



St. Mary's

CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOLLISTON, MASSACHUSETTS

LABOR DAY
WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 5 & 6, 2026



WHATEVER YOU DO,
DO FROM THE HEART,
as for the Lord and not for men.

COLOSSIANS 3:23



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 Sung Mass

Holy Days: Announced

Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays from
9:30 - 10:30 AM.

Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Email Address: 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
Noon to 12:45 PM.

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. Welcome to Christ!

Marriage: Please call at least 6 months in advance of your desired wedding date. Congratulations!

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

Sunday, 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.

Next Weekend!



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.

Next Weekend!



DONUTS, JUICE AND COFFEE & 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 next



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This weekend, our celebration of the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time coincides with Labor Day. Beyond marking the unofficial end of summer, Labor Day gives us an opportunity to reflect upon something that occupies an enormous portion of our lives: our work.

Catholic teaching has always insisted that work is about far more than earning a paycheck. Work has dignity because the person who performs it has dignity. Through honest labor, we develop the gifts God has given us, provide for those we love, serve our neighbor, and participate in God's continuing work of creation. As Pope Francis once said, *"Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person."*

We see this dignity revealed in a remarkable way in the life of Jesus Himself. Before the three years of His public ministry, Jesus spent most of His earthly life in the obscurity of Nazareth, laboring as a carpenter. For years, the hands of the Son of God knew the weight of tools, the roughness of wood, and the weariness that comes at the end of a day's work. God could have entered human history in any way, yet He chose a working family and spent the greater part of His earthly life engaged in ordinary labor. The hands that would one day bless bread at the Last Supper - and be pierced for our salvation - were first the hands of a carpenter.

That alone should tell us something about the holiness hidden within ordinary work.

This connects wonderfully with today's Scriptures. God appoints Ezekiel as a watchman for Israel. He cannot simply look at the needs of others and say, *"That is somebody else's problem."* God makes him responsible for the welfare of his neighbor. St. Paul expresses the same truth even more simply: *"Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another."*

And that brings Labor Day close to home for us at St. Mary's.

Next weekend will be our Ministry Volunteer Weekend, when we will highlight the many opportunities to serve here in our parish. Like every parish, St. Mary's depends upon an extraordinary amount of labor - most of it generously given, much of it quietly performed, and some of it known only to God. Our liturgies, ministries, charitable outreach, Religious Education programs, parish events, and countless other activities happen because parishioners decide that the work of the Church is also their work.

And there are blessings in that labor which no paycheck could ever provide. We discover gifts we did not know we possessed. We form friendships with people we might otherwise never have known. We experience the joy of being needed. Most importantly, we discover that when we give something of ourselves to Christ, He has a wonderful way of giving far more back to us.

Few saints understood the dignity of human work better than St. John Paul II, who himself worked as a manual laborer in a quarry and chemical factory during the Nazi occupation of Poland. He later wrote in *Laborem Exercens*: *"Work is a good thing for man - a good thing for his humanity."* Our work does not have to be glamorous, prestigious, or even noticed to be holy. Nazareth teaches us that some of the holiest work in the history of the world was done quietly, day after day, in a carpenter's workshop.

There is one particular need I hope you will prayerfully consider. We urgently need parishioners willing to serve as teachers in our Religious Education program. Please take a special look at the information on the back page of today's bulletin. You do not need to be a theologian or professional teacher. You need a love for Christ, a willingness to share our Catholic Faith, and a heart generous enough to say, *"Perhaps God is asking me."*

There are few forms of parish labor more important. Somewhere in our classrooms this year will be a child who remembers for the rest of his or her life something a catechist says about Jesus. There will be a young person whose faith becomes his strength during a difficult moment years from now because someone volunteered to teach him today. We rarely get to see the full harvest of the seeds we plant for God.

Jesus once looked upon the crowds and said, *"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."* That remains true.

So on this Labor Day weekend, perhaps we might ask not only, *"What work has God given me to do?"* but also, *"What work might God be calling me to do for His Church?"*

Next weekend, you will have an opportunity to answer that question.

The harvest is still abundant. The laborers are still needed. And the blessings of saying yes are very often greater than we could have imagined.

Have a blessed and restful Labor Day!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



CEMETERY REMINDER: R & R Landscape will begin their Cemetery Fall Clean-up next month. Per Cemetery Rules and Regulations (posted online and at the Cemetery Entrance) bushes planted on either side of the monument (never to exceed two feet in height) must be kept pruned by the planter accordingly.

There are no planting of trees or any other alterations in the back of the headstone, no fences, borders, curbing, statues, benches (unless used as the headstone at the top of the grave), hedges or hardscapes on the lot. Seasonal flowers (no glass containers) may be placed on graves with the understanding that staff may remove them.

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 Parish Center parking lot doors right here at St. Mary's.

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. Call Mary Beth at 508-429-4427 to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life.

LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 2,599.00
WeShare:	\$ 8,693.56
Envelopes:	\$ 6,557.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 17,849.56

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/>.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Monday	September 7
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday	September 8
9:00	Special Intention
Wednesday	September 9
9:00	Tim O'Connell
Thursday	September 10
9:00	Melissa Bachman
Friday	September 11
9:00	Michael Edward McHugh and All 9/11 Victims
Saturday	September 12
5:00	Francis X. Costello
7:30	People of St. Mary's
Sunday	September 13
7:30	Kevin Muzzy
9:30	Gary Sencio
11:30	Joan Powers

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!

Starting This Week!

SMCWG: St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will have their first meeting of the new season this **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.



Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN: Our first Fall Meeting will be **Thursday, September 10 at 7 PM.** This week's meeting is in Fr. Haley Hall.

Cor is made up of Catholic men of the Parish who gather together twice a month to deepen their faith and to offer fellowship to one another.

Our meetings usually include a presentation on a specific topic related to scripture, catechesis or prayer, followed by group discussions. Past topics have included the historical narrative of the Old Testament, the Psalms, the Prophets, Saints, the different types of prayer, the Acts of the Apostles and the Sacraments. Our meetings have also included guest speakers on various topics such as the Shroud of Turin.

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). 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 PARISH

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.

NEW VOLUNTEERS (and it's never too late): Thank you for stepping up to help our St. Mary's community worship, learn and grow. Please see the [Volunteer Compliance](#) page at our website for all the information you need to meet the safety requirements for our diocese. Get the ball rolling as soon as possible by submitting your CORI so that we may schedule you to begin your ministry. Look on the back of the bulletin for any Protecting God's Children classes scheduled here at St. Mary's. At Virtus.org you can register and find other local classes that might fit your schedule. Haven't volunteered yet? Use the QR Code above to fill in the Volunteer Application form.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS: The beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend are given in loving memory of Kathleen Gamache.

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.

ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: Archbishop Henning invites all couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries or another special milestone to a celebratory Mass on Sunday, October 25 at 3 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. Couples will renew their marriage commitment and receive a special blessing. Family and friends are invited to attend. To register, visit bit.ly/WeddingAnniversaryMass2026. For more information, please email marriageprep@rcab.org.



FOR WOMEN



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.



WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): Welcome to our 2026 WINGS 6 week Fall Season "The Spirit Moves: How Vatican II Opened the Church to the Modern World." Join us this October as knowledgeable and engaging speakers guide us in this exciting exploration of Vatican II and its meaning for our lives today. Pope Leo in his remarks this past January stressed the importance of re-discovering the beauty and importance of Vatican II.

Our First Fall Meeting is on Wednesday, October 7. Our presentations are on Wednesday, from 9:45 - 11:15 AM in Fr. Haley Hall and on Zoom.

Our meetings include prayer, an inspiring speaker presentation on a relevant topic of the Catholic faith and large or small group sharing with WOMEN OF ALL AGES. WINGS asks for dues of \$50 per year, or \$20 per season (Fall, Winter, Spring) to defray speaker fees; however, everyone is welcome regardless of ability to pay. For additional information about the WINGS ministry, please call Jen Schiller at 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins at 508-259-7795 or visit our webpage at: <https://stmarysholliston.com/women-in-gods-spirit-w-i-n-g-s/>. To register for WINGS, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com. Welcome!

"I feel more than ever in duty bound to point to the Council as the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century." - Pope St. John Paul II

FOR SINGERS

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.



FOR OUR YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

ATTENTION ADULTS:

If you are interested in volunteering for our TGIF Meetings and chaperoning our TGIF Events, please join us for our Adult Volunteer Planning Meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 7 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. Bring your ideas and your calendar!



HIGH SCHOOL TEENS: Mark your calendars! The Kick-Off TGIF St. Mary's High School Youth Group Meeting is just **THREE WEEKS AWAY** on Sunday, September 27 from 7 - 8:45 PM. Invite a friend! At this meeting you can sign up for our Bagged Lunch Event for Fr. Bill's Shelter on Saturday, October 10 and McCray's Fear on the Farm Haunted Hayride on Saturday, October 17.



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.

FOR OUR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

ADULT VOLUNTEER PLANNING MEETING:

Monday, September 14 at 7 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

Adults are needed to help chaperone and bless our Middle School Youth Group this year. Any adult parishioner who attends Mass weekly at St. Mary's, and who is living a life in harmony with the moral teachings of the Catholic faith, may volunteer to be part of this joyful ministry.



Please join us Monday, September 14 at 7 PM in Father Haley Hall. Please bring your calendar, as we will be having adult signups for all fall semester MSYG activities. Please RSVP to pastor@stmarysholliston.org if you are able to attend.



The 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!

CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW) BEGINS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

The children will be dismissed to the lower church hall to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel.

Please note: Younger children must be accompanied by their parents and able to sit and engage in the lesson. Older children are welcome to assist the adult leaders.

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 **Teacher/Monitor Session** 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	*2 Adults *4 HS Teens	1
CGS-B*	10:45 AM to Noon Meets weekly	*3 Adults *4 HS Teens	1
GR-1	8:10 to 9:25 AM	10 Teachers	Filled
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	3 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	3 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.

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 ADULTS AND HIGH SCHOOL TEENS TO BE TRAINED AS CGS ASSISTANTS.**

Assistants **do not teach**, they observe the children's activities, behaviors, and responses and are available if a child needs help. CGS is a child-centered approach to **inform, form and transform the children** to recognize God's presence in their early years of



development. The child becomes the teacher as the Catechist and Assistants let the children learn at their own pace Who the Good Shepherd is. Those who are assistants marvel how their own lives and faith have been changed by observing the children in the Atrium. If you want to witness something beautiful taking place

with the children then consider volunteering and being trained as a CGS Assistant. If God is calling you to this ministry to be an assistant in the **CGS Level 1 for 3 to 6 year old children**, then register online by completing the **Volunteer Application** and the **Teacher/Monitor Session** 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. A date for the training is being scheduled. 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.