves and putting them on all those for whom Christ died. We remember how Peter found Jesus' talk of suffering and dying for others to be hard to take, and even tried to silence the Lord on this point (Mt 16:23). Peter wanted Jesus and the mercy, and love, and Good News He brought – but not the Cross.

Yet as Jesus reminds Nicodemus today, the Cross is necessary. "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up," (Jn 3:14). The Cross is also an essential part of our Christian discipleship. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me," says the Lord (Mt 16:24). For one person, the Cross may represent being generous toward those in whose welfare you have no personal stake. For another, the Cross may mean living a chaste single life until you are married. For many of us the Cross means being willing to forgive those who have wronged us – even when such forgiveness has been neither earned nor asked for. For some, the Cross means speaking up for life in a culture that more and more embraces death in the name of choice.

We each can identify the Cross Jesus wants us to carry because it's the part of Christian living we find hardest to take. The part that goes against our own instincts and desires. The part that will really cost us in terms of wealth, or popularity, or pleasure, or success as the world measures success. The Cross represents a willingness to die to the self, so that Christ, and Christ's love may live more perfectly within us. It is to make more room for Jesus, by making less room for all that is selfish and self-serving in our lives.

Very often picking up our Cross, actually means picking up someone else's Cross. Acting so as to lighten the burdens of someone who is elderly, or sick, or poor, or lonely, or in any of a thousand ways in need of somebody to be Christ for them. Every time we pick up a problem that isn't ours; each time we try to better a situation that is causing someone else to suffer; each time that the life of a family member or friend or stranger is made a little easier because we freely choose to shoulder part of the burden that they are carrying - those are the moments when we start to become truly like Christ. Who did not die for His own sins, but for ours. Who freely took up the Cross of our suffering and made it forever His own.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

P.S. Thank you to all who have committed to a particular hour of prayer during the Forty Hours Devotion starting today. Regretfully, pandemic safety rules do not allow us to leave the church open, so only those who signed up for an hour will be present that hour. If you signed up, please follow the special access and safety instructions you were emailed on Friday. Due to the Forty Hours Devotion, the Monday, 9 AM Mass will be in Father Haley Hall, accessible through the double glass parking lot doors. The 9 AM Tuesday Forty Hours Closing Mass will be in the church.

2021 CATHOLIC APPEAL ~ Living Our Faith Together

We want to thank everyone from St. Mary's who has so far participated in the 2021 Catholic Appeal. We reached our Kick Off Weekend family participation number.

To date our parish has raised \$34,220 from 14% of St. Mary's active households, reaching 39% of our parish goal of \$87,486.

These contributions support the many ministries of our Archdiocese and will improve the lives of so many vulnerable persons. The Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish. If you have not yet made your gift, please consider making a pledge.

(Option 1) If you have given previously to the Catholic Appeal, then you should have received a 2021 Pledge Form in the mail. Mail it to St. Mary's or to the Archdiocese. You may also drop it off at St. Mary's, and we will mail it in. Any checks we receive made out to the 2021 Catholic Appeal will also be forwarded.

(Option 2) Scan the QR Code right.

(Option 3) Visit <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/> and scroll to the bottom of the page to donate online. This website also offers you a video to watch and detailed information about the Catholic Appeal.



However you give, please be sure to indicate St. Mary's, Holliston as your parish so that your gift is applied to our parish goal. Thank you for doing your part – large or small according to your means – to support the good works of our Church. God bless you!

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

PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

Automatic Giving: \$ 5,884.00
 WeShare: \$ 4,061.50
 Offertory Envelopes
 dropped off / mailed
 to the office: \$ 8,038.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 17,983.50

May God bless you for your faithful stewardship.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	March 13
5:00	Victor Losanno, Jr.
7:30	Midge Boyd
Sunday	March 14
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Pio J. Decaminada
11:30	40 Hours Devotion ~ Opening Mass
Monday	March 15
9:00	40 Hours Devotion ~ Fr. Haley Hall
Tuesday	March 16
9:00	40 Hours Devotion ~ Closing, Church
Wednesday	March 17
9:00	Holy Souls
Thursday	March 18
9:00	Paul T. Shea
Friday	March 19
9:00	Richard White (Living)
Saturday	March 20
5:00	Melissa Bachman
7:30	People of St. Mary's
Sunday	March 21
7:30	James O'Connell
9:30	John Calabrese
11:30	Maryellen Miller, 13 th Anv.



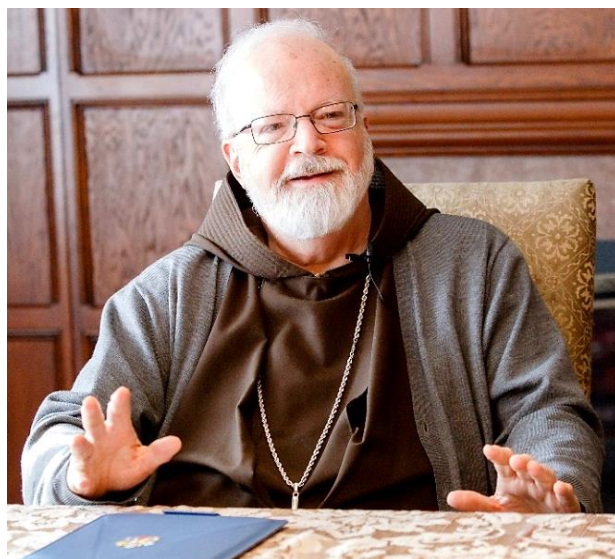
FASTING: Catholics over eighteen and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

ABSTINENCE: Catholics over fourteen years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. On abstinence days, meat may not be used at all.

Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended. Commendable, particularly during Lent, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the concept of "mortification."

TUESDAYS OF LENT, EVENING PRAYER: Evening Prayer, part of the Church's official daily prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, will be offered virtually for Lent on Tuesdays, March 16, 23 and 30 at 7:00 PM. This beautiful prayer consists of psalms, hymns, and intercessions. It is easy to learn. Join us and find peace at day's end. You can participate in the prayer via the Music at St. Mary's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston/>.

WEDNESDAYS OF LENT, THE DIVINE MERCY: During the Season of Lent, Parishioner Mitch Liro and Deacon Ron Dowding invite you to a series of weekly virtual meetings to learn about and explore The Divine Mercy. The program is open to anyone. Each meeting will consist of viewing brief, professionally produced videos, short discussions, and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We will meet in the comfort of our own homes via ZOOM on



Wednesday evenings for 60-90 minutes. Meetings will be at 6:30 PM on March 17, 24, and 31. For additional information or to sign up, contact Mitch Liro at 508-429-6098 (mjlsjl67@gmail.com), or contact Deacon Ron at 508-429-3961 (ronald.dowding@verizon.net). "Sacred scripture is the greatest story ever told; and the story of The Divine Mercy is the Second Greatest Story Ever Told." - Rev. Michael Gately

RETREAT WITH CARDINAL O'MALLEY: Weeknights, March 22-26 at 7:00 PM. Join our Archbishop, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, for a five evening Virtual Lenten Retreat the week before Palm Sunday. The event will be broadcast on Boston Catholic Television. You may watch online at: <https://www.catholicstv.org/>. Cable television options include: Comcast Channel 268, Verizon Channel 296, and RCN Channel 85. You may enjoy last Lent's Retreat with His Eminence at: <https://www.bostoncatholic.org/virtual-retreat-cardinal-sean>.



WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): Please join WINGS on Wednesday, March 17 at 10 AM via Zoom when Rev. Richard Cannon will open our Spring Program on "Recognizing God's Grace in our Lives." Rev. Cannon has been the Pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Hopkinton since 2012. He will speak on "Grace for Every Need" and will share how he has experienced grace in his personal life.

WINGS charges \$10.00 for the Spring Season if you have not already paid for the year; email the address below if you are unsure. All women are welcome at WINGS regardless of ability to pay. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's Parish, and mail to Betty Febo, 41 Holly Lane. Current WINGS members will automatically be sent the Zoom link prior to the meeting. For additional information about the WINGS ministry, please call Jen Schiller at 617-852-9632. To register for WINGS, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com.

GOSPEL OF LIFE STUDY SERIES: At a time in our culture where there are so many threats to the dignity of human life, Pope St. John Paul's magnificent encyclical *The Gospel of Life* continues to inform and inspire the Church's pro-life efforts. The Pro Life Office invites you to join in a six-part online study series beginning Wednesday evening, March 24 (the vigil of the Feast of the Annunciation) from 7 – 8 PM. We will use both the USCCB [Study Guide](#) and [Compendium](#) as the source material. Those wishing to delve deeper can read the entire text at http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html

To register, simply contact the Pro Life Office by email (ProLifeOffice@rcab.org) or phone (508-651-1900) by March 22. We ask that everyone registering make a best-faith effort to join all six sessions. Participants will need to read the designated sections prior to the meeting. You will find the readings clearly marked in a box at the beginning of each section of the Study Guide. For the first meeting, the readings are the *Forward* to the Study Guide and the *Introduction* to the Compendium (paragraphs 1 – 6).

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by Steve and Lorri Palmer. 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.

BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarship Applications are now available at <https://stmarysholliston.com/> under REGISTER / PARISH FORMS. This \$2,000 scholarship is granted in recognition of exceptional service to the St. Mary's Parish Family. Applicants must meet the following criteria: Graduating from High School in the Spring of 2021; Accepted to a four-year college or university to commence classes in the Fall of 2021; Family registered at St. Mary's Parish for at least two full years; Completed Religious Education and received the Sacrament of Confirmation; Attend Mass weekly at St. Mary's (virtually or in person), and are otherwise living out their Catholic faith.

Applications are due to the Scholarship Committee by Easter Sunday, April 4. The Scholarship will be presented at St. Mary's Mass for the Graduating Class of 2021, Sunday, May 23 at 11:30 AM.



HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY! St. Patrick was born in Britain—not Ireland—to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family.

At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. (There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala). During this time,

he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. (It is also believed that Patrick first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.)

After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice—which he believed to be God’s—spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland.

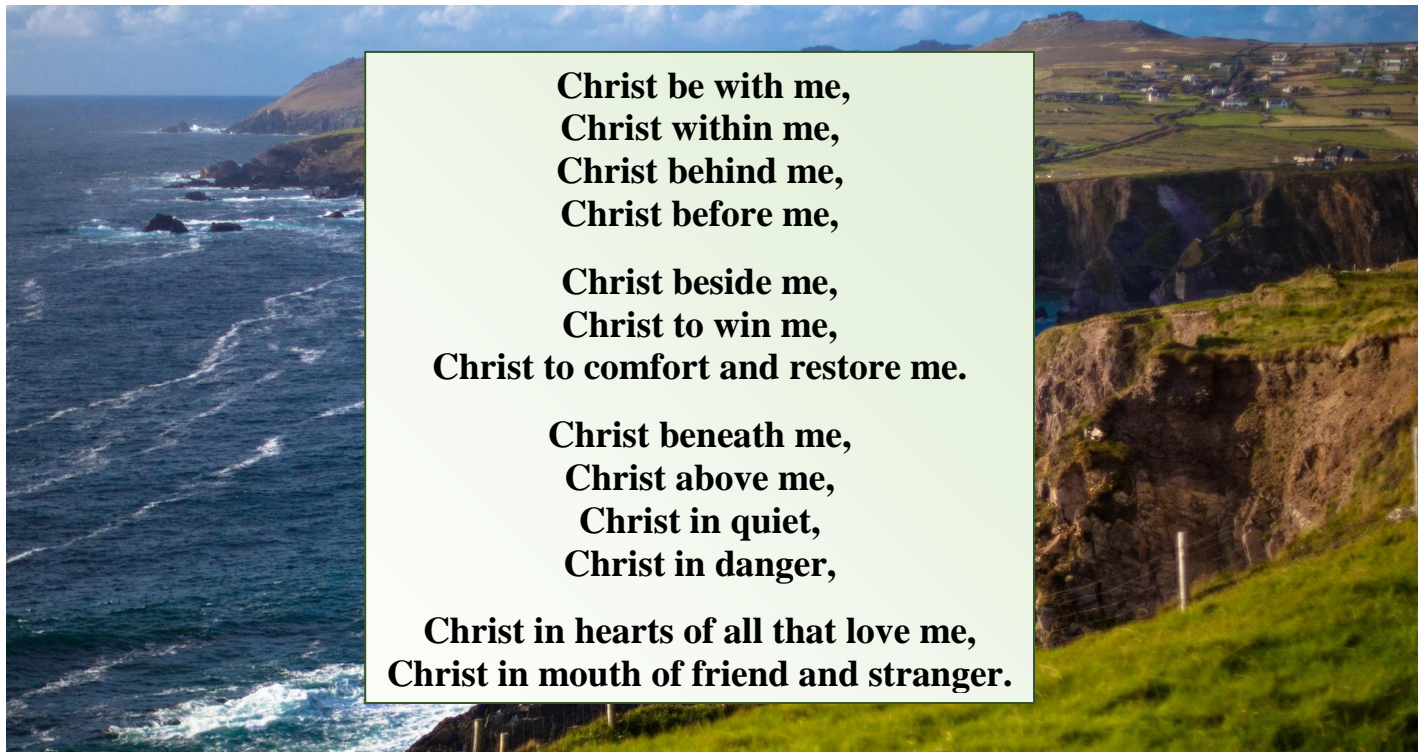
To do so, Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation—an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than 15 years.

After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission: to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. St. Patrick incorporated Irish culture into Christian lessons. Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish.

Although there were a small number of Christians on the island when Patrick arrived, most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion. Patrick is credited with driving the “serpent” of paganism from Ireland, as he eloquently and fearlessly preached Jesus’ Gospel of love. Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in his Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died on March 17, 461.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing - not even death.

Adapted from “The Breastplate,” St. Patrick’s poem of faith and trust in God:



**Christ be with me,
Christ within me,
Christ behind me,
Christ before me,

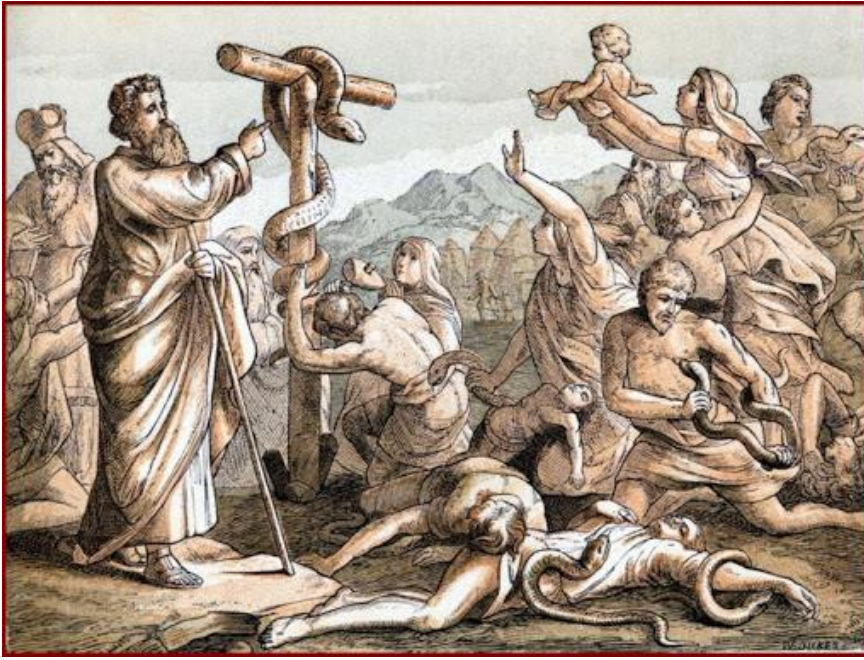
Christ beside me,
Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ in quiet,
Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

Although known as the patron saint of Ireland, Patrick was never actually canonized by the Catholic Church. This is simply due to the era he lived in. During the first millennium, there was no formal canonization process. After becoming a priest and helping to spread Christianity throughout Ireland, Patrick was likely proclaimed a saint by popular acclaim. He is the Patron Saint of Ireland.

SAFETY PROCEDURES TO ATTEND WEEKEND MASS ~



(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 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.

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, standing on the double arrows, remove your mask, place the Host in your mouth, and then immediately put your mask back in place.

10) Participants at Mass are asked to leave the church when their pew is dismissed at 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!

A good video to help you visualize the 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

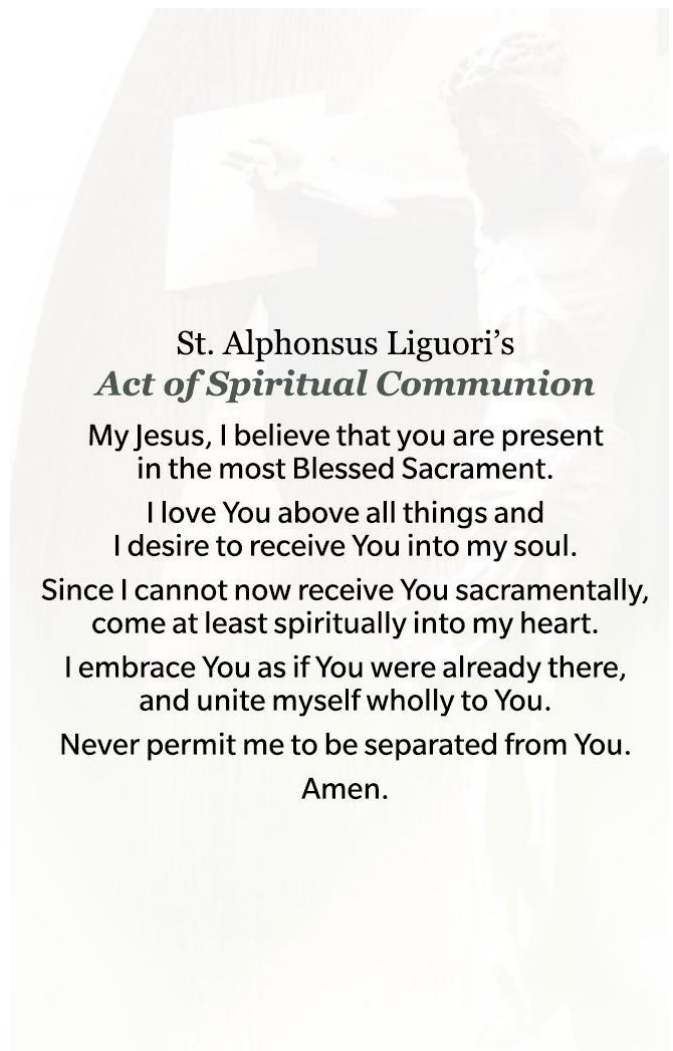
TIME: Make an Act of Spiritual Communion at Communion time. See Prayer Right.

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 early, you may need to hit "refresh."



St. Alphonsus Liguori's *Act of Spiritual Communion*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present
in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and
I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now 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.

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 on **Sunday, March 14**, at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Norwood at 4:00 PM for the Rosary.

The Rosary will be live-streamed. Families anywhere can pray with families from other parishes by going to

www.stcatherinenorwood.org.



CONFIRMATION I AND II: Please see the chart below for Grades 9 and 10. Classes for Grades 9 and 10 are ninety minutes and for Grade 8, one hour and fifteen minutes.

DATE	GRADE	MODEL
Sun., March 14	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	Remote - Zoom
Tues., March 16	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	Remote - Zoom
Sun., March 14	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	Remote - Zoom
Sun., March 21	GR-10 at 4:30 PM	Remote - Zoom

GRADE 2 FIRST PENANCE DATE NOTICE: The next First Penance is on Saturday, March 20 at 11:30 AM. Please check the Grade 2 LINK to see a video of how to go to Confession as a review. Only one parent and their child are to attend the Penance Service and enter through the two center front doors of the church to be checked in and seated by an usher. Only those families assigned for this Penance Service will be permitted in the church. Masks and social distance must be observed at all times. Contact Fran at st.marysdre1870@gmail.com or by phone at 508-429-6076 with any questions or concerns.

FIRST COMMUNION: The dates for First Holy Communion Masses have been set for Saturday, June 12, at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM and Saturday, June 19, at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Questions regarding the Grade 2 program can be directed to Fran at: st.marysdre1870@gmail.com or to our GR-2 Coordinator, Derri Cole at: colederr@hotmail.com.

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>.

CHILDREN'S NOON STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY~ LIVE STREAMED:

Families with children in Grades 3 through 5 were mailed information in early February to participate in the Good Friday Stations of the Cross. This year the presentation of this solemn walk with Jesus to Calvary will be presented in a different format with the children than the past several years due to the pandemic and social distance requirements. However, safety precautions will be in place and families with children who would like to take part in the Stations of the Cross should submit their forms directly to Lisa Dufault, assistant Stations of the Cross coordinator, as soon as possible to lisadufault@yahoo.com. Only the parents of the children who will have a role will be permitted to attend in person.

GUARDIAN OF THE REDEEMER



Continued from last week: Pope John Paul II's (JPII) Apostolic Exhortation "Guardian of the Redeemer", the person and Mission of Saint Joseph in the Life of Christ.

JPII continues, "Mary is the Lord's, humble servant, prepared from eternity for the task of being the Mother of God. Joseph is the one whom God chose to be the "overseer of the Lord's birth, the one who has the responsibility to look after the Son of God's "ordained" entry into the world, in accordance with divine dispositions and human laws. All of the so-called "private" or "hidden" life of Jesus' entrusted to Joseph's guardianship.

The Census: Journeying to Bethlehem for the census in obedience to the orders of legitimate authority, Joseph fulfilled for the child the significant task of officially inserting the name "Jesus, son of Joseph of Nazareth" (cf. Jn 1:45) in the registry of the Roman Empire. This registration clearly shows that Jesus belongs to the human race as a man among men, a citizen of this world, subject to laws and civil institutions, but also "Savior of the world." We are given a good description of the theological significance, by no means marginal, of this historical fact by Origen. "Since the first census of the whole world took place under Caesar Augustus, and among all the others. Joseph went to register together with Mary his wife, who was with child, and since Jesus was born before the census was completed: to the person who makes a careful examination it will appear that a kind of mystery is expressed in the fact that at the time when all people in the world presented themselves to be counted, Christ too should be counted. By being registered with everyone, He could sanctify everyone; inscribed with the whole world in the census, He offered to the world communion with Himself, and after presenting Himself He wrote all the people of the world in the Book of the Living, so as many as believed in Him would then be written in heaven with the saints of God, to Whom be glory and power forever and ever. Amen."

To be continued next week.

IMPORTANT CORI AND PGC INFORMATION

FY2021 CORI VOLUNTEER RENEWAL ALERT: Ministry Leaders must make sure that **all** their active volunteers (18 years and older) renew and complete a **FY 2021 CORI**. If you are planning to volunteer in any ministry, you must complete a **2021 CORI** form. You can scan in your license and completed 2021 CORI form and send it to st.marysre1870@gmail.com. Please call the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076 if you need a **2021 CORI** Form. Everyone must fill in all sections of the CORI form marked with an asterisk where it pertains to important information. Incomplete CORI forms may result in processing delays for volunteers who serve in various ministries at St. Mary's.

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.