

Blessed are the poor in spirit.
Matthew 5:3



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,

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." We sing those words in our Psalm today, and we hear them again from the lips of Jesus in the Beatitudes. When Scripture repeats itself, it is highlighting a message that is precious and essential in the life of faith.

To the world, "poor" is a word of deficit, an emptiness needing to be filled, a problem to be solved. But in the topography of the soul, poverty of spirit is not a lack of value; it is the creation of a vast, open space.

To be poor in spirit is to stand before the Creator with empty hands, acknowledging that every breath, every heartbeat, and every spark of grace is a gift we could never earn.

Think of the soul as a vessel. If we are filled to the brim with our own certainties, our successes, or even our well-manicured anxieties, there is no room for the Infinite. The "poor in spirit" are those who have performed a holy clearing. They have swept out the clutter of the ego to make room for the indwelling Presence of God.

It is an irony of our faith that we must become "less" to contain the One who is "All." When we stop trying to own our lives, we suddenly find that we inherit the Kingdom.

St. Charles de Foucauld once wrote, *"The less one possesses, the more one can give."* His words reveal the hidden richness of spiritual poverty. When we stop clinging to what we think defines us, we become available to love more generously. We find that we can trust more deeply. And that we are more attuned to God's call and purpose.

What does being "poor in spirit," look like when we walk out the church doors and into the noise of the world?

It looks like the courage to say, "I don't know," when you feel pressured to have all the answers.

It looks like asking for help when you are overwhelmed; accepting aid in all humility.

It looks like listening when you would rather speak and embracing holy silence when words would hurt.

It looks like forgiving someone who doesn't deserve it, acknowledging that you too live by a mercy you did not earn.

It looks like detachment - enjoying the beauty of a sunset or a good meal without the desperate need to possess or post about it.

It looks like recognizing Christ in those who have little, and taking responsibility for them, because we have learned to see our own need reflected there.

When we are poor in spirit, we are finally free. We no longer have a reputation to protect or a pedestal to fall from. We are simply children, resting in the palm of a Father who loves us not for what we have gathered or accomplished, but for *who we are* to Him.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



TODAY

D. J. & C.: The Welcoming Committee invites all families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Upstairs CLOW Mass today Sunday, February 1, for free donuts, juice and coffee!



ANNUAL MASS OF ANOINTING: Sunday, 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).

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:

Church in Latin America \$2,740.00. Thank you.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 2,240.00
 WeShare: \$ 3,740.18
 Envelopes: \$ 7,491.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 13,471.18
 Weekly Need: \$ 15,000.00

Shortfall: \$ 1,528.82

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/>.

CORIs FOR FY26 NOW DUE! It is the time of year again when we request that **all St. Mary's volunteers** renew your CORI, and review the Code of Conduct. If you have not already completed a **FY26 CORI**, you can complete these forms in the Religious Education office during normal office hours. We will also be holding a CORI renewal time in the Parish Center Lobby, on **Sunday, February 8**, after all Masses. Thank you!

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.



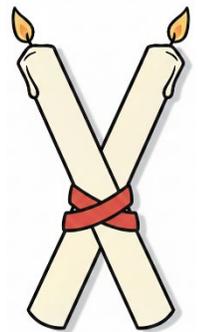
THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by Liz Theiler in memory of George and Emelia Bourque. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a Rose by emailing st.marys1870@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Monday February 2
 9:00 Phil Pettingill
Tuesday February 3
 9:00 John Kenny
Wednesday February 4
 9:00 Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday February 5
 9:00 Pamela Mulcahy
Friday February 6
 9:00 Fr. Salman and the People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour
Saturday February 7
 5:00 Joan Mullen
 7:30 Nancy Hovsepian
Sunday February 8
 7:30 People of St. Mary's
 9:30 Boy Scout Sunday
 11:30 Encarnacion De Guzman

NEXT WEEKEND ~ ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE THROATS:

In honor of the Feast of St. Blaise, this devotion will be celebrated after all Masses the weekend of February 7 & 8. St. Blaise, Physician, Bishop and Martyr, is invoked against diseases of the throats and other ailments.



NEXT SUNDAY ~ BOY SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

February 8 from 8 AM - 12 Noon in Father Haley Hall. Please join us for Boy Scout Troop 14's Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. This event is hosted every year in conjunction with National Boy Scout Sunday, and proceeds are used to support



Troop 14 activities throughout the year. The Troop currently has 44 registered Scouts with mixed ages from junior high to high school. The Troop is very active in camping, hiking, community service, and supporting rank advancements for all scouts. \$5 per person for pancakes, sausages, juice and coffee. Come let the Scouts serve you!

FOR THE MOURNING



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 this 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.

FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, February 3 from 9:45 - 11 AM, in Fr. Haley Hall as we pray together, read reflections by the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome with toys and coloring activities available. For information, please contact Lauren Onak at 954-803-9942.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): The Winter Season Bible Study continues this Wednesday, February 4 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 focuses on Chapter 2. Our speaker for our entire Winter Season is Joe Javorski. All women are most welcome. Babysitting is provided; please register in advance. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Jen at 617-852-9632.

FOR THOSE IN NEED

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.

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.hollistonpantryshef.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.



FOR MEN

Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR

MEN: Please note the date of the first meeting has been rescheduled. Our first meeting of *Cor* will now be at 7 PM on February 26, in Fr. Haley Hall. As we approach the Lenten season, it is important to remember that although we frequently fail to live out our faith in the way that God asks us to, Jesus loves us and is always ready to forgive us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At our February 26 meeting, we will discuss what the Sacrament of Reconciliation is, its Biblical origins and the role it plays in repairing and strengthening our relationship with God. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.





MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP! Our next Meeting is TONIGHT, 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, prizes, and bragging rights! Will the Boys' three-year winning streak come to an end? We'll know tonight!

Also at tonight's Meeting, 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 WORD FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS:

Today's 2nd Mass Reading, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

Think about the "perfect" person on your social media feed or the student who seems to have it all together: the straight-A grades, the starting spot on the team, and the perfect clothes. In Middle School, it's so easy to feel like you aren't "enough" because you don't fit that mold.

But St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians turns that whole idea upside down. He reminds us that God doesn't look for the most popular, the most powerful, or the most polished people to do His greatest work. In fact, Paul says God deliberately chooses the "foolish" and the "weak" things of the world to shame the wise. This means that your stumbles, your awkward phases, and the moments you feel "less than" are actually the places where God's power shines the brightest. You don't have to be a finished product for God to love you or use you; He chose you exactly as you are right now.

When you feel the pressure to boast about your achievements or hide your flaws to fit in, remember that your true worth isn't something you have to earn. Verse 31 tells us, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." This is a huge relief! It means the weight is off your shoulders. You don't have to carry the stress of being perfect because Jesus is your wisdom, your righteousness, and your strength.

On those days when Middle School feels like a giant competition, take a deep breath and realize that you are already chosen and deeply valued by the Creator of the Universe. Your "weaknesses" are just openings for God to show how much He can do through you. Walk through the halls today with your head held high, not because of what you've done, but because of *Whose you are*.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~ TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith): The storm last weekend resulted in the cancellation of our January TGIF Meeting.

We have extended the deadline for Sign-Ups for Mission Springs Bingo, Tubing and our Lent Study. All Sign-Up forms must be submitted by Sunday, February 1. Sign-Up forms and payments can be dropped off or slid under the Religious Ed. office door or the office of Lisa Dufault, located downstairs from the parish lobby.

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.



TRUTH FOR TEENS: "God did not create you by accident; He dreamed you into existence with love." Every talent you have is a gift meant to serve others and glorify Him. When you feel unsure of your worth, remember that Jesus thought you were worth dying for. Trust that even your struggles are shaping you for something greater. With God, your life always has meaning and direction.



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. But save those dates now!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS: The Adult Faith Formation class on “The Bible and the Blessed Virgin Mary” will continue on Monday, 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, February 1, the children will remain in the church to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel.

DAY	CLASS	CLASS
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
Sat., Feb. 7	Grade 8 Retreat	10:00 AM
Sun., Feb. 8	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 4:00PM
Mon., Feb.9	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tues., Feb. 10	GR-6 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Wed., Feb. 11	GR-7 at 7:00 PM	
Thur., Feb. 12	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	

GRADE 6 SPECIAL SESSION ON THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF JESUS AND HIS CATHOLIC CHURCH TODAY ~ TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 AT 4:00 PM. This session will take place in Room 3-4 in the center. Students in the Sunday and Tuesday classes are expected to attend.

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 February through April 2026.*

EMPOWERING GOD’S CHILDREN SCHEDULED SAFETY SESSIONS FOR GRADES 4 ND 5. Any family wishing to Opt-Out their child must complete an Opt-Out form before the Safety Session and submit it to the Religious Education Office.

- Grades 4 & 5 - Tuesday, February 24
- Grade 4 - Wednesday, February 25

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS). This is the first year St. Mary’s Parish is offering the CGS Program. The children who are engaged in the program are falling in love with Jesus our Good Shepherd. Our volunteers who assist are also learning how to observe the children’s transformation. At this time we are seeking more people, adults and high school teens, to be trained as helpers and future CGS Catechists. Please see the training dates and options below if you feel the call to help the children fall in love with God.

THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FORMATION COURSE FOR ADULTS (CGS) LEVEL 1 PART 1. For any parishioner interested in becoming a certified Catechist for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, there is a course being offered for Level 1 Part 1 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 1, Part 1 and 2. For information contact **Mary Pat Heelan** at 508-929-4302 or by email at mheelan@worcesterdiocese.org.

An alternative **Level 1 Part 1 CGS Training** will be held at St. Joseph and St. Stephen Parish in Worcester, MA. This is a **week-long** course that will be offered in June. **The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 Part 1, St. Joseph and St. Stephen Parish, 355 Grafton Street, Worcester, MA.** June 1-6, (Monday - Saturday from 9-5 PM). Registration and tuition is due on May 15, 2026. Please register using this link: <https://worcesterdiocese.org/cgs-l-1-p-1-st-joseph-st-stephen-worcester>.

GOOD SHEPHERD DAY OF DISCOVERY: Level 1 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd **Day of Discovery for Catechists, Assistants, Teachers, Clergy, Principals** at St. Joseph and St. Stephen Parish, 355 Grafton Street Worcester, MA, **Saturday, March 7, 2026, 9 AM - 1 PM.** Cost: \$25 (includes the book Joyful Journey). Our Day of Discovery will include: discussion on how Catechesis of the Good Shepherd helps the very young child (ages 3,4, 5) enter into a personal relationship with Jesus, an opportunity to explore a ‘working’ atrium where children gather to learn about Jesus through Scriptures and the Sacraments, time to work and explore materials used in the Atrium, exploration of the role of the catechist as ‘servant’, and more. Please register using this link. <https://worcesterdiocese.org/cgs-day-of-discovery-march72026>. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Pat Heelan at heelan@worcesterdiocese.org.