

# 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 Sung Mass

Holy Days: Announced

## Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays 9:30 - 10:30 AM,  
Thursdays in Lent 7 - 8 PM

## 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  
Noon to 12:45 PM.

**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. Welcome to Christ!

**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,

*"If you are the Son of God..."* With these seven words, the Tempter begins his assault on Jesus in the desert. As we enter the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel of Matthew takes us into the wilderness - not just a place of sand and stone, but a place of profound spiritual testing.

Notice that the devil doesn't start by inviting Jesus to commit an obvious sin. He starts by attacking His identity. Just before this, at His baptism, Jesus heard the Father's voice saying, *"This is my beloved Son."*

Now, the devil tries to plant a seed of doubt. By saying *"If you are,"* he is inviting Jesus to prove Himself, to step outside of His absolute trust in the Father.

The spiritual implication is clear. The Enemy's primary tactic is to make us question our worth. If the devil can make us believe we are defined only by our hunger (the stones), our relevance (the pinnacle), or our power (the kingdoms), we lose sight of our divine adoption.

Sometimes we feel despair because we are tempted, especially if the same temptation comes at us over and over again. But as St. John Vianney once observed,

*"The devil only tempts those souls that wish to abandon sin and those that are in a state of grace. The others belong to him; he has no need to tempt them."*

This reminds us that the struggle we feel, the questioning of our worth, is actually a sign that we are on the right path. The "if" is only thrown at those who are striving to say "yes" to God.

For us as Catholics, this desert scene is a mirror. How often do we hear that insidious "if" in our own lives?

*"If you were a good person, you wouldn't struggle with this sin."*

*"If God really cared about you, your life wouldn't be this hard."*

We often spend our lives trying to "prove" our worth through productivity, appearance, or even perfectionism. Lent is the season where we strip away those false masks. We fast, pray, and give alms not to "win" God's love, but to remind ourselves that we already possess it.

Our life journey is a constant recalibration. Like Jesus, we must use the Word of God to answer the lies. When the world tells us we are only what we consume, we respond: *"One does not live by bread alone."*

This Lent, I invite you to identify the "ifs" in your life. Where are you trying to prove yourself to the world? Let the silence of the desert quiet the voice of the Tempter, so that by Easter we may stand at the empty tomb knowing exactly who we are - beloved children of the King.

In His Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



## OUR PARISH PRAYER FOR LENT

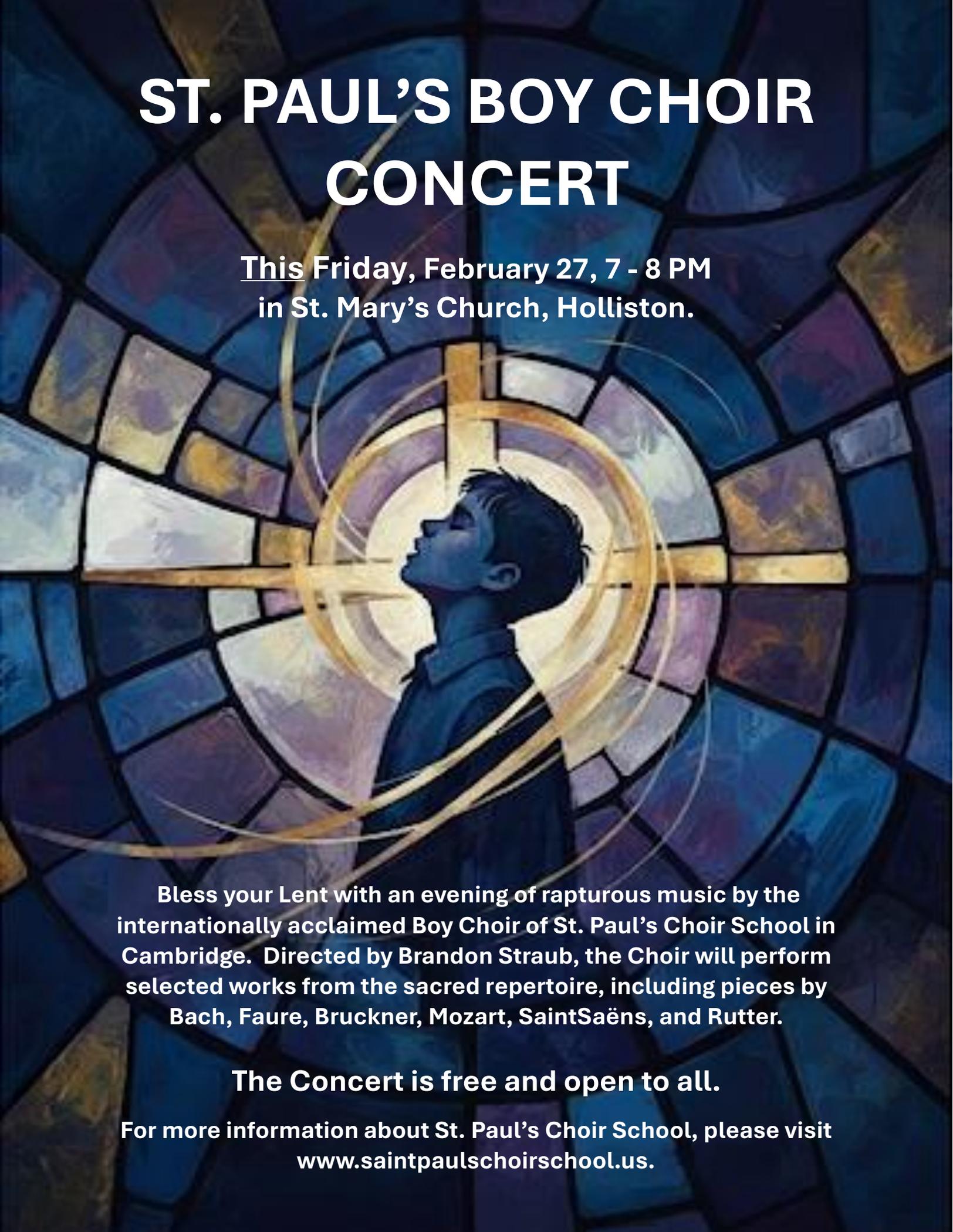
**Loving God,  
during this sacred season of Lent,  
bring me closer to You.**

**Prepare a place in my home and heart  
for silence and solitude,  
so that I may rediscover  
the grace of a prayer filled life.**

**Help me to fast from those things that threaten  
the well-being of body and soul,  
and remind me of the grace of simplicity.**

**Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need -  
and, in so doing, rediscover  
the grace of gratitude and generosity.**

**May this season be a grace-filled time  
that rekindles my love and faith in You. Amen.**

A circular stained glass window with a central figure of a young boy in profile, looking upwards. The window is composed of various colored panes in shades of blue, purple, and gold. The boy is depicted in a dark blue silhouette, with a golden halo around his head. The background of the window is a complex pattern of geometric shapes and colors.

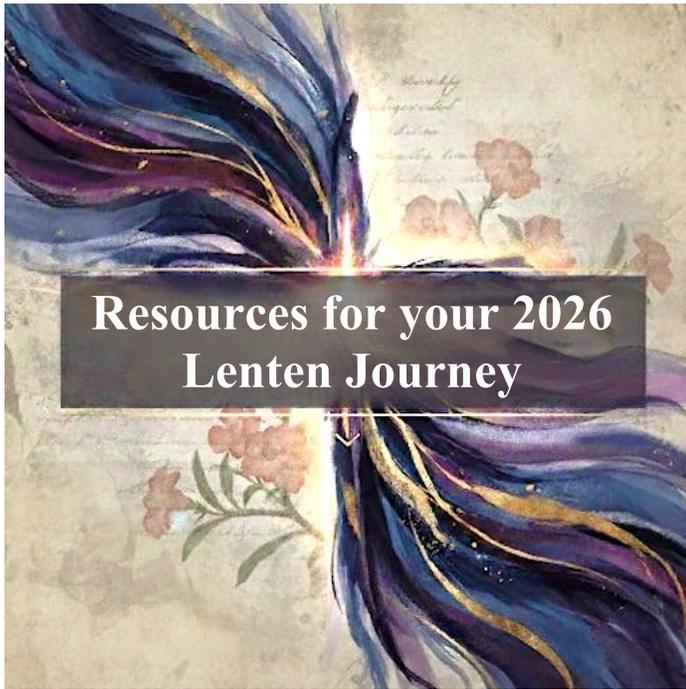
# **ST. PAUL'S BOY CHOIR CONCERT**

**This Friday, February 27, 7 - 8 PM  
in St. Mary's Church, Holliston.**

**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, SaintSaëns, 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).**



## Resources for your 2026 Lenten Journey

### THE JOURNEY BEGINS

The world often feels noisy and hurried, making it difficult to hear the “still, small voice” of the Spirit. This Lent, our parish is highlighting a variety of digital and traditional resources to help you carve out that sacred space in your daily routine. Whether you prefer a quiet book of reflections, a daily video in your inbox, or a prayer app on your phone, there is a path here for everyone.

### INTERACTIVE & DIGITAL RESOURCES

#### Hallow: Pray40 "The Return"

\* **Link:** <https://hallow.com/pray40/>

\* Description: The world's #1 Catholic prayer app features the "Pray40" challenge. In 2026, the theme is "The Return," focusing on the Parable of the Prodigal Son and insights from Dostoevsky's 'The Brothers Karamazov.' It offers daily meditations led by figures like Fr. Mike Schmitz and Jonathan Roumie.

#### Dynamic Catholic: Best Lent Ever

\* **Link:**

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html>

\* Description: A free email program that sends a daily short video reflection to your inbox. The 2026 program focuses on "becoming the best version of yourself" through small, manageable life-giving habits rather than just "giving things up."

#### FORMED: Lenten Video Series

\* **Link:** <https://watch.formed.org/lent>

\* Description: Often called the "Catholic Netflix," FORMED offers several series for 2026, including "Fearless," which explores overcoming anxiety through faith, and "Brother Francis" daily meditations specifically designed for children and families.

### SERVICE & REFLECTION

#### CRS Rice Bowl (Catholic Relief Services)

\* **Link:** <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

\* Description: A staple for Catholic families, this site provides a digital "Lenten Calendar" with daily reflections, meatless recipes from around the world, and stories of hope regarding the global communities supported by your Lenten almsgiving.

#### USCCB: Lenten Resources & Calendar

\* **Link:** <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/lent>

\* Description: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides the official liturgical calendar, daily scripture readings, and downloadable PDF reflections. It's an excellent "hub" for checking the specific fast and abstinence laws of the Church.

#### Catholic Climate Covenant

\* **Link:** <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

\* Description: Offers a unique "creation care" perspective on Lent. Their 2026 resources include a Lenten Labyrinth Journey and a "Creation Stations of the Cross" that connects Christ's suffering to the modern "groaning of creation."

### BOOKS & STUDY GUIDES

#### Word on Fire: Lenten Gospel Reflections

\* **Link:** <https://www.wordonfire.org/>

\* Description: Bishop Robert Barron provides a beautiful, printed (or digital) devotional for 2026. It includes the full Gospel reading for every day of Lent alongside his insightful commentary and space for personal journaling.

#### Loyola Press: Sacred Space for Lent 2026

\* **Link:** <https://loyolapress.com/>

\* Description: Based on the popular Ignatian prayer website, this book offers a simple, points-based prayer method to help you spend ten minutes a day in quiet conversation with God.



### LENTEN 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. Anyone and everyone is welcome at any time without signing up. But we need a minimum of two people committed to each specific hour the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed for Adoration. sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-61928555-40hours>.



**FASTING:** Catholics over eighteen and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

**ABSTINENCE:** Catholics over fourteen years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and **all the Fridays of Lent**. On abstinence days, meat may not be used at all. Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended. Commendable, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the concept of "mortification."

**ADORATION, Every Thursday:** This Lent, St. Mary's will offer a Eucharistic Holy Hour each Thursday in the church from 7 - 8 PM. Each Lenten Holy Hour includes an intention for which we ask you kindly to add to your prayers during your time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament: **This Thursday, February 26** please pray for Peace in Ukraine.

**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 27 (on the 27<sup>th</sup> 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, others dip in and out of helping. Welcome!

**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:**  
 Catholic Charities: \$6,501. Thank you for supporting our brothers and sisters in need.

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:**  
 The Church Around the World. This collection supports the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe, the Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your donations will help fund spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs.

**LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:**  
 Automatic Giving: \$ 5,562.00  
 WeShare: \$ 5,640.88  
 Envelopes: \$ 5,845.00  
 Total Offertory: \$ 17,047.88

**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/>.

**FY26 CORIs 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 hosting a CORI table at the March 1 Donuts, Juice & Coffee.

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** The Rose this week is sponsored by Joan Cocchiarella in memory of John Cocchiarella. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. Please email [st.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marys1870@gmail.com) or call Mary Beth at 508-429-4427 to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 21</b>
5:00	John Collins, 21 <sup>st</sup> Anv.
7:30	Carmen Chiango
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 22</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Gary Sencio
11:30	Isaac De Guzman, 45 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 23</b>
9:00	Mary Felmer Johnson
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 24</b>
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 25</b>
9:00	John Cocchiarella
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 26</b>
9:00	Anthony Leffler
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 27</b>
9:00	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 28</b>
5:00	Leslie Higgins
7:30	Matthew D'Agostino, 4 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 1</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Thomas Bengiovanni
11:30	Marjorie Wheeler Barnes

**BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES:** February is World Marriage Month, and at all Masses this weekend 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.

**D. J. & C.:** The Welcoming Committee and Parish Council invite all families to stop into Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Upstairs CLOW Mass NEXT Sunday, March 1, for free donuts, juice and coffee!



**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** This spring, Deacon Martin Breinlinger will celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. He was part of the Class of 1976 - the very first group of men ordained as Permanent Deacons in the Archdiocese of Boston. He has blessed our parish in countless ways during those years - preaching, celebrating Baptisms and Weddings, heading ministries, and being a friend to all. Deacon Marty's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, April 26 at 11:30 AM, followed by a reception in Fr. Haley Hall. Save the date!

# FOR OUR YOUTH!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Our Monthly Meeting is **NEXT SUNDAY, March 1, from 6:30 -**



**8:30 PM!** It is half an hour longer to allow time for making 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 and the Grade 6 Nursing Home BINGO on March 6.

**BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP:** Scholarship Applications are now available at <https://stmarysholliston.com> under REGISTER / PARISH FORMS. This \$2,000 scholarship is granted in recognition of exceptional service to the St. Mary's Parish Family. Applicants must meet the following



*Blessed Mother Scholarship*

criteria: Graduating from High School in the Spring of 2026; Accepted to a four year college or university to commence classes in the Fall of 2026; Family registered at St. Mary's Parish for at least two full years; Completed Religious

Education and received the Sacrament of Confirmation; Attend Mass weekly at St. Mary's, and are otherwise living out their Catholic faith. Applications are due to the Scholarship Committee by Easter Sunday, April 5. The Scholarship will be presented at the St. Mary's Mass for the Graduating Class of 2026, Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 AM.

**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!

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~ TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith):** Our next TGIF Meeting is TONIGHT, 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. For more information, contact Lisa Dufault at [st.marystgif1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marystgif1870@gmail.com).



At tonight's meeting there will be Sign-Ups for our Topgolf event on March 1 and Sign-Ups for our Maine Whitewater Rafting Overnight Trip June 28 - June 29. You must be present to sign up.



This afternoon, from 3 - 4 PM we gather for our second Lenten Study Meeting. Note, all meetings will be in the lower church hall, not Sr. Ricci house, as



originally planned. We will be reading 'The Last Words of Jesus' by Daniel Horan O.F.M., a meditation on Love and Suffering.

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!

### TODAY'S WORD FOR TEENS: Matthew 4:4

For a Catholic teenager today, Matthew 4:4, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God," is a powerful reminder that our deepest "hunger" isn't always something a snack or a scrolling session can fix. It's easy to feel like life is just a checklist of getting the right grades, having the perfect social media feed, or chasing the next dopamine hit. But Jesus points out that these are just "bread" - temporary things that sustain the body but leave the soul feeling empty. True fulfillment comes from plugging into the Word of God, which acts like a spiritual GPS and a constant source of strength.

When you're stressed about a friendship or overwhelmed by expectations, remember that God's voice provides the actual substance and identity that the world's "bread" simply can't offer; it's the difference between just surviving the week and truly feeling alive. So partake of God's Word every day. Even a few verses can start to satisfy the soul!

## FOR WOMEN



**ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:** Please join us this Tuesday, February 24 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 25, from 10 - 11:15 AM in person and via Zoom. WINGS is using Kevin Perrotta's book "Matthew 5 - 7: How To be Happy" as our guide and this week focuses on Chapter 5. Joe Javorski, our Winter Season guide, has already given us many valuable insights into the meaning behind Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and how it applies to our lives. 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.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, March 6:** 'I Will Give You Rest: Come.' (Mt. 11:28-30) A message from the country of Nigeria. World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. We welcome men to attend with us in the celebration. Please join us as we gather to celebrate at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 600 Central Street, Holliston on Friday, March 6, at 10 AM. We will meet in the sanctuary. All are welcome!



**SMCWG:** The St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, March 11 from Noon to 2:00 PM in the Parish Center Library. Please bring

your lunch and a drink. Dessert, coffee and tea will be provided. \$5 dues will be collected. All are welcome.

## FOR MEN

**Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN:** Join us this Thursday, February 26, in Fr. Haley Hall at 7 PM.

Appropriately for Lent, the topic of our next meeting will be the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During this penitential season we are called to examine the condition of our relationship with God, and to clear away whatever stands in the way of our receiving God's love more fully. This is the first meeting of our Spring 2026 season, and all men 18 years and older are invited.



The mission of *Cor* is to help Catholic men deepen their relationship with God in order to better live out God's will for them

in their daily lives. Our meetings include presentations that draw upon the deep resources of the Catholic Church and challenge us to prayerfully reflect upon what this gift of life that God has so generously given us is really all about. For more information, contact [StMarysCor@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysCor@gmail.com).

### WORCESTER CATHOLIC MENS

**CONFERENCE "BE NOT AFRAID":** The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, March 21 at the DCU Center.

All five speakers are nationally known. In addition, Adoration, Reconciliation and a closing Mass with Bishop McManus will be held. Adult tickets are \$60 and student tickets \$30. To register go to [catholicmenworc.com](http://catholicmenworc.com). Knights and all St. Mary's male adults and students are invited to a day of listening, worship and peace. The Council has traditionally arranged carpooling. Contact Deacon Ron Dowding at 508-429-3961 or Knight Mitchell Liro at 508-429-6098 for conference information and carpooling arrangements.

*please scan QR code below for more information*



[www.catholicmenworc.com](http://www.catholicmenworc.com)

## 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. 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.

**MY MOTHER MY FRIEND THRIFT STORE:** Kathleen (Kathy) Murphy McKenna, one of our long time Parishioners, recently opened "My Mother My Friend Thrift Store," a Woman Owned Non-Profit Organization (WONPO), dedicated to her mom, Joyce Alice Murphy, who died of Pancreatic Cancer 37 years ago. The Thrift store proceeds, after expenses, go to the American Cancer Society's Research Fund, which seeks cures for various cancers including Pancreatic Cancer. The store is located at 358 Woodland St, Holliston. Kathy recently received a Holliston Humanitarian Award for her charitable work. Learn more via this link: <https://www.hcattv.org/all-show-posts/2025/12/12/holliston-together-my-mother-my-friend-thrift-store>.

## FOR FAMILY

**Bread vs. Word:** St. Augustine reflects that the first temptation (hunger) reminds spouses that material comfort or financial security cannot be the sole foundation of a home. A marriage "lives" primarily on the spiritual nourishment of prayer and the Eucharist.

**The Temple Pinnacle (Pride):** This temptation to "test" God is often compared to spouses testing one another's love or demanding "proof" of affection. The Fathers suggest that true love, like Christ's, is rooted in quiet trust rather than dramatic displays or ego-driven demands.

**The Kingdoms of the World:** For modern families, this represents the temptation to prioritize career, status, or "success" over the hidden, humble service of the home. Christ's command to "worship God alone" re-centers the family's mission on the eternal rather than the temporal.

*"No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love." - Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia*

## FOR MARRIAGE



**BUILDING A HAPPIER MARRIAGE:** You're invited to a special evening presentation with Ester and Arthur Brooks on "Building a Happier Marriage" **this Wednesday, February 25 at 7 PM.** Ester Munt Brooks is a

Catholic educator dedicated to helping ordinary people deepen their faith and apply it to daily life. Arthur Brooks is a happiness researcher, social scientist, Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School professor, and NYT bestselling author of "Build the Life You Want," co-written with Oprah Winfrey. Ester and Arthur will share their insights on the philosophy and science of love, how to build stronger, lasting bonds with your spouse, and how to find and nurture deep friendships. This event is free and open to the public! It will be held at the Montrose School, 29 North Street in Medfield.

**MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP:** Our Marriage Fellowship group will be volunteering at My Brother's Keeper in Easton **this Saturday, February 28 from about 9 AM - 12:30 PM** to deliver food to families in need primarily in Brockton, MA. Historically, we meet at the facility in Easton for a brief tour and opening prayer and then load up our own vehicles with food/essentials donated by My Brother's Keeper and then we deliver them to assigned families in need. Children are welcome.

My Brother's Keeper is a beautiful, Catholic run non-profit that helps so many people every week and we have been incredibly blessed by opportunities to teach our children to spread God's love through this annual family-friendly volunteer service project. Here's their link to check out all of the amazing ways they show God's love: <https://www.mybrotherskeeper.org/>.

Please email Heather Nunes at [stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com) to let us know if you're able to volunteer for this service project so we can give them the number of volunteers. Two adults per vehicle is so important to help with driving, putting in directions, calling ahead to families and running the deliveries to the households. If you and your spouse are not both able to attend, please either let me know so we can coordinate two adults per vehicle or you can ask a friend to join you to help with the deliveries. It is a truly wonderful ministry so please consider joining us!

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSION:**

The Adult Faith Formation class on “The Bible and the Blessed Virgin Mary” will continue on Monday, February 23, March 2, and March 9 at 10:00 AM in Room 3 - 4. All are welcome.

**CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN’S**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Today, February 22, 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.

DAY	CLASS	CLASS
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
Mon., Feb. 23		GR-3 at 10:45 AM
		GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	
Tues., Feb. 24	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. 25	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-4 at 4:00 PM
	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., Mar. 1	CGS-Safety Lesson	GR-1 at 8:10 AM
	GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 at 10:45 AM

**PARENT MEETINGS FOR FIRST COMMUNION ON THURSDAY, MARCH 12:**

There will be one morning meeting at 9:00 AM and one at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 12. Parents will be informed regarding the details for First Communion, the rehearsal, the Grade 2 Retreat, sign up for Mass roles as Readers and Gift Bearers.

**GRADE 5 SESSION ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS ~ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 4:00 PM:**

All Grade 5 students in Sunday and weekday classes are to attend this session as part of the Grade 5 Curriculum on the Sacraments. All students will meet in the church by 3:55 PM so that Fr. Mark can begin his presentation. Grade 5 teachers are to attend. Mrs. Crespi will present the second half of the presentation in Fr. Haley Hall. Parents are to pick up their children in Fr. Haley Hall at 5:30 PM.

**LENTEEN PROJECT FOR GRADES 3, 4, 5 AND 6:**

In 2017 and 2018 Fr. Ojulo, a missionary priest from Tororo, Uganda spent two summers at St. Mary’s Parish. He told us about the needs of St. James Preparatory School in Uganda. Over the past years our Grade 4 students raised funds from their allowance to help Fr. Ojulo purchase chickens and cows for milk to nourish the children. The children’s health has greatly improved with our children’s sacrificial giving. This Lent each child in Grades 3 - 6 will take part in this Lenten mission to continue supporting the school in Uganda.

**FOR ALL RELIGIOUS ED FAMILIES! VIRTUS EMPOWERING GOD’S CHILDREN (EGC) SAFETY PROGRAM:**

**The month of January began 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 K AND 4.**

Any family wishing to Opt-Out their child must complete and submit an Opt-Out form to the Religious Education Office.

- Grade 4 - Tuesday, February 24 at 4:00 PM.
- Grade 4 - Wednesday, February 25 at 4:00 PM.
- Grade K - Sunday, March 1 at 8:00 AM.

**FREE DISCOVERY SESSION ~ CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS):**



Wondering what Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is about? Join Rebekah Rojewicz for an inspiring session that will help you understand the wonderful approach of faith formation rooted in the Montessori Method. Learn how CGS nurtures the spiritual life of children. The discovery session is **free** and everyone can attend. **Where?** St. Benedict Academy on **May 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.** Registration: [bit.ly/3JVNTxP](https://bit.ly/3JVNTxP)

**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).