



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!

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



A TIME FOR FEASTING! After four weeks of Advent penance and preparation, we now celebrate the great Feast of the Nativity and begin a season of feasting in the Church. Let us savor each celebration and drink deeply of the grace God offers!



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: December 27 and 28, regular Weekend Mass Schedule. We honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We look to their example and pray that our own families may be holy - enjoying unity and peace.



FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: A Holy Day of Obligation. Vigil Mass: Wednesday, December 31, at 5:30 PM.

Feast Day Masses: Thursday, January 1, at 9:00 AM and 6:15 PM. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God finds its origin at the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD. This Council of the Church declared Mary the “theotokos” or “God-bearer,” since she bore into the world Jesus Christ in Whom both human and divine natures are fully present. The placement of this Holy Day of Obligation on January 1 is a wonderful blessing for us. What better way to start the New Year than by gathering as a Parish Family around God’s table? And what better New Year’s Resolution could we make, than to try like Mary to be “bearers” of Christ into the world?



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: January 3 and 4, regular Weekend Mass Schedule. The Wise Men arrive in Bethlehem bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We thank God for all the many gifts He has given us and offer Him the gift of our worship and lives spent in loving service of His Son. **Children’s Homily Then Donuts, Juice, & Coffee:** The 9:30 AM Sunday Mass for Epiphany is an Upstairs Children’s Liturgy, followed by Donuts, Juice & Coffee in Fr. Haley Hall. Come meet your neighbors and Parish Council members!

MASS INTENTIONS - THE GIFT OF GRACE! The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic Tradition. Continuing in this long-standing practice, you can remember someone who has died recently or many years ago. But intentions do not have to be just for the dead. They make beautiful gifts for any special occasion: birthday, anniversary, in thanksgiving for a prayer answered, etc. You can also offer an intention for someone who is struggling with a serious illness or other trauma.

2025 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:

The Christmas Mass Collection supports the retirement, healthcare, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We encourage you to please give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to



faithfully serving God and the people of the Archdiocese of Boston. For more information, visit <https://clergytrust.org/>.



If you use Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may indicate your Christmas gift electronically or use this QR code or the clergy trust website. Thank you!

DILEXI TE ~ POPE LEO’S FIRST APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION: Are you interested in reading more about “*the close connection between Christ’s love and His summons to care for the poor*” (Dilexi Te, #3)? Following up on last year’s discussion of Pope Francis’ Encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, (Dilexit Nos), Leo Racine will be facilitating a Zoom discussion of Pope Leo’s October 2025 Apostolic Exhortation, Dilexi Te: On Love for the Poor. It will take place at 10 AM on the last two Saturday mornings in January: January 24 and 31. Call Leo at 508-429-7476 or email him at leoaracine@msn.com for more information or to register. When you register, you will receive the reading plan and be asked to share your email address for participation purposes. Click the Pope’s image above left to access the document online.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

As you open this Christmas bulletin, I invite you to linger for a moment with the image on its cover. The Nativity scene shows Mary and Joseph, the donkey and the sheep, all huddled close around the Christ Child. They seem to draw near not only to welcome Him, but also to receive warmth from Him. It's as if, in a cold and threatening world, they already know that this Child is their shelter and their hope.

This simple image captures the heart of Christmas. Jesus is born into a world that is not gentle or safe, but uncertain and often dark. Yet even as God draws close to us in the person of the newborn Christ, He invites *us* to come closer to Him - to approach Him for light, for warmth, for love.

We feel the need for that closeness this year. The shadows of violence and hatred have touched many hearts. The recent shootings in Brookline, Brown University, and at the Sydney Hannukah celebration remind us how fragile peace can be and how quickly fear can spread. These events grieve us deeply. They also remind us of how essential the gift and message of Christmas is.

Scripture tells us, *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isaiah 9:2). That light is not an idea, it is a Person. In Bethlehem, God chooses to enter our darkness as a vulnerable child, so that no suffering heart would ever be alone. *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"* (John 1:5).

Like the figures in the Nativity, we are invited to huddle close to God and to one another. The Psalms remind us, *"God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress"* (Psalm 46:1). Jesus Himself says, *"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). When the world feels cold, we do not warm ourselves by turning away, but by drawing nearer to the One who is love made flesh. Emmanuel, "God With Us."

We draw close to Christ when we receive Him in Holy Communion, when we gather to hear His Good News proclaimed, and when we go forth each Sunday to carry the light of His Presence into the world by living and loving as He did.

This Christmas may our parish be a place of holy warmth, where fear gives way to faith and where strangers are welcomed. A place where wounds, seen and unseen, are treated with compassion. And as we stand around the manger, may we also stand in solidarity with all who suffer, praying for peace, rejecting hatred, and choosing mercy.

A few Sundays ago, we heard the prophet Malachi speak of the coming Messiah as the *"sun of righteousness"* who rises *"with healing in his wings"* (Malachi 4:2). This Christmas and in the New Year about to begin, may that healing light shine brightly in your home, in our nation, and in our world.

In the Peace of the Newborn King,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



FOR OUR SISTER PARISH

Below is the photo and a thank you note from one of the five children we will scholarship this year at our Sister Parish's School outside Bethlehem. The special annual collection to fund the Holliston - Holy Land Friendship Scholarship, will be held at our Masses on the weekend of January 10 and 11, 2026. This Christmas, let us all redouble also our spiritual support, asking God's grace to bring peace and hope to His children suffering in the Lands of Christ.

My name is Francesca Yousef Hanna Awad. I am five and a half years old, and I study in the first grade at the Latin school. My mother is a housewife and my father works as a laborer from time to time. We live in a rented house, and our economic situation is very difficult, especially with the hard times and war that the Palestinian people are going through. I want to thank you with all my heart for your great support. Because of your generosity, I can continue my studies and stay in school with my friends. Your help has given me hope and the chance to learn, dream, and build a better future.



THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT ST. MARY'S



St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group Cookie Walk raises \$2,830.63 for the poor in Haiti!



St. Mary's 2025 Give A Gift collects a RECORD 783 presents for poor, inner city children. Thank you, Knights of Columbus, for sorting and delivering them!



4th & 5th Graders create Christmas Gift Bags filled with Gifts and School Supplies for the Holliston Pantry Shelf!



Our Choirs lead a magnificent Lessons & Carols Celebration!



MSYG teens carol at Mission Springs!



TGIF teens decorate 150 Christmas Cards for Saint Patrick's Manor Residents!

