

Ministry Sunday



A PRAYER FOR MY PARISH

Almighty God, my parish family is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a parish with a noble
spirit, if I - who make it what it is - am filled with these same qualities.

Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task
of being all the things that I want my parish to be.

Bless my journey, Lord God, that I might build the Church through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



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 Peter asks Jesus the question, "*Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?*" Jesus answers, "*I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.*"

Then Jesus tells the parable of the servant who owes his king an enormous debt. Unable to repay it, the servant begs for mercy, and the king does something astonishing: he forgives the debt entirely. Yet almost immediately, that same servant encounters a fellow servant who owes him a much smaller amount. Instead of extending the mercy he has just received, he demands payment, chokes, and imprisons the other man.

The tragedy of the parable is not simply that the servant was unforgiving. It is that he received a gift that never changed him.

That is a danger for every Christian. We receive so much from God: forgiveness, grace, the Eucharist, the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the gift of faith itself. None of it is earned. All of it is grace. And Jesus reminds us that **grace received is meant to become grace given.**

That makes today's Gospel especially appropriate as we celebrate Ministry Volunteer Weekend here at St. Mary's.

A parish cannot simply be a place where we come to receive. It must also be a community in which we learn to give. God has entrusted each of us with some gift - time, faith, compassion, patience, experience, creativity, hospitality, or wisdom. Those gifts only remain and grow in us when they are placed at the service of others.

Our parish needs readers and ministers, people who visit the sick, people who assist with hospitality and parish events, people who serve our young people, and people willing to help in countless visible and hidden ways. No one person can do everything. But almost everyone can do something.

This year, I want to make a special appeal for volunteers to teach Religious Education. We have children and teens who need adults willing to share with them the faith that was first shared with us.

You do not have to be a theologian. You do not need to know the answer to every question. You need a love for

Christ, a willingness to learn, and a desire to help another generation discover Him.

Someone once did that for us. A parent, priest, religious sister, teacher, catechist, grandparent, or parish volunteer helped place the faith into our hands. Perhaps this is the year when God is asking you to do the same for another person.

St. Peter reminds us: "*As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace*" (1 Peter 4:10).

That is really what parish ministry is: the stewardship of varied grace.

The servant in today's Gospel received mercy but kept it to himself. Christ asks something different of us. What we have received, we are called to give. The mercy we have received becomes forgiveness. The love we have received becomes service. And the faith we have received becomes a faith handed on.

As you consider the ministry opportunities before you this weekend, I invite you to ask one simple question in prayer:

"Lord, what have You given me that You are now asking me to give to another?"

The answer may lead you to a ministry you never expected. Certainly, it will lead you closer to God and allow His grace to flow more freely in your life.

God Bless you,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



St. Mary's Parish Needs YOU!

2026 Ministry Opportunities



Our parish offers many opportunities to grow in God's Spirit and to serve others in our own community and beyond the boundaries of Holliston as well. These five pages offer brief descriptions of ministries here at St. Mary's and ways you can be involved. Please consider how you can contribute your time and talent to the life of our parish community and respond as you are able to this call for volunteers. Thank you for your participation in and support of our parish life.

Let us all pray for our parish's continued growth as a community of Jesus' disciples, called to love and serve the Lord and each other.

** Just click the QR Code to Volunteer.*

Religious Education ~ Faith Formation for Grades 1 - 8:

Our parish Religious Education Program assists parents in the formation of their children and teens in the Catholic Faith and Traditions. Through religious instruction and preparation for the Sacraments, a continuous spiral approach to faith formation for each grade offers a foundation upon which to build a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. Our program depends solely on faith filled volunteer teachers for CGS through Grade 8. There are many opportunities to bring the joy of the Gospel and the presence of Christ's love to our young children and youth in our teaching ministry. * See the back bulletin page for specific needs.



Assistant Catechist Training is available for the Montessori-based Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS): Training for new Assistants will be held in late September on a date to be determined. The training is for adults and high school teens (Grades 9 - 12). Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is our **Level 1** program for children ages 3 - 6 years old. Our Certified CGS Catechist, Sharon Febo, who, with trained Assistants, helps the children develop a personal relationship with the Good Shepherd. In a sacred space, called the Atrium, children listen to the Word of God, the life and teachings of Jesus with particular emphasis on the Parables of the Good Shepherd. Then, working with their hands with concrete materials, the children learn about the Mass while they prayerfully contemplate and grow to fall in love with God. CGS will offer two options on Sunday morning every week, except on holiday weekends, from 8 - 9:15 AM and 10:45 - Noon. An **Open House** is scheduled for **Sunday, October 4** for children registered for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and their families from 8 AM - 2 PM.



Middle School Youth Group: Faithful adults are needed to help out as trip chaperones and at Monthly Youth Group Meetings for this huge and thriving ministry. Meetings are just once a month, anchoring this program of prayer, faith, service, friendship and fun. Be part of the joy! The big MSYG Kick Off is Sunday, October 4!

MSYG 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 bring your calendar, as we will be having adult sign-ups for all fall semester MSYG activities. Please RSVP to pastor@stmarysholliston.org if you are able to attend.

High School Youth Group (TGIF): TGIF is St. Mary's High School Youth Group, a place where high school teens can belong, build friendships, grow in their Catholic faith, and discover what it means to live as a disciple of Christ. Through fun social events, meaningful faith experiences, service opportunities, and time together, teens are encouraged to deepen their relationship with Jesus, grow in confidence, and share their gifts with others. There is an opportunity to go on a weeklong Mission Trip each summer to serve those in need. TGIF is a welcoming community where teens can be themselves, ask questions, have fun, and grow in faith alongside their peers.

Adult parishioners are needed for TGIF monthly meetings and as trip chaperones. We need adults who are good Catholic role models for our teens.

Adult Volunteer Meeting ~ TGIF is on Thursday, September 17 at 7 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.



Music Ministry: The St. Mary's Music Ministry serves to magnify God's glory, gifting each other with the experience of His power and beauty through sacred song. 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, there is a place for you in the St. Mary's Music Ministry!



Adult Choir: St. Mary's is blessed to have a wonderfully active Adult Choir, a warm and dedicated group with a passion for traditional music. We enrich Sunday liturgy with a variety of choral anthems, ranging from Gregorian chant to modern compositions, both a cappella and accompanied, aided by the help of professional section leaders. Come to a Thursday night rehearsal and try it out! Start Date: September 10. Open To: All voices age 13 and older.

Rehearses: Thursdays 7 - 9 PM in the Lower Church.

Sing: Sundays at 10:45 AM for the 11:30 AM Mass; additional Holy Days.

Children and Youth Choirs: For Grades 3 - 6 and 7 - 12 respectively who seek to become liturgical leaders, proclaiming God's Word through singing! Young singers learn to artistically express the fundamental truths of the Faith, building a life-long treasury of beloved songs for all parts of their journey. We share our music every few Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass.

Children's Choir:

Start Date: September 9.

Open To: All voices grades 3 - 6.

Rehearses: Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:20 PM in the Lower Church.

Sing: Occasional Sundays at 8:50 AM for the 9:30 AM Mass.

Youth Choir:

Start Date: September 14.

Open To: All voices grades 7 - 12.

Rehearses: Mondays 4 - 5 PM in the Lower Church.

Sing: Occasional Sundays at 8:50 AM for the 9:30 AM Mass.

Art and Environment: This ministry is responsible for the liturgical decoration of the church, including flowers and plants inside the church, and planting and general upkeep of the flowers around the church. The exterior work entails seasonal plantings, clean up and weeding, pruning and dead heading. The interior work entails the care of the green plants in the trough behind the altar and seasonal arrangements of plants and flowers.

Lectors: At Mass, the lector, or reader, proclaims the Word of God, the Old and New Testament readings, and presents the petitions during the Prayers of the Faithful. Lectors are men, women and teens of good faith, eager to serve their community. While lectors need not be professionally trained in public communication, certain basic abilities for public speaking are necessary for the lector to proclaim the Word of God in an effective manner to the liturgical assembly. Lectors participate in initial and ongoing skill training and support.

Youth Lectors: The St. Mary's Youth Lector program allows youths in 7th grade or higher to proclaim the Word of God at Mass and at other liturgical celebrations. Youth Lectors are most often assigned to the Sunday 9:30 AM Family Mass, so that the young may minister to their peers. Otherwise, the character of the ministry is very much the same as for adult lectors.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: CLOW is held during the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday mornings. It offers children from Kindergarten and beyond the opportunity to have their own celebration of the Liturgy of the Word. Children leave the main assembly to hear the readings proclaimed from the Catholic Children's Lectionary. They are able to participate in a "dialogue homily." Materials are provided in advance of the celebrations. Adult Monitors from within the congregation are essential to assist the children's safe movement from the main church to the lower hall.

Altar Servers: The St. Mary's Altar Servers minister at Sunday and Holy Day Masses, as well as at First Communions, weddings and other parish liturgical celebrations. Their presence in the sanctuary is a reminder that the young are an important part of the church, and that Catholics of all ages have gifts to offer to God and to our community. Any boy or girl in the 4th to 12th grade may become a server. We need about nine new servers this year to succeed those who graduated last spring and are now starting college.



Eucharistic Ministers: The Eucharistic Minister is a person of faith called to bring the Body and Blood of Christ to his or her fellow Catholic Christians. Eucharistic Ministers serve at all of our weekend Masses and on all Holy Days of Obligation. Preparation for this ministry includes practical training/spiritual formation.

Ministry to the Homebound: One way in which our parish ministers to those who are "homebound" is to provide the opportunity for regular pastoral visits and the reception of Holy Communion. Pastoral visitors provide support to the homebound person through their presence and careful attention, as well as with prayer and communion. Volunteers are needed for this important ministry.

Hospitality/Welcoming Committee: This committee helps new members of St. Mary's feel welcome in their new parish. We host a Welcome Gathering, aka Donuts, Juice and Coffee (DJ&C) fellowship hour after the 9:30 AM Mass on the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome and are encouraged to introduce themselves to the new families. New parishioners receive an invitation to an upcoming "DJ&C." This enjoyable event fosters goodwill and fellowship among St. Mary's parishioners.

Respect Life Committee: This committee promotes an awareness of the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Some of the activities that the group sponsors are: the parish's participation in The Holy Hour for Life, Rose for Life remembrance, Pennies from Heaven Lenten collection for children and the annual "Baby Shower" as well as the Respect Life resource board in the Center Hall lobby. TGIF teens and young adults are encouraged to be involved in this important ministry.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Have you ever wanted to give your fellow parishioners a hug? PSALM (Prayer Shawls and Lots More) knits and crochets shawls, wraps, and lap blankets for parishioners who are dealing with illness, bereavement, or a change in circumstances. You can make them on your own, or join us to work together on Friday mornings!



St. Mary's Marriage Fellowship: This is a parish ministry that provides opportunities for married couples to connect and grow together spiritually. The ministry meets monthly for fellowship and a brief reflection on topics related to marriage, raising children, faith formation, and service. Whether you are newly married or have been together for many years, we'd love to meet you! Free onsite childcare will be provided by teen volunteers from St. Mary's Confirmation program for couples who have young children. We hope you can join us!

Parish Pastoral Council: The Parish Pastoral Council is an advisory group that acts as the "voice" of the people of St.

Mary's. Its members assist the pastor by making him aware of the needs, ideas, concerns, and dreams of our parishioners - and help develop plans to address them. The Council meets several times a year from 7 - 8:30 PM in person or via Zoom. Please consider nominating yourself or someone you know to the Council. To be sure we represent our parish, we welcome adults of all ages, married or single, with or without children, who have a love for St. Mary's and our faith.

St. Mary's Mom's Prayer Group: There will be a MOM'S GROUP every Tuesday, 9:45 - 11 AM starting on September 15 in Fr. Haley Hall. Every week, we will pray together, read reflections according to the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome and there will be a few toys and coloring activities available. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

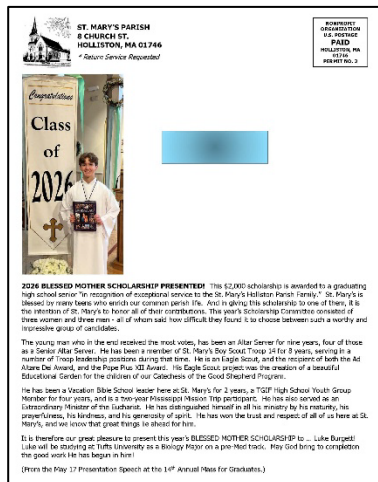


WINGS: Women in God's Spirit (WINGS)

is a Catholic women's faith-enrichment group. We welcome women of all ages and backgrounds who seek to grow in their relationship with God and deepen their faith. Bonds of friendship are formed through our (three) six week seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring) which meet on Wednesday mornings in Fr. Haley Hall and via Zoom. Our

meetings include fellowship, prayer, thoughtful presentations from inspiring speakers and time for Q&A. All women are welcome even if not registered at St. Mary's or unable to come on a regular basis. If you are interested in childcare please contact stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com. We hope you will join us to grow in faith and friendship this fall 2026.

St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group: We are a group of women who meet for prayer and companionship. We are one of the other groups for women with a different focus than WINGS. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from September through December and March through June. Our group meets from 12 - 2 PM in the Parish Library for a short lesson, prayers, lunch, friendship and games like Bingo. We are nonprofit and raise funds which are donated to charitable organizations. All women are welcome.



St. Mary's Newsletter Committee: A group of volunteers meet to share light refreshments and socialize as they help to get timely parish information out to all registered parishioners by labeling and sealing approximately 2,000 Newsletters. The Newsletters are composed according to the Liturgical Calendar, and not on a regular monthly schedule. We meet in Fr. Haley Hall, on select Mondays after the 9 AM daily mass. An email is sent out to all volunteers a week or two prior to the event. Your participation can be as full as you prefer. Many hands make light work - please consider joining us!

Vacation Bible School: VBS is a weeklong celebration of faith. Through song, prayer, arts and crafts, movies, drama and scripture, the children grow in their understanding of God's love. VBS takes place for one week each year in late July, Monday through Friday from 9 AM - 12 Noon. Exact dates are announced in the spring in the Parish Bulletin and Parish Newsletter.

Ushers: Do you attend the same Mass time most weekends? Then please consider being an usher. Your collection work literally keeps the lights on!

Knights of Columbus: St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council #14224 is a fraternal organization open to Catholic men ages 18 and older. The Knights is a service organization whose members commit to pledging volunteer hours of service by helping the Church, our families, and our local community. Our core principles are charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. We sponsor local charities and youth programs and strive to meet parish needs and other worthy causes through fundraising and service.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month (Rosary at 7 PM in the Church; Meeting at 7:30 PM in the Lower Church). New members are always welcome. For more information, please email Grand Knight Tom Brodo at: stmaryshollistonkofc@gmail.com.



COR ~ St. Mary's Faith Enrichment Program for Men: Men of St. Mary's Parish, we encourage you to join Cor this Fall for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood.

Following Cor's three successful seasons, a survey of the members reported shows that:

- 89% said they would definitely return in the Fall.
- 100% said they would recommend Cor to a family member or friend.

Cor's Fall Session will continue to be a spiritual enrichment and fraternal opportunity for men, drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, faith formation, and fraternity. The program is open to all men age 18 or older. There are no prerequisites nor fees to join. The Fall Session will have a focus on topics of Scripture

and Catechesis of the sacraments. The Fall 2026 season begins September 10 and continues on the second and fourth Thursdays through December 10.

Parish Library: St. Mary's Parish Library, located in the Parish Center, is stocked with Catholic-based reading and media material for all ages; adult, YA (red sticker), Middle Readers (yellow sticker), and Children's. The library is self-service and is open whenever the space is free. Instructions for self-checkout are in the book return/donation bin on the counter beside the shelves. Donations of gently used items are welcome!

Lenten Suppers: Friday evenings during Lent, St. Mary's offers parishioners the opportunity to gather together in faith for community prayer, a meal and reflection as a way of observing this holy season. We need volunteers to help with these wonderful weekly suppers as they are getting larger with each coming season of Lent. When you sign up for this ministry, you are added to the "Lenten Supper Volunteer" email database. There is no mandatory commitment. Weekly emails of a "Sign Up Genius" list get sent out with slots for drinks/food that make up each Friday night meal. Examples of slots consist of bread/salad, soup, pizza, side dishes, main courses and a dessert (for the kids to eat while the reflection is being lead). Volunteers sign up sometimes just once during the season and some commit to sign up for multiple or all six weeks. Thank you for considering helping our ministry! If you would like to learn more please email Natalie at st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com.

"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."

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: \$ 7,710.00
 WeShare: \$ 5,436.18
 Envelopes: \$ 6,432.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 19,578.18

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

Next week's second collection is for the care of our active and senior priests. The Mission of the Clergy Funds is to ensure healthcare and quality of life for our priests, especially when age or health dictates, and we need your help. Remember the priests who have made a difference in your life and consider honoring them with a gift that helps care for them in their time of need, just as they have cared for us when we needed them. Thank you for your support.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Monday	September 14
9:00	Vonnell Stahl (Living)
Tuesday	September 15
9:00	Felix Zagala Carlos
Wednesday	September 16
9:00	Paul T. Shea
Thursday	September 17
9:00	Daniel Frazer
Friday	September 18
9:00	Mary Ann Dougherty
Saturday	September 19
5:00	Dominic and Grace Magrini
7:30	Anthony Romano
Sunday	September 20
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	James Salvatore Marino
11:30	Agnes Kovacs, 2 nd . Anv.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN (PGC): PGC

is required to volunteer with any ministry at St. Mary's. We will be offering a PGC Training on Monday, September 28, from 6 - 9 PM in the Parish Center rooms 3 and 4. You can register on-line for the training at VIRTUS.ORG. Thank you!

This Monday, September 14!

NEWSLETTER COLLATING: Please join us tomorrow, Monday, September 14 after Mass, at 9:30 AM in Father Haley Hall to assist in collating the Fall Newsletter for mailing. All are welcome and needed!

THE SILVER ROSE AT ST. MARY'S ON SEPTEMBER 14, ALL ARE INVITED: Each year, from early March through mid-December, a Silver Rose is stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along eight routes from Canada to Mexico. The Silver Rose is meant to remind us of the miracle of the blooming roses that occurred in the middle of the winter when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in 1531 to Juan Diego. Mary's appearance took place in what is now Mexico City, and led to the spread of Christianity throughout Mexico. The Silver Rose invites us to reflect upon Mary's comforting words: "... I am the ever-Virgin Mary, mother of the true God; ... I am your merciful Mother, the Mother of all who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who have confidence in me. I will hear their weeping and their sorrows. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anguish or pain. [For] am I not ... your Mother?"

Every stop a Silver Rose makes throughout its pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This year, on Monday, September 14, one of the eight Silver Roses will make a stop at St. Mary's. All are invited to view the Silver Rose and to participate in a prayer service honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe and the sanctity of life. The prayer service will take place in the Church on September 14 at 7 PM.



D J & C TODAY!

DONUTS, JUICE & COFFEE AND 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 today. 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 CAKES TODAY



TIMMY CAKE FUNDRAISER:

Representatives of The Timothy O'Connell Foundation will be selling Tim's favorite chocolate cake after each Mass this weekend. Donation is \$70. All proceeds from the sale 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. Learn more at www.timsteam.org. Email joanneoconnell@comcast.net with any questions.

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), 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.

FOR OUR PARISH

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.



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.

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.



THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by a family in memory of Deacon Phil Caruso. 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 WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:

Please join us this 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 six 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!

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 MEN



Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN: Please join us at our next Cor meeting on **Thursday, September 24 at 7 PM**. Cor's mission is to bring together Catholic men who are interested in deepening their relationships with God by offering them

the opportunity to learn about and discuss topics related to the Catholic faith, and to share their own faith experiences. Our meetings are structured around a presentation on a specific topic related to scripture, catechesis or prayer, followed by group discussions. **This upcoming season will include discussions about purgatory, prayer with a focus on Saint Faustina, and the letters of the Apostles.**

The location of the meeting will be determined shortly. If you are interested in attending, email us at the email address below to be provided with the latest information on upcoming meetings. 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.

MEN'S COOKOUT/SOCIAL ON OCTOBER 4:

The St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will be hosting a cookout/social for both members, and for any men in the Parish interested in learning more about the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus is the World's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, and the St. Mary's chapter plays a critical role in supporting the activities of the Parish and the needs of the local community. The cookout/social will be held on October 4 from 1 - 3 PM at 15 Wingate Drive, Holliston. For more information or questions, please contact Tom Brodo, Grand Knight, at stmaryshollistonkofc@gmail.com.



FOR OUR YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

ATTENTION ADULTS:

Join us for our Adult Volunteer Planning Meeting this Thursday, September 17 at 7 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. Bring your ideas and your calendar!



STMARYS_TGIF

HIGH SCHOOL TEENS:

Mark your calendar! The Kick-Off TGIF St. Mary's High School Youth Group Meeting is just TWO 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

ADULT VOLUNTEER PLANNING MEETING:

Tomorrow, 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.



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!

FOR THE SEEKERS

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a gradual process of conversion and initiation into the Catholic Christian community providing individuals the space to encounter God and respond to His invitation to a new way of life in the Catholic faith. Grounded in a respect for the personal faith journey of each individual, the OCIA provides an extended period of prayer, study, and fellowship in which each individual has the opportunity to grow in relationship with God and the parish community.

Who is the OCIA for?

1. Persons who have never been baptized and wish to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (Holy Communion) in the Catholic Church.
2. Persons who were baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.
3. Baptized Catholics who have not completed their initiation; by receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

How does OCIA work? In OCIA individuals reflect and learn about what it means to be a part of the Catholic Christian community - who we are, what we believe, how we celebrate and pray, how we relate with one another and with God. Based on the gradual transformation of each individual, the OCIA accompanies and celebrates the journey to faith of each individual.

The process begins with a period of inquiry for those who have felt called to consider the Catholic faith. Here you will find an open space to ask questions about what Catholics hold and believe while meeting others striving to live Gospel values. Know that initial inquiry does not necessarily commit you to initiation.

Where can I find out more information? For further information, please contact Deacon Ron Dowding through the Rectory office at 508-429-4427, or parish@stmarysholliston.org.



CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW) BEGINS TODAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13. 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	6 Teachers	Filled
GR-2	8:10 to 9:25 AM	4 Teachers	1
GR-2	10:45 AM to Noon	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-3	7:55 to 9:25 AM	2 Teachers	1
GR-3	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	4 Teachers	Filled
GR-4	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	3 Teachers	Filled
GR-5	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	3 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	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-5	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1 Teacher	Filled
GR-6	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-7	7:00 to 8:30 PM	3 Teachers	1
WEDNESDAY			
GR-2	4:15 to 5:30 PM	1 Teacher	Filled
GR-3	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-7	7:00 to 8:30 PM	3 Teachers	1
THURSDAY			
GR-8	7:00 to 8:30 PM	2 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 religiouslyddre@stmarysholliston.org.



FALL 2026 CONFIRMATION DATE:

Our Confirmation date 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) MONTESSORI 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 know 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 at how their own lives and faith have been changed by observing the children in the Atrium. 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 religiouslyddre@stmarysholliston.org.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, October 4 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The Atrium is located on the 2nd floor of Sr. Ricci House.

GRADE 2 SACRAMENTAL YEAR MEETINGS:

Parents with children preparing for First Penance and First Holy Communion are to attend one of two meetings scheduled for Sunday, **September 27 at 10:45 AM** following the 9:30 AM Mass or 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 attended other meetings in the past for other children in your family at St. Mary's Parish. Please mark your calendar for these dates.