

# Nov. 9 Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

## 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](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!



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today we celebrate a feast that only occasionally falls on a Sunday - the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. The Lateran Basilica, dedicated to Christ the Savior and St. John the Baptist, is the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, our Holy Father, the Pope. As the Latin inscription on its façade states, it is *"the Mother and Head of all the churches of the City and the World."* It is a visible sign of the unity of the universal Church.

Historically, this magnificent basilica was dedicated in the year 324 A.D. by Pope St. Sylvester I, after the Emperor Constantine gave the Lateran Palace to the Church. Through wars, fires, earthquakes, and centuries of change, the Lateran has stood as a testimony to the enduring faith of Christ's people. The Feast of its dedication is not merely about a building of stone and marble. It is about what that building represents: the living Church, built of *"living stones,"* as St. Peter reminds us, where Christ Himself is the cornerstone.

This feast also draws our eyes and hearts beyond the walls of any one church, even our own beloved parish. It reminds us that we *ourselves* are God's temple, sanctified by baptism and nourished by the Eucharist. As St. Paul tells us, *"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"* (1 Cor 3:16).

Every time we make a good Confession, the building of our souls is cleansed, removing anything that is not worthy of God, so that He may dwell more perfectly therein. Every time we gather for the Mass, we welcome Jesus in the Eucharist *"under our roofs,"* and our souls become renewed dwelling places for the Lord.

Today's feast also invites us to renew our love for the whole Church, not just as an institution, but as the Living Body of Christ. In a world where faith can seem fractured or forgotten, our unity around the successor of Peter is a powerful witness. The Lateran Basilica reminds us that, across continents and cultures, we are one people, one faith, one baptism, one Church.

As we give thanks for this mother church, let us also renew our dedication to making our own parish of St. Mary's a true temple of God's presence: a place of prayer, mercy, and welcome. May each of us strive to be a *"living stone,"* joined together in faith, compassion, and love - building up the Body of Christ right here in our community.

Let us take to heart the words of St. Augustine, who preached on this very feast: *"What was done here in this building, let it be done in your souls. Let your hearts be cleansed from sin, that they may become the dwelling of God."*

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



P.S. I am away this weekend to take part in the annual Investiture Ceremonies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Thank you to the Xaverian Fathers for their extra ministry here this weekend. Given the horrific violence in the Holy Land the past two years, the work of the Order has become more urgent than ever. You may learn more about the Order's Mission here:

<https://www.oessh.va/content/ordineequestresantosepolcro/en.html>.

I thank the nineteen St. Mary's Parishioners who have committed themselves to the Order's Mission, and I congratulate our seven Knights and Dames being promoted this weekend. They are:

Mrs. Tracy Abucewicz DHS  
Mr. Tony Alexander KHS  
Mr. Michael Kerrigan KHS  
Mrs. Joanne O'Connell DHS  
Mr. Kevin O'Connell KHS  
Mr. Charlie Paradie KHS  
Mrs. Najat Whalen DHS



### PRAYER OF THE ORDER

O Lord Jesus Christ, for Your five wounds that we carry on our insignia we pray to You.

Give us the strength to love all whom Your Father has created and, more so, our enemies.

Free our soul and heart from sin, from partiality, from egoism and from cowardice so that we can be worthy of Your sacrifice.

Let Your Spirit fall upon us all, the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, so that it may render us as convinced and sincere ambassadors of peace and love among our brothers and sisters and, especially, among all those who think they do not believe in You.

Give us faith to face all the problems of everyday life and to deserve, one day, to approach, humbly but without fear, Your presence.

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 8</b>
5:00	Departed Members of the Moraski Family
7:30	People of St. Mary's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 9</b>
7:30	Joyce Alice Murphy, 36 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
9:30	Winifred Chase, 24 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
11:30	Michael and Jackson Owens
4:00	Grade 2 Inscription Mass
<b>Monday</b>	<b>November 10</b>
9:00	Gertrude Beaudoin, 13 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>November 11</b>
9:00	Deceased Veterans
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 12</b>
9:00	Levon and Anne Charlson
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>November 13</b>
9:00	Patrick McDonald
<b>Friday</b>	<b>November 15</b>
9:00	Charlotte Marden
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 15</b>
5:00	Thomas Fleming
7:30	Holy Souls
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 16</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Jack Cashman
11:30	Rev. Robert Butler

## PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 4,662.00
WeShare:	\$ 5,228.72
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 8,770.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 18,660.72

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



## HONORING THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE:

As our nation prepares to observe Veterans Day this Tuesday, we offer heartfelt gratitude for all who have served in defense of freedom and human dignity. Their courage and selflessness call us to reflect on Christ's own words: *"Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends"* (John 15:13). In their service, we recognize a living reflection of sacrificial love.

St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, *"A life not lived for others is not a life."* Our veterans remind us that holiness often reveals itself not in grand gestures, but in quiet perseverance, faithfulness to duty, and care for others. As we honor them, may our gratitude deepen into prayer and a renewed commitment to peace.

Veterans Day invites us not only to remember the past, but also to look forward in hope. We are called to be builders of peace - within our families, our Church, and our world. Just as the Church stands as a living temple of faith, our veterans have helped preserve the space where that faith may flourish freely.

Let us hold in prayer all who have served, those still in harm's way, and those who now rest in God's eternal peace. May their example inspire us to live lives of service and compassion, so that the light of Christ may shine ever more brightly in our world.

## A PRAYER FOR OUR VETERANS

**God of peace and mercy,  
 we thank You for the men and women  
 who have served our nation  
 with honor and with courage.  
 Bless them for their sacrifices  
 and sustain them in faith and hope.  
 Heal the wounds of body, mind, and spirit that war  
 has left behind, and comfort those who mourn.  
 Grant eternal rest to those who have fallen.  
 And let Your peace reign in every heart.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ST. MARY'S 2025 GRAND ANNUAL KICK OFF IS NEXT WEEKEND!

Please carefully review the Grand Annual information mailed to you by the St. Mary's Finance Council, (also provided on pages 9 & 10 here). This year's Grand Annual goal is \$150,000 – the same as last year's goal which was achieved.

The largest facilities item covered by this year's Grand Annual is the replacement of the two industrial Heating and Air Conditioning Units on the Parish Center Roof. These are both 46 years old and failing.

Pray about it and **decide as a family** what gift you can make according to the means with which God has blessed you.

**If you have children**, make them aware of your Grand Annual support so that they can learn good stewardship by your example.

If possible, please return your gold Grand Annual envelope the weekend of **November 15 & 16**, or as soon as possible. It may be mailed to 8 Church Street or dropped off through the Rectory Office Door Mail Slot at that same address. You may also place it in the offertory basket at any Mass.

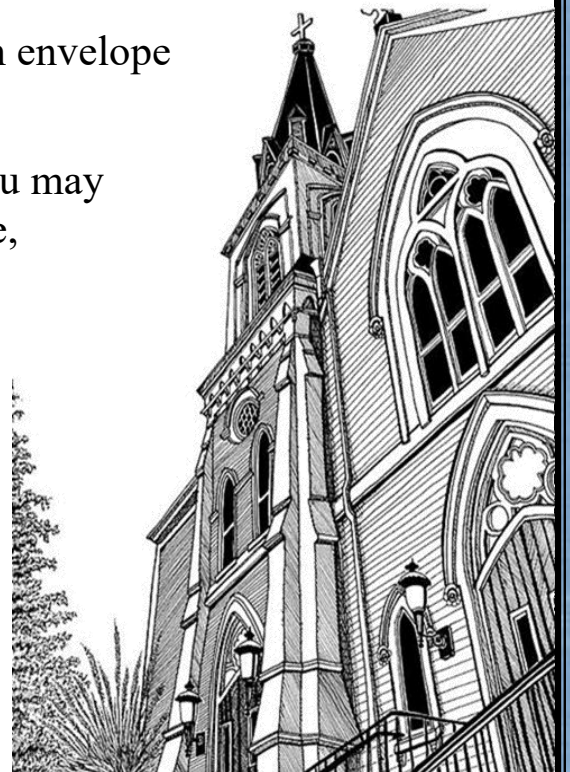
It is important that the special gold envelope, or an envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual" be used.

For those using Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may designate your Grand Annual support as a separate, additional offering.

Thank you for doing your part to support this essential annual stewardship effort!

***"Every person shall give as he is able,  
according to the blessing of the LORD  
your God which He has given you."***

DT 16:17



## 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. Learn more at: <https://www.hollistonpantryshef.org/>.

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** The Rose is sponsored this week by the Martinelli 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, to purchase the rose that week, and the remainder is donated to the Pregnancy Help Program.

## FOR OUR PARISH

**ENLIGHTENMENT FROM THE LOFT:** At this Sunday's 11:30 AM Mass, you'll hear the rich, flowing harmonies of the choir's offertory anthem, Vidi Aquam composed by Michael McCarthy. A Latin summary of Ezekiel 47:1, where we see water flowing from the



temple. This song pairs with today's Gospel reading to remind us that Jesus' Body is the true

temple, sacrificed for us, from which cleansing water flowed where the spear pierced his side. Allow the ebb and flow of this anthem to remind you of the water of God that gives you Life.

**PARISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE:** Through the month of November, traditionally referred to as the "Month of the Holy Souls" the Book of Remembrance will be in front of the Baptismal Font and Easter Candle in the church. You are invited to write the names of your own departed loved ones in the book. Their intentions will then be included in all the Masses celebrated at St. Mary's during November.

## FOR OUR PARISH



**ST. MARY'S PARISH PASTA NIGHT ~ TICKETS ON SALE THIS WEEKEND!**

Come join your fellow parishioners for fine

Italian fare, live music by Andrew Martin, and great company at this year's Pasta Dinner **NEXT Saturday, November 15 from 6 - 8 PM**. Mangia! 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 this weekend, November 8 / 9, and at the Religious Education Office through this Wednesday, November 12. There are no tickets at the door on Pasta Night itself, so be sure to get yours today!

## FOR WOMEN

**WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): Please Join us at WINGS on**

**Wednesday, November 12, from 10 - 11:15 AM**, when we will learn about Ignatian Spirituality and the Jesuit tradition. Our speaker is Fr.

Robert Levens, Campion Jesuit Community, Weston MA and our topic is "Finding God in All Things."

Ignatian spirituality is a spirituality of action, encouraging us to discern God's will and respond with generosity and service. All women are welcome.

Babysitting is available. To register for WINGS, email [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com).



**SMCWG:** St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will be having their meeting on **Wednesday, November 12 at noon in the church library**. We will be having a 'Trash to Treasure' meeting. Your unwanted items may be someone's treasure. Bring your lunch and we will provide beverages and dessert. All are welcome!



## FOR WOMEN

**ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:** Due to the Veteran's Day holiday, we will not be meeting this Tuesday, November 11. Please join us on Tuesday, November 18 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. For more information, please contact Lauren Onak at 954-803-9942.

## 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. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Our next Cor meeting is this **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." Our final meeting of the season will be on December 11 in Father Haley Hall and will feature a guest speaker, Deacon Don LaRose, who will deliver his presentation entitled, "Proof of the Resurrection."

## FOR THE EARTH

**RECYCLING EVENT WITH GREEN TEAM JUNK REMOVAL - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22:** St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council #14224 have teamed up again with Green Team Junk Removal for another big recycling event. The event will run from 9 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, November 22 at St. Mary's Church parking lot. As usual, computers, TV's, printers, and other electronic devices will be accepted. We will also accept mattresses, box springs, snow blowers, stoves, tires, push lawn mowers, EMPTY propane tanks, stoves, fire extinguishers, water heaters, washers, dryers, microwaves and much, much more. A donation charge by item will be collected.

## FOR REFLECTION

**Reflection on John 2:13 - 22, "Zeal for Your House Will Consume Me"**

In today's Gospel, we encounter Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem, driving out the money changers and merchants with a whip of cords, declaring, *"Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"* (John 2:16). This striking scene, sometimes called the Cleansing of the Temple, marks one of the few moments in the Gospels where Jesus' righteous anger flares visibly. Yet beneath this intensity lies a profound revelation of who He is and what true worship means.

St. John places this episode at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, unlike the Synoptic Gospels, which recount it near the end. John's placement is not merely chronological but theological. From the start, Jesus announces that He Himself is the new Temple - the definitive dwelling place of God among His people. When He declares, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,"* the evangelist explains, *"He was speaking of the temple of his body."* (John 2:19-21).

In the Old Covenant, the Temple was the sacred locus of God's presence and Israel's worship. In Christ, that presence is now personal and incarnate. God no longer dwells in stone but in flesh - flesh that will be broken and raised for the world's redemption. Thus, when Jesus cleanses the Temple, He foreshadows both His passion and His resurrection, the destruction and raising of the true dwelling of God.

The disciples recall the verse from Psalm 69: "Zeal for your house will consume me." Jesus' zeal is not rage but love in its purest form - a consuming passion for the holiness of God's presence and for the integrity of worship. The merchants and money changers, though necessary in some respects for temple sacrifices, had allowed commerce to obscure communion. The outer courts of prayer had become noisy with transactions instead of reverent with divine encounter. Jesus' act is thus prophetic: He restores the temple to its sacred purpose.

We might ask: what "markets" have entered the temple of our hearts? The Apostle Paul reminds us, *"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"* (1 Cor 3:16). Our own lives, by baptism, have become sanctuaries of the Holy Spirit. Yet worldly clutter - the distractions of ambition,

consumerism, resentment, or pride - can easily crowd out the quiet presence of grace.

When Jesus cleanses the Temple, He foreshadows not only His death and resurrection but also the ongoing purification He offers to His followers through the Sacrament of Confession. Just as the Temple needed to be cleansed to become a true place of worship again, so too our souls need regular cleansing to become fitting dwelling places for God's presence.

In Confession, Christ - the true Temple - welcomes us back into communion with the Father. He does not drive us out with a whip, but gently invites us to lay down our burdens and to let His mercy sweep away the disorder that sin brings. The priest's words of absolution echo that cleansing power: *"Through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace."*

This sacrament is, in a real sense, Christ's ongoing act of temple-cleansing in the Church. Every Confession renews the sanctity of the inner sanctuary of the soul. It restores peace where there was turmoil, and order where there was confusion. The zeal that once led Jesus to cleanse the Temple is now expressed as His merciful zeal for our holiness and healing.

Every time we receive absolution, we become once more what we are called to be - living temples, radiant with grace. This renewal overflows into our communal worship: when hearts are cleansed, the Church herself shines with greater purity. The Eucharist, then, becomes the natural culmination of Confession, a purified people entering the presence of the Living God.

Let us, then, cultivate a healthy zeal for the house of God, both the physical church where we gather and the spiritual temple within our hearts. Let us not fear Christ's cleansing work, for it is always an act of love.



In the quiet of the Confessional, He still overturns the tables of sin and restores the sanctuary of grace.

*Lord Jesus, zealous for Your Father's house, cleanse the temple of my heart. Sweep away all that distracts me from Your presence. Through the gift of Confession, make me new again, that I may worship You in spirit and truth. Amen.*

## FOR OUR YOUTH

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith):

**Today** we head head to Anna Maria College for a Worcester Diocesan Catholic Youth Rally! There will be music, a keynote speaker, Eucharistic Adoration and Mass.



**Next Sunday**, November 16, from 7 - 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall is our third TGIF Meeting (bring a friend)! TGIF is open to ALL TEENS in Grades 9 - 12. For more information, contact Lisa Dufault at [st.marystgif1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marystgif1870@gmail.com).



Follow us on Instagram (Scan Code Right!)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:



**Our Next Events** are Paintball this Tuesday, Nov. 11; then GR. 7 Nursing Home BINGO on Fri., Nov. 21. **Our Next Meeting is Sunday, December 7, 6:30 - 8 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.** There

will be Sign-Ups for Christmas Cookie Walk Sales, the December 19 Nursing Home Caroling / Shrine Lights Walk / Pizza Party Event, and the January 23 Snowtubing Trip! And as always - Faith, Friendship, Service, and Fun in the Lord. Open to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders. Bring a friend!

PHOTO: MSYG Candlelight Prayer Service for our Beloved Departed last Sunday night. Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord!



### PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN:

In order to serve in **any** ministry at St. Mary's, we require the Protecting God's Children Workshop. We will be offering a workshop here at St. Mary's on Monday, November 10, 6 - 9 PM in Room 3/4 of the Parish Center. You can register on the VIRTUS site - [www.Vitusonline.org](http://www.Vitusonline.org) / Click "First Time Registrant / Select Boston, MA Archdiocese / Create a VIRTUS log-in and follow the prompts to sign up. Thank you!

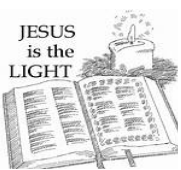
**CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN'S**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Today, November 9, 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:**

The session begins promptly at 8:00 AM in the Atrium located in Sister Ricci House. Ms. Febo and Mrs. Krenselewski, and our trained assistants, will greet your children and escort them to the Atrium.

**GROUP "B" ATRIUM EXPERIENCE LAST WEEK:**

The children were introduced to the Bible as the most special book we have. The Bible tells us God's

secrets. Jesus speaks to us through His words in the Bible even though we hear the voice of another person reading. Jesus told us that He is the Light of the world (John 8:12 and Psalm 118:27).

DAY	CLASS	CLASS
<b>Sunday, Nov. 9</b>	<b>CGS-A</b> at 8:00 AM GR-2 at 8:10 AM GR-2 at 10:45 AM	GR-3 at 7:55 AM GR-3 at 10:45 AM GR-6 at 4:00 PM
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 11</b>	No classes. Veteran's Day	
<b>Sunday, Nov. 16</b>	<b>CGS-B</b> at 8:00 AM GR-1 at 8:10 AM	GR-4 at 10:45 AM GR-5 at 10:45 AM
<b>Monday, Nov. 17</b>	GR-3 at 4:00 PM <b>Ministry Fair</b>	
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 18</b>	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
<b>Wednesday, Nov. 19</b>	GR-2 at 4:15 PM GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM
<b>Sunday, Nov. 23</b>	<b>CGS-A</b> at 8:00 AM GR-2 at 8:10 AM GR-2 at 10:45 AM	GR-3 at 7:55 AM GR-3 at 10:45 AM GR-6 at 4:00 PM

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS**

**NATIVITY:** Families with Grade 1 - 4 children have been sent a sign up form by **email** inviting their children to take a role in the Christmas Nativity pageant at the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass on Christmas

Eve. Rehearsals are scheduled for Saturday **12/6, 12/13 and 12/20** at 9 AM. Registration forms must be received by **Monday, November 24** by snail mail to the address on the form or email to:

[Special.Innkeeper1224@gmail.com](mailto:Special.Innkeeper1224@gmail.com).

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2025-2026:**

- **Grade 7 Confirmation I, Session 4:** meets on Tuesday, December 2 or Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.
- **Grade 8 Confirmation II, Session 4:** meets on Monday, December 1 or Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.
- **Grade 9/10 Confirmation:** (Last year for Grades 9 and 10), **Session 2:** Tuesday, November 18 or Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Monday, November 10, Session 2:** "The Bible Timeline" series continues on "The Story of Salvation" in Room 3/4 at 10:00 AM. If you are unable to attend the second session, please contact the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076.

**HOLLISTON NEWCOMERS & NEIGHBORS THANKSGIVING 2025 DONATION DRIVE:**

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!*

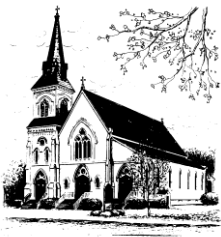
**GRADE 2 INSCRIPTION MASS IS TODAY,**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 4:00 PM:** The Grade 2 children and their families will come together for our traditional Inscription Mass where the children present their paper hearts to Jesus that they made in class. Families must arrive by 3:45 PM

**GRADE 3 TRADITIONAL MINISTRY FAIR ~ MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 4:00 PM IN FR. HALEY HALL:**

All Grade 3 children are to attend. Fr. Mark, the Children's Choir, Altar Servers, Lectors and Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers will teach the children the importance of their ministries in the Church during the celebration of our Sacred Liturgy, known as the Mass. Children will be invited to sing in the children's choir.





# Saint Mary's Parish

8 Church St. ~ Holliston, MA ~ 01746 ~ (508) 429-4427

November, 2025

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

For the past 65 years, St. Mary's, Holliston has relied on the Grand Annual - a once a year special collection that goes entirely toward parish operating costs. In combination with the weekly offertory, the Grand Annual allows St. Mary's to pay her staff and maintain her four buildings, three of which are well over 100 years old.

As you know, the Grand Annual always takes place in November. The 2025 St. Mary's Grand Annual Collection is November 15 & 16. The goal is \$150,000 - the same as the 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 Grand Annuals, which through your good stewardship were all achieved.

The most expensive item is the installation of two industrial HVAC Units to replace the forty-six-year-old original units on the Parish Center Roof, which are both failing. The most visible facilities item is the upholstering of the wooden pew seats in the church. The hard wood can be difficult for older parishioners and others with medical conditions to sit on for the length of a Mass, concert, or other event. The new cushioned seats are custom designed to rest on the curve of our pews and should be in place before January 2026.

The Grand Annual will also cover major concrete repairs to the front and side entrances to the church, as well as the replacement of the stage spot lighting in Fr. Haley Hall. (One track was removed when it stopped working). Also, if you have felt lately that the back of the church has gotten darker, you are correct. After forty years, multiple high fixtures in the nave are so worn and cracked that they can no longer accept bulbs and must be replaced. New lighting is also needed in the Parish Center Lobby, where we are going through a bulb a week from failing fixtures.

While St. Mary's is blessed to have good handicap access via our elevator, those in wheelchairs, walkers, or crutches have difficulty opening the exterior parking lot glass door to access the elevator. We will soon be installing a push panel, automatic door system for them.

As you know from your Newsletter, St. Mary's Youth Ministry Programs have exploded in popularity in recent years. Associated costs have gone up significantly, and we hope to designate part of the Grand Annual to fund these programs that we know are so valued by our people. A complete Grand Annual breakdown follows:

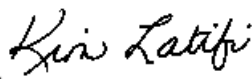
\$47,000	Replacement of both failing industrial HVAC units on the Parish Center Hall roof.
\$17,000	Middle and High School Youth Ministry Programs.
\$14,000	Installation of pew seat upholstery throughout the church.
\$ 8,000	Lighting Fixtures for Hall Stage, Church Nave plus, and Lobby.
\$ 5,500	Concrete Repairs - demolition and new pouring.
\$ 5,500	Exterior Rectory and Church, Interior Sr. Ricci House, Painting and Repairs.
\$ 4,000	Handicap push plate door system for parking lot elevator entry.

The remaining Grand Annual amount is applied to our six full-time staff salaries (\$49,000).

Since successfully paying off the last of her \$1.2 million loan debts in the fall of 2010, St. Mary's has been able to pay her bills and remains debt free. Your generous support of St. Mary's 2025 Grand Annual will assure that the hard-won financial health of our parish continues. We realize that these current economic times are difficult for many. But if we all do what we can according to our means, then the 2025 Grand Annual will be a success. Thank you in advance for your generosity. And thank you for the many ways you personally help to build up our beautiful parish family.

Sincerely,

The St. Mary's Finance Council



Kim Latifi



Kevin O'Connell

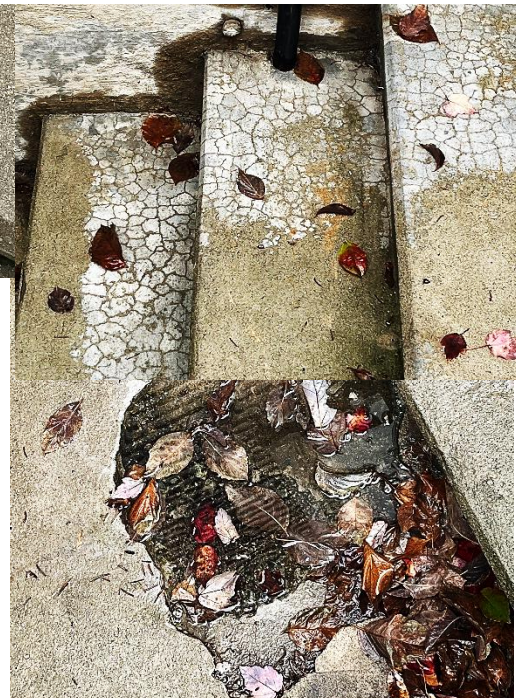
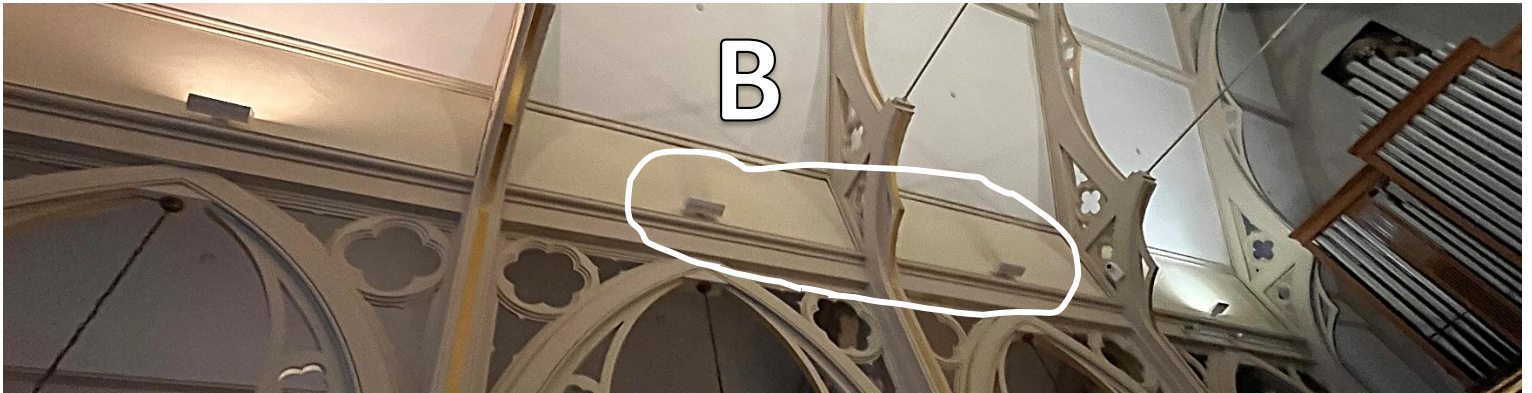
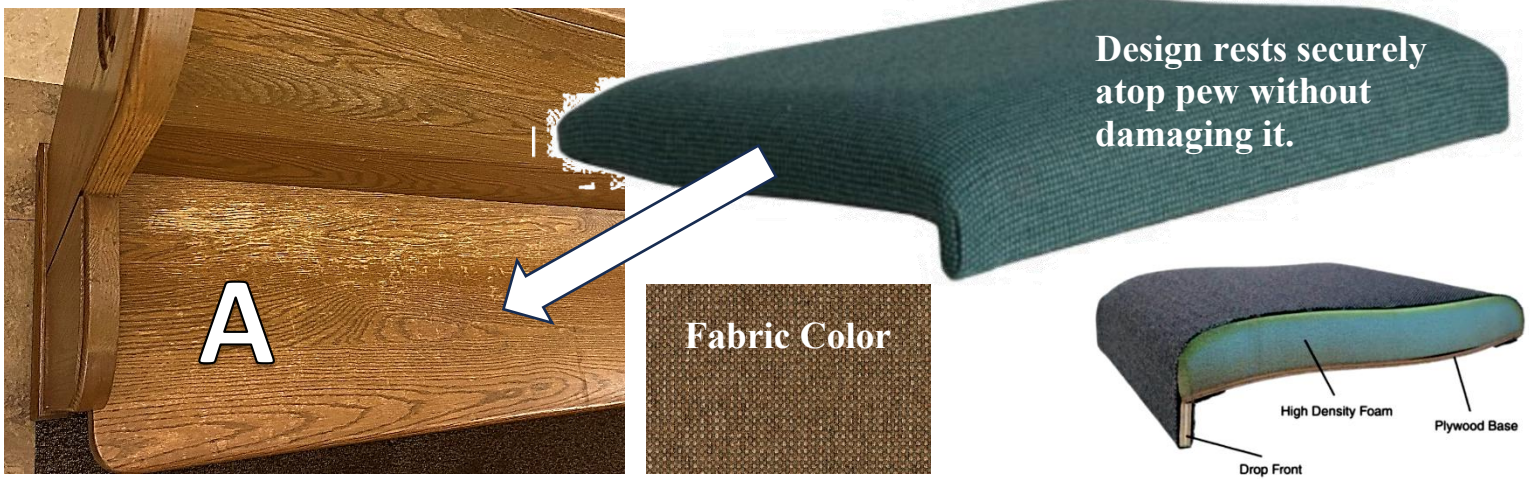


Dianne McDermott Roy



Kevin Diamond





## PHOTOS OF A FEW OF THE 2025 GRAND ANNUAL ITEMS

**A - Church Pew Seats, upholstery instead of refinishing the wood.**

**B -Irreparable Church Upper Nave Lighting Fixtures will be replaced.**

**C - A Push Plate Automatic Door System will be installed for easier handicap access.**

**D - Damaged concrete removal and full repouring. Church front and Lower Church side steps.**

**E -Church and Rectory paint repairs.**