



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!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

*"Sir, leave it for this year also,
and I shall cultivate the ground around it and
fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.
If not you can cut it down."*

This Sunday of Lent Jesus presents us with His parable of the fig tree. The garden owner is God the Father, who sees that the tree has born no fruit for years and is ready to cut it down. The gardener is Jesus, who asks for time to work with the fig tree - to work with us - that with His help we can begin to bear the fruit of holiness.

This parable reveals the mercy and love of Jesus - the totality of His commitment to us. But it also reminds us that our time in this earthly garden is limited. Like the fig tree, we all eventually need to account for what we do with the years we are given. Are we spiritually barren? Or do good works abound in our lives? Have we lived only for ourselves? Or do we strive to consider the needs and happiness of those God has "planted" around us?

Like the Ash Wednesday admonition that "We are dust and unto dust we shall return," the parable of the fig tree is meant to show that we do not have limitless time to serve God well and glorify Him by our lives. This truth is not meant to inspire fear, but a new urgency in our Christian discipleship. It also invites us to look toward heaven as our life's goal.

Sometimes, for instance, I encounter parents who lavish every temporal advantage on their children - the very best food, clothes, educations, every possible advantage except one - the opportunity to know and serve Christ. These are good people who love their children. But they have forgotten that the greatest gift they can give them is the gift of faith.

How many young people today, for instance, spend each Sunday looking up at the goalposts of a football or soccer field instead of raising their eyes to see the Cross of Christ? How many parents talk to their children all the time about the sport they



play, but never teach their children how to pray, or check in on their spiritual health? Sports are fine. But a soccer ball did not die to save us from our sins. A basketball net was not raised on Calvary's hill.

For all of us, the great test of whether we are focused on worldly happiness or eternal joy is when God's law conflicts with our earthly desires. I remember a woman once saying to me (in reference to a family member's lifestyle), "but doesn't she deserve to be happy?" The answer of course is yes. But it is eternal happiness that Christ died to offer us. And if we reject His moral teachings in order to live as we wish on earth, we jeopardize the possibility of eternal and perfect joy in His presence.

Yes, Our Lord is merciful. But He also told us that we must be ready to "pick up our cross daily" if we would follow Him. We all have something that is hard for us in the moral teachings of our faith, something that requires a real sacrifice in this life and a great deal of trust in Jesus. But it is in the struggle to accept and carry those crosses that we draw closer to Him, and that our faith is tried and tempered and made strong enough to face what is to come. It is when we choose Christ above all other goods, that we bear fruit that lasts.

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

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



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

THREE PILLARS OF LENT

Thank you to all who visited our church and prayed at the 40 Hours Devotion. It was beautiful to see many more than those signed up in the church at all hours, and we are especially grateful to those who covered the "wee hours!"

As we arrive now at Catholic Appeal Commitment weekend, we ask that you please make your pledge **THIS WEEKEND** - by returning your pledge envelope in the Mass collection basket, filling one out at Mass, or using the special QR Code provided at right. Remember - no gift is needed upfront - just your pledge.

If enough St. Mary's families make their pledges THIS WEEKEND - then our parish will qualify for 2025 Catholic Appeal rebates.

For instance - on February 18, we received a rebate from the 2024 Appeal for \$16,207. This was applied to the upcoming replacement of our failing church sanctuary skylight (**photo right**) - the cost of which has risen considerably since the original Grand Annual estimate. Your timely pledges last year made this rebate possible.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 6,180.00
WeShare:	\$ 3,633.87
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 5,718.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 15,531.87

May God bless you for your faithful stewardship!

**THIS WEEKEND - THE 2025 CATHOLIC**

APPEAL: Kindly review the information provided last weekend, bulletin pages 8-11, https://stmarysholliston.com/wp-content/uploads/Bulletin_2025.03.16.pdf 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 for those suffering from food insecurity. Our parishes not only serve the faithful within the Church, they serve the needs of our communities also.



Cor ~ St. Mary's New Faith Enrichment Program for Men.



Join us for **Prayer, Bible Study, Catechesis,**
and **Brotherhood** every 2nd and 4th
Thursday from 7-8:30 PM in Sr. Ricci House
beginning **This Thursday, March 27.**

For more information or to register go to:
StMarysCor@gmail.com



THURSDAY LENTEN ADORATION WITH CONFESSION: In addition to the usual Saturday Noon to 12:45 PM Confession time, during Lent St. Mary's Thursday night Eucharistic Holy Hours will also have the opportunity for Confession, from 7 - 8 PM in the church. Each Lenten Holy Hour includes an intention which we ask you kindly to add during your time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. **This Thursday, March 27:** Please pray for Reverence for all Human Life.

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S FRIDAY LENTEN SUPPERS - ONLY THREE LEFT!



Join us for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's Family! **Fridays at 6 PM: March 28, April 4** (this one night beginning at 5:30 PM as the St. Paul's Boy Choir performs at 7 PM), **and April 11.** 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.

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. We are all in different seasons of life, let your St. Mary's family be a safe landing spot for you this Lent!

If you'd like to help, please email Natalie Pomarico at st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com. You will be added to the Lenten Supper Volunteer Group. A weekly 'Sign Up Genius' goes out via email to the volunteer base and individuals sign up for available food / drink slots. Volunteer participation varies week to week, some volunteer once during the six weeks, some commit to every week and others dip in and out of helping. Thank you!





COR FOR MEN - THIS THURSDAY, MARCH 27:

This Lent, St. Mary's is excited to launch Cor - a new, nationwide faith enrichment and fraternal opportunity for men. Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper

relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, faith formation and fraternity.

Cor MISSION: To help focus Catholic men on Jesus by building Christ-centered brotherhood through a simple, flexible framework of prayer, formation and fraternity.

Cor VISION: To aid in transforming the hearts of men through Christ-centered brotherhood. Rooted in prayer, formation and fraternity, men will be sharpened in faith and virtue as they cultivate authentic friendships with Christ and each other. We envision a future where Cor continuously helps sustain these men to lead their families, strengthen their parish communities and courageously evangelize the world as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. All men of St. Mary's Parish age 18 and older are encouraged to join us for faith enrichment, bible study, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. Cor is a great way to enrich your faith journey through Lent and afterward with fellow parishioners. There is no cost for this program.

Clothing Drive
GIVE A LITTLE, HELP A LOT

DONATION

**WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 29
SUNDAY, MARCH 30
BEFORE AND AFTER ALL MASSES**

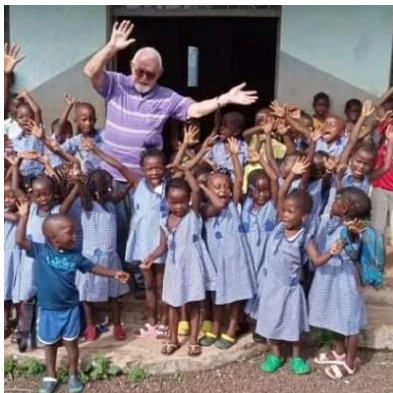
**WHERE: ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN LOBBY OUTSIDE
PARISH LIBRARY**

Your lightly used clothes can go a long way in helping someone in need. From coats and sweaters to shoes and children's clothes, every item you donate can provide comfort to those who need it most. Together, we can make a positive impact. Feel free to donate new clothes with tags.

Three red hearts. A special thank you to TGIF teen Pheobe Quinlan for organizing this wonderful event.

Join us for the Cor Kick-off Meeting on Thursday, March 27, 7 - 8:30 PM at Sr. Ricci House. Cor continues the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month through June. To register and for more information:

StMarysCor@gmail.com.



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN 2025: Please donate your coins to Pennies from Heaven, which can be dropped off in the lobby of the Parish Center during the 2025 Lenten season. The entire proceeds from this collection will be sent to Sierra Leone for the benefit of children living at the Fatima Home for Orphans (photo left). Thank you!

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 large bin by the St. Mary's parking lot entrance.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	March 22
5:00	Philip Meuse
7:30	People of St. Mary's
Sunday	March 23
7:30	Maria L. Amaral, 3 rd Anv.
9:30	Barbara Pesciotta
11:30	Charles Collie
Monday	March 24
9:00	Mary Durgin
Tuesday	March 25
9:00	Helena Evelyn Falkowski
Wednesday	March 26
9:00	Dorothy Kubit
Thursday	March 27
9:00	Joseph R. Palladino
Friday	March 28
9:00	Costantina DiCenso
Saturday	March 29
5:00	Frances Hodnett
7:30	People of St. Mary's
Sunday	March 30
7:30	Wanda Beaupre
9:30	Khalil and Martha Hasrouni
11:30	Roberta McGaffigan

BLESSED MOTHER
SCHOLARSHIP:

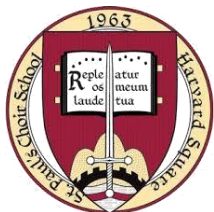
Scholarship Applications are now available at

<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 2025; Accepted to a four-year college or university to commence classes in the Fall of 2025; 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, April 20. The Scholarship will be presented at the:



**St. Mary's Mass for the
Graduating Class of 2025,
Sunday, May 18 at 11:30 AM.**



ST. PAUL'S BOY CHOIR CONCERT ~

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 7 - 8 PM IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

Bless your Lent with an evening of rapturous music by the internationally acclaimed Boy Choir of St. Paul's Choir School in Cambridge. Directed by Brandon Straub, the Choir will perform selected works from the classical repertoire, including pieces by Rawsthorne, Dvorak, Purcell, Vivaldi, Faure, and Rutter. The Concert is free and open to all. * The Lenten Friday Soup Supper will start early this night, at 5:30 PM, so that you can attend both.





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

This July, **83** 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, including the ...



Easter Bunny Eggstravaganza!

*To support the 2025
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, April 13, 10 AM to 1 PM.

Where: Fr. Haley Hall.

Suggested Donation: \$25 per family.



PHOTO LEFT: Last Saturday these amazing TGIF teens gathered to make 19 Fleece Tie Blankets for Project Linus!

LENT: Don't forget to read and pray with those Lent devotionals that were handed out. If you need one, there are extras, just reach out to the T.G.I.F. email.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays 3:00 - 4:00 PM and Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:00 PM, Lenten Study "Lent - One Day at a Time for Teens". Friday, March 28, 7:00 - 10:00 PM, Adore the Lord @ Fatima Shrine, 7:00 PM Mass with Bishop Reed and Adoration (T.G.I.F. to lead Prayer Reflection from 9:00 - 10:00 PM). Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30, before and after ALL MASSES - T.G.I.F. Clothing Drive. Our next T.G.I.F. meeting is tonight, Sunday, April 13, 7:00 - 8:45 PM. Feel free to email st.marysTGIF1870@gmail.com with any questions. Be sure to check out our Instagram [@stmarys_tgif](https://www.instagram.com/stmarys_tgif) or by scanning this QR code to see what we are up to, for a daily dose of faith and to see upcoming events.



STMARYS_TGIF





MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - Faith, Friendship, Service, Fun!

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING: Sunday, April 6, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. We will be making 200 Sandwiches for the Homeless! Roommate Sign-Ups for Maine, Paintball Sign-Ups, and Scavenger Hunt Sign-Ups are all tonight!

NEXT EVENT: March 28 - MSYG Bingo at Timothy Daniel's Nursing Home - Grade 6.

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

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

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP, MARCH 25: Please join us this Tuesday, March 25, 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 at 978-421-5795.



WINGS: 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 six-week Spring Season beginning on Wednesday, April 9 at 10 AM in person and via Zoom. Our Spring Season is "Called to Holiness: Living for God and Others." We will listen to speakers explain how they have put our yearly theme into action in their lives. More details to come. 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. Babysitting is available. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Diane at 508-259-7795 or Jen at 617-852-9632.

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

NEED A RIDE?: A parishioner has volunteered to help with rides to doctor's appointments, physical therapy appointments, dentist appointments, etc. If you are in need of transportation please call the Rectory at 508-429-4427. Let us help you!

DIVORCE AND SEPARATION MORNING OF REFLECTION: The Family Life Team invites all those impacted by divorce and separation to a Morning of Reflection at the Pastoral Center, Braintree on Saturday, April 5 from 8:30 AM - 12 Noon. Psychologist Christine Williams, PhD, will speak on the power of prayer and ways to alleviate stress. The program features a light breakfast, witness talk, small group sharing, Mass, Adoration and Confession. For more info, call Emily Elliott at 617-746-5756 or visit Evangelizeboston.com or bit.ly/ImpactedByDivorce.



CLOW ~ CHILDREN K - 6 ~ CHILDREN'S

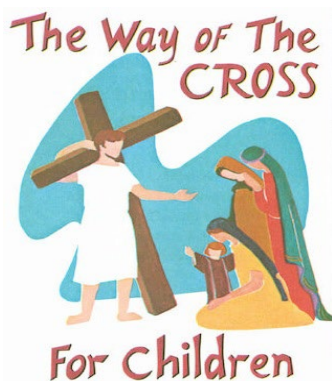
LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, March 23, the children will be dismissed to the lower church hall with the CLOW Leader to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel. Note: Younger children are welcome **but must be accompanied by their parents** and be able to sit and engage in the lesson.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS SCHEDULE

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., March 23	GR-1 at 8:10 AM	GR-4 at 10:45 AM
	GR-5 at 10:45 AM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
Mon., March 24	GR-7 at 7:00 PM	
	GR-3 at 4:00 PM	GR-4 at 4:00 PM
	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
Tue., March 25	GR-6 at 5:00 PM	GR-8/9 at 7:00 PM
	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-4 at 4:00 PM
	GR-7 at 7:00 PM	
Wed., March 26	GR-8/9 at 7:00 PM	
Thur., March 27		

GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY

RETREAT: The retreat will be held on Saturday, April 5! Families will gather in the church by 1:00 PM for a time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration and prayer. *Children must be accompanied by at least one parent or adult during the retreat.* Each family is to bring a picture of their child and a letter or prayer to Jesus in a sealed envelope.



GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT NOON ON APRIL 18: Letters have been mailed to families with children in **grades K - 5** to take a role in the Stations of the Cross Tableau. Please complete the enclosed form in the letter and return it to the Religious Education Office ASAP. Children who

accept a role must attend two rehearsals during Holy week; Tuesday, April 15 and Wednesday, April 16 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM in the church.

EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN SAFETY

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

Scheduled classes: GR-2: Wed., April 9; Sun., April 13.

Please view the program at: www.VIRTUSonline.org.

Enter the **User Name: Parent_Boston** and then the **Password: EGCBoston1**. Click on the Education tab at the top to view the lesson plans.

CONFIRMATION YEAR 1 NEW ~ GRADE 7: Classes will meet on Monday, March 24 and Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

CONFIRMATION YEAR 1 CURRENT ~ GRADES

8/9: Classes will meet on Tuesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

CORI VOLUNTEER RENEWAL ALERT: All active volunteers (18+ years) in any ministry, must now 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!

**COMING THIS SUMMER ~ TRUE NORTH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
* JULY 21 - 25, 9 AM TO NOON ***



Calling all campers (entering K - Grade 6) and volunteers (entering Grade 7 - adults)! We'll help kids through a world gone wild - with Jesus our true north - to show us the way! Kids will experience the ultimate Alaskan adventure - where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that He is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Registration fee \$75/child, \$200/family max.

Registration opens April 1!

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2025-2026: Presently our Religious Education program is being put together for 2025 - 2026. Once the Holliston Public School calendar is finalized with half day observances and professional teacher days, then our online registration for classes will be available again this year to register your children.