

# 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, Thursdays in Lent 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 Noon to 12:45 PM, Thursdays in Lent 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 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!

#### 2023 CATHOLIC APPEAL ~ Let's Live Our Faith Together

We want to thank everyone from St. Mary's who has so far participated in the 2023 Catholic Appeal.

# To date our parish has raised \$19,020 from 10% of St. Mary's active households, reaching 22% of our parish goal of \$87,486.

These contributions support the many ministries of our Archdiocese and will improve the lives of so many vulnerable persons. The Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish. If you have not yet made your gift, please consider making a pledge.

(**Option 1**) If you have given previously to the Catholic Appeal, then you should have received a 2023 Pledge Form in the mail. Mail it to St. Mary's or to the Archdiocese. You may also drop it off at St. Mary's, and we will mail it in. Any checks we receive made out to the 2023 Catholic Appeal will also be forwarded.

(Option 2) Scan the QR Code right.

(**Option 3**) Visit <a href="https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/">https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/</a> and scroll to the bottom of the page to donate online. This website also offers you a video to watch and detailed information about the Catholic Appeal.

However you give, <u>please be sure to indicate St. Mary's</u>, <u>Holliston as your parish so that your gift is applied to our parish goal</u>. Thank you for doing your part – large or small according to your means – to support the good works of our Church. God bless you!

#### **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

#### PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

THE STATE OF LINE WELLEND.			
Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,473.00		
WeShare:	\$ 3,717.00		
Offertory Envelopes			
dropped off / mailed in	\$ 9,294.00		
Total Offertory:	\$ 16,484.00		
Please make up any missed weekly support from when travelling or away. Thank you!			

May God bless you for your faithful stewardship!

### MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	March 18
5:00	Michael & Sylvia Paladino (Living)
7:30	Tricia Lange
Sunday	March 19
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Melissa Bachman
11:30	Salvatore Meli
Monday	March 20
9:00	Sergio DiNatale
Tuesday	March 21
9:00	Holy Souls
Wednesday	March 22
9:00	Gaetano Urbano
Thursday	March 23
9:00	Holy Souls
Friday	March 24
9:00	Frank and Caterina Godino
Saturday	March 25
5:00	Philip Meuse
7:30	Larry Canavan, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Anv.
Sunday	March 26
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Patrick Kelley
11:30	40 Hours Devotion ~

Opening Mass



# Saint Mary's Parish

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

March 19, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

If all has gone according to schedule, today I and my fellow pilgrims are in Jerusalem. We will pray the Via Dolorosa through the darkened streets in early morning, and then celebrate Mass in the Tomb of Christ in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at 6 AM. You will be remembered and prayed for on that most holy ground!

"Dear ones, the day of Easter is drawing near, since with God's help we have passed the mid-point of the fast."

- St. Theodore. Today we begin the second half of our Lenten journey. In our worship the purple vesture of penitence is lightened this one Sunday to rose, symbolizing "relieved repentance" and "subdued joy" as we begin to anticipate the great Feast of Easter.

"Laetare Sunday," this halfway point of Lent, can be for some a time of discouragement. We may look back at all the good intentions we had back on Ash Wednesday, only to find them unrealized with Lent now halfway through. Instead of giving up, however (as surely the Tempter wants us to do), we should make a fresh start, making up what was lacking before and redoubling our efforts to grow in holiness of life so that our souls will be ready and open to experience the fullness of Easter joy. Again in the words of St. Theodore, "Only in freedom from [sin] ... can there be preparation for a feast."

Such freedom is most powerfully available in the Sacrament of Confession. A good Confession is like a whole Lenten journey compressed into one moment of grace, as we hear the words, "I absolve you from your sins," and the chains fall off our souls as we return to freedom in the Lord. What is a good Confession? A Confession where a thorough examination of conscience is made beforehand; where all sin is Confessed with honesty and humility (especially those things we find it hard to face or talk about); and where we have a sincere desire to start afresh and make a new beginning with the help of God.

The opportunity for Lenten Almsgiving is also still available, thanking God for His blessings by helping those less fortunate than ourselves. In the words of Pope Saint Leo the Great, "Let works of piety, therefore, be our delight, and let us be filled with those kinds of food which feed us for eternity. Let us rejoice in the replenishment of the poor, whom our bounty has satisfied. Let us delight in the clothing of those whose nakedness we have covered with needful raiment. Let our humaneness be felt by the sick in their illnesses, by the weakly in their infirmities, by the exiles in their hardships, by the orphans in their destitution, and by solitary widows in their sadness: in the helping of whom there is no one that cannot carry out some amount of benevolence.

For no one's income is small, whose heart is big: and the measure of one's mercy and goodness does not depend on the size of one's means. Wealth of goodwill is never rightly lacking, even in a slender purse. Doubtless the expenditure of the rich is greater, and that of the poor smaller, but there is no difference in the fruit of their works, where the purpose of the workers is the same."

When it comes to Lenten Almsgiving, I urge those who have not already done so to include the 2023 Catholic Appeal - an effort that makes possible so many of the good works St. Leo describes. Please do what you can, according to your means, especially if you were unable, or unmoved, to do so last year. As St. Leo reminds us so eloquently, Almsgiving is not the responsibility of those who have much, but of every Catholic. And the spiritual riches it produces are available to everyone with a generous heart.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

Pastor

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Our next MSYG trip is THIS Friday, March 24, Late Night Cosmic Bowling! Please arrive by 7:45 PM to the Parish Center. Why not enjoy the 6 PM Lenten Supper with your family before you go? Shoe rentals are included, or wear sneakers without dark soles. Play unlimited games until 11:30 PM, return to Center around 12:30 AM. Our next Meeting is Sunday, April 2 from 6:30 – 8 PM. Paintball and Grade 6 & 7 Summer Whitewater Rafting Trips Sign Ups are this night! All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are welcome.

**T.G.I.F** (**Teens Gather In Faith**): Coming up for T.G.I.F, High School Youth Group teens will be sponsoring the Lenten supper next Friday, March 24. All high school teens are welcome to come together for some service, and an opportunity to gather with their church family. Emails containing the sign-up genius will be sent out this week. Our next meeting - 'Minute to Win it' is tonight, March 19 from 7:15-8:45 PM! All High School Students are welcome! March 19 is the last night to collect Mission Forms. Also, forms for our April Rock Climbing Trip will be available!



2023 HIGH SCHOOL FLORIDA MISSION TRIP July 16 - July 23 ~ Rebuilding Lives & Faith! HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO FLORIDA: This year, our 2023 Mission Trip will take place on July 16 - July 23 and we will be serving in FLORIDA helping those affected by two devastating hurricanes. All high school students are welcome and must attend at least one T.G.I.F. meeting to attend Mission. Forms have been sent out, please reach out to Theresa Virzi with questions. Theresa can be reached at either her Primary Email: stmarysym1870@gmail.com as well as St.

Mary's Mission Email at: <a href="mailto:stmarysym.mission@gmail.com">stmarysym.mission@gmail.com</a>. Forms and first payments will be collected until the T.G.I.F meeting tonight, March 19.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): Our last Winter Season presentation with speaker Kelly Meraw has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 22 at 10 AM. WINGS is using Kevin Perrotta's book Relating to Others as Jesus Would as our study guide. Chapter 6, Jesus Relating to His Friends, focuses on Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-45, and John 12:1-8. These readings may be found online. Kelly Meraw is Director of Collaborative Pastoral Care and Director of St. John Music and Liturgy, St. John-St. Paul Collaborative and was a WINGS speaker last fall. Please join us even if you don't have access to the study book. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Diane @508-259-7795 or Jen @617-852-9632. Watch for details of our Spring Season beginning in April.

**ROSE FOR LIFE:** The Rose for Life is sponsored this week by the Kevin Reilly Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. To sponsor the Rose for Life, please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

**ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:** The Mom's Prayer Group meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM in Father Haley Hall for faith sharing and prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome, snacks and coffee are provided. This week's meeting is Tuesday, March 21. Please join us!

THIS LENT BECOME A SISTER PARISH PEN PAL FAMILY! In order to deepen connections between St. Mary's and our Sister Parish in Palestine, families in both parishes will be participating in a digital pen pal relationship. They will learn about each other's families and what life is like in their respective homelands. They will also pray for one another. Would you like to represent St. Mary's Parish in this beautiful way? Contact Paula O'Brien for more information at <a href="mailto:stmarysre1870@gmail.com">stmarysre1870@gmail.com</a>, or apply to be connected to a family in Beit Sahour through <a href="https://forms.gle/s12FgtesxdK35yVM9">https://forms.gle/s12FgtesxdK35yVM9</a>.

**PENNIES FROM HEAVEN 2023:** Our 2023 Lenten Pennies collection will continue to go to Fr. Eugene Montesi, formally at Fatima Shrine and Sierra Leone, who is now missioned in Scotland. In keeping with the tradition to support families in one of the poorest countries in the world, our "Pennies from Heaven" will go to children in Sierra Leone who suffer from club feet. Our donation will help cover the expense of surgery, which will insure a normal life for them. Fr. Eugene is extremely grateful for our generous efforts for these children in Sierra Leone. Pennies and coins can be dropped off in the Religious Ed. Center lobby during the Lenten season 2023.



## LENTEN SUPPERS NEXT TWO FRIDAYS



All are invited for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's family! Fridays: March 24, and 31 at 6 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. Our Lenten Suppers take place in Fr. Haley Hall and include a range of food options while observing Friday's abstinence from meat - as well as child friendly food.

Families with young children are encouraged to come and not feel burdened about bringing a meal, please let your St. Mary's community lift you up. This also applies to any individual / couple / family feeling burdened where bringing a meal would prevent you from attending. We are all in different seasons of life, let your St. Mary's family be a safe landing spot for you this Lent!

If you'd like to help, please email Natalie Pomarico at st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com. You will be added to the Lenten Supper Volunteer Group. A weekly 'Sign Up Genius' gets emailed out and people sign up for food and drink as they're able (which we are aware varies week to week). Thank you!

**FORTY HOURS DEVOTION:** In celebrating this devotion, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar at St. Mary's for forty continuous hours. The church will be open throughout and people may stop in at any time to visit with the Lord in prayer. The Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Additionally, three special dimensions surround this devotion:

- the protection from evil and temptation;
- reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory;
- and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities.

Anyone and everyone is welcome at any time without signing up. But we need a minimum of two people committed to each specific hour the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed for Adoration. Please sign up at: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3</a> FC1-40hours2.

#### Sunday, March 26

11:30 AM	Opening 40 Hours Mass
6:00 PM	Evening Prayer
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

#### Monday, March 27

9:00 AM	Morning Mass (Hall)
Noon	Holy Rosary
6:00 PM	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

#### Tuesday, March 28

9:00 AM Closing Mass with Benediction

#### CONFESSION AND ADORATION EVERY

**LENTEN THURSDAY:** In addition to the usual Saturday Noon to 12:45 PM Confession time, during Lent St. Mary's Thursday night Eucharistic Holy Hours will also have the opportunity for Confession, from 7-8 PM in the church. Each Lenten Holy Hour includes an intention for which we ask you kindly to pray during your time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament:

March: 23: Pray for married couples in

difficulty.

March 30: Pray for those fighting cancer or

other serious illness.



FASTING: Catholics over eighteen and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

ABSTINENCE: Catholics over fourteen years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. On abstinence days, meat may not be used at all. Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in

daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended. Commendable, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the concept of "mortification."

**FATIMA SHRINE PAX CHRISTI:** The Pax Christi Group at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, is sponsoring and leading special prayer services during Lent for a number of countries in our world that are experiencing grave violence and displacement. Engaging the power of prayer, members invite all people of good will to join them on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 AM for information on the particular country or situation that will be focused on that day as well as the recitation of the Rosary for Peace. The usual 12:10 PM Mass will follow. These prayers begin on Tuesday, February 28 and end April 7 (Good Friday). The dates and countries are: Myanmar, March 21 - Mexico, March 23 - Yemen, March 28 - Eritrea, March 30 - Cameroon, April 4 - Syria, and on Good Friday, April 7 the focus will be on the USA. All people of good will are welcome to join in this prayer. For more information call 508-429-2144. Pax Christi, an International Catholic Peace Movement, strives to create a world that reflects the Peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. This work begins in personal life and extends to communities of reflection and action to transform unjust structures of society.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** Our new group Prayer Shawls and Lots More (PSALM) is going strong! If you'd like to join, our meetings are after daily Mass on Fridays, or you can make them on your own and deliver them later. We love to teach, so if you'd love to learn, we've got you covered. Please contact Jane Lebak at JaneLebak@gmail.com if you're interested in sharing a spiritual hug with your fellow parishioners.

SHADOWS WOMEN'S SHELTER DRIVE: Hello everyone! My name is Grace Burgett and I am a St. Mary's Junior at Holliston High School. I am a part of National Honor Society, and for my service project this year, I chose to make gift baskets for Shadows women's shelter in Ashland, MA, to be delivered by Easter. I am looking for donations of products or money donations. The cost of a whole basket is \$50, which covers the cost of all of the items in one basket. A \$15 donation covers the cost of a Fun Pack, which is 3 items that are already purchased. Money and product donations are being collected from Tuesday, March 7, until Thursday, March 30. Money donations may be made through Venmo: @Burgett6. A donation box for items is found in the parish center lobby. All donations are very much appreciated! Following is a list of all the needed items: hand cream between 3 and 5 ounces any scent; Lip Balm, Chapstick or any other brand or flavor; Socks, single pair one size fits all; Cosmetics, mascara, eye shadow (only 4-sections), blush (single); Nail polish any color and brand; Candy, Lindt truffles, jelly beans, or Starbursts. Thank you so much!

Grace Burgett



#### THE SIMPLE EYE:

Most spiritualities say something like the following, and Ignatian Spirituality is no different: see more deeply. Feel more deeply. Pay attention to the quiet movements inside yourself and you will know more about what is outside you. Deepen yourself and you will learn to see.

Sometimes we are told "quit spending time on yourself and go get some work done" or "go help someone." But you can't see very well through a window if it is dirty, or if you have furniture piled up in front of it. In Lent we do housekeeping so that we can see clearly, without our usual prejudices pulled in front of the windows of our soul.

Take the Pharisees in the Gospel. They could not see clearly. When they asked the blind man how his sight had been restored, the man replied simply, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed it off, and now I can see." WHAT? screamed the Pharisees. THAT MAN "CANNOT BE FROM GOD BECAUSE HE DOES NOT KEEP THE SABBATH." He is therefore a sinner! He could not have cured you. (With these words, one high piece of furniture is shoved in front of the window).

These Pharisees run and get the man's parents, who will surely know what really happened. But the parents say an arch reply: "he is a grown man, he can speak for himself."

Back to the blind man. He explains, "It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man [Jesus] were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." (Piece of furniture number two will now rumble in front of the window of their eyes, as follows: WHAT? YOU ARE LECTURING US ABOUT MEN OF GOD AND YOU ARE STEEPED IN SIN FROM YOUR VERY BIRTH? GET OUT OF HERE!

The man born blind sees well. The Pharisees are the ones who refuse to see. If they were physically blind this would be understandable. But the truth is hidden by their own need to control others, their love of being in charge. What if they had looked at the man through eyes unclouded by sin? They could have beheld a miracle, with wonder and awe.

Much later in time, Ignatius called this way of seeing "the simple eye." It is what we are trying to move toward during Lent.

Let us admit that we cannot see. Then pray to have our eyes opened. To have the simple eye is see with the eyes of faith. It is to let the Holy Spirit have a peaceful home within us and to help us clean house. Jesus gives the man this deeper sight. He says "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The blind man says yes. He is simply no longer blind.

The same question faces each of us as we get ready for Holy Week. "Do you believe in the Son of Man" (the name Jesus used for himself)? Can you live in the light of the Lord (2nd reading)? Can you let the Lord be your Shepherd (Responsorial Psalm)? You can if you let go of your own prejudices and opinions, hard as that may be.

Let's ask Jesus to give us the simple eye.



#### CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE

WORD: Today, Sunday, March 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. March 19	GR-K at 9:15 AM	GR-4 at 10:45 AM
	GR-5 at 10:45 AM	
Mon. March 20	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues. March 21	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-5 at 4:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Weds. March 22	No Classes	
Sun. March 26	GR-2 at 8:10 AM	GR-3 at 7:55 AM
	GR-2 at 10:45 AM	GR-3 at 10:45 AM
	GR-6 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 5:00 PM
	GR-10 at 11:30 AM	

# CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT NOON FOR GRADES K-5: On



Good Friday, April 7, families of Grade K through 5 children are invited to the Noon Stations of the Cross. We are seeking children to take a role in the Stations of the Cross Tableau. Good Friday is a solemn day to remember Christ's Passion and death. Children who

take a role must attend two rehearsals. Sign-up forms have been mailed.

#### **GRADE 7 SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:**

Linda Thayer will join us on Sunday, March 26 at 5:00 PM to discuss the Vocation of Love and God's plan for love and marriage along with practical information for our young people today. **Wednesday students** that normally meet on March 29 are asked to attend the Sunday, March 26 presentation. Parents are always welcome to join us for these presentations.

**GRADE 2 PARENT MEETINGS:** If you missed one of the five scheduled meetings please call or see Fran. There are important materials and schedules regarding the Grade 2 Retreat on Saturday, April 29, the required First Communion Rehearsals, and the Certificate Mass sign-up cards to complete. This information is not sent out by mail or email. First Communion Masses are on Saturday, June 10 and June 17, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

#### SNOW CANCELLATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS ED:

When Holliston public schools have a two hour delay opening due to weather, **Religious Education classes** will be held in the afternoon and evening. If schools are closed or have an early release during the day due to inclement weather, then 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.

THIS WEEK! GRADE 9 RETREAT: Students will meet in Fr. Haley Hall for their retreat on Thursday, March 23, from 4:00 to 9:00 PM. Students are asked to arrive on time to check in.

**CONFIRMATION I-GRADE 9:** Next session is Sunday, April 2 at the 11:30 AM Mass. Fellowship will follow in Fr. Haley Hall and class from 1–2:30 PM.

**CONFIRMATION II-GRADE 10:** Next session is Sunday, March 26 at the 11:30 AM Mass. Fellowship will follow in Fr. Haley Hall and class from 1–2:30 PM.

**RETREAT FOR GR-10:** Students who were unable to attend the earlier retreat will meet on **Saturday, April 1 from 10 AM-8:30 PM** at Betania II that will include the 7:30 PM Mass at St. Mary's. If you have any questions regarding the retreats, please contact Theresa Virzi.



SHINE THE LIGHT OF JESUS! Blast off for a STELLAR week of Faith, Friendship and Fun at VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! Registration opens for children in Grades K-6 on April 1, 2023!

cori volunteer RENEWAL ALERT: If you are an active volunteer (18+ years) or planning to volunteer in any ministry, we must have a completed 2023 CORI form on file. Volunteer renewals may submit a copy of driver's license, along with signed/completed CORI form and email directly to st.marysRE1870@gmail.com for processing. New volunteers must have information verified in person by any staff member. Please note: If an FY2023 form has already been submitted, we do not need another.

**LENTEN CLASS PEN PAL PROJECT** is due by the end of March! We look forward to sharing the faith of our young Catholics at St. Mary's across the world in Palestine with Our Lady of Fatima - Beit Sahour!