

## 40 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 day or night to visit with the Lord in prayer.

As Pope Benedict XVI once said:  
*"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent Adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering."*



While the Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, three special dimensions have also surrounded 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.

Here the faithful implore our Lord to pour forth His abundant graces not only for themselves, but their neighbors, not only for their own personal needs, but for those of the world.



## 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](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)  
Email Address: [St.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto: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!

# 40 HOURS WITH JESUS CHRIST

By Fr. William Saunders

The Forty Hours Devotion is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. Of course, the focus of this devotion is on the Holy Eucharist. As Catholics, the words of our Lord burn in our hearts: "I myself am the living bread come down from Heaven. If anyone eats this bread, He shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51).

Affirming our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Vatican Council II taught that the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, #11). While the Mass is the central act of worship for us Catholics, an act which participates in the eternal reality of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, Vatican Council II upheld and encouraged the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. Of course such devotion derives from the sacrifice of the Mass and moves the faithful to both sacramental and spiritual communion with our Lord (Eucharisticum Mysterium, #50). As Pope Pius XII taught in *Mediator Dei*, "This practice of adoration has a valid and firm foundation." Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has repeatedly "highly recommended" public and private devotion of the Blessed Sacrament, including processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi and the 40 Hours Devotion (cf. *Dominicae Caeae*, #3, and *Inaestimabile Donum*, #20-22).



Second, the number forty has always signified a sacred period of time: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection. Actually in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the repository, "the Easter Sepulcher," for this period of time to signify our Lord's time in the tomb.

The Forty Hours Devotion begins with a Solemn Mass of Exposition, which concludes with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar in a monstrance. During the next 40 hours, the faithful gather for personal or public prayer in adoration of our Lord. At the end of the devotions, there is a solemn benediction and final reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Forty Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. Consequently, an appropriate time to schedule Forty Hours is either Advent or Lent.

While the Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, three special dimensions have also surrounded 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. Here the faithful implore our Lord to pour forth His abundant graces not only for themselves, but their neighbors, not only for their own personal needs, but for those of the world. Such practices are evidenced in the history of this devotion.

Having explored the spiritual dimension of the Forty Hours Devotion, a greater appreciation for this spiritual exercise is found through knowing its history. The practice of Forty Hours Devotion originated in Milan about the year 1530. Granted, prior to this time, the Church did have exposition and benediction, Eucharistic processions, and devotions to the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle.

In 1539, Pope Paul III responded to a petition from the Archdiocese of Milan asking for an indulgence for the practice: "Since our beloved son the Vicar General of the Archbishop of Milan, at the prayer of the inhabitants of the said city, amongst other pious practices, has established a round of prayers and supplications to be offered by day and night by all the faithful of Christ, before our Lord's Most Sacred Body, in all the churches of the said city, in such a manner that these prayers and supplication are made by the faithful themselves relieving each other in relays for forty hours continuously in each church in succession, according to the order determined by the Vicar... We approving in our Lord so pious an institution, grant and remit." While this pronouncement seems to be the earliest official approval by the Church of this devotion, the Forty Hours Devotion spread rapidly.

By 1550, both St. Philip Neri and St. Ignatius Loyola had also instituted this practice, especially for the reparation of sin. Recognizing the tremendous graces offered through this devotion as well as the dangers threatening the Church, Pope Clement VIII in his letter *Graves et diuturnae* (November 25, 1592) proclaimed, "We have determined to establish publicly in this Mother City of Rome an uninterrupted course of prayer in such ways that in the different churches, on appointed days, there be observed the pious and salutary devotion of the Forty Hours, with such an arrangement of churches and times that, at every hour of the day and night, the whole year round the incense of prayer shall ascend without intermission before the face of the Lord." He also issued regulations for the devotions, which were later collected and promulgated by Pope Clement XI in 1705, and known as the *Instructio Clementina*.

In our own country, St. John Neumann (1811-60), the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, was a strong promoter of the Forty Hours Devotion. While the practice had already existed in individual churches throughout the city (as well as in other places in the country), no organized, cohesive diocesan schedule for it had ever before been attempted. St. John had a tremendous devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and desired to foster such a spiritual life in his people.

Unfortunately at this time, a strong anti-Catholic sentiment plagued Philadelphia. During the Know Nothing riots of 1844, two churches were burned and another was saved simply by the threat of gunfire. Some priests, therefore, advised St. John that the introduction of 40 Hours Devotion would only flame the hatred against the Catholics and expose the Blessed Sacrament to desecration. St. John was left in a quandary.

A strange incident occurred which helped St. John decide. One night, he was working very late at his desk and fell asleep in his chair. The candle on the desk burnt down and charred some of the papers, but they were still readable. He awoke, surprised and thankful that a fire had not ignited. He fell on his knees to give thanks to God for protection, and heard His voice saying, "As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so shall I pour out my grace in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to My honor. Fear no profanation, therefore; hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory."

He introduced the practice of 40 Hours Devotion at the first diocesan synod in April, 1853, and the first devotions began at St. Philip Neri Parish, an appropriate place since that saint had initiated the devotion in the city of Rome. St. John himself, spent most of the three days in the Church praying. No trouble ensued. St. John then introduced the program for the whole diocese, so that each parish would have Forty Hours Devotion during the course of the year. He composed a special booklet for the devotions and obtained special indulgences for the faithful attending them. The Forty Hours Devotion was so successful it spread to other dioceses. At the Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866, the Forty Hours Devotion was approved for all Dioceses of the United States.

The Forty Hours Devotion provides a wonderful opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person and the parish as a whole. In a world where temptation and evil abound, where devotion to the Mass and our Lord in the Holy Eucharist have declined, where the practice of penance and confession have been forgotten by many, we need the Forty Hours Devotion more than ever.

## 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 \$49,824 from 20% of St. Mary's active households, reaching 57% 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 <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/> 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, please be sure to indicate St. Mary's, Holliston as your parish so that your gift is applied to our parish goal. 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:

Automatic Giving: \$ 5,318.50  
 WeShare: \$ 3,212.00  
 Offertory Envelopes  
 dropped off / mailed in \$ 5,496.00  
 Total Offertory: \$ 14,026.50

**Please make up any missed weekly support from when travelling or away. Thank you!**

May God bless you for your faithful stewardship!

### MASS INTENTIONS:

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 25</b>
5:00	Philip Meuse
7:30	Larry Canavan, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Anv.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 26</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Patrick Kelley
11:30	40 Hours Devotion ~ Opening Mass
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 27</b>
9:00	40 Hours Mass - Fr. Haley Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 28</b>
9:00	40 Hours Closing Mass
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 29</b>
9:00	Francesca Borrelli
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 30</b>
9:00	Deceased Members of the Urbano Family
<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 31</b>
9:00	Costantino DiCenso
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 1</b>
5:00	Roy Salvi, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anv.
7:30	Matthew D'Agostino
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 2</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Marie Hagemeister
11:30	Sr. Ricci



# Holy Week Schedule



## **PALM SUNDAY**

**Saturday, April 1:**

5 PM & 7:30 PM Masses

**Sunday, April 2:**

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM Masses

Palms will be blessed &  
the Passion read at all Masses.

## **HOLY THURSDAY**

**Thursday, April 6:**

9 AM

Morning Prayer

7 PM

**Mass of the Lord's Supper**

The Mass of the Lord's Supper recalls the events the night before Jesus died, especially the institution of the Holy Eucharist. The ceremony of the washing of the feet reminds us of Jesus' call to serve one another. The Mass concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose in Father Haley Hall, where Adoration will continue until 10:30 PM. At Mass a collection will be taken up for the Holliston Food Pantry.

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

*Day of Fasting & Abstinence*

**Friday, April 7:**

9 AM

Morning Prayer

12 PM

(Kindergarten – Grade 5) Younger Children's Stations of the Cross

7 PM

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

The 7:00 PM Lord's Passion Celebration is the official Good Friday Liturgy that continues the three day Triduum Celebration begun on Holy Thursday and concluding at Easter. It consists of the Liturgy of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. The Noon Stations are designed for younger children K – Grade 5, (accompanied by parents), and utilize a living tableau and special station prayers to help young children discover Jesus' love for them in the here and now.

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. In every single Catholic parish around the world this day, a collection is taken up to maintain the Shrines and struggling Christian communities in the Holy Land. This collection is taken up at both the Stations and Passion Services.

## **HOLY SATURDAY**

*Please Note: No Confessions on Holy Saturday*

**Saturday, April 8:**

9 AM

Morning Prayer

8 PM

**The Great Easter Vigil (brass quartet, adult choir)**

The Great Easter Vigil is rightly called the "Mother" of all liturgies. It includes the blessing of the new Easter Candle, the sung Exultet Prayer, and readings that capture the fullness of God's saving work for humanity. The Church rejoices in a special way to receive new members this night through the Sacraments of Initiation. All Easter collections go to support the retired priests of our Archdiocese. Please generously support these men who have given their whole lives in your service.

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

**Sunday, April 9:**

7:30 AM

Church Mass

9:30 AM

Fr. Haley Hall Mass

9:30 AM

Church Mass

11:30 AM

Church Mass



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Thank you to all who prayed for the safety and success of our March 10 -19 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was an amazing experience, and we were honored to pray every day at Mass there the intentions you entrusted to us. The first time was upon our arrival in Magdala, and the final time was in Jerusalem.

What a joy it was to finally meet Fr. Issa, Pastor of our Sister Parish, in person! Below is a photo of us, together with his assistant Fr. Michael (right). Thank you to parishioner George Martell, who took this picture and the many more you will see in the April Newsletter.

As our Lenten Journey continues, we arrive now at one of our most beloved annual traditions – the 40 Hours Devotion. Thank you to everyone who has committed to spend a specific hour visiting with Our Eucharistic Lord this morning through Tuesday morning.

**All are invited to stop in day or night anytime during the Devotion.**

Unlike all the other sacraments, the Eucharist does not just lead us to God, it is God Himself. By visiting the church to adore the Eucharist exposed on the altar, we put ourselves in the very presence of the Almighty, allowing His grace to come upon us – whether visibly and quick-felt – or secretly, and unfolding only in the fullness of God's time.

God bless you.



## FORTY HOURS DEVOTION SCHEDULE



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. Learn more on today's Bulletin Cover.

### 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	Evening Prayer
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

### Tuesday, March 28

9:00 AM	Closing Mass with Benediction
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## LAST LENTEN SUPPER THIS FRIDAY



All are invited for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's family this Friday, March 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](mailto:st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com). You will be added to the Lenten Supper Volunteer Group. Thank you!





**NEXT SUNDAY ~ RAFFLE FOR OUR SISTER PARISH SCHOOL:** To advance the education in our Sister Parish's school, St. Mary's members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem have committed to raising funds to purchase an Interactive Projector and Smartboard Epson 695 WI for classroom use. To help fund this exciting and much needed item for our Sister Parish, we will be raffling a Bose Smart Soundbar 600 with Dolby Atmos (Retail price of \$449.00). Donated by our Order

Members, this system offers full immersion sound for movies, TV, and music! Use Wi-Fi® to access integrated music services in the Bose Music app, or stream songs with Bluetooth®, Apple AirPlay 2, Spotify® Connect, or Chromecast built-in. For more information open this link:

[https://www.bose.com/en\\_us/products/speakers/home\\_theater/bose-smart-soundbar-600.html#v=bose\\_smart\\_soundbar\\_600\\_black](https://www.bose.com/en_us/products/speakers/home_theater/bose-smart-soundbar-600.html#v=bose_smart_soundbar_600_black).

**Tickets can be purchased for \$5 each or 3 for \$10 after all Masses next weekend Palm Sunday, April 1 and 2,** including during Donuts, Juice and Coffee after the 9:30 AM Mass that Sunday. Tickets are also available anytime in the Religious Ed Office during the week. The Raffle will continue until enough funds are collected to support this outreach mission.

**Photos of children in our Sister Parish's School during our Pilgrimage Visit there on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, (courtesy of George Martell):**



**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 [st.marysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com), or apply to be connected to a family in Beit Sahour through <https://forms.gle/s12FgtesxdK35yVM9>.



**DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE NEXT WEEKEND:** The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to come down to Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass next, Sunday, April 2, for donuts, juice and coffee! Come enjoy the chance to connect with and get to know your fellow parishioners. WELCOME!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:**

Our MSYG Meeting is next 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):** Thank you to all of our teens who participated in this year's Minute-To-Win-It Challenge, and Congrats to our champions for the 2023 year, The Crusaders! Well done! A special thanks to the teens who helped volunteer for the Lenten Supper. It was a great gift to have such special teen service. Our next T.G.I.F Meeting is April 23 at 7:15 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. Join us for a special Battle of the Sexes scavenger hunt. Rock Climbing forms will be collected at this meeting.



**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. Applications have been received. Any questions, please reach out to Theresa Virzi at either her Primary Email: [stmarysym1870@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysym1870@gmail.com) as well as Mission Email: [stmarysym.mission@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysym.mission@gmail.com).



**BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP:**

Scholarship Applications are now available at <https://stmarysholliston.com/> under REGISTER / PARISH FORMS. This \$2,000 scholarship is granted in recognition of exceptional service to the St. Mary's Parish Family. Applicants must meet the following criteria: Graduating from High School in the Spring of 2023; Accepted to a four-year college or university to commence classes in the Fall of 2023; Family registered at St. Mary's Parish for at least two full years; Completed Religious Education and received the Sacrament of Confirmation; Attend Mass weekly at St. Mary's, and are otherwise living

out their Catholic faith. Applications are due to the Scholarship Committee by Easter Sunday, April 9. The Scholarship will be presented at St. Mary's Mass for the Graduating Class of 2023, Sunday, May 14 at 11:30 AM

**CEMETERY REMINDER:** Please remove all Christmas/Winter decorations, wreaths, folding chairs, benches not used as headstones, and old planters from the Cemetery. R and R Landscape has begun the Spring Cleanup of our beautiful Cemetery and is preparing the grounds for the Spring and Summer. Please do not throw empty containers, plastic flowers, old plantings, etc. in the woods or on the side of the Cemetery Road. If you have any questions regarding the Cemetery please call the Rectory at 508-429-4427.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:** *"It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start."* - Saint Theresa of Calcutta



**LAST LENTEN THURSDAY CONFESSION AND ADORATION:** St. Mary's Thursday night Eucharistic Holy Hours have the opportunity for Confession, from 7-8 PM in the church. At our last Adoration this Thursday, March 30 we will pray for those fighting cancer or other serious illness.

**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.

**WINGS (Women in God's Spirit):** WINGS is a ministry of encouragement and enrichment for women of all ages who seek to deepen their faith and grow in relationship with God and one another. WINGS has finished our very informative 2023 Winter Bible Study. Watch for details of our six-week Spring Season beginning on April 12. During this Spring Season we will listen to speakers explain how they have put our yearly Relationships theme into action in their lives. Suggested donation for the Spring season is \$20.00 unless you have previously paid for the entire WINGS year. All women are welcome, regardless of ability to pay. Email [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com) to register or call Diane @508-259-7795 or Jen @617-852-9632.

**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: 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](mailto:JaneLebak@gmail.com) if you're interested in sharing a spiritual hug with your fellow parishioners.

**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 28. Please join us!

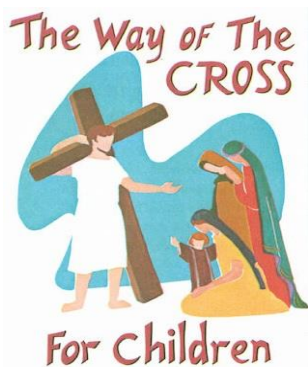
**SHADOWS WOMEN'S SHELTER DRIVE:** Hello everyone! My name is Grace Burgett and I am a St. Mary's Junior at Holliston High School. I am a part of National Honor Society, and for my service project this year, I chose to make gift baskets for Shadows women's shelter in Ashland, MA, to be delivered by Easter. 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

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

**CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Today, Sunday, March 26, 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 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	
Mon. March 27	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues. March 28	GR-3 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Weds. March 29	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-7 at 6:00 PM
Sun. April 2	PRE-K at 9:15 AM	GR-1 at 8:10 AM
	GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 at 10:45 AM
	GR-9 at 11:30 AM	
April 3-10	Holy Week	No Classes



**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.

### CHILDREN'S REHEARSALS FOR STATIONS:

Tuesday, April 4 from 4:00 PM-5:30 PM  
Wednesday, April 5 from 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

### TONIGHT! 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.

**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, April 30 at the 11:30 AM Mass. Fellowship will follow in Fr. Haley Hall and class from 1-2:30 PM.

**THIS WEEK! 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 at [stmarysym1870@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysym1870@gmail.com).



**REGISTRATION OPENS THIS WEEK! 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](mailto: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.*

### 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.