



St. Mary's Parish

Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Email Address: St.marys1870@gmail.com

Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427

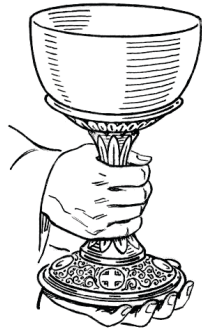
Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

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
 Ms. Abigail Kelley-Lanser, Organist, 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

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: As announced.

ADORATION SCHEDULE: First Fridays from 9:30 - 10:30 AM and as announced. Confession: Saturdays from Noon to 12:45 PM, or by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Any time by appointment. Please call as soon as you are aware of a serious illness or upcoming surgery.

BAPTISM: The 2nd and 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.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: Is sponsored this week by the Carver Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. To sponsor the Rose for Life, please call the Rectory at 429-4427.

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: Food items needed at the Pantry: pasta, spaghetti, tomato paste, canned peaches (15 oz), Ramen Noodles - Beef and Chicken, Beefaroni, pasta sauce, canned corn, snacks and Juice Boxes. Donations may be dropped off in the tan bin by the main parking lot entrance here at St. Mary's or at the Pantry Shelf at 73 Charles Street, Holliston.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



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

Today's Mass readings speak of the Good Shepherd, an image of Jesus and all those who minister in His name. I always think this Sunday of Fr. Haley, who passed to God on the Vigil of Good Shepherd Sunday in 2011. The word "pastor," means "shepherd," and as the vocation shortage hits us harder and harder each year, we must wonder who will shepherd our beloved flock of St. Mary's in future days? Please pray for more men to answer God's call to serve as priests and holy shepherds of His people.

Do you consider the life of good priests you have known to be worthwhile? Then encourage young men of your acquaintance to consider if God might be calling them to a similar life of ministry. Lack of family support still comes back in every survey as the number one reason men are not entering the priesthood in sufficient numbers in our country. Your prayers and encouragement can make all the difference.

Someone pointed out to me recently that after Fr. Quinlan and Fr. Haley, I am now the third longest serving pastor in the long history of St. Mary's. It has been the great privilege of my life to serve in this role, and I thank all who have supported me by their patience, kindness, and Christian charity over the years.

In Christ's Service and
 Yours,



Rev. Mark J. Coiro

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel and Wendy Bachman, married here last Saturday. God bless you!



WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:

I am the Good Shepherd. Surely it is fitting that Christ should be a shepherd, for just as a flock is guided and fed by a shepherd so the faithful are fed by Christ with spiritual food and with his own body and blood. The Apostle said: *You were once like sheep without a shepherd, but now you have returned to the guardian and ruler of your souls.*



The prophet said: *As a shepherd he pastures his flock.* The title of Good Shepherd is Christ's alone. However, he has made others shepherds and given that office to his members; for Peter was a shepherd, and so were the other apostles and all good bishops after them. Scripture says: *I shall give you shepherds according to my own heart.*

Although the bishops of the Church, who are her sons, are all shepherds, nevertheless Christ refers only to one person in saying: I am the Good Shepherd, because he wants to emphasize the virtue of charity. Thus, no one can be a good shepherd unless he is one with Christ in charity. Through this we become members of the true shepherd.

The duty of a good shepherd is charity; therefore Christ said: *The good shepherd gives his life for his sheep.* Know the difference between a good and a bad shepherd: the good shepherd cares for the welfare of his flock, but the bad shepherd cares only for his own welfare.

The Good Shepherd does not demand that shepherds lay down their lives for a real flock of sheep. But every spiritual shepherd must endure the loss of his bodily life for the salvation of the flock, since the spiritual good of the flock is more important than the bodily life of the shepherd, when danger threatens the salvation of the flock.

This is why the Lord says: The good shepherd lays down his life, that is, his physical life, for his sheep; this he does because of his authority and love. Both, in fact, are required: that they should be ruled by him, and that he should love them. The first without the second is not enough.

Christ stands out for us as the example of this teaching: If Christ laid down his life for us, so we also ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

- St. Thomas Aquinas

MASS INTENTIONS

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday | April 20 |
| 5:00 | Ray Moloney, 2 nd Anv. |
| 7:30 | Ginny Riley |
| Sunday | April 21 |
| 7:30 | People of St. Mary's |
| 9:30 | Todd Parmenter |
| 11:30 | Christopher Lebak |
| Monday | April 22 |
| 9:00 | Holy Souls in Purgatory |
| Tuesday | April 23 |
| 9:00 | Barbara Ann Ostis |
| Wednesday | April 24 |
| 9:00 | Sr. Ricci |
| Thursday | April 25 |
| 9:00 | Carmen Laguna |
| Friday | April 26 |
| 9:00 | Romano and Concetta Giovannelli |
| Saturday | April 27 |
| 5:00 | Sr. Ricci |
| 7:30 | Russell and Doris Phipps |
| Sunday | April 28 |
| 7:30 | People of St. Mary's |
| 9:30 | Pasquale and Francesca DiCenso |
| 11:30 | Fr. Haley |



HEALING MASS: On Tuesday night, April 30, a healing Mass will be celebrated for all those impacted by divorce and separation. The evening will be held at the Pastoral Center, Braintree, at 6:30 PM with Confession and Adoration followed by a witness talk from Mark Gioia, a divorced Catholic, and the Healing Mass. All are welcome. Following the Mass, there will be healing prayers offered over those who would like to receive them. We will also be providing free resources and information on support available for those impacted by divorce or separation. Please visit <https://www.evangelizeboston.com/event/let-anyone-who-thirsts-come-to-me-a-healing-mass-for-those-impacted-by-divorce-or-separation/> for more information.

PARISH OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Automatic Giving: | \$ 3,083.00 |
| WeShare: | \$ 3,488.14 |
| Offertory Envelopes: | \$ 7,113.00 |
| Total Offertory: | \$ 13,684.14 |
| Weekly Need | \$ 15,000.00 |

Shortfall \$ 1,315.86

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/>

PARISHIONER LOOKING FOR RIDES TO DIALYSIS IN MILFORD: If you can help with a morning ride from 7 to 11:30 AM to the Fresenius Kidney Care Blackstone Valley, please contact the Rectory at 508-429-4427. Thank you.



HOLLISTON 300 PARADE!
Are you proud of your parish? Then represent St. Mary's by marching alongside our float in the big 300th Anniversary Parade on Saturday, May 11. We are looking for men, women, boys

and girls. Please respond to Mary Beth at st.marys1870@gmail.com. Also, watch for our TGIF Bake Sale in front of the church on parade day, benefitting the Summer Mississippi Mission Trip!



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Friday, May 3: 6th Grade Nursing Home BINGO.
Friday, May 17: SCAVENGER HUNT!
Sunday May 19: End of Year Meeting & Potluck, 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

TGIF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Today, Sunday, April 21: Monthly TGIF Meeting, 7 - 8:45 PM. Sign Ups will be held for two Mission Trip Fundraisers - the Parade Bake Sale and Mother's Day Flower Sales. Sign Ups will also be held for the two day TGIF Whitewater Rafting trip to Maine - July 14 and 15. This is a week before the Mission Trip! April 21 is also Chipotle Night, starting with food at 7 PM so come hungry!

Support Our Mississippi Mission Trip Teens! Teens Gather In Faith! This July, 72 high school students from St. Mary's will travel to Gulfport, Mississippi for a week of faith-filled Mission work and service. This is a life-changing week for the teens and chaperones as they live out their faith, make lifelong friendships and get to know the people they serve. It is a beautiful extension of our parish family's Mission to know, love and serve God.

MOTHER'S DAY BOUQUET FUNDRAISER:

On this special day for mothers, we would like to help you celebrate her with a unique bouquet to show your appreciation. The teens who will be attending the Summer Mission Trip to Mississippi will



be selling beautiful bouquets of flowers for a suggested donation of \$30 / bouquet. 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 on Mother's Day Weekend, May 11 and 12. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!



CLASS OF 2024

CLASS OF 2024 MASS FOR GRADUATES:
Sunday, May 12, at 11:30 AM, St. Mary's will celebrate her 12th 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 2024 Blessed Mother Scholarship, and a Student Class Speaker. The Mass is followed by a light reception in Fr. Haley Hall, and a Group Class Photo for the Newsletter. Come congratulate our graduates!

CORI RENEWAL ALERT: All active and new volunteers (18+ years) must now have a completed **2024 CORI** form on file in order to serve in a ministry. If you are renewing, you may submit a completed/signed CORI along with a copy of your license to st.marysre1870@gmail.com, or in person. If you are new, you must have your completed/signed CORI form and license verified in person by a staff member. CORI forms are available outside of the Religious Education office. Thank you!

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, April 23 from 10:30 AM - 12 noon in Fr. Haley Hall. Every week we pray together, read reflections according to the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome, there are a few toys and coloring activities available. Coffee and snacks are provided.

WINGS: Our WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) 2024 Spring program in person and via Zoom continues this week, Wednesday, April 24 at 10 AM (coffee begins at 9:45 AM!). Our speaker will be author, poet, and longtime St. Mary's parishioner, Cathy Stenquist. Cathy will describe how she uses the gifts God has given her to infuse her writing with Divine goodness. She looks forward to sharing how writing has been a pathway to prayer and personal growth in her own faith life. Babysitting is available. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Diane at 508-259-7795 or Jen at 617-852-9632.



K OF C CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT: You can help families and individuals in need while enjoying a day on the golf course by participating in the 3rd Annual Knights of Columbus “*Swing for Charity*” Golf Tournament on Friday, June 21, at Pinecrest Golf Club. Proceeds from this charitable event will be donated to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and the MetroWest Veterans Emergency Relief Fund. You can register as a sponsor, player, or foursome at

KofCswingforcharity.com. Alternatively, you can mail a check payable to K of C Council 14224 c/o Tony Polise at 172 Rolling Meadow Dr., Holliston, MA, 01746, or payment can be made via VENMO @KofC14224. Prices can be found at KofCswingforcharity.com. Thank you for your continued support of the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus.



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL BOXES: Parishioners have asked about the new signage on these boxes. St. Vincent de Paul works with CMRK, a Textile exporter located in Northborough, Massachusetts. CMRK's mission “Clothing with a Conscience” is to educate, facilitate, and hearten communities and individuals in order to facilitate environmental progress through the ethical and responsible collection of second chance clothing, shoes, and household items. Their goal is to help both those in need, and our environment. CMRK transports clothing from St. Mary's in Holliston to the St. Vincent De Paul store located at 18 Canton Street in Stoughton, MA. Any questions please contact St. Vincent de Paul at 781-344-3100.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS: *“You will find out that Charity is a heavy burden to carry, heavier than the kettle of soup and the full basket. But you will keep your gentleness and your smile. It is not enough to give soup and bread. This the rich can do. You are the servant of the poor, always smiling and good-humored. They are your masters, terribly sensitive and exacting masters you will see. And the uglier and the dirtier they will be, the more unjust and insulting, the more love you must give them. It is only for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give to them.”*

- St. Vincent de Paul

THE ENVIRONMENT: Just before Easter, a small group of parishioners from our parish and St. Mary's parish in Franklin completed the JustFaith Ministries' program Sacred Air: Climate and Energy. Participants read the book "The Story of More" by Hope Jahren, and parts of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the environment, both of which spoke about the need for us to work together and share the earth's finite natural resources. The members of the group also watched videos about climate change, discussed several related topics, and welcomed two speakers who spoke more about local work to understand and mitigate the effects of climate change. As a way to continue in the spirit of Sacred Air and Laudato Si', program participants plan to join 350Mass, a statewide organization focused on climate change and renewable energy, take part in other environmental activities in the area, and educate others on the importance of care for our common home.



SAVE THE DATE ~ THE FAMILY BBQ IS COMING:

St. Mary's Family Barbecue is Saturday, June 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in Father Haley Hall. Join us as Tennessee BBQ fires up the grill for BBQ chicken, pulled pork, cheeseburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, corn on the cob and much more. Bring the kids and experience a fun filled evening of good food, friendship and live country music! Come meet your neighbors! There will be family games and contests! Tickets: \$7 for kids 12 and under, \$10 for adults. Tickets go on sale after all Masses the weekend of June 8/9, and 15/16, and may also be purchased through the Religious Education Office starting June 3. There are no tickets at the door.

FIAT (4/24): Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting this Wednesday, April 24, at 7:00 PM on Zoom. The topic will be "The Call to Religious Life." If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

PROJECT RACHEL POST - ABORTION HEALING RETREATS: Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Upcoming dates are Saturday, May 11 and Saturday, June 8. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS TICKETS: (July 17-24, Indianapolis, IN) We are happy to announce that we have a limited number of tickets available at the discounted price of \$250 each. This ticket does NOT include transportation to and from the Congress nor hotel accommodations. The tickets are non-refundable and can now be purchased by credit card through our website. Tickets for individuals and groups are also available directly from NEC. Visit <https://www.evangelizeboston.com/event/national-eucharistic-congress/>. <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS: You are invited to join with many people worldwide in praying for the monthly intention. April - For the Role of Women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. Consider joining Catholics around the world in the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (the Apostleship of Prayer). For further information please consult the Apostolate at: <https://www.popesprayer.va/>.



MAY 5, Crowning of Mary Mass ~

The 11:30 AM Mass this Sunday will conclude with a Marian Procession. Led by our Grade 5 Students, and weather permitting, the Statue of the Blessed Mother in front of the rectory will be crowned, and a decade of the Rosary prayed. All Parishioners are invited to be part of this celebration, as we usher in Our Lady's Month of May and ask her prayerful intercession on our behalf.

MAY 8, Ascension Thursday, A Holy Day of Obligation ~

Vigil Mass, Wednesday, May 8, at 7:00 PM

Feast Day Masses, Thursday, May 9, at 9:00 AM & 6:30 PM

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension also changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday and marks an event of such importance that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. This means that Catholics attend Mass this day as on a Sunday. The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven. Where He has gone, we hope one day to follow!

MAY 12, Mother's Day ~

A special Blessing of Mothers will take place at all Masses this weekend. Lovely Flower Bouquets will also be available in support of our High School Summer Mission Trip to Mississippi.

CLOW - CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD, today, Sunday, April 21, the children will be dismissed from the church and led to the lower church hall to listen and learn what Jesus has to tell them in the Gospel.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS WEEK

| DAY | GRADE | GRADE |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sun., April 21 | 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 | GR-7 at 5:00 PM |
| Mon., April 22 | GR-8 at 6:00 PM | |
| Tues. April 23 | GR-5 at 4:00 PM | GR-6 at 4:00 PM |
| | GR-6 at 5:00 PM | GR-10 at 7:00 PM |
| Wed., April 24 | GR-2 at 4:00 PM | GR-8 at 6:00 PM |
| Thur., April 25 | GR-5 at 4:00 PM | GR-10 at 7:00 PM |
| Sun., April 28 | GR-K at 9:15 AM | GR-4 at 10:45 AM |
| | GR-5 at 10:45 AM | GR-6 at 4:00 PM |

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. st.marvsdre1870@gmail.com.



MAY DEVOTION: Sunday, May 5 following the 11:30 AM Mass! Everyone is welcome to join with our Grade 3, 4 and 5 students to honor our Blessed Mother in the May Devotion. Parishioners are asked to bring their Rosary beads and flowers. The statue of Mary will be crowned by a fifth grader. Please come

and take part in this beautiful devotion to the Mother of God who is our Heavenly Mother and Advocate before the throne of God on our behalf. Jesus will never refuse His beloved Mother anything when she brings our petitions before Him.

FIRST COMMUNION TEEN VOLUNTEERS: Our First Communion Masses are on Saturday, June 8 and Saturday, June 15 at 10:30 AM. Each year we ask high school teens to offer their time to be ushers and helpers. There is a need for four teens at each Mass. If you can help contact st.marvsre1870@gmail.com.

CONFIRMATION I AND II: Grade 10 Classes meet on Tuesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 25 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Students are to check into Fr. Haley Hall for their classes.



VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! 'SCUBA', Our 17th Annual Vacation Bible School, will take place July 22-26, 9:00 AM to Noon. Join us as we DIVE DEEP into friendship with Jesus! VBS is a weeklong celebration of faith with song,

arts, crafts, movies, games, drama and Scripture. \$75 per camper, \$200 family limit. Space is limited.

Register today! Camper registration: <https://forms.gle/RGKP8s6ZXBsXFLdS8>

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: It's no secret that the volunteers have just as much fun as the campers! Teens (entering Grade 7 or older) along with adults are needed to make our underwater adventure a success. Full week or partial week volunteers welcome. Volunteer registration: <https://forms.gle/HsAhsPjPkBrXVGwo7>

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS! Make some coral at home to add to the VBS set. Coral can be made with things you already have in your house such as cupcake liners, bottle caps, pipe cleaners and so much more! Google search for coral crafts or make anything you can imagine. Drop off to the Religious Education office.

YOUR TRASH IS OUR UNDERSEA TREASURE!

VBS needs you! Do you have any of these items to repurpose? Flat-screen TV boxes, appliance boxes, pool noodles, or Styrofoam packaging inserts. How about items we can borrow? Human dummy, flippers, snorkel mask and mouthpiece, 8 lb. bowling ball or large fish tank? Check out our full wish list at:

<https://shorturl.at/ctzKQ>.

