

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
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 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 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,

Today we receive one of the most important lessons of Christian life - the call to humility. Jesus offers us a parable about two men who go up to the temple to pray. One is a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. Both are believers, both approach the sacred space, both lift their voices in prayer. But only one is heard by God. Why? Because only one of them prays from a place of humility.

The Pharisee, though religiously observant, stands centered on himself. He lists his spiritual accomplishments and compares himself to others, especially the sinful. His prayer, though addressed to God, revolves around his own virtue.

In contrast, the tax collector stands at a distance, not daring to lift his eyes. His words are few, but his heart is open as he says, *"O God, be merciful to me, a sinner."* This is the prayer of humility, the prayer that pierces through to heaven.

Humility is often misunderstood. It is not weakness, self-hatred, or low self-esteem. True humility is living in the truth of who we are before God. It is the quiet strength to say, *"I am not perfect. I am not the center. I am not the Savior. But I know the One who is."* Humility opens the door for God to be God in our lives.

The world often rewards the proud, the accomplished, and the polished. But God draws close to the lowly, the honest, the contrite. He is not scandalized by our sins or impressed by our successes. He is drawn to the humble heart that trusts in His mercy. That is the only posture that allows grace to flow freely.

St. Augustine once said: *"Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. The higher your structure is to be, the deeper must be its foundation. Do not be afraid of humility; it is not the destruction of your dignity, but its protection. For God dwells with the lowly, and from their smallness He builds His glory. The soul that bends low before God will one day stand upright before His throne."*

We cannot build a life with God unless we begin on humility's foundation. Without it, even our good deeds risk becoming self-serving. But with humility, even our smallest prayers and acts are filled with grace.

As we come to Mass this weekend, we may bring many things - joys, worries, regrets, hopes. But let us also bring a humble heart. Let us pray like the tax collector, not from fear or shame, but from trust. Trust that God sees us completely and loves us anyway. Trust that His love burns above all for those who are contrite and humble of heart.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



Saturday	October 25
5:00	Marc Levasseur
7:30	Carmen Chiango
Sunday	October 26
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	William and Mary Burke
11:30	Emelia Bourque
Monday	October 27
9:00	Bonnie Klemminich
Tuesday	October 28
9:00	Marcie Fleischman
Wednesday	October 29
9:00	John Cooney
Thursday	October 30
9:00	Ron Iadarolo
Friday	October 31
9:00	Joan Legee
Saturday	November 1
5:00	All Souls
7:30	All Souls
Sunday	November 2
7:30	All Souls
9:30	All Souls
11:30	All Souls

O Divine Shepherd of Souls, You Who lead Your flock beside still waters and into eternal pastures, receive with tender mercy the souls of our beloved departed, whom we now entrust anew to Your care.

In the sacred mystery of the Mass, we offer the most holy sacrifice, Your Son, truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, as a fragrant offering for them. Let the light of this Holy Eucharist, offered in love and faith, shine upon the path that leads them home.

May its grace gently wash away every stain of sin, and may Your angels bear them upward, beyond the veil of this world to the place You have prepared for those who love You. Amen.

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

SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:

Catholic World Missions, \$3,682.00. Thank you.

PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 2,456.50
WeShare:	\$ 6,079.27
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 5,290.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 13,825.77
Weekly Need:	\$ 15,000.00

Shortfall \$ 1,174.23

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.** These online services allow you to maintain your support without having to remember to mail or drop off your envelopes. Learn how to make the switch at: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.

MONDAY MORNING NEWSLETTER

COLLATING: Please join us tomorrow, Monday, October 27, from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall to assist in our collating of the November Newsletter. All are welcome and needed! The November Newsletter may already be viewed online in color at: <https://stmarysholliston.com/monthly-newsletters-2/>.

**TODAY! TROOP 14 POPCORN SALE!**

Boy Scouts from St. Mary's Troop 14 will be selling Popcorn after all Masses this weekend October 25 and 26, in the Parish Center Lobby. This annual fundraising event helps our Troop reduce costs associated with our hiking and camping adventures throughout the year. Please stop by after Mass to check out the variety of gourmet popcorn available for sale. Cash and credit cards accepted. Thank you for supporting Boy Scout Troop 14!

TODAY ~ 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.



**BRING YOUR PETS, BIG AND SMALL,
FOR THIS SPECIAL BLESSING!**

NEXT WEEKEND



ST. MARY'S PARISH PASTA NIGHT ~ TICKETS GO ON SALE NEXT WEEKEND!

Come join your fellow parishioners for fine Italian fare, live musical entertainment, and great company at this year's Pasta Dinner on **Saturday, November 15 from 6 to 8 PM.**

The menu will include rigatoni with red sauce, rigatoni with broccoli and chicken, rigatoni with butter, meatballs, salad, rolls and soda, water, juice and Italian pastries.

Families with children of all ages are welcome. The cost is \$10 per person, or \$30 for an immediate family (parents and children).

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses the weekends of November 1 and 2 and November 8 and 9, and at the R.E. Office starting November 3. There are no tickets at the door on November 15. Mangia!

NOVEMBER 1 - FEAST OF ALL SAINTS:

Usually a Holy Day of Obligation, All Saints is not a Mass obligation day this year because it falls on a Saturday. Let us still rejoice in the example of the saints, and ask them to pray for us to the God in Whose Presence they now dwell. Let us rededicate ourselves to becoming saints - not perfect, but redeemed by the grace of God and desiring to be one with Him one day.

NOVEMBER 2 - FEAST OF ALL SOULS:

Because it falls on a Sunday, the Feast of All Souls will be celebrated at all Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses that weekend. All Souls is a day dedicated to praying for the souls of the faithful departed who are undergoing purification in Purgatory. The Church teaches that these souls, though saved, are not yet fully ready to enter the presence of God and benefit from our prayers, sacrifices, and Masses offered on their behalf. This feast expresses the deep communion between the Church on earth, the souls in purgatory, and the saints in heaven.

NEXT WEEKEND

UPSTAIRS CLOW: Next, Sunday, November 2, at the 9:30 AM Mass, followed by DJ&C.



FREE DONUTS, JUICE & COFFEE: Please join us in Fr. Haley Hall next Sunday, November 2 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!

NOVEMBER 2 - ANNUAL BAKE SALE:

St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will be having a Bake Sale after the 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses on Sunday, November 2 in the Parish Center Lobby. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. This is our only fundraiser and all proceeds go to local charities.



FOR OUR YOUTH

TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith):



Last Sunday night, we welcomed 116 teens at our October TGIF meeting. We gathered into small groups and played a game that dusted off our math skills, then dove into the topic of the night, “UNSUBSCRIBING” from things

that separate us from Jesus. We ended our night gathered by the firepits in the parking lot and enjoying some fellowship and S’mores!



A huge thank you to the five teens, Claire Fitzgerald, Susannah Butler, Kyle Raffi, John Tobin and Cam Morgan who shared their Mission Trip Witness at Mass last weekend. We hope that in their sharing, parishioners were able to see how important and life changing this experience is for the teens and those they served.

Last Saturday, 51 teens and their amazing adult chaperones enjoyed McCray’s Fear on the Farm trip!



We look ahead to Wednesday, October 29 for our Celtics trip! **JOIN US** for our third TGIF Meeting (bring a friend) on **SUNDAY**, November 16, from 7:00 - 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall! TGIF is open to **ALL TEENS** in Grades 9 - 12. For more information, contact Lisa Dufault at st.marystgif1870@gmail.com.

FOR OUR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

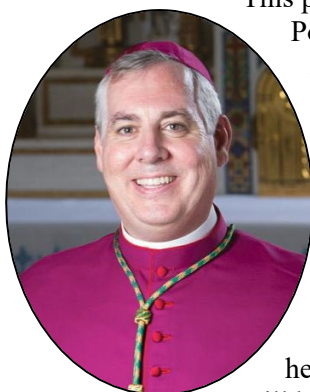


Our November MSYG Monthly Meeting is next Sunday, November 2 from 6:30 - 8 PM. There will be Sign-Ups for the November 11 Paintball Battle as well as for Christmas Cookie Walk Baking and the November 21 Gr. 7 Nursing Home Outreach Event. Also a Giant Milk and Cookie Bar! Open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders! Join us for faith, friendship, service and fun!

A big thank you to the Middle School Youth Group teens who helped bring Baby Shower for the Unborn donations down from the church. Thank you especially to all parishioners who supported this annual effort to assist mothers in crisis pregnancies!



FOR ALBANY



This past Monday, October 20, 2025, Pope Leo XIV named Boston Auxiliary Bishop Mark O'Connell as the new Bishop of Albany, New York. He will succeed retiring Bishop Edward Scharfenberger. Bishop O'Connell is scheduled to be installed on December 5, 2025. We thank him for his faithful ministry here in Boston, and pray that God will bless him in his new ministry!

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.

Our next Cor meeting is on **Thursday, November 13**, in Father

Haley Hall at 7 PM. We will continue our journey through the Old Testament, focusing on the twelve "minor prophets."



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.

FOR WOMEN

LISTENING TO CATHOLIC WOMEN: Bishop Mark O'Connell, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Boston, has started a new video podcast called "Listening to Catholic Women." So far he has published four interviews with outstanding Catholic women, and there are nine more to come in this season. These interviews are an excellent instance of synodality. You can link to the series here: <https://www.youtube.com/@listeningtocatholicwomen>.

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Join us this Tuesday, October 28, 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 Lauren Onak at 954-803-9942.

Many thanks to Meghan Krenselewski (photo right), the founder of our wonderful Mom's

Group. Megan has taken a new position as Director of Marketing at the Montrose School, and we wish her blessings in her new role! She is succeeded as Mom's Group leader by Lauren Onak.



WINGS (Women in God's Spirit):

Our Fall Season theme is

"Spiritualties of the Catholic Church" and it **continues this**

Wednesday, October 29, from 10:00 - 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall in person and also through

Zoom. Babysitting is available. Our

theme this week is *"Simplicity Leads to Holiness"* and our speaker is Theresa Pratt, Past Regional Minister of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS). Following the path of founder, St. Francis of Assisi, **Franciscan spirituality** is a call to the simple life. It is characterized by values such as humility, poverty, fraternity, and reverence for God's presence in all things. To register for WINGS, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com.



FOR THOSE IN NEED

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: 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.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose is sponsored this week by Liz Theiler in memory of George and Emelia Bourque. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a Rose by emailing st.marys1870@gmail.com.

FOR DEEPER REFLECTION

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C
(2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18)

This Sunday's readings call us to a faith that is humble, enduring, and rooted in trust. In the Gospel (Luke 18:9-14), Jesus praises the tax collector who prays with a bowed heart, while in the second reading, Saint Paul - writing from prison - offers his final testimony of faith and surrender. Together they show us what it means to stand before God not in pride, but in the quiet strength of those who rely on His mercy.

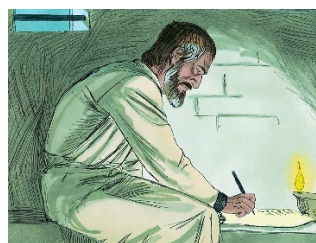
The Second Letter to Timothy is Saint Paul's final letter - a spiritual testament written in the stillness of a Roman prison. The missionary journeys are behind him now; the crowds have faded; the once-busy apostle waits in solitude. And yet, his words are not heavy with sorrow. They shine with peace.

"I am already being poured out like a libation," he writes, *"and the time of my departure is at hand."* Paul's life, once driven by zeal, now becomes a quiet offering, poured out in love for Christ.

There is a deep tenderness in these verses. Paul looks back not with regret, but with gratitude: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* The victory he speaks of is not earthly success, but fidelity - a heart that has remained steadfast through suffering and misunderstanding. What matters most to Paul is not what he has accomplished, but Who has accompanied him.

Then, with striking honesty, he confides: *"At my first defense no one appeared on my behalf, but all deserted me."* Yet even in that painful solitude, Paul discovers the unshakable nearness of Christ: *"The Lord stood by me and gave me strength."* What a quiet miracle this is - that in the places where human companionship fails, divine companionship deepens. The same Christ who once stood alone before Pilate now stands beside His servant in a Roman cell.

Paul's experience is not far from our own. There are times in life when we, too, feel abandoned or weary in our efforts to do good. Yet in those moments, the Lord stands by us still. His strength does not always remove the cross, but it transforms it from a burden into a bridge, from darkness into light.



Paul sees beyond the prison walls to the promise that awaits him: *"The Lord will rescue me from every evil and bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom."* The crown of righteousness he awaits is not a trophy of merit, but the embrace of God's love - a gift prepared for all who have longed for His appearing.

This week, as we hear Paul's final words alongside the humble prayer of the tax collector, we are invited to live with that same humility and confidence. May our own lives, like Paul's, become quiet offerings of faith. And may we find peace in knowing that whatever comes, the Lord will always stand beside us - strengthening, guiding, and leading us home.

CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN'S

LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, October 26, 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.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GROUP "A" MEETS TODAY, OCTOBER 26. The session begins promptly at 8:00 AM in the Atrium located in Sister Ricci House. Our trained Catechists, Ms. Febo and Mrs. Krenselewski, and trained assistants will greet your children and escort them to the Atrium.



DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sunday, Oct. 26	CGS-A at 8:00 AM GR-2 at 8:10 AM GR-3 at 7:55 AM	GR-2 at 10:45 AM GR-3 at 10:45 AM GR-6 at 4:00 PM
Tuesday, Oct. 28	GR-4 at 4:00 PM GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 29	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM	
Sunday, Nov. 2	CGS-B at 8:00 AM GR-1 at 8:10 AM	GR-4 at 10:45 AM GR-5 at 10:45 AM
Monday Nov. 3	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tuesday, Nov. 4	No day classes GR-7 at 7:00 PM	
Wednesday, Nov. 5	GR-2 at 4:15 PM GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Thursday, Nov. 6	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	

THERE IS STILL A NEED FOR MORE TEACHERS AND MONITORS ~ SEE BELOW:

GRADE	SESSION DAY AND TIME	TEACHER NEEDS	MONITOR NEEDS
	SUNDAY		
GR-2	8:10 to 9:25 AM	Filled	1
GR-3	7:55 to 9:25 AM	1 Assistant	1
GR-3	10:45AM to 12:15 PM	1 Assistant	Filled
GR-5	10:45AM to 12:15 PM	1 Assistant	1
GR-6	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1 Assistant	1
	WEDNESDAY		
GR-7*	7:00 to 8:30 PM	1 Teacher	Filled
	THURSDAY		
GR-8*	7:00 to 8:30 PM	1 Teacher	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.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2025-2026:

- **Grade 7 Confirmation I** Third Session: Tuesday, November 4 or Wednesday, November 5 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.
- **Grade 8 Confirmation II** Third Session: Monday, November 3 or Thursday, November 6 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.
- **Grade 9/10 Confirmation** (Last year for Grades 9 and 10), **Session 1** begins on Tuesday, October 28 or Wednesday, October 29 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Starting on **Monday, November 3** and continuing on consecutive Mondays through December 1 at 10:00 AM in Room 3 - 4, the Program "The Bible Timeline" - "The Story of Salvation" will be offered to anyone who would be interested in the course. Join Jeff Cavins, Tim Gray and Sarah Christmyer for the Great Adventure Bible Timeline. The program tracks the growth of God's family from Creation to the establishment of the Church. Discover how God draws His chosen People back to fulfill His divine plan for salvation through many covenants made with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and the prophets. Please contact the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076 if you plan to attend.

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 solid moral foundation. Contact our Religious Education Office and inquire how we can assist your family.

HOLLISTON NEWCOMERS & NEIGHBORS THANKSGIVING 2025 DONATION DRIVE: Fall is upon us and that means that Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is helping to provide gift cards to those in need through the Holliston Pantry Shelf and other local organizations that support the Holliston youth such as Head Start and Wayside Youth & Families. Many families depend on these gift cards to make their Thanksgiving Day a special one. Once again HNN is asking for monetary donations to support these efforts. Please visit their webpage <http://www.hollistonnewcomers.org/donations> and select Thanksgiving or if you prefer to mail your donation, please send a check made out to **Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors to:** Katrine Giroux, 147 Mohawk Path, Holliston and note that it is for Thanksgiving. We are also collecting handmade Thanksgiving Cards which can be dropped off at 922 Highland Street, Holliston - a bin will be at the front door. *Please submit your donation or your cards by Sunday, November 16. Thank you!*