



# St. Mary's Parish



## Our Mission:

*"To know Christ and to make Him known."*

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

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Cover Art ~ Giotto (Italian 1267-1337).

The Entry into Jerusalem, circa 1305. Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, Italy.



# Holy Week Schedule



## **PALM SUNDAY**

**Saturday, March 23:**  
**Sunday, March 24:**

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

Palms will be blessed &  
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 - closing with Night Prayer at that time. At Mass a collection is taken up for the Holliston Food Pantry.

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

**Friday, March 29:**

*Day of Fasting & Abstinence*  
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**

**Saturday, March 30:**

*Please Note: No Confessions on Holy Saturday*  
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



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

My first thought as I envision the vast crowds that thronged around Jesus for His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, is that St. Mary's will be similarly mobbed next Sunday for the great Feast of Easter. The arrival of so many visitors each Easter represents both a logistical challenge and a spiritual opportunity. Many of our regulars will find themselves unable to sit in their accustomed place. Parking will also be more difficult. It would be easy to get frustrated with the crowds and the inconvenience, and certainly there is a sadness that comes from seeing so many Catholics who are only rare visitors to the Table of the Lord.

But think of the opportunity! These persons will be in God's house. They will hear His Holy Word proclaimed. They will receive the Precious Body and Blood of His Son. Maybe, just maybe, this will be the Easter that God touches them in a special way. This might be the year that the grace of Jesus Christ breaks through into their hearts, moving them into a more meaningful relationship with His Church. You and I can play a part in this by offering a warm greeting, a friendly smile, and above all by being patient with the crowds. See an unfamiliar face next Sunday? Then make a special effort to reach out and welcome that person. Let us remember that it is Jesus Himself Who so often comes as a stranger into our midst.

As we prepare this week for the holiest days of our liturgical year, please consider taking part in the Holy Thursday and / or Good Friday celebrations in addition to your Easter Mass. I remember as a child how moved I was by the washing of feet on Holy Thursday and coming forward to reverence with a kiss the wood of Jesus' Cross on Good Friday. Above all I remember the power and mystery of the great Easter Vigil, as the light of the new-kindled Easter Candle spread from person to person throughout the darkened church. This year's Easter Vigil will be a moment of special joy as Lisa Mendoza Wood, Francisco Wood, and William Wood will all receive Sacraments of Initiation to the Catholic Faith. Please join us in welcoming them as our new brothers and sisters in Christ!

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

Under His Mercy,



## POSSIBLE PALM SHORTAGE:

We have been informed by our supplier that due to "harvesting issues," we were only sent half of our palm order. We always order a lot, so hopefully we will be okay. If we do in fact run short, we apologize. Our supplier has always come through in the past.



**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:** *"Let us run to accompany Jesus as he hastens toward his passion, and imitate those who met him then, not by covering his path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before him by being humble and by trying to live as he would wish. ... Let us spread before his feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in his grace!"*

- St. Andrew of Crete



## EASTER BUNNY EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

**TODAY, March 24, 10 AM to 1 PM.**

**What:** Photos with the Easter Bunny in front of a professional backdrop; Children's Easter Craft Activities; 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!

**Where:** Fr. Haley Hall.

**Suggested Donation:** \$25 per family. **To support the 2024 High School Mississippi Mission Trip.**



## 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 \$69,919 from 41% of St. Mary's active households, reaching 80% 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:	\$ 12,369.00*
WeShare:	\$ 3,213.40
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 6,788.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 22,370.40

\*Includes 1 Yearly Contribution of \$7,000.

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:

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 23</b>
5:00	Philip Meuse
7:30	People of St. Mary's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 24</b>
7:30	Maria L. Amaral, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anv.
9:30	Gaetano Urbano, 10 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
11:30	Melissa Bachman
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 25</b>
9:00	Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Bourque
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 26</b>
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 27</b>
9:00	Donna Krenselewski



### 2024 EASTER COLLECTION

**Next Weekend:** All monies collected at Easter go to cover the healthcare and retirement needs of the senior priests of our Archdiocese. These men have served us in a 24/7 job for most of their lives. Without

them, we could not fully live our Catholic faith. Please remember the priests who have been there for you and consider honoring them through this special collection. **Thank you for your generous and prayerful support for the wellbeing of our priests!**



## 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!



### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**Our next Monthly Meeting is Sunday, April 7, 6:30 – 8:00 PM!** Signups for BODA BORG on April 16!

### TGIF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

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

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

### BANNS OF MARRIAGE:

I Nathaniel Bachman and Wendy Figueroa Rodriguez

### 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. 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!



**THANK YOU!** A great big heart-felt thank you to all who participated in the St. Mary's Lenten Suppers. Your generosity and willingness to accept part of the work load made the suppers possible and successful this year. To those who helped create and manage the weekly schedule, set up and clean up the supper space, prepare the food and present the weekly reflections, your work is sincerely acknowledged and appreciated. None of us could do it alone. And, of course, special thanks are extended to the parishioners who came every week to share a meal and build up our parish community.

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** Is sponsored this week by the Carver Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Call 508-429-4427 to sponsor the Rose.

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:** The St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council invites all parishioners to remain after Mass the weekend after next, April 6 and 7 (Divine Mercy Sunday), for a brief prayer service. We will be praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The chaplet is a beautiful prayer of humility that only takes about ten minutes to pray and is very easy to learn. Further information about the many graces available to us on Divine Mercy Sunday can be found at [divinemercury.org](http://divinemercury.org). Have a wonderful Holy Week and we look forward to praying with you!

**ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:** Please join us this Tuesday, March 26 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.

### WINGS (Women in God's

**Spirit):** Is a ministry of

encouragement and

enrichment for women of all

ages who seek to deepen their

faith and grow in relationship

with God and one another. Mark your calendars for our

Spring Season beginning on Wednesday, April 10 at 10

AM in person and over Zoom. Continuing our yearly

theme of prayer, during this Spring Season we will listen

to speakers describe how prayer has played an integral

role in God's plan for their lives. More details to come.

Babysitting is available; please register in advance.

Suggested donation for the Spring season is \$20.00

unless you have previously paid for the entire WINGS

year. All women are welcome, regardless of ability to

pay. Our 2023-24 Fall and Winter WINGS

presentations on prayer may be found on our WINGS

webpage at [https://stmarysholliston.com/women-in-](https://stmarysholliston.com/women-in-gods-spirit-w-i-n-g-s/)

[gods-spirit-w-i-n-g-s/](https://stmarysholliston.com/women-in-gods-spirit-w-i-n-g-s/), scroll down to the bottom. Email

[stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com) to register or call

Diane @508-259-7795 or Jen@617-852-9632.

women in  
**WINGS**  
God's spirit

**CEMETERY REMINDER:** Please remove all Christmas/Winter decorations, wreaths, folding chairs, benches not used as headstones, and old planters from the Cemetery. R and R Landscape has begun the Spring Cleanup of our beautiful Cemetery and is preparing the grounds for the Spring and Summer. Please do not throw empty containers, plastic flowers, old plantings, etc. in the woods or on the side of the Cemetery Road. If you have any questions regarding the Cemetery please call the Rectory at 508-429-4427.

**CLOW - CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**, today, Sunday, March 24 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 24	GR-1 at 2:00 PM	Baptism / church.
	GR-2 at 8:15 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

**HOLY WEEK:** Monday, March 25 to Easter Sunday. No classes will be held during Holy Week.

**GRADE 1 BAPTISM CLASS:** Today, 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.

**GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR GRADES K - 5:** Good Friday is March 29, 2024. Our children in Grades K – 5 will present a tableau of each of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at Noon. All families, grandparents and children are invited to walk with Jesus and pray together. Please be in the church before Noon. Deacon John will guide the Stations of the Cross while children read the opening meditation. Altar servers will move from Station to Station with candles. Our 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. Dress rehearsal is on Good Friday, March 29 at 11:15 AM. Children who have roles in the Stations of the Cross must arrive to be dressed in costume by 10:30 AM in Room 2 of the Parish Center.

**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, April 2 and Thursday, April 6 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.*

**SCUBA VBS SAVE THE DATE: JULY 22 – 26. Our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Vacation Bible School!** Join us as we DIVE DEEP into friendship with Jesus! 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>.

