



WELCOME HOME!

Last night our 93 St. Mary's Mission Teens plus their adult leaders returned from a week of service to the people of Gulfport, Mississippi. We look forward to welcoming them at the 11:30 AM Mass today, and to hearing their stories on World Mission Sunday in October. Watch a Mississippi Newscast about our group at: <https://www.wlox.com/2026/07/29/teen-volunteers-massachusetts-serve-mississippi-coast-communities-wildlife/>. Photo Above: Each Mission Day started with morning Mass!



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
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,

"When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself."
(Matthew 14:13)

In this simple opening to today's Gospel, we are given a glimpse into the authentic humanity of Jesus. John the Baptist was not only a prophet and the herald who prepared Jesus' way; he was His cousin and a beloved friend. Jesus grieved. He felt the heavy, aching sorrow of loss. And so, He sought solitude to mourn and to pray.

This image of a grieving Savior is a comfort for every one of us. It shows that Jesus understands our pain from the inside. When we experience the sudden loss of a loved one, the shattering of a relationship, or the heavy burdens of life, we are never alone. Jesus knows the language of human grief firsthand.

Just as Jesus withdrew to a deserted place, He invites us to bring our brokenness to Him in prayer, trusting that He sits with us in our darkest hours.

In the words of St. Augustine, *"Jesus is the physician, and you are the patient. He knows what He is doing; He weeps with you so that you may learn to rejoice with Him. He shares your grief so that you may share His glory."*

Then notice how the Gospel continues. When the crowds followed Him to that deserted place, Jesus did not send them away. Instead, moved by deep compassion, He healed their sick and fed them. Jesus' own grief did not make Him hard; rather, it deepened His solidarity with our human frailty.

This transition in the Gospel reveals a vital spiritual truth: serving others can be an important and transformative part of our own healing process. Grief often turns our focus inward, making our world feel small and isolated. When we take the step to reach out and lift the burdens of others, even while carrying our own cross, our pain is met with purpose. By pouring ourselves out in charity, we participate in Christ's own mission. We find that in healing the wounds of our neighbor, our own broken hearts begin to mend.

We see a beautiful example of this Gospel truth right here in our own parish family this weekend. As 93 of our Saint Mary's High School Youth Group teens return from a week of mission and service among the needy in Mississippi, we witness young disciples who stepped into the struggles and hardships of others.



By listening to the stories of those in need, rolling up their sleeves, and walking alongside communities facing difficult burdens, our teens truly shared in the sorrows and realities of others, just as Jesus shared in ours.

In doing so, they bring back not only the fatigue of hard work, but the joy and deep spiritual renewal that comes from serving Christ in the least of our brothers and sisters.

As we come to the altar this Sunday, let us place all our griefs, worries, and weariness into the hands of our compassionate Lord. Let us give thanks for the ways He continues to serve through our young people. May we find healing in His Body and Blood and be fortified to go forth to serve one another in His holy name.

God bless you.

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

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 4,180.00
 WeShare: \$ 4,084.14
 Envelopes: \$ 5,363.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 13,627.14
 Weekly Need: \$ 15,000.00

Shortfall \$ 1,372.86

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/>.

**All Parish Offices are
 CLOSED
 Next Week**

**Monday, August 3 - Monday, August 10.
 Thank you!**

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:

"Jesus did not create bread from nothing, but from the loaves that were there, teaching us to offer what we have. Though it be little, if we give it to Him, He makes it sufficient for all."

- St. John Chrysostom

**LIGHTS IN
 THE
 DARKNESS**

**APOLOGETICS
 FOR
 CATHOLIC
 TEENS**

**DINNER AND
 CONVERSATION:
 August 13, 14, & 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.



Open to all High School or College age Teens. Different topics will be discussed each night.

Use this link or the QR Code to SignUp:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-64826129-defenders>.

FOR OUR YOUTH



ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR FALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES IS NOW OPEN!

We have made both registration and payment of tuition wholly electronic. Just click the photo above 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 religionsedsec@stmarysholliston.org. God bless you!

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

FOR THOSE WE LOVE

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 Giovenelli
11:30	TGIF Welcome Home Mass
Monday	August 3
9:00	Amy Lynn Tibbert
Tuesday	August 4
9:00	Phyllis Nicoli
11:00	Funeral - Shirley Pelkey
Wednesday	August 5
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	August 6
9:00	Jerry Deise
Friday	August 7
9:00	The People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour, Palestine
Saturday	August 8
5:00	Walter Budra, 10 th Anv.
7:30	Michele Scotto
Sunday	August 9
7:30	Marcia Seymour, 16 th Anv.
9:30	People of St. Mary's
11:30	Adrienne Beattie, 5 th Anv.

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, 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 Lorri Palmer. 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>.



FOR OUR YOUTH



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Today we are back from our Mississippi Mission Trip with tired bodies but full hearts. We can't wait to share our witness with you soon. Teens don't forget to attend our Welcome Home

Mass and reception, Sunday, August 2, at 11:30 AM. Wear your green mission trip shirts.

The Mission Trip Video Viewing Party is Tuesday, August 11 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. More details will be emailed to you. A lot is already available on Instagram. Just use the QR Code:



FOR OUR YOUTH



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Our Summer of Faith and Adventure continues with this awesome trip:

Friday, August 21 - Grade 6 Deerfield River Rafting!

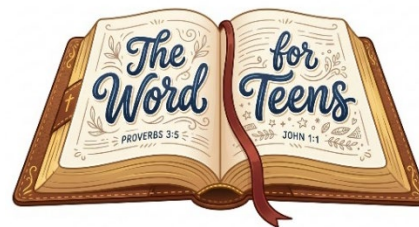


19th ANNUAL ALTAR SERVER APPRECIATION TRIP TO SIX FLAGS NEW ENGLAND!

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 next Sunday, August 9.

Thank you Altar Servers for your faithful and reverent ministry!



When Jesus feeds the 5,000 today, He shows that even what seems small can become something amazing when it

is placed in His hands. The disciples only had five loaves and two fish, and they thought it would never be enough.

As teenagers, it's easy to feel like we don't have enough to offer - whether it's time, confidence, talent, or faith. But Jesus doesn't ask us to have everything figured out. He simply asks us to trust Him and give Him what we have.

In the Eucharist, Jesus continues to feed His people with His very self, reminding us that He is the Bread of Life Who satisfies our deepest hunger. This Gospel challenges us to believe that God can multiply our acts of kindness, our prayers, and our willingness to serve others.

When we place our lives in Christ's hands, He can do far more than we could ever imagine. God bless you!

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



<https://stmarysholliston.com/>.

Check our class offerings, days, and times. Register and pay by locking in placement and your choice of classes now.

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 August 17 deadline** will be guaranteed their desired session.

EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS: There is an abundance of ways to proclaim Christ, not only with words, but through everything that we do.



Our thoughts, words and actions must be a living witness to people so that there is something that attracts them to want to know what it is that gives us peace and joy; especially when there are trials and adversities to overcome. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the

life. He calls all believers to follow Him and to trust in His mercy and love. Our children and youth need to hear and see Christ in action through His people every day. Be a witness to Christ and consider teaching a class starting in the Fall. Training will be available in September. Just register **Online** to teach a class. **See the table in the upper right 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/>.

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 religiouseddre@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.

MISSION OF THE FAMILY: Fr. Jon Leonetti in his book "Mission of the Family" describes the Church as being very clear on the meaning and purpose of family life, *mission*. The mission of bringing the good news of the Gospel to everyone we meet and being the presence of Christ and His Church to those whose lives we touch. Thus, our families are centers of evangelization, sources of God's grace and signs of mercy and compassion.

TEACHERS AND MONITORS WILL BE NEEDED FOR 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

(CGS) VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT TRAINING:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a unique Montessori Program that uses a child-centered approach to Christian formation. 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. Three adults and three high school students in grades 9 - 12 will be needed and willing to be trained. As with all volunteers, CGS Assistants over the age of eighteen (18) years are required to complete a CORI form and take a Protecting God's Children Training. 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 religiouseddre@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/>.

CGS sessions, one from 8:00 to 9:15 AM and the second from 10:45 AM to Noon will begin on Sunday, October 18, 2026 and run through May 2027. Consider taking this wonderful journey observing how the children's hearts, and yours, will be transformed and fall in love with God.