

**The Solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
A Holy Day of Obligation.
Vigil Mass Wednesday, May 13 at 6:15 PM.
Feast Day Masses Thursday, May 14 at 9 AM and 6:15 PM.**





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 from
9:30 - 10:30 AM.

Our Mission:

“To know Christ and to make Him known.”

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Email Address: parish@stmarysholliston.org

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 2nd & 4th 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!

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

NEXT SUNDAY ~ MAY 17, CLASS OF 2026

MASS FOR GRADUATES! On Sunday, May 17, at 11:30 AM, St. Mary's will offer her 14th Annual Mass for Graduates. This year our parish has teens graduating from seven different schools. The Mass will include a special Blessing of Graduates, the Presentation of the 2026 Blessed Mother Scholarship, and Student Class Speaker Alex Robie. The Mass is followed by a light reception in Fr. Haley Hall, and a Group Class Photo for the Newsletter. Come congratulate our graduates!



TODAY ~ MOTHER'S DAY BOUQUET MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER:

On this special day for mothers, consider celebrating her with a unique bouquet to show your appreciation. The TGIF teens who will be attending the Summer Mission Trip to Mississippi will be selling beautiful bouquets of flowers in colorful vases for a suggested donation of \$20 a bouquet. Venmo may be used, or cash or checks.

All proceeds from the sales will go directly to the teens to offset the cost of the Mission Trip. Flower bouquets will be for sale after all Masses this Mother's Day Weekend, May 10 and 11. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

This past Friday, May 8, marked a significant milestone for the Universal Church: the one-year anniversary of the election of our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. In this short year, we have seen him labor tirelessly as a shepherd seeking the lost and a voice for the voiceless. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Almighty God for his ministry.

I ask you all to keep him in your daily prayers, particularly as he continues his vital work as a mediator of peace in a world so fractured by conflict and division. May the Holy Spirit grant him the wisdom of Solomon and the courage of Peter.

In today's second reading, St. Peter gives us a directive that feels very timely: *"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope"* (1 Peter 3:15). This is the foundation of Catholic Apologetics. It is important to define what this means. Apologetics is not about being "apologetic" or sorry for our faith; nor is it a weapon used to win arguments or belittle others.

True apologetics is the art of explaining the "why" behind what we believe. It is a work of love aimed at clearing away the fog of misunderstanding so that others can see the face of Jesus.

We cannot ignore the reality that we are living in a time of a significant and troubling rise in anti-Catholicism. We see it in national headlines, but we also feel it closer to home - in our own town and even within our schools. Our faith is often caricatured, our values mocked, and our history distorted.

This environment makes the "Apologetics of Hope" described by St. Peter essential. When we are met with hostility, our response must not be anger, but a clear, reasoned, and gentle defense of the Truth.

Venerable Fulton Sheen captured the importance of this when he wrote:

"There are not one hundred people in the United States who hate the Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be."

I want to speak specifically to parents: Your children are increasingly on the front lines of these challenges. They will encounter anti-Catholic speech and behaviors in their social circles and classrooms. It is vital that we prepare them - not just by telling them "what" the Church teaches, but "why" she teaches it. Education is the best defense against prejudice. Help them understand that their identity in Christ is something to be celebrated, not hidden.

Let us stand firm in that hope, ready to speak the truth in love, and always praying for the unity of the human family.

In Christ's Service and Yours,



Rev. Mark J. Coiro

**Guard well the holy altar,
Stand firm in faith and grace;
Let truth be as our armor
When trials we must face.**

**Though foes may press around her,
Unshaken she shall be;
For God sustains His temple
Through all eternity.**



Thank you to all who made last Sunday's Crowning of Mary so beautiful!



Motherhood is often described as the world’s hardest job, but in the light of our faith, we recognize it as something even more profound: a vocation. It is a calling to participate in God’s own creative and sustaining love. This Mother’s Day, we pause to offer our deepest gratitude to the women who have said “yes” to this sacred mystery.

Throughout Salvation History, God has used the strength and faithfulness of mothers to guide His people. We see this in the persistence of Hannah, whose prayerful devotion brought forth a prophet, and in the courage of Elizabeth, who recognized the presence of the Lord while still in the womb.

But the ultimate spiritual blueprint for motherhood is found in the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the Annunciation, her fiat, her “let it be done,” changed the course of eternity. Mary reminds us that motherhood is not just a biological reality, but a spiritual one. She stood at the foot of the Cross, offering a strength that was quiet, resilient, and entirely rooted in God. In her, every mother finds a model of how to love without reserve.

In the Catholic tradition, the home is often called the “Domestic Church.” Mothers are typically the first catechists, the first to teach a child how to fold their hands in prayer and the first to demonstrate the meaning of mercy. Through the simple acts of tending to wounds, listening to worries, and providing daily bread, mothers mirror the nurturing heart of the Creator.

As St. Teresa of Calcutta once said: *“Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put into that action.”*

A PRAYER OF BLESSING

Gracious God,
We thank You today for the gift of our mothers,
those who gave us life and those who have
nurtured us along the way. We ask Your hand
of blessing to rest upon them:

Strengthen those who are weary with
the grace of Your Spirit.

Comfort those who have lost children
or who long to be mothers.

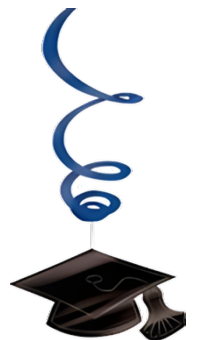
Grant peace to those whose mothers have
returned to Your heavenly embrace.

May the example of Mary, our Mother, inspire
them, and may they always feel the warmth of
Your divine love. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Saturday	May 9
5:00	Joan Mullen
7:30	People of St. Mary’s
Sunday	May 10
7:30	Judy Cruz
9:30	Costantina DiCenso
11:30	Fr. Haley
Monday	May 11
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday	May 12
9:00	Bettina Sgarano
11:00	Funeral ~ Kenneth Wingert
Wednesday	May 13
9:00	John Cocchiarella
6:15	<u>Ascension Vigil Mass</u>
Thursday	May 14
9:00	<u>Ascension Holy Day Mass</u>
6:15	<u>Ascension Holy Day Mass</u>
Friday	May 15
9:00	Bill Tobin, 9 th Anv.
Saturday	May 16
5:00	Bill Tobin
7:30	Carmen and Grace Chiango
Sunday	May 17
7:30	People of St. Mary’s
9:30	Dr. Stephen Kott

11:30 14th Annual Mass For Graduates. Join us as we honor and celebrate the Graduating Class of 2026! This year our parish has teens graduating from seven different schools. The Mass will include a special Blessing of Graduates, the Presentation of the 2026 Blessed Mother Scholarship, and Student Class Speaker Alex Robie. The Mass is followed by a light reception in Fr. Haley Hall, and a Group Class Photo for the Newsletter. Come congratulate our graduates!



Together we are One

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON | CATHOLIC APPEAL

2026 CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE:

Dollar Goal: 100%

Donor Goal: 87%

Thank you to all who have already made their Appeal Gift. We have made our parish's assigned goal, in part due to a \$25,000 gift from a single family. We are very grateful to them and to all who have done what they could.

The challenge now is that 13% of those who donated last year have not done so yet, and many more families still have never donated.

No one is asked to do more than they can, but all are asked to do something - according to their means - to support the good works of our Catholic Church.



Printed Appeal materials are available outside the Religious Education Office. Please use them, or visit: <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/>. Thank you!

PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 4,135.00
WeShare:	\$ 10,121.82
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 7,569.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 21,825.82

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support. The fiscal health of your parish depends on it. Kindly consider switching to WeShare or Automatic Giving. See: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:

"Christ's Ascension into heaven was necessary in order that He might prepare the way for our ascent into heaven, according to His own words: 'I go to prepare a place for you.' He entered heaven as our Head, and because the members must follow where the Head has gone, He gave us the hope that we too shall follow Him there."

- St. Thomas Aquinas



The Solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
A Holy Day of Obligation.
Vigil Mass Wednesday, May 13 at 6:15 PM.
Feast Day Masses Thursday, May 14 at 9 AM and 6:15 PM.

The Feast of the Ascension, celebrated this coming Thursday, marks a pivotal transition in the life of the Church. It is not merely a "farewell" to Jesus, but rather the glorious completion of his earthly mission. By ascending into heaven, Christ does not distance himself from us; instead, he takes our human nature - scarred by the Passion but glorified in the Resurrection - and seats it at the right hand of the Father. This movement provides the ultimate answer to the longing of the human heart: we are shown that our final destination is not the grave, but the very heart of the Trinity. As St. Augustine famously noted, *"Christ did not leave heaven when he came to us, nor did he leave us when he returned to heaven."*

Spiritually, the Ascension serves as the bridge between the Resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. For the faithful, this feast is a dual call to hope and responsibility. While we gaze upward with the Apostles, we are reminded by the angelic messengers that we cannot remain standing idle. The "absence" of Jesus' physical body creates the space for His Mystical Body, the Church, to begin its work. We are commissioned to be his hands and feet in a world hungering for truth. This Thursday, as we celebrate Christ's sovereignty over heaven and earth, we are invited to live with *"hearts set on things above,"* fueled by the promise that he remains with us always, even until the end of the age.



FROM DEACON MARTY:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made my 50th year celebration a huge success. Thanks to Fr. Mark and the parish staff that organized the day, from Mary Beth Harris to the numerous volunteers that set up Fr. Haley Hall and cleaned up afterwards. Thanks to Abbey Kelley-Lanser and the choir for the beautiful music. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their participation at the Mass. Thanks to Diane Barry for lecturing and to Ben Dufault, Anthony Meisner and Hannah Kaufman who functioned as altar servers and thanks to Deacon John Barry and Deacon Ron Dowding who served at the Mass and led the prayers of the faithful.

Thanks to all who attended the celebration after Mass in the hall and for their well wishes and prayers for Mary Alice and me. Their words both written and spoken were very appreciated. Thanks to all who donated to the Holliston Pantry Shelf in my name. A special thanks to Fr. Mark for all the kind words spoken in his homily about my ministry and for the gift of the chosen seven picture that he honored me with along with a letter from Sean Cardinal O'Malley and gift of a Franciscan cross that he honored me with.

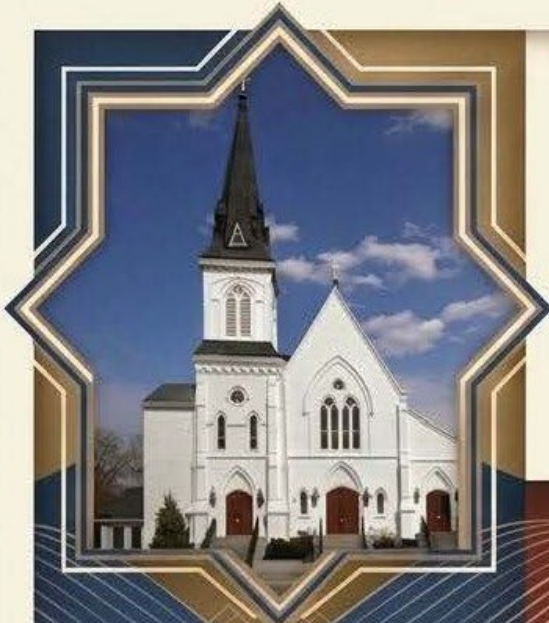
The most special thanks is to my beloved wife, Mary Alice, of 64 years and former Family Life Director for the Archdiocese who made all this possible through her participation in our shared ministries. None of this would have happened without her devotion to me and St. Mary's and to Christ Our Savior.

Virtue's Voice

Reflections on Faith and Freedom



ST. MARY'S IN HOLLISTON
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

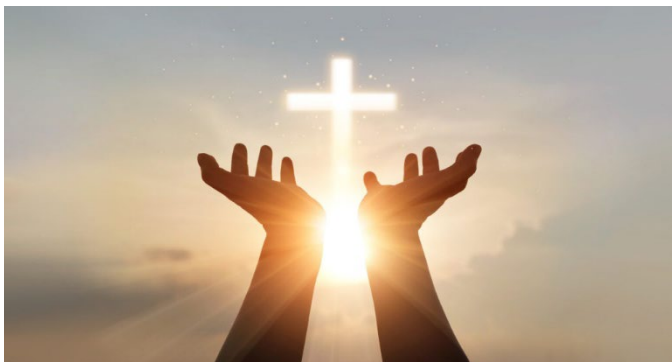


Join us for the return of our annual Spring Choir Concert, celebrating the United States' 250th Anniversary and the virtues that uphold the dignity of all people.

St. Mary's Music Ministry
Abigail Kelley-Lanser, Director of Music

FOR YOUR INSPIRATION

THIS COMING SATURDAY, MAY 16, all are invited to attend a very special presentation by miracle recipient Deacon Jack Sullivan which will be followed by a Healing Service in the church. The event starts at 1 PM in the church. The Healing Service is from 2 - 2:30 PM.



On August 15, 2001, Deacon Jack Sullivan was healed from a crippling spinal disorder after praying for the intercession of Cardinal John Henry Newman. His sudden, complete recovery was presented to the Vatican as part of its investigation into the beatification of Cardinal Newman.



On July 3, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the healing was in fact a miracle which led to Newman's beatification in England on September 19, 2010. Deacon Sullivan participated as a Deacon in John Henry Newman's beatification Mass with Pope Francis as celebrant. Cardinal Newman was later canonized as a saint by Pope Francis on October 13, 2019.

In his presentation, Deacon Sullivan will speak about his miraculous healing, his devotion to Saint John Henry Newman and the subsequent healings he has been blessed to be a part of, here and abroad, through the intercession of St. John Henry Newman. After his presentation, Deacon Sullivan will lead a healing service for all, followed by individual blessings for those seeking St. Newman's help. Deacon Sullivan has the only first-class relic of St. John Henry Newman other than the original relic in the UK and will bring the relic with him to the healing service.

FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us **this Tuesday, May 12 from 9:45 - 11 AM,** in the Lower Church 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: The 5th and last meeting of our WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) 2026 Spring Season "One Body - Living Faith in a Fragmented World" is **this Wednesday, May 13** at 10 AM in Father Haley Hall and over Zoom. This Wednesday our topic is "Spiritual Networking: Beyond the Pews" and our speaker is Mark Polny. Mark will share experiences from over thirty years serving as a youth minister, as well as currently caring for special needs adults at the Michael Lisnow Respite Center in Hopkinton. Mark is a former St. Mary's parishioner and a former Coordinator of Youth Ministry at St. Matthew Parish. Babysitting is available; please register in advance. Email 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: Don't miss our final *Cor* meeting of the Spring 2026 season on Thursday, May 28. We will meet as usual in Fr. Haley Hall at 7 PM and cover the important topic of the Sacraments. At our most recent meeting, we learned about Jesus' true presence in the Eucharist, and about some of the amazing Eucharistic miracles that defy scientific explanation. At our next meeting, we will look into some of the other Sacraments of the Catholic Church, and see how those Sacraments, like the Eucharist, are much more than they may appear on the surface, with each conferring unique spiritual benefits.

Cor will not meet during the summer, but meetings will resume in the Fall. 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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AT FATIMA SHRINE: Do you love helping people and keeping things organized? We're looking for a welcoming, detail-oriented Office Manager to help our shrine run smoothly and joyfully. This role supports our staff and the shrine's goals, manages daily office operations, and ensures that everyone who walks through our doors feels at home. If you're friendly, dependable, and inspired by your faith and the church's global outreach, we'd love to hear from you! To apply: Send your résumé to Fr. Carl Chudy, cchudy@xaverianmissionaries | or text to 862-264-7000. Call for more information at 508-429-2144.

FY26 CORIs NOW DUE: It is that time of year again! CORIs must be renewed each year for all St. Mary's volunteers, along with reviewing the RCAB Code of Conduct. If you have not already completed your FY26 CORI, you can complete these forms in the Religious Education office.

FOR THOSE IN NEED

A REQUEST FROM OUR DAUGHTER PARISH: St. Joseph's Medway Homeless Ministry is looking for volunteers to join our Monday evening outreach! We travel to Boston from 5 - 8 PM to bring food and clothing to the homeless. We are looking for additional drivers to join our rotating team. No weekly commitment is required - serve as your schedule allows. Contact St. Joseph's Parish Center for more details at 508-533-7771. God bless you.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by Liz Theiler in memory of George and Emelia Bourque. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Please call Mary Beth at 508-429-4427 to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life.

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, Oreo Cookies (chocolate or vanilla), 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.

FOR THOSE IN NEED

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 18th ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: The Knights have begun selling tickets to their Annual Charity Raffle. The proceeds



from this raffle go to local charities such as the Holliston [Senior] Center, O'Connell House, Homes for our Troops, and the Doug Flutie Foundation for Autism. One ticket is \$5 and a book of five for \$20. First prize is \$1,000. The raffle drawing will take place at the K of C Golf

tournament on June 26. Knights will sell tickets at Shaw's in Medway on May 22 and 23; at Roche Bros. in Millis on May 15 and 16; and at Shaw's in Ashland on June 6 and 7. The direct contact to purchase raffle tickets is stmaryshollistonkofc@gmail.com.

TODAY'S MASS PSALM RESPONSE



FOR OUR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Our End of Year Parent Potluck Meeting is **NEXT Sunday, May 17**, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM! Parents of our MSYG teens are invited to come and enjoy the night, which includes an awesome MSYG Slideshow. Raft-mate Sign-Ups and Brownstone Quarry Sign-Ups will take place at the May 17 Meeting. And don't forget about the Giant Three Town Scavenger Hunt THIS Friday, May 15!



BELOW: Thanks to our MSYG Teens who brought such joy to the Residents of Timothy Daniels on May 1. Well done!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP! Our next TGIF Meeting is our FAMILY POTLUCK DINNER on Sunday, May 31, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. This is a wonderful evening for TGIF teens and their families to celebrate the year, honor our seniors and watch the slideshow.



THIS WEEKEND: Mother's Day Flower Sale Mission Trip Fundraiser after every Mass. TGIF Mission Trip Teens will be selling flower bouquets for Mother's Day. The cost is \$20 per bouquet.



Scan the QR Code to follow along on our adventures which are filled with Faith, Fellowship and Fun. For more information about TGIF High School Youth Group, contact Lisa Dufault at tgif@stmarysholliston.org.

BELOW: Teens at our May 3 Mission Trip Mass.



The Eucharist serves as the spiritual fuel for mission, reminding our teens that they are fed by Christ so that they may, in turn, feed and care for others. By receiving the Body of Christ, the youth group is physically and spiritually unified, transforming a collection of individuals into a single community of service. This sacred meal recalls Jesus' own life of radical humility, challenging the teens to see His face in the marginalized and suffering people they will encounter in Mississippi. Every Catholic Mass concludes with a "sending forth," which acts as a direct commissioning to take the love experienced at the altar into the world. Ultimately, the Eucharist provides the grace and perseverance needed to serve the poor with a heart of compassion rather than one of mere obligation.

CLOW ~ CHILDREN K-6 ~ CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: The children will be dismissed to the lower church hall to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., May 10	CGS-B 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 4:00 PM	
Tues., May 12	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM	
Wed., May 13	GR-9/10 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., May 17	GR-2 at 8:10 AM**	GR-2 at 10:45 AM**
	GR-4 at 10:45 AM	GR-5 at 10:45 AM*
Mon., May 18	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tues., May 19	GR-7 at 7:00 PM	
Wed., May 20	GR-2 at 4:30 PM**	GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Thur., May 21	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR 2026-2027: Our classes for this year will soon be ending and planning for next year has started. Online Registrations for all grade levels will be open on July 1, 2026. Be on watch for the Registration mailing outlining our class offerings, days, and times. Register and pay by locking in placement and your choice of classes before you depart for a restful summer and vacation.

NOTE: Since there will be two sessions for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offered in the Fall, all current families who register **by the deadline** can be guaranteed to have their choice of the session they want for their child.

****GRADE 2 REVIEW CLASSES:** Grade 2 children will have their review classes Sunday, May 17 and Wednesday, May 20. Attendance is important on how to reverently receive the Holy Eucharist. The review will be held in Room 3 - 4 of the center.

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH: If your child has missed several years of Religious Education, it is never too late to prepare them for a lifelong relationship with God. Our Catholic faith, founded by Jesus Christ, provides a good moral foundation based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please contact us if your child needs to be prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism or First Communion, at 508-429-6076 or religioureddre@stmarysholliston.org.

***EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN SAFETY SESSION FOR GRADE 5:** On May 17, Grade 5 will have a Safety lesson in Sister Ricci House.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEEK: JULY 20 - 24, 2026.

WHO: Children entering Kindergarten through Grade 6. Teens entering Grade 7 and up and Adults are needed as VBS volunteers!

WHEN: 9 AM to 12:00 Noon each day.

COST: \$75/child, \$200/family max. Tuition assistance is available if needed.

REGISTRATION: Open now through June 1, but our max is 100 campers. Use QR Code or click:

<https://forms.gle/DfxUbFgn41QtqM7V7>



CATACHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: Our Open House on May 3 was well attended, and we had many families come with their children to see the Atrium. Before the Open House, the children in Group "A" were introduced to **Baptism**. One child made a drawing of what she expressed spiritually to be Baptism below:

In the child's own words:

"This is the dance party globe (top). The people are looking at the baby. (The people are purple.) The baby is in the bowl shape. The water is the blue area at the right.

The baby is hard to see as it is in a light color."

