

Create in me a clean  
heart, O God, And  
renew a steadfast  
spirit within me.  
~Psalms 51:10~

## St. Mary's Parish

### Our Mission:

*"To know Christ and to make Him known."*

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

Email Address: [St.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:St.marys1870@gmail.com)

Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427 or (508) 879 - 2322

Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

Fax: (508) 429 - 3324

Dear Visitors: Welcome! We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this day. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and if you are interested in becoming a member of the parish then please call the rectory to register. Please also be aware that for generations it has been the custom at St. Mary's to kneel together for a silent Hail Mary at the end of Mass.

Please join in!

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. To register for Baptism Preparation call 429-4427.

**Marriage:** Please call at least 6 months in advance of your desired wedding date. Congratulations!



# Saint Mary's Parish

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

March 21, 2021  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

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

This past week saw the tragic murders of eight people in Atlanta. We pray for the repose of their souls and the consolation of their loved ones. We also reaffirm our belief in the sanctity of every human life – without distinction – from the moment of conception in the womb to the moment of natural death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus proclaims that "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains but a single grain; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." When Jesus talked about sowing seeds, He was referring to His own burial. He was trying to help His disciples understand that true life, eternal life, could only be had through death. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again so that we could do the same. For truly those who die in the Lord are like a precious seed – watered in Baptism and warmed by the Son of God.

The image of the fallen seed is also one of sacrificial love. In this same passage Jesus speaks of those who love their lives losing them. Those who live first for themselves – their own pleasure, success and happiness – these are the ones who "love" their lives. They become spiritually dead, focused on themselves instead of God and neighbor. The ones who "hate" their lives, are the ones who look first to the needs and wellbeing of others – their families, the suffering, and the poor. In putting the other first, especially the hurting other, we become alive in Christ and receive an eternal reward.

One person who has truly put the needs of others first is our Confirmation Coordinator and Youth Minister Jake Thiringer. Jake moved to Massachusetts three years ago to minister here at St. Mary's. Since then, he has faithfully and humbly poured himself out in dedicated service to the young people of our parish, sharing and witnessing the love of the Lord in countless ways. Having completed his three year commitment here, Jake will be moving back home at the end of May to take up ministry in a parish closer to his family. We thank him for his fine work here, and ask God's good blessing upon him. He will be missed!

Many thanks to all who took part in last weekend's Forty Hours Devotion. This was St. Mary's sixteenth straight year of celebrating this Devotion of Adoration before Our Eucharistic Lord. It would not have been possible without the generosity of so many men, women, and teens who signed up to cover an hour as needed – even in darkest night. Each Forty Hours participant began and ended their hour by offering the prayer provided below.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

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## PRAYER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

O God, Whose only begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation, hear the prayers of Your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial.

Open our ears and our hearts to the voice of Your Son: Be not afraid, for I am with you always.  
Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants.

Give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour.  
So that we might gather once again to praise Your Name in the heart of Your Church,  
delivered from all distress and confident in Your mercy.

Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## 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.

**To date our parish has raised \$63,535.00 from 27% of St. Mary's active households, reaching 73% 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:	\$ 3,192.00
WeShare:	\$ 5,103.62
Offertory Envelopes dropped off / mailed to the office:	\$ 8,269.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 16,564.62

May God bless you for your faithful stewardship.

### MASS INTENTIONS:

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 20</b>
5:00	Melissa Bachman
7:30	People of St. Mary's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 21</b>
7:30	James O'Connell
9:30	John Calabrese
11:30	Maryellen Miller, 13 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 22</b>
9:00	Gaetano Urbano
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 23</b>
9:00	Gonzalo Quiroz Pacheco
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 24</b>
9:00	Hernan Del Carpio Polar
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 25</b>
9:00	Abi Lizotte
<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 26</b>
9:00	Nathaly Juarez Cornejo
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 27</b>
5:00	Philip Meuse
7:30	Clarella Kiesgen, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anv.
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>March 28</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Ann Murphy
11:30	Bill Kreinsen



# A RETREAT WITH CARDINAL SEÁN O'MALLEY

The CatholicTV Network / [CatholicTV.org](https://www.CatholicTV.org)

Monday - Friday, March 22-26 at 7:00pm ET



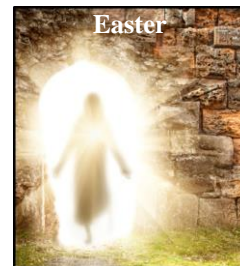
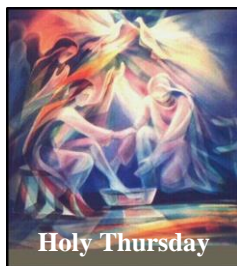
Prepare your heart for Holy Week by tuning in to a **5-night retreat** with Cardinal Seán O'Malley on CatholicTV. Each evening you'll hear a talk from the Cardinal, meditate on a passage from Scripture, and ponder relevant reflection questions. Join us in prayer as we draw near to the end of our Lenten journey.

[Retreat Reflection Questions](#)



# HOLY WEEK IS COMING!

Sign-Up Links for all Holy Week Celebrations will go up on the St. Mary's Website, <https://stmarysholliston.com/>, this coming Wednesday, March 24. They will look like this:



**SIGN-UPS:** To make sure no one was turned away, at Christmas we did a “By Sign-Up Only,” approach. But then many people did not show up for the seats they reserved, causing others to miss out. So for Easter we will allow walk-ins if there are still unreserved seats at a Mass. If a Mass is fully reserved, but there are still empty seats once it begins, then those seats will go to any walk-ins present. Those who Sign-Up in advance will have a seat reserved for them only until Mass begins – so plan an early arrival if possible. We highly recommend Signing-Up for Mass since we can now only use 140 of our 600 seats.

**Two requests.** To avoid a repeat of Christmas, please do not sign up for an Easter Mass until you are sure you can commit to it (see above). Also, at Christmas a few families reserved seats at multiple Masses to “keep their options open,” causing Masses to look full that were not. Out of fairness to all, please avoid this practice. Thank you!

## Holy Week Schedule

### **PALM SUNDAY, March 28**

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule - Palms given out individually as you depart Mass.  
(Attendance & 11:30 AM Livestream)

### **HOLY THURSDAY, April 1**

Mass of the Lord's Supper ~ 7:00 PM (Livestreamed & Attendance)

### **GOOD FRIDAY, April 2**

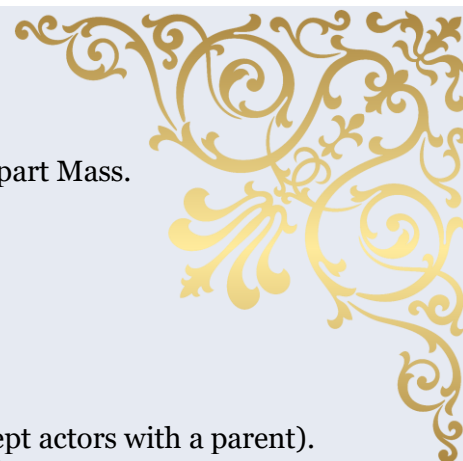
Live Children's Stations of the Cross ~ 12:00 Noon  
(Children's Stations are Livestreamed Only - no in person attendance except actors with a parent).  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion ~ 7:00 PM (Livestreamed & Attendance)

### **HOLY SATURDAY, April 3**

The Great Easter Vigil ~ 8:00 PM (Attendance)

### **EASTER SUNDAY, April 4 - Reserved seats held only until Mass starts.**

7:30 AM ~ Church Mass (Attendance)  
9:30 AM ~ Hall Mass (Attendance)  
9:30 AM ~ Church Mass (Attendance)  
11:30 AM ~ Church Mass (Livestreamed & Attendance)

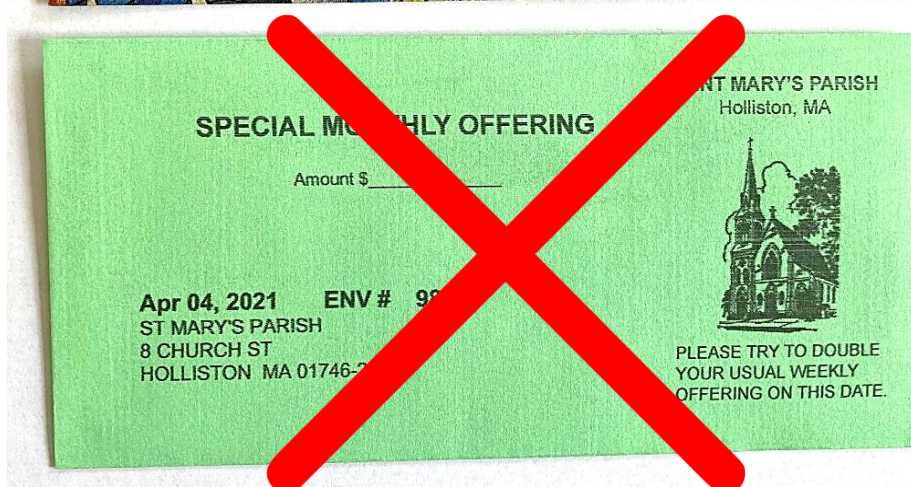
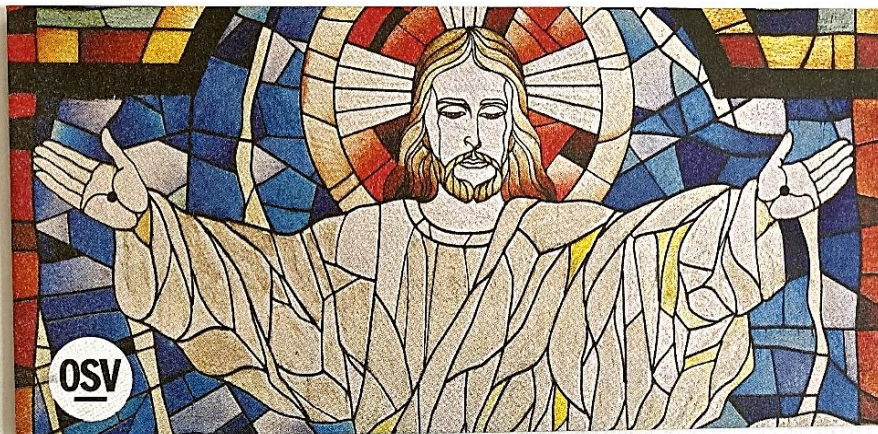


**EASTER COLLECTION FOR RETIRED PRIESTS:**

Due to the Pandemic's impact on in-person Mass attendance, St. Mary's 2020 Christmas Mass Collection for Retired Priests was down by 66% from the previous year. Please help us avoid a repeat of that drop by generously supporting the 2021 Easter Collection for Retired Priests. These good and holy men gave their whole lives in dedicated service to us. Now let us be there for them in their need.

Please mail in or drop off to St. Mary's the special Easter Envelope shown above right. Or you may contribute online at <https://clergytrust.org/>. WeShare and Automatic Giving gifts may also be designated for the Easter Collection. Thank you!

**Correction:** Our Envelope Company mistakenly sent out both Easter and Special Monthly Offering Envelopes – even though the Easter Collection is exclusively for the Clergy Fund. Please use the envelope shown top right for Easter, not the green one shown below.



## A DAILY PRAYER FOR THE REMAINDER OF LENT

**May I be no man's enemy, and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides.**

**May I never quarrel with those nearest me: and if I do, may I be reconciled quickly.**

**May I love, seek, and attain only that which is good.**

**May I wish for all men's happiness and envy none. May I never rejoice in the ill-fortune of one who has wronged me. When I have done or said what is wrong, may I never wait for the rebuke of others, but always rebuke myself until I make amends.**

**May I win no victory that harms either me or my opponent.**

**May I reconcile friends who are angry with one another.**

**May I never fail a friend who is in danger.**

**When visiting those in grief may I be able by gentle and healing words to soften their pain.**

**May I respect myself. May I always keep tame that which rages within me.**

**May I accustom myself to be gentle, and never be angry with people because of circumstances.**

**May I never discuss who is wicked and what wicked things he has done, but know good men and follow in their footsteps.**

**Amen.**

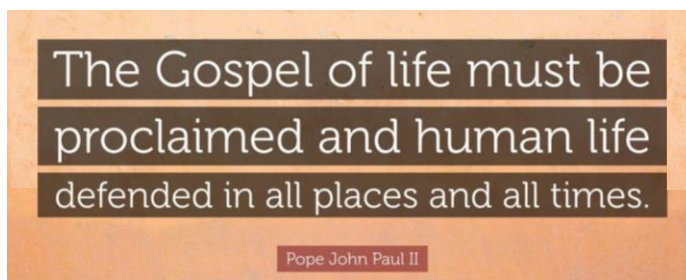
By Eusebius, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Century Church Father



**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.

**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.

**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 this 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](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](mailto: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).

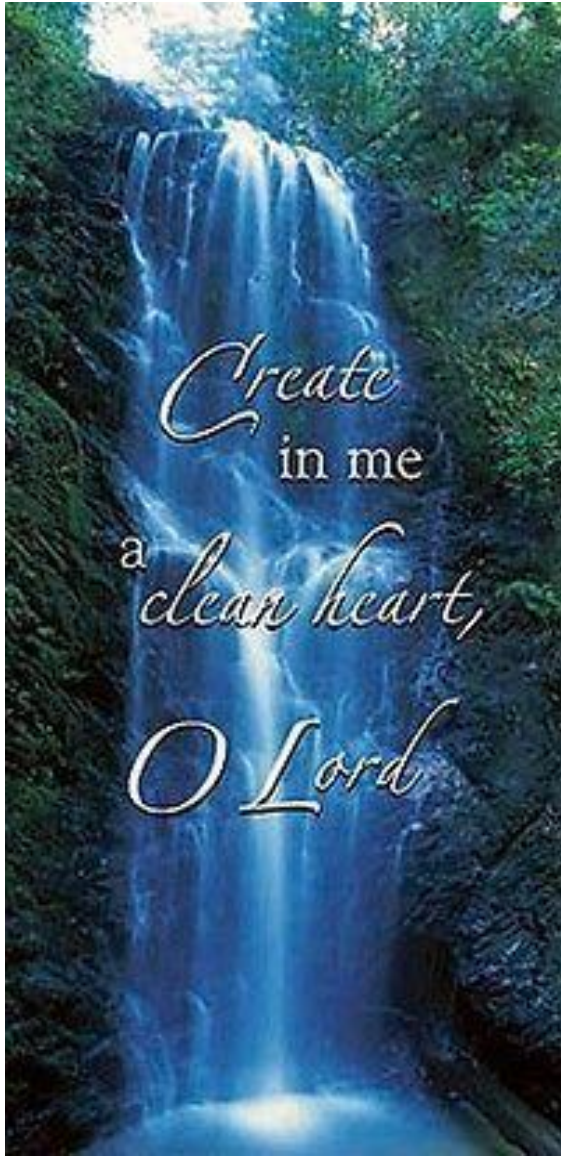


**WINGS (Women in God's Spirit):** Please join WINGS on Wednesday, March 24 at 10 AM via Zoom for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Session on "Recognizing God's Grace in our Lives." Deacon Chuck Hall will speak on "Metanoia; the Grace of Continual Conversation." Deacon Hall is a Permanent Deacon serving in the Living Water Collaborative in Amesbury and Salisbury. For decades he was an active member of Baptist, Presbyterian and non-denominational churches. In 2006, he attended his first Mass and was received into the Catholic Faith in 2008. He was ordained a deacon in 2014. 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](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com).

**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."

# 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.*

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 IN 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.

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**SPIRITUAL ACT OF  
COMMUNION**



**COMMUNION TIME:**  
Make an Act of Spiritual  
Communion at Communion  
time. See Prayer Left.

**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/](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.” 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, March 21**, 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](http://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 21	GR-10 at 4:30 PM	Remote - Zoom
Mon., March 22	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	Remote - Zoom
Tues., March 23	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	Remote - Zoom
Wed., March 24	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	Remote - Zoom
Thur., March 25	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	Remote - Zoom
Sun., March 28	GR-K at 10:00 AM	Remote - Zoom

**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](mailto:st.marysdre1870@gmail.com) or to our GR-2 Coordinator, Derri Cole at: [colederr@hotmail.com](mailto: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 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](mailto:lisadufault@yahoo.com). Only the parents of the children who will have a role will be permitted to attend in person.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATIONS FOR 2021-2022:** Registrations will be sent out by April 15 with a return deadline of June 15, 2021. We are planning for a normal opening of classes in late September or early October with the condition that if any Archdiocesan or state restrictions are imposed again due to the pandemic with social distance limitations, our program will have to adapt to any safety mandates which may require using a virtual model for classes once again. If any family is new to Holliston or has children entering Grades K or 1 in September, go to the parish website after April 15, 2021 and download a copy of the 2021-2022 registration form at [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com) under Parish Forms.

## 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.

**The Birth at Bethlehem:** As guardian of the Mystery "hidden for ages in the mind of God," which begins to unfold before His eyes "in the fullness of time," Joseph, together with Mary, is a privileged witness to the birth of the Son of God into the world on Christmas night in Bethlehem. Luke writes: "And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:6-7). Joseph was an eyewitness to this holy birth, which took place in conditions that were, humanly speaking, embarrassing—a first announcement of that "self-emptying" which Christ freely accepted for the forgiveness of sins (cf. Phil 2:5-8).

Joseph also witnessed the adoration of the shepherds who arrived at Jesus' birthplace after the angel had brought them the great and happy news (cf. Lk 2:15-16) . . . and he witnessed the homage of the magi from the East (cf. Mt 2:11).

**The Circumcision:** A son's circumcision was the first religious obligation of the father, and with this ceremony (cf. Lk 2:21) Joseph exercised his right and duty with regard to Jesus. . . . God's covenant with Abraham, of which circumcision was the sign (cf. Gn 17:13), reaches the full effect and realization in Jesus, Who is the "yes" of all the ancient promises (cf. 2 Cor 1:20).

**Conferral of the Name:** At the circumcision Joseph names the child "Jesus." This is the only Name in which there is salvation (cf. Acts 4:12). Its significance had been revealed to Joseph at the moment of His "Annunciation": "You shall call the Child Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (cf. Mt 1:21). In conferring the Name, Joseph declares his own legal fatherhood over Jesus, and in speaking the Name proclaims the Child's mission as Savior.

To be continued.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.virtusonline.org).**

Click on "First time registrant."

On the next page click on "Begin the registration process."

Select "Boston" from the drop down list of dioceses and complete the registration process.

Once the registration is complete, you will be directed to an online PGC training through VIRTUS. Upon completion of that training, individuals will be directed to a link to an additional online training on mandated reporting in Massachusetts. Both online trainings must be completed to be in compliance with child protection requirements.

The mandated reporter training can be found at: <http://51a.middlesexcac.org/>. Copies of the mandated reported certificates should **be** sent to Michelle Gee at [MGee@rcab.org](mailto:MGee@rcab.org). It is not necessary to submit a copy of the PGC certificate. Anyone with questions can contact Vivian Soper at [VSoper@rcab.org](mailto:VSoper@rcab.org) or at **617-746-5995**. While staff are working from home, email and phone messages are checked at least hourly during normal work hours.