



# 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: As announced

## Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays from 9:30 -  
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](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 from Noon to 12:45 PM, or by appointment.

**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!

**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  
 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:** As in previous years this goes entirely to support the retired priests of our Archdiocese. The 2023 Christmas Collection was \$17,225.72. (The pre-pandemic average was \$22,000). If you have not yet given to this important collection, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you to all who already so generously supported these men who have given their lives in God's faithful service!



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

**LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:**

Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,978.50
WeShare:	\$ 3,277.46
Offertory Envelopes Dropped/mailed to the office:	\$ 7,260.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 14,515.96

**Shortfall**                      \$     **484.04**

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/>.

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** Is sponsored this week by the Kevin Reilly Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. If you wish to sponsor the Rose in 2024 please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

**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 gray bin by St. Mary's main parking lot entrance.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 30</b>
5:00	Walter J. Ciampa, Sr., 8 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
7:30	John Hand
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 31</b>
7:30	Parishioners of St. Mary's
9:30	Michael and Mary Lou Ferriero
11:30	Bert Archambault
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 1</b>
9:00	Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 2</b>
9:00	Charlotte Marden
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 3</b>
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 4</b>
9:00	Thomas Howard
<b>Friday</b>	<b>January 5</b>
9:00	Fr. Issa & the People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 6</b>
5:00	Dianne Gootman
7:30	Fran & Agnes Hickey
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 7</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Khalil and Marta Hasrouni
11:30	Mary Ann Hyland

**DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE ~**

**NEXT SUNDAY:** The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass **next Sunday, January 7**, for donuts, juice and coffee! Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be attending and welcome any comments or ideas you have for St. Mary's.



**UPSTAIRS CLOW:** Next Sunday, January 7, the Children's Liturgy of the Word will take place in the main church at the 9:30 AM Mass. Please join us!

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:**

*"To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others and share their burdens (cf. Gal 6:2; Phil 2:2). Each one must show concern, not only for his or her own life, but also for the lives of the other members of the family: their needs, their hopes, their ideals."*

- Pope Saint John Paul II

*"If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family."* - Saint Mother Theresa





## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

I love the story of Simeon in the temple. In fact, today's Gospel is the one I have assigned for my own Funeral Mass someday. Mary and Joseph have brought the infant Christ child to be purified in the great temple in Jerusalem, according to Jewish law. There in the temple is Simeon – a holy man, to whom God had made a promise: that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. And on this glorious day, God's promise to Simeon is fulfilled. He sees Mary and Joseph with their baby. He recognizes the presence of God – and gathers the Infant Christ into his arms. Then, with tears in his eyes, Simeon looks up to heaven and says:

“Lord, now let your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My eyes have seen the salvation You have prepared in the sight of every people; A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people, Israel.”

I want this Gospel Reading, because I hope that I will be like Simeon when my time comes to depart this earth. Not necessarily very old, like Simeon was. But FULFILLED, like Simeon was. The reason that Simeon was able to raise his eyes to heaven and tell God that he was ready to die, was because Simeon was fulfilled. He was totally at peace, with God and neighbor. “Lord, now let your servant go in peace.”

I hope that like Simeon, I may deserve one day to be called a faithful servant of the Lord. Because when this passing life ends, our fidelity to God is the only thing that will matter. The way that we have served God by loving God and neighbor is what will count, when at last we stand before Him. “Lord, now let your servant go in peace.”

Simeon was promised that he would not die before he had seen the messiah – the Christ of God. And in Baptism, we have been promised that we will not die without seeing Jesus' face. No longer the tiny face of an infant. But the face of the Good Shepherd. The risen and triumphant Lord Who broke the chains of death on Easter Day. And Who faces down death again, and again, and again – when any member of His flock passes from this life to the next.

It occurs to me that at times Simeon's faith in the promises of God must have been sorely tested. At first, he was probably very excited to be promised a glimpse of the Messiah. But as days became months, and months became years without it actually happening – he must have wondered if the promise was true. Imagine if

Simeon had given up! If that day he had decided not to go to the temple to pray. If the day Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple – Simeon was someplace else – putting other matters ahead of his faith. But Simeon was there that day. He kept faith with God even when it must have appeared that God was not keeping faith with him. And Simeon's perseverance was rewarded.

We should note that God's word to Simeon was not fulfilled as he expected. Most likely, like others of his time, Simeon was on the lookout for a great general – a military Messiah, to lead Israel to freedom and greatness. Instead, Simeon was shown an infant. An innocent. Who would lead the whole human race out of darkness. To be a light for all the nations, and the glory of God's people, Israel.

Just so will it be for you and me at certain hard times of life. We may doubt the promises of God. But if we keep faith with God, He will keep faith with us. Not in the time we expect perhaps; not in the way we might choose. But in a manner far beyond anything we could have imagined. For in the words of St. Paul, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has conceived the things that God has prepared for those who love him."

A Blessed New Year Everyone!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

### PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Lord of all,  
Bless our families.  
Be they formed by blood or by circumstance,  
Make them holy.  
As you reveal yourself to us in three persons:  
Father, Son, and Spirit,  
And in the relationship that flows among the three,  
May we find you in our relationships.  
In our marriages, in our families  
In our households, in our communities  
In our global humanity.  
May we look across all that divides us  
And see family  
And embrace as a family does.  
And love as a family ought to.  
For where two or three gather in your name  
There are you in the midst.  
There indeed are you,  
The one for whom we long so deeply.  
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

# THE PARENT'S PRAYER

O HEAVENLY FATHER, MAKE ME A GOOD PARENT.

TEACH ME TO UNDERSTAND MY CHILDREN, TO LISTEN PATIENTLY TO WHAT  
THEY HAVE TO SAY AND TO ANSWER ALL THEIR QUESTIONS KINDLY.  
KEEP ME FROM INTERRUPTING THEM OR CONTRADICTING THEM.

MAKE ME AS COURTEOUS TO THEM AS I WOULD HAVE THEM BE TO ME.

FORBID THAT I SHOULD EVER LAUGH AT THEIR MISTAKES OR RESORT TO  
SHAME OR RIDICULE WHEN THEY DISPLEASE ME.

MAY I NEVER PUNISH THEM FOR MY OWN SELFISH SATISFACTION  
OR TO SHOW MY POWER.

LET ME NOT TEMPT MY CHILD TO LIE OR STEAL.

AND GUIDE ME HOUR BY HOUR THAT I MAY DEMONSTRATE BY ALL I SAY  
AND DO THAT HONESTY PRODUCES HAPPINESS.

REDUCE, I PRAY, THE MEANNESS IN ME.

AND WHEN I AM OUT OF SORTS, HELP ME, O LORD, TO HOLD MY TONGUE.

MAY I BE EVER MINDFUL THAT MY CHILDREN ARE CHILDREN AND I SHOULD  
NOT EXPECT FROM THEM THE JUDGEMENT OF ADULTS.

LET ME NOT ROB THEM OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO WAIT ON THEMSELVES  
AND MAKE DECISIONS.

BLESS ME WITH THE WISDOM TO GRANT ALL THEIR REASONABLE REQUESTS,  
AND THE COURAGE TO DENY THEM PRIVILEGES I KNOW WILL DO THEM HARM.

MAKE ME FAIR AND JUST AND KIND.

AND FIT ME, O LORD, TO BE LOVED AND RESPECTED  
AND IMITATED BY MY CHILDREN.

ALL THIS I PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS THE LORD.

AMEN.



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**ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024**, our Music Director Abbey Kelley-Lanser will be relaunching the Children's Choir and the Youth Choir! Rehearsals will be held weekly on Wednesdays in the St. Mary's Lower Church Hall. Our goals are to foster musical community among the groups, to prepare solo or joint choir songs for every other 9:30 AM Sunday Mass and special

events, to learn about God through lifelong, memorable songs and to make a joyful noise unto the Lord! To Sign Up or if you have any questions, contact Abbey at [musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com](mailto:musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com), or call her at 508-429-6076.

Children's Choir: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Graders, Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:15 PM.

Youth Choir: 6<sup>th</sup> Graders and above, Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:15 PM.

First Sung Mass: Sunday, January 28 at 8:45 AM -warmup for the 9:30 AM Mass.

**WHY DO WE SING AT MASS?** St. Augustine once proclaimed that “Singing is for the one who loves (Sermon 336, 1).” Indeed, no one sings about anything unless they are moved by a strong emotion. In the context of our creation, we see quickly that God has given us music as a gift of expression. In giving us music, God gives us a sign of His love for us. With music, we can express our love for God. Our love for Him can be expressed personally, as in a devotional song, or communally in chant or a congregational hymn. By our Baptism, God dwells within us as in a temple. And so, when we pray through song, the Holy Spirit is stirring up the music within us.

Even before the Church began, music has always been a key part of worship. The Jewish tradition of music, which has been inherited by Christianity, includes, for example, the immeasurable treasure trove of the Psalms of King David. There are also other hymns and songs throughout the Old Testament and some in the New Testament as well. The written Word of God is the basis of our music as Christians because the words give us the reality of God’s love for us and the expression of that love to God by the Chosen People of Israel. Even if we do not have the words of all the hymns and songs which were sung, we know that there was a lot of singing. The Last Supper, as a Passover meal, would have had numerous songs which were part of the liturgical celebration. After the Cross and Resurrection, whenever the Church gathered, there would be singing.

Whether our faith is strong or weak, we are emboldened by the singing of hymns in gratitude to God. As Pope Pius XII wrote in *Musicae Sacrae Disciplina*, music can “make the liturgical prayers of the Christian community more alive and fervent so that everyone can praise and beseech the Triune God more powerfully, more intently and more effectively (MSD, 31; cf. 33).”



**MSYG ADULT PLANNING MEETING:** THIS Thursday, January 4, at 7 PM, in Fr. Haley Hall. Any Catholic who attends Mass weekly at St. Mary's and is otherwise living a Catholic life, is invited to assist with this ministry for our Middle School age parishioners. You do not need to have a child in the Youth Group. Please bring your family calendar to the meeting. CORI and Virtus training apply.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~  
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 Summer 2024 Mississippi Mission Trip Forms and the \$200 Mission Trip deposits are due at this Meeting.



## ST. MARY'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IS SPONSORING A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:

**On Saturday, January 20,** 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 <https://www.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.

### Why is it Important to Donate Blood?

About 328 million people currently live in the U.S. Each year, approximately 6.8 million people in the U.S donate blood. Annually, this adds up to about 13.6 million units of whole blood collected for donation in the U.S. The Red Cross provides about 40% of our nation's blood and blood cell components to donors. Your blood donations are used for patients in need of surgery, cancer treatment and transfusions for blood loss from traumatic injuries. Want to know more about the blood supply in the U.S.?

### Why Cancer Patients Need Blood:

For cancer patients, blood transfusions can act as a resource to implement platelets back into the body after heavy treatments such as chemo or radiation therapy. For cancer patients, blood cells that are made in the bone marrow are often at risk. This lack of blood cell production can cause chronic diseases over time which may affect organs such as the kidneys, spleen and liver.

### The Importance of Diversity in the Blood Supply:

Maintaining diversity in the blood supply is essential. Some blood types are quite rare and are likeliest to be found among people with shared ancestral origins.



**MASS FOR UNBAPTIZED CHILDREN:** To provide a sense of closure and to offer our prayers for unbaptized children, St. Mary's will celebrate a special Mass on Monday evening, January 8, 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 8. Add your voice to theirs in Communion with our Lord.

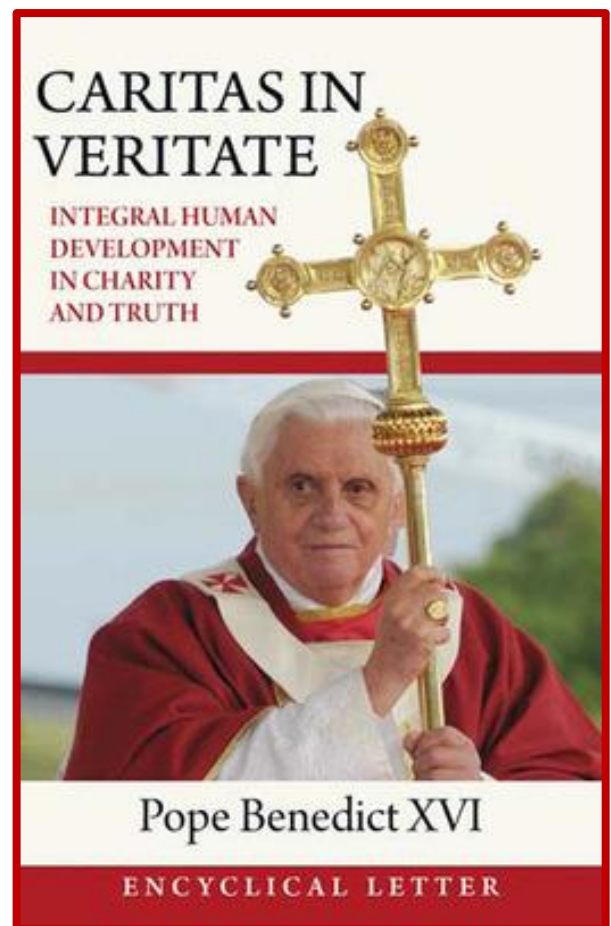
**WINGS WINTER SEASON (Women in God's Spirit):** WINGS is a ministry of encouragement and enrichment for women of all ages who seek to deepen their faith and grow in relationship with God and one another. We have successfully concluded our Fall 2023 In Person and Virtual Season "Prayer – A Conversation 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. Register at: [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:leoaracine@msn.com) for more information or to register.



**CLOW - CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** On January 7 CLOW will resume with children remaining in the main church to participate in the Liturgy of the Word with Fr. Mark.

**NO CLASSES THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1 THROUGH JANUARY 5. CLASSES WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024.**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS WEEK**

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Jan. 7	GR-2 at 8:10 AM	GR-2 at 10:45 AM
	GR-3 at 7:55 AM	GR-3 at 10:45 AM
Mon., Jan. 8	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues., Jan. 9	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-6 at 5:00 PM	GR-10 at 7:00 PM
Wed., Jan. 10	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-8 at 6:00 PM
Thur., Jan. 11	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-5 at 4:00 PM
	GR-10 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., Jan. 14	NO CLASSES	Martin Luther King

**GRADE 2 TEACHER / COORDINATOR**

**MEETING:** Grade 2 teachers are to attend one of the meetings on Thursday, January 4, at 10:00 AM or 7:30 PM in Room 3 – 4. This meeting covers the second semester to prepare the children for their First Holy Communion.

**GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION MASSES 2024:**

Letters to families to select First Communion Masses for their children will be sent out on Friday, January 5, with an index card that must be returned by Friday, March 1, 2024. Early responses will have their choices honored.

**GRADE 7 CHASTITY PROGRAM:**

On Wednesday, January 17, at 6:00 PM and on Sunday, January 21, at 5:00 PM, Linda Thayer, our guest speaker, will address the importance of chastity in the Christian view of human sexuality with the Grade 7 students. All Sunday and Wednesday Students are required to attend. As always, parents are welcome to join us for these presentations.

**GRADE 7 SAFETY SESSIONS:**

Our Grade 7 Safety Sessions will be held on Sunday, January 28, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM and on Wednesday, January 31, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in Rooms 3 - 4 in the Center. Mrs. Catherine Mitchell is the presenter. This is an opportunity for the students to learn what God's gifts are for their personal safety such as their senses, intuition, fear, trusted adults, healthy relationships, getting out of a tight spot; being aware and assertive, keeping friends, and keeping in control of surroundings.

**CONFIRMATION I AND II:** Grade 10 classes meet on Tuesday, January 9 and Thursday, January 11 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**.

**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](mailto: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.*

**NEW YEAR WISHES FOR 2024:** May the New Year bring peace in families and between nations so that the world's people will learn to respect the dignity of all people and cultures. May the leaders of all nations seek and work towards peace and unity and resolve their differences between their neighbors to bring about harmony and justice. God has created all people in His Image and likeness and by sharing our gifts and talents we can better help eliminate poverty. We can help mothers keep their unborn children knowing that they will have the support to provide for their needs to raise their children to be part of a world that will know only peace and joy. It is the acts of forgiveness, kindness, generosity, love, mercy and perseverance that will achieve the goal towards peace. Jesus Christ came not only to atone for our sins but to bring justice to all people, for He is the Light, the Way, and the Truth for the world's people to follow.

**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 weekday and on Channel 4 on Saturday and Sunday only.

*Happy New Year  
Blessings for 2024!*