



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!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today we return to the banks of the Jordan River, where John the Baptist gives his final and most beautiful testimony about Jesus. Among his words, one line quietly carries immense spiritual depth. *"I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him."*

John does not simply say the Spirit *visited* Jesus. He says the Spirit *remained*. This is the heart of the revelation. In the Scriptures, God's Spirit often comes with power and then departs; resting temporarily upon prophets, judges, and kings.

King Saul is a striking example. He was anointed and filled with the Spirit for leadership, yet through fear and disobedience *"the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul"* (1 Samuel 16:14). The Spirit came upon Saul for a time but did not abide. Human hearts, wounded by sin, proved unable to sustain that divine gift.

But here, at the Jordan, the Spirit descends and stays. Jesus is not merely inspired by God - He is the Beloved Son in Whom the Spirit dwells fully and permanently. What John witnesses is not only a sign for recognition, but a declaration of identity. Jesus is the One upon Whom heaven rests.

The image of the dove deepens this mystery. From the very beginning of Scripture, the dove signals God's creative and reconciling work. In Genesis, after the flood, a dove returns to Noah with an olive branch; an announcement that chaos has ended and new life has begun. At the Jordan, the dove again appears, proclaiming a new creation, not of land and water, but of the human heart.

In the Song of Songs, the beloved is called *"my dove,"* a symbol of purity, intimacy, and faithful love. The Psalmist longs for the wings of a dove to find rest and peace. Throughout Scripture, the dove speaks softly yet powerfully of God's gentle presence.

St. Ephrem the Syrian loved this image. In his poetic hymns, he wrote that the Spirit hovered over the waters at creation as a dove, and again hovered over the waters of the Jordan to reveal Christ as the New Creation. Ephrem reminds us that the dove does not tear or dominate; it rests, overshadows, and brings life quietly. God's Spirit works not by force, but by faithful presence.

The same Spirit that descended upon Jesus has been given to us. In Baptism, the Spirit does not merely touch us and depart; the Spirit comes to dwell within us. We, too, become temples of the Holy Spirit, called to reveal Christ to the world not only by what we say, but by how we live. The Spirit resting upon us is meant to be visible in lives marked by peace, courage, truth, and love.



This weekend, as our nation commemorates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the image of the dove takes on added resonance. Dr. King often spoke of his commitment to nonviolence and justice as deeply rooted in his Christian faith. His vision was not born of human optimism alone, but of a conviction that the Spirit of God is at work, calling us to recognize the dignity of every person and to labor peacefully for justice. Like the dove returning to Noah, King's life pointed toward the hope that God's purposes, though sometimes delayed, are never defeated.

For us, the connection is clear. If the Spirit truly abides in us, our faith cannot remain private or passive. The dove is gentle, but it is not weak. The Spirit empowers us to confront sin, to heal division, and to build bridges where walls have stood too long. In our families, our parish, and our wider community, we are called to be instruments of the same Spirit Who rested on Christ. As tabernacles of the Spirit, we are meant to bring reconciliation where there is resentment, truth where there is silence, and hope where there is fear.

May we, like John the Baptist, recognize Who Jesus is. And may our lives become places where the Holy Spirit gladly remains.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



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

SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:
 Holliston - Holy Land Friendship Scholarship,
 \$5,784.00 was received. The actual cost of the five
 scholarships is \$6,625.00. Thank you to all who gave!

LAST SUNDAY’S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 4,971.00
 WeShare: \$ 5,656.37
 Envelopes: \$ 9,781.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 20,408.37

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/>.



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!

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.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday January 17
 5:00 Paul T. Shea
 7:30 Joseph Sullivan
Sunday January 18
 7:30 People of St. Mary’s
 9:30 Joan Renaccio Elwood
 11:30 Daniel Willman, 3rd Anv.
Monday January 19 MLK
 9:00 Racial Amity and Justice

A Prayer by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr:
“O God, we thank you for the inspiration of Jesus. Grant that we will love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves, even our enemy neighbors. And we ask you, God, in these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and in our lying down, in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow, until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawn. Amen.”

Tuesday January 20
 9:00 Levon Francis Charlson
Wednesday January 21
 9:00 Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday January 22
 9:00 Day of Prayer & Fasting for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children and of Penance for Acts Against Them.
Friday January 23
 9:00 Matilda Scaduto, 3rd Anv.
Saturday January 24
 5:00 Ann Marie Negrotti
 7:30 Carmen Chiango
Sunday January 25
 7:30 People of St. Mary’s
 9:30 Mark Stefanowicz
 11:30 Vilio DiCenso

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS: 
 These are available at every Mass at one Communion station - the right side of the main nave aisle as you face the altar. Simply say low gluten when you arrive, and the clergy or minister will give you one instead. God bless you.

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

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT!

This Friday, January 23, 2026!



B I N G O				
4	26	43	59	70
9				68
7				63
8				75
13	18	34	52	69



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: **This 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, 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.



This Week at Saint Mary's!

THIS TUESDAY MORNING ~ ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, January 20 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 WEDNESDAY NIGHT ~ MSYG TRIP, CELTICS vs. PACERS GAME! Wednesday, January 21. Departure is 5 PM sharp from the Parish Center. Return is around 11 PM, teens will call when 20 minutes out. We have 70 Middle School Youth Group Teens going, Go Celtics!

THIS FRIDAY NIGHT ~ MSYG SNOW TUBING TRIP: The trip is Friday, January 23 to Nashoba. Arrive at the Parish Center by 4:15 PM, we leave at 4:30 PM sharp. Return to the Parish Center around 9 PM.

ALSO THIS FRIDAY NIGHT ~ FAMILY BINGO OPEN TO ALL! Friday, January 23, 6:30 - 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. *See full page flier on the previous bulletin page for details!*



THIS SATURDAY MORNING, DILEXI TE ~ POPE LEO'S FIRST APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION January 24 and 31:

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 Leo Racine (who is also St. Mary's, Franklin Pastoral Associate), 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 next two Saturday mornings: January 24 and 31. Call Leo at 508-429-7476 or email leoracine@msn.com for more information or to register.



THE BIG DANCE IS COMING!

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 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!



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



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



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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.

16TH ANNUAL "SOUP"ER BOWL: The 16th 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 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.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~ TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith): TGIF hosts its first 2026 Mission Trip Fundraising event **FAMILY BINGO NIGHT** this coming 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 also be sold!

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, please contact Lisa at st.marystgif1870@gmail.com.



STMARYS_TGIF

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! Our next Meeting is on Sunday, February 1, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Get ready for the 18th Annual Battle of the Sexes! For two hours Boys and Girls will Battle for the coveted Trophy and

bragging rights! Will the Boys' three-year winning streak come to an end? Also tonight, there will be Sign-Ups for the MSYG vacation week trip to Boda Borg and Quincy Market, as well as for the big Summer Whitewater Rafting Trips!

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.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GROUP “A” MEETS SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 AT 8:00 AM IN THE ATRIUM.

The children in Group “B” this past Sunday learned the Names of the Messiah foretold by the Prophet Isaiah 9:5. His name is called Wonder Counselor, God Hero, Father Forever and Prince of Peace. In the picture is shown the prayer table where the children listened to the Scripture Reading for the Names of the Messiah.

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.

CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, January 18, 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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR:

This week we remember a man of God who courageously spoke out against injustice and prejudice toward all people. He died a martyr for this cause and today we see the fruits of his work in action to bring about equality among all people.



DAY	CLASS	CLASS
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
Sun., Jan. 25	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. 26	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tues., Jan. 27	GR-7 at 7:00 PM	
Wed., Jan. 28	GR-7 at 7:00 PM	
Thur., Jan. 29	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., Feb. 1	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	

GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION LETTERS WILL BE SENT OUT ON JANUARY 29. The First Communion Mass is scheduled for Saturday, June 6 at 10:30 AM. There will be two parent meetings available to choose from, the first is on Monday, March 9 from 7 - 8 PM and the second is on Thursday, March 12 from 10 - 11 AM, to discuss information regarding planning for your child’s First Communion.

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. 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.*

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

“Happy is he who lives and dies under the protection of the Blessed Virgin.

Jesus on the Cross said to the disciple whom He loved: ‘Behold your Mother!’ How sweet are those words to the Christian who is able to understand what depths of love they contain!

The Blessed Virgin’s life was full of sorrow... Every time her tender glance fell upon her Divine Son, she suffered... Yet she never ceased to surrender herself to God’s will.”

- St. John Vianney

HAPPY MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY!



As is our custom at St. Mary's, the closing patriotic hymn at our Masses with music this Martin Luther King Weekend is the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Here is some interesting history about the hymn.

In the early days of the Civil War, the song "John Brown's Body" was wildly popular. Although in its original incarnation it had nothing to do with the notorious abolitionist leader hanged at Harpers' Ferry on December 2, 1859, it became inextricably identified with him and acquired new verses that were sung by Federal troops and Union sympathizers alike. The tune was borrowed from an old Methodist hymn, "Say, Brothers, Will You Meet Us?" by William Steffe.

In November of 1861, Julia Ward Howe (photo above), was touring Union army camps in the vicinity of Washington, D.C., with her husband, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, a member of President Lincoln's Military Sanitary Commission and an avid abolitionist. With them was Reverend James Freeman Clarke. During the course of their visit, the soldiers began to sing the currently popular war song "John Brown's Body."

Hearing this, Reverend Clarke was moved to suggest that Mrs. Howe pen new, more uplifting lyrics to the familiar tune. She replied that she had often thought of doing exactly that. The following morning, as Mrs. Howe later described it, she "awoke...in the gray of the early dawn, and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, 'I shall lose this if I don't write it down immediately.'"

Mrs. Howe's lyrics first appeared as a poem on the front page of the Atlantic Monthly in February of 1862. Editor James Fields, who paid her \$5 for the piece, is credited with having given the song the name by which it is known today. The poem has become perhaps the best-known Civil War song of the Union Army, and has come to be a well-loved American patriotic anthem. It also came to be associated with the Civil Rights movement.

Here is "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as written originally by Julia Ward Howe:

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps,
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps:
His day is marching on.

I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of steel:
"As ye deal with my condemners, so with you my grace shall deal;
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with his heel,
Since God is marching on."

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment-seat:
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me:
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.