



# 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!



# Saint Mary's Parish

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

December 5, 2021  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

Following a long illness, our good friend Xaverian Father Tony Lalli passed to God this past Friday morning – the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, Patron of his Order. Fr. Tony assisted with Masses and Confessions here at St. Mary's for many years. I visited Fr. Tony in the hospital a few nights before his death, prayed with him, and received his blessing. He was a kind and faithful priest who will be missed by us all. Fr. Tony's Funeral Mass will be celebrated here at St. Mary's on Monday, December 13 at 11 AM, with Visiting Hours the day before at Chesmore's Funeral Home (times pending). Please keep Fr. Tony and all who loved him in your prayers.



Today John the Baptist fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah, becoming a voice of one crying out in the desert, *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* In ancient times when a king planned to visit a distant part of his kingdom, he would send a herald ahead to announce his coming. As the dirt roads were often in poor condition, the king's subjects in that area were expected to carry out repairs in anticipation of his arrival.

Just so in this Advent Season, we are all being invited to effect spiritual repairs to smooth the way for God's coming anew into our lives. This is the time to fill in the potholes of resentment, the cracks of jealousy, and whatever other fractures sin has caused to mar the surface of our souls. Always the key to a joyful and graced Christmas - one where you really feel the "Christmas Spirit" if you will - is an Advent spent in real preparation. Look around for opportunities to make the necessary repairs. You know where the need for healing lies in your own family and circle of friends. You know where there is loneliness and heartache. You know where there is a need to return to prayer.

This past Friday, forty-six of our Second Graders prepared the way for Jesus by making their very First Confessions. They have set a good example for all of us, reminding us of the sacrament that like no other can return us to innocence and a childlike wonder of the Lord. If you do nothing else this Advent to prepare spiritually for Christ's coming, experience the Sacrament of Confession, available here each Saturday from Noon to 12:45 PM, and also Saturdays at the Fatima Shrine from 3-5 PM. Confession is also available the next two weeks during our St. Mary's Thursday Holy Hours, from 7-8 PM. In today's Psalm we sang *"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."* And one of the greatest things He has done is to offer forgiveness and healing from our sins in Confession, that we might live in peace and joy again.

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

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

**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.



**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>- \$131,640.00</b>
<b>Parishioner support still needed to reach 2021 Grand Annual goal:</b>	<b>\$ 18,360.00</b>
<b>% of 2021 Grand Annual achieved to date:</b>	<b>88 %</b>
<b>% of St. Mary’s families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:</b>	<b>41 %</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 Care

**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.

**DONUTS, JUICE & COFFEE:** The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass today Sunday, December 5, for donuts, juice and coffee!

**PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:**

<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
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 6</b>
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 7</b>
9:00	Giovanni Cossetti

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

6:30	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 8</b>
9:00	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>
7:00	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 9</b>
9:00	Cheryl Dellaria
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 10</b>
9:00	Franco DiCenso
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 11</b>
5:00	Merritt Moraski, 20 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
7:30	Donna LaRosa
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 12</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary’s
9:30	Helen and Claire Medwid
11:30	Jacqueline O’Neill, 4 <sup>th</sup> Anv.





# A Festival of Lessons and Carols

at St. Mary's Church in Holliston



Next 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. Dr. Andrew Scanlon, Assistant Organist at the Church of the Advent, Boston, will accompany the service and offer an organ concert starting at 4:30 PM. Bring your friends and neighbors!

*This event is free and open to all.*

**THIS 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 this weekend of December 4 & 5. Gift bags only please.

**TODAY ~ 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 today, 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.



*All gifts are being sorted then driven into Boston directly following the 11:30 AM Sunday Mass. So that is the last Mass items may be dropped off. Thank you for your generosity!*

**TODAY, SUNDAY ~ MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Our next Meeting is today, 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!



**NEXT WEEKEND ~ COOKIE WALK FOR HAITI:** Next weekend, 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 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, 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.

**LITTLE BETHLEHEM CHRISTIANS OLIVE WOOD OFFERINGS:** After all Masses December 18 & 19 in the Parish Center Lobby. In 2003, the Alshouri Family fled the fighting in Bethlehem between Palestinians and Israelis, finding a new home in the United States. Christians used to make up 80% of the population of Bethlehem, but many have been forced to flee. Now less than 10% of Bethlehem's residents are Christian, with 200 of those families supporting themselves by carving religious articles of olive wood. The Alshouri's then sell some of these artworks in Catholic parishes in the United States. We are delighted to welcome them with their beautiful olive wood creations for sale just in time for Christmas!





JOIN US FOR AN

# EPIC holiday meeting

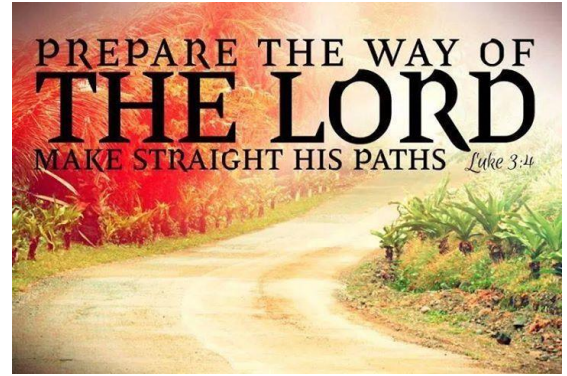


Grab your favorite Christmas Sweater, and get ready for a night of games, music, and cookies (of course). There will be a game of "Yankee swap", if you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift-(price limit \$10)

Sunday December 12, 7:15-8:45PM

Fr. Haley Hall

**ADVENT WISDOM:** *The season of Advent is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us – to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Christ in whatever form He may come to us.* – St. Teresa of Calcutta



**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!

**ST. MARY'S WOMEN'S GROUP:** Will meet for our regular December meeting this Wednesday, December 8 at noon in the Parish Center Library. We are having a Yankee Swap so please bring a gift to share! All are welcome to join us.

**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 John and Maureen Klauser. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child.

**CEMETERY REQUESTS:** In preparation for the upcoming winter season, please remove all plant, chime, birdfeeder and ornamental hangers from your Cemetery Lots. With the ground becoming frozen, they can be very dangerous if broken or leaning into the right of way of funeral vehicles. St. Mary's has been compiling our own historical cemetery documents and those of the Archdiocese regarding rules and regulations pertaining to the maintenance of our beautiful grounds. We hope to publish our findings this Spring.

#### **Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve Masses**

**3 PM Masses in both the Church and Parish Hall**

**5 PM Masses in both the Church and Parish Hall**

**7:30 PM Mass in the Church**

**11:00 PM Mass in the Church, Carols at 10:30 PM**

The Church and Father Haley Hall will be aired out and sanitized between all Christmas Masses. Church transept wings remain social distanced and masks required.

Except for the Church transepts, Masks are optional for vaccinated persons, and required for unvaccinated persons. Come let us adore Him!

#### **Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day Masses**

**9:30 AM Mass in the Church**

**11:30 AM Mass in the Church**

**~ CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ~**

The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, healthcare and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We encourage you to please give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to faithfully serving God and the people of the Archdiocese of Boston. Thank you!



**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:** CLOW does not meet today, Dec. 5 but will resume on Sunday, December 12 in the lower church hall.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
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
Mon., Dec. 6	GR-3 at 2:20 & 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
Tues., Dec. 7	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-10 at 6:30 PM
Wed., Dec. 8	NO CLASSES	
Thur., Dec. 9	GR-10 at 6:30 PM	
Sun., Dec 12	GR-K at 9:15 AM	GR-2 at 8:10 AM
	GR-2 at 10:45 AM	GR-3 at 7:55 AM
	GR-3 at 10:45 AM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-7 at 5:00 PM	

**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 TEACHER COORDINATOR MEETING:**

On Thursday, December 9 from 10 to 11:30 AM and in the evening from 7 to 8:30 PM there will be a Grade 2 Teacher meeting in Room 3 – 4. This is a very important meeting as all the class sessions to prepare the children to receive their First Holy Communion will be covered along with the class activities.

**THANK YOU TO THE GRADE 2 TEACHERS AND OUR GRADE 2 COORDINATOR:**

A special thank you and acknowledgment to our Grade 2 Coordinator, Derri Cole, who has been with us for the past eleven years assisting the teachers and working hard to keep our families informed and being present for teacher and parent meetings over the years. Her dedication is so vital to our Sacramental Program. And to all our wonderful Grade 2 teachers who have prepared the children for their First Confession ~ we and the families thank you!

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

Grade 9 meets on Tuesday, December 14 and Thursday, December 16 for their fourth 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**

**DUE TODAY ~ THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" POSTER CONTEST ENTRIES ARE DUE TODAY,**

**DECEMBER 5:** The Christmas Posters completed by the children and youth must be in the Religious Education office along with their entry form by the end of today in order to be entered into the "Keep Christ in Christmas Contest. Age groups: ages 5-7, ages 8-10, and ages 11-14 will be judged by the Council Knights. Winners will enter the State Council Contest.

**GRADE 7 SAFETY PROGRAM:** On Wednesday, December 15 and Sunday, December 19 the Grade 7 students will have a Safety class presented by Mrs. Catherine Mitchel. Families will be sent information on the topics covered for this session. The Safety Program has been offered at St. Mary's since 2006 and provides the youth with important ways to be aware of dangerous situations and the steps to take to get out of danger in a public place, school, and familiar places.





### THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT ~ PEACE:

In the Gospel of Luke 3:5 we read the words “The winding roads will be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth . . .” We wonder what this means for us, because for many, our journey with Christ has been quite a winding and sometimes difficult path. These twists and turns in our lives truly put us to the test and we depend on God to level out the upheavals that can occur along our path to holiness and heaven. Keeping God always in our sight during difficult times causes us to stop and reflect that God is present in those moments of distress, anxiety and despair. Our peace, comfort and consolation when everything is going so well hits a snag and throws us off guard in some way. We may wonder what went wrong. Finding peace in those moments to deal with any situation beyond our control calls for an immediate trust in God to help us get through the rough part of our journey to meet God face to face at the end of our earthly life.

As we light the Second Advent candle today at Mass and in our homes let us ponder, in wonder, how God is constantly intervening in our lives to direct our path in the ways He wills best for us. The interruptions and aggravations of the moments in our lives are not always easy to deal with and we are forced to pause and slow down. How do we handle the rugged paths of our daily life when our peace is disturbed? Often there is not sufficient time to complete our tasks at hand caring for our families and remain at peace so that we can find the quiet time to spend with our self-giving generous God Who loves us unconditionally.

Well, the answer on how to smooth all the rough and bumpy parts of our life has been given to us by God the Father through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the One Who conquered the darkness and slavery of sin and brings us this present day into union with God the Father, through Himself and the Holy Spirit. It is so easy to forget Christ's presence in difficult moments of chaos when one cannot think clearly and the soul is disturbed such that our spirit lacks peace. Jesus has told us to turn to

Him when overburdened with any difficulty. For He desires that we experience His peace and presence in the depth of our soul. He desires our trust so that He can smooth our path according to the Father's will. For many souls it is hard to surrender to God's will, for we can be stubborn with God's gift of free will and fight to control everything on our own.

Each new day can be a challenge, but it does not have to be when you place God first in your heart at the break of a new day. Let your heart praise God for the gift of your life and those you love and care for. Don't start your daily routines until you let God know that you want Him there with you during the day to please Him. Pray to the Holy Spirit to guide your path throughout the day. You may be surprised that the bumpy and winding challenges that you encounter seem smooth and easy to traverse and at the same time be at peace doing it. This is the difference of stumbling along on our own and confidently trusting in Jesus to lead us every day. This does not mean that a soul is weak trusting in Christ to handle our journey, for He loves and enjoys our friendship, joy and dependence on Him.

When God makes a promise He fulfills it. If we make a promise to God, He expects us to fulfill our promise. The difficult promise may be for a soul to consecrate oneself daily to God. To consecrate and entrust your heart, soul, spirit, will, faculties and senses is a perfect surrender of one's will to God so that each present moment of the day our words, thoughts, conscience and deeds reflect the light of Christ as a beacon of love for others to witness.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, the Paschal candle reflects the light of Christ for the baptized soul so that the seed of faith planted on the heart will grow and become that light that will bear the goodness of God in their disposition and heart throughout life.

Thus, Second Advent candle represents “Peace” and the peace of Christ given to us needs to be shared with others so that the peace Christ desires for the world can one day be fulfilled for the Glory of God.

Allow Christ to always be at the center of your hearts so that He can lay bare the things in our life that block our journey in the here and now. Let Christ remove those rocks and winding difficulties so that His peace will fill your day no matter the obstacle. When Jesus entered the upper room after His glorious Resurrection and greeted His Apostles and beloved Mother, His words echoed in their hearts, “Peace be with you.” May His peace guide you through the beauty of the Advent season.