



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!

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 LAST WEEKEND:
 Church Around the World ~ \$ 3,088.66, thank you!

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 2,385.00
WeShare:	\$ 5,999.00
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 8,083.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 16,467.00

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 THIS WEEKEND: The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to come down to Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass today, Sunday, March 3, for donuts, juice and coffee! Come enjoy the chance to connect with fellow parishioners. Members of the Parish Council will be attending and welcome any comments or ideas you have for St. Mary's. Join us!

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by Nick and Nancy D'Agostino in memory of their son, Matthew D'Agostino. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. To sponsor the Rose for Life, please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: We offer a grocery store shopping experience where Holliston residents are able to select from close to 500 quality food items, including: milk, beef, chicken, fish, pork, seasonal produce, eggs, cheese, yogurt, canned soups, beans, pastas, cereals, coffee, snacks, and much more. We also offer personal care items like shampoo, laundry detergent, soap and toothpaste. For more assistance, please contact us at (508) 429-5392 or at info.hollistonpantryshelf@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday	March 4
9:00	Frank Mulcahy, 2 nd Anv.
Tuesday	March 5
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday	March 6
9:00	Rev. James J. McCarthy
Thursday	March 7
9:00	Vasco and Pauline Brovelli
Friday	March 8
9:00	Fr. Issa & the People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour
Saturday	March 9
5:00	Roy Salvi, 4 th Anv.
7:30	Charlie and Rose Dahlgren
Sunday	March 10
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Marie Croke
11:30	40 Hours Devotion ~ Opening Mass



FASTING: Catholics over eighteen and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

ABSTINENCE: Catholics over fourteen years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. On abstinence days, meat may not be used at all. Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended. Commendable, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the concept of "mortification."



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

“Contemptus Mundi.” This spiritual phrase means not “contempt” for the world – but rather “detachment” from the world. The world is a blessed thing, created good by God, then corrupted, but still the place in which God calls each of us to serve Him. The challenge is to live in the world while not being of the world. The world is fine – “worldliness,” can become a deadly distraction.

Jesus makes this clear in today's Gospel by His reaction to the money changers and purveyors of livestock in the great Temple of Jerusalem. Both were necessary to the Jewish worship of that day – money changers were needed to change the Roman coins with their graven images of the emperor into coins acceptable as temple offerings. Similarly, the animals were necessary to purchase as sacrifices to God.

But these things which in and of themselves were innocuous, had become corrupted. The money changers charged extortion rates. The livestock for sacrifice had to be purchased from the temple flocks so you had to pay a lot more for them. Even worse, all this commercial activity had moved from the outer courtyard to the inside of the temple itself. It was a distraction from prayer, as merchants winked at godly values in order to make quick cash.

And so Jesus drives forth those who had desecrated His Father's house, showing us by His actions never to let the things of this world get too strong a hold over us. Money, clothes, houses, cars, popularity, position, pleasure - anything that we find ourselves valuing more than a holy relationship with God and neighbor, needs to be returned to its proper priority.

In a sense, the purification of the temple by Jesus is a model for what we all are called to accomplish during these 40 Days of Lent. Contemptus Mundi – detachment, from the things of this world. We do it by fasting – not just on the 2 required days of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday – but frequently, as our health allows. We do it by giving to the poor, not just out of our surplus, but sacrificially – in ways that have a real impact on the way we live. We do it by turning our eyes away from our possessions, and the riches of our neighbors – in order to raise our eyes to heaven in prayer. Heaven, our true home and final destination.

Jesus used a whip fashioned of chords to purify the temple. And in the same way we take up the Lenten chords of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – to drive away this world's influence over us. To remind ourselves that we are not citizens of this world trying to make our way to heaven, but rather that we are citizens of heaven trying to make our way through this world.

God bless you.



Rev. Mark J. Coiro

40 HOURS DEVOTION

Thank you to all who have already committed to a specific hour of Adoration during this year's Forty Hours Devotion. The Devotion begins next Sunday, March 10 at the 11:30 AM Mass, and continues through the Closing Benediction Mass, Tuesday, March 12 at 9 AM.



Many more volunteers are still needed to assure the Devotion can go forward in our parish for the nineteenth straight year.

Please sign up today to spend a particular hour with the Lord:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-40hours2>.

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.



SAINTS AMONG US, 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 **Fr. Haley Hall**. They include relics of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower), and St. Anthony of Padua. 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.

ADORATION AND 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:

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.



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 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 created 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 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.

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 help every week and others occasionally.



FORWARD in FAITH



My Dear Friends in Christ:

The Catholic Appeal is an exercise of love.

Through the Catholic Appeal, we respond to our call to love God and one another, actively helping others to realize the hope for a better future. For many, the line between hope and despair is thin. The Appeal serves as a tangible sign of our concern for those in need and allows us to bring them the presence of the Lord, to heal brokenness and restore hope. For so very many, our outreach is the light that helps them find a way forward.

Pope Francis often cites St. Paul's call for us not to be complacent or grow weary of doing good. **With recognition of the many people who look to us for assistance, now, more than ever, I humbly ask for your support of the Catholic Appeal.** This year, I am hopeful that, as a family of faith, we may unite in our involvement because extraordinary participation will have an extraordinary impact for our neighbors in need.

Please know of my gratitude for your generosity and compassion. Together, we affirm our belief that suffering and disappointment can be transformed into new life through the power of our being witnesses and agents of Christ's unconditional love.

Asking God's blessings upon you and all whom you hold dear, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ Sean, OFM Cap

Archbishop of Boston

EXTRAORDINARY PARTICIPATION *creates* EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

As Catholics, we are all called to be stewards of our faith. Every person's gift to the Catholic Appeal unifies our Archdiocese and weaves us together into God's tapestry of care. The urgency of need in our communities is great. Your generosity has an extraordinary impact on the life of the Church and its ability to touch, heal, and serve the thousands of lives in our Archdiocese through programs and ministries such as these:

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

Gifts to the Catholic Appeal serve thousands of lives across the Archdiocese through ministries like our hospital chaplaincy programs that bring pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and sacraments to patients and health care workers in dark hours of crisis.

No matter the hour, chaplains bring compassion, support, and love to those who are facing fear, illness, and even death. They minister to staff and strengthen them spiritually as they care for others. They walk with families through times of great joy and great sorrow. They carry a sense of calm and peace into moments of crisis, relying on the power of listening and their quiet presence to communicate Christ's loving companionship, even in the darkest hours.

"We see a lot of trauma incidents. Some nights we may get called 2-5 times to a bedside. We spend time with the patient and family and simply comfort them. And then we use our discretion as to when to leave them alone." — **Fr. Ignatius Nze, Hospital Chaplain**

Through the Hospital Chaplaincy program, Catholics and non-Catholics experience comfort and grace and come to know that they are not alone.

ARCHDIOCESE
of BOSTON

1800+
PREGNANCY
HELP CENTER
REQUESTS
EACH YEAR

65,000
CHAPLAIN
PATIENT VISITS

12
MEN ADMITTED
TO SEMINARIES
EACH YEAR





PARISH VIBRANCY

The Catholic Appeal fortifies our parishes so that each congregation's unique culture can flourish and grow in vibrancy. Diverse parish ministries and programs foster connectedness where every person can feel a sense of belonging.

"Parishes are families made up of families. And as families, we have to support each other and build each other up so that we can all thrive together. That's what the Catholic Appeal does, in my view – it allows us to help each other thrive."

The Appeal supports us behind the scenes; there are so many things that are hidden, that people don't see when they come to Mass on Sunday. But, if we don't have them, we don't function. We don't thrive." —**Fr. Marc Bishop, Pastor of the Catholic Parishes of Arlington**

It is in our parishes that our faith comes alive in holiness and happiness, where we share each other's burdens and celebrate the milestones of life. Where the Gospel is proclaimed and where believers are formed. Where we find a continual font of support for our Christian discipleship.

Parishes are communities of mission, purpose, and action; they are the home of our Christian communities and the heart of our Catholic Church.

VOCATIONS

Appeal contributions sustain vocation and youth ministry programs where the next generation is formed and prepared to lead our Church.

Vocations are integral to the life of the Church. Through the Office of Vocations, a new generation of priests and deacons are formed and supported to lead our Church forward in faith. Others are called to joyfully explore the potential of God's call on his or her life and be supported in their prayer and discernment. Gifts to the Appeal are vital in the active promotion of vocations by which each of us learns of God's intricate design on our lives.

"We accompany every year dozens and dozens of men, young and old, who hear that faint question and feel that subtle nudge – 'could Jesus be inviting me to follow after Him, and to love His people, as a priest?' Because of your help, we are able to admit over 12 men to our seminaries every year – where they are formed to become priests who will bring Jesus to you and your families." —**Fr. Eric Cadin, Director of Vocations**

Through the Office of Vocations, the perpetuation of our Catholic faith finds hope as young men come to hear God's call and follow Him.





Let's move Forward in Faith together with a gift to this year's Catholic Appeal. Help to share Christ's hope and love with all those who seek it.

If you have received Cardinal Seán's letter in the mail and already made your gift or pledge, thank you! If not, there are several ways you can participate in the 2024 Catholic Appeal:

- Use an in-pew envelope and return it to your parish. Most parishes will conduct an in-pew presentation next week during Masses.
- Make an online donation by scanning the code below or visiting bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now



For a greater sustained impact, select the recurring gift option. Your monthly donation will continue until you tell us to stop.

- Make a gift through your Donor-Advised Fund using Tax ID #04-2106175 (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston) and include Catholic Appeal and your home parish in the donation details.
- Make a planned gift in the form of a bequest, stock or property transfer, IRA distribution, or charitable gift annuity.

To learn more, visit bostoncatholicappeal.org/ways-to-give.
Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law: Tax ID #04-2106175.



Stay Connected
Follow us on social
[@givebostoncatholic](https://twitter.com/givebostoncatholic)

~ For Our Youth ~

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

MSYG TONIGHT! SUNDAY, MARCH 3, from 6:30 – 8 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

We will be making Easter Cards for senior citizens at St. Patrick Manor. Each of you will be given a resident's name to pray for during this holy Season of Lent. There will also be a presentation on this summer's Whitewater Rafting Trips, including a video. And as always, prayer, faith, friendship and fun!

The Summer Rafting Sign Ups are TONIGHT!
7th and 8th Grade Kennebec Rafting is June 23 - 24.
6th Grade Deerfield Rafting is August 16.

WHAT TO BRING TONIGHT: ALL ~ \$5 Monthly Dues

TRIP CHOICES:

- Permission Form & Payment for Cosmic Bowling.
- Permission Form & Payment for 7th and 8th Grade Kennebec Rafting.
- Permission Form & Payment for 6th Grade Deerfield Rafting.
- Permission Form & Payment for 8th Grade Nursing Home BINGO.



TGIF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

TGIF NEXT WEEKEND: SUNDAY, MARCH 10, from 7:00 – 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. There will be sign ups for the March 22 TGIF Lenten Supper Hosting and several Mission Trip Updates. Photos from the February 25 TGIF Meeting Below!



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 Monday, 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.

BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarship Applications are now available at <https://stmarysholliston.com/> under REGISTER/PARISH FORMS. This \$2,000 scholarship is granted in recognition of exceptional service to the St. Mary's Parish Family. Applicants must meet the following criteria: Graduating from High School in the Spring of 2024; Accepted to a four-year college or university to commence classes in the Fall of 2024; Family registered at St. Mary's Parish for at least two full years; Completed Religious Education and received the Sacrament of Confirmation; Attend Mass weekly at St. Mary's, and are otherwise living out their Catholic faith. Applications are due to the Scholarship Committee by Easter Sunday, March 31. The Scholarship will be presented at St. Mary's Mass for the Graduating Class of 2024, Sunday, May 12 at 11:30 AM.



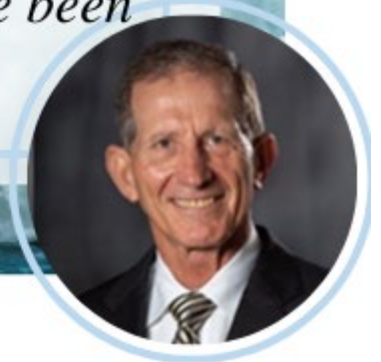
ST. AUGUSTINE ON TODAY'S GOSPEL: *"God's temple is holy," and you are that temple: all you who believe in Christ and whose belief makes you love him. Real belief in Christ means love of Christ: it is not the belief of the demons who believed without loving and therefore despite their belief said: "What do you want with us, Son of God?"*

No; let our belief be full of love for him we believe in, so that instead of saying: "What do you want with us," we may rather say: We belong to you, you have redeemed us. All who believe in this way are like the living stones which go to build God's temple, and like the rot-proof timber used in the framework of the ark which the flood waters could not submerge. It is in this temple, that is, in ourselves, that prayer is addressed to God and heard by him. But to pray in God's temple we must pray in the peace of the Church, in the unity of the body of Christ, which is made up of many believers throughout the world. When we pray in this temple our prayers are heard, because whoever prays in the peace of the Church prays in spirit and in truth.

Our Lord's driving out of the temple people who were seeking their own ends, who came to the temple to buy and sell, is symbolic. For if that temple was a symbol it obviously follows that the body of Christ, the true temple of which the other was an image, has within it some who are buyers and sellers, or in other words, people who are seeking their own interests and not those of Jesus Christ. But the temple was not destroyed by the people who wanted to turn the house of God into a den of thieves, and neither will those who live evil lives in the Catholic Church and do all they can to convert God's house into a robber's den succeed in destroying the temple. The time will come when they will be driven out by a whip made of their own sins.

“For last night an angel of the God to whom (I) belong and whom I serve stood by me and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You are destined to stand before Caesar; and behold, for your sake, God has granted safety to all who are sailing with you.’ Therefore, keep up your courage, men; I trust in God that it will turn out as I have been told.”

ACTS 27:23-25



WINGS WINTER SEASON (Women in God’s Spirit): The last session in our WINGS (Women in God’s Spirit) 2024 Winter Bible Study in person and via Zoom will be this Wednesday, March 6 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. Chapter 6, “Shipwreck!” focuses on Acts 27 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 or Jen @617-852-9632.

ST. MARY’S MOM’S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, March 5 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

CLOW - CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD, today, Sunday, March 3 the children will remain in the church with their family to hear what Jesus has to tell us in the Gospel reading.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS WEEK

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., March 3	PRE-K at 9:15 AM	GR-4 at 10:45 AM
	GR-5 at 10:45 AM	
Mon., March 4	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues., March 5	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-9 at 7:00 PM
Wed., March 6	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Thur., March 7	GR-9 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., March 10	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	

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR GRADES K - 5: Good Friday is March 29, 2024 and letters are being sent out to families with children in Grades K – 5, inviting the children to participate in our traditional Stations of the Cross Tableau at Noon. All families with young children are encouraged to take the time and walk with Jesus on His way to the Cross. A Cantor will guide the families to sing the solemn hymns for each Station. Rehearsals for the Stations of the Cross are on Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27 from 4:30 to 5:45 PM. Please encourage your children to participate so they will learn the importance of Good Friday.

VBS SAVE THE DATE: JULY 22 - 26, for the 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.

VBS DONATION REQUESTS AND WISH LIST: Pool Noodles – (with hole down the center), Foam board (36x48), tissue paper - bright colors, wooden marshmallow sticks (approx. 30 inches long), dowels – 12-inches long, ¼ inch thick, coffee filters (with wavy edges - not cone-shaped), craft wire - 12 gauge and 20 gauge, spray foam (Great Stuff brand), black poster paper, floral foam for artificial flowers, mesh ribbon with wire in bright colors, Koosh balls/squish balls - anything you think looks like it could belong on a coral reef, flat screen TV boxes, appliance boxes, styro-foam packaging inserts, large shipping boxes, bright spray paint - leftovers welcome (Aqua, Lime Green, orange, coral, yellow, black, etc),

VBS DONATION REQUESTS ~ CONTINUED: Plastic bottle caps – large cup style (laundry detergent), spray paint, some juice bottles), clean cardboard egg cartons, 2-liter soda bottles (with straight sides), paper towel tubes, shipping tubes, **BORROWED ITEMS NEEDED:** Snorkels, flippers, large fish tank, 8-lb bowling ball, large stuffed or inflatable sea animals, human dummy (to put inside a wetsuit).

VBS WISHLIST: These additional items are not required but would be a blessing for our VBS participants ~ spaghetti confetti, photo booth backdrop stand, ocean photo booth props, silly sea life glasses, scuba back-packs for crew leaders, sea life clay rollers, ocean sticky notes, exercise ball to make an octopus, dryer vent tubes to make an octopus - 6 needed. All donations may be placed in the box under the SCUBA display in the St. Mary's lobby. For larger/delicate items, please drop off to the R.E. Office during business hours. Contact us at stmarysvbsholliston@gmail.com with questions.

CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grade 9 Classes meet on Tuesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 7 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Students are to check into Fr. Haley Hall for their classes.



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS): 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 CRS 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 CRS 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.