



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 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

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 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!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today we are presented with one of the most tender and profound moments in the Old Testament: young King Solomon's dream at Gibeon (1 Kings 3:5, 7-12).

Imagine stepping into Solomon's sandals. He has just inherited the throne of Israel from his legendary father, David. He feels overwhelmed, inexperienced, and inadequate for the monumental task ahead. In a dream, God appears to him and makes an extraordinary offer: *"Ask something of me and I will give it to you."*

If God gave you that exact same offer tonight, what would you ask for? Wealth? A long life? Success over your rivals? Freedom from suffering?

Solomon, recognizing his deep need, asks for none of those things. Instead, he prays: *"Give your servant, therefore, **an understanding heart** to judge your people and to distinguish between good and evil."*

In our English translations, we read Solomon requesting an "understanding heart." But the Hebrew phrase לֵב שֹׁמֵעַ (lēb šômēa'), actually translates as "a listening heart." Solomon was asking for a heart attuned to God's frequency; a soul quiet enough to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, able to sift through the noise of the world to discern God's will.

He was asking for clarity in chaos, the ability to look at complex situations through the lens of God's love, and to see the difference between what is merely expedient and what is truly good.

He was asking for compassion in judgment, the ability to lead not with harshness or ego, but with empathy, mercy, and a deep respect for human dignity.

He was asking for trust in surrender, the ability to acknowledge that we do not have all the answers, but knowing that the One Who calls us will also equip us.

God does not offer the gift of a listening heart only to ancient kings. He is offering it to each of us today. In our busy, hyper-connected lives, our hearts are often cluttered with anxiety, deadlines, and distractions. It becomes terribly difficult to hear the still, small voice of God.



The gift of a listening heart doesn't only apply to our relationship with God. It radically transforms how we relate to the people right in front of us. Often when others speak to us, we aren't truly listening. Instead, we are already formulating our response, waiting for our turn to talk, or filtering their words through our own biases and judgments.

A truly understanding heart *quiets our internal noise* so we can genuinely hear the joys, sorrows, and unspoken needs of our spouse, our children, our friends, and even the stranger who crosses our path.

When we offer others a listening heart, we give them a profound gift: the experience of being truly seen and valued.

Let us ask the Lord to transform our hearts, not only to hear His voice in the quiet of prayer, but to listen with patience, empathy, and love to the people He places in our daily lives.

This week, I invite you to make Solomon's prayer your own. When you begin your morning prayer, or when you are facing a difficult crossroads in your family, your workplace, or your personal life, pause and pray:

"Lord, give me a listening heart!"

Trust that God is more than willing to grant this prayer. When we seek first His wisdom and His heart, everything else in our lives begins to fall into its place.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



Above: *The Dream of King Solomon, c. 1693*
by Luca Giordano

PARISH STAFF:

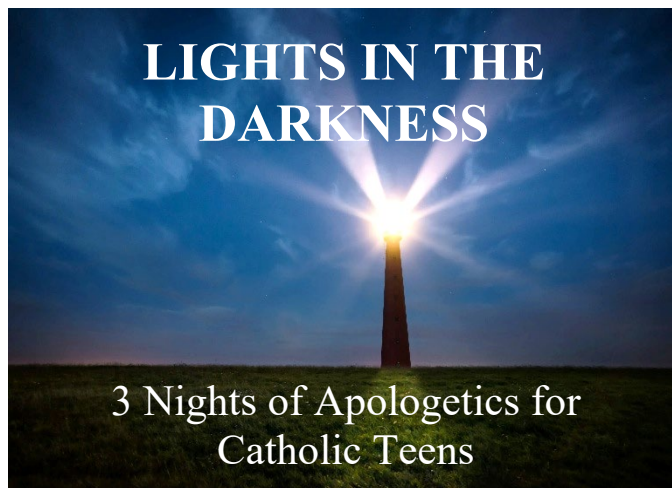
Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
 The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
 Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon
 Deacon Ronald A. Dowding, Permanent Deacon
 Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon
 Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7
 Mrs. Lisa Dufault, High School Youth Minister
 Ms. Abigail Kelley-Lanser, 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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	July 25
5:00	Bill and Mary Beth Harmon
7:30	Karen Villa
Sunday	July 26
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	VBS Mass
11:30	Milagros Diaz, 18 th Anv.
Monday	July 27
9:00	Joseph Palladino
Tuesday	July 28
9:00	Jack Algeo
Wednesday	July 29
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	July 30
9:00	Violante Roberto
Friday	July 31
9:00	Amy Lynn Tibbert
Saturday	August 1
5:00	Michael Mansfield
7:30	Jerome Deise
Sunday	August 2
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Romano and Concetta Giovannelli
11:30	TGIF Welcome Home Mass

TODAY'S BULLETIN COVER: This past week's amazing St. Mary's Vacation Bible School!

Open to all Catholic Teens.
Dinner and a Copy of
'ANSWERS ~ Apologetics for
Catholic Youth,' will be provided
free of charge. Welcome!



DINNER AND CONVERSATION: August 13, 14, and 15, at 6:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

Catholic teens often encounter skepticism or criticism of their faith on social media, at school, and from peers. In recent years more and more St. Mary's teens have experienced this.

Sometimes they feel they don't understand a teaching well enough to respond or just can't find the right words "on the spot."

These gatherings will offer dinner, then an hour of listening and conversation.

They are designed to move Catholic Teens from a "defensive" posture to a "confident" one.

What is Apologetics? From the Greek apologia - a "reasoned defense." It is not "apologizing" for being Catholic; it is explaining the "why." As we read in 1 Peter 3:15, *"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence."*

The Goal: We don't argue to "win"; we explain to "invite." Apologetics is about explaining, with logic and love, why we believe what we believe.



On August 13, 14, and 15 we will enjoy a light meal then talk, listen, and grow in our ability to answer when we are questioned or challenged about our faith. Use this link or the QR Code to SignUp: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-64826129-defenders>.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,225.50
WeShare:	\$ 4,079.88
Envelopes:	\$ 7,116.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 14,421.38
Weekly Need:	\$ 15,000.00

Shortfall \$ 578.62

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/>.

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), canned red kidney beans (16 oz) and liquid dish soap. 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.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by a parishioner in memory of Vasco and Pauline Brovelli. 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. Your sponsorship provides the new rose as well as supporting Pregnancy Help: <https://bostoncatholic.org/pregnancy-help-boston>.

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 AM to 3 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!



BATHROOM TILING RECOMMENDATION NEEDED: Our plumbers say that a leak from the second floor to the first floor of the rectory is not plumbing related. Rather it is caused by tiling issues. Have you had shower tiling

done by a company you would recommend? Please let us know! Email parish@stmarysholliston.org. Or call the Rectory Office at 508-429-4427.



ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR FALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES IS NOW OPEN!

We have made both registration and payment of tuition wholly electronic. Just visit <https://stmarysholliston.com/> or use the QR Code to get started.

The full class schedule was mailed out and may also be viewed by clicking [HERE](#). As always, class day choices are first come, first served.



Class registration closes on Monday, August 17, 2026 - but please do not delay.

If you have any difficulties or questions, please contact Jennifer at 508-429-6076 or at religiousedsec@stmarysholliston.org. God bless you!

"The soul grows by learning." - St. Augustine



THANK YOU! Thank you to all our amazing VBS campers, leaders and volunteers. Special thanks to Patty Baribeau, Melissa Cataldo, Katie DellaRocca, Christine Hayes, Sharon Butler, Amanda Pierce, Kristin Roberto, Merida Weidner and Evan Scaramella. You went above and beyond to help our campers explore the nature of God!

FOR OUR YOUTH



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Today, July 26, 111 of us are leaving for our Mission Trip to Mississippi. **REMINDER TO WEAR YOUR GREEN SHIRT.** Please arrive at 5:45 AM in Fr. Haley Hall ready to begin at 6 AM.



We ask for your prayers while we are on our Mission Trip to Mississippi. The Teens and Adult Chaperones of TGIF are so grateful for the prayers and financial support of our parishioners! Follow us on Instagram to see what we are up to in real time while we are in Mississippi. Can't wait to get back and share our witness with St. Mary's!



**PLEASE OFFER THIS
PRAYER EVERY DAY THIS
WEEK FOR MISSION
TEENS!**

Loving Father, we lift up our hearts to You as the teens of St. Mary's Parish journey to Mississippi to serve those in greatest need. We ask for Your abundant grace to surround them, protect them, and fill them with the courage of Your Holy Spirit.

Lord, pour out Your blessings upon these young people. As they labor with their hands and open their hearts among the needy, grant them the strength to persevere through weariness, and the humility to learn from those they serve.

Let every task they undertake be an offering of love to You. May they see the face of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in every person they encounter.

Blessed Mother Mary, Patroness of our Parish, pray for our teens. Keep them safe under your mantle and guide their steps in charity and truth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FOR OUR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Our Summer of Faith and Adventure continues with these awesome trips:

This Tuesday, July 28 -
Brownstone Quarry

Adventure. Bring your own lunch and plenty of drinks for the day - it gets HOT. Consider optional extra cash to buy snacks at the concession stand. Bring a trash bag for wet swimsuits and towels. There are changing rooms there.



Arrive at St. Mary's Tuesday at 7:15 AM latest - we depart at 7:30 AM Sharp!

Return is approx. 6:00 - 6:30 PM - kids will call home when we are 15 minutes out. Have fun!!!

Friday, August 21 - Grade 6 Deerfield River Rafting.

19th ANNUAL ALTAR SERVER APPRECIATION TRIP TO SIX FLAGS NEW ENGLAND! This year's trip is Monday, August 17. Departure is at 8:15 AM, return is 7 PM. Return your form, etc., to the Rectory at 8 Church St. no later than Sunday, August 9. Thank you Altar Servers for your faithful and reverent ministry!





REGISTER ONLINE NOW FOR OUR 2026-2027 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: 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.



GREAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO CATECHIZE OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH!

One way to transform the souls and conscience of children and youth, who may be influenced by today's

media, sports heroes, and material goods that do not always satisfy their inner longing for more, is to teach the Gospel Truth. Our children need to know and understand that God's plan for them to find peace, joy, and fulfillment in everyday moments is to live actively with love and dependence on Him. There is nothing more rewarding than sharing our Catholic Faith with our children and youth. You will be helping them form their moral conscience that will benefit them from your witness to Christ. Please consider teaching a class and sharing your faith with joy. Just register **Online** to teach a class. See the table below for scheduled days and times for classes. Please complete the **Volunteer Application and the Teacher/Monitor Session Selection at:** <https://stmarysholliston.com/religious-education/religious-education-volunteer-registration/>.

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

We Miss You! If your child has missed time in Religious Education, we encourage you to register them right away using our online form at stmarysholliston.com. Please contact us if your child needs to be prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism or First Communion at 508-429-6076 or religiouslyddre@stmarysholliston.org. It is never too late to prepare your child for a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and we will love to see them in our program.



(CGS) VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT TRAINING:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a unique Montessori Program that uses a child-centered approach to Christian formation developed in 1954 by Sofia Cavalletti, a Scripture

scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori teacher. CGS is not the standard classroom model where a teacher instructs the children in catechesis, but a **"WAY"** and method to emphasize the religious potential of children while fostering their encounter with God. Sacred Scripture, Liturgy, prayer, and practical life activities are presented where the child can contemplate and build a relationship with Jesus.

CGS Assistants do not teach, they observe the children's activities, behaviors, and responses and are available if a child needs help. Our needs are for **three adults and three high school students (GR 9 - 12)** who are willing to be trained.

If you are willing to be trained as an Assistant, a CORI form and Protecting God's Children Training are required for those over the age of eighteen (18) years. Also, you will be required to meet with the DRE personally if you are a new volunteer. If you have any questions please contact 508-429-6076 or religiouslyddre@stmarysholliston.org. You can also register online by completing the **Volunteer Application and the Teacher/Monitor Session Selection at:** <https://stmarysholliston.com/religious-education/religious-education-volunteer-registration/>.

Two CGS sessions will begin on Sunday, October 18, 2026 and run through May 2027; one at 8:00 to 9:15 AM and one from 10:45 to Noon. Consider this opportunity and take a wonderful journey observing how the children's hearts are transformed and fall in love with God. This change is remarkable for our Assistants as well. For our **high school teens and adults**, the CGS experience will be extremely rewarding! May you hear the Good Shepherd's call and be blessed!