



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 to 10:30 AM, and as announced.

St. Mary's Parish

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 in the church.

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. Christopher Pelonzi, Music Director 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

2022 GRAND ANNUAL THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have participated in the 2022 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 funding of staff salaries, the exterior painting of the church and the repair/refurbishment of all four Parish Center bathrooms. Your faithful stewardship is much appreciated.

2022 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: As in previous years this goes entirely to support the retired priests of our Archdiocese. The 2022 Christmas Collection was \$18,449.25. (The pre-pandemic average was \$22,000). If you have not yet given to this important collection, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you to all who so generously supported these men who have given their lives in God's faithful service!



If you use Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may indicate your Christmas gift electronically, or use this QR code or the clergy trust website: https://clergytrust.org/.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: "In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal."

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	December 31
5:00	Randy Williams
7:30	John Hand
Sunday	January 1
7:30	Parishioners of St. Mary's
9:30	Jacqui Rossini
11:30	Arturo Vazquez
11100	
Monday	January 2
9:00	Joseph Arthur Ferrante
Tuesday	January 3
9:00	Robert Bolton, Jr.
Wednesday	January 4
9:00	Leslie Ann Higgins
Thursday	January 5
9:00	Margaret Kost
Friday	January 6
9:00	Funeral ~ Ann Freniere
Saturday	January 7
5:00	ORDINATION OF
	PIETRO ROSSINI
7:30	Dianne Gootman
Sunday	January 8
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Kathleen Paradie
11:30	Shirley Chipman

EPIPHANY ORDINATION AT ST. MARY'S: Next Saturday,

January 7, 5 PM Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany. On this Final Feast of the Christmas Season, Saint Mary's is honored to host the Ordination of Pietro Rossini to the Transitional Diaconate. Pietro has



been in residence at the Fatima Shrine for several years, studying for ministry one day as a Xaverian Missionary Father.

All are invited to attend this special celebration. It is extremely rare for an Ordination to take place in a parish, in fact it has never happened at St. Mary's before. It is a beautiful and inspiring celebration, and we hope parents with high school students in particular will bring them to experience it, as they begin to discern their own vocations in life. The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be administered by Bishop Robert Reed, and a reception will follow in Fr. Haley Hall.

DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE ~ NEXT

WEEKEND: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass next Sunday, January 8, for donuts, juice and coffee!



Dear Good People of St. Mary's,

Today we celebrate a great feast of the Church that is usually its own Holy Day of Obligation – the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Because a Solemnity outranks a Feast, the Feast of the Holy Family that we usually celebrate the Sunday after Christmas was transferred to this past Friday.

Truly, the two days are linked, as we remember that by Baptism we have entered fully into the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. She who gave birth to Jesus, becoming the Mother of God, is now also our Mother by adoption.

A reflection on the meaning of Mary as "Mother of God" is included in this bulletin. And I offer here a beautiful Marian Prayer for the New Year.

May this New Year of 2023 be full of grace for you and those you love.

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro





Heavenly Father, You blessed the Virgin Mary with the fullness of grace. She is my model of faith, hope and love.

I give this New Year to her intercession and ask for her holy prayers. I place my needs into the protection of her motherly love.

With her help I want my faith to grow. Give me an increase in the virtue of hope when troubles tempt me to despair. Guide me in understanding Your infinite love.

And join my heart, dear Lord, to the Holy Mother's Immaculate Heart, so that I may improve in loving everyone unconditionally, in imitation of my Savior, Jesus Christ.

PICK UP YOUR FAMILY'S BOOK AFTER MASS TODAY!

Yes, the St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Book is finally here! This new 134-page history of our parish was researched and written by Betty Febo, St. Mary's Librarian and Historian. It contains beautiful color photos of parish life for the past century and a half, as well as details about the people and events that have shaped our dear St. Mary's.

If you are a registered parishioner, you may pick up your family's copy in the Lower Church Hall <u>after any Mass</u> <u>through January 15</u>. They are sorted alphabetically by last name, in clearly labelled plastic bags.



A \$10 donation (cash or check), to cover the cost of your book is requested. It may be placed in the large wooden collection box / stand provided in the Lower Church. If you cannot afford the \$10 donation, please take your book anyway. We want to be sure that every St. Mary's household has a copy of this book which helps us know where we have come from as we move forward together into the New Year of Grace 2023.

Books not picked up by January 15 will be delivered to your home by St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 in February.

Amen.

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY



MSYG ADULT PLANNING MEETING: This Thursday, January 5, 7 PM, in Fr. Haley Hall. Any Catholic who attends Mass weekly at St. Mary's and is otherwise living a Catholic life, is invited to assist with this ministry for our Middle School age parishioners. You do not need to have a child in the Youth Group. Please bring your family calendar to the meeting. CORI and Virtus training apply.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next trip is Friday, January 13, at Nashoba for Snow tubing. Our next Meeting is Sunday, February 5 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, a half hour longer because of the 16th Annual Battle of the Sexes. There will be faith, friendship, fun and signups for the February Vacation week trips to CoCo Key and Boda Borg! All 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are welcome!

T.G.I.F (Teens Gather In Faith): T.G.I.F, IT IS BACK, our next meeting January 22 is CHIPOTLE NIGHT! We are excited to greet you in the New Year! Come with \$10 and enjoy our Chipotle buffet, and bring your friends. All High Schoolers are welcome. Any questions, please reach out to Theresa at StMarysYM1870@gmail.com. Don't forget to follow us over on Instagram at tgif.stmarys.

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER MISSION TRIP INFORMATION NIGHT! Thursday, January 12, from 7-8 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.



All teens currently in High School,

and parents, are invited. Our 2023 Mission Trip will take place on July 16 - July 23 and we will be serving in FLORIDA helping those affected by the devastating hurricanes. Hurricane Ian slammed Southwest Florida on Sept. 28, producing widespread damage and significant storm surge in Lee and Charlotte counties. Forty-three days later, Hurricane Nicole made its landfall. Almost 200 people died in the storms, and roughly 3.8 billion dollars in damage was done to homes and businesses. Now the rebuilding begins.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Saint Mary's is beginning a prayer shawl ministry! Prayer shawls will be knitted or crocheted by parishioners who also pray for the recipients, then given to anyone going through a difficult time. Ideally, we'll start in January. If you knit or crochet (or if it's your New Year's Resolution to learn!) please contact Jane at JaneLebak@gmail.com or (603) 438-6468.

HOLY HOUR THIS TUESDAY: Please join us in a Holy Hour for our Sister Parish in Bethlehem, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour. St. Mary's Church, Holliston, Tuesday, January 3, 7 -8 PM.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Mongelli Family in memory of Frank Mongelli. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. If you wish to sponsor the Rose in 2023 please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

TODAY'S FEAST: In the 4th and 5th centuries, debates about the nature of Christ raged in the Church. The debate was about the relationship of Christ's divine and human natures. At the center of this debate was a title of Mary. Since at least the 3rd century, Christians had referred to Mary as theotokos, meaning "God-bearer." The first documented usage of the term is in the writings of Origen of Alexandria in AD 230. Related to theotokos, Mary was called the mother of God. Referring to Mary this way was popular in Christian piety, but the patriarch of Constantinople from 428-431, Nestorius, objected. He suggested that Mary was only the mother of Jesus' human nature, but not his divine nature.

Nestorius' ideas were condemned at the Council of Ephesus in AD 431, and again at the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451. The Church declared that Christ was fully God and fully human, and these natures were united in one person, Jesus Christ. Thus Mary could be called "mother of God" since she gave birth to Jesus who was fully divine as well as human.

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas. It is fitting to honor Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace" This solemnity, falling on New Year's Day, is also designated the World Day of Peace.

WINGS: (Women in God's Spirit) is pleased to present our 2023 Winter Bible Study entirely via Zoom (due to the unpredictable New England weather and continuing Covid, flu, etc.). The Winter Season will begin on Wednesday, February 1 at 10 AM and end on Wednesday, March 8. Continuing our fall theme of "*Called to Relationship*", WINGS has chosen Kevin Perrotta's book "*Relating to Others as Jesus Would*" as our guide. Books may be purchased through Amazon or Loyola Press. Please note that it is not mandatory to purchase the book to participate in the Winter Bible Study. WINGS will share references to the relevant bible verses with you each week; however, the book will contain additional useful material. WINGS requests dues of \$20 per season (unless you have already paid for the year). All women are most welcome regardless of ability to pay. Checks payable to St. Mary's Parish can be mailed to Betty Febo, 41 Holly Lane, Holliston MA 01746. Email <u>stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com</u> to register or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.



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.

MASS FOR UNBORN CHILDREN: Thursday, January 26, at 7:00 PM. To provide a sense of closure and to offer our prayers for our departed, unbaptized children, St. Mary's will celebrate a special Mass on Thursday evening, January 26, at 7:00 PM. The Mass will be offered for the souls of every child lost before receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. By commending these children to Jesus, Whose tenderness toward them caused Him to say: "Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them," (CCC1261) we will be surrendering our grief, and the hope that God, Who desires that all people should be saved, will see to it that His precious children, and ours, may soon share His joy in heaven. If you have lost a child prior to baptism, know someone who has, or just want to show your solidarity for grieving families, come to our special Mass on January 26. Add your voice to theirs in Communion with our Lord.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPONSORING RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: On Saturday, January 21 in St. Mary's Father Haley Hall, the Council will sponsor its annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Hours are from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-REDCROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and search by zip code (01746) in the "Find a Blood Drive" field. For further information, contact the Knights of Columbus Council Blood Drive coordinator, Rodman Burgett at 508-653-6130. Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages - accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. In general, donors must be in good general health, be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds.



CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY

OF THE WORD: Continues next Sunday, January 8, 2023. The children will remain in the church with Fr. Mark and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel reading.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE CLASSES RESUME THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Jan. 8	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., Jan. 9	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues., Jan. 10	GR-3 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Wed., Jan. 11	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-7 at 6:00 PM
Sun., Jan. 15	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	

MONITORS ARE STILL NEEDED!

Grade	Monitor	DAY / TIME
Level	Needs	Once or twice a month indicated by
		1X or 2X below.
GR-2A	1	Sun., 8:10 to 9:25 AM (2X)
GR-2A	1	Sun., 10:45 AM to Noon (2X)
GR-4A	1	Sun., 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM (2X)
GR-6A	1	Sun., 4:00 to 5:30 PM (2X)
GR-7A	1	Sun., 5:00 to 6:30 PM (2X)
GR-9A	1	Sun., 12:30 to 2:30 PM (1X)
GR-10A	1	Sun., 12:30 to 2:30 PM (1X)

GRADE 7 CHASTITY PROGRAM: On Wednesday, January 11 and Sunday, January 15, 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.



R.E. CLASS SNOWCANCELLATION:

When Holliston public schools are closed due to inclement weather, both the 9 AM daily Mass and 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. If public school classes are released during the day due to inclement weather then Religious Education classes will not be in session that day. **CONFIRMATION I- GRADE 9:** The next session is Sunday, January 8 at the 11:30 AM Mass. Fellowship will follow in Fr. Haley Hall and class from 1–2:30 PM.

CONFIRMATION II- GRADE 10: The next session is Sunday, January 29 at the 11:30 AM Mass. Fellowship will follow in Fr. Haley Hall and class from 1–2:30 PM.

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 February 2023.

SAFETY CLASSES SCHEDULED FOR 2023:

If a parent wishes to <u>Opt-Out</u> their child from participating in the Safety Class then we must have an Opt-Out Form on file prior to the session.

- **GR-1:** Sunday, January 29.
- **GR-2:** Sunday, Jan. 8 and Wednesday. Jan. 11.
- GR-3: Sunday, Jan. 22 and Tuesday, Jan 24.
- GR-4: Sunday, Jan. 15 and Tuesday, Jan 17.
- GR-5: Sunday, Jan. 29 and Tuesday, Jan 31.
- **GR-6:** Tuesday, Feb. 7 and Sunday, Feb. 12.

Today, January 1 we celebrate THE OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

