



## THIS WEEK - 40 HOURS DEVOTION

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 stop in at any time day or night to visit with the Lord in prayer.

### Sunday, March 15

11:30 AM Exposition Mass  
 6:00 PM Evening Prayer  
 8:00 PM Scripture Reflection

### Monday, March 16

9:00 AM Morning Mass (Hall)  
 Noon Holy Rosary  
 6:00 PM Evening Prayer  
 8:00 PM Scripture Reflection

### Tuesday, March 17

9:00 AM Closing Mass  
 with Benediction

*"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent Adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering." - Pope Benedict XVI*



# 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!

# 40 HOURS WITH JESUS CHRIST

By Fr. William Saunders

The Forty Hours Devotion is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. Of course, the focus of this devotion is on the Holy Eucharist. As Catholics, the words of our Lord burn in our hearts: "I myself am the living bread come down from Heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51).

Affirming our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Vatican Council II taught that the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, #11). While the Mass is the central act of worship for us Catholics, an act which participates in the eternal reality of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, Vatican Council II upheld and encouraged the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. Of course such devotion derives from the sacrifice of the Mass and moves the faithful to both sacramental and spiritual communion with our Lord (Eucharisticum Mysterium, #50). As Pope Pius XII taught in *Mediator Dei*, "This practice of adoration has a valid and firm foundation." Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has repeatedly "highly recommended" public and private devotion of the Blessed Sacrament, including processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi and the 40 Hours Devotion (cf. *Dominicae Caeae*, #3, and *Inaestimabile Donum*, #20-22).



Second, the number forty has always signified a sacred period of time: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection. Actually in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the repository, "the Easter Sepulcher," for this period of time to signify our Lord's time in the tomb.

The Forty Hours Devotion begins with a Solemn Mass of Exposition, which concludes with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar in a monstrance. During the next 40 hours, the faithful gather for personal or public prayer in adoration of our Lord. At the end of the devotions, there is a solemn benediction and final reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Forty Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. Consequently, an appropriate time to schedule Forty Hours is either Advent or Lent.

While the Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, three special dimensions have also surrounded this devotion: the protection from evil and temptation; reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory; and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities. Here the faithful implore our Lord to pour forth His abundant graces not only for themselves, but their neighbors, not only for their own personal needs, but for those of the world. Such practices are evidenced in the history of this devotion.

Having explored the spiritual dimension of the Forty Hours Devotion, a greater appreciation for this spiritual exercise is found through knowing its history. The practice of Forty Hours Devotion originated in Milan about the year 1530. Granted, prior to this time, the Church did have exposition and benediction, Eucharistic processions, and devotions to the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle.

In 1539, Pope Paul III responded to a petition from the Archdiocese of Milan asking for an indulgence for the practice: "Since our beloved son the Vicar General of the Archbishop of Milan, at the prayer of the inhabitants of the said city, amongst other pious practices, has established a round of prayers and supplications to be offered by day and night by all the faithful of Christ, before our Lord's Most Sacred Body, in all the churches of the said city, in such a manner that these prayers and supplication are made by the faithful themselves relieving each other in relays for forty hours continuously in each church in succession, according to the order determined by the Vicar... We approving in our Lord so pious an institution, grant and remit." While this pronouncement seems to be the earliest official approval by the Church of this devotion, the Forty Hours Devotion spread rapidly.

By 1550, both St. Philip Neri and St. Ignatius Loyola had also instituted this practice, especially for the reparation of sin. Recognizing the tremendous graces offered through this devotion as well as the dangers threatening the Church, Pope Clement VIII in his letter *Graves et diuturnae* (November 25, 1592) proclaimed, "We have determined to establish publicly in this Mother City of Rome an uninterrupted course of prayer in such ways that in the different churches, on appointed days, there be observed the pious and salutary devotion of the Forty Hours, with such an arrangement of churches and times that, at every hour of the day and night, the whole year round the incense of prayer shall ascend without intermission before the face of the Lord." He also issued regulations for the devotions, which were later collected and promulgated by Pope Clement XI in 1705, and known as the *Instructio Clementina*.

In our own country, St. John Neumann (1811-60), the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, was a strong promoter of the Forty Hours Devotion. While the practice had already existed in individual churches throughout the city (as well as in other places in the country), no organized, cohesive diocesan schedule for it had ever before been attempted. St. John had a tremendous devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and desired to foster such a spiritual life in his people.

Unfortunately at this time, a strong anti-Catholic sentiment plagued Philadelphia. During the Know Nothing riots of 1844, two churches were burned and another was saved simply by the threat of gunfire. Some priests, therefore, advised St. John that the introduction of 40 Hours Devotion would only flame the hatred against the Catholics and expose the Blessed Sacrament to desecration. St. John was left in a quandary.

A strange incident occurred which helped St. John decide. One night, he was working very late at his desk and fell asleep in his chair. The candle on the desk burnt down and charred some of the papers, but they were still readable. He awoke, surprised and thankful that a fire had not ignited. He fell on his knees to give thanks to God for protection, and heard His voice saying, "As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so shall I pour out my grace in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to my honor. Fear no profanation, therefore; hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory."

He introduced the practice of 40 Hours Devotion at the first diocesan synod in April, 1853, and the first devotions began at St. Philip Neri Parish, an appropriate place since that saint had initiated the devotion in the city of Rome. St. John himself, spent most of the three days in the Church praying. No trouble ensued. St. John then introduced the program for the whole diocese, so that each parish would have Forty Hours Devotion during the course of the year. He composed a special booklet for the devotions and obtained special indulgences for the faithful attending them. The Forty Hours Devotion was so successful it spread to other dioceses. At the Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866, the Forty Hours Devotion was approved for all Dioceses of the United States.

The Forty Hours Devotion provides a wonderful opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person and the parish as a whole. In a world where temptation and evil abound, where devotion to the Mass and our Lord in the Holy Eucharist have declined, where the practice of penance and confession have been forgotten by many, we need the Forty Hours Devotion more than ever.

**2026 CATHOLIC APPEAL ~ Together We Are One!**

We thank everyone from St. Mary's who has so far participated in the 2026 Catholic Appeal.

**To date our parish has raised \$54,100 from 28% of St. Mary's active households, reaching 62% of our parish goal of \$88,000.**

These contributions support the many ministries of our Archdiocese and will improve the lives of so many vulnerable persons. The Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish. If you have not yet made your gift, please consider making a pledge today.



**(Option 1)** If you have given previously to the Catholic Appeal, then you should have received a 2026 Pledge Form in the mail. Mail it to St. Mary's or to the Archdiocese. You may also drop it off at St. Mary's, and we will mail it in. Any checks we receive made out to the 2026 Catholic Appeal will also be forwarded.

**(Option 2)** Scan the QR Code right.

**(Option 3)** Visit <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/> and scroll to the bottom of the page to donate online. This website also offers you a video to watch and detailed information about the Catholic Appeal.



However you give, please be sure to indicate St. Mary's, Holliston as your parish so that your gift is applied to our parish goal. Thank you for doing your part - large or small according to your means - to support the good works of our Church. God bless you!

**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

**PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:**

Automatic Giving:	\$ 8,049.00
WeShare:	\$ 6,206.78
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 9,774.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 24,029.78

**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/>.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 14</b>
5:00	Wanda Peloquin
7:30	Marie Croke and Robert Van Stry
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 15</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Leslye Balowicz
11:30	40 Hours Devotion ~ Opening Mass
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 16</b>
9:00	40 Hours Mass ~ Fr. Haley Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 17</b>
9:00	40 Hours ~ Closing Mass
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 18</b>
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 19</b>
9:00	Maureen MacEvoy
<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 20</b>
9:00	Jo-Ann Hiitt
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 21</b>
5:00	Philip Meuse
7:30	Carmen Chiang
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 22</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Ann Tomacelli, 1 <sup>st</sup> Anv.
11:30	Calvin Meisner

*"Let us also love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve." - St. Francis of Assisi*



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Rejoice! That is the first word of the Introit for today's Mass, "Laetare!" At this halfway point of our Lenten journey, the Church pauses to offer us a glimpse of the finish line. You'll notice the rose-colored vestments today, a visual softening of the Lenten purple, reminding us that the dawn of Easter is breaking through the darkness. The Celebration of Jesus' Triumph over the grave is drawing near!

In today's Gospel (John 9:1-41), we encounter the Man Born Blind. It's a story that hits home because, if we are honest, we all have "blind spots" in our spiritual lives. We often stumble through our days focused on the immediate - our stresses, our to-do lists, our grievances - and we fail to see the Divine Physician standing right in front of us.

When Jesus smears the clay on the man's eyes and tells him to wash in the Pool of Siloam, He isn't just performing a medical miracle. He is performing a re-creation. Just as God formed man from the clay of the earth in Genesis, Christ is re-forming this man's vision.

This Laetare Sunday poses a challenging question to each of us. Do we actually want to see? Sometimes it is easier to stay in the dark. If we don't "see" our sins or the needs of our neighbors, we don't feel the responsibility to change or help.

The man in the Gospel gained his sight, but he lost his social standing. He was interrogated and cast out of the temple for testifying to the truth. Seeing clearly through the lens of faith often means we can no longer "fit in" with a world that prefers the shadows. We no longer participate in gossip or so easily vilify "the other."

I invite you to take a moment this week to sit in silence. Ask the Holy Spirit: "Lord, what am I refusing to see?" Whether it is a grudge you are nursing, a habit you are hiding, or a gift you are wasting, offer it to Him. Let Him wash your eyes with His grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that you may see the world and yourself as He does.

As we enter the second half of Lent, don't let your "holy momentum" stall. If your Lenten promises have felt heavy, let today be a day of refreshment. If necessary, let today mark a fresh start altogether. In Christ, it is never too late. To quote today's Epistle:

*"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light!"* (Ephesians 5:14)

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



## EASTER BUNNY EGGSTRAVAGANZA! PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 10 AM to 1 PM.

**What:** Photos with the Easter Bunny in front of a professional backdrop; Fun Children's Easter Craft Activities; and a **Golden Easter Egg Grab!** Each child gets to grab eggs full of candy and prizes. If they grab a "**Golden Egg,**" they win a fabulous prize for the whole family!

**Where:** Fr. Haley Hall. All are welcome!

**Suggested Donation:** \$25 per family. To support the 2026 High School Mississippi Summer Mission Trip.





**LENTEN SUPPERS, Every Friday:** Join us for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's Family!

**Continuing all Fridays of Lent at 6 PM:  
March 20, and 27.**

Our Lenten Suppers 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!

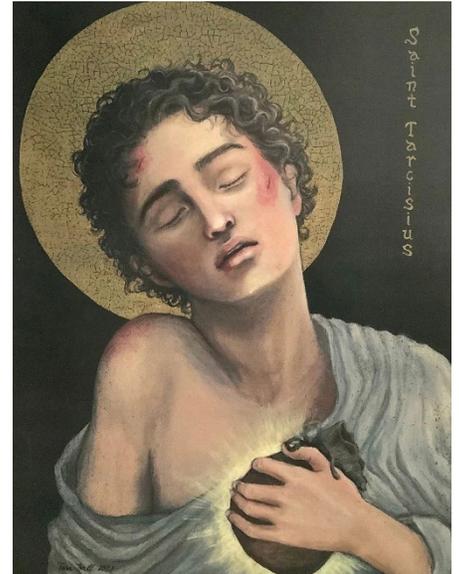
**ADORATION, Every Thursday:** This Lent, St. Mary's is offering a Eucharistic Holy Hour each Thursday in the church from 7 - 8 PM. Each Lenten Holy Hour includes an intention for which we ask you kindly to add to your prayers during your time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament: **This Thursday, March 19** please pray for "Freedom from Addictions."

***"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth."*** - St. Teresa of Calcutta

**ALTAR  
SERVER  
PRAYER &  
PIZZA  
NIGHT,  
MARCH 22:**

This is a Lenten Spiritual Enrichment Event for our High School Altar Servers. We will enjoy pizza together, pray, and reflect on the deeper meaning of our ministry. We will delve into the life and witness of St. Tarcisius, the Patron Saint of Altar Servers. We will try to open ourselves in new ways to God's grace so that our ministry as Acolytes may become holier and bring us closer to Him in love. Next Sunday, March 22 from 6 - 7:30 PM. Sign Up here!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-62686163-high>



**AVOIDING LENT CREEP  
By Parishioner Jane Lebak**

"Lent creep" is the trap of gradually increasing what you're doing for Lent because you feel guilty doing something similar to what you offered up for Lent.

One Lent, I gave up breakfast bagels. That morphed into no lunch bagels (sure) and then no bread-type breakfasts like toast, (a stretch, but okay) and from there into no bread snacks (by now God's raising His eyebrows) and peaked as guilt about a dinner roll (which...come on).

Do you do it, too? "I'm reading two chapters of the Bible every day, but these were short chapters, so do I have to read a third?" Yet, God isn't overwrought about weights and measures. Lent isn't a gauntlet of how much we can withstand. It's about focusing on Good Friday and widening our relationship with God.

Building fences around our Lenten devotion, on the other hand, keeps that relationship safe...and small. We're saying, "I followed the rules, so God has no choice but to keep me." Lent Creep reveals a lack of trust, as if we want to control the Infinite and the Almighty by denying ourselves a dinner roll.

When choosing your Lenten practice, discern carefully. Ask God to guide you. Write down the specifics. And once you decide... No creeping.

## FOR WOMEN



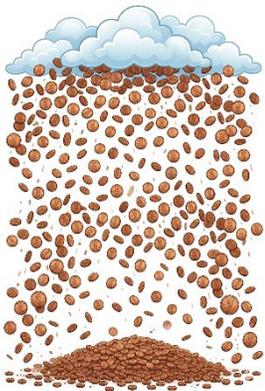
**ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:** Please join us this Tuesday, March 17 from 9:45 - 11 AM, in Fr. Haley Hall as we pray together, read reflections by the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome with toys

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 has concluded. We will begin our Spring Season centering on Living the Catholic Faith in "My World" in early April. You can view videos of our entire 2025-26 Fall and Winter Seasons from our St. Mary's web page. Scroll down to the bottom. Email [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com) to register or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.

## FOR THOSE IN NEED

**HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF:** Food items needed at the Pantry: white vinegar (16 oz), juice boxes (apple, orange, fruit punch), canned regular coffee (11 oz), canned decaf coffee (11 oz), Chips Ahoy Cookies, Ritz crackers (13.7 oz Box), saltine crackers (16 oz Box) and canned beets (16 oz). 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.



**PENNIES FROM HEAVEN 2026:** Please donate your coins to Pennies from Heaven, which can be dropped off in the lobby of the Parish Center during the 2026 Lenten season. The entire proceeds from this collection will be sent to Sierra Leone for the benefit of children living at the Fatima Home for Orphans.

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** The Rose this week is sponsored by a parishioner in memory of Vasco and Pauline Brovelli. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. Email [st.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marys1870@gmail.com) to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life.

## FOR MARRIED COUPLES



**MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP:** Marriage Fellowship has their next reflection night this Thursday, March 19 from 6:30 - 8 PM in Sister Ricci House. We will

meet briefly from 6:30 - 7 PM for a discussion on examining our conscience as married couples to prepare for us attending Adoration in the sanctuary from 7 - 8 PM. Free babysitting will be provided from 6:30 - 8 PM to allow couples with young children to attend Adoration as a couple. Any married couple, regardless of age is welcome to attend. Whether you attend regularly or have never attended, we would love to have you join us!

## FOR MEN

**Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN:** The men of St. Mary's are invited to join us on Thursday, March 26, from 7 - 9 PM in Fr. Haley Hall for our next meeting of *Cor*.

The topic of the meeting will be the Catholic Mass. Through the Mass we have the unique opportunity to personally encounter the one true God; but how many of us fully appreciate this? For many, the Mass is seen as merely a weekly obligation, but it is so much more. At our next meeting, we will explore the different elements of the Mass, and pursue a deeper understanding of true significance of the Mass.

*"No human tongue can enumerate the favors that trace back to the Sacrifice of the Mass. The sinner is reconciled with God; the just man becomes more upright; sins are wiped away; vices are uprooted; virtue and merit increases; and the devil's schemes are frustrated."* - St. Lawrence Justinian

The mission of *Cor* is to help Catholic men deepen their relationship with God so that they can better discern, and live out, God's will for them in their daily lives. All men of St. Mary's Parish age 18 and older are invited to join us. For more information, contact [StMarysCor@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysCor@gmail.com).

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**EASTER ENVELOPES:** Due to a processing error by the Envelope Company, there were two envelopes created for April 5. An Easter Envelope and a Special Monthly Envelope. **Please only use the Easter Envelope which goes directly to our Retired Clergy.** The Special Monthly Envelope was printed in error. Thank you.

**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.

**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. If a school delay is called, the 9 AM Mass is cancelled, but Religious Education Classes will be held.

**BREAKFAST AT APPLEBEE'S:** Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, a resource of faith and hope for all of our Catholic communities in the area, is holding a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's in Milford on Saturday, March 28, from 8 - 10 AM. It will be lots of fun for the whole family with full breakfast, raffle baskets and a visit from the Easter Bunny. You can purchase tickets at \$12 dollars each at the shrine office. Please call 508-429-2144 or email [holliston@xaverianmissionaries.org](mailto:holliston@xaverianmissionaries.org).

### 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 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 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. Save the date!

### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY: Deacon Marty's 50<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of Ordination Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, April 26 at 11:30 AM, followed by a reception in Fr. Haley Hall. Save the date!

### HEALING RETREAT FOR ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCE:

The Catholic ministry, Life Giving Wounds in collaboration with Family Life are offering a one-day healing retreat for adult children of divorce or separation at the Pastoral Center in Braintree from 9 AM - 5 PM on March 28. The day will include talks, prayer, Confession, Adoration, Mass, small group sharing, meals and resources. The retreat fee is \$45 (\$25 for college students). Visit [bit.ly/lifegivingwoundsretreat](http://bit.ly/lifegivingwoundsretreat) for more information.

### JESUS HEALS THE MAN BORN BLIND:



*"He did not merely open the eyes of the blind man, but showed that He is the Creator; for He formed eyes from clay, as God once formed man from the dust."*

- St. John Chrysostom

*"The blind man signifies the human race expelled from paradise and living in darkness. But the Lord enlightened him when He came into the world."*

- St. Gregory the Great

# FOR OUR YOUTH!



**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~ TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith):** Our next TGIF Meeting is TONIGHT, Sunday, March 15, from 7 - 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall (bring a friend)! Check those calendars before tonight's meeting!



There will be two Sign-Up Sheets (different from Sign-Up Forms), first for our TGIF sponsored Lenten Supper on Friday, March 27 and second is our

Eggstravaganza Mission Trip Fundraiser on March 29. If you are interested in the Lunch Making for the Homeless and Scavenger Hunt Trip on April 11, be sure to bring your Sign-Up form and payment.



If you signed up for our Maine Rafting Trip at last month's meeting, payment of \$160 is due at tonight's meeting. Final Mission Trip Paperwork will be

handed out at this meeting and will be due at our April 26 TGIF Meeting.

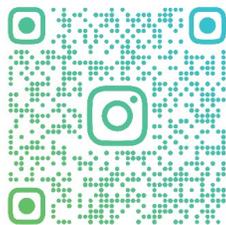
TGIF is open to ALL TEENS in Grades 9 - 12. For more information, contact Lisa Dufault at [st.marvstgif1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marvstgif1870@gmail.com).

This afternoon, from 3 - 4 PM we gather for our fifth 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. We invite TGIF Teens, their families and St. Mary's Parishioners to follow TGIF on Instagram.

FOLLOW US ON



Instagram



STMARYS\_TGIF

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

**Our next Meeting is Sunday, April 12 from 6:30 - 8 PM.**

Maine Rafting roommate Sign-Ups will be held, as well as Sign-Ups for the April 21 annual Spring Paintball Trip (vacation week), and the May 8 Nursing Home BINGO for our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders.



# THE WORD FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

## YOUR HEART IS A MASTERPIECE

In the first reading for this Fourth Sunday of Lent, God gives the prophet Samuel a powerful reality check. He says, *"Humans see the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart."* In Middle School, it often feels like you are being graded, ranked, or judged every single minute based on your clothes, your grades, or how many likes you get on a post. But while the world is busy staring at the "outside," God is looking at the real you - the person who is kind when no one is watching and the friend who sticks up for others. It's a massive relief to know that your value isn't a performance; it's a gift that is already inside you.

The story of David proves that God loves to pick the "underdog" to do great things. David was the youngest brother, left out in the fields tending sheep while his older, taller, and more "impressive" brothers were being considered for king. You might feel like a David sometimes - overlooked or like you don't quite fit the mold of what's expected. But God chose David because of his spirit, not his status. This Lent, you can find peace knowing that you don't have to "try out" for God's love. He has already chosen you to serve Him in your own unique way.

This message is full of hope because it means your potential is limitless, no matter what labels people at school might try to give you. Just as David grew from a quiet shepherd into a great king, God has a plan for your life that is much bigger than your current stress or your mistakes.

As we walk through these remaining weeks of Lent, try to see yourself and your classmates through God's eyes. When you focus on the heart, you start to see that everyone has a light worth noticing, and that makes the world a much brighter place to be.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSION:**

The Adult Faith Formation class on “The Bible and the Blessed Virgin Mary” will continue on Monday, March 16 at 10:00 AM in Room 3-4.

**CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN’S**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Today, March 15, is the fourth Sunday of Lent. The children will be dismissed to the lower church hall to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us the Gospel.

DAY	CLASS	CLASS
Sun., March 15	CGS-B at 8:00 AM	GR-1 at 8:10 AM
	GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 at 10:45 AM
Mon., March 16	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tues., March 17	GR-4 at 4:00 PM	GR-5 at 4:00 PM
	GR-6 at 4:00 PM	GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Wed., March 18	GR-7 at 7:00 PM	
Thur., March 19	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., March 22	CGS-A 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

**IMPORTANT: OUR GRADE 5 SESSION ON HOLY ORDERS IS RESCHEDULED TO MONDAY, MARCH 23 AT 4:00 PM DUE TO THE SNOW CANCELLATION ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23.**

All Grade 5 students from Sunday and weekday classes are to attend this session as part of their curriculum.

**GRADE 3 AND 5 SESSION ON THE BLESSED MOTHER:**

Grades 3 and 5 will meet together on Monday, April 27 at 4:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. A Presentation on Mary will include the Rosary and the Apparitions of Fatima, Lourdes and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT NOON ON APRIL 3:**

Letters have been sent to families with children in **grades K - 5.** **Children** are invited to take on a role in the Stations of the Cross Tableau. Please ask your children if they want to take a role and complete the enclosed volunteer form in the letter and return it to the Religious Education Office ASAP.



Children who accept a role **must attend** two rehearsals during Holy week: Tuesday, March 31 and Wednesday, April 1 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM in the church. On Good Friday there will be a dress rehearsal at 11:15 AM before the Stations of the Cross begin.

**GRADE 9/10 CONFIRMATION RETREAT:**

Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Please check in before 10:00 AM in Fr. Haley Hall.

**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 March through April 2026.*

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ACTIVITIES WITH GROUP B ON MARCH 8:**



Children were eager to try a new Practical Life work on Sunday, flower arranging. Some who chose this work added their flowers to the prayer table below. One of the children commented that this was the most beautiful prayer table ever, because of the flowers. The song we used to accompany our

solemn procession with items for the prayer table was the Gospel Acclamation St. Mary’s uses during Lent, “Praise to you Lord Jesus, King of endless glory, savior of the world, savior of the world.”



**SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026 ~**

**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 Rainforest Falls and discover the true nature of God. Registration information will be available after Easter. Save the dates, the forest awaits!

