



# St. Mary's Parish



## Our Mission:

*"To know Christ and to make Him known."*

### 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: 429 - 4427  
Religious Education Phone: 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 call the rectory to register. 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 - 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!

## 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, 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: \$ 5,663.00  
WeShare: \$ 5,459.50  
Envelopes: \$ 7,901.00  
Total Offertory: \$ 19,023.50

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/>.

## PRAYERS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 10</b>
5:00	Donna LaRosa and George Smith
7:30	Walter J. Ciampa, Sr., 10 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 11</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Paul Dresler, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anv.
11:30	Margaret Reddy, 18 <sup>th</sup> Anv. and Bryan Reddy, 20 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 12</b>
9:00	Donard Pranzo
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 13</b>
9:00	John Cocchiarella
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 14</b>
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 15</b>
9:00	Marcia Charlson
<b>Friday</b>	<b>January 16</b>
9:00	Detta Lavoie
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 17</b>
5:00	Paul T. Shea
7:30	Joseph Sullivan
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 18</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Joan Renaccio Elwood
11:30	Daniel Willman, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anv.





## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, a beautiful moment that concludes the Christmas season and launches us into the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. At first glance, we might wonder why Jesus, Who was without sin, chose to stand in line with sinners to receive a baptism of repentance from John.

In our own experience, we go to the waters of Baptism to be cleansed. We enter the font burdened by original sin and emerge as new creations, made holy by the grace of God.

However, in the case of Jesus, the dynamic is reversed. As St. Maximus of Turin eloquently explained, *"Christ is baptized, not to be made holy by the water, but to make the water holy, and by His cleansing to purify the waters which He touched."*

When Jesus stepped into the Jordan, He didn't receive holiness from the river; rather, He infused the waters of this earth with His own holiness. By entering the water, He sanctified the very element that would later be used to baptize all of us. He plunged into the depths of our human condition to ensure that when we follow Him into those same waters, we are truly "baptized into Him."

Water is a powerful symbol in our faith. It represents both death and life. It symbolizes the "drowning" of the old self and the washing away of sin. And just as water is essential for physical survival, the waters of Baptism are essential for the supernatural life of the soul.

In the Jordan, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove. This reminds us that our own Baptism was not just a ritual of water, but an outpouring of the Spirit that made us adopted sons and daughters of God.

Jesus did nothing by accident. By choosing to be baptized, He set an example of humility and obedience. He showed us that the path to the Kingdom of Heaven begins with an act of surrender to God's will.

What does this mean for us as we begin this new year? It means first to remember your identity. You are a beloved child of God. In moments of doubt or failure, return to the truth of your Baptism. You belong to Him.

It also means that you are called. Just as Jesus' Baptism was the "kick-off" for His mission, our Baptism calls us to be active disciples. We are called to bring the "living water" of Christ to a world that is spiritually dry and thirsting for truth.

If the King of the Universe was willing to stand in the mud of the Jordan to fulfill God's plan, we too must be willing to serve in humble ways within our parish and community.

As we celebrate this feast, let us renew our own baptismal promises in our hearts, asking the Lord to stir up the grace of the Holy Spirit within us. That we may live out fully our vocation as the adopted children of God.

In His Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



## HOLLISTON - HOLY LAND SCHOLARSHIP 2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION TODAY!

This annual collection pays for school tuition and all school fees for an entire year. Due to the war, unemployment in the Bethlehem area is over 50%. The pilgrimage related employment upon which Christians there rely has ceased, and many areas are still locked down so people are 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.



## My Adorations For you

My name is Andlea Jarayseh, I am 15 years old,  
I live in Beit-sa hour, I study ~~(English)~~ at the  
patriarchate school, I love the English language  
and basketball. I would like to thank you for  
your generous support, ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> the giving me  
the opportunity to learn at school, we  
live in very difficult circumstances in  
Palestine, and there are no jobs, because  
Palestine is surrounded from all sides, finally  
I would like to thank you again for the help  
you have provided me.



Andlea Jarayseh



# *FAMILY BINGO NIGHT!*

*Friday, January 23, 2026!*



*To support the 2026 High School Mission Trip to Mississippi.*

**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, MA.

**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, 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.



# THIS COMING WEEK AT SAINT MARY'S!

**TODAY AFTER THE 11:30 AM MASS ~ POINSETTIAS:** *After the 11:30 AM Mass today, Sunday, January 11, please feel free to take home one or two of the beautiful poinsettias from the church sanctuary. These lovely plants will last several weeks if watered carefully and protected from the cold.*



**THIS TUESDAY MORNING ~ ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:** Please join us this **Tuesday, January 13 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.

**THIS THURSDAY EVENING ~ ST. MARY'S MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP:** Would you like you and your spouse to grow closer to God in 2026? This month, St. Mary's Marriage Fellowship will be discussing a podcast hosted by Catholic apologist, Jeff Cavins, on forming Christ-centered resolutions called "New Year's Resolution 2.0" found at: <https://www.jeffcavins.com/episode-46-new-years-resolution-2-0/>. Our next reflection is this Thursday, January 15 from 6:30 - 8 PM in Sister Ricci House. Free onsite childcare will be provided by teen volunteers for couples who have young children. Please plan to bring an appetizer or dessert to share and be certain children have already eaten dinner. For questions or comments, please contact the Nunes/Onak Families at: [stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com). Whether you are newly married or have been together for many years, we'd love to meet you!

**NEXT SATURDAY MORNING ~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:** This coming 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](http://redcrossblood.org) and search by zip code (01746) in the "Find a Blood Drive" field. No walk-ins can 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!

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
next Saturday, January 17

**SAINT MARY'S PARISH**  
HOURS ARE FROM 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM  
**HELP SAVE A LIFE!**

**16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL “SOUP”ER**

**BOWL:** The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual “SOUP”er Bowl will be held on **Friday, February 6** from 5 - 8 PM at St. Mary’s in Fr. Haley Hall. Each year the Pantry hosts this amazing event that brings our community together in



support of the Holliston Pantry Shelf. We are grateful for our seven local soup donors Bazels, Caseys, Holliston Lions Club, Outpost, Prezpos, Primavera, and Superette and our amazing sponsors! Please buy your tickets early (we’ve sold out the past two years) and join us for a night of delicious soups, salad, bread, and desserts featuring ice cream from TC Scoops and whoopie pies from Cozy Crumb Kitchen! You can

expect another overflowing raffle basket table and plenty of socializing. The raffle will begin at 6:45 PM.



You can purchase your tickets online at [www.hollistonpantryshelf.org](http://www.hollistonpantryshelf.org) or use the QR Code. If you need any assistance please call Karen at 774-253-0694. Hope to see you there! Ticket Prices: Seniors 60 and older - \$20, General Admission - \$25, Kids under 5 - FREE and Family Cap - \$75.

**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 regular coffee (11 oz), canned decaf coffee (11 oz), tuna fish, pasta sauce, pasta (various), Oreos, Chips Ahoy Cookies and juice boxes. Donations may be dropped off in the tan bin by the main parking lot doors right here at St. Mary’s, or to the bins outside 73 Charles Street.

**TAX STATEMENTS:** Tax statements for fiscal year 2025 are currently being prepared and will be mailed out in the coming weeks. If you use WeShare, that part of your giving statement will be sent separately by email. If you have any questions regarding your statement please call the rectory at 429-4427. St. Mary’s is grateful to both those who faithfully use Our Sunday Visitor envelopes and those who use Direct Banking and WeShare. If using envelopes, please remember to write the enclosed amount on the outside. If it is not done, the counters have to write the amount for you, which adds substantially to the time needed to count the collection for deposit. If they do not notate the unwritten amount, it may be recorded as “0”. Thank you for helping our volunteers.

**ROSE FOR LIFE:** The Rose this week is sponsored by Joan Cocchiarella in memory of John Cocchiarella. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a Rose by emailing [st.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marys1870@gmail.com).

**SNOW CANCELLATIONS:** When Holliston public schools are closed due to inclement weather, the 9 AM Daily Mass and Religious Education classes will not be held. Just call the R.E. Office at 508-429-6076 and press ext. 28 for cancellation notices.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com) or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.



**C.L.O.W. BIRDHOUSE SCAVENGER HUNT WINNER:** Congratulations to **Connor Coughlin!** He and his dad were the first to find and email pics of all eight St. Mary’s birdhouses last Sunday! Connor won a birdhouse of his own. Let us all keep searching, and looking “up” toward heaven as we journey through life!

## FOR FAMILIES!



### FRIDAY, JANUARY 23!

**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.



STMARYS\_TGIF

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~ TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith):** JOIN US, for our next TGIF Meeting on **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](mailto:st.marystgif1870@gmail.com). 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!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP IS TONIGHT!** Sunday, January 11, from 6:30 - 8 PM. The First MSYG Meeting of 2026!

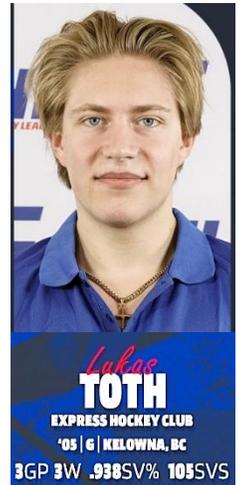


We will have as our special guest - Hockey Goalie Lukas Toth!

<https://www.eliteprospects.com/player/673285/lukas-toth>. He will share about his journey in hockey and in faith.

There will also be ...

An awesome Video / Slideshow of ALL MSYG Fall and Winter events and trips so far this School Year! Payments and Forms due for the Wednesday, January 21 CELTICS GAME! One Last Chance to add on for the Friday, January 23 SNOW TUBING TRIP. We have ten seats left on our two buses. A Presentation on the BIG SUMMER WHITEWATER TRIPS. A PIZZA PARTY, FAITH, FRIENDSHIP, FUN!



## HAWAIIAN LUAU! MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

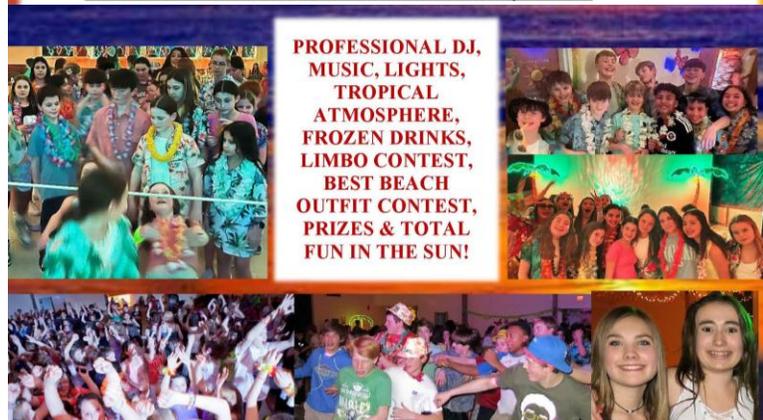
**DATE:** FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

**TIME:** 7 PM - 9:30 PM

**PLACE:** St. Mary's Parish Center  
708 Washington St., Holliston.

**COST:** \$10 at the door. *Drinks & snacks will be on sale separately.*

**WHO:** Any and all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> 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!



PROFESSIONAL DJ,  
MUSIC, LIGHTS,  
TROPICAL  
ATMOSPHERE,  
FROZEN DRINKS,  
LIMBO CONTEST,  
BEST BEACH  
OUTFIT CONTEST,  
PRIZES & TOTAL  
FUN IN THE SUN!

# HAWAIIAN LUAU!

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*\* Not a school sponsored event.  
For safety, a parent comes into the building for pick up.*



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FUN IN THE SUN!**



**ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS:** The Adult Faith Formation class on “The Bible and the Blessed Virgin Mary” will continue on Monday, Jan. 12, 26 and Feb. 2 and 9 at 10:00 AM in Room 3 - 4. All are welcome.

**CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN’S**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Today, January 11, 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.

DAY	CLASS	CLASS
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	
Sun., Jan. 18	No Classes	Martin Luther King
Mon., Jan 19	No Classes	Martin Luther King
Tues., Jan. 20	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
Wed., Jan 21	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM

**GR-2 VIRTUS EMPOWERING GOD’S CHILDREN (EGC) SAFETY PROGRAM:** On Sunday, Jan. 11 and on Wednesday, Jan. 14, the Grade 2 children will have their safety classes. An Opt-out form to dismiss a child from this class must be signed and submitted to the office.

**GR-2 TEACHER MEETING ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST:** Monday, January 12 at 7:30 PM in Rooms 3 and 4.

**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! VIRTUS EMPOWERING GOD’S CHILDREN (EGC) SAFETY PROGRAM:** 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](http://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.*

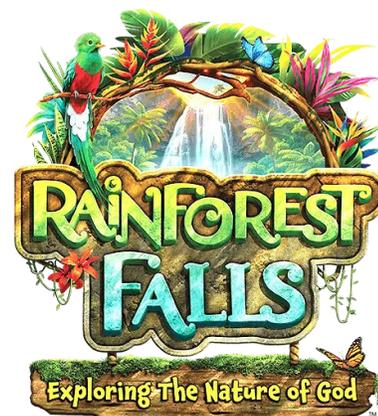
**THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FORMATION COURSE FOR ADULTS (CGS) - PART I.** For any parishioner interested in becoming a certified Catechist for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, there is a course being offered for Level I training starting in February 2026. The dates are February 14, 15, 16, 2026 (Saturday, Sunday, Monday from 9-5 PM) and April 18, 19, 20, 2026 (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](mailto:mheelan@worcesterdiocese.org).

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GROUP “B” MEETS TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 AT 8:00 AM IN THE ATRIUM.**

The children in Group “A” this past Sunday learned that the angel appeared to the Shepherds with the glory of the Lord shining upon them. The angel told them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people, for today in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.” The boy in the picture is polishing silver, part of the practical life element of CGS.



**2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, SAVE THE DATES, JULY 20 - 24:** Calling all campers (entering K - Grade 6) and volunteers (entering Grade 7 - adults)! Get ready to journey deep into the heart of the rainforest!



Step through the mist into a vibrant world of towering trees, cascading waterfalls, and chattering wildlife. Campers will embark on a powerful adventure exploring the true nature of God. Rainforest Falls VBS helps kids grow rooted in a relationship with their Creator. Through daily Bible points, Psalm-based memory verses, and interactive storytelling, campers will experience the wonder and wisdom of God in fresh, faith-building ways while enjoying games, snacks, and a wild amount of fun. Rainforest Falls registration information will be available after Easter.