



St. Mary's Parish



Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

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 Choir Mass

Holy Days: Announced

Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays from 9:30 -
10:30 AM and as announced.

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com
Email Address: St.Marys1870@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 429 - 4427
Religious Education Phone: 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 call the rectory to register. 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 from Noon - 12:45 PM, or by appointment.

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
Mrs. Lisa Dufault, HS Youth Minister
Ms. Abigail Kelley-Lanser, 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

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 4,640.00
WeShare: \$ 4,700.11
Envelopes: \$ 7,421.00
Total Offertory: \$ 16,761.11

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/>.

PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday | January 11 |
| 5:00 | Leonard Levasseur |
| 7:30 | Chris Clancy |
| Sunday | January 12 |
| 7:30 | People of St. Mary's |
| 9:30 | Mary and Jeanne Miley |
| 11:30 | Roberta McGaffigan |
| Monday | January 13 |
| 9:00 | John Cocchiarella |
| 7:00 | Mass for Unbaptized Children |
| Tuesday | January 14 |
| 9:00 | Paul Dresler |
| Wednesday | January 15 |
| 9:00 | Roberta McGaffigan |
| Thursday | January 16 |
| 9:00 | Cy Stahl (Living) |
| Friday | January 17 |
| 9:00 | Paul T. Shea |
| Saturday | January 18 |
| 5:00 | Calvin Meisner |
| 7:30 | Patrick McDonald |
| Sunday | January 19 |
| 7:30 | People of St. Mary's |
| 9:30 | Hope Grady |
| 11:30 | Daniel Willman |





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - a Feast that marks the last day of the Christmas Season and the first day of Ordinary time. In Baptism, it is said that the water makes us holy. But at His Baptism it was Jesus who made the water holy, so that we all might be baptized into Him. Being sinless, Jesus had no need to be baptized. But as in all things, He showed us the way by His own example. He demonstrated that He never asks us to do anything that He Himself was not willing to humbly undergo.

Today's Gospel tells us that at His Baptism, Jesus rose from the waters and *"heaven was opened."* To fully understand the significance of this, we must remember that the ancient Jews saw heaven and earth as being separated by a barrier. Heaven and earth, God and man, these things were divided and apart. The prophet Isaiah, for instance, had prayed to God begging *"Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down."* (IS 64:1) This prayer was answered nine months before Christmas, when Jesus came down from heaven and took up residence in Mary's womb. And then, on the day of Jesus' Baptism, the heavens are torn open again - not this time so that God can come down, but so that through Baptism all mankind may ascend.

To be baptized is to die with Christ and receive the promise of eternal life in Him. It is to be washed clean of the inheritance of original sin, and adopted by God Himself. The inheritance of God's children is eternal life. This is shown beautifully in chapter seven of the Acts of the Apostles, where we find recorded the very first death of a baptized Christian. Stephen, in the midst of being martyred by stoning, lifts his eyes and says, *"Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."* Just as the heavens were opened at Jesus' Baptism, so the heavens open again as Jesus' follower Stephen is dying. That is Baptism's great gift and promise. That when we die, the way to heaven will not be closed. There will be no barrier between us and God. Rather, when the light of life fades, we shall see only Jesus, and the heavens opening above.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



HOLLISTON – HOLY LAND SCHOLARSHIP

2nd COLLECTION TODAY!

Before the war, this annual scholarship paid all school costs for **two** students at our Sister Parish's School in Beit Sahour, Palestine. Due to the economic hardship caused by the war, St. Mary's took on two additional students. Last year, our people's generosity to the annual scholarship collection allowed us to increase that to **five**. Thank you for your support of these worthy children.



Andrieh Jaraysah

Farah AL - Baho



Franshisca Awwad

Bisan Ayyad

Bilar Jaraysah

ABOVE: Photos and names of the five children we hope to scholarship this year at our Sister Parish's School. Their needs in Israeli shekels and US dollars are as follows:

| | Name | Grade | Fees ILS | Fees US \$ |
|---|------------------|-------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Andrieh Jaraysah | 9 | 3870 | \$ 1,046 |
| 2 | Farah AL- Baho | 7 | 3870 | \$ 1,046 |
| 3 | Franshisca Awwad | KG | 3470 | \$ 938 |
| 4 | Bisan Ayyad | 8 | 3870 | \$ 1,046 |
| 5 | Bilar Jaraysah | 8 | 3870 | \$ 1,046 |
| | Total | | 18950 | \$ 5,122 |



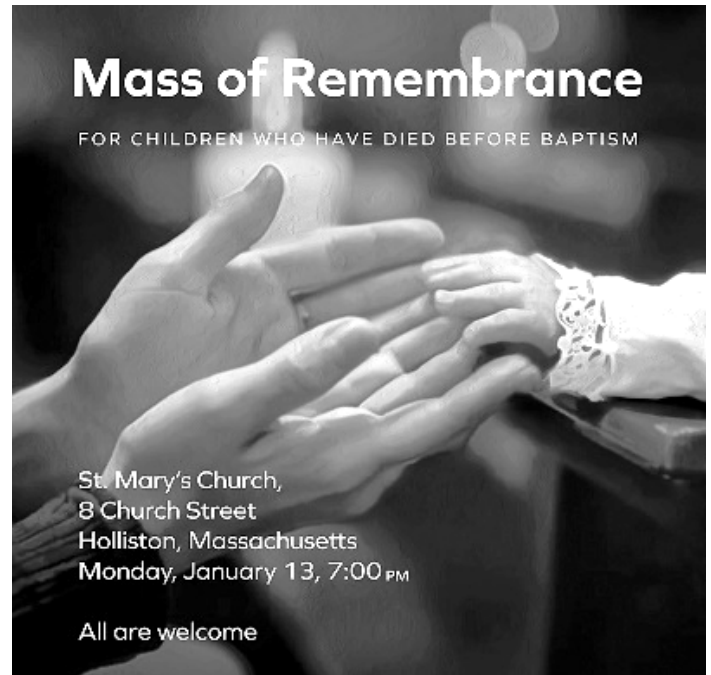


TODAY ~ POINSETTIAS: *After* the 11:30 AM Mass today, Sunday, January 12, please feel free to take home one or two of the beautiful poinsettias from the church sanctuary. These lovely plants should last several more weeks if watered carefully and protected from the cold.

TOMORROW NIGHT ~ MASS FOR UNBAPTIZED CHILDREN:

To provide a sense of closure and to offer our prayers for unbaptized children, St. Mary's will celebrate a special Mass on Monday evening, January 13, at 7:00 PM. The Mass will be offered for the souls of every child who passed before receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. If you have lost a child prior to Baptism, know someone who has, or just want to show your solidarity for grieving families, come to our special Mass on January 13.

THIS TUESDAY MORNING ~ ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, January 14, from 9:45 - 11:00 AM, in Fr. Haley Hall as we pray together, read reflections according to the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. During the school year, children of all ages are welcome and there are toys and coloring activities available. For more information, please contact: Meghan Krenselewski, 978-421-5795.



THIS THURSDAY EVENING ~ ST. MARY'S MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP: St. Mary's Marriage Fellowship is a parish ministry that provides opportunities for married couples to support and encourage each other as we grow spiritually and live in accordance with God's plan for marriage. The ministry meets monthly for fellowship and a brief reflection on topics related to marriage, raising children, faith formation and service. Whether you are newly married or have been together for many years, we'd love to meet you! Our next reflection is on Thursday, January 16, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in Sister Ricci House. We're grateful to announce that free onsite childcare will be provided by teen volunteers from St. Mary's confirmation program for couples who have young children. Please plan to bring an appetizer or dessert to share and be certain children have already eaten dinner. For questions or comments, please contact the Nunes/Onak Families at: stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com.

NEXT SATURDAY MORNING ~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: On Saturday, January 18, in St. Mary's Father Haley Hall, the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will sponsor its annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Hours are from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-REDCROSS or visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and search by zip code (01746) in the "Find a Blood Drive"



Save a Life, Give Blood

field. For further information, contact the Knights of Columbus Council Blood Drive coordinator, Rodman Burgett at 508-653-6130. Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages - accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

FOR OUR YOUTH!



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

TODAY - The 'MYSTERY TRIP' - ADVENTURE AWAITS!

What to Wear: Sneakers or other shoes for physical activity. Events are both indoors.
 Departure: Today, Sunday, January 12, at 2:00 PM from the Parish Center.
 Procedure: Teen hands over cell phone and gets on bus. Then a parent may go into the Library to find out trip locations. **TOP SECRET!** Phones given back at first location.
 Dinner: Included. Return: Between 7:45 - 8:00 PM.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24 - Snowtubing Trip.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - Battle of the Sexes Monthly Meeting 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - LUAU DANCE!!!

LUAU TIME: 7:00 - 9:30 PM.

PLACE: St. Mary's Parish Center

COST: \$10 at the door.

Drinks & snacks will be on sale separately.

WHO: Any and all 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade

Middle School Students are invited to attend.

The dance is sponsored by St. Mary's Youth Ministry, but is open to all Middle School Students from anywhere. Invite a friend!



PROFESSIONAL DJ,
 MUSIC,
 LIGHT SHOW,
 TROPICAL ATMOSPHERE,
 FROZEN DRINKS,
 LIMBO CONTEST,
 BEST BEACH OUTFIT CONTEST,
 GREAT PRIZES,
 TOTAL FUN IN THE SUN!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP T.G.I.F. (Teens Gather In Faith):

TONIGHT, Sunday, January 12, from 7:00 - 8:45 PM join us for our first meeting of 2025! Sign-up tonight for the following trips: Saturday, February 8 - TOPGOLF Trip and Sunday, February 16 - Valentine's Day Bingo Event at Mission Springs.



If you have not yet joined T.G.I.F. High School Youth Group, and are interested, please email st.marysTGIF1870@gmail.com.

All High School Students are Welcome!

We encourage everyone to check out our Instagram @stmarystgif or by scanning this QR code to see what we are up to, for a daily dose of faith and to see upcoming events.



YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study resumes **next Sunday, January 19**. Join us in the Parish Library for our first meeting of 2025! Ryan Kramer leads this Bible Study for young men (aged 14-18), who desire to grow closer to God and learn more about the faith. The Bible Study focuses on who God is and why He is essential for our lives. We examine Catholic teachings through the scriptures, as we pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart." Hebrews 4:12



JANUARY



WINGS: (Women in God’s Spirit) is pleased to present our 2025 Winter Bible Study **in person and via Zoom**. The Winter Season begins Wednesday, January 22, at 10 AM and ends Wednesday, February 26. Continuing this year’s theme of “Called to Holiness”, WINGS has chosen Kevin Perrotta’s book “*James: Put Your Faith to Work*” as our guide. Books may be purchased through Amazon or Loyola Press. Please let us know if you have trouble with the ordering process. Note that it is not mandatory to purchase the book to participate in the Winter Bible Study. WINGS will email references to the relevant bible verses each week; however, the book will contain additional useful material. WINGS requests dues of \$20 per season (unless you have already paid for the year); however, **all women are most welcome regardless of ability to pay**. Babysitting is provided; please register in advance. Checks payable to St. Mary’s Parish can be mailed to St. Mary’s Parish, 8 Church St., Holliston, MA, 01746 or pay at the door. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 14th ANNUAL BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST: On Saturday, January 25, St. Mary’s Council #14224 will sponsor their 14th Annual Free Throw Contest. **ALL Holliston boys and girls ages 9 - 14** as of January 1, 2025 are eligible to participate. The contest will be held at the Holliston High School gym from 12:00 to 5:00 PM. Entry Forms will be available at the gym and must be signed by **BOTH** child and parent/guardian. Winners in each age group will be entered into the Knights of Columbus District Contest. The Council will award trophies to Holliston winners in February. Any questions, please contact Knight Donald Marden at 508-429-1363.



15TH ANNUAL “SOUP”ER BOWL: The 15th Annual “SOUP”er Bowl will be held on Friday, January 31 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM at St. Mary’s in Fr. Haley Hall. This event is open to all and all proceeds go directly to the Holliston Pantry Shelf. Come try any of the seven sensational soups from Bazels, Bertuccis, Casey’s, Holliston Lions, OutPost Farm, Prezoz, Superette and ice cream from T.C. Scoops! This year a children’s crafts table will be available so bring the family! There will also be a table full of Raffle Baskets! Tickets to the event are available online through the Pantry website (hollistonpantrysshelf.org) or by scanning the QR Code. Ticket Prices: Seniors 60 and older - \$20, General Admission - \$25, Kids under 5 - FREE and Family Cap - \$75.

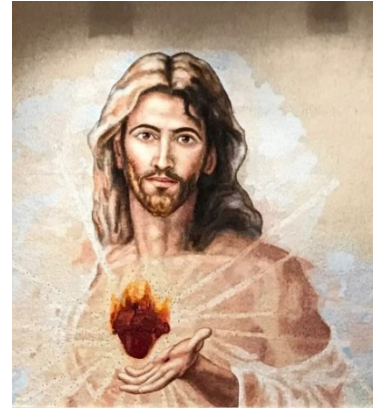


HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF HELP: Snacks, juice boxes, peanut butter, jelly, Progresso Soups, Campbell’s Chunky Soup, Mac & Cheese, canned peaches (15 oz), canned corn, spaghetti, pasta sauce, Beefaroni, toilet paper, shampoo and cake and brownie mixes. Donations may be placed in the tan bin by St. Mary’s parking lot entrance, just inside the double glass doors on the left as you enter.

THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: In this Jubilee year, Leo Racine, one of our parishioners and the Pastoral Associate at St. Mary's Parish in Franklin, will be leading a discussion of Pope Francis' October 2024 Encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Dilexit Nos: On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ).

The meetings will be held on Zoom from 10:00 - 11:00 AM on three consecutive Saturdays: January 25, February 1, and February 8. Please contact Leo at leoaracine@msn.com to register, learn about the reading assignments, and get the Zoom link. This is a beautiful opportunity to enrich your faith as we enter a New Year of God's Grace.

Love has always been associated with the heart, so it was only natural that the love of God became represented by a heart, the heart of his Son Jesus. In him, God the Father revealed his infinite love for us. The Church was born from the pierced heart of Jesus on the cross. In the first creation, Eve was born from the side of Adam. In the new creation, the Church was born from the side of Jesus. The Bride from the Heart of the Bridegroom! When the soldier thrust his lance into Jesus' side, immediately blood and water flowed out.



Saint John Chrysostom had this to say about this passage: *“Beloved, do not pass over this mystery without thought; it has yet another hidden meaning, which I will explain to you. I said that water and blood symbolized baptism and the holy eucharist. From these two sacraments the Church is born: from baptism, the cleansing water that gives rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit, and from the holy eucharist. Since the symbols of baptism and the eucharist flowed from his side, it was from his side that Christ fashioned the Church, as he had fashioned Eve from the side of Adam ... As God took a rib from Adam's side to fashion a woman, so Christ has given us blood and water from his side to fashion the Church. God took the rib when Adam was in a deep sleep, and in the same way Christ gave us the blood and the water after his own death.”*

Since the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, from his Sacred Heart, this should have great meaning for us. In prayer, we contemplate the pierced Heart of our Savior. We contemplate his incredible love. We reflect on the mercy, compassion and love that God has bestowed upon us. We become enthralled by Christ, like Saint Paul, who prayed that Christ might dwell in the hearts of the Ephesian Christians through faith and that they might know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.

When Christ dwells in our hearts, when we know his love deeply, in our minds and hearts, we are moved to live the great commandments of love of God and neighbor. We are motivated by the Sacred Heart of Jesus to open our hearts to him so that they are filled with love for our brothers and sisters. In this way, we learn to live Jesus' commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Palmer Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Want to sponsor the Rose for Life one week in 2025? We currently need MANY new sponsors. Please email st.marys1870@gmail.com, or call 508-429-4427 to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, SAVE THE DATES - JULY 21 - 25:

Calling all campers (entering K - Grade 6) and volunteers (entering 7th Grade through adults)! Join us on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where the northern lights shine over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and sparkling glaciers. Trek the tundra and discover what's true in our wild world today. True North VBS reveals that Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Registration information will be available after Easter.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *“One generation and another generation; the generation by which we are made the faithful and are born again by baptism; the generation by which we shall rise again from the dead and shall live with the Angels forever.”*

- St. Augustine

CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN'S

LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, January 12, the children will be dismissed to the lower church hall to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel.

Please note: Younger 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 CLASS SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEK

| DAY | GRADE | GRADE |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sun., Jan. 12 | GR-1 at 8:10 AM | GR-4 at 10:45 AM |
| | GR-5 at 10:45 AM | GR-6 at 4:00 PM |
| Tue., Jan. 14 | GR-8/9 at 7:00 PM | |
| Thur., Jan. 16 | GR-8/9 at 7:00 PM | |
| | | |
| Sun., Jan. 19 | NO CLASSES | Martin Luther King |
| Mon., Jan. 20 | NO CLASSES | Martin Luther King |

GRADE 2 TEACHER / COORDINATOR MEETINGS:

The second semester for the Grade 2 Sacramental year to prepare the children to Receive Holy Communion begins on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Two teacher meetings will be available on Wednesday, January 15; one from 10:00 to 11:30 AM and one from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Teacher manuals and information will be presented at these meetings.

GR-K, 1, 3, 4, 5 AND 6 TEACHER / COORDINATOR MEETING:

This meeting on Thursday, January 16, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM, is to discuss the 2025-2026 Calendar and planning for the Master Calendar and the remaining upcoming 2024-2025 Calendar year events. Coordinator and teacher input is helpful in our planning for a successful faith formation year.

EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN SAFETY CLASSES:

Parents who wish to Opt-Out their children from the Empowering God's Children Safety Classes must submit an Opt-Out Form to the Religious Education Office.

Scheduled classes are:

- **GR-1:** Sunday, March 23.
- **GR-2:** Wednesday, April 9; Sunday, April 13.
- **GR-3:** Tuesday, January 21; Sunday, January 26.
- **GR-4:** Sunday, Feb. 2; Tues., Feb. 3; Wed., Feb. 5.
- **GR-5:** Sunday, February 23; Tuesday, February 25.
- **GR-6:** Tuesday, March 9; Tuesday, March 11.

CONFIRMATION YEAR 1 ~ GRADE 8/9 CLASS

SESSION 6: Tuesday, January 14 and Thursday, January 16 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

CORI VOLUNTEER RENEWAL ALERT: All active volunteers (18+ years) in any ministry, must have completed a **2025 CORI**. All CORI forms and renewals must be signed and verified in person with a license by any staff member.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOPS:

If you are participating in any ministry you must attend **PGC**. Register online at www.virtusonline.org. Select First-Time Registrant / Boston, MA (Archdiocese) / Start Registration and follow the prompts. You will need to create an account ID and password to sign-up. Thank you!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS:

Begins on Monday, January 13. A series of sessions using the book "This is My Body" by Fr. Bishop Robert Barron will be used to discuss and understand the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Seventy percent of today's Catholics do not believe that Jesus is truly present in the consecrated Host. If you are interested in attending the sessions, the dates are: January 13 and 27, February 3, 10 and 24, and March 3. All sessions will be on Mondays from 10 AM to Noon in Room 3 - 4. Books will be available for all participants.

FOR ALL RELIGIOUS ED FAMILIES! MUST SEE VIRTUS EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN (EGC)

SAFETY PROGRAM: Before deciding to have your children attend the Safety sessions, it is important to take the time to view the program at: www.VIRTUSonline.org. Enter the **User Name: Parent_Boston** and then the **Password: EGCBoston1**. When you are in the landing page, click on the **Education tab** at the top. You can view the Lesson plans for Grades K – 12. When children are exposed to repeated safety rules from their parents, teachers, and authorities, they will be more alert to their surroundings and make good decisions if they feel uncomfortable in a situation and know what to do.



R.E. CLASS SNOW CANCELLATIONS:

When Holliston public schools are closed due to inclement weather, Religious Education classes will not be held. See Channel 5 and 7 on weekdays and Channel 4 on Saturday & Sunday only.

ST. JUDE PRAYER CARDS / CANDLES

Please feel free to take a St. Jude Prayer Card and Prayer Candle from his simple shrine located at the bottom of the Parish Center Lobby stairwell. St. Jude, Patron of Desperate Causes, pray for us!