

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

— + —
OCTOBER 4, 2026

*“Before I formed you
in the womb I knew you,
before you were born
I consecrated you.”*

— Jeremiah 1:5



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!

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, Deacon Emeritus
 Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7
 Mr. Zach Morris, Confirmation Coordinator
 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



SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: This week's second collection in every parish is the Holy Father's "Peter's Pence" collection. It funds the Holy Father's outreach to suffering communities around the world. This year the Peter's Pence collection will also provide support to The Catholic University of America (CUA) that educates priests and lay people for ministry, and to the Inner City Parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston.

LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving: \$ 3,184.00
 WeShare: \$ 4,126.67
 Envelopes: \$ 7,439.00
 Total Offertory: \$ 14,749.67
 Weekly Need: \$ 15,000.00
Shortfall: \$ 250.33

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support. The financial health of your parish depends on it. Please consider switching to WeShare or Automatic Giving. See: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.



TODAY, SUNDAY ~ UPSTAIRS CLOW FOLLOWED BY DONUTS, JUICE & COFFEE: Today, Sunday, October 4, a children's

homily will be offered in the church at the 9:30 AM Mass. Then please join us in Fr. Haley Hall, after the Mass, for free refreshments and camaraderie. DJ&C is also a great chance to welcome new families to our parish. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be attending DJ&C and welcome any comments or ideas you have for St. Mary's. Come on down!



BABY SHOWER AT ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND: Please bring new baby items and clothes to Mass and place them in or around the baby stroller in the sanctuary. **The stroller will also be in the Parish Center Lobby to collect new baby items through next weekend.** These gifts will directly assist mothers in crisis pregnancies through the Pregnancy Help program of our Archdiocese. Thank you for supporting families and babies in their time of need! Whatever a particular woman's situation might be, Pregnancy Help provides a safe place where she can come, speak from her heart, and find the support she needs. Visit: www.pregnancyhelpboston.org to find out more about this essential ministry.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	October 3
5:00	Susan Johnson
7:30	Eugenia Moraski
Sunday	October 4
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Susan Schnapp
11:30	Patricia Terrio O'Neil
Monday	October 5
9:00	Franco DiCenso
Tuesday	October 6
9:00	Rev. John E. McLaughlin
Wednesday	October 7
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	October 8
9:00	John Walker
11:00	Funeral ~ Claire Dolan
Friday	October 9
9:00	Assunta Bomba
Saturday	October 10
9:00	Funeral ~ Claire Brady
5:00	Leonard Levasseur
7:30	Cheryl Brote, 1 st Anv.
Sunday	October 11
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	John Cosby, 1 st Anv.
11:30	Lenny O'Leary



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Members of the St. Mary's Parish Family,

There are certain truths so close to the heart of our faith that all else flows from them. One of those truths is that **every human life is a gift from God.**

Not some lives. Not only healthy, wanted, productive, or independent lives. Every life. Every human being was first known and loved by God. That is why the Church is, and always must be, for life.

This weekend, as we observe Respect Life Sunday, the Church asks us to look again upon the extraordinary dignity of the human person. From the first hidden moment of conception in a mother's womb until the final breath of natural death, human life is sacred. Our dignity does not come from what we accomplish, contribute, understand, or earn. It comes from God.

Before the world knows our name, God knows us. Before we can love Him in return, God loves us. And nothing can take that dignity away.

The child in the womb possesses it. The frightened mother possesses it. The person living with disability possesses it. The immigrant and refugee possess it. The poor, the prisoner, and the person battling addiction possess it. The elderly person whose independence is slipping away possesses it. The person approaching death possesses it. **There are no disposable people in the Kingdom of God.**

Saint John Paul II warned of a growing "*culture of death*" in which human life can be measured by usefulness, convenience, independence, health, or whether another person happens to want it. We see signs of that culture around us today. Abortion takes the life of a child before birth. Physician-assisted suicide presents death as an answer to suffering. Violence makes human life seem cheap. The elderly can be forgotten, the disabled overlooked, and the poor pushed aside.

The Church proposes another way. See them. See the unborn child. See the frightened mother who does not know where to turn. See the lonely elderly neighbor. See the nursing-home resident who rarely receives a visitor. See the person whose illness will not be cured. See the family exhausted from caring for someone they love.

And then do what Jesus did whenever He encountered vulnerable human beings. Draw near. To be pro-life is not simply to oppose abortion or euthanasia, essential as that witness is. **It means creating a community in which choosing life is possible because people know they will not carry their burdens alone.** It means

accompanying women in difficult pregnancies, **as we are doing today through our Annual Baby Shower for the Unborn.**

It means supporting families, caring for people with disabilities, visiting the lonely, feeding the hungry, comforting the sick, and surrounding the dying with tenderness.

Our Massachusetts bishops, responding to the recent expansion of abortion law in our Commonwealth, remind us of a foundational principle of Catholic social teaching: "*No one is expendable, no one is a burden. All have a sacred God-given dignity.*"

The bishops therefore call us not merely to lament what is happening around us, but to respond: to pray, witness, speak up, and walk with families, especially mothers and fathers who need material, emotional, and spiritual support to welcome their children with hope.

Whenever we speak about life, we must also speak about mercy. Some among us carry painful memories and regrets. Some have been touched personally by abortion or have faced agonizing circumstances surrounding pregnancy, illness, disability, or death.

The Church does not proclaim the Gospel of Life while pointing an accusing finger. She proclaims it with the arms of Christ extended in mercy. There is no wound He cannot touch, no past He cannot redeem, and no repentant heart beyond the reach of His grace.

Respect Life Sunday asks us for something deeper than holding the correct position. It asks us for the eyes of Christ - eyes capable of looking upon another human being, however small, frail, dependent, troubled, or forgotten, and recognizing someone created and loved by God. Someone for whom Christ died.

May Saint Mary's always be such a community: a parish where life is welcomed and defended, mothers and fathers are supported, children are cherished, the vulnerable are protected, the elderly are honored, the suffering are accompanied, and those carrying wounds from the past discover the inexhaustible mercy of Jesus Christ.

For from the womb to the final breath, there is no such thing as an insignificant human life. Every life is precious. Every life is irreplaceable. Every life belongs to God. Including yours.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

"Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

- St. John Henry Newman



PASTOR'S ADDENDUM

I had already written my weekly bulletin letter, when two days later I saw that the news has again brought painfully before us the tragedy of clergy sexual abuse. The Massachusetts Attorney General has released a report detailing the abuse of children over many decades in three dioceses of our Commonwealth, together with grievous failures by Church leaders to protect children and respond properly to allegations.

For survivors of abuse and their families, these reports can reopen wounds that have never entirely healed. To them especially, our hearts and our prayers must go out. What happened to innocent children was a terrible betrayal - of them, of their families, of the priesthood, and of the Gospel we proclaim.

There is an important connection here to Respect Life Sunday. When we say that every human life is sacred, we mean **every** human life, at every stage and in every circumstance. That includes vulnerable children who must be protected - with vigilance, transparency, and an unwavering commitment to his or her safety and dignity.



Here at Saint Mary's, we take that responsibility very seriously. Our parish strictly observes all child-safety protocols. All volunteers undergo an annual CORI background check and receive special training in the protection of children. These

safeguards are not bureaucratic formalities. They are one concrete way in which we live our Christian conviction that every child is precious in the eyes of God and must be treated accordingly.

As Catholics, we cannot change the sins and failures of the past. What we can do is to acknowledge them truthfully, pray for and stand with those who have suffered, and resolve that the Church entrusted to us today will be a place where children are cherished, heard, respected, and protected.

On this Respect Life Sunday, may we recommit ourselves to building a culture in which every human person is recognized for what he or she truly is: a beloved and irreplaceable child of God.

Father Mark

FOR RESPECT LIFE MONTH

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by a parishioner in memory of Cathy Holmes. 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.

FAMILY PRAYER FOR RESPECT LIFE MONTH: October is Respect Life Month! This year, our parish is asking every family to commit to praying together for a deeper respect for all human life, from conception to natural death. Let us unite our voices and ask our Blessed Mother, Mary, Mother of Life, to intercede for our nation and protect the vulnerable and strengthen families. Please consider praying a family Rosary or a daily Memorare this week for this vital intention. Visit respectlife.org for family prayer resources.

BIRTHRIGHT: Birthright of Framingham is pleased to announce our new office location at [475 Franklin Street, Suite 203, Framingham](https://www.birtheright.org/framingham). As of September 12, we are located in the medical office building directly across from Dunkin' Donuts, offering easy access and ample parking. On behalf of Birthright's volunteer staff, thank you for your prayers as we searched for our new home.

Birthright remains dedicated to our mission of providing friendship, love, and support to women distressed by an unplanned pregnancy. We believe that it is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born. We offer confidential, non-judgmental support to any woman who is pregnant or thinks she might be, regardless of her age, race, circumstances, religion, or marital or financial status.

As a charitable organization, Birthright relies on the time and talents of volunteers. We provide monthly assistance with diapers and donated clothing for babies and siblings. In addition to meeting face-to-face with mothers, volunteers are needed for essential support tasks, such as office assistance and laundering donated clothing.

If you feel called to volunteer a few hours per month, please call our office at [508-620-0657](tel:508-620-0657). You can also visit <https://birtheright.org/framingham> to learn more.

"Every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord." - Pope Saint John Paul II

FOR MEN

MEN'S SOCIAL TODAY OCTOBER 4: Any and all men in the Parish are invited to come socialize with and learn more about the Knights of Columbus. The social will be held today, Sunday, October 4 from 1 - 3 PM at 15 Wingate Drive, Holliston. Refreshments will be provided. 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. For more information or questions, please contact Tom Brodo, Grand Knight, at stmaryshollistonkoqc@gmail.com.



Cor ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN: All men of St. Mary's Parish (18 and older) are invited to join us at our next Cor meeting this Thursday, October 8 at 7 PM for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. The topic of the meeting will be prayer, with a special focus on St. Faustina. The meeting will be held in the Parish library. 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. Following the presentation of the evening's topic, participants have the opportunity to ask questions, and share their experiences related to the topic. For more information, or to be put on the email list, please contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

FOR MARRIAGE

ST. MARY'S MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP: The next Monthly Meeting will be on Thursday, October 15, from 6:30 - 8 PM in Sister Ricci House (onsite childcare). This is a parish ministry that provides opportunities for married couples to connect and grow together spiritually. The ministry meets 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! Email stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com for more information. Welcome!

FOR WOMEN

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): Please join us this Wednesday, October 7, for the first meeting of our **six week Fall Season "The Spirit Moves: How Vatican II Opened the Church to the Modern World."** This week we will explore *The Church's History*: What our faith community looked like before the Council amid a changing world focused on new freedoms; *Pope John XXIII*: The story of this beloved Pope and his vision of *aggiornamento*, bringing the Church up to date; and *Returning to Our Roots*: How returning to the scriptures helped the Church find fresh strength for today. **Speaker: Deacon Ron Dowding.** Our presentations are on Wednesdays from 9:45 - 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall and on Zoom. We welcome 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. To register for WINGS, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com.



PSALM: Can you knit or crochet? Do you want to learn? PSALM (Prayer Shawls and Lots More) would love to have your help! We are always in need of prayer shawls for those in need of a pick-me-up, or hats, scarves, mittens, etc., for the homeless. Don't know how? We can teach you! Contact Jane at JaneLebak@gmail.com or stop by in the library on Friday mornings after the 9:30 Mass!



ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, October 6, 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.

SMCWG: St. Mary's Catholic Women's Group will have their potluck luncheon on Wednesday, October 14 in the Parish library from 12 - 2 PM. All are welcome to join us!

FOR THOSE IN NEED



TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE: Next weekend, October 10 and 11, the Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations after all Masses for its annual Tootsie Roll Drive. The money collected supports individuals with intellectual and

developmental disabilities and is distributed throughout the State to support organizations such as Special Olympics and educational summer camps.

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: Food items needed at the Pantry: white vinegar (16 oz), canned regular and 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 corn (16 oz), canned black beans (16 oz), and canned peaches (16 oz). Donations may be dropped off in the tan bin by the main Parish Center parking lot doors right here at St. Mary's.

BLOOD IS NEEDED

for different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend in a car accident. The need is constant, the gratification is instant.



IN MEMORY OF
MARC LEVASSEUR

*Celebrate life and make
a difference by giving blood.*

Saturday, October 17
8 AM to 1 PM • Father Haley Hall

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/manage-my-donations/rapidpass.html> to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment. Please schedule an appointment to donate at this special blood drive. You'll feel good knowing you've helped change the lives of patients in need.

FOR OUR PARISH

NEW VOLUNTEERS & CHILD

SAFETY: 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 child safety requirements for our Archdiocese. Get the ball rolling as soon as possible by submitting your CORI so that we may schedule you to begin your ministry. Haven't volunteered yet? Use the QR Code above to fill in the Volunteer Application form.



Blessing of the Animals!

Sunday, October 18 at 3 PM

Lower Church Hall

Parishioners are invited to bring their pets to the Lower Church Hall as we celebrate the Church's Rite of the Blessing of Animals.

Each pet will receive an individual blessing as we ask God's protection for our animal friends and remember that all living things are precious to Him.

FOR OUR YOUTH



**NEW ALTAR
SERVER
CLASS:**
Sunday,
October 18 from
7 - 7:30 PM in
the Church. Any
parish youth
currently in
grades 4 - 12
may study to

become an Altar Server. Just bring the youth accompanied by a parent with your family calendar to this planning meeting. Please email Patty Baribeau to indicate your interest: altarserver@stmarysholliston.org.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

108 High School
Teens attended our
Kickoff Meeting!
Join us for our



STMARYS_TGIF

October TGIF Meeting Sunday, October 18 from 7 - 9 PM, note the longer meeting time. We are looking forward to 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

**All 6th, 7th, & 8th
Graders!**

You are invited to ...

**St. Mary's Parish
Middle School
Youth Group
Kick Off Meeting!**

TONIGHT!

**Sunday, Oct. 4, 6:30 -
8 PM, Fr. Haley Hall.**

**Enjoy a Giant Ice Cream
Sundae Bar, Games, Prizes,
10/23/26 Haunted Mansion
Trip Sign-Ups,
3/11/27 Celtics Pre-Sign-Ups,
Faith, Friendship,
Service & Fun.**



Last October's Kick Off!

CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

TODAY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4. The children will remain in the church this Sunday to listen and learn what Jesus teaches us in the Gospel with Fr. Mark. Donuts, Juice and Coffee will be served following the 9:30 AM Mass.

CLASS START TIMES ARE BELOW FOR 2026:

- **CGS:** Sunday, Oct. 18 at 8:00 or 10:45 AM.
- **GR-1:** Sunday, Oct. 18 at 8:10 AM.
- **GR-2:** Sunday, Oct. 4 at 8:10 or 10:45 AM.
- **GR-2:** Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 4:15 PM.
- **GR-3:** Sunday, Oct. 4 at 7:55 or 10:45 AM.
- **GR-3:** Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 4:00 PM.
- **GR-4, 5:** Sunday, Oct. 18 at 10:45 AM
- **GR-4, 5:** Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 4:00 PM.
- **GR-6:** Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 4:00 PM.
- **GR-6:** Sunday, Oct. 18 at 4:00 PM.
- **GR-7:** Tues., Oct. 20 or Wed., Oct. 21 at 7:00 PM.
- **GR-8:** Mon., Oct. 19 or Thur., Oct. 22 at 7:00 PM.

CATECHIST AND MONITOR OPPORTUNITIES:

We are still in need of teachers and assistants!! Is God calling you!! Classes cannot start without Catechists.

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 *2 HS Teens	Filled
CGS-B*	10:45 AM to Noon Meets weekly	*2 Adults *3 HS Teens	Filled
GR-1	8:10 to 9:25 AM	1 Teacher	Filled
GR-2	8:10 to 9:25 AM	1 Teacher	1
GR-3	7:55 to 9:25 AM	1 Teacher	1
GR-3	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	1 Teacher	Filled
GR-4	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-5	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	1 Teacher	Filled
GR-6	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1 Teacher	1
MONDAY			
GR-8	7:00 to 8:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
TUESDAY			
GR-4	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 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	Filled	Filled
WEDNESDAY			
GR-2	4:15 to 5:30 PM	1 Teacher	Filled
GR-3	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1 Teacher	Filled
GR-7	7:00 to 8:30 PM	Filled	1
THURSDAY			
GR-8	7:00 to 8:30 PM	Filled	Filled



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) MONTESSORI PROGRAM IS SEEKING FIVE ADULTS AND HIGH SCHOOL TEENS TO BE 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.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD DAY OF DISCOVERY/ASSISTANT TRAINING ~ SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, FROM 1:00 TO 5:00 PM.

Mary Pat Heelan, a CGSUSA Certified Formation Leader and an Associate Director of Religious Education for the Worcester Archdiocese, will be our presenter for the Day of Discovery. Families who have registered their children for CGS and those who may consider placing their young children in the Montessori program next year are encouraged to attend along with catechists, assistant catechists, clergy and others who may be interested in CGS.

Our Day of Discovery includes:

- Discussion on how Catechesis of the Good Shepherd helps the young child (ages 3, 4, 5 and 6) enter into a personal relationship with Jesus.
- Opportunity to explore a 'working' atrium where children gather to learn about Jesus through Scriptures and the Sacraments.
- Time to work and explore materials used in the atrium.
- Exploration of the role of the catechist as 'servant.'
- Discussion about the Montessori method of education as the mode for religious development.
- Please contact Mary Pat Heelan at 978-375-2407 or mheelan@worcesterdiocese.org with any questions.
- A book, "A Joyful Journey" needs to be ordered for this event. Please let us know ASAP if you will attend in order to place an order by October 20.
 - **Simply sign up so that we can plan on the number of attendees at** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-66310926-cgsday>.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD OPEN HOUSE TODAY: Sunday, October 4, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, in Sister Ricci House on the second floor. Please no food or beverages are permitted in the Atrium.