

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 from 9:30 to
10:30 AM, and as announced.

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!



CHRISTMAS THANKS!

On this final day of the Christmas Season, we offer our great gratitude to all those who made our St. Mary's Christmas 2022 celebrations so very beautiful!

The St. Mary's Adult Choir, under the direction of Christopher Pelonzi, offered glorious music to herald the Savior's birth. It was also great to have Leo Racine singing again at one Christmas Mass. Deacons Marty, John, Ron and all the Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers brought great reverence and faith to our Christmas Masses.

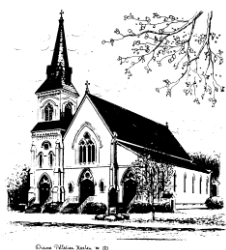
Outdoors, the efforts of the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus and Stumpy's Tree Service provided a grand light display, with the Knights setting up the bush lights, Manger, and Nativity scene. Stumpy's strung all the tree lights – including on our Mary Tree (shown left), which never looked better. (Blue is the Virgin's color). Special thanks to Knight and neighbor Paul Saulnier who watched over and kept the lights in good repair through wind and weather.

Inside, the Paltrineri's handmade ribbons adorned our wreaths. Linda Truitt, Katie Smith, Cindy Pratt, Noemi Marchant, Angel and Milda Hueca helped Najat Whalen arrange the poinsettias in the Church Sanctuary and Father Haley Hall.

Confirmation helpers Ellie Winchenbach, Cara Grant, Alyssa Garbarino, Madellene Cordova-Flynn, Julia Galipeau, Jacob Galipeau, and Bridget Malvey oversaw the decoration of the Church Sanctuary tree and decorated the Parish Center Lobby tree (put up by Knights Nick Calapa, Paul Saulnier and Henry Febo) using all the lovely ornaments created several years ago by members of the Spirited Hands Craft Group.

On behalf of the retired priests of our Archdiocese, we thank everyone who contributed to the 2022 Christmas collection which to date has now reached \$20,684.25. Due to the importance of this collection in the lives of our retired priests, we encourage anyone who may have been away from St. Mary's this Christmas to please make their Christmas offering now. This may be done by mailing it to 8 Church Street, placing it in a Mass collection basket, or through the rectory door slot. It must be in a separate envelope clearly labeled "Christmas Collection" in order to differentiate it from the parish offertory. If you use Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may indicate your Christmas gift electronically, or through the clergy trust website: <https://clergytrust.org/>. Thank you for being there for our retired priests, who gave their lives in faithful service to God's people.

We thank anyone we may have forgotten to mention here, and most especially we thank all of you who made our Christmas celebrations meaningful by your prayers and presence. May our celebration of Christ's birth bring us all a renewed faith and increase our longing for His return. God bless you!



Saint Mary's Parish

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

January 8, 2023
Feast of the Epiphany

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

On this Feast of Epiphany, we recall the Wise Men who arrived in Bethlehem following a long journey. Scripture tells us that the Wise Men brought gifts for the newborn Christ – Gold, to show that He was a King; Frankincense, used in worship, to show that He was God; and Myrrh, a funerary ointment, to show that Jesus was mortal, and that one day He would die to save us from our sins. The truest gifts are always sacrificial, requiring us to give of that which is most precious to us. We remember therefore on this Feast of Epiphany that Jesus was God's great gift to the world, His only and beloved Son.

The gift of Jesus is one that we are all called to share, particularly by our willingness to forgive others even as He has forgiven us by the shedding of His blood. Over and over again, the scriptures call on those who are "cherishing" anger and resentment in their hearts to turn these things over to God. Job 36:13 *"The godless in heart cherish anger; they do not cry for help."* Psalm 66:18 *"If I had cherished vengeance in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."* If on this Epiphany Sunday we are cherishing some grudge or enmity, holding it tight to us like a treasure, then that is the very gift that Jesus most desires us to lay down at His manger this year.

St. John Chrysostom once observed the following about the Epiphany. He said, *"If the Wise Men had come in search of an earthly King, they would have been disconcerted at finding that they had taken the trouble to come such a long way for nothing. Consequently, they would have neither adored nor offered gifts. But since they sought a heavenly King, though they found in Him no signs of royal pre-eminence, yet, content with the testimony of the star alone, they adored: for they saw a man, and they acknowledged a God."* Let us like the Wise Men look for the heavenly king Jesus and be ready to accept Him when He manifests His presence in very humble and surprising ways. Let us look for Him especially among the poor and those people God places in our lives who are hurting and in need of our help. To paraphrase St. John, let us *"see men and women, and acknowledge God within them."*

The Wise Men followed the light of a star, and as we continue our journey into this New Year of grace, we seek to more perfectly follow Jesus. *"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (Jn 8:12). No one wants to follow a stranger, and so the most important step in following Jesus is coming to know Him personally. If it is not already a part of your prayer life, I encourage you therefore to take up this year the practice of reading at least a few lines of scripture every day. Choose a Gospel (Mark is the shortest), and start to prayerfully work your way through it with a chapter or even just a page a day. The Bible contains God's Living Word, and it will help you come to know Jesus better. This in turn will help you to love, imitate, and follow Jesus. You will be astounded by how often the scriptures speak to you in new and personal ways according to where you are in a particular moment of your life's journey.

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

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

P.S. Again this year St. Mary's is pleased to provide you with blessed Epiphany Chalk. This custom is a beautiful way to invite Jesus anew into your home and family. The procedure for blessing your home with Epiphany chalk is provided on the next page of the bulletin. Just wipe away the old year's chalk with soap and water to prepare.

BLESSING OF THE HOME WITH EPIPHANY CHALK: Again this year we invite parishioners to take part in the tradition of “chalking the door” to celebrate the Epiphany, the day that marks the arrival of the Magi to the place where Jesus was born.

Chalking the door is a prayer and symbol of asking God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit your home throughout the New Year.

In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the angel of death would pass over their homes. In this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God’s presence and protection upon our homes.

In Deuteronomy 6:9 God tells the people of Israel: *“These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God and remember to invite Him into your family life throughout the New Year.

How to Participate - At Mass today, take home a piece of the blessed Epiphany Chalk provided at all the church entrances. Then at home, with the whole family gathered together, inscribe the following on the outside of your house or inside above the front main entrance:



20 + C + M + B + 23

The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also an abbreviation for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” which means, “May Christ bless this dwelling!” The first and last numbers refer to the current year.

Prayer - *Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house, and all who live here, and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may shine forth to all. We ask this together as a family, in the words that Jesus taught: Our Father ... Amen.*

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. Mark Schiapucci, Interim Choir Director
 Mr. Andrew John Rondelli, Interim Organist
 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: \$ 5,703.00
 WeShare: \$ 5,421.00

Offertory Envelopes

Dropped/mailed

to the office: \$ 7,088.00

Total Offertory: \$18,212.00

May God bless you for your faithful stewardship.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *"What are you doing, O Magi? Do you adore a little Babe, in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags? Can this Child be truly God? ... Are you become foolish, O Wise Men ... Yes, these Wise Men have become fools that they may be wise."* - Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

TODAY ~ DONUTS, JUICE, AND COFFEE: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass today, Sunday, January 8, for donuts, juice and coffee!



POINSETTIAS – TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 8: *After* the 11:30 AM Mass today, Sunday, January 8 please feel free to take home one or two of the beautiful poinsettias. These lovely plants should last several more

weeks if watered carefully and protected from the cold. If you can't make it on Sunday the remaining ones will be in Fr. Haley Hall until Tuesday morning after which they will be discarded.

SNOW DAYS: If Holliston Schools close or are delayed for weather, the 9 AM Daily Mass is cancelled.

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Monday	January 9
9:00	Joan Mary Powers
Tuesday	January 10
9:00	Neythen Yoviscin
Wednesday	January 11
9:00	Raquel Dean
Thursday	January 12
9:00	Richard "Dick" Trinque
Friday	January 13
9:00	Rosemary Ashmore
Saturday	January 14
5:00	Calvin Meisner, 9 th Anv.
7:30	Anne M. Tuohy
Sunday	January 15
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Richard "Dick" Trinque
11:30	Sadie Fraifer

THIS THURSDAY ~ 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 September 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. Come be the hands of Christ!



WE JOIN THE CHURCH IN MOURNING THE PASSING OF POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI.

As we pray for the repose of his soul, we take comfort in the knowledge that this beloved pope's life was spent serving the Lord whom he loved and longed to see face to face.

In his own words... *"Human persons are beings en route, beings characterized by transition. They are not yet themselves; they must ultimately become themselves.... Human beings must die with Christ like a grain of wheat in order to truly rise, to stand erect, to be themselves (Jn 12:24).*

Human persons are not to be understood merely from the perspective of their past histories or from that isolated moment that we refer to as the present. They are oriented toward their future, and only it permits who they really are to appear completely (1 Jn 3:2).

We must always see in other human beings persons with whom we shall one day share God's joy. We must look upon them as persons who are called, together with us, to be members of the Body of Christ, with whom we shall one day sit at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and with Christ himself, as their brothers and sisters, as the brothers and sisters of Christ, and as the children of God."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEACON PIETRO ROSSINI, SX!

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. May his new ministry be holy, faithful, joyful, and bring many souls to Christ. Please keep him in your prayers.



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 Paul and Chryso Lawless. 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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

WWME is sponsoring a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples will explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Joe & Ginny Vattelle at 978-870-5646 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>. What better gift can you give your spouse for Christmas than to tell them you want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience together? [See more details on last page of this bulletin.](#)

Feb 3-5, 2023 in Huntington, NY
Mar 10-12, 2023 in Upton, MA
Jun 23-25, 2023 in Huntington, NY

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.



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 stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.

MASS FOR UNBAPTIZED 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.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our upcoming trip is this coming Friday, January 13, at Nashoba for Snow tubing. Participants will receive a legal waiver link and final details by email this week. 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](https://www.instagram.com/tgif.stmarys).



CLOW- CHILDREN K-6:
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, 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 Level	Monitor Needs	DAY / TIME 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)

UPDATE ~ GRADE 7 CHASTITY PROGRAM

WILL BE RESCHEDULED: We were informed this week that our guest speaker, Linda Thayer, is now recovering from a serious illness. We will reschedule the Chastity Program when Linda is well and available to continue her presentations. Classes will still meet on Wednesday, January 11 and will cover the Safety Session that was cancelled due to a power outage on Wednesday, December 14. The Sunday, January 15 session will meet as usual and cover the next planned lesson.



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. If public school classes are released during the day due to inclement weather then Religious Education classes will not be in session that day.

TODAY! CONFIRMATION I- GRADE 9: 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 Opt-Out 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.

UPCOMING GRADE 9 RETREATS: Students in Grade 9 have a choice of attending one of two retreats. The first retreat is scheduled for Monday, January 30 from 4 – 9 PM and the second choice retreat is scheduled for March (date to be determined). The retreats will be held on the premises. The retreats will focus coming together and time for prayer. If you have any questions regarding the Grade 9 retreats, please contact Theresa Virzi x223 or stmarysYM1870@gmail.com.

COORDINATOR / TEACHER MEETING ~ GRADES 3 – 7: On Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 PM there will be a meeting in Room 3 – 4 for teachers to meet with their Grade Coordinators.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter In-Person, Non-Residential Weekend

March 10 - 12, 2023

Saint Gabriel the Archangel Church

151 Mendon St.
Upton, MA 01568

Any married couple that desires a richer, fuller life together deserves a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is designed to deepen and enrich the joys a couple shares together, whether they have been married a short time or many years.



To apply, contact
Joe & Ginny Vattelle
at 800-710-9963
or scan the QR code

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Best Western
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844-684-9427

Holiday Inn
Express

855-860-3239



SCAN ME