



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 Choir Mass

Holy Days: Announced

Advent Adoration Schedule:

First Friday, 9:30 – 10:30 AM
Advent Mondays, 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!

Advent Confessions:

Mondays, 7 - 8 PM
Saturdays, 12 - 12:45 PM
No Confessions Dec. 23

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.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

at St. Mary's Church in Holliston



Today, Sunday, December 17, 5:00 – 6:00 PM



Join us for an Advent and Christmas celebration
through scripture and music.

This year's Lessons and Carols will feature St.
Mary's Adult Choir under the direction of Abbey
Kelley-Lanser. The program will include choral
music by Victoria, Willcocks, Praetorius, and
more. There will also be familiar, traditional
Christmas carols to sing along!



Our organist will be Brandon Santini who will offer a recital from 4:30 – 5 PM.
Come fill your spirit with the joy of the Coming of the Lord!

This event is free and open to all.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE ARE THE SAME DAY?

The Sunday Mass Obligation for Next Weekend, Saturday, December 23 and Sunday, December 24 remains. The 4th Sunday of Advent is a distinct and essential part of our spiritual journey to Christmas, even though Christmas Eve is that same Sunday afternoon.

This year Catholics should therefore plan to attend Mass either Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning for the 4th Sunday of Advent, *in addition* to whatever Christmas Mass they attend. Those who choose to attend Mass twice on Sunday – in the morning for Advent and then later that day for Christmas, are permitted to receive Communion twice in the same day. God bless you!

4th Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday, December 23

5 PM
7:30 PM

Sunday, December 24

7:30 AM
9:30 AM
11:30 AM

Christmas Eve Masses Also Sunday, December 24

4 PM Mass in the Church
4 PM Mass in Fr. Haley Hall
(Children's Pageant)
5:30 PM Mass in the Church
7:30 PM Mass in the Church
11 PM Midnight Mass
in the Church
(Caroling starts at 10:30 PM)

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day Masses

9:30 AM Mass in the Church
11:30 AM Mass in the Church



2023 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, healthcare and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We encourage you to please give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to faithfully serving God and the people of the Archdiocese of Boston. Thank you.



PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
 The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
 Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon
 Deacon Ronald A. Dowding, Permanent Deacon
 Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon
 Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7
 Mr. Sean Jacobs, D.R.E., Grades 8-10, Youth Minister
 Ms. Abigail Kelley-Lanser, Organist, Director of Music
 Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary
 Mrs. Jennifer Burgett, Religious Education Secretary
 Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager
 Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan
 Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities
 R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care



2023 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ~ The Christmas Mass Collection next weekend supports the retirement, healthcare, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We encourage you to please give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to faithfully serving God and the people of the Archdiocese of Boston. For more information, visit <https://clergytrust.org/>.

If you use Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may indicate your Christmas gift electronically, or use this QR code or the clergy trust website. Thank you!

**LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:**

Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,873.50
WeShare:	\$ 3,088.00
Offertory Envelopes	
Dropped/mailed	
to the office:	\$ 7,824.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 14,785.50
Shortfall	\$ 214.50

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

MASS INTENTIONS

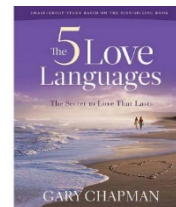
Saturday	December 16
5:00	Vincent and Joan Mullen
7:30	Nicholas Rossini
Sunday	December 17
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Ronald Nicasio
11:30	Teotima Bolandrina
Monday	December 18
9:00	Holy Souls
Tuesday	December 19
9:00	Charlotte Marden
Wednesday	December 20
9:00	The Paladino Family (Living)
Thursday	December 21
9:00	John, Jeanette and JR Gannon
Friday	December 22
9:00	Charlotte Marden
Saturday	December 23
5:00	George Smith and Donna LaRosa
7:30	Vasco, Pauline, David and Wayne Brovelli
Sunday	December 24
7:30	Patricia Hern
9:30	Jim Baker
11:30	People of St. Mary's

FINAL ADVENT ADORATION &

CONFESSIONS: Tomorrow, Monday, December 18 from 7 - 8 PM. Confession is a healing encounter with Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. The Lord's mercy, healing, and grace are given to us through this encounter. In it Jesus also strengthens us to resist future or ongoing temptation. The Sacrament of Confession is a moment of accountability for us before the Lord. The Lord's forgiveness and mercy is infinite. Nothing we have done can ever separate us from experiencing God's forgiveness through this sacrament. **Please note that there are no Confessions on Saturday, December 23.**

MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP:

Marriage Fellowship will be meeting this Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 PM in the Annex for a time of fellowship with snacks, prayer, and discussion of five unique approaches to giving and receiving love as described by Gary Chapman in his book "The Five Love Languages". Our very own Deacon John and his lovely wife Diane will be facilitating. Nurturing and fun childcare is provided. Couples from all seasons of life are welcome and encouraged to attend.





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today marks the Third Sunday of Advent, known also as "Gaudete" or "Rejoicing" Sunday. Today the purple of Advent penitence is lightened by the white of anticipated Christmas joy. The rose color thus created represents subdued rejoicing, or relieved repentance. The rose color of today's Advent Wreath candle and vesture reminds us that Christians are first and foremost a Rejoicing People – a community of believers filled with joy by the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even in the very midst of Advent - a season of penance for sins - we pause to remember the goal toward which these efforts are leading, which is nothing less than salvation.

Today's message of joy in the midst of sorrow is especially poignant for those of us who have lost loved ones. We are filled with sorrow at their passing. But we also have the joy of knowing they are not gone forever, but only hidden from our sight for a time. One day, by the grace of Jesus, we will meet them again in glory.

This past Tuesday, December 12, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, remembering the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the Mexican peasant Juan Diego on Saturday, December 9, 1531. When the local bishop doubted Juan's account and demanded proof, the Virgin instructed Juan to fill his cloak with roses growing nearby. When Juan then returned and opened the cloak before the bishop, the roses fell out to reveal a glorious image of the Blessed Mother imprinted on the cloak's lining. This image, whose manufacture modern science has been unable to explain, is still venerated today. Since Mary chose to appear to an uneducated and poor man like Juan Diego, her Guadalupe image reminds us of God's special love for the lowly.

Last weekend many at St. Mary's imitated Our Lady by reaching out to visit the lives of the poor through the annual "Give A Gift program." 548 presents were donated, destined for needy families in two Roxbury parishes. **(Photo Right).** "The Lord hears the cry of the poor," says Sacred Scripture. And it is truly beautiful to see the people of our parish doing the same. In responding to those in need, we emulate what God Himself did 2,000 years ago - when He heard the cries of a world lost in the darkness of sin and sent His Only Son to be our light and our hope.

In His Service and Yours,

DO YOU HAVE A WEST POINT CONNECTION?

St. Mary's Troop 14 asks if any parishioner might have connections to an active Cadet at West Point Military Academy.



Every year, there is an incredible Scout Camporee at West Point, hosted by the Cadets. There are over 4,000 Scouts from across the country in attendance for a weekend of scouting and military activities. It is supposed to be one of the most memorable scouting experiences.

<https://scoutlife.org/video-audio/133602/video-of-a-day-at-the-west-point-camporee/>

It is also an extremely popular event and the only way to get in is to have an active cadet sponsor the Troop. Troop 14 has been trying for 10+ years to get in, with no success.

If any of you have a family member, friend, friend of a friend who is or knows of an active cadet at West Point, please reach out to Scoutmaster Chris Baribeau, so that he can get in contact with them and see if they might be open to helping our Troop attend, 508-579-4357, Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com. Thank you!

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *"If we celebrate with such solemnity the birth of Jesus, it is to bear witness that every human being [is] somebody unique and unrepeatable...somebody thought of and chosen from eternity, some[one] called and identified by his own name. It is as it was with the first man, Adam. It is as it was with the new Adam, born of the Virgin Mary in the cave at Bethlehem: 'You shall call his name Jesus.'"*

- Pope Saint John Paul II





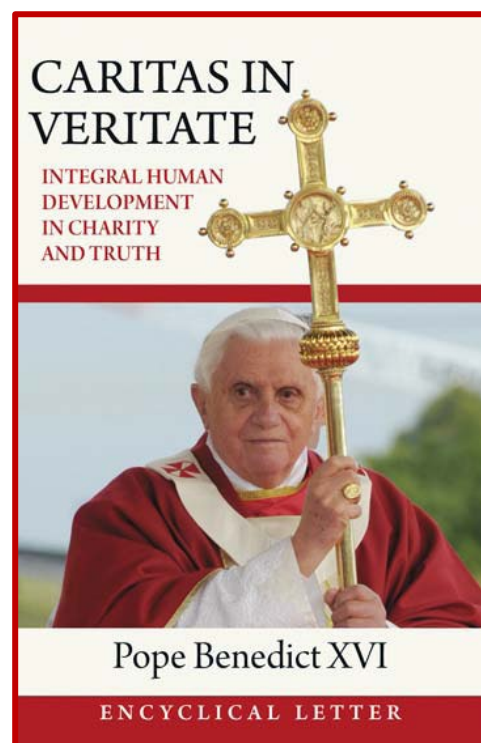
GAUDETE PONDERINGS: While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: His first, His present, and His final Advent, the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord – Christian joy – as well as the mission of John the Baptist and his connection with Advent. The theologian Thomas Aquinas described the difference between joy and happiness. Happiness is the final end of man, eternal contemplation of God, which is an act of the intellect. Joy, however, is itself not a virtue, but is an effect of the virtue of charity ("love"), which is full if its object is eternal and the greatest, i.e. God. Joy admits no sorrow for it is not an act of the sensitive

faculties, e.g. enjoying food is a natural joy for Thomas, but supernatural joy which is spoken of on Gaudete Sunday and in the Gospels is an act of the intellectual appetite known as the will.

FATIMA SHRINE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY: The Xaverian Missionaries will hold their traditional Christmas Lights Display from Thursday, December 7 to Wednesday, December 27, from 5 to 9 PM. Hot chocolate and treats are provided for visitors. All are most welcome!

THE 2023 LIVE NATIVITY PAGEANT: All are welcome to join in or watch the real live performance of the nativity. There will also be warm refreshments and cookies. The date for the show is: Friday, December 22, at 7:30 PM. (Please arrive 30 minutes before to be in the show, costumes provided). The address is 214 Washington Street, Sherborn, MA, in the pasture field (intersection of Route 16 & Western Ave, Sherborn).

CEMETERY REQUESTS: In preparation for the winter season, please remove all plant, chime, birdfeeder and ornamental hangers from your Cemetery Lots. With the ground becoming frozen, they can be very dangerous if broken or leaning into the right of way of funeral vehicles.



POPE BENEDICT'S THIRD ENCYCLICAL: On Saturday mornings, January 13, 20, and 27, 2024, from 10:00 - 11:00 AM, Leo Racine will lead an in-person reading/discussion group on Pope Benedict's 2009 encyclical Caritas in Veritate, on Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth. The US Bishops, on their website (www.usccb.org), describe Caritas in Veritate, Pope Benedict's third encyclical, as "a call to see the relationship between human and environmental ecologies and to link charity and truth in the pursuit of justice, the common good, and authentic human development." The meetings will be held in Rooms 3 and 4 of the Parish Center, with the possibility of a Zoom meeting if there is inclement weather on any particular Saturday. Please contact Leo at 508-429-7476 or leoaracine@msn.com for more information or to register.

SACRED AIR: Leo Racine of St. Mary's, Holliston, and Jane Materazzo of St. Theresa's Parish in Sherborn, will facilitate an eight-week JustFaith Ministries' program called Sacred Air. The program will be offered via Zoom and the meetings will be on Sunday evenings, February 4 to March 24, from 7 - 9 PM. Sacred Air will be the third Just Faith Ministries' environmental/ecojustice program offered by St. Mary's parish. There is no cost for parishioners to participate in the program and the learning is priceless! Please contact Leo at 508-429-7476 or leoaracine@msn.com for more information or to register.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS: A WORKSHOP TO EMPOWER PARENTS: On Wed., January 24 at 7 PM, join Dr. Mookie Manalili, a Catholic psychologist from Boston College; retired psychologist and pastor, Father Jim Ronan, and mental health clinician, author, and parent Suzanne Muldoon for a Zoom panel discussion on how parents can best support and care for their children and themselves in the midst of mental health concerns. The panelists will address diagnoses, recommendations, and how faith impacts healing. The complimentary workshop is sponsored by Family Life. For questions, call Emily Elliott at 617-746-5756. To register: <https://bit.ly/MHMtoParents>.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~ UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Thursday, January 4, 7 PM, Fr. Haley Hall, Sem. 2 Adult Volunteer MSYG Planning Meeting.

Friday, January 5, Celtics vs Utah Jazz.

Friday, January 26, Snow Tubing, Nashoba.

TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith): Our next High School Youth Group event is Saturday, January 20 to Level 99. Our next TGIF Meeting is Sunday, January 28 from 7 - 8:30 PM. All Mission Trip Forms and the \$200 Mission Trip deposits are due at this Meeting.

WINGS WINTER SEASON (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. We have successfully concluded our Fall 2023 In Person and Virtual Season "Prayer – A Conversation with God." To view these recorded presentations visit our WINGS webpage <https://stmarysholliston.com/women-in-gods-spirit-w-i-n-g-s/>. Watch for details on our Winter Season starting in mid-January. For additional information about the WINGS ministry, please call Jen Schiller at 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins at 508-259-7795 or visit our webpage <https://stmarysholliston.com/women-in-gods-spirit-w-i-n-g-s/>. Register at: stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com.

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Is on hiatus until January 9, 2024. Please join us on Tuesdays in January from 10:30 AM - 12 noon in Fr. Haley Hall. Every week, we will pray together, read reflections according to the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome, there will be a few toys and coloring activities available. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Contact 508-429-4427 with any questions.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GROUP: Warm and friendly prayers and companionship were shared this past Wednesday, December 13, by a wonderful and intimate group called the "St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group." They meet on the second Wednesday of the month for lunch and friendship. Their activities are nonprofit, and they do crafts to raise funds for various projects and groups. Find out more by calling the rectory at 508-429-4427.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *"In Advent we await an event which occurs in history and at the same time transcends it. As it does every year, this event will take place on the night of the Lord's Birth. The shepherds will hasten to the stable in Bethlehem; later the Magi will arrive from the East. Both the one and the other in a certain sense symbolize the entire human family. The exhortation that rings out in today's liturgy: 'Let us go joyfully to meet the Lord' spreads to all countries, to all continents, among every people and nation."* - Pope Saint John Paul II

CLOW - CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S

LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, Sunday, December 17, the Third Sunday of Advent, the children will be dismissed from the main church to the lower church with our CLOW leader, to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel reading.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS WEEK

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Dec. 17	GR-K at 9:15 AM	GR-1 at 9:15 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
Mon., Dec. 18	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-8 at 6:00 PM
Tues., Dec. 19	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-9 at 7:00 PM
Wed., Dec. 20	GR-7 at 6:00 PM	GR-8 at 6:00 PM
Thur., Dec. 21	GR-9 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., Dec. 24	NO CLASSES	

CHRISTMAS BREAK: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024. CLASSES WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY: Our St. Mary's traditional Christmas Nativity will be presented at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve vigil Mass on Sunday, December 24 in Fr. Haley Hall.

GRADES 4 AND 5 CHRISTMAS HAPPENING:

On **Monday, December 18** from 4 - 5:30 PM, all the Sunday, weekday and homeschooled Grade 4 children will attend this event and enjoy the wonder of making Christmas ornaments and gifts for needy children in the Holliston community. Thirty plus gift bags will be lovingly stuffed with decorated Christmas cards, toys, crafts, socks, mittens, and other treats. The children will enjoy singing Christmas Carols directed by Abbey, our Music Director. This year we are also inviting our Grade 5 children to join with us so that our Christmas Bags will help more needy children. The gift bags will be delivered and distributed to the families by the Holliston Food Pantry.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024: 2024 will soon be upon us and our office starts planning for our 2024-2025 religious education program. Faith formation begins in the home from the time parents make a promise at their children's baptism to teach their children in matters of faith and the moral good that God has given to us. We are here to serve and provide a means for our children and youth to grow in faith and trust in God. If you have comments or ideas as we plan the program for next year please let us know. Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com.

CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grade 9 classes meet on Tuesday, December 19 and Thursday, December 21 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Please check into Fr. Haley Hall.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING

WORKSHOP: All new volunteers in any capacity and ministry must take the Protecting God's Children (PGC) Training. Please check our bulletin each week for the newly scheduled **PGC Workshops**.

Participants must **pre-register** for a session. Here's how: "Go to www.Virtusonline.org. Click on "First-time Registrant" and select "Boston, MA (Archdiocese)" as your organization. You will have to create a VIRTUS log-in before proceeding to register. Follow the prompts after this."

CORI RENEWAL ALERT: All active and new volunteers (18+ years) must have a completed **2024 CORI** form on file in our office to serve in a ministry. 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 a FY2023 form has already been submitted, we do not need another.*

GRADES 5 AND 7 COORDINATORS ARE STILL

NEEDED: Please contact Fran Crespi if you are interested and able to help. Training is provided. Please call 508-429-6076 or st.marysre1870@gmail.com. *Please note that R.E. Coordinators are responsible for guiding and assisting both teachers and students in growing in their relationship with Christ and His Church. Since this is done best by example, all parish coordinators are required to be regularly practicing members of the St. Mary's Worshipping Community.*

ADVENT REFLECTION: "The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the House of Israel and Judah" (*Jeremiah 33:14*). During Advent we wait in expectation for Christmas, the birth of Christ our Savior. As the people of Israel waited in expectation for the promised Messiah to arrive and save them from their world of persecution, tension, chaos and exile, so we desire the peace and joy of union with God through Jesus Christ, our Messiah. God's plan for our salvation did not require an army of soldiers and a human king to reign and correct the world's heart of errors. He sent a Baby, Who would restore the graces so needed to bring the heart of the world to conversion back in friendship and union with God. Let us cooperate with God's grace and be filled with **joy, gratitude, and praise** for His promises to us.