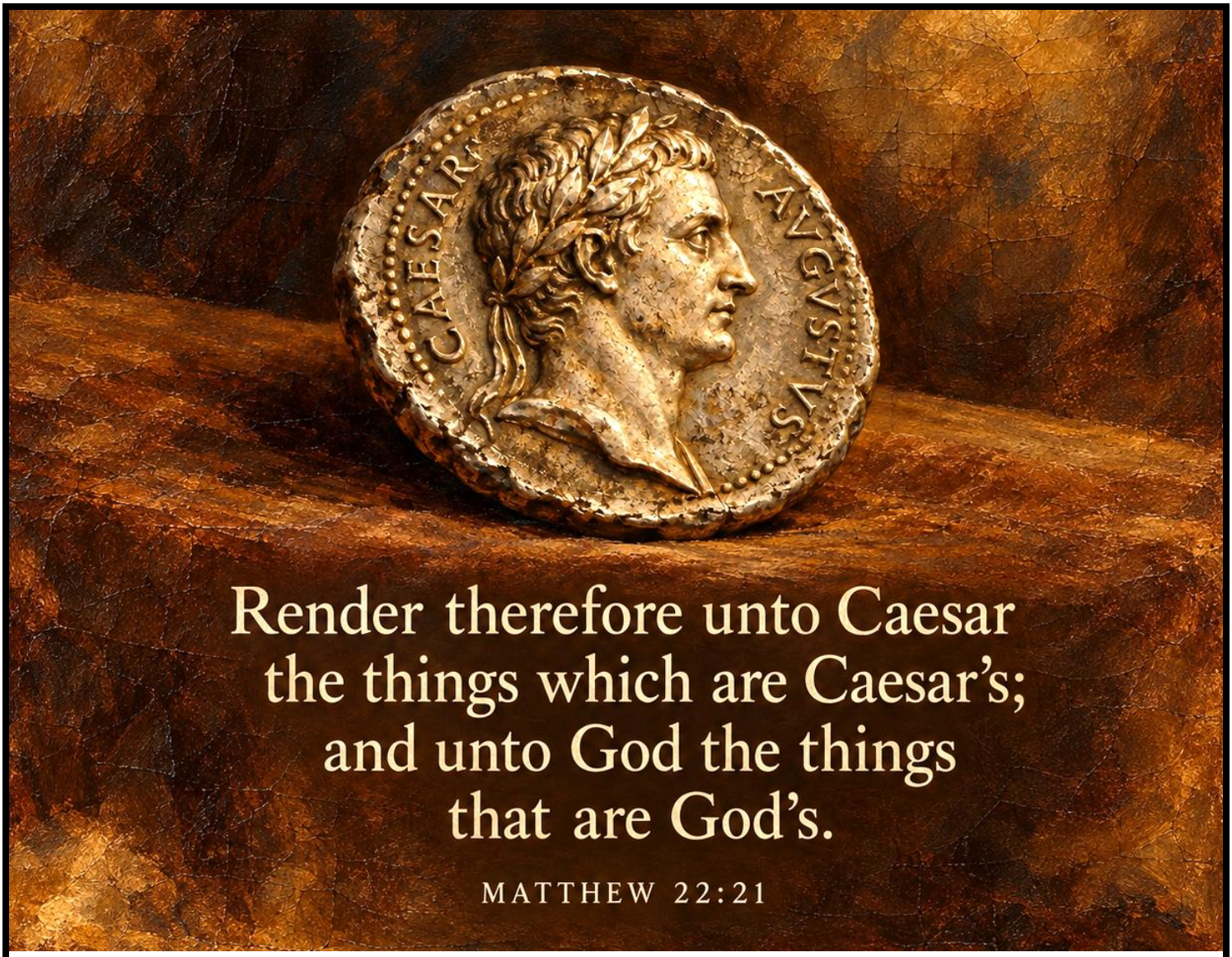


St. Mary's Parish

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!

SPECIAL HAPPENINGS TODAY!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Today Jesus asks to see the coin used to pay the Roman tax. *"Whose image is this?"* He asks. When they answer, *"Caesar's,"* Jesus replies, *"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."* Jesus' reference to the "image" on the coin invites us to consider a deeper question. The coin bears Caesar's image, but whose image do we bear?

Scripture tells us that we are created in the image and likeness of God. We belong to Him. Saint Augustine expresses this truth beautifully*: "Caesar's image is on a coin. God's image is in you!"* To give God what belongs to God, then, is to offer Him nothing less than ourselves. Our faith is not confined to Sunday worship. It finds expression in our homes, our workplaces, our friendships, and the countless choices that shape our daily lives.

If our time belongs to God, we make room for prayer rather than offering Him only the dregs of the day. If our gifts belong to God, we share them generously with those in need. If our words belong to God, we speak with honesty and kindness rather than gossip or cruelty. If our relationships belong to God, we strive to be faithful, patient, and forgiving, especially when doing so requires sacrifice.

Belonging to God also transforms the way we see ourselves. Our worth is not measured by our accomplishments, our health, or the approval of others. It rests in the simple, glorious truth that we are His beloved children. Even when we have sinned or wandered far from Him, His image remains within us, and His love continues to call us home. We do not give ourselves to God to earn His love. We give ourselves to Him because He has loved us first.

During this Respect Life Month, we are reminded that every human being bears that same divine image. The unborn child, the mother facing a frightening pregnancy, the person living with disabilities, the lonely neighbor, and the elderly person approaching life's end all possess a dignity that no circumstance can diminish. To reverence the image of God in others is to defend the vulnerable, comfort the suffering, support families, and cherish every human life from conception to natural death.

As I wrote in last weekend's letter, we have an opportunity this weekend to support the petition effort to suspend and ultimately repeal Massachusetts's newly enacted expansion of abortion law. The new law removes the specific medical grounds previously required for an abortion after 24 weeks, approximately six months, including a threat to the mother's life or health, or certain grave fetal diagnoses. It replaces those requirements with the physician's "professional judgment," without establishing a later gestational cutoff.

This opens the door to abortions through the remaining months of pregnancy, even up to birth, without the medical grounds previously required by law. Having reviewed the information provided in last weekend's bulletin and researched this matter on your own, I hope you will prayerfully consider signing the petition.

Trained Knights of Columbus and St. Mary's Respect Life Committee volunteers will be available in the Parish Center lobby after all Masses this weekend to assist with signatures.

Our defense of unborn life must always be accompanied by genuine compassion for mothers and families, practical assistance to those facing difficult circumstances, and mercy and healing for anyone who carries the wounds of abortion. Every person we encounter is someone made in God's image, someone precious in His sight.

As we reflect on today's Gospel, we might each ask ourselves: *"What part of my life am I still reluctant to place in God's hands?"* Perhaps it is an old resentment, a hidden struggle, a crowded schedule, or a gift we have hesitated to share. Whatever it may be, the Lord invites us to entrust it to Him.

The coin bearing Caesar's image was meant to be returned to Caesar. We bear the image of God, and our hearts were made to return to Him. May the way we live, the love we offer, and the lives we defend bear witness to the One whose image we bear.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

FOR RESPECT LIFE MONTH

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 <u>this weekend</u> in the St. Mary's Parish Center lobby.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by the Polise 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. Visit respectlife.org for family prayer resources.

PROJECT RACHEL HEALING RETREAT: If you or someone you love is seeking peace and spiritual healing after a past abortion, you are not alone. Project Rachel, the post-abortion ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston, extends an invitation to women to attend one of their upcoming one-day retreats, "Come to the Waters of Healing." This fall's one-day retreats are scheduled for Saturday, October 24 and Saturday, November 14 from 9 AM - 5 PM. Locations are kept confidential. For retreat registration or information on other post-abortion services, contact Project Rachel at (508) 651-3100.

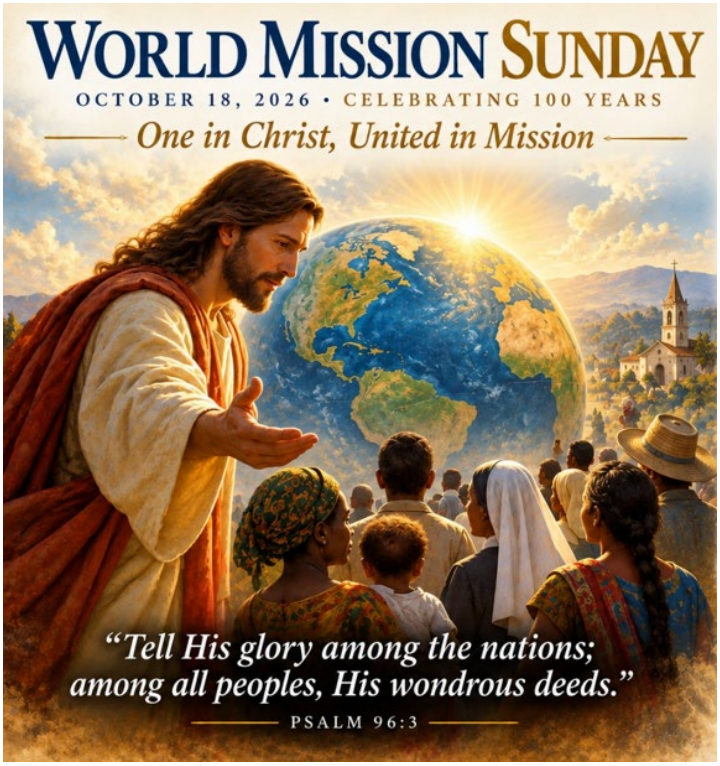
PARISH STAFF:

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 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
Monday	**October 19**
9:00	Fr. Leroy Owens
Tuesday	**October 20**
9:00	Fr. Frederick Barr, Jr.
Wednesday	**October 21**
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	**October 22**
9:00	Fr. Jay Mullin
Friday	**October 23**
9:00	Alfred Campolito
Saturday	**October 24**
5:00	Michael Mansfield and the Departed Members of the Mansfield and Croke Families
7:30	Susan Schnapp
Sunday	**October 25**
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Ann Winchenbach
11:30	Emelia Bourque, 10th Anv.
3:00	**Feast of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine Mass for Peace. All are welcome!**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ANNUAL BABYSHOWER FOR THE UNBORN! The hundreds of new baby items will provide much needed support for babies and mothers in need. Well done good people of St. Mary's! (Photo Right).
https://bostoncatholic.org/pregnancy-help-boston



LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	$ 3,050.00
WeShare:	$ 3,850.32
Envelopes:	$ 8,136.00
Total Offertory:	$ 15,036.32

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/.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend's second collection in every parish, supports Catholic World Missions. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith - a Pontifical Mission Society. Please visit www.propfaithboston.org for more information.

This Sunday, Catholics throughout the world unite in celebrating the 100th World Mission Sunday. From great cathedrals to tiny village chapels, from bustling cities to remote communities, millions of Catholics join in prayer and generosity to help bring the love of Jesus Christ to every corner of the earth.

How beautifully this mission is expressed in today's Responsorial Psalm: *"Tell His glory among the nations; among all peoples, His wondrous deeds!"* These words remind us that the Gospel was never meant to remain within the walls of our churches. It is a gift meant to be shared with the whole human family.

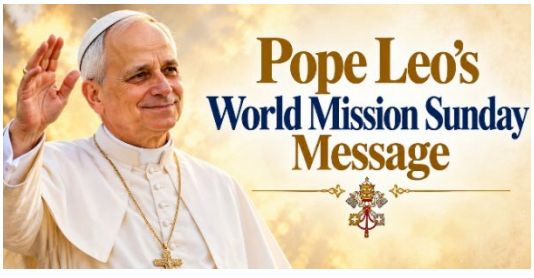
Pope Leo XIV has chosen "One in Christ, United in Mission" as the theme for this centennial year. It reminds us that although Catholics speak different languages and live in vastly different circumstances, we are one family in Christ, sharing one mission of faith, hope, and love.

World Mission Sunday also reminds us that missionary work is about more than preaching. Missionaries bring Christ's compassion to life by educating children, caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, forming future priests and religious, and bringing hope to communities struggling with poverty and hardship.

And we are part of that mission! Through our prayers, our generosity, and our own daily witness to Christ, we become partners in the Church's worldwide work of evangelization.

Today, may we remember that the Church is larger than our parish, our country, or our own experience. It is a worldwide family, united by one Lord and called to share His love with every nation and every people.

May our hearts be as wide as the world Christ came to save!



Read Pope Leo's Full World Mission Sunday Message here:

https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/mission/documents/20260125-giornata-missionaria.html. ***Dear brothers and sisters, for World Mission Day 2026, which marks the centenary of a celebration established by Pius XI that is very dear to the Church, I have chosen the theme "One in Christ, united in mission." Following the Jubilee Year, I wish to encourage …***

FOR HEALING

DIVORCED AND SEPARATED: On Saturday, November 21 the Family Life team is hosting **Restoration Retreat: Hope and Healing for the Divorced and Separated** from 8:30 AM - 5 PM at the Pastoral Center, Braintree**.** The retreat includes talks, small group sharing, all materials, Mass, Adoration and Confession. A continental breakfast and full lunch will be included. For those who cannot attend in person, a virtual option will be offered over Zoom. To register, visit: bit.ly/RetreatForDivorcedandSeparated or call 617-746-5756.

UNSHACKLED: Addiction is a defining problem of society, with physiological and mental health components which must be addressed. Today, nearly 50 million people in the US suffer from an addiction to either alcohol or drugs, and when one factors in the family and friends of loved ones suffering alongside them, addiction impacts 1 in 6, or nearly 17% of the population. Ultimately, the desolation, abandonment and guilt associated with addiction are spiritual problems which require a spiritual remedy.

Recently, Keaton Douglas, the iThirst Executive Director, and a member of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, in association with Shalom World, released a new TV Series called: UNSHACKLED - Healing Addictions Through Faith. You can download the Shalom World App, find out more about UNSHACKLED and/or watch free using these links:

https://ithirstinitiative.org/unshackled-shalom-world-tv-show/https://watch.shalomworld.org/. The 12 episodes highlight critical points about addiction in general, behavioral addictions and communal tools for healing.

FOR INSPIRATION

Saints John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions, Martyrs.

Tomorrow, Monday, October 19, the Church celebrates the Feast of the North American Martyrs, eight courageous Jesuit missionaries who gave their lives for Christ while bringing the Gospel to the Indigenous peoples of North America during the seventeenth century. Among them were Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, whose extraordinary faith and sacrifice helped plant the seeds of the Church in our part of the world.

Saint John de Brébeuf spent many years ministering among the Huron-Wendat people of present-day Canada. He learned their language, embraced the hardships of missionary life, and loved those he served. Captured during a time of fierce conflict between Indigenous nations, he endured terrible torture before his martyrdom in 1649.

Saint Isaac Jogues likewise devoted his life to the missions. Captured and tortured in 1642, he eventually escaped and returned to France, where he was welcomed as a hero. Yet his love for the people he served was so great that he voluntarily returned to North America, knowing the dangers that awaited him. He was martyred in 1646.

These saints remind us that Christian love is not measured by comfort or success, but by faithfulness. They crossed oceans, endured suffering, and ultimately surrendered their lives because they believed that no sacrifice was too great for the sake of Christ.

May their courage inspire us to live our own faith more generously, and may their prayers strengthen the Church throughout North America.

FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, October 20, 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 information, contact Lauren Onak at 954-803-9942.

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 AM Mass!

Please join us at WINGS *this Wednesday*, October 21 for the third meeting of our six week Fall Season:

"The Spirit Moves: How Vatican II Opened the Church to the Modern World."

Our presentations are on Wed. from 10 AM to 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall and on Zoom.
This week, we will explore the question: **"Who Is the Church?"** Together, we will reflect on four important themes:

The People of God: How our shared Baptism unites us in Christ as members of one family.

A Living Sign of Christ: How the Church makes Christ's love and presence visible in the world.

Called to Holiness: Why every baptized person - not just priests and religious - is called to a life of holiness.

Working Together: How the Second Vatican Council emphasized the Church as a communion of believers, in which clergy and laity share responsibility for the Church's life and mission.

Speaker: Aldona Lingertat, Director of Lay Formations Programs, St. John's Seminary.

The presentations are taped and can be viewed on the WINGS page of St. Mary's website.

To register for WINGS, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com. Welcome!

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 OUR YOUTH

NEXT WEEKEND, TROOP 14 POPCORN SALES: Boy Scouts from Troop 14 will be selling Popcorn after all Masses on October 24 and 25, in the Parish Center Lobby. This annual fundraising event helps the Troop reduce costs associated with our hiking and camping adventures throughout the year. Please stop by after Mass to check out the variety of gourmet popcorn available for sale. Cash and credit cards accepted. Thank you for supporting Boy Scout Troop 14!

FOR OUR YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP! Join us **TONIGHT, October 18, from 7 - 9 PM** for our October TGIF Meeting, (note the longer meeting time). Reminder, if you signed up for our Mass and Bible Study, our first gathering is next Saturday, October 24, we will attend 5 PM Mass together, following Mass, from 6 - 7 PM we will discuss the readings and Gospel together. 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.

Teen Bible Study

STMARYS_TGIF

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: WHAT'S NEXT? 59 Teens are signed up for this Friday, October 23 MSYG Trip to Barrett's Haunted Mansion! Remember - be here at 4:15 PM. Have faith not fear. You can do it!

IN NOVEMBER:

Sunday, November 1, MSYG Monthly Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 PM, FHH.

Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day, Paintball.

Friday, November 20, Grade 7 Nursing Home Bingo.

CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW) TODAY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18. 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.

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES START DATES:

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., October 18	CGS-A at 8:00 AM CGS-B at 10:45 AM GR-1 at 8:10 AM	GR-4 at 10:45 AM GR-5 at 10:45 AM GR-6 at 4:00 PM
Mon., Oct. 19	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tues., Oct. 20	GR-4 at 4:00 PM GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Wed., Oct. 21	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Thur., Oct. 22	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Sun., Oct. 25	CGS-A at 8:00 AM CGS-B at 10:45 AM GR-2 at 8:10 AM GR-2 at 10:45 AM	GR-3 at 7:55 AM GR-3 at 10:45 AM

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/.

Teacher and Monitor needs are below:
CGS-A (Sunday, 8:00 to 9:15 AM) ~ 1 adult / 1 teen
CGS-B (Sunday, 10:45 to Noon) ~ 1 adult / 1 teen
GR-1 (Sunday, 8:10 to 9:25 AM) ~ 1 teacher
GR-2 (Sunday, 8:10 to 9:25 AM) ~ 1 teacher / 1 monitor
GR-4 (Sunday, 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM) ~ 1 teacher
GR-5 (Sunday, 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM) ~ 1 teacher
GR-6 (Sunday, 4:00 to 5:30 PM ~ 1 teacher / 1 monitor
GR-8 (Monday, 7:00 to 8:30 PM) ~ 1 teacher
GR-6 (Tuesday, 4 to 5:30 PM) ~ 2 teachers
GR-2 (Wednesday, 4:15 to 5:30 PM) ~ 1 teacher

THE ART OF PRAYER:

A Catechist formation retreat is being offered to all catechists and leaders at three separate 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 9:00 PM, at St. Julia Parish, Weston.

Please register at bit.ly/CatechistArtOfPrayer

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's** hearts to know God's presence in their early years of development. Training will be available to all who are interested, whether they want to be an assistant or to discover the Montessori "WAY" to bring young children to Jesus. See our Day of Discovery invitation for Sunday, November 1 below.

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 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 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 attendees. There is no fee for the book. Please let us know ASAP if you plan to attend so that we can order the books we need 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