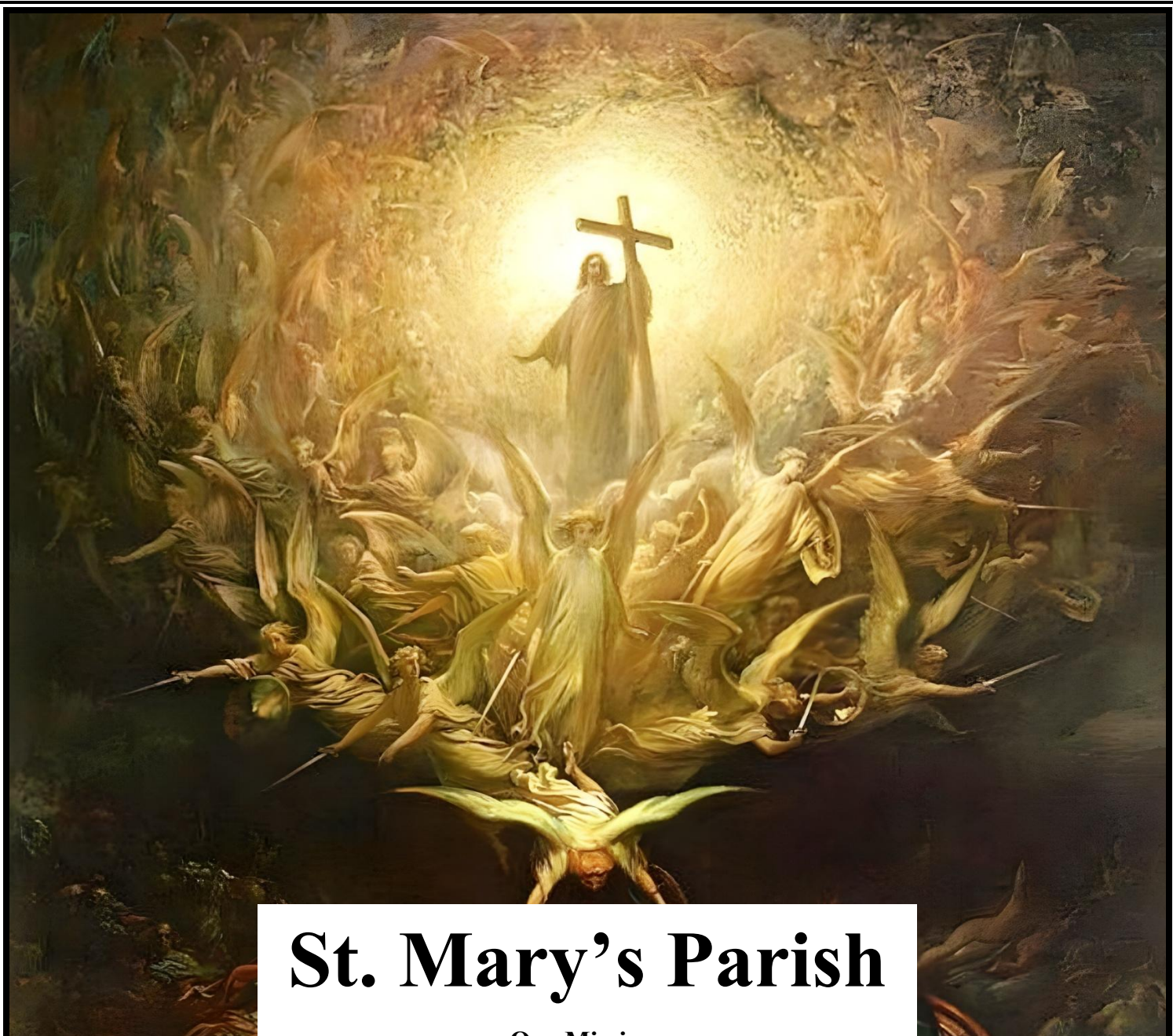




St. Mary's Parish

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,

There is a temptation, when life becomes difficult, to assume that everything that happens must somehow be God's will. If something painful happens, we may say, "God must have wanted this." If plans fall apart, we may conclude, "Perhaps God caused this for a reason." But the Scriptures invite us to make an important distinction: God can bring good out of suffering without being the author of the suffering itself.

This distinction is especially important as we listen to the prophet Jeremiah in today's First Reading. Jeremiah is exhausted and wounded. He has faithfully proclaimed the word God gave him, yet his faithfulness has brought him ridicule, rejection, and suffering. He cries out to the Lord, even accusing God of having "*duped*" him. Yet, despite everything, the word of God remains within him "*like fire burning in my heart.*"

Jeremiah seems to wrestle with the assumption that because God called him to be a prophet, everything that happens to him must therefore be directly willed by God. But the biblical story gives us a deeper understanding. Jeremiah lives in a world that is still broken. Human beings have free will, and that free will can be used for good or for evil. There is injustice, violence, betrayal, illness, loss, and suffering that God does not desire.

Not everything that happens in this world is God's will.

The Catechism reminds us that God is not the cause of moral evil. Yet in His providence, He can mysteriously bring good even from what is evil. The supreme example is the Cross itself: humanity committed the greatest evil in rejecting and killing Christ, yet God brought from that very evil the greatest good - the redemption of the world.

That brings us to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "*For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.*"

These words point us beyond the unfinished story of this present world. We live between the coming of Christ in humility at Bethlehem and His coming again in glory. The Kingdom of God has already begun among us, but it has not yet reached its fullness.

That is why we continue to pray, "Thy Kingdom come."

We pray those words because the world as we know it is not yet what God intends it ultimately to be. There are

still tears that have not been dried, injustices that have not been corrected, wounds that have not been healed, and evil that has not yet been fully defeated. We see only a portion of the story.

But Jesus tells us that there will come a day when the Son of Man will come in glory, and the hidden truth of every life will be revealed. What is crooked will finally be made straight. What is unjust will finally be judged. What has been done in darkness will be brought into the light. Those who have suffered faithfully will not have suffered in vain.

This is not meant to frighten us. It is meant to give us hope.

Saint Augustine expressed this profound Christian confidence beautifully:

"God would never allow any evil whatsoever to exist in His works if He were not so all-powerful and good as to cause good to emerge from evil itself."

Notice what Augustine does not say. He does not say that evil becomes good. He does not say that suffering is something we should simply accept as though God wanted it. He absolutely does not say that God is ever the source of evil. He says that God is powerful enough to bring good even from evil.

That is precisely the hope Jeremiah needs. It is the hope Peter needs when Jesus tells him that the road to glory passes through the Cross. And it is the hope we need whenever we look at our own lives and wonder why God has allowed something painful or confusing to happen.

We do not have to pretend that everything that happens is God's will. We do not have to call evil good. We do not have to understand everything now.

We simply have to remain faithful.

The Kingdom is coming.

The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father.

And when He comes, nothing will remain hidden, nothing good will be forgotten, and no faithful sacrifice will be wasted.

Until that day, we continue to pray and to live the prayer Jesus taught us: "*Thy Kingdom come.*" We pray it not as people escaping from this world, but as disciples helping God transform it - through our forgiveness, our courage, our compassion, our fidelity, and our love.

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

LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 3,076.50
 WeShare: \$ 5,875.80
 Envelopes: \$ 4,616.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 13,568.30
Weekly Need: \$ 15,000.00

Shortfall \$1,431.70

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support. The financial 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: 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 the Carver Family. 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.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:

"Hold on, persevere, endure, bear delay and you have borne the cross." - St. Augustine

In this simple statement, Augustine reminds us that the cross Jesus speaks of in today's Gospel is not merely dramatic suffering. Often it is the quiet Christian perseverance of continuing to trust God when His promises have not yet reached their fulfillment.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Monday	August 31
9:00	George M. O'Hara, Jr.
Tuesday	September 1
9:00	Frank Melle
Wednesday	September 2
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	September 3
9:00	Robert Marsh
Friday	September 4
9:00	Fr. Bader & the People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour
Saturday	September 5
5:00	Clifton Stewart
7:30	People of St. Mary's
Sunday	September 6
7:30	Judy Cruz
9:30	Tim O'Connell
11:30	Dorothy Bamberry, 13 th Anv.

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 SEPTEMBER



COFFEE, JUICE AND DONUTS & 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.



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.

CELEBRATE HOLLISTON - WE NEED YOUR

HELP! St. Mary's will host a booth at Celebrate Holliston on September 19 at Damigella Field (Placentino School). We want to share our active and vibrant parish community with all of Holliston. The event runs from 10 AM - 3 PM and we will need people to join us in the booth for one hour shifts (feel free to sign up for multiple shifts if you can stay longer!). If you love St. Mary's and want to help share our story, please sign up below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45ACAD29A6FDC61-65285966-stmarys#/>

Contact Sarah Kane at 781-264-5488 or sarahk9484@gmail.com with any questions.

FOR MARRIAGE

ST. MARY'S MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

KICK OFF BBQ! St. Mary's Marriage Fellowship is a parish ministry that provides opportunities for married couples to support and encourage each other as we grow spiritually and live in accordance with God's plan for marriage. We'd love to meet you! Please join us for a potluck-style cookout on **Sunday, September 20 from 4 - 7 PM**. Children are welcome to attend. The cookout will be held off-grounds at the home of Kathleen and Sean Sullivan. Appetizers, sides, and desserts would be appreciated if you're able to contribute. Please RSVP by emailing: stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com.

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 MEN

Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT

PROGRAM FOR MEN: We are excited to announce that the Fall 2026 Session of *Cor* is about to begin! We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month up to December 24 (except there will be no meeting on November 26). Our meeting location will be announced shortly.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 10, and we will continue our exploration of the Sacraments with a focus on the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. All men of St. Mary's parish age 18 and older are welcome to join us for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

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.



As our TGIF teens begin a new school year, please keep them in your prayers. May God give them courage when they are afraid, strength when they are challenged, and faith to know they are never alone. May the Holy Spirit guide their choices, surround them with good friends, and help them be a light to others. Lord, bless our teens and give them faith over fear as they begin this new year. Amen.

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!



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 508-429-6076 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.



**CLASSES BEGIN
THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 4!**
See the table below
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/>.

GRADE	SESSION DAY AND TIME	TEACHER NEEDS	MONITOR NEEDS
SUNDAY			
CGS-A*	8:00 to 9:15 AM Meets weekly	1 Teen Assistant	1
CGS-B*	10:45 AM to Noon Meets weekly	2 Adult & 2 Teen Assistants	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

TEACHER/COORD. TRAINING MEETINGS:

- GR-2, Sun., Sept. 13 at 10:45 AM or
Mon., Sept. 14 at 7:30 PM, Rm 3-4.
- GR-3 & 4, Tues., Sept. 15 at 7:30 PM, Rm 3-4.
- GR-5, Wed., Sept. 16 at 7:30 PM, Rm 3-4.
- GR-1 & 6, Thurs., Sept. 17 at 7:30 PM, Rm 3-4.

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.

FALL 2026 CONFIRMATION DATE: Our Confirmation date for this coming fall is **Saturday, September 26, 2026**. There will be three services; 10:00 AM, 11:45 AM and 1:45 PM.

***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 **Level 1 for 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.

GRADE 2 SACRAMENTAL YEAR MEETINGS FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN PREPARING FOR FIRST PENANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION:

There will be two meetings offered in September, one on Sunday, September 27 at 10:45 AM following the 9:30 AM Mass and on Monday, September 28 at 7:00 PM. Both parent meetings will be held in Fr. Haley Hall. The parent meeting is important for you and your children, even though you may have other children who have received the sacraments at St. Mary’s Parish. Please mark your calendar for these dates.