



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

Email Address: St.marys1870@gmail.com

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

Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

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 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!

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

2021 GRAND ANNUAL THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have participated in the 2021 Grand Annual. The appeal goal of \$150,000 has been achieved. Combined with the weekly offertory, the Grand Annual covers our parish's operating costs. This year's Grand Annual included 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 faithful stewardship is much appreciated. If you have not yet made a donation, you may still do so by using your orange envelope.

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!

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,630.00
WeShare:	\$ 4,264.30
Offertory Envelopes Dropped/mailed to the office:	\$ 6,453.26
Total Offertory:	\$ 14,347.56
Shortfall:	\$ 652.44

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

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	December 18
5:00	Vincent and Joan Mullen
7:30	Michael Geehan
Sunday	December 19
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	David Hazard
11:30	Emelia Bourque
Monday	December 20
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday	December 21
9:00	Frank and Olga Proto
Wednesday	December 22
9:00	Stephen Fogarty
Thursday	December 23
9:00	Walter J. Ciampa, 6 th Anv.
Friday	December 24
9:00	No 9 AM Morning Mass this day

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

3:00	Masses in <u>both</u> the Church and Fr. Haley Hall
5:00	Masses in <u>both</u> the Church and Fr. Haley Hall
7:30	Mass in the Church
11:00	Midnight Mass in the Church

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Saturday	December 25
9:30	Mass in the Church
11:30	Mass in the Church

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday	December 26
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Ann Ethier
11:30	Pasquale and Francesca DiCenso

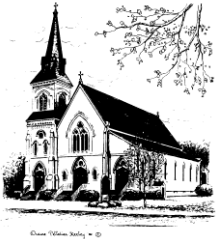


NEW MASK PROTOCOLS:

Starting this weekend, December 18 and 19, 2021 through January 17, 2022, the Archdiocese of Boston is requiring that masks be worn by everyone at all Masses, regardless of vaccination status.

(Children under the age of five need not wear masks. Children under the age of two should not wear masks). This is a preemptive safety measure due to anticipated holiday travel and family gatherings. God bless you!





Saint Mary's Parish

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

December 19, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent

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

In these final days before Christmas, many will be rushing to purchase their final presents. As we do so, let us remember that the joy and hope brought to us by Christ is the most valuable gift any of us can possess. It is a gift we share with others by witnessing Christ's own love in our lives. At this time of year, however, that witness is well partnered with a more overt invitation to the Lord. Many "lapsed" Catholics mention that when they stopped practicing the faith, it seemed that no one missed them or even noticed. Those who returned to Mass, often cite the fact that someone invited them back.

As every year, therefore, I call upon you - our active parishioners - to reach out this Christmas to those friends and neighbors you know who for whatever reason have been absent from the Table of the Lord. Just as your family's celebrations would be less joyful and complete if a loved one couldn't get home for Christmas, so is the Church's Christmas celebration lacking when members of our faith family are away. Please, take a chance and invite someone you know to come to Mass with you this coming Friday or Saturday. The worst that can happen is that they say no. The best that can happen is not just that they might say yes, but that a faith conversation might be opened between you.

Christmas is a feast that celebrates all that is true and best in our life as Church. It is a moment of hope, a moment of new beginnings, and a time when even the most cynical, angry, and hardened of hearts often soften a little before the love of Christ. Christ came to invite all of us to follow Him along the royal road of the Cross and into the House of the Father. I hope that during these last days of Advent many of you will join Christ in extending an invitation to others. I have been at St. Mary's long enough to know that the Father dwells here. His Spirit is very much alive here. And those you invite to Christmas Mass with you, may find something here that turns out to be their most precious Christmas gift of all.

God bless you!



Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

P.S. Kindly keep in your prayers our dear friend and DRE, Fran Crespi. Fran has been out sick since December 5, and now has tested positive for the COVID virus. May God watch over her and bless her with healing and strength.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Sunday Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:30 AM
** no 5 PM or 7:30 PM Vigil Masses on Sat., Dec. 25.*

Although the Christmas Holy Day of December 25 falls on a Saturday this year, the Sunday Mass Obligation still applies the next day, Sunday, December 26.

The Sunday following Christmas is always the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As God's family of faith, we gather again in faithful worship that day.





2021 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.

Christmas Offertory Envelopes, Regular Offertory, and Grand Annual envelopes all may be dropped off through the brass mail slot to the left of the Rectory Office door at 8 Church Street, (photo left).

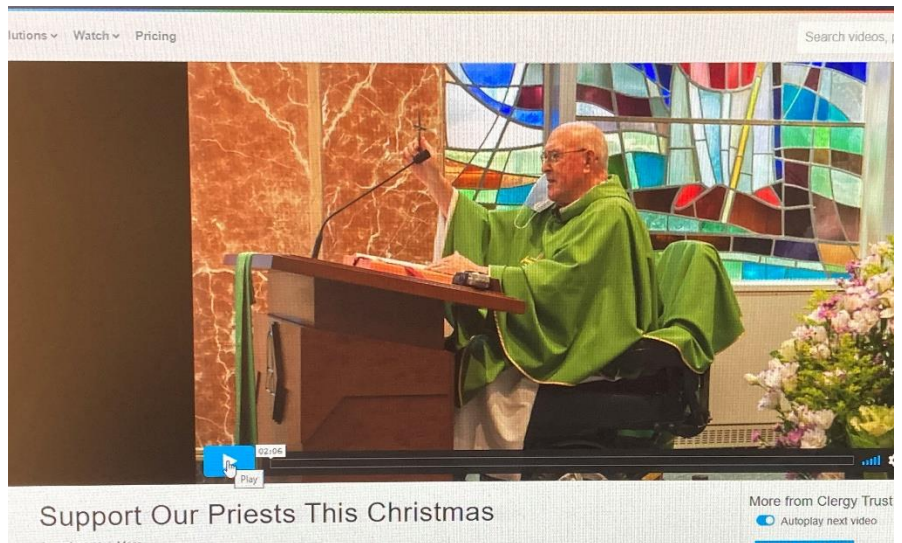
They may also be mailed in, or dropped off in the wooden offertory boxes at Mass. (We HOPE to have ushers at Christmas Masses). See the bottom of this page for more electronic options.

If you use Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may indicate your Grand Annual or Christmas gift electronically through those same services. Thank you for your faithful stewardship in these difficult times.

For more information, please visit <https://clergytrust.org/>.

Watch a wonderful VIDEO here about our Retired and Disabled Priests at Regina Cleri, and the Clergy Fund that your Christmas gift supports each year:

<https://vimeo.com/481374460>



SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS AT CHRISTMAS

Supports our priests in good standing

DONATE AT
clergytrust.org

— OR —

SCAN HERE for
Venmo, Google/
Apple Pay, PayPal
via Givebutter.



TO DAY ~ LITTLE BETHLEHEM CHRISTIANS

OLIVE WOOD OFFERINGS: After all Masses this weekend 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!



FINAL ADVENT VESPERS: This Tuesday, December 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.

NO ADORATION THIS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23: To allow for Christmas decorating and preparations in the church.

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

THE 2021 LIVE NATIVITY PAGEANT IS BACK: All are welcome to join in or watch the real live performance of the nativity. There will also be warm refreshments and cookies. The dates for the show are: Wednesday, December 22, at 7:30 PM, and Thursday, December 23, at 7:30 PM (Please arrive 30 minutes before to be in the show, costumes provided). The address is 214 Washington Street, Sherborn, MA, in the pasture field (intersection of Route 16 & Western Ave, Sherborn). For more information, please call 508-277-1951.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1: Holy Day Mass at 9 AM. We begin the New Year with the Mother of Our Lord.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Koval Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Call the Rectory at 429-4427 to sponsor the rose in 2022!

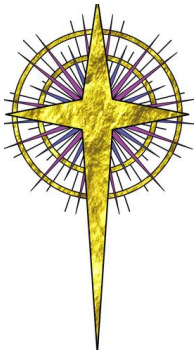
EPIC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY: Thank you to all who came to our kickoff meeting this November, as well as attended the Christmas Sweater Meeting in December. It was a blast being able to celebrate all the great gifts we have! We have also discussed this summer's mission trip to Mississippi! Our next meeting is Sunday, January 23 from 7:15-8:45 PM in Father Haley Hall. Come and enjoy some time with friends, in faith, and there will definitely be some food! All High Schoolers are welcome, so bring your friends! Any questions please contact Theresa Virzi at stmarysym1870@gmail.com.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next trip is Saturday, January 15, at Nashoba for Snow tubing. Our next Meeting is Sunday, February 6 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, a half hour longer because of the 15th Annual Battle of the Sexes. There will be faith, friendship, fun and signups for the February Vacation week trip to Blue Man Group! All 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are welcome!

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED: St. Mary's is in need of more volunteers to serve as Eucharistic Ministers. We have a need for more ministers at all Masses, but most especially for the Saturday 7:30 PM Mass. Complete training is provided, and no prior experience is needed. If you regularly attend Saturday/Sunday Masses, regularly receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, are living a chaste single life or are married in the Catholic Church, please consider joining our essential Ministry. Like Mary, we bring the Body of Jesus to others.





CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL! In this time of profound blessings, the RE Staff wishes to thank all of our Grade Coordinators, Teachers, Monitors and other Volunteers who have given their time, talents and gifts to nurture and strengthen the faith of our children and youth in Saint Mary's Parish family. *May God bless you!*

CHRISTMAS BREAK: Tuesday, December 21 through Saturday, January 1, 2022. Classes resume on Sunday, January 2, 2022!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SAFETY NOTICE:

When the children, youth, volunteer teachers and monitors, and parents, enter the Center or Annex buildings they must wear Masks and sanitize hands.

CLOW (CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD)

CHILDREN K-6: Today, Sunday, December 19 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., Dec. 19	GR-1 at 8:10 AM	GR-4 at 10:45 AM
	GR-5 at 10:45 AM	GR-7 at 5:00 PM
Mon., Dec. 20	GR-3 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
Tues., Dec. 21	Christmas Break	No Classes
Wed., Dec. 22	Christmas Break	No Classes
Thur., Dec. 23	Christmas Break	No Classes
Sun., Dec. 26	Christmas Break	No Classes

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	Mon., 4:00 to 5:30 PM Wed., 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

CONFIRMATION I AND II ~ GRADES 9 / 10:

Grade 9 meets on Tuesday, January 11 and Thursday, January 13. Grade 10 meets on Tuesday, January 4 and Thursday, January 6. Classes are from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

R.E. CLASS SNOW CANCELLATION:

When Holliston public schools are closed due to inclement weather, religious education classes will not be held. Class cancellations will be aired on Channel 5 and Channel 7 during the week day and on Channel 4 on Saturday & Sunday only.



GRADE 7 SAFETY PROGRAM: Today, Sunday, December 19 the Grade 7 students will have a Safety class presented by Mrs. Catherine Mitchell. 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.

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.

GRADE 10 RETREAT: On Saturday, January 8 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Students will meet in Fr. Haley Hall at 8:45 AM. to check in. If you any questions regarding this event, please contact Theresa Virzi x223 or by Email: stmarysYM1870@gmail.com.

GRADE 7 CHASTITY PROGRAM: On Wednesday, January 5 and Sunday, January 9, we will be joined by Linda Thayer, our guest speaker, to discuss the Christian view of human sexuality and how to live a chaste life until marriage with the Grade 7 students. All students are required to attend their assigned session. However, if a student is unable to attend on Sunday he/she should attend the Wednesday session from 6 – 7:30 PM; likewise, students unable to attend the Wednesday class should attend the Sunday 5:00 PM presentation.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern.”*

- Saint Theresa of Calcutta