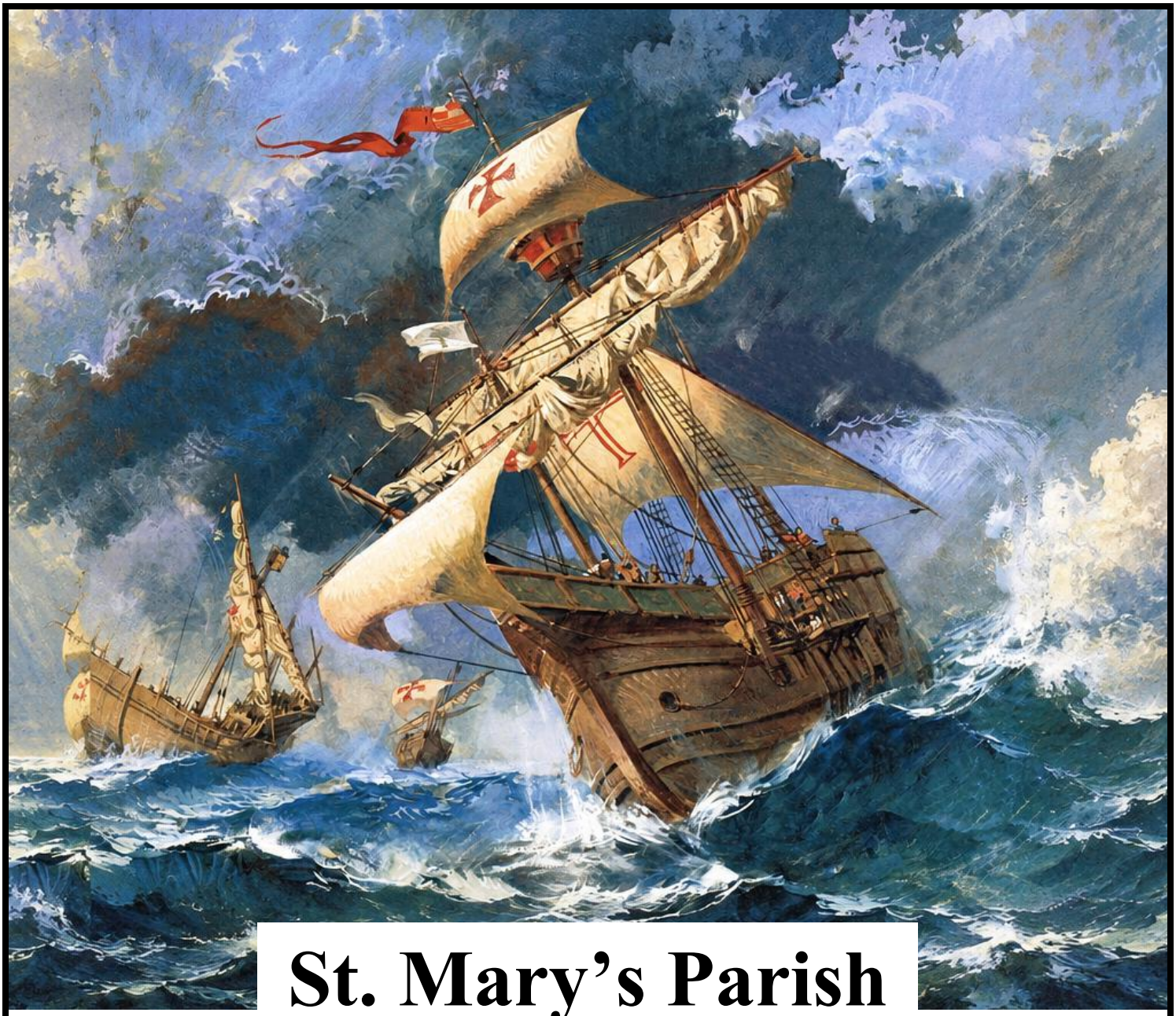


St. Mary's Parish

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,

The king sends his servants out to the roads to invite everyone they find to his son's wedding banquet. Those who might never have expected an invitation suddenly discover that there is a place for them. This beautiful image challenges us during October, Respect Life Month. Do we make room for those who are vulnerable, overlooked, or easily forgotten? God's invitation must shape the welcome we extend to others.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Baby Shower for the Unborn. Through Pregnancy Help, your gifts will reach women preparing to welcome their babies, sometimes amid considerable uncertainty and financial hardship. These gifts help meet practical needs, but they also carry a deeply personal message: *You are not alone. Your child is precious, and there are people who care about both of you.* That reassurance can mean more than we will ever know.

Next weekend, October 17 / 18, parishioners will have an opportunity to sign a petition supporting the effort to suspend and ultimately repeal Massachusetts's newly enacted expansion of abortion law. Previously, abortions after 24 weeks (6 months), required specified medical grounds concerning the mother's life or health, or certain grave fetal diagnoses. The new law removes those specific requirements and permits abortion after 24 weeks, potentially up to birth. Our Massachusetts bishops have encouraged Catholics to support the petition effort.

I am grateful to our Knights of Columbus, who along with members of our Respect Life Committee have undergone special training to gather signatures properly. Please review the materials included in this bulletin, bring this matter to prayer, and consider signing the petition next weekend. Our concern for unborn children must always be joined to compassionate, dependable care for their mothers. Protecting life and helping families belong together.

As we observe Columbus Day Weekend, we also thank the "Knights of Columbus" of St. Mary's Council #14224 for the many ways they bless our parish and community. Their annual Tootsie Roll Drive this weekend, supporting people with intellectual disabilities, is another beautiful expression of their commitment to human dignity.

The Columbus Day holiday also invites us to reflect honestly on our history. We can celebrate the courage of generations of Italian immigrants who came to this country seeking a better life and give thanks for the Catholic faith they brought and nourished in their families and communities.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the suffering endured by Native American peoples as colonization unfolded: the loss of lands, violence, displacement, and assaults on their cultures. We must also acknowledge occasions when Christians participated in these wrongs or failed to oppose them. Such failures contradicted the Gospel they professed.

There are also many meaningful stories of Indigenous faith and friendship with the Church. In 1831, for instance, Algonquin and Nipissing leaders sent a message to Pope Gregory XVI accompanied by a beautifully crafted wampum belt. Their message speaks of the missionary in the "black robe" (a priest), the gift of the Eucharist, and their desire that future generations remain united in the faith. An English translation of that historical message is provided on the following page of this bulletin. It offers a glimpse of Indigenous Catholic voices that belong to our shared history.

Respecting life means recognizing the equal, God-given dignity of every person, including Native Americans, and allowing that conviction to change how we listen, speak, and act. It calls us to learn their histories, respect their cultures, reject prejudice, and support efforts toward healing and justice. Gratitude for our heritage and repentance for its failures can dwell together in a faithful heart.

At the Lord's banquet, none of us earns a place by being powerful or important. We come because He loves us. May that same love move us to protect the unborn, accompany their mothers, cherish people with disabilities, and honor neighbors of every ancestry. Let us make our parish a place where people discover, through our words and deeds, that they are precious to God.

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

Message of the Algonquin and Nipissing Peoples to Pope Gregory XVI, 1831

The following is an English translation of the historical text reproduced in J. A. Cuoq's nineteenth-century collection.

Holy Father,

You are warmly greeted by your children, who form two bands: the Algonquins and the Nipissings.

My Father, you who principally represent Our Lord Jesus here on earth, to care for all those who pray throughout the whole world: it is you who sent the black robe to find me, saying to him:

"Look upon the Indian; I esteem him as my child. Go, teach him to pray; bring him into the house of prayer. Glorious Mary regards him as her child; exhort him, in return, to honor her as his mother. Give him to eat the food that has come from heaven, namely, the Body of Jesus. Open for him the gate of heaven."

My Father, truly I have done what the black robe whom you commissioned told me. This is what my message declares.

You who are my chief spiritual father, I will always listen to you; I will never separate myself from you. If, someday, my grandchildren should refuse to listen to you, you need only show them these words of mine. Immediately they will repent of their refusal and follow you once again.

As long as I live, I will pray for you. In return, please bless me.

At the Lake of Two Mountains, in the year 1831 since the birth of Jesus, on the twenty-fifth day of the harvest moon.

[Photo above] The Wampum belt sent by Indigenous Catholic communities at Lake of Two Mountains to Pope Gregory XVI, 1831. Vatican Museums, Anima Mundi collection.

A wampum belt is a band woven from small beads traditionally made from white and purple shells. Several Indigenous peoples of northeastern North America used these belts to record agreements, preserve important messages, and express relationships between communities. The patterns helped people remember and recount the message the belt carried.

The belt sent to Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 accompanied the Algonquin and Nipissing peoples' letter. Its beadwork expressed their relationship with the Catholic Church - a lasting record of faith and friendship.

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

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	**October 10**
5:00	Leonard Levasseur
7:30	Cheryl Brote, 1st Anv.
Sunday	**October 11**
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	John Cosby, 1st Anv.
11:30	Lenny O'Leary
Monday	**October 12**
9:00	Native American Peoples
Tuesday	**October 13**
9:00	Nancy Hovsepian, 1st Anv.
Wednesday	**October 14**
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	**October 15**
9:00	Paul T. Shea
Friday	**October 16**
9:00	Rev. Thomas A. DiLorenzo
Saturday	**October 17**
5:00	Marc Levasseur
7:30	Nancy Hovsepian, 1st Anv.
Sunday	**October 18**
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Maryalice Elizabeth McKenna, 35th Anv.
11:30	Marie Higgins

LAST WEEKEND OF OUR ANNUAL BABYSHOWER FOR THE UNBORN: Thank you to all who have already brought in baby items. Donations may still be dropped off through this weekend in the Parish Center Lobby. 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! Learn more about this ministry at: **www.pregnancyhelpboston.org**.

FEAST OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PALESTINE. Sunday, October 25 at 3 PM.

All Are Invited.

2026 marks the Hundredth Anniversary of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in the United States. There will be several special events to mark this Centennial, and Saint Mary's, Holliston has been chosen as the site for one of them. This is due to our strong support of the Order's Mission of supporting Christians in the Holy Land - including through our Sister Parish in Beit Sahour.

Please save the date for Sunday, October 25, when at 3 PM we will be hosting a special Mass for the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine. Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre are coming from throughout the Lieutenancy, but the Mass is open to all. Join us as we pray for Peace in the Holy Land and the world.

Above: St. Mary's Icon of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine.

FOR RESPECT LIFE MONTH

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by the Mongelli Family. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a Rose by emailing parish@stmarysholliston.org. Part of the $10 rose donation buys the rose for church, the rest goes to Pregnancy Help!

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.

A Message from Archbishop Henning, Bishop McManus, Bishop da Cunha, and Bishop Byrne for the Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful of Massachusetts

In June during his Apostolic Visit to Spain, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV delivered an appeal to defend human dignity and protect life from conception to its natural end. "Every legislative task," he said, "ultimately confronts a decisive question: what conception of the human person inspires laws, and what kind of society do those laws build?"

Just two months after the Holy Father's address, Massachusetts passed one of the most expansive and permissive abortion laws in the nation, telling us what kind of society they desire for Massachusetts: one which leaves its most vulnerable citizens - children in the womb and their pregnant mothers - at perilous risk. This law is a tragedy, and the Catholic legislators who helped to enact it have caused grave scandal.

The Prioritizing Patient Access to Care Act permits abortion throughout pregnancy for any reason, and it allows these grisly procedures - dangerous to mothers and cruel to their unborn children - to be performed in non-hospital settings. Laws function as teachers. This new law falsely teaches that human beings who are ill or inconvenient are not worthy of life; that motherhood can be incompatible with women's freedom, well-being, and flourishing; and that no viable alternatives to abortion exist in the face of difficult diagnoses.

Alternatives do exist. A 2023 peer-reviewed article published in the *Cureus Journal of Medical Science* found that 60% of women considering an abortion would choose life if they had more material and emotional support. We want to help women and families to choose life! We invite every expectant mother in distress to ask us for help. We ask that elected officials and healthcare providers - especially those whose consciences are rightly troubled by the new law - work to ensure that life-sustaining care for vulnerable children in utero and that mothers and fathers who feel alone and overwhelmed have all they need to welcome and raise their children with confidence.

The Lord Jesus Christ saw the forgotten and reached out to the neglected. As Bishops, we call upon all to see the dignity of the poor, the unborn, the sick and the elderly. No one is expendable, no one is a burden. All have a sacred God-given dignity. The foundation of social justice is this inviolable dignity of the human person. The Prioritizing Patient Access to Care Act unjustly condemns to death our most vulnerable children and pits a mother against her own child.

In his Encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo teaches: "Human dignity does not depend on a person's abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of his unfailing love." There is no stage of development or characteristic which would render a child unworthy of life - even if that life will be short or require palliative care.

Continued on the Next Page

May Our Lord Jesus Christ protect us all from harm, may He inspire us with self-giving love, and may He guide our civil leaders to enact laws which protect and promote the dignity of every person from conception to natural death.

What Can We Do?

Each year, Respect Life Month offers the opportunity to renew our reverence for life and take concrete actions to witness the beauty and sanctity of this foundational gift of the Lord. Here are some of the concrete actions you might consider this year:

We Pray. First and foremost, we pray. With the passage of this bill our leaders and our Commonwealth have failed in the duty to uphold the sacred dignity of every human life. In prayer, we seek the mercy of a loving God for our failures and for this sin against His Law of Love. We pray for our civil leaders that the Lord will give them wisdom and strength to do their duty to protect life and uphold the common good. **We Witness.** As disciples, we are also called to give witness. We urge you to contact your representatives and make known your desire for just laws which protect every person in this state.

We speak up. There is also an effort underway to pause and even possibly overturn this immoral law. We encourage you to take part in this effort and raise your own voice in opposition to the law and in favor of life.

We walk with families. Scripture commands us "Choose life that you may live" (Deut. 30:19). A culture of life requires families, parishes, and schools to live that reverence for life. We need families who form their sons and daughters in the summons to promote and defend life. We need ministries that accompany and support women and families in crisis. In our state with such a radical law, it is more important than ever for us to make clear our desire to welcome and nurture the gift of life. **For Free and Confidential pregnancy support visit:** Pregnancyhelpboston.org.

To learn more about the Suspend and Repeal Effort, visit: Repeal188.com.

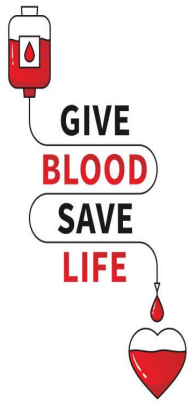
SIGNATURES WILL BE COLLECTED AFTER ALL MASSES
NEXT WEEKEND IN THE PARISH CENTER LOBBY.

FOR THOSE IN NEED

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE: ***This weekend, October 10 and 11***, the Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations after all Masses for its annual Tootsie Roll Drive.

The Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive, officially known as the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities, began in the 1970's and has since become one of the most recognizable charitable efforts organized by the Knights. The drive earned its nickname from the tradition of handing out Tootsie Rolls to donors as a token of appreciation. Dressed in bright yellow vests, volunteers station themselves outside churches, stores, and community centers each fall, raising both funds and awareness for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Money collected during the drive stays within the local community, supporting schools, special education programs, and nonprofit organizations that serve people with disabilities. The campaign reflects the Knights of Columbus' longstanding commitment to charity and community service. What started as a small, local effort has grown into a widespread annual tradition, uniting councils across North America in a shared mission to support and uplift some of society's most vulnerable members.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IN MEMORY OF MARC LEVASSEUR: Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood ***next Saturday, October 17*** in Father Haley Hall from 8 AM - 1 PM. 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. 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 NEXT SUNDAY!

NEW ALTAR SERVER CLASS: Next 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.

FOR MEN

***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 on Thursday, October 22 at 7 PM for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. The topic of the meeting will be the epistles, with a special focus on the Letters of John and Peter. 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: Marriage Fellowship will have its first reflection night of the school year **this Thursday, October 15** from 6:30 - 8 PM in Sister Ricci House. Deacon John and his wife Diane will join us as we go through a video-based marriage program called, "Beloved" by the Augustine Institute. Free on-sight babysitting will be provided by teen volunteers. Any married couple, regardless of age is welcome to attend. Whether you attend regularly or have never attended, we would love to have you join us! For more information email stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com.

FOR OUR PARISH

SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND: Holy Father's "Peter's Pence," $3,253.00. Thank you.

LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	$ 6,355.00
WeShare:	$ 5,256.61
Envelopes:	$ 5,861.00
Total Offertory:	$ 17,472.61

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/.

FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, October 13, 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.

OUR FALL SEASON THEME IS "THE SPIRIT MOVES: How Vatican II Shaped the Modern Church*"* and it continues this Wednesday, October 14, from 10 - 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall in person and also through Zoom. We welcome women of all ages. This week's presentation is **The Joy of Praying Together.** We will explore the beauty of how we worship together and discover how the Mass is meant to transform our hearts and send us out into the world with a purpose.

We will talk about **Active Participation:** Shifting from just sitting in the pews to truly participating in the prayers and responses. **Mass in Our Language:** Why the Council brought the Mass into our everyday language and adapted it to local cultures.

Sent on a Mission: How the final blessing of the Mass is actually a launching pad, sending us out to share Christ's love with others. **Speaker: Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate, St. Mary's Franklin.** To register for WINGS, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com.

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

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GROUP

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!

FOR OUR YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Join us for our October TGIF Meeting Sunday, October 18 from 7 - 9 PM, note the longer meeting time. Yesterday we made 100 bagged lunches for Fr. Bill's Shelter. We decorated every bag with inspiring hand drawn pictures, scripture verses and positive messages. Each bag was stuffed with a sandwich, apple, chips and homemade cookies from the teens. We also prepackaged bags of cereal for easy distribution at the shelter.

Are you PREPARED to be SCARED next weekend? Our TGIF McCray's Fear on the Farm Haunted Hayride trip is next 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.

STMARYS_TGIF

JOIN TGIF!

WE HAVE CAKE!

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY REQUIREMENTS:
All parish volunteers over the age of eighteen years are required to complete a CORI each year and take the Protecting God's Children (PGC) Training one time. We are offering a PGC training here at St. Mary's on Saturday, October 24, 9 AM - 12 PM in Room 3 - 4 of the Parish Center; sign up at VIRTUS.ORG. Please contact 508-429-6076 or religiousedsec@stmarysholliston.org with any questions. Thank you!

FOR OUR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Shown above, our Middle School Youth Group Kick-off last Sunday was a blast! It was wonderful to see so many new faces as we began a new year of faith, friendship, service, and adventure in the Lord.

WHATS NEXT? 59 Teens are signed up for the Friday, October 23 MSYG Trip to Barrett's Haunted Mansion!

IN NOVEMBER:

Sunday, November 1, MSYG Monthly Meeting
6:30 - 8 PM, FHH.

Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day, Paintball.

Friday, November 20, Grade 7 Nursing Home Bingo.

IN DECEMBER:

Sunday, December 6, MSYG Monthly Meeting, 6:30 - 8 PM, FHH.

Weekend of December 12 / 13, MSYG Cookie Walk for the Poor of Haiti.

Friday, December 18, Christmas Caroling for Senior Citizens.

CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW) TODAY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11. 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.

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-4, 5:** Sunday, Oct. 18 at 10:45 AM.
- **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!! 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-4	10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	**1** Teacher	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-6	4:00 to 5:30 PM	**2** Teachers	Filled
	WEDNESDAY		
GR-2	4:15 to 5:30 PM	**1** Teacher	Filled
GR-7	7:00 to 8:30 PM	Filled	**1**

THE ART OF PRAYER: A Catechist formation retreat is being offered to all catechists and leaders at three different locations:

- Oct. 22, 6:00 to 9:00 PM, at Christ the King Parish-St. Agnes Parish Center, Reading.
- Oct. 31, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, at the Pastoral Center, Braintree.
- Nov. 23, 6:00 to 9 PM, at St. Julia Parish, Weston.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) MONTESSORI PROGRAM IS SEEKING FOUR 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. Training will be available to all who volunteer on Sunday, November 1.

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