



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

Advent Adoration Schedule:
First Friday, 9:30 - 10:30 AM
Advent Wednesdays, 7 - 8 PM.

Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com
Email Address: St.marys1870@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427
Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

Dear Visitors: Welcome! We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this day. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and if you are interested in becoming a member of the parish then please register through our website or by calling the rectory. Please also be aware that for generations it has been the custom at St. Mary's to kneel together for a silent Hail Mary at the end of Mass. Please join in!

Advent Confessions:

Wednesdays, 7 - 8 PM
Saturdays, 12 - 12:45 PM

Anointing of the Sick: Any time by appointment. Please call as soon as you are aware of a serious illness or upcoming surgery.

Baptism: The 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month. To register for Baptism Preparation call 429-4427.

Marriage: Please call at least 6 months in advance of your desired wedding date.

2025 ST. MARY’S PARISH GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

“What return can I make to the Lord for all He has done for me?” Psalm 116

2025 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:	\$150,000.00
Grand Annual parishioner support received to date:	- \$ 85,099.00
Parishioner support still needed to reach 2025 Grand Annual goal:	\$ 64,901.00
% of 2025 Grand Annual achieved to date:	57 %
% of St. Mary’s families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	36 %



As the Grand Annual continues, contributions may be placed either in the gold G.A. envelope you received in the mail, or in a separate envelope clearly marked “Grand Annual.” G.A. envelopes may be mailed to 8 Church Street or dropped through the Rectory Office Door Mail-slot. Any collection basket passed at Mass may also be used.

As explained in the special mailing to all parishioners, the \$150,000 goal will fund staff salaries, the Industrial HVAC Unit Replacements for the Parish Center, Exterior Church and Rectory Painting and Repairs, the Handicap Door System Installation and more. Your generous support will assure the financial health of our parish continues.

Thank you for your support of this most important annual collection!

PARISH STAFF:

- Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
- The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
- Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon
- Deacon Ronald A. Dowding, Permanent Deacon
- Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon
- Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7
- Mrs. Lisa Dufault, HS Youth Minister
- Ms. Abigail Kelley-Lanser, 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:

Retired Women Religious \$4,579.00. Thank you.

LAST SUNDAY’S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,472.50
WeShare:	\$ 3,574.34
Envelopes:	\$ 5,332.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 12,378.84
Weekly Need:	\$ 15,000.00

Shortfall: \$ 2,621.16

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support. The fiscal health of your parish depends on it. Kindly consider switching to WeShare at <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	November 29
5:00	Agrippina Bender, 23 rd Anv.
7:30	John and Helen Shannahan
Sunday	November 30
7:30	People of St. Mary’s
9:30	Christopher and Mary Lee
11:30	Reynaldo A. Mauro
Monday	December 1
9:00	Theo McLelland
11:00	Funeral ~ Dick Seymour
Tuesday	December 2
9:00	Nancy Pederzoli
Wednesday	December 3
9:00	Holy Souls
Thursday	December 4
9:00	Richard Willette, 33 rd Anv.
11:00	Funeral ~ Monica Nickerson
Friday	December 5
9:00	For Fr. Salman and Our Sister Parish
Saturday	December 6
5:00	Vasco, Pauline, David, Wayne Brovelli
7:30	People of St. Mary’s
Sunday	December 7
7:30	Jacqueline O’Neill, 8 th Anv.
9:30	David Hazard, 5 th Anv.
11:30	Barbara Caron

D. J. & C.: The Welcoming Committee and Parish Council invite all families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Upstairs CLOW Mass NEXT Sunday, December 7, for free donuts, juice and coffee!

ADVENT

Come and see what God has done!

NEXT SATURDAY ~ A FAMILY HOLY HOUR, “THE STORY OF SAINT NICHOLAS!”



Join us on Saturday, December 6, the Feast of St. Nicholas, from 10:30 - 11:30 AM. This one-hour celebration in the church will include music, reflections, prayer and Adoration. The theme this year is “The Story and Lessons of Saint Nicholas.” Following the liturgy, Christmas-themed refreshments will be served in the Lower Church Hall. There will also be a **Kid’s Christmas Cookie Decorating Station** (yes, you get to take the cookies home)! We hope to see you there; all ages are welcome.



NEXT WEEKEND ~ GIVE A GIFT!

December 6 and 7, at all Masses. Once again we ask the people of St. Mary’s to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. All items go to needy families in Boston and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, **unwrapped**

together in a gift bag with a tag stating “Boy” or “Girl” and size or age up to age 18. No adult gifts please. Kindly place your gift in front of St. Mary’s altar at any Mass the weekend of December 6 and 7. Gift bags only please. Thank you!

EVERY WEDNESDAY ~ CONFESSION AND ADORATION:

December 3, 10, and 17, from 7 - 8 PM in the church. Be forgiven, be at peace, be in His True Presence.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 ~ “HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION.”

On Thursday, December 11, Saint Mary’s will welcome guest speaker, Deacon Don LaRose, to offer this fascinating presentation. This Advent Event is sponsored by COR, but open to ALL PARISHIONERS. It will be in Father Haley Hall at 7 PM. Deacon Don’s presentation has received great reviews, and will appeal to all members of the parish, so we have decided not to limit the presentation to just Cor members. Cor’s mission is to help and support the men of St. Mary’s Parish in their quest to deepen their relationship with God, through scripture, catechesis, prayer and small group discussions. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.



DECEMBER 13 AND 14 AFTER ALL MASSES ~ ANNUAL COOKIE WALK!

After all Masses long rows of tables will be set up in Fr. Haley Hall - tables loaded down with over 2,000 delicious homemade cookies baked by St. Mary’s Middle School Youth Group Members. For \$8, you may purchase an empty cookie bag, then “walk” down the rows of tables and select a dozen cookies which MSYG youths (wearing plastic gloves) will place in your bag. All proceeds will benefit the poor of Haiti, a deeply impoverished nation rocked by political collapse, horrific gang violence, and multiple natural disasters.

DECEMBER 8 ~ FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:

Monday, December 8, Feast Day Masses at 9 AM and 6 PM. The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna’s womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception.



LESSONS & CAROLS:

Sunday, December 14, from 5 - 6 PM in the church.

Join us for an evening of beautiful music and scripture, anticipating the wondrous birth of Our Lord Jesus. This year’s Lessons and Carols will feature the combined choirs and ensembles of St. Mary’s Church, under the direction of Abigail Kelley-Lanser. The Lessons & Carols Program will include familiar carols as well as choral music by Praetorius, Mendelssohn, Rutter, and more. Bring your whole family and fill your Christmas preparations with beauty and light!

To quote the lyrics of one of this year’s songs,
“Come and see what God has done!”



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Congratulations to John Gebski, Benjamin Nunes, Francisco Silveyra-Dodds, and Francisco Wood - all of whom are being installed as Altar Servers today. May God bless them, their families, and all of us through their new ministry. Well done!

Today we light a single candle of our Advent wreath. Like the first pale ray of dawn, its light reminds us that the Final Coming of God in His Glory is nearer than we think. Thus, Advent begins not with carols or shepherds, but with a startling Gospel warning from Jesus: *"You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."*

These words are not meant to frighten us. They are meant to wake us up. Jesus speaks of people in the days of Noah going about life - eating, drinking, marrying - good, normal, human things. Yet they lived without reference to God, without an openness to His voice. Their lives became so full of the "ordinary" that they had no space left for the extraordinary grace God wished to give.

In this Advent Season, the Lord invites us to step out of autopilot and into awakened living; to notice Him in the small interruptions, the sudden moments of gratitude, the pangs of conscience, the quiet nudges of the Holy Spirit that we might ordinarily brush aside.

I recently came across a striking line from Saint Macarius of Egypt, one of the early desert fathers. He wrote: *"The heart is but a small vessel; yet dragons and lions are there, and there also are the treasures of grace."*

Advent asks us to look honestly at our own heart; at the chaos within, but also at the hidden places where God is at work. We cannot prepare for Christ's coming until we admit we need Him. But once we do, the "small vessel" of our heart becomes a manger for His presence.



I invite you this week to choose one simple act of preparation:

Slow down. Before beginning your day, pause and ask the Lord, *"Where will You come to me today?"*

Simplify. Reduce one unnecessary noise or distraction, making room for silence.

Seek mercy. Plan now for a good Advent Confession, don't wait until the last minute.

Hold hope. Light the Advent wreath at home and let its glow remind you that God keeps His promises.

Advent is short. Life is shorter. But God's love is eternal, and He draws close in ways both bold and subtle to those awake and watching for Him.

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

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



BISHOPS' MESSAGE ON IMMIGRATION

On November 12, 2025, for the first time in twelve years, the U.S. Bishops issued a Special Message addressing their concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants in the United States. Collectively, the bishops have invoked this particularly urgent way of speaking as a body of bishops.

In a video, some of those bishops have come together to give voice to the message, which advocates for a meaningful reform of immigration laws and the recognition of the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants.

To watch the video message, click [here](#).

To view the Bishops' Statement, click [here](#).

***"To our immigrant brothers and sisters,
we stand with you in your suffering,
since, when one member suffers, all
suffer. You are not alone!"***

(cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26).

FOR REFLECTION

“Come, Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord!”

Isaiah 2:1-5

Advent invites us to look beyond the familiar and to listen for God’s slow, sure footsteps in history. Isaiah 2:1-5, proclaimed this first Sunday of Advent, is one of Scripture’s brightest guideposts on this journey. These five verses reflect the deep longing of God’s people and the radiant future He promises.

Isaiah envisions *“the mountain of the Lord’s house”* rising above all other heights, drawing nations toward its summit. This image is not merely geographical; it is spiritual. The “mountain” symbolizes God’s Presence standing firm amid the shifting landscapes of human life. During Advent, as we prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming, we are invited to ascend step by step from the valleys of distraction and fear toward the heights of renewed faith.

The prophet sees *“all nations streaming toward”* this holy mountain. The verb “streaming” is striking, for water usually flows downward. In Isaiah’s vision, humanity moves against the natural current of the world’s brokenness. The call of the divine pulls every heart upward. Advent reminds us that God’s grace reverses our downward drift. Christ draws us toward Himself not with force, but with the quiet gravity of love.

On that mountain, Isaiah tells us, God will *“instruct us in His ways.”* Advent is a season of listening, of letting our hurried minds be re-tuned to the voice of the Lord. Christ, the eternal Word, desires to teach us again how to walk in mercy, justice, and humble trust. The prophet’s vision is the promise of a transformed life. When God’s word shapes our steps, we begin to become the very peace we long to see.



Perhaps the most stirring line in the passage is the prophecy that weapons will be reshaped into tools of cultivation: *“They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.”* This is the poetry of redemption, a vision of a world where hostility is converted into nourishment, where the energy once spent on fear and rivalry becomes fuel for life and healing.

Advent invites each of us to look within: Where are the “swords” we still carry? What habits of resentment, impatience, or self-protection need to be surrendered to Christ so He can reforge them into instruments of love?

The passage closes with a simple plea: *“O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!”* Advent’s spiritual beauty lies in this invitation not to sprint, not to achieve, but to walk steadily with God. The light we seek is not harsh nor blinding; it is the warm glow of Christ who comes as a child; gentle, near, and approachable. His light is meant to guide our steps through the shadowed places of our world and the dim corners of our own hearts.

As we journey through Advent, may the vision of Isaiah 2:1-5 awaken a holy longing within us. May we feel the upward pull toward God’s mountain, hear the quiet wisdom of His word, and allow Christ to refashion our hearts for peace. And may we, as a parish family, choose each day to walk together in the radiant light of the Lord Who is coming, and Who is already near.

Come, let us walk in His light. Amen.

FOR THOSE IN NEED



HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: Food items needed at the Pantry: Progresso Soup, Campbell’s Chunky Soup, Campbell’s Tomato Soup, Ritz Crackers,



saltine crackers, canned pears, canned fruit cocktail, canned peaches, tuna fish, pasta sauce, pasta (various), Oreo’s (chocolate or vanilla) 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 this week is sponsored by a family in memory of Bill and Martha Kreinsen. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a Rose by emailing st.marys1870@gmail.com. The donation is \$10 which purchases the rose for that week with the remainder being donated to the Pregnancy Help Program: <https://pregnancyhelpboston.org/>.

FOR OUR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Our Monthly Meeting is NEXT 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 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders. Bring a friend!



Thank you to the awesome MSYG 7th Graders who helped run our November Bingo event at Timothy Daniels Nursing Home. The residents appreciated the prizes we brought, but they were most grateful for the chance to visit with our young people, share stories and even begin some new friendships. Special thanks to the kids who during part of the Bingo helped Fr. Mark pray with some sick residents in their rooms as he administered the Sacrament of the Sick to them. Well done! (Photos above).

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



We meet for our third Advent study meeting today, Sunday, November 30 from 3 - 4 PM in Sister Ricci House. At our first two meetings we handed out our 'Waiting Well' book and talked about our Advent study plan. Today we dive into the book on the first day of Advent.



JOIN US, Sunday, December 14, from 7 - 9 PM at ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTER HALL at 145 HOLLISTON STREET, MEDWAY for our fourth TGIF Meeting (bring a friend)!

NOTE THE VENUE AND TIME CHANGE!

TGIF is open to all teens in Grades 9 - 12. For more information, contact: st.marystgif1870@gmail.com.

Our 2026 Mississippi Mission Trip Dates:

Sunday, July 26 - Sunday, August 1, 2026. More details to follow in the coming weeks. Parents/guardians of interested teens are asked to join us at the start of our December 14 TGIF meeting to hear from Jessica Renynolds at Repair and Replenish Retreat Missions. Official Sign-Ups and deposits will be due at this meeting.



FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Join us this Tuesday, December 2, 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.



SMCWG: St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group is having their holiday meeting on Wednesday, December 10 at 12 Noon, in the parish library. Lunch is provided along with dessert and beverages. Please bring a wrapped or bagged Yankee Swap gift of \$10. All are welcome!



CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN'S

LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, November 30, 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.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY ROLES AND SIGN-UP:

The first rehearsal for the Christmas Nativity is next Saturday, December 6 at 9:00 AM for Grade 1 - 4 Children. There are still a few openings available for children to participate. Sign your child up online today. Fill out the online form at [Nativity Registration Form](#), and send it to special.innkeeper1224@gmail.com. The Nativity takes place at the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals are 12/6, 12/13, and 12/20.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GROUP "B" MEETS ON

DECEMBER 7. The session begins promptly at 8:00 AM in the Atrium located in Sister Ricci House. The children learned this past week about the Names of the

Messiah: Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Eternal Father and Wonder Counselor. His reign will be peaceful and He will be called the Prince of Peace. Children will know that God's Name is holy so that they wonder Who this Child is that they are waiting to welcome into their hearts.

DAY	CLASS	CLASS
Sun., Nov. 30	Advent Sunday	Thanksgiving Break
Mon., Dec. 1	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tues., Dec. 2	GR-4 at 4:00 PM GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Wed., Dec. 3	GR-2 at 4:15 PM GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Thur., Dec. 4	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., Dec. 7	CGS-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
Tues., Dec. 9	GR-4 & GR-5 4:00 to 6:00 PM	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM
Wed., Dec. 10	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., Dec. 14	CGS-A at 8:00 AM GR-1 at 8:10 AM GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 at 10:45 AM

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, Session 3:** Meets on Tuesday, December 9 or Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

GRADE 4 AND 5 CHRISTMAS HAPPENING ~ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 4:00 PM: Each Christmas season our students come together to celebrate a special day making Christmas cards, ornaments, and handmade crafts for Gift Bags stuffed with warm hats, gloves, socks, and a toy purchased from their allowance earned from home chores. The toy is for a child their own age. Other items in the Gift Bags are school supplies, pencils, sketch pads, markers, and other treats. The Christmas story is read by teen volunteers and Christmas carols are sung. **All Gift Bags are given to the Holliston Food Pantry** to be distributed to boys in girls in need.



ADVENT CANDLES AND WREATHS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE, AFTER ALL MASSES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30.

HOPE

HOLLISTON NEWCOMERS & NEIGHBORS THANKSGIVING 2025 DONATION DRIVE:

Thank you to all who generously provided monetary donations, gift cards, and Thanksgiving Cards to the Holliston Newcomers and Neighbors for Thanksgiving. May you be blessed abundantly!