



St. Mary's Parish

Mass Schedule:

Monday through Friday
9:00 AM

Saturday Vigils
5:00 PM
7:30 PM

Sunday
7:30 AM
9:30 AM Family Mass
(C.L.O.W. Sept. - May)
11:30 AM Sung Mass

Holy Days: Announced

Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays 9:30 - 10:30 AM,
Thursdays in Lent 7 - 8 PM

Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Email Address: St.marys1870@gmail.com

Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427

Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

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

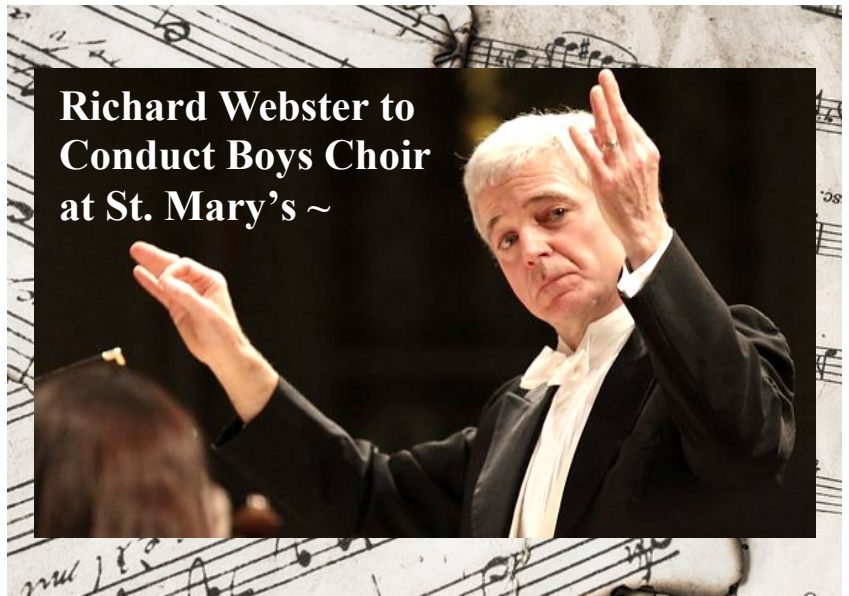
Confession: Saturdays
Noon to 12:45 PM,
Thursdays in Lent 7 - 8 PM

Anointing of the Sick: Any time by appointment. Please call as soon as you are aware of a serious illness or upcoming surgery.

Baptism: The 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!

Church musician, conductor, organist and composer - Richard Webster retired in 2022 as Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston, where he co-founded the Trinity Choristers in 2005. Richard led the Trinity choirs on five tours of England, with residencies at York Minster; Westminster Abbey; Durham, Ely, Lincoln, Chichester, Salisbury, Wells, Winchester and St. Paul's Cathedrals. During his tenure, Trinity's 1926 Skinner nave organ, Opus 573, was successfully renovated and a new 4-manual Skinner replica console added.



Richard Webster to Conduct Boys Choir at St. Mary's ~

As a composer/arranger he completes several commissioned works a year. His hymn arrangements for brass, percussion, organ and congregation are heard across the world, including the CBC's Christmas and Easter broadcasts, BBC's "Songs of Praise," at a hymn festival in Sweden's Lund Cathedral, in an Australian celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and on a recording of hymns from Taiwan. Webster's works are published by Augsburg Fortress, Church Music Society, Church Publishing, Selah, and Advent Press, which publishes his music exclusively, www.advent-press.com.

Mr. Webster is Music Director of Chicago's Bach Week Festival, which celebrates its Golden anniversary this year, featuring some of the nation's most acclaimed musicians, www.bachweek.org.

Sought after as a choral clinician, he has led choir courses and workshops across the U.S., South Africa and New Zealand. He is an honorary Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music (FRSCM), and holds the Doctor of Music degree, honoris causa, from the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn. On April 21 he was given the Distinguished Artist Award by the American Guild of Organists at a hymn festival he conducted at Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church. He is a guest lecturer at Yale's Institute of Sacred Music.

Richard has performed and recorded as organist with the Chicago Symphony and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestras. He is Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Evanston, Illinois, where, from 1974 to 2003 he directed the Choir of Men and Boys, the Girls Choir, Schola and the St. Luke's Singers. The restoration of the celebrated 1922 Ernest M. Skinner organ, Opus 327, at St. Luke's was accomplished under his leadership.



A native of Nashville, Mr. Webster studied organ with the late Peter Fyfe, Karel Paukert and Wolfgang RübSam. He was a Fulbright Scholar to Great Britain, as Organ Scholar at Chichester Cathedral under the late John Birch.

ST. PAUL'S BOY CHOIR ~ LENTEN CONCERT

This Friday, March 1, 7 - 8 PM
in St. Mary's Church.



**Grace your Lent with an evening
of rapturous music by the internationally
acclaimed Boys Choir of St. Paul's
Archdiocesan Choir School in Cambridge.**

**Conducted by Richard Webster and
accompanied by Organist Brandon Straub.**

**The Choir will perform works by Rheinberger,
Bach and Vivaldi, among others.**

The Concert is free and open to all.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Sons, and the death of sons, is very much the focus of today's scripture readings. First Abraham is instructed to sacrifice his only child, Isaac, to the Lord. In obedience, Abraham passes this terrible test of faith, his hand stayed at the very last moment by the angel of the Lord. A ram caught in a nearby thicket takes Isaac's place on the altar of sacrifice, even as one day Jesus would take our place on the altar of the Cross. The same God who spared Abraham from having to lose his son Isaac, did not spare Himself the loss of Jesus Christ. Even as Isaac was the only and beloved son of Abraham, so Jesus was the only beloved Son of the Father.

"This is my Son, my beloved," says God in today's Gospel reading, a reminder that the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins involved not only Jesus' pain, but also the suffering of the Father. Perhaps only Abraham, standing with knife raised over Isaac, can really understand the sacrifice, which God the Father was willing to undergo for love of you and me. Let us consider this gift anew in awe and humble gratitude.

Although they pale in comparison to God's sacrifice for us, we are all called to make sacrifices during this Lenten season. Since the earliest days of the Church, for instance, the Lenten practices of fasting and almsgiving have been linked. Consider these words from the Shepherd of Hermas (1st century A.D.). "On the day when you fast, take only bread and wine. Calculate the amount of food you would have taken on other days, put aside the money you would have spent on it and give it to the widow, the orphan or the poor." Our fasting, then, is meant to directly result in a monetary gift to those in need. In this way it does not only spiritually benefit us but makes a practical difference in the lives of the poor, God's most beloved children.

The degree to which we are all willing to sacrifice for those in need comes before us in a particular way this March with the launch of the 2024 Catholic Appeal. The Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish – the main source of funding for essential ministries. In this time when so many find themselves in economic distress, the work of the Catholic Church is making a difference in more lives than ever before. But it is only possible if we each do

our part. So please, give generously according to your means, especially if you have not given recently. As Jesus once said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be." (LK 12:34) I pray that this Lent will find our hearts very much with our brothers and sisters in need. That is after all where Jesus Himself is to be found.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



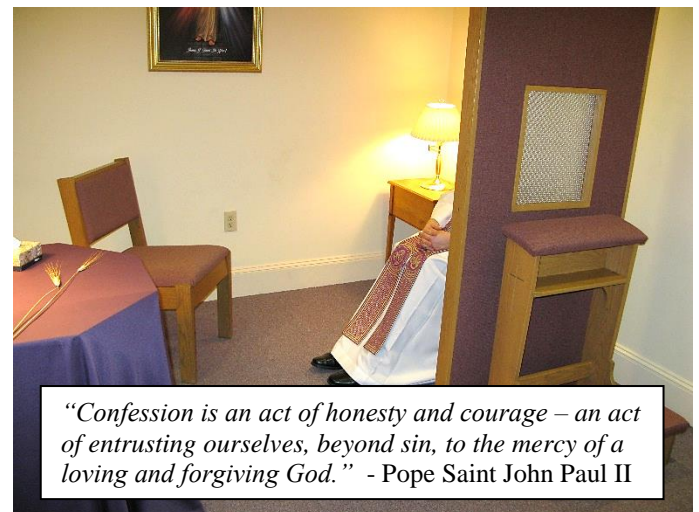
MEETING JESUS ~ LENTEN OFFERINGS

MEET HIM IN ADORATION AND A GOOD CONFESSION ~



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

- February 29:** Please pray for Peace in Ukraine.
- March 7:** Please pray for Peace and Unity in our Nation.
- March 14:** Please pray for Reverence for all Human Life.
- March 21:** Please pray for Freedom from Addictions.



"Confession is an act of honesty and courage – an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God." - Pope Saint John Paul II

MEET HIM AROUND THE TABLE, FRIDAY LENTEN SUPPERS ~

Join us for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's Family!

Fridays at 6 PM: March 1
(beginning at 5:30 PM as the St. Paul Boys Choir performs at 7 PM), 8, 15 and 22.



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. This year, in an effort to be more inclusive of our multigenerational parish family, we are creating a buddy system for those wanting to attend our Lenten Suppers but feel constricted because of nighttime driving or their inability to drive. If you would like to be added to the sign up to be paired with a driver for any of our Lenten Suppers, please email Natalie at st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com.

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

If you'd like to help, please email Natalie Pomarico at st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com. You will be added to the Lenten Supper Volunteer Group. A weekly 'Sign Up Genius' goes out via email to the volunteer base and individuals sign up for available food/drink slots. Volunteer participation varies week to week, some volunteer once during the six weeks, some commit to every week and others dip in and out of helping. Thank you!

MEET HIM FOR FORTY HOURS, SUNDAY, MARCH 10 TO TUESDAY, MARCH 12 ~



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 to visit with the Lord in prayer. The Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Additionally, three special dimensions surround this devotion:

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

FORTY HOURS SCHEDULE:

Sunday, March 10

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

Monday, March 11

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

Tuesday, March 12

9:00 AM Closing Mass with
Benediction



Anyone and everyone is welcome at any time without signing up. But we need a minimum of two people committed to each specific hour the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed for Adoration. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-40hours2>.

MEET HIM WITH THE SAINTS, SUNDAY, MARCH 17 ~

The Holy Relics of **more than one hundred saints** will be Exposed for Veneration at St. Mary's on Sunday, March 17, from 6 – 8 PM in the church. They include relics of St Francis of Assisi, St. Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower), and St. Anthony of Padua. Also, some of the rarest relics of the Passion will be present.



The Exposition will begin with a presentation and teaching about relics that is aimed at answering most questions the guests come with. Spiritual points are made about praying, intercession, and healing. Emphasis is on the Gospel message of healing to bring people to encounter Jesus.

There is no cost, but a free will offering basket will be available to support the Relic Ministry. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be available during the Relic Exposition for anyone facing serious illness – mental or physical.

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 THIS WEEKEND:

The Church Around the World. This collection supports the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe, the Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your donations will help fund spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs.

SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:

Catholic Charities \$3,276.72, thank you!

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 7,150.50
WeShare:	\$ 3,393.41
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 8,524.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 19,067.91

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 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, March 3, for

donuts, juice and coffee! Come enjoy the chance to connect with and get to know your fellow parishioners. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be attending DJC and welcome any comments or ideas you have for St. Mary's. Please join us! ☺

UPSTAIRS FOR KIDS NEXT SUNDAY: It being the First Sunday of the month, there will be an upstairs Interactive Children's Homily at our 9:30 AM Mass!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 24
9:00	For Freedom from Domination by Worldly Things
5:00	Regina Duval
7:30	Joan Quigley and Cecelia Mason
Sunday	February 25
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Leslie Ann Higgins
11:30	John Cocchiarella
Monday	February 26
9:00	Our Nation
Tuesday	February 27
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday	February 28
9:00	Rev. Edward C. McDonagh
Thursday	February 29
9:00	Patricia Sullivan
Friday	March 1
9:00	Matthew D'Agostino
Saturday	March 2
5:00	Regina Duval
7:30	Matthew Feddersen
Sunday	March 3
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Orlando Susi
11:30	Ambrosio Bolandrina

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by Karen Borghi. Please pray for an unborn child today.

FOR OUR YOUTH!

T.G.I.F (Teens Gather In Faith): Tonight, Sunday, February 25, TGIF Monthly Meeting, 7 – 8:45 PM. Saturday, March 9: Homeless Lunch Making, Shelter Tour, and Mall Scavenger Hunt.

YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: TGIF Youth Leader Ryan Kramer will be offering a Bible Study for young men (aged 14-18) who desire to grow closer to God and learn more about the faith. The Bible Study will be focused on who God is, why He is essential for our lives, and how to build a loving relationship with Him. If interested, email st.marystgif1870@gmail.com.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next MSYG Meeting is next Sunday, March 3 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. There will be a presentation on both this summer's Whitewater Rafting Trips, and sign-ups for the Grade 8 Kennebec Trip. Also, there will be sign-ups for the Friday, March 15 BINGO Service Trip, and Friday, March 22, Late Night Cosmic Bowling!

WINGS WINTER SEASON (Women in God's Spirit): Our WINGS 2024 Winter Bible Study in person and via Zoom continues this week, Wednesday, February 28, at 10 AM. Our speaker will be Joe Javorski. Joe is a previous WINGS speaker, is a member of the Vision of Peace Prayer Group and an experienced Bible study leader. WINGS is using Kevin Perrotta's book "Becoming a Praying Person" as our study guide. This week's chapter 5, "My Soul Magnifies the Lord" focuses on Luke 1:26 to 56 and may be found here. Please join us even if you don't have access to the study book. Babysitting is available. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Diane @508-259-7795.

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, February 27 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.

SMCWG: The St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will hold our next meeting on Wednesday, March 13 in the Church Library at 12 noon. Please bring your lunch and a drink. We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day, so please wear green. There will be a prize for the best outfit. All are welcome.

SHADOWS WOMEN'S SHELTER DRIVE: Hello everyone! My name is Grace Burgett and I am a St. Mary's Senior at Holliston High School. I am part of National Honor Society, and once again for my leadership project, I am making gift baskets for Shadows Women's Shelter in Ashland, MA, to be delivered for Easter. I am looking for donations of products or money donations. The cost of a whole basket is \$50. A \$15 donation covers the cost of a Fun Pack, which includes 3 items already purchased to go in the basket. Money and product donations are being collected from Saturday, February 17 until Monday, March 18. Money donations may be made through Venmo: @Burgett6. A donation box for items is found in the Parish Center Lobby. Following is a list of items needed: Hand Cream, 3 or 5 ounces; Lip Balm, Chapstick or any other brand; Cosmetics, mascara, eye shadow, blush; Nail Polish, any color or any brand; Candy, Lindt truffles, Jelly Beans, Starburst. All donations are very much appreciated! Thank you so much! Grace Burgett



ARE YOUR FINANCIAL DECISIONS ALIGNED WITH YOUR FAITH? All St. Mary's parishioners are invited to a special, no-obligation information session sponsored by St. Mary's Knights of Columbus in Father Haley Hall at 7:00 PM on March 11. Light refreshments will be served and no reservations are needed. K of C Financial Agent Matt DiCalogero will give an overview of all the financial products offered by the Knights of Columbus and answer your questions. The Knights offer life insurance, long-term care and disability insurance, annuities, and retirement investment funds. Underlying investments in all of these products align with Catholic teaching. With 42 consecutive years of superior ratings from A.M. Best, Knights of Columbus insurance products are strong, high performers that respect Catholic values. Many commercial financial providers invest in companies and policies that are contrary to Catholic teaching. Are your retirement investments and insurance coverages aligned with your Catholic faith?



WORCESTER CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE "YOU SHALL KNOW THE LORD"

MARCH 16: To all men of St. Mary's, join us for a Lenten Retreat and spend a day hearing witnesses to Christ's call for holiness. On Saturday, March 16, the Worcester Diocese will hold its 23rd Annual Catholic Men's Conference at the DCU Center. Come and hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders: Deacon Harold Burke-Silvers, James Wahlberg, Michael Nicholson, Monseigneur Thomas Sullivan, and Bishop Robert McManus. Confessions, Adoration, and Closing Mass at 4:00 PM. Lunch is included in the fee. Adult tickets are \$50 until March 4, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30. Tickets will NOT be available at the door. To register go to catholicmenworc@gmail.com. Some of our St. Mary's Knights of Columbus have enjoyed attending prior conferences and will organize a carpool for attending the Conference. To join our carpool, contact Thomas Brodo at 508 429-6576 or Mitchell Liro at 508 429-6098.

LENTEN PRACTICES: During this holy season of penitence, Catholics abstain from eating meat on Fridays, and minimally fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Learn more by clicking [HERE](#).

CLOW - CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD, today, Sunday, February 25, 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. **Please note: Very young children must be accompanied by their parents** and able to sit and engage in the lesson. Older children are welcome to assist the adult leaders.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS WEEK

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Feb. 25	GR-2 at 8:10 AM	GR-2 at 10:45 AM
	GR-3 at 7:55 AM	GR-3 at 10:45 AM
	GR-6 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 5:00 PM
Mon., Feb. 26	*GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-8 at 6:00 PM
Tues., Feb. 27	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-10 at 7:00 PM	
Wed., Feb. 28	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-7 at 6:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Thur., Feb. 29	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-10 at 7:00 PM

GRADE 3 SAFETY SESSION: This session is scheduled for today, February 25 at 7:55 AM and 10:45 AM. Presenter is Mrs. Crespi. View the program at: www.VIRTUSonline.org. Enter the **User Name: Parent_Boston** and then the **Password is: EGCBoston1**. When you are in the landing page click on the **education tab** at the top. You can view the Lesson plans for Grades K - 12. *Please view this program before the Safety classes.*

***GRADE 5 CLASS ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS:** On Monday, February 26, all Grade 5 students, including Homeschooled students are to attend the session in the church at 4:00 PM with Deacon John Barry. The students will learn how men are called by God to serve the Church as priests, what kind of education and formation in the seminary is necessary before ordination. Students will also learn about the Diaconate and how an ordained deacon serves the Church. Then the students will view a film in Fr. Haley Hall on the priesthood. Pickup will be at 5:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

GRADE 6 SAFETY SESSION: This Tuesday, February 27, the 5:00 PM class will join with the at 4:00 PM class for a Safety session with our presenter, Mrs. Catherine Mitchell. Students will learn what God's gifts are for their personal safety such as their instincts, senses, intuition, fear, trusted adults, healthy relationships, and keeping in control of their surroundings.

CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grade 10 Classes meet on Tuesday, February 27 and Thursday, February 29 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Students are to check into Fr. Haley Hall for their classes.

GRADE 9 AND 10 VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED: Our Grade 2 Family Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, from 12:30 to 4:30 PM. We will need several teens to assist the children with crafts, a play, and many other activities. Our First Communion Masses are on Saturday, June 8 and June 15 at 10:30 AM and we would love to have four teens at each Mass to assist with many tasks. If you are interested in helping and need service hours please contact Fran at 508-429-6076 or at st.marysdre1870@gmail.com.



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRF): During Lent this year we are inviting all families in the Religious

Education Program to join with other ministries within St. Mary's Parish community of faith to take part in a very worthy cause to help all families in the Holy Land directly affected by the war. The CEO of CRF has reported first hand of the tragedies of the war and the efforts to get water, food and medical supplies into the area. Students will be bringing home the CRF Rice bowl boxes and inside is a calendar with ideas and reflections for a Faith filled Lent. Please turn in the Rice Bowls with your gifts at the end of Lent to the Religious Education office. *Thank you.*

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN 2024: Please donate your coins to Pennies from Heaven, which can be dropped off in the lobby of the Parish Center during the 2024 Lenten season. The entire proceeds from this collection will be sent to Sierra Leone for the benefit of 53 children living at the Fatima Home for Orphans. Your help will be a wonderful gift for the many needs of the children, including their educational and living expenses. Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness to these children.

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 22 – 26, for St. Mary's 17th Annual Vacation Bible School! Our VBS is a weeklong celebration of faith with song, arts, crafts, movies, drama and Scripture. Registrations will be open on April 1. Adult and teen volunteers will be needed for setup and station activities. Letters will be mailed to families in March. Teens entering GR-7 and older can volunteer for VBS.