



St. Mary's Parish

**O Light born of Light,
hidden in humility and revealed in glory,
we lift our eyes to the star You set upon the heavens,
a flame of mercy guiding every searching heart.**

**As the Magi crossed deserts of silence and longing,
so draw us beyond the borders of fear and comfort.
Teach us to trust the quiet call of Your wisdom,
even when the road bends through shadow and doubt.**

**Christ Jesus,
You are made known not by power, but by presence,
a Child cradling the mystery of all nations,
a King whose throne is love poured out.**

**Receive the gifts we bring: the gold of our devotion,
the incense of our prayer, the myrrh of our sorrows.
Transform them by Your grace,
that our lives may proclaim Your glory.**

**May Your light rise within us, steady and unafraid,
until every corner of the world
and every chamber of the heart
recognizes You as Lord.**

**Guide us home by another way,
the way of mercy, truth, and peace,
until the day we behold You face to face,
the everlasting Dawn Who never sets. 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, 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

LAST SUNDAY’S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 3,487.00
 WeShare: \$ 3,822.08
 Envelopes: \$ 5,602.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 12,911.08
Weekly Need: \$ 15,000.00

Shortfall \$ 2,088.92

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

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:
 “Holliston - Holy Land Friendship Scholarship.”**

Due to the ongoing war, unemployment in the Bethlehem area is at 50%. The pilgrimage related employment upon which Christians there rely has ceased, and the people are still locked down and unable to reach other jobs. So for these five scholarship children, our support will truly be a light in the darkness. Let us also pray for these children of our Sister Parish in Beit Sahour, Palestine.

And let us continue to pray for peace in the Lands of Christ!



MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday January 3
 5:00 Michael Sanders
 7:30 Deborah DeLuca
Sunday January 4
 7:30 People of St. Mary’s
 9:30 William Reynolds, 24th Anv.
 11:30 Dianne Gootman
Monday January 5
 9:00 Len Levasseur
Tuesday January 6
 9:00 Dianne Gootman
Wednesday January 7
 9:00 Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday January 8
 9:00 Terry Stewart
Friday January 9
 9:00 Don Marden
Saturday January 10
 5:00 Donna LaRosa and George Smith
 7:30 Walter J. Ciampa, Sr., 10th Anv.
Sunday January 11
 7:30 People of St. Mary’s
 9:30 Paul Dresler, 2nd Anv.
 11:30 Margaret Reddy, 18th Anv. and Bryan Reddy, 20th Anv.



Andrieh Jaraysah



Farah AL - Baho



Franshisca Awwad



Bisan Ayyad



Bilar Jaraysah

ABOVE: Photos and names of the five children we hope to scholarship this year at our Sister Parish’s School. The special annual collection to fund the Holliston - Holy Land Friendship Scholarship, will be held at our Masses next weekend, January 10 and 11.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Happy Feast of the Epiphany! Today we celebrate the "Epiphany," or "Manifestation" of Christ to the entire world. In the journey of the Magi, we see a beautiful reflection of our own spiritual lives - a constant, restless search for something and Someone greater than ourselves.

The Magi were not just scholars, they were seekers. They represent the universal human longing to find meaning. St. Augustine beautifully captured this truth when he wrote, *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."*

Like the Magi, we are called to be attentive to the "stars" in our own lives; those moments of grace, beauty, or even longing that nudge us to get up and follow the Lord more closely.

When the Magi finally reached Bethlehem, they offered gifts that revealed exactly who this Child was. These gifts are a roadmap for our own devotion.

The gift of gold recognizes Jesus as King. It represents our virtue and our willingness to let Him rule our hearts and our daily decisions.

The gift of frankincense recognizes Jesus as God. Used in worship, the smoke of incense rises to heaven just as our prayers should rise to Him each day.

The gift of myrrh recognizes Jesus' humanity and sacrifice. An ointment used for burial, it foreshadows the bitter Passion and the depth of His love for us.

While we reflect on the gold, frankincense, and myrrh, there is another gift we are called to bring to the manger - the gift of forgiveness. Too often, we hold onto old hurts, grudges, and bitterness like heavy baggage. Jesus came into the world to reconcile us to the Father. And there is no gift more pleasing to Him than when we imitate His mercy.

By letting go of a resentment or reaching out to someone who has wronged us, we offer a "spiritual myrrh" that heals the Body of Christ. To forgive is to empty our hands of stones so that we can fill them with love.

It is easy to look for God in the spectacular, but the Magi found Him in a humble place. Today, our search for God must also lead us to the humble. We find the face of Christ most clearly in those who are hurting, lonely,

or forgotten. If we wish to truly adore the King, we must seek Him in the hungry, the immigrant, the elderly person living alone, and the neighbor carrying a heavy cross. When we serve them, we are laying our very best at the feet of Jesus.

As we move into this New Year 2026, let us ask for the *courage* to keep searching, the *humility* to kneel, and the *heart* to forgive.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



P.S. Again this year St. Mary's is pleased to provide you with blessed Epiphany Chalk. This custom is a beautiful way to invite Jesus anew into your home and family. The procedure for blessing your home with Epiphany chalk is provided today on the next bulletin page. Just wipe away the old year's chalk with soap and water to prepare.



UPSTAIRS KID'S HOMILY + DONUTS, JUICE & COFFEE!

Today, Sunday, January 4, an upstairs Children's Homily will be offered at the 9:30 AM Mass in the main church. The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass, for donuts, juice and coffee! Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be attending and welcome any comments or ideas you have for St. Mary's.

WHEN DOES CHRISTMAS CONCLUDE?



The Christmas Season began with the Vigil of Christmas on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, and continues through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, next Sunday, January 11, 2026. The Baptism of Jesus is a "transitional feast," bridging Christmas and the return to Ordinary Time. So the procrastinators among us have another whole week to give gifts and send Christmas cards! And we all have another week to bask in the joy of Our Saviour's Birth.

BLESSING OF THE HOME WITH EPIPHANY CHALK: Again this year we invite parishioners to take part in the tradition of “chalking the door” to celebrate the Epiphany, the day that marks the arrival of the Magi to the place where Jesus was born.

Chalking the door is a prayer and symbol of asking God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit your home throughout the New Year.

In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the angel of death would pass over their homes. In this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God’s presence and protection upon our homes.

In Deuteronomy 6:9 God tells the people of Israel: *“These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God and remember to invite Him into our family life throughout the New Year.

How to Participate - At Mass today, take home a piece of the blessed Epiphany Chalk provided at all the church entrances. Then at home, with the whole family gathered together, inscribe the following on the outside of your house or inside above the front main entrance:

20 + C + M + B + 26

The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also an abbreviation for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” which means, “May Christ bless this dwelling!” The first and last numbers refer to the current year.



Prayer - *Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house, and all who live here, and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may shine forth to all. We ask this together as a family, in the words that Jesus taught: Our Father ... Amen.*

CHRISTMAS THANKS!

On this Feast of Gifts, we offer our great gratitude to all those who made our St. Mary's Christmas 2025 celebrations so very beautiful!

The St. Mary's Adult Choir, under the direction of Abbey Kelley-Lanser, offered glorious music to herald the Savior's birth. It was also great to have Leo Racine singing again at the Hall Christmas Mass. Deacons Marty, John, Ron and all the Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers brought great reverence and faith to our Christmas Masses.

Outdoors, the efforts of the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus and Stumpy's Tree Service provided a grand light display, with the Knights setting up the bush lights, Manger, and Nativity scene. Stumpy's strung all the tree lights – including on our Mary Tree, which never looked better. (Blue is the Virgin's color). Special thanks to Knight and neighbor Paul Saulnier who watched over and kept the lights in good repair through wind and weather.

Inside, the Paltrineri's handmade ribbons adorned our wreaths. Katie Smith, Cindy Pratt, Margie, Ellie and Abby Winchenbach, Ingrid Roth, Jenna Bausch, Linda Truitt, Bea Hait, and Emily Bukow helped Najat Whalen arrange the poinsettias in the church sanctuary and Father Haley Hall. They were assisted by teens Gavin Bausch, Jake Miranda, Millie Keefe, Mary Marshall and Allison Barrett. Knights of Columbus Tom Brodo, Charlie Paradie, Stephen Noyes, and Henry Febo set up both the church tree and the lobby tree. The latter was decorated with handmade ornaments created years ago by members of the Spirited Hands Craft Group.

On behalf of the retired priests of our Archdiocese, we thank everyone who contributed to the 2025 Christmas collection which was **\$18,211.41. (The 2024 Christmas collection was \$20,155.54). Due to the importance of this collection in the lives of our retired priests, we encourage anyone who may have been away from St. Mary's this Christmas to please make their Christmas offering now.** This may be done by mailing it to 8 Church Street, placing it in a Mass collection basket, or through the rectory door slot. It must be in a separate envelope clearly labeled "Christmas Collection" in order to differentiate it from the parish offertory.

If you use Automatic Giving or WeShare, you may indicate your Christmas gift electronically, or through the clergy trust website: <https://clergytrust.org/>. Thank you for being there for our retired priests, who gave their lives in faithful service to God's people.

We thank anyone we may have forgotten to mention here, and most especially we thank all of you who made our Christmas celebrations meaningful by your prayers and presence. May our celebration of Christ's birth bring us all a renewed faith and increase our longing for His return. God bless you!





Michael Carter Lisnow Respite Center

BAKE SALE: Following the 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses TODAY, Sunday, January 4, a Bake Sale will be held in the lobby outside Father Haley Hall. A student grant from St. Mark’s School has made it possible to bake and sell sourdough bread and a variety of other homemade desserts to raise funds for the Michael Lisnow Respite Center in Hopkinton. The Respite Center provides support for individuals with disabilities and their families. All food is homemade, and all proceeds will be donated directly to the Respite Center.

ST. MARY’S MOM’S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, January 6 from 9:45 - 11 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.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: On Saturday, January 17, in Father Haley Hall, St. Mary’s K of C Council #14224 will sponsor its annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Hours are from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-REDCROSS or visit on-line redcrossblood.org and search by zip code (01746) in the “Find a Blood Drive” field. No walk-ins will be accepted. You must have an appointment. If you have further questions, contact Blood Drive Coordinator Rodman Burgett at 508-653-6130. Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages - accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Please help!



FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 FAMILY BINGO:

What: Fun Family BINGO with gift cards and other awesome prizes! Snacks and drinks will also be on sale to benefit the Mission Trip.

When: Friday, January 23, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

Where: Fr. Haley Hall, St. Mary’s Church, Holliston.

Donation: \$20 for an Adult Prizes Card; \$10 for a Kiddie Prizes Card - both are good for two hours of play! Cash, Check, or VENMO accepted.

The Cause: This July, 93 high school students from St. Mary’s will travel to Gulfport, Mississippi for a week of faith-filled Mission work and service. This is a life-changing week for the teens and chaperones as they live out their faith, make

lifelong friendships, and get to know the people they serve. It is a beautiful extension of our Parish Family’s Mission to know, love, and serve God. The estimated cost of the trip this year is \$1,500 per teen.

DILEXI TE ~ POPE LEO’S FIRST APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION, January 24 & 31, 2026: 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), St. Mary’s, Holliston Parishioner (also St. Mary’s, Franklin Pastoral Associate), 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 \ leoaracine@msn.com for more information or to register.

WINGS (Women in God’s Spirit): Is pleased to present our 2026 Winter Bible Study in person and via Zoom. **The Winter Season begins Wednesday, January 28 at 10 AM and ends Wednesday, March 4.** WINGS has chosen Kevin Perrotta’s book “Matthew 5 - 7: How To be Happy” as our guide. Books may be purchased through Amazon or Loyola Press. There are also used copies available. Please let us know if you have trouble with the ordering process. Note that it is not mandatory to purchase the book to participate in the Winter Bible Study. WINGS will email references to the relevant bible verses and selected book commentary each week; however, the book does contain additional relevant material. To register, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Our next Meeting is **Next Sunday, January 11**, from 6:30 - 8 PM. Save the date and invite a friend as we start a New Year of Faith, Friendship, Service, and Fun!

MSYG ADULT VOLUNTEER MEETING: Please join us **Tuesday, January 6** at 7 PM in Father Haley Hall. Please bring your calendar, as we will be planning out the Spring and Summer MSYG activities.



**LUAU DANCE
JANUARY 30!**

ANNUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL LUAU DANCE: Save the date! **Friday, January 30, 7 - 9:30 PM.** Any and all 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade Middle School Students are invited to attend. The dance is sponsored by St. Mary's Youth Ministry but is open to all Middle School Students from anywhere!



THE WORD FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ~ FINDING YOUR NORTH STAR:

Middle school can feel like a long journey through a desert where you're constantly trying to figure out who you are and where you're supposed to go. This week, we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, which is basically the ultimate story of "the search." The Magi weren't just guys with crowns and camels; they were seekers who followed a single, steady light, the Star, until they found Jesus. In a world full of "distraction stars" such as social media likes, the pressure to be perfect, or just trying to fit in, Epiphany reminds us that God has a specific "North Star" for your life. When the Magi finally found Jesus, they didn't come empty handed. They gave Him the very best of what they had. This week, ask yourself: What is my North Star leading me toward? You don't need gold or frankincense to impress God. Your "gift" might be standing up for a friend who's being ignored, being honest when it's hard, or simply giving God five minutes of your time in prayer. Not from the last dregs of the day as you are half asleep - but in the very best part of the day, when you are 100% alert and focused on Him. Like the Magi, once you encounter Jesus, you will "go home by a different way," changed, stronger, and ready to shine your own light.



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

We will gather for our next TGIF Movie Night on **Saturday, January 10**. We will attend the 5 PM Mass as a group then head to Fr. Haley Hall for a movie and fellowship. If you come, don't forget your \$5 for pizza. Bring your own snacks and drinks! Or bring something to share!



TGIF hosts its first 2026 Mission Trip Fundraising event **FAMILY BINGO NIGHT on Friday, January 23**. We invite parishioners and members of the community to come and support these teens. Join us for Bingo, Fellowship and Prizes. Snacks will be sold at this event! See previous page for details.

JOIN US, for our next TGIF Meeting **Sunday, January 25**, from 7 - 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall (bring a friend)! TGIF is open to ALL TEENS in Grades 9 - 12. For more information, contact Lisa Dufault at st.marystgif1870@gmail.com.

PHOTO RIGHT: On **Friday, December 19** we gathered to make Christmas cards for the residents of St. Patrick's Manor. Be sure to follow TGIF on Instagram. It is a great way to show your support for these teens and to see all the incredible things they are doing!



STMARYS_TGIF



ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS: Beginning on Monday, January 5 there will be a selection of topics using Bishop Barron’s courses. The sessions will be offered on January 5, 12, 26; February 2 and 9 at 10:00 AM in Room 3-4. If you are interested, please contact the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076.

Cor ~ ST. MARY’S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN: All men of St. Mary’s parish age 18 and older are invited to join Cor, a faith enrichment program designed to help and support men as they seek to deepen their relationship with God through scripture, catechesis, prayer and small group discussions. Our next season of Cor will begin in February, 2026. We usually meet at 7 PM on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Further details on dates and location will be provided soon. For more information, or to be added to the email list, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GROUP “A” MEETS TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 AT 8:00 AM IN THE ATRIUM. The children will learn about the Adoration of the Shepherds. The

Christmas and Epiphany Celebration announces and celebrates the Good News of the Incarnation. We celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus, the Great Light. Work continues with the Christmas story by focusing on the reaction of the shepherds to news of this great Gift. Children will choose their practical life activities after the presentation of the Scripture reading.

DAY	CLASS	CLASS
Sun., Jan. 4 2026	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 4:00 PM
Mon., Jan. 5	GR-2 at 4:30 PM In the Church	
Tues., Jan. 6	GR-2 at 4:30 PM In the Church	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM
Wed., Jan. 7	GR-2 at 4:30 PM In the Church	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM
Sun., Jan. 11	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., Jan. 12	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tues., Jan 13	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., Jan. 14	GR-2 at 4:15 PM GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Thur., Jan. 15	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	

GR-3, 4, 5 AND 6 COORDINATOR MEETING: Thursday, January 8 at 7:30 PM in Rooms 3 and 4.

GR-2 TEACHER MEETING ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST: Monday, January 12 at 7:30 PM in Rooms 3 and 4. Attendance is important to review the new Ignatius text books.

TEACHER/COORDINATOR MEETING FOR GRADES 3, 4, 5 AND 6: Thursday, January 15 at 7:30 PM in Rooms 3 and 4.

FOR ALL RELIGIOUS ED FAMILIES! The month of January begins our Safety Sessions. Every year the Archdiocese of Boston requires Religious Education Programs to offer the safety classes to children and youth. Parents can view the program at: www.VIRTUSonline.org. Enter the **User Name:** Parent_Boston and then the **Password:** EGCBoston1. When you are in the landing page click on **education** at the top. *Please take the time to view the lesson plans for your child’s grade, before the scheduled safety classes in January through April 2026.*

THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FORMATION COURSE FOR ADULTS (CGS) - PART I. For any parishioner interested in becoming a certified Catechist for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, there is a course being offered for Level I training starting in February 2026. The dates are February 14, 15, 16, (Saturday, Sunday, Monday from 9-5 PM) and April 18, 19, 20, (Saturday, Sunday, Monday from 9-5 PM). **Location:** Our Lady of the Lake, 1400 Main Street, Leominster, MA 01453. Certification: The National Certificate of Completion will be issued upon the completion of Level I, Parts 1 and 2. For information contact **Mary Pat Heelan** at 508-929-4302 or by email at mheelan@worcesterdiocese.org.

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

ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by a parishioner in memory of Vasco and Pauline Brovelli. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a Rose by emailing st.marys1870@gmail.com.

WINTER CEMETERY CLEANUP: Please remove all plant, chime, birdfeeder and ornamental hangers from your Cemetery Lots. With the ground frozen, these can be very dangerous if broken or leaning into the right of way of funeral vehicles. Please also remove all benches, unless it is a stone bench that serves as a headstone. **All listed items still remaining will be removed starting Monday, January 5, 2026.**