





St. Mary's Parish



Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

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.

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com
Email Address: St.Marys1870@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 429 - 4427
Religious Education Phone: 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 call the rectory to register. 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 - 12:45 PM, or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time by appointment. Please call as soon as you are aware of a serious illness or upcoming surgery.

Baptism: The 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month. To register for Baptism Preparation call 429-4427.

Marriage: Please call at least 6 months in advance of your desired wedding date. Congratulations!

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Ronald A. Dowding, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon
Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7
Mrs. Lisa Dufault, HS Youth Minister
Ms. Abigail Kelley-Lanser, Director of Music
Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Jennifer Burgett, Religious Education Secretary
Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager
Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan
Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities
R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care

PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

Automatic Giving: \$ 2,546.50
WeShare: \$ 4,024.02
Offertory Envelopes: \$ 6,328.00
Total Offertory: \$ 12,898.52
Weekly Need \$ 15,000.00
Shortfall \$ 2,101.48

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:

Saturday March 28
5:00 Ann Tomacelli, 1st Anv.
7:30 Gene Arthur Howland
Sunday March 29
7:30 People of St. Mary's
9:30 John Walker
11:30 Naeem Ovins
Monday March 30
9:00 Holy Souls
Tuesday March 31
9:00 Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday April 1
9:00 Matthew D'Agostino

*** REMINDER: As always, there are no Confessions on Holy Saturday, April 4.**

As we prepare this week for the holiest days of our liturgical year, we encourage you to take part in the Holy Thursday and / or Good Friday celebrations in addition to your Easter Mass. This year's Easter Vigil will be a moment of special joy as we celebrate Sacraments of Initiation for:

Ethan Gorman.
Victoria Knight-Connoni,
Scott Blaisdell,
Melissa Moran,
and our Music Director - Abbey Kelley-Lanser!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today we stand at the threshold of the most sacred week of the year. As we raise our palms and sing "Hosanna," we join a parade that is as beautiful as it is haunting.

Palm Sunday always presents us with a jarring contrast. We begin with a joyous procession and end with the somber reading of the Passion. It forces us to confront a difficult truth about the human heart - its incredible fickleness.

The same voices that shouted praises as Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey were, only days later, screaming for His execution. How did "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord*" turn so quickly into "*Crucify him!*"?

The crowd represents the parts of us that are enthusiastic for God when things are going well, when the "miracles" are flowing and when faith feels like a victory march. But when the atmosphere shifts - when the cost of discipleship becomes heavy or when the crowd turns against the truth - we often find our own voices falling silent, or worse, joining the dissent.

The spiritual challenge for us this Holy Week is for consistency. Jesus remained steadfast in His love for us, even as the crowd's loyalty withered. He did not change His mission based on His approval ratings.

As St. Josemaría Escrivá once wrote,

"Don't be a weathervane, turning with every wind that blows. Be a rock, firm and steady."

As Catholics, we are asked to be more than just "fair weather" followers. We are invited to walk with Him not just into the city, but all the way to the foot of the Cross. Our faith is not a feeling that fluctuates with the trends of the world, but a commitment to a Person who never turns His back on us.

As we enter into these High Holy Days, I encourage us to look at our own "Hosannas."

Is our prayer life dependent on how we feel?

Do we stand up for our faith even when it's unpopular?

Will we stay with Jesus in the silence of the Garden and the darkness of Good Friday?

This Holy Week, let us pray for the grace of perseverance. May our palms today be signs of a devotion that lasts beyond the parade.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



P.S. Thank you to all who have expressed concern about my worsening knee injury symptoms. I see my orthopedist this coming Monday, but my MRI results came in Wednesday: Radial tear of the medial meniscus at the junction of the posterior horn and root. Grade 2 injury of the proximal MCL. Cartilage abnormalities of the medial femoral condyle with cartilage delamination at the central MFC. Deep cartilage fissure at the lateral patellar facet.

Translation: I will be pretty physically limited this Holy Week. I will be unable to kneel, including at the Passion today. I will also be unable to do the Holy Thursday Foot Washing or the Good Friday prostration. Workarounds have been made and I thank you for your patience and understanding. At least now we finally know the extent and nature of the injuries, so I can get on track for effective treatment and recovery.

EASTER BUNNY EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

TODAY, March 29, 10 AM to 1 PM.

What: Photos with the Easter Bunny in front of a professional backdrop; 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 one of the "**Golden Eggs,**" they win a fabulous prize for the whole family!

Where: Fr. Haley Hall.

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



Holy Week Schedule



PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, March 28:

5 & 7:30 PM Masses

Palms will be blessed and

Sunday, March 29:

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM Masses

the Passion read at all Masses.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2:

9 AM

Morning Prayer

7 PM

Mass of the Lord's Supper

The Mass of the Lord's Supper recalls the events the night before Jesus died, especially the institution of the Holy Eucharist. The ceremony of the washing of the feet reminds us of Jesus' call to serve one another. The Mass concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose in Father Haley Hall, where Adoration will continue until 10 PM - closing with Night Prayer at that time. At Mass a collection is taken up for the Holliston Food Pantry.

GOOD FRIDAY

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Friday, April 3:

9 AM

Morning Prayer

12 PM

(Kindergarten - Grade 5) Younger Children's Stations of the Cross

7 PM

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

The 7 PM Lord's Passion Celebration is the official Good Friday Liturgy that continues the three day Triduum Celebration begun on Holy Thursday and concluding at Easter. It consists of the Liturgy of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. The Noon Stations are designed for younger children K - Grade 5, (accompanied by parents), and utilize a living tableau and special station prayers to help young children discover Jesus' love for them in the here and now.

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. In every single Catholic parish around the world this day, a collection is taken up to maintain the Shrines and struggling Christian communities in the Holy Land. This collection is taken up at both the Stations and Passion Services.

HOLY SATURDAY

Please Note: No Confessions on Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 4:

9 AM

Morning Prayer

8 PM

The Great Easter Vigil (brass, adult choir)

The Great Easter Vigil is rightly called the "Mother" of all liturgies. It includes the blessing of the new Easter Candle, the sung Exultet Prayer, and readings that capture the fullness of God's saving work for humanity. The Church rejoices in a special way to receive new members this night through the Sacraments of Initiation. All Easter collections go to support the retired priests of our Archdiocese. Please generously support these men who have given their whole lives in your service.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5:

7:30 AM

Church Mass

9:30 AM

Fr. Haley Hall Mass

9:30 AM

Church Mass

11:30 AM

Church Mass



DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR CHURCH ...

... train holy priests for ministry?

... feed the hungry?

... shelter the homeless?

... support women in crisis pregnancies?

... clothe the naked?

... minister to the sick?

... educate the young?

... console the bereaved?

IF YES, THEN HAVE YOU GIVEN YET TO THE 2026 CATHOLIC APPEAL?

The Catholic Appeal supports all of the good works listed above and many, many more. The Appeal is to your Archdiocese what the weekly collection is to your parish - the critical support that makes its ministries possible. This includes essential services to the poor and needy, whose situation is more serious than ever due to government program cutbacks.

It is the duty of every Catholic to support the good works of the Church. Please do your part and give to the Catholic Appeal by mailing in a Catholic Appeal Envelope, or by donating online at <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/>. Please be sure to identify your parish as St. Mary's, so that your gift will count toward your parish's 2026 Appeal Contribution.



Gifts of every size - even modest ones - all matter. The important thing is to participate.

Easter Collection for Retired Priests

The entire Easter Collection in each parish goes to support the healthcare and other needs of our retired priests.

These good and holy men gave their whole lives in dedicated service to us. Now let us be there for them in their need.

Please mail in or bring to Easter Mass your offering for our priests.

Or you may contribute online at <https://clergytrust.org/>. This site also provides detailed information about the uses of this collection.

WeShare and Automatic Giving gifts may also be designated for the Easter Collection.

Thank you!



RECEPTION FOR DEACON MARTY!

Following Deacon Marty's 50th Anniversary of Ordination Mass of Thanksgiving (11:30 AM, Sunday, April 26), a light luncheon will be provided in Fr. Haley Hall. To allow us to plan accurately for food, please use this SignUpGenius Link to RSVP your attendance. A table for cards / gifts will be provided at the reception.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-63162865-reception>



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.



50TH ANNIVERSARY: Deacon Marty's 50th 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!

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.

FOR WOMEN

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): The 2026 Spring Season "*One Body: Living Faith in a Fragmented World*" begins on Wednesday, April 15 and concludes on Wednesday, May 13, from 10 - 11:15 AM. Listen to inspiring women tell us how they have discerned God's plan for them and put it into action. WINGS asks for dues of \$20 (unless you have paid for the year); however, all women are welcome regardless of ability to pay. Babysitting is available. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us **this Tuesday, March 31 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.

SMCWG: The St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will be meeting on Wednesday, April 8 in the parish library at noon. Please bring your lunch and we will be providing dessert and beverages. Please join us.

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), 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 the Parmese Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Email st.marys1870@gmail.com to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life.

FOR MEN

Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN: The next *Cor* meeting will be on Thursday, **April 9** from 7 - 9 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

During the Easter season, the first reading at Mass will be from the Acts of the Apostles. It is appropriate, therefore, that at our next meeting, we will discuss the amazing story of the first three decades of the Church described in the Acts of the Apostles. Between the prison escapes, miraculous healings and even a shipwreck, the Acts of the Apostles is filled with action and drama; but behind it all, the Holy Spirit is at work. We hope that you will join us to learn more about this important and inspirational book from the New Testament.

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.

This Spring season *Cor* will generally meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month through May for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

FOR OUR YOUTH!

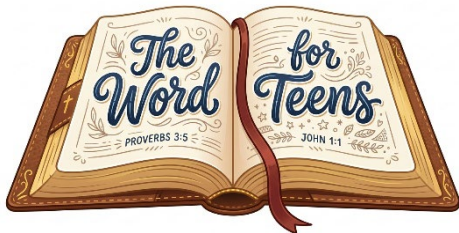


MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

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 8th Graders.



As we wave our palms today, it's easy to get caught up in the high energy of the crowd. We love a winner, and seeing Jesus enter Jerusalem like a hero feels like a Patriot's Superbowl Victory Parade! But Palm Sunday is unique because the mood shifts so fast. In just one liturgy, we go from celebrating a parade to standing in the quiet, heavy shadow of the Crucifixion.

For a teenager today, this contrast is incredibly familiar. One minute you're at the top of your game - getting the likes, the grades, or the win - and the next, you might feel isolated or misunderstood. This week isn't just a history lesson; it's an invitation to see that Jesus walked through every high and low we face, proving that God is present even when the cheering stops.

Today's reading of the Passion reminds us that following Jesus isn't about being part of a popular trend. The same voices that shouted "Hosanna" on Sunday were often the same ones shouting "Crucify him" by Friday. It takes a different kind of strength, a spiritual "grit," to stay standing at the foot of the Cross when everyone else has walked away or joined the mockery.

As you move through Holy Week, try to find a moment of silence away from the noise of your phone or the pressure of your schedule. Ask yourself: **Where is Jesus calling me to be brave this week?** Whether it's standing up for a friend or simply being honest in prayer about your own struggles, remember that the story doesn't end in the tomb. We walk this difficult path because we know that real, transformative life is waiting on the other side. God bless you!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ~

TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith): Our next TGIF Meeting is Sunday, April 26, from 7 - 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall (bring a friend)!



Join us today Sunday, March 29 for our Eggstravaganza Mission Trip Fundraiser. Teens

will be assigned to craft tables, assist with photos with the Easter Bunny and game stations. We hope to see you there!

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

This afternoon, from 3 - 4 PM we gather for our last Lenten Study Meeting. Thank you for taking the time this Lent to slow down and grow in faith and fellowship.



We invite TGIF Teens, their families and St. Mary's Parishioners to follow TGIF on Instagram.



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 Saint 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!

CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN'S

LITURGY OF THE WORD: Today, March 29, is Palm Sunday. The children will remain in the church to be part of our Celebration of Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem and His Passion on the Cross.

| DAY | CLASS | CLASS |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Sun., March 29 | CGS-B at 8:00 AM | GR-1 at 10:45 AM |
| | GR-4 at 10:45 AM | GR-5 at 10:45 PM |
| | GR-6 at 4:00 PM | |
| Mon., March 30 | NO CLASSES | Holy Week |
| Tues., March 31 | NO CLASSES | Holy Week |
| Wed., April 1 | NO CLASSES | Holy Week |
| Thur., April 2 | NO CLASSES | Holy Thursday |
| Fri., April 3 | NO CLASSES | GOOD FRIDAY |
| Sun., April 5 | EASTER SUNDAY | |



GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT NOON ON APRIL 3: There is still a need for Grade K - Grade 5 children to take roles for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross. This is a very solemn and spiritual journey as Jesus surrenders completely to the Father's

will. Jesus took up the Cross to free us from the bondage of sin and darkness. Bring your young children on this holy day to comfort and thank Jesus for His sacrifice. Deacon John and volunteer readers will recite each Station as we respond with our hearts the words of sorrow. There are two rehearsals: Tuesday, March 31 and Wednesday, April 1 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM in the church. Submit the sign up form to the Religious Education Office ASAP. Children who accept a role **must attend** the two rehearsals. On Good Friday there will be a dress rehearsal at 11:15 AM before the Stations of the Cross begin.

GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY RETREAT:

The retreat will be held on Saturday, April 11! Families will gather in the church by 12:45 PM for a time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration and prayer. *Children must be accompanied by at least one parent or adult during the entire retreat.* Each family is to bring a picture of their child and a letter or prayer to Jesus in a sealed envelope. Refreshments will be available at the close of the retreat in Fr. Haley Hall.

GRADE 4 AND 6 SAFETY SESSIONS ~ SUNDAY CLASSES, MARCH 29: Grade 4 Safety Session is at 10:45 AM and Grade 6 is at 4:00 PM. Information has been sent by email to the families.



2026 SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ 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!

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. 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.*



On March 22, at the Prayer Table, the children in Group A were introduced to the Parable of the Good Shepherd (John 10: 3b-5). This parable helps children understand the special relationship God has with us. It is personal and He knows us by name. Children were thoughtful during our discussion on the Parable and reflection time.

We wondered what would happen if a sheep ran away. One child said, "If a sheep runs away, Jesus will go find it."



After hearing the Parable, some children chose to work with the Good Shepherd tracing packet. Tracing helps children develop fine motor skills and focus as well as reinforcing main concepts in the work. Sometimes children incorporate their tracings into free art expressions as shown above in the picture. You can see Jesus as the Good Shepherd.