



THIS WEEK – 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 day or night to visit with the Lord in prayer.

Sunday, March 10

11:30 AM Exposition 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

"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent Adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering." - Pope Benedict XVI



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!

40 HOURS WITH JESUS CHRIST

By Fr. William Saunders

The Forty Hours Devotion is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. Of course, the focus of this devotion is on the Holy Eucharist. As Catholics, the words of our Lord burn in our hearts: "I myself am the living bread come down from Heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51).

Affirming our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Vatican Council II taught that the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, #11). While the Mass is the central act of worship for us Catholics, an act which participates in the eternal reality of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, Vatican Council II upheld and encouraged the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. Of course such devotion derives from the sacrifice of the Mass and moves the faithful to both sacramental and spiritual communion with our Lord (Eucharisticum Mysterium, #50). As Pope Pius XII taught in *Mediator Dei*, "This practice of adoration has a valid and firm foundation." Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has repeatedly "highly recommended" public and private devotion of the Blessed Sacrament, including processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi and the 40 Hours Devotion (cf. *Dominicae Cerae*, #3, and *Inaestimabile Donum*, #20-22).



Second, the number forty has always signified a sacred period of time: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection. Actually in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the repository, "the Easter Sepulcher," for this period of time to signify our Lord's time in the tomb.

The Forty Hours Devotion begins with a Solemn Mass of Exposition, which concludes with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar in a monstrance. During the next 40 hours, the faithful gather for personal or public prayer in adoration of our Lord. At the end of the devotions, there is a solemn benediction and final reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Forty Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. Consequently, an appropriate time to schedule Forty Hours is either Advent or Lent.

While the Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, three special dimensions have also surrounded 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. Here the faithful implore our Lord to pour forth His abundant graces not only for themselves, but their neighbors, not only for their own personal needs, but for those of the world. Such practices are evidenced in the history of this devotion.

Having explored the spiritual dimension of the Forty Hours Devotion, a greater appreciation for this spiritual exercise is found through knowing its history. The practice of Forty Hours Devotion originated in Milan about the year 1530. Granted, prior to this time, the Church did have exposition and benediction, Eucharistic processions, and devotions to the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle.

In 1539, Pope Paul III responded to a petition from the Archdiocese of Milan asking for an indulgence for the practice: "Since our beloved son the Vicar General of the Archbishop of Milan, at the prayer of the inhabitants of the said city, amongst other pious practices, has established a round of prayers and supplications to be offered by day and night by all the faithful of Christ, before our Lord's Most Sacred Body, in all the churches of the said city, in such a manner that these prayers and supplication are made by the faithful themselves relieving each other in relays for forty hours continuously in each church in succession, according to the order determined by the Vicar... We approving in our Lord so pious an institution, grant and remit." While this pronouncement seems to be the earliest official approval by the Church of this devotion, the Forty Hours Devotion spread rapidly.

By 1550, both St. Philip Neri and St. Ignatius Loyola had also instituted this practice, especially for the reparation of sin. Recognizing the tremendous graces offered through this devotion as well as the dangers threatening the Church, Pope Clement VIII in his letter *Graves et diuturnae* (November 25, 1592) proclaimed, "We have determined to establish publicly in this Mother City of Rome an uninterrupted course of prayer in such ways that in the different churches, on appointed days, there be observed the pious and salutary devotion of the Forty Hours, with such an arrangement of churches and times that, at every hour of the day and night, the whole year round the incense of prayer shall ascend without intermission before the face of the Lord." He also issued regulations for the devotions, which were later collected and promulgated by Pope Clement XI in 1705, and known as the *Instructio Clementina*.

In our own country, St. John Neumann (1811-60), the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, was a strong promoter of the Forty Hours Devotion. While the practice had already existed in individual churches throughout the city (as well as in other places in the country), no organized, cohesive diocesan schedule for it had ever before been attempted. St. John had a tremendous devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and desired to foster such a spiritual life in his people.

Unfortunately at this time, a strong anti-Catholic sentiment plagued Philadelphia. During the Know Nothing riots of 1844, two churches were burned and another was saved simply by the threat of gunfire. Some priests, therefore, advised St. John that the introduction of 40 Hours Devotion would only flame the hatred against the Catholics and expose the Blessed Sacrament to desecration. St. John was left in a quandary.

A strange incident occurred which helped St. John decide. One night, he was working very late at his desk and fell asleep in his chair. The candle on the desk burnt down and charred some of the papers, but they were still readable. He awoke, surprised and thankful that a fire had not ignited. He fell on his knees to give thanks to God for protection, and heard His voice saying, "As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so shall I pour out my grace in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to My honor. Fear no profanation, therefore; hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory."

He introduced the practice of 40 Hours Devotion at the first diocesan synod in April, 1853, and the first devotions began at St. Philip Neri Parish, an appropriate place since that saint had initiated the devotion in the city of Rome. St. John himself, spent most of the three days in the Church praying. No trouble ensued. St. John then introduced the program for the whole diocese, so that each parish would have Forty Hours Devotion during the course of the year. He composed a special booklet for the devotions and obtained special indulgences for the faithful attending them. The Forty Hours Devotion was so successful it spread to other dioceses. At the Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866, the Forty Hours Devotion was approved for all Dioceses of the United States.

The Forty Hours Devotion provides a wonderful opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person and the parish as a whole. In a world where temptation and evil abound, where devotion to the Mass and our Lord in the Holy Eucharist have declined, where the practice of penance and confession have been forgotten by many, we need the Forty Hours Devotion more than ever.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 9
 5:00 Roy Salvi, 4th 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

Monday March 11
 9:00 40 Hours Mass - Fr. Haley Hall

Tuesday March 12
 9:00 40 Hours Closing Mass

Wednesday March 13
 9:00 Rev. Thomas F. Oates

Thursday March 14
 9:00 Vincent DiCarlo

Friday March 15
 9:00 Paul T. Shea

Saturday March 16
 5:00 Maryellen Miller, 16th Anv.
 7:30 Eric Evan Smith

Sunday March 17
 7:30 People of St. Mary’s
 9:30 Costantina DiCenso
 11:30 Phyllis Weidig

LAST SUNDAY’S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 5,912.00
WeShare:	\$ 5,358.30
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 6,508.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 17,778.30

May God bless you for your faithful stewardship!
 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/>.



THIS WEEKEND - THE 2024 CATHOLIC APPEAL: Kindly review the information provided last weekend (<https://shorturl.at/imyUV>) and make your pledge this weekend if possible.

Two Examples of What the Appeal Does:

Your support of the CA allows the Addiction Recovery Ministry and Opioid Task Force to find and implement life-changing faith-inspired support and programs to anyone affected by addiction.

The Appeal also provides ongoing and wide-ranging operational support to parish food pantries as those suffering from food insecurity. Our parishes not only serve the faithful within the Church, they serve the needs of our communities also.

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
 MT 6:21

ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Mitchell Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. To sponsor the Rose for Life, please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

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.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

As you entered the church today, you probably noticed right away the lightening of the purple Lenten draperies to a rose color. This is in recognition of "Laetare Sunday," a call to rejoice as we reach the halfway point in our Lenten journey. On this day the purple of penitence is lightened to rose by adding the white of coming Easter joy. In the very midst of these forty days of fasting, almsgiving, prayer, and confession of sin, we pause to remember the triumph and joy that await us not only at the end of Lent, but at the end of earthly life. As Christians, we must be above all and always a joyful people. How could we not rejoice, when God has revealed to us so great a love, so vast a mercy, in the person of Jesus Christ? As today's Gospel says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

The Cross is the great proof of Jesus' love for us, a love so great that He died to save us. In our own lives, the Cross represents the challenging part of our faith. It stands for discipline and self-denial. It represents service and sacrifice. The Cross means taking our eyes off ourselves and putting them on all those for whom Christ died. We remember how Peter found Jesus' talk of suffering and dying for others to be hard to take, and even tried to silence the Lord on this point (Mt 16:23). Peter wanted Jesus and the mercy, and love, and Good News He brought – but not the Cross.

Yet as Jesus reminds Nicodemus today, the Cross is necessary. "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up" (Jn 3:14). The Cross is also an essential part of our Christian discipleship. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me," says the Lord (Mt 16:24). For one person, the Cross may represent being generous toward those in whose welfare you have no personal stake. For another, the Cross may mean living a chaste single life until you are married. For many of us the Cross means being willing to forgive those who have wronged us – even when such forgiveness has been neither earned nor asked for. For some, the Cross means speaking up for life in a culture that more and more embraces death in the name of choice.

We each can identify the Cross Jesus wants us to carry because it's the part of Christian living we find hardest to take. The part that goes against our own instincts and desires. The part that will really cost us in terms of

wealth, or popularity, or pleasure, or success as the world measures success. The Cross represents a willingness to die to the self, so that Christ, and Christ's love may live more perfectly within us. It is to make more room for Jesus, by making less room for all that is selfish and self-serving in our lives.

Very often picking up our Cross, actually means picking up someone else's Cross. Acting so as to lighten the burdens of someone who is elderly, or sick, or poor, or lonely, or in any of a thousand ways in need of somebody to be Christ for them. Every time we pick up a problem that isn't ours; each time we try to better a situation that is causing someone else to suffer; each time that the life of a family member or friend or stranger is made a little easier because we freely choose to shoulder part of the burden that they are carrying - those are the moments when we start to become truly like Christ. Who did not die for His own sins, but for ours. Who freely took up the Cross of our suffering and made it forever His own.

God bless you.



Rev. Mark J. Coiro

SAINTS AMONG US, NEXT 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.

~ For Our Youth ~

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



MSYG: Our next service event is this Friday, March 15, Gr. 8 Bingo at Timothy Daniels House, 3:15 – 4:45 PM.
Our next Social Event is Friday, March 22, Cosmic Bowling, AMF, Cranston (7:30 PM – 12:30 AM).
Our next Monthly Meeting is Sunday, April 7, 6:30 – 8 PM!



TGIF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



TGIF THIS WEEKEND: SUNDAY, MARCH 10, from 7:00 – 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. There will be signups for the March 22 TGIF Lenten Supper Hosting and we will decide about the proposed Maine TGIF Adventure Trip.

Also at Tonight's TGIF Meeting (March 10):

- The Mission Trip Payment Schedule and Details will be handed out.
- The Mission Trip Packing List will be distributed.
- Mrs. Dufault will be giving information on a new Fundraising Opportunity at the Pinecrest Community Garden. So please bring your calendar / schedule!
- Mission Trip T-Shirt Proposals are due tonight, we can't wait to see your ideas!

NB: The March 17 Mission Mass is postponed to Sunday, May 5 at 11:30 AM.

The May 12 TGIF Monthly Meeting / End of Year Celebration has also been moved to May 5, 7-9 PM.

2024 TGIF Mississippi Mission Trip



Sponsor a Teen!

This July, 72 high school students from St. Mary's will travel to Gulfport, Mississippi for a week of faith-filled mission work and service. This is a life-changing week for the teens and chaperones as they live out their faith, make lifelong friendships and get to know the people they serve. It is a beautiful extension of our parish family's mission to know, love and serve God. The cost of the trip this year has increased to \$1100 per student. The teens are busy planning fundraising events to defray the cost. If you'd like to help support the mission financially, please use the **St. Mary's Venmo QR code above to the right and include your name and "Mission Trip Donation"** in the comments. Alternatively, you can write a check to St. Mary's Parish with "mission trip" in the memo. Most importantly, please keep us in your prayers!



Easter Bunny Eggstravaganza!!!

To support the 2024 Mississippi Mission Trip.

What: Photos with the Easter Bunny, Children's Easter Crafts, and a Golden Easter Egg Grab!

When: Sunday, March 24, 10 AM to 1 PM.

Where: Fr. Haley Hall.

Suggested Donation: \$25 per family.



TOMORROW NIGHT! 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 **this 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 yours 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. To pre-register (required) go to <https://www.catholicmenworc.com/>. To join our parish carpool, contact Thomas Brodo at 508-429-6576 or Mitchell Liro at 508-429-6098.

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

SMCWG: The St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will hold our next meeting this Wednesday, March 13 in the Parish 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.

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 also have the opportunity for Confession, from 7 - 8 PM in the church. On March 14 please pray for Reverence for all Human Life. On March 21 please pray for Freedom from Addictions.

TWO MORE 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 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. 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 Supper Volunteer Group.



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, Jellybeans, 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 10 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., 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	
Tues., March 12	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., March 13	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-7 at 6:00 PM
Thur., March 14	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-10 at 7:00 PM

GRADE 2 PARENT MEETINGS: Sunday, today, March 10 at 8:15 AM and 10:45 AM and Wednesday, March 13 at 4:15 PM. Both meetings are in Fr. Haley Hall. Meetings take place while the children are in class.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR GRADES K - 5: Good Friday is March 29, 2024. Letters were 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 take a role and learn the importance of Good Friday.

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.

CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grade 10 Classes meet on Tuesday, March 12 and Thursday, March 14 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Students are to check into Fr. Haley Hall for their classes.

GRADE 10 RETREAT: On Saturday, March 16, students who registered for this retreat will check into Fr. Haley Hall at or before 10:00 AM. Confession will be available along with many activities and lunch. The retreat will close with the 5:00 PM Mass.



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.*



VBS SAVE THE DATE: JULY 22 - 26
Our 17th Annual Vacation Bible School! VBS is a weeklong celebration of faith with song, arts, crafts, movies, drama and Scripture.

Registrations open on April 1. Look for your mailed letters in March with instructions for NEW online registration. Adults and youth entering GR-7 and older are invited to volunteer. Check out the volunteer flyer: <https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1eHOD3qNmE-c4XKE-mKepwNcvp5PfGN5TshuKYXkB4k/edit?usp=sharing>.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS! Make some coral at home to add to the VBS set. Coral can be made with things you already have in your house such as cupcake liners, bottle caps, pipe cleaners and so much more! Google search for coral crafts or make anything you can imagine. Drop off to the Religious Education office.

YOUR TRASH IS OUR TREASURE! VBS needs you! Do you have any of these items to repurpose? Flat-screen TV boxes, appliance boxes, pool noodles, or Styrofoam packaging inserts. Or these items we can borrow? Human dummy, flippers, snorkel mask and mouthpiece, 8 lb. bowling ball or large fish tank. **Check out our full wish list here:**

<https://shorturl.at/ctzKQ>