



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, 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 THIS WEEKEND:

This week's second collection supports the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in poor dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. For more information please visit <https://www.usccb.org/committees/church-latin-america>.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 3,599.50
 WeShare: \$ 3,547.99
 Envelopes: \$ 5,140.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 12,287.49
 Weekly Need: \$ 15,000.00

Shortfall: \$ 2,712.51

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/>.



ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, January 27 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.



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. Weather cancellations will be aired on WCVB Channel 5.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit):

The first meeting of our Winter Season Bible Study is **this Wednesday, January 28, from 10 - 11:15 AM in person and via Zoom.** WINGS has chosen Kevin Perrotta's book "*Matthew 5 - 7: How To be Happy*" as our guide and this week we focus on chapter 1. Books may be purchased through [Amazon](#) or [Loyola Press](#). 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. Our speaker for our entire Winter Season is Joe Javorski. Joe is a previous WINGS speaker, a member of the Vision of Peace Prayer Group and an experienced Bible study leader. WINGS requests dues of \$20 per season (unless you have already paid for the year); however, all women are most welcome regardless of ability to pay. Babysitting is provided; please register in advance. Checks payable to St. Mary's Parish can be mailed to 8 Church St., Holliston. To register email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795. Welcome!



MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Monday	January 26
9:00	Pamela Mulcahy
Tuesday	January 27
9:00	Vincent, Gertrude and John Cunningham
Wednesday	January 28
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	January 29
9:00	Cheryl Ann Brote
Friday	January 30
9:00	Levon Charlson
Saturday	January 31
5:00	Departed Members of the of the Leonard and Madeleine LaRosa Families
7:30	Nancy Hovsepian
Sunday	February 1
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	George J. Bourque
11:30	Grade 5 Healing Mass



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

"When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew to Galilee."

Before Jesus proclaims the Kingdom, He receives a wound. The cousin who leapt in Elizabeth's womb at Mary's greeting, the prophet who prepared His way, has been seized by the brutal hands of Herod's soldiers. And Jesus, fully divine yet also fully human, responds not with words, but with movement. He withdraws.

This is not strategy first, nor calculation. It is grief. It is the holy instinct to step away and pray when the weight of suffering presses upon the heart. Jesus does what we so often forget we are allowed to do. He makes space to feel sorrow before God. He does not push past pain in the name of mission. He carries it into silence.

In this quiet withdrawal, we see the humanity of Jesus laid bare. He loved John. He knew the cost of prophecy. And He knew that to remain spiritually strong in the face of injustice requires prayer. His withdrawal is not escape, it is communion. It is the Son turning toward the Father, bringing with Him the ache of loss and the shadow of what is to come.

How often do we, upon hearing devastating news, fill the silence with noise - explanations, distractions, words? Jesus shows us another way. He steps back so that sorrow may be transfigured rather than suppressed. Prayer becomes the place where grief is not denied, but consecrated.

Only after this withdrawal does Jesus begin to preach, *"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."* The light He proclaims is not abstract. It has passed through darkness first. It is a light born of prayer and shaped by compassion.

St. Isaac of Nineveh writes, *"When the heart is crushed by sorrow, prayer becomes pure, for it rises without words."* Jesus' withdrawal teaches us that such wordless prayer is not weakness, it is the birthplace of divine strength.

Many of us carry news we would rather not have heard. Diagnoses. Betrayals. Losses. The sorrows of this world in which we live. Today's Gospel gives us permission to withdraw with Christ. To step into silence, to grieve honestly, and to pray without rushing toward resolution. In that sacred pause, God meets us. And in time, He leads us back into the world, not hardened by pain, but bright with His mercy and grace.

May we learn from the quiet courage of Jesus.

May our own withdrawals become doorways to deeper prayer.

And may the light we offer the world be born, as His was, from time spent with the Father.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



TODAY'S BULLETIN

COVER: *"The Arrest of John the Baptist."* John the Baptist was arrested around AD 28 - 29 by Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of

Galilee and Perea. He was imprisoned because he publicly condemned Herod for marrying Herodias, his brother's wife, which angered Herod and his court. Jesus learns of John's arrest in today's Mass Gospel.

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), Oreo's, 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.

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



Hawaiian Luau

Middle School Dance!

This Friday, January 30
7 - 9:30 PM, St. Mary's, Holliston

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

Any and all 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade Middle School Students
from anywhere are invited to attend!



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





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 on February 1, there will be Sign-Ups for the MSYG vacation week trip to Boda Borg and Quincy Market on February 20, as well as for the big Summer Whitewater Rafting Trips!

THE BIG DANCE IS FRIDAY!

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.



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



Join Us TONIGHT!

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!

TGIF is open to ALL TEENS in Grades 9 - 12. For more information, contact: Lisa Dufault at st.marystgif1870@gmail.com.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~ TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith): Join us tonight, Sunday, January 25, for our first TGIF meeting of 2026, from 7 - 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall (bring a friend)! There will be Sign-Ups for Mission Springs Bingo, Snow Tubing and our TGIF Lent Study.



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.



Coming in February ~



NEXT SUNDAY: ANNUAL MASS OF ANOINTING, FEBRUARY 1 AT 11:30 AM.

St. Mary's will mark the World Day of the Sick. On this day we are encouraged to remember in our prayers all persons who are seriously ill. At the 11:30 AM Mass, helped by our 5th Graders, St. Mary's will offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anyone diagnosed with a serious illness is invited to receive this holy sacrament as a source of hope, strength and healing (James 5:13-15). Anyone needing a ride to the Healing Mass should contact the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE: Please join us for a Mass of Remembrance for deceased children of any age, especially those that have died before

baptism or birth. The Mass is Thursday, February 5, at 7 PM. Please invite any friends or loved ones who have been touched by the loss of a child. The Mass will include a candle-lighting ceremony in memory of our children. There will be light refreshments served after the Mass for those in attendance.



ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE THROATS ~ SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8: In honor of the Feast of St. Blaise, this devotion will be celebrated after all Masses on these dates. St. Blaise, Physician, Bishop and Martyr, is invoked against diseases of the throats and other ailments.



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.

Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN: The Spring 2026 season of *Cor* is about to begin! **Our first meeting will be at 7 PM on Thursday, February 12, so mark your calendars!** The location will be announced in next week's bulletin. As we approach the Lenten season, our first meeting will focus on reconciliation. Not unlike St. Peter who three times denied knowing Jesus, we all too frequently fail to rise to the occasion when faced with even the slightest challenge to stand firm in living out our Faith. Despite our unfaithfulness, Jesus loves us and is ready to forgive us.

The season of Lent is the time to reflect, repent and repair our relationship with God. Therefore, at our February 12 meeting, we will discuss why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is such a great opportunity to repair and strengthen our relationship with God as we prepare for Easter. The mission of *Cor* is to gather together Catholic men who can help and support each other as they seek to deepen their relationships with God, and to discern God's will for them. Through scripture, catechesis, prayer and small group discussions, we invite God to enter into our hearts. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays up through mid-May. All men of St. Mary's parish age 18 and older are welcome to join us for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.



“The White Mantle of Mercy” Snow In the Scriptures

In the quiet of a winter morning, there is a specific, hushed holiness that descends with the snow. To the casual observer, it is merely frozen precipitation; to the Catholic eye, it is a descending liturgy. The Bible does not treat snow as a meteorological whim, but as a profound symbol of the vertical relationship between the Creator and the creature.

The most visceral scriptural encounter with snow is found in the Prophet Isaiah. It serves as the ultimate benchmark for Divine forgiveness:

“Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be made as white as snow.” (Isaiah 1:18).

In the ancient world, scarlet dye was permanent, double-dipped and impossible to leach out. By using snow as the metaphor, God isn't suggesting a superficial covering, but a radical transformation of the soul's "fabric." Snow represents the blank slate of the spirit. Just as a heavy snowfall levels the jagged edges of a debris field, grace smooths the fractured topography of a repentant heart.

There is also a hidden "work" in snow. Unlike rain, which can be violent and erosive, snow falls with a gentle, relentless gravity. Isaiah 55:10-11 compares the Word of God to the snow that *“waters the earth and makes it bring forth and sprout.”*

This is the mysticism of the mundane: the snow falls in silence, often while we sleep, working its way into the soil to provide life months later. It reminds us that grace is often quiet, cold to the touch of the ego, yet essential for the harvest of the soul.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower, had a profound, almost mystical affection for snow. On the day of her clothing in the habit, she prayed for snow as a sign of Jesus's favor, despite the unseasonable warmth. When she stepped outside, the ground was white. She later reflected:

“What a delicate attention on the part of Jesus! To think that He should have created snow just for His little spouse... Perhaps the snow was a symbol of the purity of the soul that He wished to clothe in the white robe of His love.”

For Thérèse, snow wasn't just weather; it was a celestial stationery, a way for God to write a love letter to the earth. How do we translate this poetic chill into our daily walk through life?

* **The Grace of Silence:** Snow absorbs sound. Practically, we can emulate this by “muffling” the noise of gossip or internal anxiety. Next time it snows, practice five minutes of interior silence, letting your thoughts settle as slowly as the flakes.

* **Radical Forgiveness:** When you look at a snow-covered landscape, you see the world not as it is (messy and brown), but as it can be. Apply this “snow-vision” to your neighbor. See them through the white mantle of Christ's mercy rather than the scarlet stains of their faults.

* **Patience in the Permafrost:** Snow requires a season of waiting before it melts into life-giving water. If you are in a “winter” of the soul where God feels cold or distant, trust the Isaiah promise: the moisture is seeping in. The bloom is coming; it is simply being prepared in the dark.

The next time you catch a flake on your glove, look closely at its geometric perfection - a tiny, crystalline “Logos.” Let it be a reminder that even in the coldest seasons of life, God's design is symmetrical, pure, and breathtakingly beautiful. God bless you.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS:

The Adult Faith Formation class on “The Bible and the Blessed Virgin Mary,” will continue on Monday, January 26, February 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 25, 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. 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
Tues., Feb. 3	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., Feb. 4	GR-2 at 4:15 PM GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM

GRADE 5 SPONSORED HEALING MASS ~ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, AT 11:30 AM. The Grade 5 children are studying the Seven Sacraments this year and they will be creating posters to welcome everyone who is seeking the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**. The Healing Mass is a class session where the students witness those in our community of faith receive the power of the Holy Anointing oils and the words of healing. Those suffering from illness, anxiety, spiritually, mentally, from addictions, or seeking peace of mind are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Healing.

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 safety classes to children and youth.

Parents can view the program at: www.VIRTUSonline.org. Enter the **User Name:** Parent_Boston and 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.*

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.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GROUP “A” MEETS TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 AT 8:00 AM IN THE ATRIUM. The children in Group “B” on Jan. 11 learned that the season of Christmas is closed according to the Liturgical calendar. This was an appropriate time to celebrate a Christmas celebration at the prayer table. The children reviewed the two prophecies from Isaiah, the Annunciation, the Birth of Jesus, and the Adoration of the Shepherds. The child in the picture is using one of the model dioramas to review the Christmas story.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:

“Christ is the Shepherd who guards His flock day and night; He calls each sheep by name and leads them to the pastures of eternal life.”

- St. Caesarius of Arles