



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.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

On this Second Sunday of Advent, the prophet Isaiah gives us one of the most hope filled images in Scripture (Isaiah 11:1-10): *"A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse."*

Jesse was the father of King David (1 Sam. 16), so the "stump of Jesse" refers to the Davidic dynasty, the royal lineage God promised would endure forever (2 Sam. 7).

By Isaiah's time, however, the Davidic kingdom had become corrupt and was soon to be cut down by conquest and exile. It was like a dead stump, something that once flourished but now appeared finished.

The image of a stump symbolizes the end of earthly kingship in Israel, the collapse of David's royal line, and a kingdom that seems destroyed and lifeless. But God preserves a hidden potential for renewal - the shoot, which symbolizes the promised Messiah.

This promise is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, Who is a descendant of David (Mt 1:1, Lk 1:32), and Who will inaugurate a new, everlasting kingdom (Lk 1:33).

The unexpected green shoot growing from a dead stump speaks to us of the Advent of Jesus, and also of God's grace moving in our own lives. It is a reminder that God brings life out of what looks dead, healing out of what seems irreparable, and new beginnings from places where we've long since given up.



All of us have "stumps" in our lives: relationships that feel stuck, habits we keep promising to change, wounds from the past that still sting, worries about loved ones who seem far from God.

Isaiah tells us that God is not finished with any of these places. Advent is not a season of pretending everything is perfect; it's a season of letting God grow something new in the very places we feel most barren.

Tomorrow, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mary is the perfect Advent companion because she shows us what God can do with a heart fully open to Him. She was prepared from the first moment of her existence to receive Christ, and she teaches us to prepare room in our lives for Him as well.

Mary's Immaculate Conception is not just a theological doctrine. It is a proof that God's grace can reach even the hidden, damaged places within us - our fears, our patterns of sin, our discouragement - and begin something new. At her own conception in Anna's womb, God protected Mary from the original sin that had touched and tainted every human being since the Fall. This marked a new beginning for us all.

And then in Mary herself, at the Annunciation, God brought forth new life from the womb of a virgin - a place where no life could be expected. A "shoot sprouting from the stump" by God's grace and Mary's fiat.

If there is an area of your life that you've decided will "never change," try giving it to Mary this Advent. Ask her to help you say "yes" again to God's plan for you, the path of faith that leads to peace and purpose in this life, and to eternal joy in the life which is to come. Ask, and you will discover the truth of these words written by St. John Damascene:

"Mary helps the fallen to their feet; guides the erring; and with tenderness brings back sinners to reconciliation with her Son."

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



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:	- \$110,087.00
Parishioner support still needed to reach 2025 Grand Annual goal:	\$ 39,913.00
% of 2025 Grand Annual achieved to date:	74 %
% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	45 %



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

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 TODAY, Sunday, December 7, for free donuts, juice and coffee!

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 4,112.00
WeShare:	\$ 4,382.16
Envelopes:	\$ 5,523.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 14,017.16
Weekly Need:	\$ 15,000.00
Shortfall:	\$ 982.84

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 | December 6 |
| 5:00 | Vasco, Pauline, David, and 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 |



**Monday, December 8,
Holy Day of Obligation**

- 9:00** *Immaculate Conception*
- 6:00** *Immaculate Conception*

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuesday | December 9 |
| 9:00 | Holy Souls |
| Wednesday | December 10 |
| 9:00 | Daniel Hannon |
| Thursday | December 11 |
| 9:00 | Merritt Moraski |
| Friday | December 12 |
| 9:00 | Wayne Healy |
| Saturday | December 13 |
| 5:00 | Vincent and Joan Mullen |
| 7:30 | Paul Greeley |
| Sunday | December 14 |
| 7:30 | Don Marden |
| 9:30 | People of St. Mary's |
| 11:30 | Emelia Bourque |

ADVENT

Come and see what God has done!



THIS 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!

TOMORROW ~ 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 Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a cherished moment for Catholics, as we contemplate the unique grace God bestowed upon Mary from the first moment of her existence. This celebration honors Mary's being conceived without original sin, not as a privilege earned, but as a pure gift preparing her to become the Mother of Jesus.

The beauty of the feast lies in its message of hope: that God's grace can heal, restore, and transform humanity. For Catholics, honoring this day is a way of recognizing Mary's special role in salvation history and reaffirming our own call to holiness. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception. Tomorrow we will ask Mary's maternal protection over our country and renew our commitment to live out the Gospel with faith and devotion. Immaculate Mary your praises we sing!



"Today the pure and stainless Virgin is conceived, the most holy womb in which God Himself will dwell." - St. John Damascene

EVERY WEDNESDAY ~ CONFESSION AND ADORATION: December 10, and 17, from 7 - 8 PM in the church.

Be forgiven, be at peace, be in His True Presence.



THIS THURSDAY ~ “HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION.”

December 11 from 7 - 8 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. Advent and the Resurrection may seem far apart in the liturgical year, but spiritually they are woven together into one beautiful mystery of hope.

In Advent, the Church leans forward in longing, waiting for God to enter our darkness with His light. At the Resurrection, that light bursts forth in full brilliance as Christ rises from the tomb, conquering the very darkness we awaited Him to dispel.

Advent teaches us to hope for a Savior; Easter reveals the Savior's victory. The manger is the beginning of the journey that leads to the empty tomb. At Christmas, God draws close to us; at Easter, He lifts us into new life. Both seasons reveal God's relentless desire to save, heal, and restore His people. In our own lives, we encounter both Advent and Easter moments - times of waiting and times of rising. Remembering their unity helps us trust that every longing we bring to God will one day be met with the joy of resurrection.

Advent then is a beautiful time to reflect on the Resurrection of Our Lord. Deacon Don LaRose will help us do this, with his fascinating presentation, “Historical Evidence of the Resurrection.” This Advent Event is sponsored by COR, but **OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS**. The fruit of twelve years of research, Deacon Don's presentation has received great reviews, and will appeal to all members of the parish. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

NEXT WEEKEND ~ THE COOKIE WALK! December 13

and 14 after all Masses. 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.



A detailed stained glass window depicting a king, likely one of the Three Kings, wearing a golden crown and a red robe. He holds a large, ornate book with the letters 'A' and 'C' on the pages. The background features intricate patterns and colors, including red, blue, and gold.

Christ is coming soon

Join us for an
*Advent Story
Celebration*

featuring St. Mary's
Adult & Children's Choirs

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 5 PM

Organ Recital begins at 4:30 PM

8 Church St. Holliston, MA

**St. Mary's Parish
LESSONS & CAROLS 2025**

FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

LIBRARY CHRISTMAS BOOKS: There is a selection of Advent and Christmas picture books in the Library under the window. Traditionally told nativity stories with beautiful illustrations as well as unique stories told from a different perspective but all faithful to the story and message of Christ's coming. Also, Christmas music on the shelf!

FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Join us this Tuesday, December 9, from 9:45 - 11:00 AM, in Fr. Haley Hall as we pray together, read reflections according to the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. During the school year, children of all ages are welcome and there are toys and coloring activities available. For more information, please contact Lauren Onak at 954-803-9942.

SMCWG: St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group is having their holiday meeting this 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!



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.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by the Caron Family in memory of Don Marden. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a Rose by emailing st.marys1870@gmail.com.

FOR OUR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Our Monthly Meeting is **TONIGHT**, **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 (pic below), 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!



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

We meet for our fifth Advent study meeting today, Sunday, December 7 from 3 - 4 PM in Sister Ricci House. The teens reflections and eagerness to open their hearts has been such a gift!



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)!



STMARYS_TGIF

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.**

Parents/Guardians of interested teens are asked to join us at the start of our December 14 TGIF Meeting to hear Jessica Reynolds from Repair and Replenish Retreat Missions. Official Sign-Ups and deposits will be due at this meeting. Information will be emailed out tonight to registered TGIF teens. Hard copies will be mailed out tomorrow, December 8!



CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, December 7, the children will remain in the church for an interactive homily to learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GROUP "B" MEETS TODAY. CGS begins promptly at 8:00 AM in the Atrium located in Sister Ricci House. Taking time to slow down is a tenet of the Montessori and CGS method. As the children will learn in the Atrium,

Advent is a preparation time and a waiting time. In the Annunciation work, children learn that the People of Israel waited a long time for Jesus to come. We are also waiting for Jesus. Below are Advent songs to sing together as a family.

<https://www.cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-approach/cgs-in-the-home-parent-resources/advent-for-families/>

DAY	CLASS	CLASS
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
Mon., Dec. 8	Feast of Immaculate Conception	No classes
Tues., Dec. 9	GR-4 at 4:00 PM* GR-5 at 4:00 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 GR-6 At Home class
Mon., Dec. 15	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tues., Dec. 16	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. 17	GR-2 at 4:15 PM GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Thur., Dec. 18	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2025-2026:

Grade 7 Confirmation I, Session 4: Meets on Tuesday, December 16 or Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

Grade 8 Confirmation II, Session 5: Meets on Monday, December 15 or Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

Grade 9/10 Confirmation, Session 4: Meets on Tuesday, December 9 or Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY REHEARSAL: The second rehearsal for the Christmas Nativity is Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 AM for Grade 1 - 4 Children in Fr. Haley Hall. The Nativity takes place at the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 24 in Fr. Haley Hall.

***GRADE 4 AND 5 CHRISTMAS HAPPENING ~ THIS 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.



WHAT IS THE JESSE TREE? Our 6th graders made the ornaments for the Jesse Tree in front of the library. The Jesse Tree represents the family of Jesse, the father of King David. The ornaments tell of the Prophets Isaiah and Micah who foretold that the Messiah, Jesus, would be born in Bethlehem.

ADVENT WREATH: The first purple Advent candle lit last Sunday is for **HOPE**. The second purple candle lighted today is for **PEACE**. Let us pray for the virtues of hope and peace around the world.



FATIMA SHRINE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY: The Xaverian Missionaries will hold their traditional Christmas Lights Display from Thursday, December 11 to Saturday, December 27, from 5 to 9 PM. Hot chocolate and treats are provided for visitors. All are most welcome!