



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,

I am happy to inform you that Our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour, Palestine, now has a Pastor again. Starting this weekend, we will include **Father Eyad Bader** (photo below), in our prayers. I will share more about Fr. Eyad in the next Parish Newsletter. For now, let us rejoice that our brothers and sisters in Beit Sahour again have a shepherd to serve them.



Truly, that is the exact gift that Jesus gives to the whole Church in today's Gospel - a servant shepherd. Our Lord poses a question that echoes down through the centuries to every single one of us, *"Who do you say that I am?"* Informed by heavenly grace, it is Simon who makes the great confession: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

In response, Jesus looks at him with profound love and bestows upon him a new identity and a sacred trust. He changes Simon's name to Peter, the Rock. He tells him, *"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it."*

In our modern world, which is so often fractured by division, relativism, and noise, the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome, serves as the visible **foundation of unity** for the entire Catholic Church. Just as a physical

building requires a cornerstone to hold its walls together, the global family of God requires a center of unity to ensure that we remain anchored in the apostolic faith. The primacy of Peter is born of divine mercy, a gift to ensure that **Jesus' flock would always have a shepherd to guide them in His way.**

That is why the successor of Saint Peter, our Holy Father the Pope, is such a precious gift to us today. He is the anchor of our unity. He is the visible sign that reminds us we are never alone, that we belong to a global family spanning every tongue, tribe, and nation, all anchored to the love of Jesus Christ.

Jesus also makes this statement to Peter. *"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

To understand what Jesus is giving to Peter, we look to today's First Mass Reading, to the ancient pages of the Prophet Isaiah. Long before the shores of Galilee, the Lord spoke of Eliakim, placing upon his shoulder the *"key of the house of David."* In the royal courts of old, the steward, or vicar, held the keys to the master's house. He spoke with the king's own authority, opened doors that none could shut, and cared for the royal household with a fatherly heart.

When Jesus hands the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven and Earth to Peter, He is inviting him into this deep role of spiritual stewardship. The successor of Peter is a loving father and steward holding the keys to the Master's house. He opens wide the doors of mercy, guards the treasures of God's truth, and welcomes every weary wanderer into the warmth of the Father's embrace.

Even as Peter was inspired by God to know Who Jesus truly was, so his successor the Pope is guided by God to teach rightly on matters of faith and morality. This teaching authority protects us from the shifting winds of cultural ideology and guarantees that the Gospel proclaimed today is the exact same Gospel preached by the Apostles.

As we receive the Eucharist today, let us offer a quiet, heartfelt prayer for our Holy Father Pope Leo. Let us pray that the Lord renews his strength, fills him with wisdom, and shields him with grace. And let us look into our own hearts, letting Jesus ask us once again in the quiet of our souls: *"Who do you say that I am?"*

May our lives, our love, and our daily service be our resounding answer - You are Jesus, our Saviour and our hope!

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

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

ST. MARY'S MINISTRY FAIR SEPTEMBER 13:

Find out about opportunities to serve and participate in the life of our parish. There will be speakers at all the Masses and a chance to meet people involved in the various ministries after the Sunday 9:30 AM Mass on September 13. You can sign up to be part of a ministry too. Refreshments (DJ&C) will be available! Let's celebrate our call as individuals and as a parish community to discipleship and service.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	August 22
5:00	Amy Tibbert
7:30	William and Edith Lovett
Sunday	August 23
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Ronaldo De Guzman, 13 th Anv.
11:30	Brian Cosgrove
Monday	August 24
9:00	Gerard and Helen Davenport
Tuesday	August 25
9:00	Reynaldo De Guzman, 6 th Anv.
Wednesday	August 26
9:00	Larry Marsell, Jr.
Thursday	August 27
9:00	Isaac and Encarnacion De Guzman
Friday	August 28
9:00	Salvatore Scaduto, 62 nd Anv.
Saturday	August 29
5:00	Ricardo Lachica
7:30	Susan Schnapp
Sunday	August 30
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Catherine Martha Whalen, 29 th Anv.
11:30	Patrick Sullivan

“Music
 speaks what cannot be expressed
 soothes the mind and gives it rest
 heals the heart and makes it whole
 flows from heaven to the soul.”

MUSIC MINISTRY: Fall of 2026 is full of music opportunities for you! Read about our programs below. For more information or to sign up, contact our Music Director, Abbey Kelley-Lanser, at music@stmarysholliston.org or call 508-492-6076 ext. 224.

It is not a requirement to be Catholic or a registered member of our Parish in order to join our music groups. Whether you are an experienced musician or totally new to music, it's never too late to find your place in St. Mary's Music Ministry.

- **Youth Choir:** Seeking musical leadership opportunities with friends your age? We invite all middle and high schoolers grades 7 and up to join Youth Choir rehearsals for a chance to enrich Sunday 9:30 AM Masses and special Holy Days with voice and spirit. Weekly hour-long rehearsals (TBD Monday or Wednesday late afternoon) start this fall. Please contact the Music Director with interest.
- **Children's Choir:** Know of young ones who love games and music? Encourage them to try Children's Choir! Welcoming singers grades 3 - 6 who wish to bond with friends through musical games and worshipful songs. Weekly rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 9 from 3:30 - 4:20 PM to prepare us to sing for occasional 9:30 AM Sunday Masses and special Holy Days. Sign-up forms can be requested from the Music Director.
- **Adult Choir:** Looking for a chance to enrich the liturgy with your voice alongside other dedicated musicians? Love what you hear at 11:30 AM Mass and yearn to be a part of it? All voices grades 7 and up are invited to reach out to our Music Director to set up an Adult Choir rehearsal visit! Weekly rehearsals commence Thursday, September 10 from 7 - 9 PM.

FOR THOSE IN NEED



TIMMY CAKE FUNDRAISER:

Representatives of The Timothy O'Connell Foundation will be selling Tim's favorite chocolate cake after each Mass on the weekend of September 12 and

13. Donation is \$70. All proceeds from the sales of these cakes will go to the Foundation's charitable mission, including its Scholarship Fund. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization, established in honor and loving memory of Timothy O'Connell, a St. Mary's parishioner. Since its inception in 2008, the Foundation has distributed over \$1,250,000 in gifts to worthy cancer-related causes and has awarded more than \$160,000 in scholarships to Holliston students pursuing health-related fields of study. Learn more at www.timsteam.org. Email joanneoconnell@comcast.net with any questions. Thank you.

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: Food items needed at the Pantry: canned decaf coffee (11 oz), Chips Ahoy Cookies, Oreo Cookies, Ritz and/or saltine crackers (13.7 oz box), canned red kidney beans (16 oz), canned peaches (16 oz), canned fruit cocktail (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.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by a parishioner in memory of Nancy Hovsepien. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Call Mary Beth at 508-429-4427 to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life.

FOR OUR PARISH

LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 6,530.00
WeShare:	\$ 3,758.09
Envelopes:	\$ 5,134.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 15,422.09

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support. Kindly consider switching to WeShare or Automatic Giving. See: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.

FOR OUR YOUTH

Click [HERE](#) for late registration (after August 17, 2026), for Fall 2026 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES.

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



Religious Education Registration for Fall 2026 opened on July 1 and ended on August 17. To register late click the image above. We will place your young person on a waiting list and do our very best to find them a class spot. If we are unable to do so, both registration and late fees will be refunded to you. New families just joining the parish may still register. If you have any difficulties or questions, please contact Jennifer at 508-429-6076 or at religiousedsec@stmarysholliston.org. Welcome!

FOR WOMEN

SMCWG: St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will have their first meeting of the new season on Wednesday, September 9 from 12 - 2 PM in the Library. Please bring your lunch and a drink. We meet the second Wednesday of the month from September to December and from March to June. Our Craft Fair is in December. We always welcome new members. Please join us.

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:

Please join us on Tuesday, September 15, from 9:45 - 11 AM, in Fr. Haley Hall as we pray together. This fall we are reading *Training the Tongue and Growing Beyond Sins of Speech* by Fr.

Gregory Pine, O.P. We have toys and snacks available for little ones and coffee for the moms! For more information, please contact Lauren Onak at 954-803-9942.



FOR OUR YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Mark your calendars! The kick-off TGIF St. Mary's High School Youth Group Meeting for our 2026-2027 season is Sunday, September 27 from 7 - 8:45 PM. Invite a friend!



For more information about St. Mary's TGIF High School Youth Group, contact Lisa Dufault at tgif@stmarysholliston.org. Scan the QR Code to view our TGIF Instagram page.



STMARYS_TGIF



FOR OUR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Our MSYG Fall Kick Off and Ice Cream Social is Sunday, October 4 from 6:30 - 8 PM. All teens in Grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited for a new year of faith, friendship, service and fun. Our first fall trip will be to Barrett's Haunted Mansion on Friday, October 23. Save the dates!



ALTAR SERVERS:



This past Monday, August 17, about half of our Saint Mary's Altar Servers took part in our Annual Appreciation Trip to 6 Flags. The lines were short, the weather was cool and breezy, and the servers were fearless as they rode the wildest rides the park had to offer. Thanks everybody for a great day and thank you to all our Altar Servers for your faithful and reverent ministry!



REGISTRATION ENDED AUGUST 17. FORGOT TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR 2026-2027 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES? TO GET ON THE WAITING LIST VISIT:

<https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=02818a0e-bf59-410b-8971-96c66fb9e27c>

Check our class offerings, days, and times. Register and pay today - if we cannot find you a class, you will be refunded your registration and late fee.

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 religioureddre@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 CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4: Grades 1 through 8 meet on alternate weeks. ***CGS meets weekly except on holiday weekends. See our teacher needs below.**

GRADE	SESSION DAY AND TIME	TEACHER NEEDS	MONITOR NEEDS
	SUNDAY		
CGS-A*	8:00 to 9:15 AM Meets weekly	2 Teen Assistants	1
CGS-B*	10:45 AM to Noon Meets weekly	2 Teen and 1 Adult Assistant	1
GR-1	8:10 to 9:25 AM	10 Teachers	1
GR-2	8:10 to 9:25 AM	4 Teachers	1
GR-2	10:45 AM to Noon	2 Teachers	1
GR-3	7:55 to 9:25 AM	2 Teachers	1
GR-3	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	6 Teachers	1
GR-4	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	4 Teachers	1
GR-5	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	4 Teachers	1
GR-6	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	1
	MONDAY		
GR-8	7:00 to 8:30 PM	5 Teachers	1
	TUESDAY		
GR-4	4:00 to 5:30 PM	3 Teachers	Filled
GR-5	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-6	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-7	7:00 to 8:30 PM	5 Teachers	1
	WEDNESDAY		
GR-2	4:15 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-3	4:00 to 5:30 PM	4 Teachers	Filled
GR-7	7:00 to 8:30 PM	4 Teachers	1
	THURSDAY		
GR-8	7:00 to 8:30 PM	4 Teachers	1

TITHING OUR TIME, GIFTS AND TALENTS FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD: We depend on you to



help our families, children, and youth to live out their faith actively. Christ calls us to spread the Good News. Contact us at 508-429-6076 if you can volunteer as a Catechist, Monitor, or Aide in a classroom. We need to help our children and youth recognize God's presence in their lives so that the Good News of Christ's teaching will help them build a personal relationship with the Master Himself. Classes begin in October and catechist training will be available in September for new and returning teachers. Just register **Online**. See the table on the left for **opportunities as a Catechist or Monitor with scheduled days and times**. Please complete the **Volunteer Application and the Teacher/Monitor Session Selection** at: <https://stmarysholliston.com/religious-education/religious-education-volunteer-registration/>.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) PROGRAM IS SEEKING TWO ADULTS AND THREE HIGH SCHOOL TEENS TO BE TRAINED AS CGS ASSISTANTS: CGS is a unique Montessori Program that uses a child-centered approach to Christian formation. CGS is not the standard classroom model but a "WAY" and method

to emphasize the religious potential of children while fostering their personal encounter with God. CGS Assistants **do not teach**, they observe the children's activities, behaviors, and responses and are available if a child needs help. Consider taking this wonderful journey observing how children's hearts, and yours, will be forever transformed. If God is calling you to this ministry to be an assistant in the **Level 1, 3 to 6 year old children** then register online by completing the **Volunteer Application and the Teacher/Monitor Session Selection** at: <https://stmarysholliston.com/religious-education/religious-education-volunteer-registration/>

A **CGS Assistant Training** date will be offered in September for those who have volunteered as Assistants. A CGSUSA Certified Formation Leader, Mary Pat Heelan, will guide the training on a late Friday afternoon. As with all volunteers, CGS Assistants over the age of eighteen (18) years are required to complete a CORI form and Protecting God's Children Training. Meeting with the DRE is required if you are a new volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact 508-429-6076 or religioureddre@stmarysholliston.org.