

# 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](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

Email Address: [St.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto: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 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!



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today we receive from Isaiah a beautiful promise. That if you care for the poor, then *"your wound shall quickly be healed."* It is a striking image. We often fall into the trap of thinking we must be "healed" first before we can serve; that we need to have our own lives in perfect order, our anxieties stilled, and our finances secure before we can reach out to others. But the Prophet reverses the logic of the world. He suggests that the healing of our own deep-seated wounds - our loneliness, our resentments, and our sense of inadequacy - is actually a byproduct of *"pouring ourselves out"* for the hungry.

When we turn inward to nurse our hurts and grievances, the wound often festers. When we turn outward, the grace of God flows through us, and in that movement we find our own restoration.

This truth is echoed in today's Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16). Jesus tells us that we are the *"salt of the earth"* and the *"light of the world."* Consider the nature of salt and light. Neither exists for itself. Salt is useless if it stays in the shaker; it is meant to be poured out to season and preserve the food. Light is not meant to illuminate the bulb, but to reveal the path to others.

If we feel our faith has become "tasteless" or our interior life has grown "dim," it is often because we have stopped being poured out. The "wound" of spiritual apathy is healed the moment we become the "city set on a mountain" for the sake of those wandering in the valley. We do not shine to show off our own holiness; we shine so that others may see our good deeds and glorify our Heavenly Father.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Century desert hermit Saint Barsanuphius of Gaza wrote that, *"If a man does not consider in his heart that he is a sinner, God does not hear him ... but he who humbles himself by carrying the burdens of his neighbor finds the Physician waiting at his door."*

Barsanuphius reminds us that we find the "Physician" (Christ) not by focusing solely on our own ailments, but by stooping to carry the burdens of another. In that act of humility, the Physician heals the one who is helping.

How do we live this out? How do we allow our "light to rise in the darkness"?

When you feel most drained or "wounded" by your own personal problems, purposely choose that moment to perform a small act of charity. Call someone who is grieving, or volunteer for a parish ministry. Watch how your own burden feels lighter afterward.

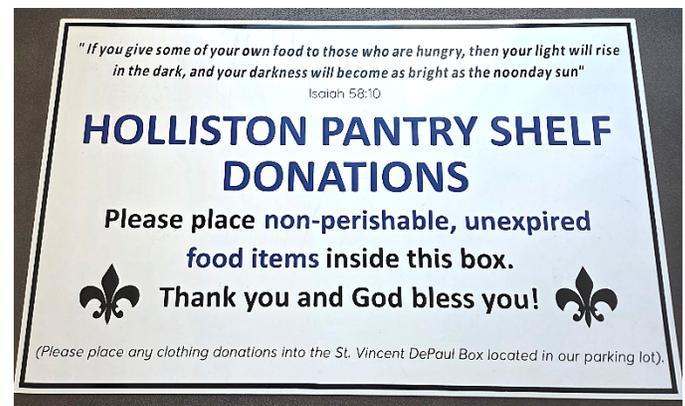
To be "salt" means to bring out the best in others. In your workplace or home, make it a point to highlight the "good deeds" of someone else. By being the light that reveals their worth, you heal the wound of your own ego.

If you feel stuck in a "dark night" of the soul, stop looking for the light switch in your own room. Go be the light in someone else's darkness.

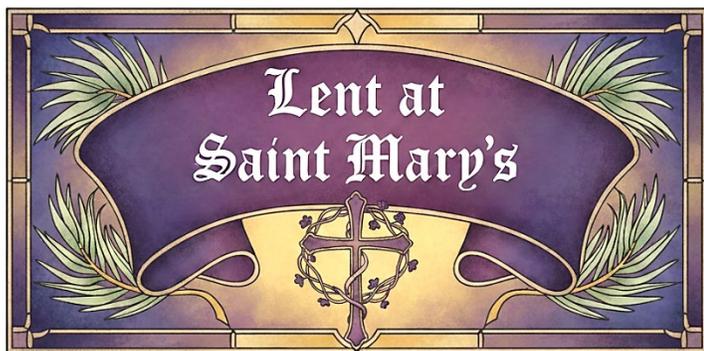
When we share our bread with the hungry and aid those in need, we discover this miracle. That in feeding others, we are fed; and in binding the wounds of the world, our own wounds are closed by the hand of God.

In His Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



A verse from today's First Mass Reading from Isaiah is inscribed on the top of our Food Pantry Donation Bin here at St. Mary's.



### ASH WEDNESDAY, February 18:

6:45 AM	Liturgy	Ashes will be distributed
9:00 AM	Mass	at all five celebrations.
4:00 PM	Liturgy	<i>"Remember you are dust</i>
5:30 PM	Liturgy	<i>and unto dust you shall</i>
7:00 PM	Mass	<i>return ..."</i>

### ADORATION, Every Thursday:

This Lent, St. Mary's will offer a Eucharistic Holy Hour each Thursday in the church from 7 - 8 PM.

### LENTEN SUPPERS, Every Friday:

Join us for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's Family!

Fridays at 6 PM: February 20, 27 (this one-night we begin at 5:30 PM as the St. Paul's Boy Choir performs at 7 PM); March 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Our Lenten Suppers will take place in Fr. Haley Hall and will include a range of food options while observing Friday's abstinence from meat - as well as child-friendly food.

Families with young children are encouraged to come and not feel burdened about bringing a meal, please let your St. Mary's community lift you up. This also applies to any individual / couple / family feeling burdened where bringing a meal would prevent you from attending. We are all in different seasons of life, let your St. Mary's family be a safe landing spot for you this Lent!

If you'd like to help, please email Natalie Pomarico at [st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com](mailto:st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com). You will be added to the Lenten Supper Volunteer Group. A weekly 'Signup Genius' goes out via email to the volunteer base and individuals sign up for available food / drink slots. Volunteer participation varies week to week, some volunteer once during the six weeks, some commit to every week and others dip in and out of helping. Thank you!

### LENTEN RETREAT HOUR, February 21:

Join us for a Lenten Retreat Hour, Saturday, February 21 from 10:30 - 11:30 AM in St. Mary's Church. Deacon John Barry will Expose the Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration. During this time of prayer, he will offer the reflection, "The Way of Peace." We live in a time of turmoil, suffering, and violence. Our families, community, nation, and our world are desperately seeking ways to find peace, which always seems elusive. God is the only Answer. This retreat will focus on the only way for us to achieve true and lasting peace through the Cross and example of Jesus Christ.

### ST. PAUL'S BOY CHOIR CONCERT,

**February 27:** Friday, February 27, 7 - 8 PM in St. Mary's Church. Bless your Lent with an evening of rapturous music by the internationally acclaimed Boy Choir of St. Paul's Choir School in Cambridge. Directed by Brandon Straub, the Choir will perform selected works from the sacred repertoire, including pieces by Bach, Faure, Bruckner, Mozart, Saint-Saëns, and Rutter.

The Concert is free and open to all. For more information about St. Paul's Choir School, please visit [www.saintpaulschoirschool.us](http://www.saintpaulschoirschool.us).

\* The Lenten Friday Soup Supper will start early this night, at 5:30 PM, so that you can attend both.

### PARISH MISSION, March 8 & 9:

St. Mary's 2026 Lenten Mission will be held from 7 - 8:15 PM, in the church, on Sunday, March 8 and Monday, March 9. Rediscover the Heart of Lent: "The Four Ways of Love." We all want to love and be loved, but let's be honest, love is rarely "one size fits all." This Lent, move beyond the abstract and join us for a journey into the very architecture of the human heart. Fr. Brian Mahoney, Pastor of The Holy Rood Collaborative, will lead us in exploring the four ancient Greek pillars of love. By understanding these distinct "languages," we can transform our relationships with our families, our neighbors, and our Creator. Save the dates!

### 40 HOURS DEVOTION, March 15, 16, & 17:

In celebrating this devotion, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar at St. Mary's for forty continuous hours. The church will be open throughout, and people may come at any time to visit with the Lord in prayer.

## FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The “Universal” in Catholic means that every culture, race, and history belongs at the altar. Black Saints are not just “saints for Black Catholics”; they are models of holiness for the entire Body of Christ. They remind us that the Gospel thrives in every corner of the world and that the Holy Spirit speaks through the resilience, joy, and profound suffering of the African diaspora.

### Saint Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947)

Born in Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped and sold into slavery as a child. The trauma was so great she forgot her own name; “Bakhita” (meaning fortunate) was given to her by her captors. Eventually brought to Italy, she discovered the Catholic faith and won her freedom in a landmark court case. She became a Canossian Sister, known for her gentle smile and “extraordinary” ordinariness.



In her words: *“If I was to meet those slave traders that abducted me and those who tortured me, I'd kneel down to them to kiss their hands; because, if it had not been for them, I would not have become a Christian and a religious woman.”*



### Saint Martin de Porres (1579-1639)

The son of a Spanish nobleman and a formerly enslaved African woman in Peru, Martin grew up in poverty and faced systemic rejection due to his race. He joined the Dominican Order as a humble lay brother, serving as a

barber, surgeon, and healer. He is famously depicted with a broom, symbolizing his belief that no task is too small when done for the love of God.

In his words: *“Compassion, my dear Brother, is preferable to cleanliness. Reflect that with a little soap I can easily clean my bed covers, but even with a torrent of tears, I would never wash from my soul the stain that my harshness would create.”*

### Saint Moses the Black (330-405)

A former desert bandit and leader of a gang of robbers in Egypt, Moses sought refuge in a monastery to hide from local authorities. There, he was so moved by the monks' peace that he converted. He became one of the most influential “Desert Fathers,” teaching that true strength is found in humility and the refusal to judge others.



In his words: *“Go, sit in your cell, and your cell will teach you everything. Throw your weaknesses before God, and the Lord will become your strength.”*

### Saint Benedict the Moor (1526-1589)

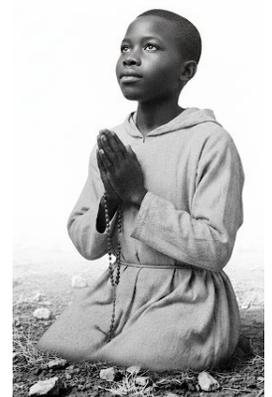
Born in Sicily to parents who were enslaved Africans from Ethiopia, Benedict was granted his freedom at age 18. Despite being free, he faced constant racial taunts and lived in extreme poverty. He eventually joined a community of Franciscan hermits and, though he was illiterate and a humble cook, his spiritual wisdom was so profound that his brothers elected him as their Superior. He is a powerful example of “servant leadership,” proving that holiness is found in the heart, not in status or education.



In his words: *“Whatever is your life's work, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could not do it better.”*

### Saint Kizito (1872-1886)

The youngest of the 22 Uganda Martyrs, 14-year-old Kizito was a page in the royal court of King Mwanga II. When the king began a violent persecution of Christians, Kizito refused to renounce his faith. On the day of his execution, he was observed laughing and chatting with his companions, his joy acting as a source of strength for the older men. He was burned alive for his faith, becoming the patron saint of children and African youth.



In his words: *“I am going to die for Jesus, and I am very happy. Goodbye, friends, we are on our way.”*

**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 NEXT WEEKEND:**

Catholic Charities, serving the poor. Catholic Charities is a leading provider of comprehensive emergency assistance and long-term economic empowerment for families and individuals. They address key issues facing our communities, providing food, shelter, resources, affordable childcare, and advocacy while creating pathways to job and housing security. The goal is to break the cycle of poverty by helping individuals and families overcome immediate crises and build sustainable futures. <https://www.ccab.org/about-us/>

**LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:**

Automatic Giving: \$ 5,871.00  
 WeShare: \$ 4,512.63  
 Envelopes: \$ 5,986.00  
 Total Offertory: \$ 16,369.63

Kindly consider switching to WeShare or Automatic Giving. See: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.



**TODAY, 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!

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**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, 11<sup>th</sup> Anv.  
**Monday February 9**  
 9:00 Joseph P. Mooney  
**Tuesday February 10**  
 9:00 Francis Johnson  
**Wednesday February 11**  
 9:00 Arthur Saloio  
**Thursday February 12**  
 9:00 Holy Souls in Purgatory  
**Friday February 13**  
 9:00 Richard Willette and Robert and Wanda Peloquin  
**Saturday February 14**  
 5:00 Nancy Hovsepian  
 7:30 Michael Sammarco  
**Sunday February 15**  
 7:30 People of St. Mary's  
 9:30 Len Levasseur  
 11:30 Helen Medwid, 6<sup>th</sup> Anv.



**THIS WEEKEND ~ ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE THROATS:**

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

**CORIs FOR FY26 NOW DUE!** It is time for **all St. Mary's volunteers** to renew your CORI, and review the Code of Conduct. Please stop by the Parish Center Lobby today, **Sunday, February 8**, after all Masses. Thank you!

**NEWSLETTER COLLATING THIS MONDAY:** Please join us tomorrow, Monday, February 9 from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall to assist in our collating of the February Newsletter.

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** The Rose this week is sponsored by Dan and Julie Pollock. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child.

**NEXT WEEKEND ~ BRING YOUR PALMS:** At all Masses next weekend baskets will be in the sanctuary to collect your old palms for burning. These make the ashes for Ash Wednesday, February 18.



## FOR HEALING



**SAINT BLAISE AND THE BLESSING OF THROATS:** St. Blaise (also spelled Blase and Blasius) was a 3<sup>rd</sup> century physician who became Bishop of Sebaste, Armenia. On one occasion he cured a boy who was choking to death on a fish bone. This was the time of

persecution under Licinius, and soon St. Blaise was forced to hide out in a cave on Mt. Argeus.

Deprived of human patients, he began tending the wild animals of the surrounding forest. These animals sensed St. Blaise's holiness and would come to him with their injuries.

St. Blaise was eventually captured and imprisoned; receiving a gift of candles from the mother of the boy he had saved from choking, with which to light his dark cell. He was beaten, had his flesh torn by wool combs, and was beheaded, martyred for his faith.

Because of the cure of the boy's throat when the boy was choking, St. Blaise is the patron against troubles of the throat. St. Blaise is also the patron of veterinarians and against attacks of wild animals.

He is represented in art as a Bishop holding a candle, with wool combs, or in a cave surrounded by wild animals. **A framed image of St. Blaise with both candle and wool comb has been placed in St. Mary's sanctuary for this weekend.**

## FOR MARRIAGE

**BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES:** February is World Marriage Month, and at all Masses on the weekend of February 21 and 22 a special blessing will be offered to all married persons present. As is our custom at St. Mary's, the couple at each Mass present together and married the longest will be presented with roses. In honoring these couples, we honor all our married couples and allow all at the Masses to witness married love that with God's help has flourished and endured.

## FOR THOSE IN NEED

**HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF:** Food items needed at the Pantry: Progresso Soup, Campbell's Chunky Soup, Campbell's Tomato Soup, and Ritz Crackers.

## FOR WOMEN

**ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:** Please join us this Tuesday, February 10 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.



CatholicWINGS

**WINGS (Women in God's Spirit):** The Winter Season Bible Study continues this Wednesday, February 11, from 10 - 11:15 AM in person and via Zoom. This week focuses on Chapter 3 of Kevin Perrotta's book "Matthew 5 - 7: How To be Happy". 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. All women are most welcome. Babysitting is provided; please register in advance. Email [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com) to register or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.

## FOR MEN

**Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN:** We are looking forward to our first Cor meeting of the Spring season! The meeting will be at **7 PM on February 26, in Fr. Haley Hall**, and the topic will be the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Other topics this season will include a deep dive into the Mass and the Eucharist. We will also explore the Acts of the Apostles and will have another meeting focused on prayer. As always, our meetings will draw on scripture, catechesis, prayer and small group discussions as we seek to deepen our relationships with God, and to support one another on our respective journeys.

We generally meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month through 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](mailto:StMarysCor@gmail.com).

# FOR OUR YOUTH!



**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~ TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith):** This afternoon from 1 - 3 PM we will join the residents of Mission Springs for a Valentine's Day themed Bingo event. Don't forget to

wear Pink or Red! Reminder that this is a drop-off and pick-up event. We will not be taking a bus.

**Join us for our next TGIF Meeting, Sunday, February 22,** from 7 - 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall (bring a friend)! TGIF is open to ALL TEENS in Grades 9 - 12.

We begin our TGIF Lent Study one week from today, Sunday, February 15 from 3 - 4 PM. Our meetings will be in Sister Ricci house. We will be reading 'The Last Words of Jesus' by Daniel Horan O.F.M., A meditation on Love and Suffering. For more

information, contact: Lisa Dufault at [st.marystgif1870@gmail.com](mailto: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 trip is the MSYG vacation week trip to Boda Borg and Quincy Market on **February 20.**



We will also be hosting the St. Paul's Boy Choir at their concert here on **Friday, February 27.**

Our next Meeting is **Sunday, March 1, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM!** It is half an hour longer to allow time for making 300 sandwiches for the homeless for Lent. Rafting payments are due at this meeting as well as Sign-Ups for the March 27 Cosmic Bowling Trip.

**CONGRATULATIONS GIRLS!** The Girls took the Trophy at last Sunday's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual MSYG Battle of the Sexes. Well Done!



## THE WORD FOR TEENS

In today's Mass Epistle (1 Corinthians 2:1-5), St. Paul writes to his friends about a time he felt pretty nervous. Even though he was a great apostle, he tells them that he didn't show up using "fancy words" or acting like a "know-it-all." Instead, he admitted he felt weak and was even "trembling with fear."

For a teen, this is like that moment before a big oral presentation or when you're trying to explain your faith to a friend and you're worried you'll say the wrong thing. Paul is showing us that we don't have to be the smartest or most popular person in the room for God to work through us. In fact, he says that when we stop trying to rely on our own "coolness," it gives the Holy Spirit more room to shine.

The "big idea" Paul wants you to remember is that your faith shouldn't depend on how well someone can argue or how "perfect" a person looks. It's all about the power of God. Think about a time when you did something kind for someone - not because you had a scripted speech ready, but because you simply followed your heart. That's what Paul means by a "demonstration of Spirit." When you are humble and real about your struggles, people see the light of Christ in you much more clearly than if you were just acting like a star. Your relationship with Jesus isn't a performance; it's a foundation that stays strong even when you feel shaky.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS:**

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

**CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN’S**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Today, February 8, 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., 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	
Sun., Feb. 15	NO CLASSES	Feb. Vacation
Sun., Feb. 22	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	GR-6 at 4:00 PM

**February Vacation:** Sunday, Feb. 15 to Friday, Feb. 20

**\*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](http://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.*

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

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



**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN THE ATRIUM THIS PAST WEEKEND FOR GROUP B:**

This was our first session after returning to Ordinary Time. The children helped swap the white celebration cloth on the prayer table for the green one. As the children will hear many stories about Jesus’ life and teaching at Mass during Ordinary Time, it was fitting to introduce the first Parable of the Kingdom today: The Mustard Seed.

The parable story Jesus shares has a hidden meaning or a secret inside. What did the children learn about the secret? As Ms. Sharon picked up the Holy Bible to read the words of Jesus, one child made a connection. “I wonder if God tells His secrets in that Book.” We ask a lot of “I wonder” questions in the Atrium. After hearing the parable, children saw actual mustard seeds and noticed how very small they are. They saw a photo of a mustard tree, practically as tall as the church nearby. We pondered the question, “I wonder how that little seed turns into the big mustard tree?” God’s great strength helps that seed grow too.

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS): LEVEL ONE COURSE:**

The Level 1 course includes at least 90 hours in Scripture, liturgy, child development in the Montessori Method, and the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd approach. Catechists must have read three books for the course and work with fellow catechists to complete their album pages before the end of the course. Part 1 of the course begins July 27 - August 1, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and August 2, 12:00 - 4:30 PM. Part 2 of Level 1 will be offered in 2027: July 11, 12 -17, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM and July 18, 12:00 - 4:30 PM. Location for CGS training is St. Mary of the Assumption in Brookline, MA. Certification of completion will be issued for Level 1. Parts 1 and 2 honor your full attendance and participation in the Level 1 course. Registration is limited to 16 people. Register by May 1, 2026. Contact Melissa Kalpakgian at 617-746-5755 or [mkalpakgian@rcab.org](mailto:mkalpakgian@rcab.org).

**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 registration information will be available after Easter. But save those dates now!