



# 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:

Every Thursday, 7-8 PM  
First Fridays, 9:30-10:30 AM

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

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

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

Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427

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:** Saturdays from Noon to 12:45 PM, or by appointment.

**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!

## 2021 ST. MARY'S PARISH GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

*"What return can I make to the Lord for all He has done for me?"* Psalm 116

<b>2021 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:</b>	<b>\$150,000.00</b>
<b>Grand Annual parishioner support received to date:</b>	<b>- \$106,000.00</b>
<b>Parishioner support still needed to reach 2021 Grand Annual goal:</b>	<b>\$ 44,000.00</b>
<b>% of 2021 Grand Annual achieved to date:</b>	<b>70 %</b>
<b>% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:</b>	<b>30 %</b>



As the Grand Annual continues, contributions may be placed either in the gold G.A. envelope you received in the mail, or in a separate envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual." G.A. envelopes may be mailed to 8 Church Street or dropped through the Rectory Office Door Mail-slot. The wooden offertory boxes at Mass may also be used.

As explained in the special mailing to all parishioners, the \$150,000 goal will fund staff salaries, the replacement of the Church sanctuary lighting system, the exterior church door repairs and threshold replacements (completed), and electrical safety upgrades and repairs for office space in Sr. Ricci House. Your generous support will assure the financial health of our parish continues.

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

### PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor  
 The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance  
 Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon  
 Deacon Ronald A. Dowding, Permanent Deacon  
 Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon  
 Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7  
 Mrs. Theresa Virzi, Grades 8-11 and Youth Minister  
 Mr. Scott Ellaway, Artist in Residence, Music  
 Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary  
 Mrs. Paula O'Brien, Religious Education Secretary  
 Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager  
 Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan  
 Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities  
 R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Car

### SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:

Retired Women Religious \$ 3,533.00. Thank you.

### LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 3,451.50  
 WeShare: \$ 4,201.00

Offertory Envelopes  
 Dropped/mailed

to the office: \$ 7,439.00  
 Total Offertory: \$ 15,091.50

May God bless you for your faithful stewardship.  
 Thank you for making up any missed weekly  
 offertory support.

### PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 27</b>
5:00	Joan Brown
7:30	John and Helen Shannahan
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 28</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Janice Hathaway
11:30	Dolores Triquet and Dolores Wilverding
<b>Monday</b>	<b>November 29</b>
9:00	Joseph Cossetti
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>November 30</b>
9:00	Agrippina Bender, 19 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 1</b>
9:00	Robert Salemi, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anv.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 2</b>
9:00	Jeanne Miley
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 3</b>
9:00	Fr. Issa & the People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 4</b>
5:00	Vasco, Pauline, David and Wayne Brovelli
7:30	Cheryl Dellaria
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 5</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Elizabeth Walker MacLeod
11:30	Catherine Sheehan



# Saint Mary's Parish

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

November 28, 2021  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

I pray that your Thanksgiving Day celebrations were safe, peaceful, and renewing. I take this opportunity to offer thanks for the six new Altar Servers installed at St. Mary's last Sunday - Shane Bernier, Michael Bukow, John Enriquez, Ben and Elijah Hopke, and Juliana MacLeod. I also thank 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Member Betty Febo, whom I accidentally forgot to include in last weekend's Gala bulletin thanks. She has done a wonderful job on the new History of St. Mary's Book, something to look forward to. I give thanks for the safe arrival of our new St. Mary's Artist in Residence, Scott Ellaway, who begins his music ministry here this weekend. And as always, I give thanks for the kindness, patience, faith and generosity of all the good people who make St. Mary's their spiritual home.

The Advent season that begins today is itself a call to gratitude, as we thank God for the gift of His Son Jesus already given in Bethlehem, and also for the gift of the Kingdom of God for which we now wait in joyful expectation. As reflected in the Mass readings, the first half of Advent focuses on this second gift – the return of Jesus in glory at the end of time. The second half of Advent recalls joyfully the first gift, Jesus' Nativity over 2,000 years ago.

While the secular world has already leapt ahead to Christmas (outdoor lights, decorations and all), we as Church begin by contemplating the meaning of Jesus' Second Coming. It is easy to forget that time is finite and that opportunities to repent and accept the Lord Jesus are not unlimited. The experience of a worldwide pandemic, with all its attendant losses, has perhaps made us more aware than usual of the fragile and passing nature of our earthly lives. The Advent season is meant not to evoke fear, but a new urgency for faith and a wider, clearer vision of the truth that one day we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. As today's Gospel reminds, *"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap."*

Even as the lighting of candles on the Advent Wreath counts down for us the Sundays to Christmas, let us remember that every single day is bringing us closer to the Kingdom of God. Let us consider therefore where we currently stand in relationship to God and neighbor. And where necessary, let us take steps that will strengthen those relationships by mercy, generosity, patience, and love.

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

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

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## Advent

For Advent, the sanctuary draperies have been changed to purple, the Church's color of penance and preparation. Likewise the priest's and deacon's vestments are purple – the darker "royal" purple of Jesus the newborn King or returning triumphant King. This is different from the more "violet" purple of Lent, the redder tint of which suggests the blood spilt for us by Jesus on Calvary. For this same reason the Advent vestments are much richer in ornamentation than the plain vestments worn during Lent.

To the right of the sanctuary stands the St. Mary's Advent Wreath, the candles of which will count down for us the weeks until Christmas, even as time itself counts down to the return and final judgment of Jesus. We hope that an Advent wreath will grace your own family table tonight, as it is a beautiful way to bring prayer into your home and teach children about the two comings of Jesus.

At all church entrances today, Advent Prayer books have been provided. Please take one home with you. May it strengthen and enrich your prayer life. Daily prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God.

# A Festival of Lessons and Carols

at St. Mary's Church in Holliston



Sunday, December 12, 5:00 – 6:00 PM



Join us for an Advent and Christmas celebration through scripture and music. St. Mary's Choirs and Ensembles will join together to present choral works by Praetorius, Victoria, Rutter, and others, as well as traditional Christmas carols to sing along! The celebration will be led by St. Mary's new Artist in Residence,



Conductor Scott Ellaway (left). Dr. Andrew Scanlon, Assistant Organist at the Church of the Advent, Boston, will accompany the service (right).

Bring your friends and neighbors!

*This event is free and open to all.*





**TODAY** ~ “THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN,” AN ADVENT MINI-RETREAT: Today, Sunday, November 28, from 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Come and prepare your hearts for the season of Advent by spending one hour of prayer and reflection before the busyness of Christmas takes over. Join us in the Church for an Advent Retreat with Eucharistic Adoration. Deacon John Barry will give a reflection on the coming of the Son of Man and help us invite the Lord to come anew into our lives. Refreshments will be served following the retreat.

**NEXT WEEKEND** ~ **GIVE A GIFT:** December 4 and 5 at all Masses.

Once again we ask the people of St. Mary’s to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. All items go to needy families in Boston, and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, unwrapped together in a plain bag or gift bag with a tag stating “Boy” or “Girl” and size or age up to age 18. No adult gifts please. Kindly place your gift in front of St. Mary’s altar at any Mass the weekend of December 4 & 5. Gift bags only please.

**SPIRITED HANDS CROCHET GROUP/ST. MARY’S WOMEN’S GROUP:** The members of the Crochet Group known now as "Spirited Hands" and the St. Mary’s Women’s Group will be holding their annual sale of handmade crochet items in the Center Lobby on December 5 after the 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses. All of the items will be unique and well made. The Spirited Hands even prayed for the people who will be receiving their finished products. So these gifts will be precious! All proceeds go to help the needy.



**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ~ A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:** **Tuesday, December 7 Vigil Mass at 6:30 PM. Wednesday, December 8 Feast Day Masses at 9 AM & 7 PM.** The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna’s womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception.

**COOKIE WALK FOR HAITI:** December 11 & 12, after all Weekend Masses. Long rows of tables will be set up in Fr. Haley Hall – tables loaded down with over 2,000 delicious homemade cookies baked by St. Mary’s Middle School Youth Group Members. They will be carefully sealed in plastic, 2 x 2. For \$6, you may purchase an empty cookie bag, then “walk” down the rows of tables and select a dozen cookies which youths (wearing masks and plastic gloves) will place in your bag. All proceeds will benefit the poor of Haiti, a deeply impoverished nation most recently rocked by a presidential assassination, a major earthquake, and a hurricane.

**ADVENT ADORATION WITH CONFESSION:** Thursdays, December 2, 9, and 16, from 7 – 8 PM. Bring your day to a restful end by basking in the True Presence of our Eucharistic Lord. Clear and quiet your soul from all that has come between you and God by making a good confession – especially if it has been awhile. Confession is a healing encounter with Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. The Lord’s mercy, healing and grace are given to us through this encounter. In it Jesus also strengthens us to resist future or ongoing temptation. The Sacrament of Confession is a moment of accountability for us and before the Lord. The Lord’s forgiveness and mercy is infinite. Nothing we have done or could do can ever separate us from experiencing God’s forgiveness through this sacrament. **Confession will also continue to be offered each Saturday in the church from Noon to 12:45 PM.**

**ADVENT VESPERS:** Tuesdays, November 30; December 14 and 21, at 7:00 PM. Bless your soul with this twenty minute experience of the Psalms, calming your spirit and letting go of distractions and anxieties. The Liturgy of the Hours connects you to the whole Church in prayer worldwide.

**ST. MARY'S FAMILY IN NEED:** This past Saturday, we honored our brother Keith Wilcox with the Mass of Christian Burial. We thank God for his life and witness, and ask the graces of strength, faith, and consolation upon his loved ones. Please consider taking part in the Go Fund Me effort raising funds for Keith's family as he has now completed the journey we are all on – the great pilgrimage to the Father's House in Heaven. May he rest in peace.  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/lets-go-for-luc-keith-wilcox>.

**ADVENT WISDOM:** *"God walks into your soul with silent step. God comes to you more than you go to Him. Never will his coming be what you expect, and yet never will it disappoint. The more you respond to his gentle pressure, the greater will be your freedom."* - Ven. Fulton Sheen

**FATIMA SHRINE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY:** The Xaverian Missionaries will hold their traditional Christmas Lights Display from Thursday, December 9 to Tuesday, December 28, from 5 to 9 PM. Hot chocolate and cookies are provided for visitors. All are most welcome!

**NEXT SUNDAY ~ MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:**

Our next Meeting is Sunday, December 5 from 6:30 – 8 PM in the Parish Center. There will be faith, friendship, fun and signups for the December 17 Caroling, Pizza Party, Christmas Lights Trip and the January 15 Snow Tubing Trip. Any and all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited. Bring a friend!



**WINGS (Women in God's Spirit):** WINGS will begin our six week Winter Season on Wednesday, January 26 via Zoom. We will be continuing our theme on Catholic Social Justice using the book "Amos/Hosea/Micah: A Call to Justice" by Joe Paprocki. These three prophets tell us that "other peoples' business is our business when those people are suffering economic hardship and oppression." Reading the prophets' words is an opportunity to examine how, even without realizing it, our lifestyle may have a negative impact on the lives of others. For more information call Jennifer Schiller 617-852-9632 or email [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com).

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** Is sponsored this week by the Koval Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child.

**WHAT IS THE ROSE FOR LIFE?** In every Sunday bulletin you see the name of an individual or family who has sponsored the "Rose for Life" that week. This tradition began at St. Mary's twenty-six years ago. The cost of sponsoring the rose is \$10. Part of this goes to purchase a single rose which is placed in front of the statue of Mary in our church every Saturday morning, remaining there all week as a visible reminder to please pray for the health and safety of unborn children.

The rest of the offering is given to the Pregnancy Help Program of the Archdiocese of Boston, a beautiful ministry that assists individuals in crisis pregnancies. Pregnancy Help offers free and confidential counseling, referrals and assistance on a wide range of medical, social service, housing and financial issues. Many women come to Pregnancy Help feeling totally alone, isolated and abandoned by family, friends and partners. Others have some support but they are confused and frightened about what to do. Whatever a particular woman's situation might be, Pregnancy Help provides a safe place where she can come, speak from her heart and find the support she needs.



**Want to sponsor the Rose for Life one week in 2021? We currently need MANY new sponsors. Please call 508-429-4427 to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life today!**

Each year, Pregnancy Help assists more than 350 new clients at their two locations in Brighton and Natick. All their services are free and confidential. Pregnancy Help is staffed by nurses and bilingual caseworkers who have been trained to offer a wide range of support. Their services extend through all stages of pregnancy, from pregnancy testing through delivery and into the postpartum period. Clients range in age from high school students to women in their 40's. Services are offered in English, Spanish and Portuguese. More information at: <http://www.pregnancyhelpboston.org/>

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SAFETY NOTICE:**

When the children, youth, volunteer teachers and monitors, along with the parents, enter the Center or Annex buildings they must wear Masks and sanitize their hands. This requirement is necessary at this time to protect everyone on the premises during the pandemic. Thank you for your cooperation.

**CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Today, Sunday, Nov. 28 the children will be dismissed from the main assembly and led to the lower church hall to hear what Jesus has to tell them in the Gospel. Note: Younger children are welcome **but must be accompanied by their parents** and be able to sit and engage in the lesson.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Nov. 28	GR-K2 at 9:15 AM	
Mon., Nov. 29	GR-2 at 4:30 PM *	GR-4 at 4:00 PM
	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-8 at 6:00 PM
Tues., Nov. 30	GR-2 at 4:30 PM *	GR-5 at 2:30 PM
	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	
Wed., Dec. 1	GR-2 at 4:30 PM *	GR-4 at 4:15 PM
	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 6:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Thur., Dec. 2	GR-9 at 6:30 PM	
Sun., Dec. 5	PRE-K at 9:15 AM	GR-1 at 8:10 AM
	GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 at 10:45 AM

**TEACHERS ARE STILL NEEDED!**

**Sessions:** A= Sun. B= Mon. C= Tues. D=Wed. E= Th.

Grade Level	Teacher Needs	Monitor Needs	DAY / TIME Alternate weeks
GR-1A	Filled	1	Sun., 8:10 to 9:20 AM
GR-2A	Filled	1	Sun., 8:10 to 9:25 AM
GR-5D	1	Filled	Wed., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-6B	1	Filled	Mon., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-9C	2	Filled	Tues., 6:30 to 8:30 PM
GR-10C	4	Filled	Tues., 6:30 to 8:30 PM

**\* GRADE 2 IMPORTANT REVIEW SESSION FOR**

**FIRST PENANCE:** Review and practice for the Sunday, 8:10 AM classes will be on Monday, November 29 at 4:30 PM and the Sunday, 10:45 AM classes will be on Tuesday, November 30 at 4:30 PM. Wednesday classes are scheduled for December 1 or on Monday or Tuesday in the church.

**GRADE 2 FIRST PENANCE SERVICES:** Friday, Dec. 3 at 4:15 and 6:30 PM. Families are to arrive fifteen minutes before each Penance Service in the church to be checked in and seated. Three priests will be available to hear sacramental confessions for the children.

**CONFIRMATION I AND II ~ GRADES 9 / 10:**

Grade 9 meets on Tuesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 2 for their third session. Grade 10 meets on Tuesday, December 7 and Thursday, December 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM for their fourth session in Fr. Haley Hall.

**HELP! GRADE COORDINATORS FOR GRADES 1, 7, 8 AND 9 ARE NEEDED:** Our program needs people of good faith to volunteer as Grade Coordinators. Training will be provided. Contact Fran if you can take on this role at 508-429-6076 or Email at st.marysre1870@gmail.com.

*Please note that R.E. Coordinators are responsible for guiding and assisting both teachers and students in growing in their relationship with Christ and His Church. Since this is done best by example, all parish coordinators are required to be regularly practicing members of the St. Mary's Worshipping Community.*

**IMPORTANT CORI INFORMATION:**

The Archdiocese of Boston has issued a statement regarding CORI forms: The State of Emergency order is lifted in Massachusetts and one can no longer complete a CORI verification via zoom or teleconference. Photocopies of a license will no longer be accepted to verify at a later time. **Verification must be completed in person.** Please remember **ANY** person who will be conducting virtual education programs for members of our parish are required to submit a CORI.



**The Knights of Columbus**  
**Keep Christ in Christmas**  
**Poster Contest**

**REMINDER ~THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" POSTER CONTEST ENTRIES ARE DUE DECEMBER 5:**

The contest is open to all youth between the ages of 5-14. There are three age groups: ages 5-7, ages 8-10, and ages 11-14. The suggested poster size is 11x14 inches. Each poster must be submitted with an entry form by **December 5, 2021.** Council prizes for winners. Winners will enter State Council Contest. **Entry forms are available in the Grades K-7 Religious Education Office or can be downloaded from <http://kofc14224.org/#/kofclinks>.** The contacts are Grades K-7 D.R.E. Fran Crespi and Council Knight Mitchell Liro.

**ADVENT WREATHS AND CANDLES:** Today, Sun., November 28 we begin the Advent Season. Prepare for Christmas with your own Advent Wreath. We have sets of brass candle holders with candles available for \$15.00 each and sets of Advent candles for \$6.00 each.



# Advent at ST. MARY'S

EXPECTANT WAITING. HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION. CHEERFUL PREPARATION.



## THE ADVENT SEASON IN THE CHURCH:

As we leave the long liturgical season of Ordinary Time and enter into the season of Advent, we ponder the wonder of God's unconditional love sending His only begotten Son to take on a human nature and dwell among us in order to show us the way, the truth and how to live out our lives trusting in God's will for us. Advent is also a time to reflect on our relationship with our loving and merciful God. It is a time to look inward and reflect on the ways that we may have offended God and ask for His forgiveness.

The green and unbroken circle of the Advent wreath reminds us of God's unconditional, unbroken love for us, just as a wedding band unites a couple in faithful unconditional love for one another. Green is the color of hope, knowing that we can confidently trust in God's provision for us when we call upon Him through His Son for His heavenly aid.

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ as a baby in the womb of a young Jewish girl, who herself, was immaculately conceived without the blemish of sin on her soul, tells us that there is no vessel on earth that is pure enough for God to enter. For God is pure and holy, as we are to be in His sight.

Salvation came as a baby. Who knew, back in the time of the prophets, they were promised the arrival of a Messiah to relieve the Hebrew people of their misery because they had abandoned the Covenant God made with them at Sinai!

God's ways are not our ways of thinking and it is amazing how God works in the quiet of our lives transforming us through the grace Jesus purchased on the Cross for us on Calvary. The Messiah would come to be the Victim High Priest, true Prophet and Sovereign King. All we need to do is to cooperate with the grace Jesus has gained for our salvation.

The Candles on the Advent wreath have specific meaning as they are lit each week before Mass or in the homes of many families. There are four candles for each week of Advent before Christmas. The first Candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent and provides the promise of "Hope". Purple is the color of royalty for a king. The priest wears a purple/blue vestment during Advent except for third Sunday where he wears a rose color to signify the Gift of "Joy". Christ wants us to have a lively joyful faith.

Each day during the first week of Advent, the first candle of "Hope" is lighted at Mass and in homes. A simple reading from the Gospel of Luke of the Nativity narrative, before the candle is lighted before dinner in the home, is a wonderful way to have the family remember the true meaning of Christmas.

As the second Sunday of Advent comes upon us, the second purple candle is lighted and every day during the week to signify the gift of "Faith" which will constantly grow stronger as we believe and depend on our King's love, mercy and forgiveness. The spiritual journey through Advent is a time of waiting, not only for our King to be born at His first coming, but also for His second coming which is unknown to us but only known to God the Father.

Joy is the heartbeat of God's love and our hearts should be beating as one as we live obediently to His commands. We sing and give God rightful praise for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, faith and hope. A time to detach ourselves from the material and lift our hearts to the supernatural with joy!

Of course the last candle on the wreath is "Love". God commands us to love Him with our heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This love is unselfish, generous, holy, and forgiving at all costs. This love that God so generously gives to us must be spread to others. This love came from the Cross with Christ's surrender for our salvation. A child born in a humble setting by a Virgin named Mary would become our Paschal Lamb offered at each sacred liturgy, the Mass.

As the weeks of Advent bring us before the Manger of our King, we receive the Holy Eucharist, the Bread of Life, as our spiritual food, the tangible and true Presence of Christ Himself. What king of this world would be so generous and compassionate with those he rules over? Our King is Jesus Christ, Who lived and sacrificed everything as the unblemished Lamb for the whole world.

Let this Advent and Christmas be a spiritual time to ignite our hearts for prayer, thanksgiving and wonder of God's Holy Love and mighty immortal presence in our life.

