Feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine

Mass for Peace

October 25, 2026 • 3 PM

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.stmaryshollistion.com
parish@stmaryshollistion.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,

As you enter our church this weekend, I invite you to admire the beautiful icon of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine, which will be solemnly blessed at our special 3 PM Mass for Peace this Sunday afternoon. This sacred image carries a particularly beautiful message for our troubled world.

The icon is based upon an image painted by the Sisters of Bethlehem at their monastery in Beth Gemal in the Holy Land. An icon of this design, formerly belonging to Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master Emeritus of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, was donated to the Order and installed at its international headquarters in the Palazzo della Rovere in Rome.

Mary is depicted enthroned as Queen, clothed in a deep blue mantle, with the ancient city of Jerusalem resting tenderly in her lap. Among its sacred landmarks we recognize the golden Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's holiest shrines; the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Christians venerate the place of Christ's Crucifixion, burial, and Resurrection; and, to the left, the Western Wall, also known as the Wailing Wall, a place of profound holiness and prayer for the Jewish people.

These holy places stand within the ancient walled city of Jerusalem, sacred to Christians, Jews, and Muslims alike. Their presence together in Mary's lap carries a powerful message. In a land so often divided by conflict, the Mother of God holds the entire city in her embrace. She does not hold one holy place while turning away from another. Rather, the whole city rests in her care, reminding us that every human life is precious to God and that peace must embrace all His children.

Devotion to Our Lady, Queen of Palestine, was especially promoted in the early twentieth century by Latin Patriarch Luigi Barlassina of Jerusalem, who established a Marian sanctuary at Deir Rafat, inaugurated in 1928. Nearly a century later, this beautiful devotion continues to invite us to entrust the Holy Land and all its peoples to Mary's maternal intercession.

How fitting that this sacred image should be present among us today, as we gather to pray for peace and renew our bonds of Christian love with our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land!

In today's Gospel, Jesus is asked which commandment of God's Law is the greatest. His answer is both beautiful and demanding: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." And then He adds a second commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus joins these two commandments together because they can never truly be separated. We cannot claim to love the God we cannot see while remaining indifferent to the suffering of His children whom we can see. Every act of mercy, every kindness offered, every burden shared becomes an expression of our love for God Himself.

How providential, then, that on this very Sunday our parish has been chosen to host a beautiful and historic celebration honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine.

I warmly invite every parishioner to return to church this Sunday afternoon at 3 PM for this special Mass for Peace in the Holy Land and throughout the world.

We are honored to host the Northeastern Lieutenancy's Inaugural Mass for this feast, which also commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in the United States. Knights and Dames from throughout New England will join us in prayer for peace and for the Christians of the Holy Land.

The Equestrian Order is an ancient Catholic Order of Chivalry under the protection of the Holy See. It dates to the year 1099 AD and today is dedicated to sustaining the Church in the land where Jesus was born, preached, died, and rose again. Through its support of schools, parishes, and charitable institutions, the Order helps preserve a living Christian presence in the land of our salvation.

This mission has special meaning for St. Mary's because of our Sister Parish relationship with Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Beit Sahour, Palestine. Beit Sahour is home to the Shepherds' Field, where angels announced Christ's birth on that first Christmas night. Its Christians are our brothers and sisters in faith, heirs to a Christian presence reaching back to the earliest centuries of the Church.

Through this relationship, we seek to make Christ's commandment of love something living and tangible. We remember the people of Beit Sahour in prayer, share in their struggles, and offer practical assistance. Though an ocean separates us, the Eucharist unites us as members of one Body in Christ.

Today, Christian families in the Holy Land face extraordinary hardships, including violence, restrictions on movement, and widespread unemployment. With Christian unemployment reported at 54%, many parents struggle even to provide an education for their children.

Following the 3 PM Mass for Peace, everyone is invited to a light reception in Father Haley Hall.

This is an opportunity to meet the visiting Knights and Dames, learn more about their mission, and enjoy fellowship together.

During the reception, we will also be accepting donations from our guests and parishioners for additional student scholarships at our Sister Parish school in Beit Sahour. Donation boxes and a Venmo code will be available in the Hall, and checks may be made payable to St. Mary's Parish. Every gift will help a child receive an education and remind a struggling family that they have not been forgotten.

How beautifully this gives flesh to today's Gospel! The hopes we cherish for our own children are the same hopes cherished by parents in Beit Sahour: safety, education, faith, and a future filled with promise. To love our neighbor as ourselves means desiring these blessings for their children as sincerely as we desire them for our own.

And what better heavenly patroness for this gathering than Our Lady, Queen of Palestine? Mary knew the fear of violence and displacement when she fled with Joseph and the infant Jesus into Egypt. She knew the anguish of watching her innocent Son suffer. Today we ask her maternal intercession for Palestinians and Israelis alike, for Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and for all who long for peace.

May Our Lady, Queen of Palestine, pray for peace in the land of her Son, watch over our brothers and sisters in Beit Sahour, and teach us that love of God becomes most beautiful when it takes the form of love for our neighbor.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

WEST BANK / BEIT SAHOUR AREA UPDATES

October 13, 2026: Israeli forces entered the grounds of the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah, fired live ammunition nearby, deployed snipers at its entrances, and temporarily prevented entry and exit. The complex is the West Bank's largest government hospital.

October 14, 2026: Israeli settlers assaulted three Palestinians in Abu Najim, southeast of Bethlehem; one required hospital treatment. This is a new incident in the Bethlehem area, not a repeat of the Ramallah hospital report.

October 17, 2026: Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian residents and visiting European officials during the olive harvest near Taybeh. *[317 settler attacks connected to the olive harvest have been documented across the West Bank from October 1 - 21. They included assaults, threats, crop theft, damage to trees and equipment, and preventing farmers from reaching their land.]*

October 19, 2026: Jerusalem's Patriarchs and Heads of Churches condemned the October 17 Israeli settler attacks on residents and visiting European officials during the olive harvest. They called for sustained protection and accountability, and reaffirmed support for Taybeh's Christian community.

October 21, 2026: Israeli forces entered two preparatory schools in Tuqu', southeast of Bethlehem, during morning classes, causing panic and reportedly warning that the schools could be closed.

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

LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	$ 4,870.00
WeShare:	$ 4,089.74
Envelopes:	$ 6,512.00
Total Offertory:	$ 15,471.74

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/.

SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:
World Mission Sunday, $3,476.00. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER COLLATING <u>THIS MONDAY</u>:
Please join us tomorrow, Monday, October 26, at 9:30 AM in Fr. Haley Hall to assist in our collating of the November Newsletter. All are welcome and needed!

MASS INTENTIONS:

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!

Monday	**October 26**
9:00	Lorraine Palmer
Tuesday	**October 27**
9:00	***No Mass***
Wednesday	**October 28**
9:00	***No Mass***
Thursday	**October 29**
9:00	Joan Legee
Friday	**October 30**
9:00	***No Mass***
Saturday	**October 31**
5:00	Feast of All Saints
7:30	Feast of All Saints
Sunday	**November 1**
7:30	Feast of All Saints
9:30	Feast of All Saints
11:30	Feast of All Saints

NEXT WEEKEND

UPSTAIRS CLOW: Next Sunday, November 1, at the 9:30 AM Mass, followed by DJ&C.

FREE DONUTS, JUICE & COFFEE: Please join us in Fr. Haley Hall next Sunday, November 1 after the 9:30 AM 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. Please join us. Come on down!

ST. MARY'S PARISH PASTA NIGHT ~ TICKETS GO ON SALE NEXT WEEKEND!

Come join your fellow parishioners for fine Italian fare, live musical entertainment, and great company at this year's Pasta Dinner on **Saturday, November 14 from 6 to 8 PM.**

The menu will include rigatoni with red sauce, rigatoni with broccoli and chicken, rigatoni with butter, meatballs, salad, rolls and soda, water, juice and Italian pastries.

Families with children of all ages are welcome. The cost is $10 per person, or $30 for an immediate family (parents and children).

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses the weekends of October 31 and November 1 and November 7 and 8, and at the R.E. Office starting November 2. There are no tickets at the door on November 14. ***Mangia!***

FOR HOPE

NOVEMBER 1 - FEAST OF ALL SAINTS: Let us rejoice in the example of the saints, and ask them to pray for us to the God in Whose Presence they now dwell. Let us rededicate ourselves to becoming saints - not perfect, but redeemed by the grace of God and desiring to be one with Him one day.

NOVEMBER 2 - FEAST OF ALL SOULS: All Souls is a day dedicated to praying for the souls of the faithful departed who are undergoing purification in Purgatory. The Church teaches that these souls, though saved, are not yet fully ready to enter the presence of God and benefit from our prayers, sacrifices, and Masses offered on their behalf. This feast expresses the deep communion between the Church on earth, the souls in purgatory, and the saints in heaven.

St. Mary's Annual Candlelight All Souls Mass will be Monday, November 2, at 7 PM.

A candle will be lit in memory of each person buried from St. Mary's since All Souls last year.

They and all our beloved dead will be kept in prayer throughout November, according to Catholic custom.

All are invited to take part in the All Souls Mass to pray for the repose of their departed loved ones.

FOR OUR YOUTH

FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: Please join us this Tuesday, October 27, 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.

WINGS, "Women In God's Spirit!"

Please join us this Wednesday, October 28, for the fourth gathering of our six-week Fall Season,

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

This Week's Inspiring Topic: Developing a Closer Friendship with God.

God desires more than simply our belief in Him. He invites each of us into a deep, personal friendship! This week, we will discover how God speaks to our hearts through Sacred Scripture and the rich traditions of our Catholic faith, drawing us ever closer to His love.

Together, we will explore how the Bible tells the beautiful story of God's love for humanity, why Jesus Christ stands at the very heart of that story, and how spending time with God's Word can transform our daily lives. We will also discover how Vatican II encouraged every Catholic to make Scripture a living part of their relationship with God.

Guest Speaker: Calista Robledo, Director of Faith Formation, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Sharon, MA.

Wednesday, October 28 from 10 - 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall and on Zoom.

All women are warmly welcome! Whether you have attended every session or are joining us for the first time, we would love to have you with us!

Presentations are recorded and available on the WINGS page of St. Mary's website. To register, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com.

Come be inspired, deepen your faith, and discover anew the joy of friendship with God!

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, November 12 at 7 PM for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. At the meeting, we will continue our exploration of the epistles, focusing on the Letters of John, Peter and Paul. 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 TROOP

THIS WEEKEND, TROOP 14 POPCORN SALES: Boy Scouts from St. Mary's Troop 14 will be selling Popcorn after all Masses this weekend 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!

If interested in joining Troop 14, email Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com. It is an ideal organization for boys in sixth grade or above. The Troop meets weekly during the school year, Mondays from 7 - 8:30 PM in the Lower Church Hall.

FOR OUR YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP! Our next TGIF MEETING is November 22, from 7 - 8:45 PM. Last night we gathered for our first TGIF Teen Bible Study, we attended the 5 PM Mass together and from 6 - 7 PM discussed the Mass Readings and Gospel.

Teen Bible Study

Our next Teen Bible Study is Saturday, November 14. It is not too late to sign up, just send Lisa an email.

STMARYS_TGIF

Our next TGIF event is the Catholic Youth Rally on Sunday, November 8 in Worcester, MA. We still have spots open if you would like to join us, send Lisa an email for a Sign-Up form. 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.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by Liz Theiler, in memory of George and Emelia Bourque. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. Sponsor a Rose by emailing parish@stmarysholliston.org.

CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW) TODAY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25. 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 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
Mon., Oct. 26	GR-3 at 4:00 PM	Ministry Fair
Sun., Nov. 1	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
Mon. Nov. 2	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	
Tues., Nov. 3	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., Nov. 4	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-7 at 7:00 PM
Thur., Nov. 5	GR-8 at 7:00 PM	

CATECHIST AND MONITOR OPPORTUNITIES

We are still in need of teachers, assistants and monitors!! 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 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 monitor
GR-8 (Monday, 7:00 to 8:30 PM) ~ 1 teacher
GR-4 (Tuesday, 4:00 to 5:30 PM) ~ 1 teacher
GR-6 (Tuesday, 4:00 to 5:30 PM) ~ 1 teacher
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:

- Oct. 31, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, at the Pastoral Center, Braintree. Register at bit.ly/CatechistArtOfPrayer

GRADE 3 MINISTRY FAIR ~ MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 4:00 PM.

Grade 3 Sunday and Homeschooled students are to attend the Grade 3 Ministry Fair on Monday, October 26. Students are to come directly to Fr. Haley Hall to be checked in. Parents are welcome to join with us as we visit various rotation stations to listen to the various Parish Ministers who dedicate their time and talents to make St. May's Parish a vibrant and welcoming Parish community.

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

Mary Pat Heelan is a CGSUSA Certified Formation Leader and an Associate Director of Religious Education for the Worcester Archdiocese. She 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.

Simply sign up so that we can plan on the number of attendees at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-66310926-cgsday