

A close-up photograph of a newborn baby's face, looking up with large, dark eyes. Water is being poured from a wooden cup onto the baby's forehead, creating droplets. The baby is wrapped in a white cloth. The background is softly blurred.

LIFE

*Our Sign
of Hope*

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October 2025
respectlife.org/celebrate



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, 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



THIS WEEKEND, BABY SHOWER FOR THE UNBORN:

At all St. Mary's Masses. Please bring new baby items and clothes to Mass and place them in or around the baby stroller in the sanctuary. These gifts will directly assist

mothers in crisis pregnancies through the Pregnancy Help program of our Archdiocese. Thank you for supporting families and babies in their time of need!
Learn more at: www.pregnancyhelpboston.org.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	October 4
5:00	Nicholas and Agnes Anselmo
7:30	Carmen Chiango
Sunday	October 5
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Franco DiCenso
11:30	Karen Leary
Monday	October 6
9:00	Marcos Laguna
Tuesday	October 7
9:00	Frederick White
11:00	Funeral ~ Don Marden
Wednesday	October 8
9:00	Francis and Mary Johnson
Thursday	October 9
9:00	Bill Tobin
Friday	October 10
9:00	Assunta Bomba
Saturday	October 11
5:00	Leonard Levasseur
7:30	Renee Balmelli
Sunday	October 12
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Deceased Members of the Cosby and Reilly Families
11:30	Christopher Budge



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today we hear a quiet but powerful conversation between Jesus and His disciples. They say to Him, *"Increase our faith!"*

It's a short, urgent plea that echoes in every heart that has ever struggled to believe in times of doubt or difficulty. And what does Jesus say in return?

He speaks of mustard seeds.

Of small beginnings.

Of how even the tiniest spark of real faith carries within it the power to uproot and transform.

The Lord reminds us that faith is not measured by quantity, but by surrender. Not by certainty, but by trust. It is not something we can conquer or create by our own effort. It is a gift, given and grown in the quiet soil of daily life.

There is a mystical beauty here. Faith is not always a blazing light. Sometimes it is a candle flickering, or a seed buried in the dark earth. And yet, in God's mysterious design, those small, hidden things become the very vessels of grace.

St. John of the Cross once wrote, *"Faith is the union of God with the soul. It is God Himself Who secretly teaches the soul and instructs it in perfect love."* What a humbling truth. When we live in faith, even when we do not feel it, we are already being drawn into the very heart of God.

We may not see the fruits right away. But He is at work - gently, quietly, and faithfully. So often we long for visible signs, dramatic answers, or immediate peace. But Christ invites us into something deeper.

To serve without seeking reward.
To pray without needing to feel.
To love without understanding fully.
This is the path of true discipleship.

And so, if you find yourself today praying the Gospel prayer, *"Lord, increase my faith,"* know that you are not alone. The saints prayed it too. The apostles lived it. And Christ honors it always.

Let us encourage one another to remain faithful in the small things. To be servants of the Gospel with joy and humility. To believe, even when we cannot yet see.

Because the God who plants the seed is also the God who brings in the harvest. In the way and in the time that will reap the greatest spiritual fruit for those who place their trust in Him.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor



*"Even if the soul is in darkness,
it is always united with God.
Though we feel nothing, we are
not less close to Him."*

- St. Catherine of Siena



RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY 2025

This weekend, as we observe Respect Life Sunday, we are confronted not only with our call to defend the dignity of every human life, but also with a painful reminder of how fragile life can be. On last Sunday, September 28, a horrifying attack struck a Mormon place of worship in Grand Blanc, Michigan. A gunman rammed a vehicle into a church during services, opened fire, and set the building ablaze, leaving several dead and many more wounded.

A church should be among the safest spaces in our world, where hearts are lifted in prayer, not threatened by violence. The events in Michigan echo the tragedy at the Annunciation Catholic School Mass this summer in Minneapolis. Such events violate not only the sanctity of physical church buildings but the very spirit of what it means to be a people of faith.

Respect Life Sunday is meant to draw our attention to the defenseless: the unborn, the marginalized, the suffering, the elderly, the disenfranchised. But it must also include those whose lives are cut short by violence - those threatened by hatred and fear.

In the face of such darkness, we are called to three responses:

1. Prayer and Compassion. Let us lift up in prayer all those harmed in the Michigan tragedy - the families of the deceased, the wounded, first responders, and an entire community traumatized by this attack. Let us pray also for the conversion of hearts, that we may break the cycles of anger and violence. We remember Christ's own words, *"Blessed are the peacemakers."* (Matthew 5:9)

2. A Firm Defense of Every Human Life. To respect life is to defend life from conception to natural death, and also to protect life from violence and injustice. As a Church, we must insist on policies that reduce gun violence, promote mental health care, and build communities of compassion. We must vigorously resist arguments that treat human lives as expendable.

3. Renewed Hope and Active Charity. In a world shaken by tragedy, we are called to be agents of hope and healing. Let us strengthen ministries of accompaniment, support for victims of violence, and efforts to foster reconciliation. Let us strive to build safe neighborhoods, invest in youth, and reinforce the bonds of community.

On this Respect Life Sunday, let us allow our sorrow to fuel resolve. Let the horror of what happened in Michigan and Minnesota move us beyond grief into bolder advocacy and more generous love. In these ways, we become signs of the Gospel's power to transform wounds into mercy, fear into courage, and death into life.

May the Lord give us the strength to protect the vulnerable and comfort the brokenhearted. May we proclaim with ever greater clarity that every life is sacred, every person precious, and violence has no place in the kingdom of God.



FOR LIFE

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose is sponsored this week by Maria Bomba in memory of Franco DiCenso. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a Rose by emailing st.marys1870@gmail.com.

NOT TOO LATE! Thank you to all who brought in baby items this weekend. Donations may still be dropped off all this week and next weekend in the Parish Center Lobby.



These items are most needed:

- * Outfits, Size 0 - 3 months, 3 - 6 months, and 9 - 12 months (Boys & Girls)
 - * Sleep n' Plays, NEWBORN (Boys & Girls)
 - * NEWBORN Onesies
 - * Bottles 8 oz. and 4 oz.
 - * Baby wash, lotion, and diaper cream.
 - * Diaper Bags (backpack style - Amazon).
- Please, NO baby powder or used clothing/equipment. We especially need warm clothing. All baby clothing must be new.



**TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE
NEXT WEEKEND:** At all Masses October 11 & 12,

Knights from St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council #14224 will be passing out Tootsie Rolls. Voluntary donations are sent to the State Council to be distributed to charities supporting people with intellectual disabilities such as Special Olympics and Educational Summer Camps. Thank you for your support of this beautiful cause.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IN MEMORY OF MARC LEVASSEUR:

Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood on Saturday, October 25 in Father Haley Hall from 8 AM to 1 PM. Blood is needed for different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend in a car accident. Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

FOR THE CHURCH

PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,841.00
WeShare:	\$ 3,691.33
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 4,865.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 12,397.33
Weekly Need	\$ 15,000.00

Shortfall **\$ 2,602.67**

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/>.



SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: This week's second collection in every parish is the Holy Father's "Peter's Pence" collection. It funds the Holy Father's outreach to suffering communities around the

world. This collection will also provide support to The Catholic University of America (CUA) that educates priests and lay people for ministry, and to the Inner City Parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston.

UPSTAIRS CLOW: Today, Sunday, October 5, at the 9:30 AM Mass, followed by DJ&C.



DONUTS, JUICE & COFFEE: Please join us in Fr. Haley Hall today, Sunday, October 5, after the 9:30 AM Mass, for free refreshments and camaraderie. DJ&C is also a great chance to welcome new families to our parish. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be attending DJ&C and welcome any comments or ideas you have for St. Mary's. Please join us. Come on down!

FOR THOSE IN NEED

PANTRY SHELF BACK TO SCHOOL HELP:

Food items needed at the Pantry: Progresso Soup, Campbell's Chunky Soup, Campbell's Tomato Soup, Campbell's Cream of Chicken Soup, Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup, canned fruit cocktail, canned peaches, tuna fish, pasta sauce, pasta (various), snacks and 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 73 Charles Street.

FOR OUR YOUTH!



All 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders!
You are invited to ...

St. Mary's Parish
Middle School
Youth Group
Kick Off Meeting!

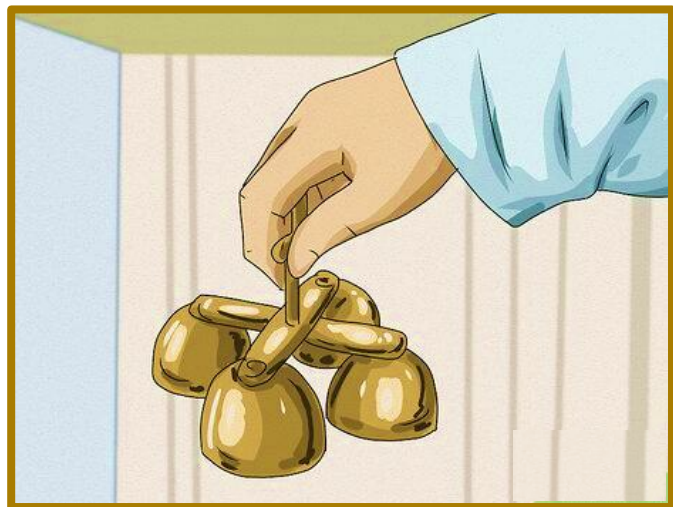
TONIGHT!
Sunday, Oct. 5, 6:30 - 8 PM, Fr. Haley Hall

Enjoy a Giant Ice Cream Sundae Bar, Games, Prizes, 10/24/25
Haunted Mansion Trip Sign-Ups, 1/21/26 Celtics pre-Sign-Ups, Faith, Friendship & Fun.

What to Bring:
Registration & Permission / Waiver Forms & \$5 Monthly Dues; Plus Sign-Up Form & Payment for the October 24 trip if going. Bring a Friend!

FOR OUR YOUTH

NEW ALTAR SERVERS CLASS: Sunday, October 19 from 7 - 7:30 PM in the Church. Any parish youth currently in grades 4 - 12 may study to become an Altar Server. Just bring the youth accompanied by a parent with your family calendar to this planning meeting. Also, please email Patty Baribeau to indicate your interest: st.marys.altarserver@gmail.com.



**MAKE SOME NOISE ~
BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER!**



T.G.I.F. (Teens Gather In Faith): We are looking forward to our Bagged Lunch for the Homeless of Fr. Bill's on October 11



and our McCray's 'Fear on the Farm' Haunted Hayride on October 18. T.G.I.F is open to ALL TEENS in Grades 9 - 12. For more information, contact Lisa Dufault at st.marystgif1870@gmail.com.

**OUR NEXT MEETING (bring a friend),
IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 from 7 - 8:45 PM.**

SAVE THE DATE CAVALIERS vs. CELTICS: On Wednesday, October 29 at 7:00 PM TGIF will take over TD GARDEN. At our October 19 Meeting, there will be Sign-Ups for this trip. First come, first served! We have a total of 65 tickets. \$100 dollars includes game ticket and transportation.



FOR MEN



COR ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN: All men of St. Mary's parish age 18 and older are invited to join us for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood at our next Cor meeting on **Thursday, October 9, in Sister Ricci House at 7 PM.** We will continue our journey

through the Old Testament, focusing on the prophet Jeremiah. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month up to December 11 (except there will be no meeting on November 27) from 7 - 9 PM. Our mission is to help and support each other as we seek to deepen our relationship with God, through scripture, catechesis, prayer and small group discussions. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. MARY'S COUNCIL #14224 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER:

October 6: Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to the Divine Mercy Shrine, Stockbridge. Departs 7:00 AM from St. Mary's Parking Lot.

October 11/12: Columbus Day Annual Tootsie Roll Drive at all Masses.



October 15: Rosary and Business Meeting. 7:00 PM Rosary in church. All parishioners are invited to recite the Rosary with the Knights. 7:30 PM Business Meeting in Lower Church Hall.

October 23: COR Meeting 7:00 PM Sr. Ricci House.

FOR MARRIAGE

ST. MARY'S MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP:

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Thursday, October 16, from 6:30 - 8 PM in Sister Ricci House (onsite childcare). This is a parish ministry that provides opportunities for married couples to connect and grow together spiritually. The ministry meets 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! Email stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com for more information. Welcome!

FOR MEN

Dear Brother in Christ,

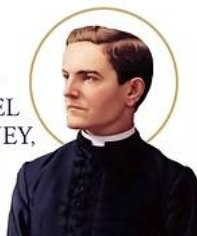
In a time when the world is longing for faithful, courageous men, the Knights of Columbus offers you a powerful way to live your Catholic faith with purpose and integrity. As a Knight, you will be united with a brotherhood of men committed to prayer, charity, and service - defenders of the faith, protectors of the vulnerable, and humble servants of Christ.

Inspired by the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, the Knights stand at the heart of the Church's mission, answering the call to be men of virtue in their families, parishes, and communities.

Joining the Knights is not just about what you do, but who you become. It is a path of spiritual growth, meaningful action, and deep brotherhood rooted in the Eucharist and love for our Blessed Mother. Whether you're helping a neighbor, supporting your pastor, or standing for life, you will find yourself transformed through service. God is calling you to something greater.

Will you rise with your brothers and become the man He created you to be? Contact Grand Knight Tom Brodo at StMarysHollistonKofC@gmail.com to talk about the possibilities. And God bless you.

BLESSED
MICHAEL
McGIVNEY,
pray for us!



FOR ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:

Sunday, October 26 at 1:30 PM. Parishioners are invited to bring their pets to Fr. Haley Hall as we celebrate the Church's Rite of the Blessing of Animals. Each pet will receive an individual blessing as we ask God's protection for our animal friends and remember that all living things are precious to Him. This blessing takes place in October as St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day is this month, and he had a special love of the furred, finned and feathered creatures of the earth.

FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Join us this Tuesday, October 7, 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 (Women in God's Spirit): WINGS 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. **Our Fall Season theme is "Spiritualities of the Catholic Church" and it begins this Wednesday, October 8, from 10:00 to 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall in person and also through Zoom.** Babysitting is available.

Our speaker, Olivia Hastie, PhD candidate at Boston College, will help us discover the unique qualities of various Catholic spiritual traditions and see which speak to our heart and life.



WINGS asks for dues of \$50 per year, or \$20 per season (Fall, Winter, Spring) to defray speaker fees; however, everyone is welcome regardless of ability to pay. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's Parish, and mail to St. Mary's Parish, 8 Church St., Holliston or pay at the door. For additional information about the WINGS ministry, please call Jen Schiller at 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins at 508-259-7795 or visit our webpage <https://stmarysholliston.com/women-in-gods-spirit-w-i-n-g-s/>. To register for WINGS, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com.

SMCWG: St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will be having their October meeting on **Wednesday October 8**, at noon in the library. Please bring your lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. We welcome new members so please join us! For any questions, please call Adele at 508-429-5083.



CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN'S

LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, October 5, the children will remain in the church to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GROUP "A" STARTS TODAY AT 8:00 AM.

Our first group of three to five-year old children will start their journey today in the Atrium in Sister Ricci House with our trained Catechists, Ms. Febo and Mrs. Krenselewski.

May the children experience the joy knowing Jesus, our Good Shepherd Who will always bring us back to His Heart when we are lost.

GRADE	START DATE	DAY AND TIME
	SUNDAY	
CGS-A	October 5	8:00 to 9:15 AM
GR-2	October 5	8:10 to 9:25 AM
GR-2	October 5	10:45 AM to Noon
GR-3	October 5	7:55 to 9:25 AM
GR-3	October 5	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM
CGS-B	October 19	8:00 to 9:15 AM
GR-1	October 19	8:10 to 9:25 AM
GR-4	October 19	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM
GR-5	October 19	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM
GR-6	October 19	4:00 to 5:30 PM
	MONDAY	8:00 to 9:15 AM
Grade 8	October 6	7:00 to 8:30 PM
	TUESDAY	
GR-4	October 7	4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-5	October 7	4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-6	October 21	4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-7	October 7	7:00 to 8:30 PM
GR-9/10	October 28	7:00 to 8:30 PM
	WEDNESDAY	
GR-2	October 8	4:15 to 5:30 PM
GR-4	October 8	4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-7	October 8	7:00 to 8:30 PM
GR-9/10	October 29	7:00 to 8:30 PM
	THURSDAY	
GR-8	October 9	7:00 to 8:30 PM

THE WISDOM OF BISHOP FULTON SHEEN:

What the new morality resolves itself into is this: You are wrong if you do a thing you do not feel like doing; and you are right if you do a thing you feel like doing. Such a morality is not based only on "fastidiousness," but on "facetiousness." The standard of morality then becomes the individual feeling of what is beautiful, instead of the rational estimate of what is right.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2025-2026:

- **Grade 7 - Confirmation 1** begins on Tuesday, October 7 or Wednesday, October 8 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.
- **Grade 8 - Confirmation 2** begins on Monday October 6 or Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.
- **Grade 9/10 - Confirmation** (Last year for Grades 9 and 10) begins on Tuesday, October 28 or Wednesday, October 29 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

THERE IS STILL A SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEER TEACHERS:

Each of us is called to proclaim the Gospel message to our families and others. Go to our website and register to teach at <https://stmarysholliston.com/>, click on Register and then 'Religious Education Volunteer Form' and complete the form to choose the grade, day and time that meets your schedule. **See our Teacher and Monitor Needs Chart Below**, consider teaching a class with another parent or being a Monitor in the lobby. Below are our needs!



OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEERS BELOW:

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

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