



GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE

★★ 250 YEARS ★★

**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.

**Our Mission:**

*“To know Christ and to make Him known.”*

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

[parish@stmarysholliston.org](mailto: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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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!



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today we find ourselves at a unique moment in our history. This weekend, we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's founding. Amidst the fireworks, family gatherings, and celebrations of liberty, our liturgical readings invite us to pause and reflect on the foundations of true freedom and greatness.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers a prayer of profound intimacy and humility:

*"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike"* (Matthew 11:25).

In a culture that often measures success by power and self-promotion, Jesus turns our value system upside down. He calls us to a "childlike" disposition, not one of immaturity, but of utter dependence on God and openness to His grace. True greatness, according to the Gospel, is never found in domination or the pursuit of our own interests. Rather, it is found in the willingness to serve, to listen, and to humble ourselves before the Lord.

As we mark the semiquincentennial of the United States, we are reminded that the American experiment was built upon the high ideals of justice, equality, and the common good. Yet, as people of faith, we know that these ideals can only be sustained through the virtues of sacrifice and humility. Our nation's founders understood that liberty is not a license to do whatever we want, but the freedom to do what we ought: to love God and serve our neighbor.

In the first reading, the prophet Zechariah speaks of a king who arrives not on a warhorse, but "*humble and riding on an ass.*" This image of the Prince of Peace serves as a powerful corrective to our modern obsession with status. As we look back on 250 years of our nation's history, we acknowledge our triumphs and our failures, recognizing that our ultimate allegiance is to the Kingdom of God.

This week, I invite you to pray for our country - not just for its prosperity, but for its heart. May we, as Catholic citizens, be the leaven in our society. Let us lead by serving, let us build by listening, and let us honor the gift of our freedom by using it to protect the vulnerable and lift up those in need.

God bless you.

And God bless America.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



## A PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY



Heavenly Father, creator of all nations and source of all true liberty, we come before You on this 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our nation's founding with hearts full of gratitude and humility.

We thank You for the blessings of freedom and the opportunities for growth and service that have shaped our history. As we celebrate this milestone, we ask that You look with favor upon our land. Grant our leaders wisdom, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation, that they may serve the common good with justice and compassion.

Bless our citizens, that we may be a people united by love and respect for one another, regardless of our differences. Help us to be faithful stewards of the liberties we enjoy, working diligently to build a society where the dignity of every person is upheld, the marginalized are cared for, and peace is sought above all.

As we look back on these two and a half centuries, we repent of our failings and ask for the strength to continue the work of building a more perfect union. May we always strive to walk in the light of Your truth, guided by the values of faith, hope, and charity.

We entrust our nation to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, and we offer this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**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, High School Youth Minister  
 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



**CAR WASH:** Next Saturday, July 11, Boy Scout Troop 14 invites you to join us for an Eagle Project Car Wash Fundraiser from 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM located in the church parking lot. All proceeds are going towards funding outdoor exercise stations for the community to enjoy located along the walking trails at the Hopkinton YMCA. This is the Eagle Project for St. Mary's Troop 14 Scout Colin Hodgdon.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 4</b>
5:00	Joseph Perkins, 1 <sup>st</sup> Anv.
7:30	People of St. Mary's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 5</b>
7:30	JoAnne Boczanowski
9:30	Lois Hosmer
11:30	James Farrell, 9 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>July 6</b>
9:00	Shaun P. Sullivan, Sr.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>July 7</b>
9:00	John Walker
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July 8</b>
9:00	Ann M. 'Nanci' Goguen, 13 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 9</b>
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Friday</b>	<b>July 10</b>
9:00	Amy Lynn Tibbert
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 11</b>
5:00	Amy Tibbert
7:30	Marie T. and Ernie Nichols, Jr.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 12</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Claire Marcoux
11:30	TGIF Mission Mass

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!**

Join us for our second Daily Mass and Donuts gathering this Wednesday, July 8 at 9 AM. Hope to see you there! Check your email tonight to RSVP and order your donuts!



Our Next Mission Trip Mass is ONE week from today, Sunday, July 12 at 11:30 AM. Attendance has been low at these Masses considering how many are attending the trip. Please make EVERY EFFORT to attend! A Google Form will be emailed this week to collect RSVPs so we know how much food to plan for.



**IMPORTANT:** We ask that all Mission Trip participants attend our safety session on Monday, July 13 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Your three mission trip t-shirts will be handed out this night.

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](mailto:tgif@stmarysholliston.org).

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:**

**Tuesday, July 28** - Brownstone Quarry Adventure.  
**Friday, August 21** - Grade 6 Deerfield River Rafting.



**Thank you everyone for an amazing Whitewater Rafting Adventure in Maine last weekend!**

*"Deep is calling on deep in the roar of mighty waters. Your torrents and all your waves swept over me"*  
 Ps. 42:7





**BANNS OF MARRIAGE:**

I Owen Francis and Mary Theresa Whalen

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:**

The Rose this week is sponsored by the Cruz

Family in memory of Judy Cruz. 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, Ritz and/or saltine crackers (13.7 oz box), canned corn (16 Oz), canned black beans (16 Oz) and canned red kidney beans (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.

**LAST SUNDAY’S PARISH OFFERTORY:**

Automatic Giving:	\$ 2,735.00
WeShare:	\$ 7,447.78
Envelopes:	\$ 7,740.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 17,922.78

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/>.

**RECTORY OFFICE SUMMER HOURS:** Please note that during the summer months of June, July, and August the Rectory Office is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. On other weekdays it remains open the usual 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM hours. Mass Cards may also be obtained at the Religious Education Office off of the Parish Center Lobby. Have a safe, faith filled summer!

**OCIA** is the Catholic Church’s way of initiating new members. OCIA is much more than a study program. It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings one to Jesus Christ. OCIA begins in September and concludes around the feast of Pentecost (usually mid-May). For further information, please feel free to contact Deacon Ron Dowding through the Rectory office at 508-429-4427.



**ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR FALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES OPENED THIS PAST WEDNESDAY, JULY 1! REGISTER TODAY!**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR 2026-2027:**

Registrations for all grade levels is now online at <https://stmarysholliston.com/>. Registration mail has been sent out. Check 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. **JUST CLICK THE BLUE BUTTON!**



**TRAVELING?** Check out [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) to find out the name, location and Mass schedule of the nearest Catholic Church anywhere in America. God never takes a vacation from us; let us make time on vacation for God.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:** *“Love of one’s country is a value that must be cultivated, but it should never close itself to the love of the whole human family.”*

- Pope Saint John Paul II

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE SPRING BBQ SUCH A GREAT NIGHT!**



**LIVING BY THE SPIRIT:  
THE CHRISTIAN'S NEW IDENTITY.  
A REFLECTION ON TODAY'S MASS EPISTLE.**

Romans 8:9, 11–13

Among St. Paul's greatest theological achievements is his profound reflection on the life of the Holy Spirit in the eighth chapter of Romans. In just a few verses, the Apostle moves from doctrine to discipleship and from the mystery of Christ's Resurrection to the practical demands of Christian morality. His teaching remains as urgent today as it was for the first Christians living in pagan Rome.

Paul begins with a remarkable declaration: *"You are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the Spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you."* At first glance, modern readers may misunderstand his contrast between "flesh" and "spirit." Paul is not condemning the human body, as though Christianity embraced a form of dualism inherited from Greek philosophy. The Church has always rejected such an interpretation. Indeed, Christianity proclaims the goodness of creation, the Incarnation of the Word, and the future resurrection of the body.

Rather, for Paul, "the flesh" signifies fallen human nature closed in upon itself. It is humanity attempting to live apart from God, governed by self-interest, disordered desires, and spiritual blindness. "The Spirit," by contrast, is not merely a human disposition but the very life of God poured into believers through Baptism. The Christian has entered an entirely new sphere of existence. His identity is no longer determined by sin but by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

Paul's language echoes the great promise of the prophet Ezekiel. God had promised, *"I will put my Spirit within you."* That promise is fulfilled in Christ. The same Spirit who hovered over the waters of creation, who overshadowed the Blessed Virgin at the Annunciation, and who raised Jesus from the dead now dwells within every baptized believer. As the early Fathers loved to say, the Christian becomes a living temple of the Holy Spirit.

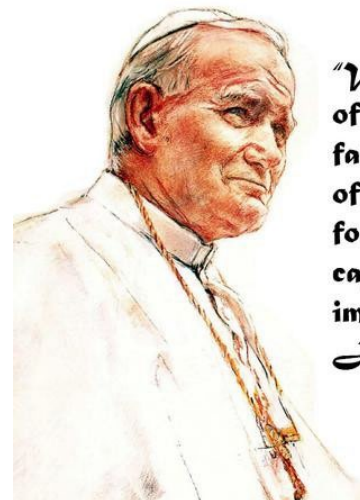
This indwelling Spirit is not simply a source of consolation but of transformation. Paul insists that *"if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."* The Christian life is therefore both gift and struggle. Grace does not eliminate the necessity of effort; rather, grace makes true holiness possible. Sanctification is not self-improvement achieved by willpower alone. It is the lifelong cooperation between divine grace and human freedom.

This is a crucial lesson for our own age. Contemporary culture often equates freedom with the absence of restraint and happiness with the satisfaction of every desire. St. Paul proposes something far more profound. True freedom is not the ability to do whatever we wish, but the power to become what we were created to be. Sin promises autonomy but produces slavery. The Holy Spirit, by contrast, gradually conforms us to Christ, enabling us to love as He loves and to choose what leads to authentic life.

The Resurrection stands at the center of Paul's argument. The Spirit who raised Jesus will also *"give life to your mortal bodies."* Christian hope is therefore not an escape from the material world, but its ultimate redemption. Every act of fidelity, every hidden sacrifice, every victory over temptation anticipates the final renewal of creation when Christ returns in glory. The moral life is never merely about keeping rules; it is participation even now in the life of the Risen Lord.

Perhaps the greatest challenge posed by this passage is a simple question: Does the Spirit truly dwell in us? We received Him sacramentally at Baptism and were strengthened by His gifts in Confirmation. But His presence must continually be welcomed through prayer, the Eucharist, frequent Confession, meditation on Sacred Scripture, and daily acts of charity. The saints remind us that holiness is nothing less than allowing the Holy Spirit to reproduce the life of Christ within us.

St. Paul's words therefore remain both a comfort and a summons. Christians are not defined by their failures or their past. They belong to Christ because His Spirit dwells within them. The same divine power that shattered the tomb on Easter morning is already at work in every faithful soul, quietly transforming ordinary lives into living signs of the Kingdom of God.



***"We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures, we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of His Son Jesus."***

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR 2026-2027 ~ NOW OPEN:**

Go to <https://stmarysholliston.com/>. Check 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 their child **by the deadline, August 17**, will be guaranteed their desired session.

**TEACHERS AND MONITORS WILL BE NEEDED FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS 1 - 8:** Prayerfully consider teaching or becoming a Monitor.

GRADE	SUNDAY CLASSES	WEEKDAY CLASSES
	Alternate Sundays	Alternate Weekdays
CGS*	Sun., 8:00 to 9:15 AM OR 10:45 AM to 12 Noon	
GR-1	Sun., 8:10 to 9:25 AM	
GR-2	Sun., 8:10 to 9:25 AM OR 10:45 AM to 12 Noon	Wed., 4:15 to 5:30 PM
GR-3	Sun., 7:55 to 9:25 AM OR 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	Wed., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-4	Sun., 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	Tue., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-5	Sun., 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	Tue., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-6	Sun., 4:00 to 5:30 PM	Tue., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-7	Grades 7 and 8 meet on the same alternate weeks.	Tue. OR Wed., 7:00 to 8:30 PM
GR-8		Mon. OR Thur., 7:00 to 8:30 PM

**\*CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT TRAINING:**

CGS is a Montessori Program where adult and high school teen assistants assist the Catechist Leader. Assistants are present to **observe the children** as they discover God's love for them while listening to Sacred Scripture and participating in concrete activities working with their hands. Children from ages 3 - 6 find their quiet space in our Atrium where prayer and slow reverent gestures fill their hearts and minds about the life and teachings of Jesus. Emphasis is placed on the parables of the Good Shepherd. Trained assistants are necessary for CGS to thrive. Training will be scheduled once we have a number of adults and teens to take the training. Those who have been trained as assistants have remarked how observing the children grow and understand by listening and working in the Atrium has opened their own heart and minds to the love the Good Shepherd has for them. If you are interested in being trained, contact the **Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076** or [religiouseddre@stmarysholliston.org](mailto:religiouseddre@stmarysholliston.org).

**YOUR FAITH, AND TALENTS ARE GIFTS FROM GOD:** There is such treasure and active grace flowing with the gifts God generously showers upon us. These



gifts are to be propagated by the faithful believers for souls to know that God is a living and constant reality in our lives. Each year St. Mary's Parish reaches out to the faithful to bear witness and share their beliefs in a loving and merciful God to the

children and youth. Our young need to know that Jesus Christ is real and that the Holy Spirit is working to guide and sanctify us to be Christ to others. **Please consider offering your gifts as a Catechist.** You can inspire the hearts and minds of the young to form a relationship with Jesus. Spread the Good News of the Gospel! Register online to teach a class or take the opportunity to sign up to volunteer in **many** of the ministries offered here at St. Mary's Parish.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN, JULY 20 - 24, 2026**

Use the QR Code or click:

<https://forms.gle/DfxUbFgn41QtqM7V7>



**HURRY! ONLY A FEWS SPOTS OPEN!**

Children entering Kindergarten through Grade 6. Volunteer Teens needed entering Grade 7 and up.

**NEEDED ~ THREE ADULT VOLUNTEERS**

**CALLING VBS SET UP VOLUNTEERS:**

Join in on the fun setting up for a wild Rainforest Falls adventure. **Drop-in hours:** Tuesday, July 14, Wednesday, July 15, and Thursday, July 16 between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Teens, adults, and families are welcome.