

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
Email Address: St.marys1870@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427
Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

Dear Visitors: Welcome! We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this day. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and if you are interested in becoming a member of the parish then please register through our website or by calling the rectory. Please also be aware that for generations it has been the custom at St. Mary's to kneel together for a silent Hail Mary at the end of Mass. Please join in!

Confession: Saturdays from 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 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month. To register for Baptism Preparation call 429-4427.

Marriage: Please call at least 6 months in advance of your desired wedding date. Congratulations!

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

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:
"Holliston – Holy Land Friendship Scholarship."

In response to a request from our Sister Parish, Our Lady's in Beit Sahour, the St. Mary's Parish and Finance Councils both voted unanimously to scholarship four Palestinian Catholic children this school year, instead of our usual two. The current war has made it impossible for many to meet tuition, and our support this year will truly be a light and a lifeline for these children. They are: Pellar, a 7th Grade girl; Farah, a 6th Grade boy; Bissan, a 7th Grade girl; and Andrea, an 8th Grade boy. Let us also pray for these children. And let us continue to pray for peace in the Lands made Holy by Christ. Thank you!

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 3,170.00
 WeShare: \$ 4,568.00
 Offertory Envelopes
 Dropped/mailed
 to the office: \$ 5,916.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 13,654.00

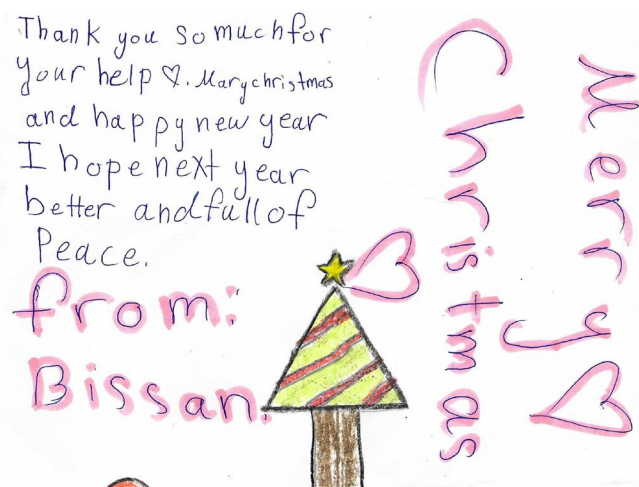
Shortfall \$ 1,346.00


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/>.

DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE ~ TODAY,

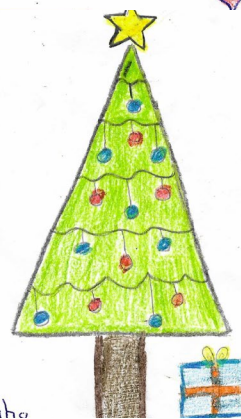
SUNDAY: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass **today**, for donuts, juice and coffee! Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be attending and welcome any comments or ideas you have for St. Mary's.

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

**CARDS FROM THE FOUR CHILDREN WHO
 WILL BENEFIT FROM NEXT WEEKEND'S
 SCHOLARSHIP COLLECTION:**


Merry christmas, Happy New
 year and a new year full of love
 happiness and peace thanks
 andrea 

Happ New year
 On the occasion of
 Christmas, we bid
 Farewell to a year
 and welcome a New
 year to begin with
 great celebrations of
 the birth of Jesus
 Christ. Happy New
 year
 Farah ALI Zahra



I'd like to express my
 gratitude for helping me
 with my tuition fees
 at school.

I wish you all a Merry
 Christmas and a happy
 New year full of joy,
 happiness and prosperity.

Pellar Varayesh



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

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

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

St. John Chrysostom once observed the following about the Epiphany. He said, *"If the Wise Men had come in search of an earthly King, they would have been disconcerted at finding that they had taken the trouble to come such a long way for nothing. Consequently, they would have neither adored nor offered gifts. But since they sought a heavenly King, though they found in Him no signs of royal pre-eminence, yet, content with the testimony of the star alone, they adored: for they saw a man, and they acknowledged a God."*

Let us like the Wise Men look for the heavenly king Jesus, and be ready to accept Him when He manifests His presence in very humble and surprising ways. Let us look for Him especially among the poor and those people God places in our lives who are hurting and in need of our help. To paraphrase St. John, let us *"see men and women, and acknowledge God within them."*

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

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



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



Mass Intentions

Saturday	January 6
5:00	Dianne Gootman
7:30	Fran and Agnes Hickey
Sunday	January 7
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Khalil and Marta Hasrouni
11:30	Mary Ann Hyland
Monday	January 8
9:00	Terry Stewart
7:00	Unbaptized Children

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 this 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.

Tuesday	January 9
9:00	Mike Oleksinski
Wednesday	January 10
9:00	Richard and Patricia Conroy
Thursday	January 11
9:00	Holy Souls
Friday	January 12
9:00	Charlotte Marden
Saturday	January 13
5:00	John Cocchiarella
7:30	Neythen Yoviscin
Sunday	January 14
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Mary and Jeanne Miley
11:30	Donald Taylor

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 + C + M + B + 24

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



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



Attention Children in Grades 3 through 12 ~

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, or call her at 508-429-6076.

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

Youth Choir: 6th 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS: 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.

POINSETTIAS – TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 7: After the 11:30 AM Mass today, Sunday, January 7 please feel free to take home one or two of the beautiful poinsettias. These lovely plants should last several more weeks if watered carefully and protected from the cold. If you can't make it on Sunday the remaining ones will be in Fr. Haley Hall until Tuesday morning after which they will be discarded.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by Steve and Lorri Palmer. 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.

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.

U.S. blood donation facts

And why you should consider donating



Someone in the U.S.
needs blood every
2 seconds.



One donation can
potentially save up
to 3 lives.



Only 3 percent
of people in the U.S.
give blood in a year.



One pint of blood
is taken during a regular
blood donation.



A single car crash victim
can require as many as
100 pints of blood.



Less than 38 percent
of the population is
eligible to give blood.



Less than 10 percent
donate annually.



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.

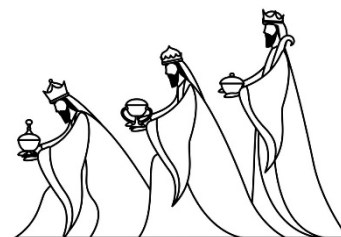
ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, January 9 from 10:30 AM - 12 noon in Fr. Haley Hall. Every week, we will pray together, read reflections according to the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome, there will be a few toys and coloring 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), 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.

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF HELP: Regular coffee, peanut butter, jelly, sugar, ketchup, mayonnaise, Chunky Soup, cookies, canned turkey/chicken, canned fruit, and brownie mixes. Donations may be dropped off in the gray bin by St. Mary's main parking lot entrance.

EPIPHANY WISDOM:

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



"Give me, therefore, I pray Thee, this gold, this incense, and this myrrh. Give me the gold of Thy holy love; give me the spirit of holy prayer, give me the desire and strength to mortify myself in everything that displeases Thee. I am resolved to obey Thee and to love Thee; but Thou knowest my weakness, oh, give me the grace to be faithful to Thee!" - St Alphonsus Liguori

"For by gold the power of a king is signified, by frankincense the honor of God, by myrrh the burial of the body; and accordingly they offer Him gold as King, frankincense as God, myrrh as Man." - St John Chrysostom

"Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die." - St. Peter Chrysologus

"Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the earth, in order to be carried in a woman's arms." - St Augustine



CHRISTMAS THANKS!

On this final day of the Christmas Season, we offer our great gratitude to all those who made our St. Mary's Christmas 2023 celebrations so very beautiful!

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

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

Inside, the Paltrineri's handmade ribbons adorned our wreaths. Linda Truitt, Katie Smith, Cindy Pratt, Angel and Milda Hueca, Margie Winchenbach, Emily Bukow, Ingrid Roth, Kasia, Parker and Ava Snyder helped Najat Whalen arrange the poinsettias in the Church Sanctuary and Father Haley Hall.

Ellie and Abby Winchenbach, and Lila Bausch oversaw the decoration of the Church Sanctuary tree and decorated the Parish Center Lobby tree (put up by Knights Nick Calapa, Paul Saulnier, Don Marden and Joe Boffa) using all the lovely ornaments created several years ago by members of the Spirited Hands Craft Group.

On behalf of the retired priests of our Archdiocese, we thank everyone who contributed to the 2023 Christmas collection which to date has now reached \$18,100.72. Due to the importance of this collection in the lives of our retired priests, we encourage anyone who may have been away from St. Mary's this Christmas to please make their Christmas offering now. This may be done by mailing it to 8 Church Street, placing it in a Mass collection basket, or through the rectory door slot. It must be in a separate envelope clearly labeled "Christmas Collection" in order to differentiate it from the parish offertory.

If you use Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may indicate your Christmas gift electronically, or through the clergy trust website: <https://clergytrust.org/>. Thank you for being there for our retired priests, who gave their lives in faithful service to God's people.

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



CLOW - CHILDREN K-6:
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD, today, January 7, the children will remain in the church with Fr. Mark and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel reading.

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 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.

GRADE 3-7 COORDINATOR / TEACHER MEETING: On Monday, January 29 at 7:30 PM there will be a meeting in Rooms 3 - 4 to go over the events and curriculum plans for the second semester of the 2023-2024 year and planning for 2024-2025.

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 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.*

GRADE 5 GENERAL SESSION ON MARY~ MONDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 4:00 PM:

All Grade 5 classes and homeschooled children are to attend. The Virgin Mary has appeared many times from heaven to little children and has asked that we pray the Rosary daily for the conversion of the heart of the world and for world peace. The world's people had so strayed away from God, and Mary was given to us to be our heavenly Mother at the foot of the Cross as Jesus was in His Passion. We are her children and she gave us the means to bring about peace and unity by praying the Rosary, a sacramental, focusing on the life of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Rosary is the weapon to fight against the evil in the world and to convert the lukewarm and indifferent hearts back to God. Let this New Year be a time to pray this powerful weapon for justice and peace. It takes just twenty minutes each day to meditate on just one of the four sets of five mysteries. Parents are also welcome to attend this session. Blessed Rosary beads will be available for all the children and guests.



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.