



RELIC VENERATION EVENT



This Sunday Evening, March 17,
from 6 – 8 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

This weekend the Holy Relics of more than one hundred saints will be Exposed for Veneration at St. Mary's.

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 also be present, including relics of the True Cross and Crown of Thorns.

The Exposition will begin with a presentation and teaching about relics that is aimed at answering the guests' questions.



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.

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!

2024 CATHOLIC APPEAL ~ *Forward In Faith!*

We want to thank everyone from St. Mary’s who has so far participated in the 2024 Catholic Appeal.

To date our parish has raised \$38,374 from 14% of St. Mary’s active households, reaching 44% of our parish goal of \$87,500.

These contributions support the many ministries of our Archdiocese and will improve the lives of so many vulnerable persons. The Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish. If you have not yet made your gift, please consider making a pledge.



(Option 1) If you have given previously to the Catholic Appeal, then you should have received a 2024 Pledge Form in the mail. Mail it to St. Mary’s or to the Archdiocese. You may also drop it off at St. Mary’s, and we will mail it in. Any checks we receive made out to the 2024 Catholic Appeal will also be forwarded.

(Option 2) Scan the QR Code right.



(Option 3) Visit <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/> and scroll to the bottom of the page to donate online. This website also offers you a video to watch and detailed information about the Catholic Appeal.

However you give, please be sure to indicate St. Mary’s, Holliston as your parish so that your gift is applied to our parish goal. Thank you for doing your part – large or small according to your means – to support the good works of our Church. God bless you!

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

PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,351.50
WeShare:	\$ 3,328.54
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 9,193.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 15,873.04

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/>.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	March 16
5:00	Maryellen Miller, 16 th Anv.
7:30	Eric Evan Smith
Sunday	March 17
7:30	People of St. Mary’s
9:30	Costantina DiCenso
11:30	Phyllis Weidig
Monday	March 18
9:00	Patrick J. McLaughlin
Tuesday	March 19
9:00	Robert Carestia
Wednesday	March 20
9:00	Deceased Members of the Charlson and Johnson Families
Thursday	March 21
9:00	Frank J. DeRosa, Sr.
Friday	March 22
9:00	Major Vincent P. Mullen (Living)
Saturday	March 23
5:00	Philip Meuse
7:30	People of St. Mary’s
Sunday	March 24
7:30	Maria L. Amaral, 2 nd Anv.
9:30	Gaetano Urbano, 10 th Anv.
11:30	Melissa Bachman



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Thank you to all the St. Mary's men, women, and children who spent time visiting with the Lord during our parish's Forty Hours Devotion this past few days. It was wonderful to see at times as many as twenty people in the church at once, including whole families spending an hour together with Jesus. I especially commend the parents who brought their children and teens to visit with Christ in Adoration, a beautiful example that will remain with them and hopefully move them to seek out Christ in this way when they have a need of His Presence and grace. Unlike all the other sacraments, the Eucharist does not just lead us to God, it is God Himself. By visiting the church to adore the Eucharist exposed on the altar, we put ourselves in the very presence of the Almighty, allowing His grace to come upon us – whether visibly and quick-felt – or secretly, and unfolding only in the fullness of God's time.

"Create a clean heart in me, O God," we sing as our Psalm Response today. And as we enter these final few weeks of Lent, we remember the awesome cleansing grace available to us in the Sacrament of Confession. In this holy sacrament, Jesus frees us from the bonds of sin and death, giving us a new life in Him. To make a good Confession is to be called forth from the darkness of guilt and hurt into the light of God's merciful love.

During a recent Religious Ed. Class, one of the seventh grade girls asked me if priests were allowed to hear their own confessions. I told her no, that in fact such an act is specifically forbidden by Church law. Just think of the trouble one might get into if they had the easy route of hearing their own confession! There would be no humility, no setting aside of pride to admit one's faults aloud to another. Perhaps most terribly, a priest confessing to himself would not get to hear spoken to him those awesome words of forgiveness – "I absolve you of your sin."

Only in confessing our sins to a priest, do any of us get to actually hear out loud God's response to our sins. As anyone who has ever stood in need of forgiveness knows, there is a part of us that can only be truly healed when the offended party tells us that they forgive us. In the Sacrament of Confession, we remember that all sins against others or even ourselves, are also hurtful to God – God Who always stands ready to forgive if we are humble and trusting enough, to ask for His mercy.

God bless you.



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. Congratulations Grads!



FINAL THURSDAY 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 21, please pray for Freedom from Addictions.

NB: THERE ARE NO CONFESSIONS ON HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30.

JUST ONE MORE FRIDAY LENTEN SUPPER:



Join us for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's Family this **Friday, March 22 at 6 PM.** 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.marys Lentensuppers@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.marys Lentensuppers@gmail.com. You will be added to the Supper Volunteer Group.

Come to Me

all you who are burdened



Come to Jesus
in a Holy Hour of prayer
for our loved ones
afflicted by addiction or
by any form of
unnatural attachment.

Sponsored by
Knights of Columbus
Council #14224.



Wednesday, March 20 | 7:00-8:00pm | St. Mary's Church, Holliston

NEWSLETTER COLLATING: Please join us TOMORROW, Monday, March 18, at 9:30 AM in Father Haley Hall to assist in collating the April Newsletter for mailing. All are welcome and needed!

PALM SUNDAY IS NEXT SUNDAY! See the Holy Week Schedule in this bulletin for details. Holy Week begins!

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





Support Our Mississippi Mission Trip Teens! Teens Gather In Faith!

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 \$1,100 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 in front of a professional backdrop; Children’s Easter Crafts; and a Golden Easter Egg Grab! Each child gets to grab eggs full of candy and prizes. If they grab a “Golden Egg,” they win a fabulous prize for the whole family!

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

Where: Fr. Haley Hall.

Suggested Donation: \$25 per family.

Family BINGO Night!

To support the 2024 Mississippi Mission Trip.

What: Fun Family BINGO with gift cards and other awesome prizes! Snacks and drinks on sale will also benefit the Mission Trip.

When: Friday, April 5,
7 PM – 9 PM.

Where: Fr. Haley Hall.

Donation: \$20 for an Adult Prizes Card; \$10 for a Kiddie Prizes Card – both good for two hours’ play!



B I N G O

4 26 43 59 70

9 2 7 68

7 63

8 75

13 18 34 52 69

Youth Group News

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

MSYG: Our next Trip is this Friday, March 22, Cosmic Bowling, AMF, Cranston (7:30 PM – 12:30 AM).

Our next Monthly Meeting is Sunday, April 7, 6:30 – 8:00 PM!

TGIF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

TGIF: Friday, March 22, TGIF Hosts the Lenten Supper.

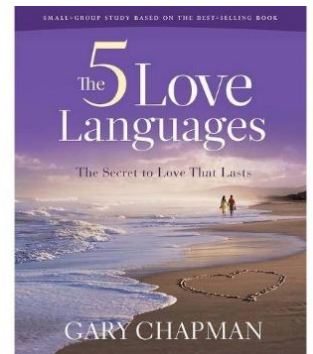
Sunday, March 24, Easter Bunny Photo and Egg Prize Mission Trip Fund Raiser.

Friday, April 5, BINGO Night Mission Trip Fund Raiser.

Sunday, April 21, next Monthly Meeting, 7-8:45 PM.

LAST CHANCE - 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!

MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP: Marriage Fellowship will be meeting this Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 PM in the Annex for a time of fellowship with snacks, prayer, and discussion of five unique approaches to giving and receiving love as described by Gary Chapman in his book "The Five Love Languages". Our very own Deacon John and his lovely wife Diane will be facilitating. Nurturing and fun childcare is provided. Couples from all seasons of life are welcome and encouraged to attend.



WISDOM FROM SAINT PATRICK:

"I am Patrick, yes a sinner and indeed untaught; yet I am established here in Ireland where I profess myself bishop. I am certain in my heart that 'all that I am,' I have received from God. So I live among barbarous tribes, a stranger and exile for the love of God."

"Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort me and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."

"He [God] watched over me before I knew him, and before I learned sense or even distinguished between good and evil, and he protected me, and consoled me as a father would his son."

"Daily I expect to be murdered or betrayed or reduced to slavery if the occasion arises. But I fear nothing, because of the promises of Heaven; for I have cast myself into the hands of Almighty God, who reigns everywhere. As the prophet says: 'Cast your burden on the Lord and he will sustain you.'"



Holy Week Schedule



PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, March 23:

5 PM & 7:30 PM Masses

Palms will be blessed &

Sunday, March 24:

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM Masses

the Passion read at all Masses.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28:

9 AM

Morning Prayer

7 PM

Mass of the Lord's Supper

The Mass of the Lord's Supper recalls the events the night before Jesus died, especially the institution of the Holy Eucharist. The ceremony of the washing of the feet reminds us of Jesus' call to serve one another. The Mass concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose in Father Haley Hall, where Adoration will continue until 10:00 PM. At Mass a collection will be taken up for the Holliston Food Pantry.

GOOD FRIDAY

Day of Fasting & Abstinence

Friday, March 29:

9 AM

Morning Prayer

12 PM

(Kindergarten – Grade 5) Younger Children's Stations of the Cross

7 PM

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

The 7:00 PM Lord's Passion Celebration is the official Good Friday Liturgy that continues the three day Triduum Celebration begun on Holy Thursday and concluding at Easter. It consists of the Liturgy of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. The Noon Stations are designed for younger children K – Grade 5, (accompanied by parents), and utilize a living tableau and special station prayers to help young children discover Jesus' love for them in the here and now.

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. In every single Catholic parish around the world this day, a collection is taken up to maintain the Shrines and struggling Christian communities in the Holy Land. This collection is taken up at both the Stations and Passion Services.

HOLY SATURDAY

Please Note: No Confessions on Holy Saturday

Saturday, March 30:

9 AM

Morning Prayer

8 PM

The Great Easter Vigil (brass, adult choir)

The Great Easter Vigil is rightly called the "Mother" of all liturgies. It includes the blessing of the new Easter Candle, the sung Exultet Prayer, and readings that capture the fullness of God's saving work for humanity. The Church rejoices in a special way to receive new members this night through the Sacraments of Initiation. All Easter collections go to support the retired priests of our Archdiocese. Please generously support these men who have given their whole lives in your service.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31:

7:30 AM

Church Mass

9:30 AM

Fr. Haley Hall Mass

9:30 AM

Church Mass

11:30 AM

Church Mass

CLOW - CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD, today, Sunday, March 17 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 17	GR-K at 9:15 AM	GR-1 at 8:15 AM
	GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 at 10:45 AM
	GR-7 at 5:00 PM	
Mon., March 18	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Tues., March 19	GR-4 at 5:00 PM	GR-9 at 7:00 PM
Wed., March 20	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Thur., March 21	GR-9 at 7:00 PM	

GRADE 1 BAPTISM CLASS: On Sunday, March 24 the Grade 1 children will witness a live Baptism. Children must be in the church by 1:45 PM. Teachers must also be present to monitor the children. Parents are to pick up their children at 2:45 PM in the church.

GRADE 7 VOCATION NIGHT: Today, Grade 7 will meet in the church at 5:00 PM for a Vocation presentation with our pastor Fr. Mark Coiro, Deacon Ron Dowding, and a Married couple.

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. We are still in need of children to participate in roles, especially children in grades K through 3. 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 9 Classes meet on Tuesday, March 19 and Thursday, March 21 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.*

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://shorturl.at/bgAX3>.

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 at:** <https://shorturl.at/ctzKQ>.

