



St. Mary's Parish



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, 9:30-10:30 AM,
and Advent Tuesdays, 7-8 PM.

Our Mission:

“To know Christ and to make Him known.”

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com
Email Address: St.marys1870@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427
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 register through our website or by calling the rectory. 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 12 to 12:45 PM, and Advent Tuesdays from 7-8 PM.

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!

2022 ST. MARY'S PARISH GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

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

2022 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:	\$150,000.00
Grand Annual parishioner support received to date:	- \$119,995.00
Parishioner support still needed to reach 2022 Grand Annual goal:	\$ 30,005.00
% of 2022 Grand Annual achieved to date:	80 %
% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	39 %



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 exterior painting of the church and the repair/refurbishment of all four Parish Center bathrooms. 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
 Mr. Christopher Pelonzi, Music Director
 Mrs. Theresa Virzi, Grades 8-11 and Youth Minister
 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: \$ 3,752.00
 WeShare: \$ 3,242.00
 Offertory Envelopes
 Dropped/mailed
 to the office: \$ 5,149.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 12,143.00
Shortfall: \$ 2,857.00

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support. The fiscal health of your parish depends on it. Kindly consider switching to WeShare or Automatic Giving. See: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	December 3
5:00	Vasco, Pauline, David and Wayne Brovelli
7:30	Charlie Coles
Sunday	December 4
7:30	Parishioners of St. Mary's
9:30	Tancred Schiavoni
11:30	Katrina Petery
Monday	December 5
9:00	Robert Bolton, Jr.
Tuesday	December 6
9:00	Rev. Daniel G. Magni
Wednesday	December 7
9:00	Deana Dilley

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

6:30	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>
Thursday	December 8
9:00	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>
7:00	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>
Friday	December 9
9:00	Pasquale and Giuseppina D'Anello
Saturday	December 10
5:00	Vincent and Joan Mullen
7:30	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sunday	December 11
7:30	Merritt Moraski
9:30	Jacqueline O'Neill, 5 th Anv.
11:30	Patrick McDonald



DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE TODAY: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass today Sunday, December 4, for donuts, juice and coffee!



“LONG LAY THE WORLD!”

**An Advent Mission
with Katie Patrizio**

NEXT Sunday, December 11

**At 7:00 PM in St. Mary’s Church.
All are welcome.**

The centuries before Christ were a time of upheaval. Wars raged in Palestine and one nation after another rose up in conquest against the Jewish people. But a simple prophecy in the Book of Daniel had all Israel holding its breath, for it gave an exact timeline for when to expect the arrival of the Messiah.

Join nationally acclaimed Catholic Speaker Katie Patrizio as she unpacks the Old Testament roots of Christmas and the historical backdrop of the Nativity story. Plan to go home with a greater appreciation for the pining of the Jewish people, and the longing of our own souls for the Coming of the Lord.

Katie Patrizio is a Catholic speaker and teacher best known for her talks on Scripture. She holds degrees in philosophy, theology, and scripture, and hosts a weekly podcast called Sunday Dive.

“Katie is one of the most inspirational speakers in our Church today. She allows Sacred Scripture to come alive in a life-changing way. Listen and be changed!”

- Jon Leonetti, Catholic Speaker and Author

"Every time I hear Katie speak, I learn something about Scripture that I didn't know before. Katie blends a deep love of God's word with a dynamic teaching style, and I've personally witnessed a number of lives changed through her talks."

- Dr. Bud Marr, Director of the National Institute for Newman Studies

THIS WEEKEND ~

GIVE A GIFT: December 3 and 4 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 3 & 4. Gift bags only please.

TODAY ~

SPIRITED HANDS CROCHET GROUP/ST. MARY'S WOMEN'S GROUP: December 4 after the 9:30 AM Mass.

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. All of the items will be unique and well made. The Spirited Hands prayed for the people who will be receiving their finished products. So these gifts are precious! Proceeds go to the needy.



TODAY ~

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next Meeting is today, Sunday, December 4 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 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are invited. Bring a friend!

ALL TUESDAYS IN ADVENT ~

ADORATION & CONFESSION: Every Tuesday of Advent, December 6, 13, & 20, 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 before the Lord. The Lord's forgiveness and mercy is infinite. Nothing we have done can ever separate us from experiencing God's forgiveness through this sacrament. Confession will also continue to be offered Saturdays in the church from Noon to 12:45 PM, *except* on December 24.

THIS THURSDAY ~

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION, Wednesday, December 7 Vigil Mass at 6:30 PM. Thursday, 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 NEXT WEEKEND!

December 10 & 11, after all Weekend Masses.

Long rows of tables will be set up in the Lower Church 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 recently rocked by a presidential assassination, a major earthquake, and a hurricane.

LESSONS & CAROLS:

Friday, December 16
from 7-8 PM
in the church.

Join us for an evening of beautiful music and scripture, anticipating the wondrous birth of our Lord Jesus. This year's Lessons and Carols will feature St. Mary's Adult Choir under the direction of Mr. Christopher Pelonzi.

The program will include familiar carols as well as choral music by Ord, Thompson, DeSilva, and more.

Bring your whole family and fill your Christmas preparations with plenty of holiday cheer!



**HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER MISSION TRIP:**

This year's High School Mission Trip will take place July 16 - July 23, 2023. More information will be coming soon! Mark your calendars for INFO NIGHT on January 12, 2023 from 7-8 PM. Parents and students interested are invited to attend!

T.G.I.F (Teens Gather In Faith):

Coming up next for T.G.I.F - Mark your calendars for December 11, a very special meeting at a new time of 6:45 - 8:45 PM! As a group we will be attending the Advent Mission "Long Lay the World" talk given by Katie Patrizio. After attending together, we will gather in the hall for Christmas cookies, hot cocoa, and our

favorite-saran wrap Christmas challenge! Bring your friends, \$5 dues, and some Christmas spirit. Do not forget our Ice Skating trip coming up on December 17. Permission forms due at December 11 meeting. Any questions, please reach out to Theresa at StMarysYM1870@gmail.com.

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF HELP: Regular coffee, peanut butter, jelly, sugar, ketchup, mayonnaise, Chunky Soup, cookies, canned turkey/chicken, canned fruits, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, toilet paper and cake and brownie mixes. Donations may be dropped off in the blue bin by the main parking lot entrance.

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

ST. MARY'S WOMEN'S GROUP: Will meet for our regular December meeting this Wednesday, December 14 at noon in the Parish Center Library. We are having a Yankee Swap so please bring a gift to share! All are welcome!

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 will publish all updates and recommendations in our January Newsletter.

FATIMA SHRINE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY: The Xaverian Missionaries will hold their traditional Christmas Lights Display from Thursday, December 8 to Tuesday, December 27, from 5 to 9 PM. Hot chocolate and treats are provided for visitors. All are most welcome!

Please contact Mary Beth at the rectory to volunteer for the ministry of usher.
St.Marys1870@gmail.com, 508-429-4427. We need to have at least two ushers at each Christmas Mass to organize the collection for retired clergy. Going forward in 2023, we also would like to restore this ministry at all weekend Masses. Please step up. Thank you!



From the Pastor's Desk

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

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 coming week, our Second Graders will prepare the way for Jesus by making their very First Confessions. They will 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 (except Dec. 24), every Advent Tuesday from 7-8 PM, and also at the Shrine Saturdays from 3-5 PM. In today's Psalm we sang of the "fullness of peace" Christ's Advent will bring, and it is not by accident that in Confession we always hear the words, "May God grant you pardon and peace."

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

Under His Mercy,



Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Masses

4 PM Masses in both the Church and Parish Hall

5:30 PM Mass in the Church

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

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

Masks are no longer required in the St. Joseph statue/Elm Street side transept. To accommodate our immune-compromised parishioners, the St. Mary statue/Rectory side transept remains masks required.

Come let us adore Him!

Sunday, 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!

CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, Sunday, December 4, the children will remain in the church with Fr. Mark and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel reading.

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

This 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 15, 2022**. There are council prizes for winners. Winners will enter State Council Contest. **Entry forms are available in the Religious Education Office or downloaded from: <http://kofc14224.org/#/kofclinks>.** Contact Fran Crespi or Council Knight Nick Calapa for more information.



CLASSES THIS WEEK

DATE	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Dec. 04	PRE-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-9 at 11:30 AM
Mon., Dec. 05	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues., Dec. 06	GR-3 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Wed., Dec. 07	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	
Sun., Dec. 11	GR-K at 9:15 AM	GR-1 at 8:10 AM
	GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 at 10:45 AM
	GR-6 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 5:00 PM
	GR-10 at 11:30 AM	

GR-2 FIRST PENANCE SERVICES:

Parents and children must arrive in the church **fifteen minutes before** each Penance Service to check in at the entrance and to be seated. Thank you in advance for your promptness in arriving!



- Friday, December 9 at 6:30 PM
- Saturday, December 10 at 10:30 AM

MONITORS ARE GREATLY NEEDED: For **Grades 2 / 3** on alternate Sunday mornings from 8:10 to 9:25 AM and for 10:45 AM to NOON. For **Grades 4 / 5** on alternate Sundays from 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM; for **Grade 6** on alternate Sundays 4:00 to 5:30 PM; **Grade 7** on alternate Sundays from 5:00 to 6:30 PM; and **Grade 8** on alternate Mondays or Tuesdays from 6 – 7:30 PM. Please call 429-6076 for information. Adults and High School Teens welcome to volunteer!

FOR ALL RELIGIOUS ED FAMILIES! MUST SEE - VIRTUS EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN (EGC) NEW SAFETY PROGRAM: The Boston Archdiocese has rolled out a new Safety Program for 2023 for Grades K-12. Parents can view the program at: www.VIRTUSonline.org. Enter the **User Name:** Parent_Boston and then the **Password:** EGCBoston1. When you are in the landing page click on the **education tab** at the top. You can view the Lesson plans for Grades K – 12. Please take the time to view this program before the scheduled safety classes begin in January through March 2023.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY REHEARSALS:

Will be held on Saturdays in December; 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17 from 9 – 10 AM for children partaking in the pageant. The Christmas Pageant will be held during the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve in Father Haley Hall.

ADVENT CANDLES AND BRASS WREATHS:

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. The lighting of the purple candle this week symbolizes PEACE. The Advent wreath is a tradition in many family homes. Brass Candle Holders and sets of Candles are available for sale in the Religious Education Office. Advent Candles are \$6.00/set or a set of Candles with the Brass Candle Holder are \$20/each.



GRADE 7 SAFETY PROGRAM: On Sunday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 14 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 protect themselves and get out of danger in public places, school, and places away from home.