



# 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 Choir Mass

Holy Days: Announced

## Adoration Schedule:

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

## Our Mission:

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

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

Email Address: [St.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto: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 from Noon to 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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, High School Youth Minister  
 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 August 30**  
 5:00 David Bushee, 3<sup>rd</sup> Anv.  
 7:30 Claire L. Turcotte (Living)  
**Sunday August 31**  
 7:30 People of St. Mary's  
 9:30 Melissa Bachman  
 11:30 Dorothy Bamberry, 12<sup>th</sup> Anv.  
**Monday September 1**  
 9:00 For All Who Labor  
**Tuesday September 2**  
 9:00 Alberto Rametta  
**Wednesday September 3**  
 9:00 Rev. Francis X. Mawn  
**Thursday September 4**  
 9:00 Melissa Bachman  
**Friday September 5**  
 9:00 Fr. Issa & the People of our Sister  
 Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour  
**Saturday September 6**  
 5:00 Anthony and Lena Mirabile  
 7:30 People of St. Mary's  
**Sunday September 7**  
 7:30 Kevin Muzzy  
 9:30 Tim O'Connell  
 11:30 Joan Powers, 9<sup>th</sup> Anv.



**PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:**

Automatic Giving:	\$ 4,613.50
WeShare:	\$ 3,647.43
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 6,798.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 15,058.93

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support. The financial health of your parish depends on it. Please consider switching to WeShare or Automatic Giving. See:

<https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.



**EMERGENCY GAZA RELIEF:** At all St. Mary's Masses last weekend, an Emergency Collection was taken up for the suffering people of Gaza. \$5,160.00 was received. Given the enormous humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops asked all dioceses to consider an emergency collection for relief efforts there. Archbishop Henning supports this effort and asked all parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston to take part.

100% of the funds collected will go to support the work of the Catholic Near East Association (CNEWA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The request concerns their humanitarian work for those suffering the effects of war and famine in Gaza.

Donations may still be made by check written to St. Mary's Parish, or by using this Venmo QR Code. Venmo gifts - or check memo lines - should be clearly labeled "Gaza Relief." If mailing in or placing a check in the offertory basket, it is helpful if you place checks in a separate envelope clearly labeled "Gaza Relief."





## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

This past week many of our young people returned to school and others headed off to college for the very first time. We pray that God will watch over them all, opening their minds and hearts to His truth. While for many of us our formal education is complete, we are all called to continued growth in our knowledge and love of God. It is said that when Cardinal Cushing used to visit a rectory, he would always ask to see the pastor's bookcase. If the books were old and dusty, the Cardinal would look for the one with the most recent publication date. If the pastor asked why, legend says that Cushing would reply, *"I just wanted to see the date you died."*

Truly, to stop instructing ourselves in Christ - to become satisfied with our understanding of His person and teachings - this is to die a kind of spiritual death. Jesus is alive, and until the moment we meet Him face to face our souls long to know Him in deeper ways. In the coming months there will be many Adult Faith Formation offerings in our parish, and I encourage you to consider taking advantage of them.

**Please also consider teaching a Religious Education Class this year.** The need is great, and so are the rewards. As we prepare a lesson to teach, we often come to a new and deeper understanding of faith ourselves. As Cardinal Cushing might have asked, what was the date of the last time you taught or studied the faith?

As our nation this weekend celebrates Labor Day let us keep in prayer those who are jobless, or working in unsafe conditions or without a just living wage. Let us be specially mindful of the plight of the poor and our responsibility to them. In his Encyclical "Rerum Novarum," Pope Leo XIII offered this beautiful reminder: *No one is commanded to distribute to others that which is required for his own needs and those of his household. But, when what necessity demands has been supplied, it becomes a duty to give to the indigent out of what remains over. "Of that which remaineth, give alms." It is a duty of Christian charity ... [given by] Christ the true God, who in many ways urges on His followers the practice of almsgiving - "It is more blessed to give than to receive"; and who will count a kindness done or refused to the poor as done or refused to Himself - "As long as you did it to one of My least brethren you did it to Me." To sum up, then:*

*Whoever has received from the divine bounty a large share of temporal blessings, whether they be external and material, or gifts of the mind, has received them for the purpose of using them for the perfecting of his own nature, and, at the same time, that he may employ them, as the steward of God's providence, for the benefit of others. (RN art. 22)*

This Labor Day, I thank all of you who contribute to the building up of our parish. A parish is its people, and your participation at all levels is what elevates our community of faith into an edifice pleasing to the Lord.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



**OPPORTUNITIES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS ARE SHOWN IN THE CHART BELOW.** Training for new teachers will be offered in September. Go online at: <https://stmarysholliston.com/all-parish-forms-2/> and sign up now to teach a class!

GRADE	SESSION DAY AND TIME	TEACHER NEEDS	MONITOR NEEDS
<b>SUNDAY</b>			
CGS	8:00 to 9:15 AM	2 Assistants	1
GR-1	8:10 to 9:20 AM	5 Teachers	1
GR-2	8:10 to 9:20 AM	2 Teachers	1
GR-2	10:45 AM to Noon	2 Teachers	1
GR-3	7:55 to 9:20 AM	2 Teachers	1
GR-3	10:45AM to 12:15 PM	3 Teachers	1
GR-4	10:45AM to 12:15 PM	4 Teachers	1
GR-5	10:45AM to 12:15 PM	4 Teachers	1
GR-6	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	1
<b>MONDAY</b>			
GR-8*	7:00 to 8:30 PM	4 Teachers	1
<b>TUESDAY</b>			
GR-3	4:00 to 5:30 PM	4 Teachers	Filled
GR-4	4:00 to 5:30 PM	4 Teachers	Filled
GR-5	4:00 to 5:30 PM	3 Teachers	Filled
GR-6	4:00 to 5:30 PM	3 Teachers	Filled
GR-7*	7:00 to 8:30 PM	4 Teachers	1
GR-9/10*	7:00 to 8:30 PM	2 Teachers	1
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
GR-2	4:15 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-4	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-7*	7:00 to 8:30 PM	4 Teachers	Filled
GR-9/10*	7:00 to 8:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
GR-8*	7:00 to 8:30 PM	2 Teachers	1

**Note:** \* Grades 7 and 8 meet on the same week and Grades 9/10 meet on the opposite week as Grade 7/8.





## FOR OUR STUDENTS

Religious Education Registration for Fall 2025 Classes opened on July 1 and ended on August 18. To register late, please click the image above. We will place your young person on a waiting list and do our very best to find them a class spot. If we are unable to do so, both registration and late fees will be refunded to you. New families just joining the parish may still register. God bless you.



### ASSISTANT CATECHIST TRAINING FOR THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD:

Training will be held on Saturday, September 20 at a time to be determined. The training is for adults aged 18 and

over. Our young CGS Assistants under age 18 will be trained by Sharon Febo and Meghan Krenselewski, both CGS Coordinators, at a time to be determined.

Parents wanting to know more about CGS are welcome to attend, along with any parishioners. If you are interested in attending, **please contact the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076 or**

[st.marysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com) so that we have materials for everyone. Carol Godfrey, who is a professional CGS Trainer, will be our presenter.

### LAPSED YEARS OF FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

If your child has missed several years of Religious Education, it is never too late to prepare them for a lifelong relationship with God. Our Catholic faith, founded by Jesus Christ, provides a good solid moral foundation based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Contact our Religious Education Office and inquire how we can assist your family at 508-429-6076, [stmarysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysre1870@gmail.com).

## FOR SEPTEMBER

**TIMMY CAKE FUNDRAISER:** Representatives of The Timothy O'Connell Foundation will be selling Tim's favorite chocolate cake after each Mass on the weekend of September 6 and 7. The donation is \$70. All proceeds from the sales of these cakes will go to the Foundation's charitable mission, including its Scholarship Fund. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation is a 501(c) (3)



not-for-profit organization, established in honor and loving memory of Timothy O'Connell, a St. Mary's parishioner. Since its inception in 2008, the Foundation has distributed over \$1,000,000 in gifts to worthy cancer-related causes and has awarded more than \$147,000 in scholarships to Holliston students pursuing health-related fields of study. Learn more about the Foundation and its mission at [www.timsteam.org](http://www.timsteam.org). Email [joanneoconnell@comcast.net](mailto:joanneoconnell@comcast.net) with any questions. Thank you.

### COFFEE, JUICE & DONUTS / ST. MARY'S MINISTRY FAIR

**SEPTEMBER 7:** Find out about opportunities to serve and participate in the life of our parish. There will be speakers at all the Masses and a chance to meet people involved in the various ministries after the Sunday

9:30 AM Mass on September 7. You can sign up to be part of a ministry, too. Refreshments (DJ&C) will be available! Let's celebrate our call as individuals and as a parish community to discipleship and service.



**ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:** Join us on Tuesday, September 9, 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.

**SMCWG:** St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will be having their potluck lunch on Wednesday, September 10 at noon in the Parish Library. We always welcome new members. We meet September - December and March - June, on the second Wednesday of the month at noon in the library. Please join us!

## FOR SEPTEMBER

### ST. MARY'S MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

**KICKOFF BBQ!** 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. We'd love to meet you! Please join us for a potluck-style cookout on Sunday, September 14 from 4 - 7 PM. Children are welcome to attend. The cookout will be held off-grounds at the home of Michelle and Jay Skeldon. Appetizers, sides, and desserts would be appreciated if you're able to contribute. **Please RSVP by emailing:** [stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com).

### MUSIC MINISTRY STARTS THIS MONTH!

Fall of 2025 is full of music opportunities for you! Read about our programs below. For more information or to sign up, contact our Music Director, Abbey Kelley-Lanser, at 508-492-6076 ext. 224, or [musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com](mailto:musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com).

It is not a requirement to be Catholic or a registered member of our Parish in order to join our music groups. Whether you are an experienced musician or totally new to music, it's never too late to find your place in St. Mary's Music Ministry.

**Youth Music Jam Sessions:** Interested in kick starting a musical youth group? We invite all middle and high schoolers grades 7 and up to join open jam sessions for singers and instrumentalists! Bring your voices and instruments to collaborate on a variety of Christian songs together. Please reach out to our Music Director with your rehearsal availability and ensemble ideas.

**Children's Choir:** Know of young ones who love games and music? Encourage them to try Children's Choir! Seeking singers in grades 3 - 6 who wish to bond with friends through musical games and worshipful songs. Weekly rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 3 from 3:30 - 4:20 PM to prepare us to sing for occasional 9:30 AM Sunday Masses. Sign-up forms can be requested from the Music Director.

**Adult Choir:** Looking for a chance to enrich the liturgy with your voice alongside other dedicated musicians? Love what you hear at 11:30 AM Mass and want to be a part of it? All voices grades 7 and up are invited to reach out to our Music Director to set up an Adult Choir rehearsal visit! **Weekly rehearsals commence Thursday, September 4 from 7 - 9 PM.**

## FOR OUR YOUTH

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Thank you everyone for an amazing Deerfield Rafting Trip! Our MSYG Fall Kick Off and Ice Cream Social is **Sunday, October 5 from 6:30 - 8 PM**. All teens in Grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited for a new year of faith, friendship, service and fun. Save the date!



**T.G.I.F. (Teens Gather In Faith):**  
The TGIF FALL Kick Off Meeting is Sunday, September 14 from 7:00 - 8:45 PM. Open to ALL, Grades 9 - 12. Save the date!



Don't forget, if you would like to share your Mission Trip Witness while it is still fresh in your mind, email [st.marystgif1870@gmail](mailto:st.marystgif1870@gmail).



STMARYS\_TGIF





## ELEVATOR REPAIRED

The Thursday before last, our church elevator was found to be inoperable. We had repairmen here within hours, but it was discovered that the elevator motor was broken and could not be repaired. Our elevator company located a new motor extant, and installed it on Friday of this past week. Thank you to Otis Elevator and their technicians who made it possible to have the elevator up and working for our parishioners who rely on the elevator for church access.

## FOR THOSE IN NEED

**PANTRY SHELF SUMMER HELP:** Food items needed at the Pantry: Progresso Soup, Campbell's Chunky Soup, Campbell's Tomato Soup, juice boxes. Donations may be dropped off in the tan bin by the main parking lot entrance here at St. Mary's, or to the bins outside the Pantry Shelf itself at 73 Charles Street.

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** The rose is sponsored this week by the Butler Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a rose by emailing [st.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marys1870@gmail.com). The donation is \$10. After the rose for your week is purchased, the rest goes to the Pregnancy Help Program of our Archdiocese, <https://pregnancyhelpboston.org/about-us>.

**SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN MILFORD:** CCM is dedicated to serving individuals and families in need, offering essential services such as food assistance, housing support, and emergency aid. They are in immediate need of: Formula - powdered or liquid, cereal and shelf stable milk to replace school breakfasts, canned goods with pop tops and peanut butter and jelly. **At this time of year there is a special need for backpacks and school supplies for all ages.** Donations and gift cards (e.g., grocery, Visa or Ace Hardware) can be dropped off at their office at 200 Main St. in Milford. Monetary donations may be mailed to the same address.

## FOR REFLECTION

**Commentary on today's Gospel by Bruno of Segni:** Invited to a wedding feast, the Lord looked round and noticed how all were choosing the first and most honorable places, each person wanting to take precedence over the others and to be raised above them. He then told them this parable, which even taken literally is most useful and appropriate for all who like

to be honored, and fear being put to shame. To those of lower station it accords courtesy, and to those of higher condition respect.

However, since it is called a parable, it must have some other interpretation besides the literal one. Let us see then what this wedding feast is, and who are the people invited to it.

This wedding feast takes place in the Church every day. Every day the Lord makes a wedding feast, for every day he unites faithful souls to himself, some coming to be baptized, others leaving this world for the kingdom of heaven.

The greater you are the more you must humble yourself in every way. We are all invited to this wedding feast - all of us who have received faith in Christ and the seal of baptism. This table set before us is that of which it is said: *"You have prepared a table before me in the sight of those who trouble me."* Here is the showbread, here the fatted calf, here the lamb who takes away the sins of the world. Here is the living bread come down from heaven, here placed before us is the chalice of the New Covenant, here are the gospels and the letters of the apostles, here the books of Moses and the prophets.

It is as though a dish containing every delight was brought and set before us. What more then can we desire? What reason is there for choosing the first seats? There is plenty for all no matter where we sit. There is nothing we shall lack.

But whoever you may be who still desire the first place here - go and sit in the last place. Do not be lifted up by pride, inflated by knowledge, elated by nobility, but the greater you are the more you must humble yourself in every way, and you will find grace with God. In his own time he will say to you: *"Friend, go up higher, and then you will be honored by all who sit at table with you."*

Moses sat in the last place whenever he had the choice. When the Lord wishing to send him to the Israelites, invited him to take a higher place, his answer was: *"I beg you, Lord, send someone else. I am not a good speaker."* It was the same as saying: "I am not worthy of so great an office."

Saul, too, was of small account in his own eyes when the Lord made him king. And Jeremiah, similarly, was afraid of rising to the first place: *"Ah, Lord God, he said, look I cannot speak - I am only a child."*

In the Church, then, the first seat, or the highest place, is to be sought not by ambition but by humility; not by money but by holiness.