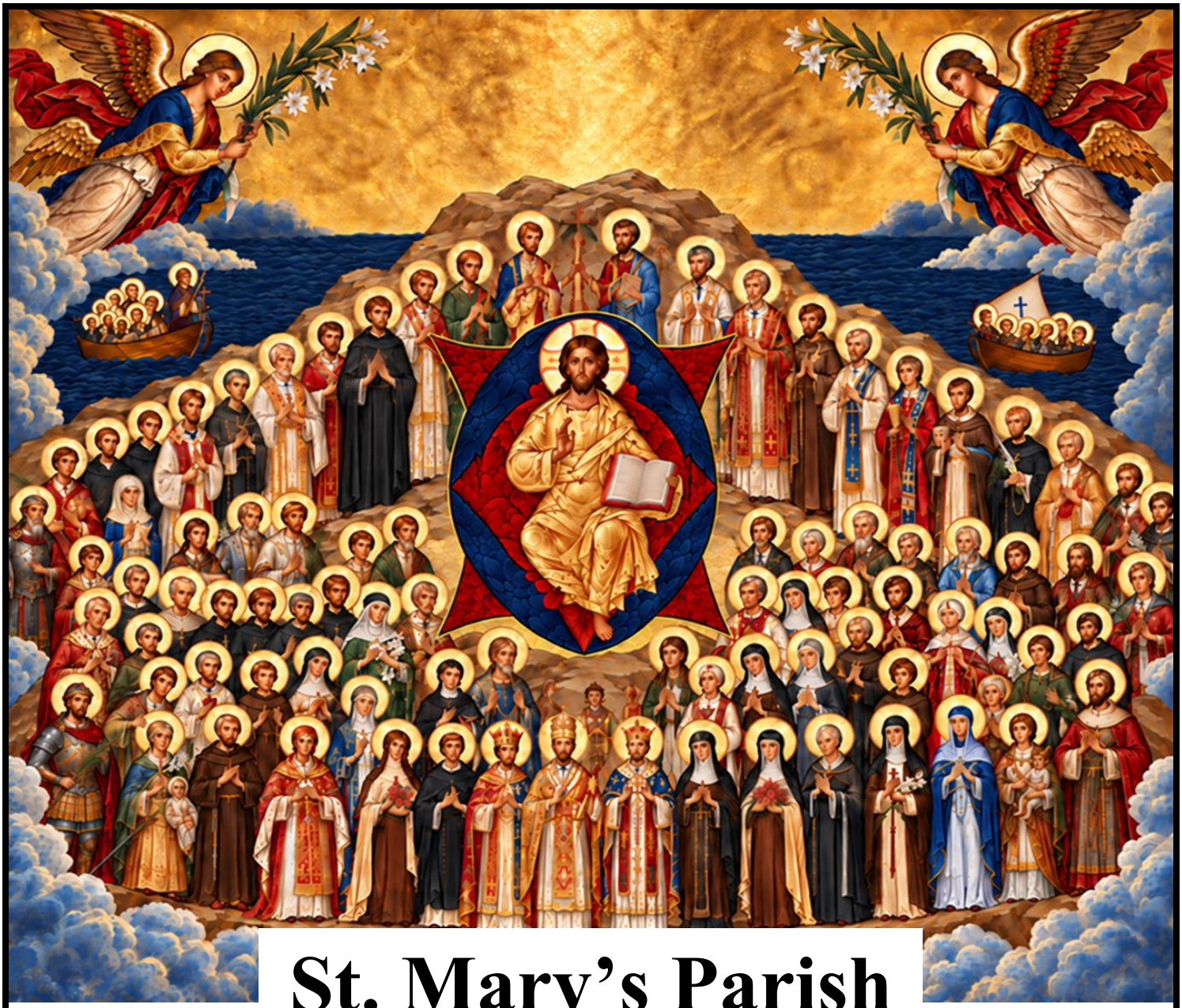


St. Mary's Parish

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!

Mass for Peace

Sunday, October 25, 2026

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

My heart is filled with gratitude for everyone who contributed to the beauty and grace of last Sunday's special Mass for the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine. (Photos on previous page, and video at https://www.youtube.com/live/TrxkQfAnetg). Our amazing choir, under the direction of Abigail Kelly-Lancer, lifted our hearts in prayer through their beautiful music. Our Hospitality Committee, under the direction of Janet Alexander and supported by Mary Beth Harris and Joanne Martinelli, offered such a warm and gracious welcome at the reception. Our skilled and reverent altar servers helped us celebrate with dignity and devotion. To everyone who worked, prepared, welcomed, served, and prayed: thank you!

It was a great honor for our parish to host the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem for this special Mass. St. Mary's truly shone for the occasion, and I could not be more proud of everyone who helped with this celebration. I am especially grateful to all our parishioners who made time to worship at this Mass for Peace in the Holy Land and throughout our world. Your presence was itself a beautiful offering of faith and love.

Every Mass connects us to the mystery we celebrate this Sunday, the Solemnity of All Saints. Whenever we gather around the altar, we join a family far greater than the congregation we can see. The saints and angels worship with us. Heaven draws near, and we are reminded of where our own journey is meant to lead.

All Saints celebrates every person who has reached the fullness of life with God. We honor the great saints whose names fill our churches and calendars, but also the countless holy men and women whose names the world has forgotten, or never knew. Among them are faithful parents and grandparents, people who quietly cared for the sick, souls who endured suffering with trust, and ordinary Christians who allowed God's love to shape their lives. Their holiness may have attracted little attention on earth. In Heaven, it shines forever.

There are only saints and angels in Heaven. Every human being there is a saint: someone whom God's grace has purified and brought into perfect communion with Him. We do not all need to be formally canonized, but we are all called to become holy. Sainthood is the fulfillment of our Baptism and the destination God desires for every one of us.

Pope Francis expressed this invitation beautifully: *"Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy."* Holiness allows the life God has planted within us to blossom. As we draw closer to Him, we become more capable of loving, more willing to forgive, and freer to give of ourselves generously.

The Beatitudes in this Sunday's Gospel show us what that life looks like. Jesus calls blessed the merciful, the clean of heart, the peacemakers, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. These words reach directly into our homes, our conversations, our decisions, and our relationships. They ask us to consider how we respond when someone hurts us, what we allow to occupy our imagination, and whether our presence brings peace to those around us.

The path to sainthood runs through the life we are living today. It unfolds when we make time for prayer, receive the sacraments faithfully, seek forgiveness in Confession, show patience when we are tired, or offer kindness when it would be easier to turn away. The saints knew weakness and discouragement, too. They became holy by returning to God, again and again, and allowing His grace to keep working within them.

Last Sunday, we prayed for peace in a wounded world. This Sunday, the saints remind us that God can begin answering that prayer within our own hearts. Every resentment surrendered, every reconciliation attempted, and every act of mercy gives His peace room to grow.

May we rejoice today in all those who have reached our heavenly home. May we ask for their prayers and follow their example. And may we never settle for less than the beautiful purpose for which God created us: to become saints, and to live with Him forever.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

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:	$ 3,550.50
WeShare:	$ 4,024.83
Envelopes:	$ 7,930.00
Total Offertory:	$ 15,505.33

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/.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Monday	**November 2**
9:00	Feast of All Souls
7:00 PM	***Feast of All Souls Candlelight Mass ~ See next bulletin page for details.***
Tuesday	**November 3**
9:00	Michael Charles McKenna, 65th (Living)
Wednesday	**November 4**
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	**November 5**
9:00	Stephen Mulcahy, 18th Anv.
Friday	**November 6**
9:00	Fr. Bader & the People of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour
Saturday	**November 7**
5:00	Leona Phelan
7:30	People of St. Mary's
Sunday	**November 8**
7:30	Thomas C. Joseph
9:30	Winifred Chase, 25th Anv.
11:30	Kevin Beatty

Feast of All Souls

The individuals listed here were honored with Christian burial from St. Mary's since the Feast of All Souls last year. They will be commemorated in a special way at a Candlelight All Souls Mass,

Monday, November 2 at 7 PM

A candle will be lit in each one's memory as their name is read. They and all our beloved dead will be kept in prayer throughout the month of November, according to Catholic custom.

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

Nancy Hoye
Richard Seymour
James Sears
Monica Nickerson
Timothy Clancy
Christine Hamm
Patricia Morse
Janet Fair
Maureen MacEvoy
John Donovan
Fr. Francis Signorelli
Faith Williams
Jarrod Hanna
John Riordan
Charlotte Hunt
Mariann Gillespie
Amy Tibbert
Carmela Bonaceto
Peter Kadlik
Jerome Deise, Jr.
Robert Russo, Jr.
William Fenzel
Lois Hosmer
Lois Guyon
Frank Melle
Donna Frank
Susan Spratt

Catherine Holmes
Kenneth Wingert
Marie Grassey
Richard Andreotti
Lorraine Palmer
Naeem Ovins
Ronald Plourde
Thomas Laronga
Susan Schnapp
Richard Mazzuchelli
Richard Lord
Shirley Pelkey
Beverly Moore
Marie Case
Kathleen Gamache
Teresa Sullivan
Edward McDaid
Scott Anderson
John Gunning
David Moylan
Claire Dolan
Claire Brady
Elizabeth Patterson
Joyce L'Antigua
Dorothy Mahoney
Ida Auteri

FOR A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

On this glorious Feast of All Saints, the Church invites us to look beyond the veil that separates earth from Heaven. For a brief and beautiful moment, today's Mass reading from the Book of Revelation opens a doorway into eternity. Through the eyes of St. John, we are permitted to glimpse something of the joy, beauty, and majesty that await those who have remained faithful to God. John beholds an immense multitude standing before the throne of God. They come from every nation, race, people, and language. Their earthly differences have not disappeared, but have been gathered into a magnificent unity. No one is a stranger here. No one is forgotten. All are united in the worship of the One who created them, redeemed them, and called them home.

This is the Communion of Saints. This is the family to which we are called to belong forever. John tells us that the saints are clothed in white robes and carry palm branches in their hands. These are not incidental details. They are rich with spiritual meaning.

The **white robes** signify the purity and holiness of those who have been redeemed. Yet John offers a remarkable explanation: these garments have been washed white in the Blood of the Lamb. Ordinarily, blood stains whatever it touches. But the Blood of Christ does precisely the opposite. It cleanses. It purifies. It restores what sin has wounded and makes radiant what suffering has darkened.

Here is one of the most beautiful paradoxes of our faith: **we do not enter Heaven because we have never been stained by sin, but because we have allowed ourselves to be washed clean by the mercy of Christ.** The **palm branches** are ancient symbols of victory. In the Roman world, they were carried in triumphal processions. In John's vision, however, the victory being celebrated is not a military conquest or an earthly achievement. It is the triumph of grace over sin, of love over hatred, and of eternal life over death. These saints have won their victory not through worldly power, but through fidelity to the Lamb who was slain.

And what of the mysterious **seal placed upon the foreheads of God's servants?** In the ancient world, a seal signified ownership, authenticity, and protection. Spiritually, it reminds us that we belong to God. Through Baptism, we have been claimed for Christ, and in Confirmation we have been sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. We carry within our souls the mark of a divine belonging that even death cannot erase.

John also hears of **144,000 who are sealed.** This symbolic number, twelve multiplied by twelve and then by a thousand, expresses the fullness of God's covenant people. It is not intended to suggest that Heaven has only a limited number of places. Indeed, John immediately sees a multitude so vast that no one can count them. The vision proclaims the astonishing breadth of God's saving love.

Perhaps the most moving words come near the end of the reading, when John learns that these saints have come through a time of great distress. They did not arrive in Heaven without suffering. They knew sorrow, disappointment, temptation, and loss. Some endured persecution. Others carried hidden crosses known only to God. They were not spared the trials of human life. Rather, **they allowed Christ to lead them through those trials into everlasting glory.** And that is where this heavenly vision becomes deeply personal. The saints were not born in Heaven. They once walked the same earth we walk. They faced many of the same struggles we face. They had moments of weakness, uncertainty, and discouragement. Yet they continued to turn toward God, trusting that His grace was greater than their frailty.

On All Saints Day, we celebrate not only what God has accomplished in them, but what He longs to accomplish in us. Someday, by God's mercy, we too may stand among that countless multitude. The burdens that now weigh upon our hearts will have fallen away. The wounds we carry will be healed. The prayers we have whispered through tears will find their fulfillment in the presence of God.

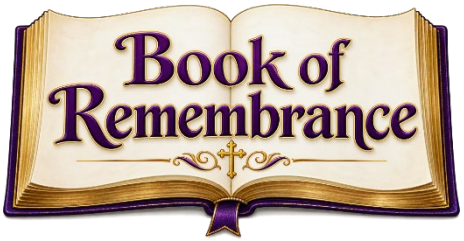
And perhaps, among those shining faces, we will recognize people we once loved and thought we had lost. **For Heaven is not simply the end of our earthly journey. It is the fulfillment of everything holy that our hearts have ever longed for.** Until that day, may we live as people already marked for eternity, clothed in the grace of Christ, carrying the quiet victory of His love into our world. For the great multitude John beheld is not merely a vision of someone else's future. **By the grace of God, it is a vision of our own.**

FOR OUR BELOVED DEPARTED

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: Throughout November, the Catholic Church remembers in a special way the Holy Souls in Purgatory. These are the faithful departed who have died in God's friendship and are assured of Heaven, but who are still being purified and prepared to enter fully into His glorious presence.

As Catholics, we believe that the bonds of love and faith are not broken by death. Through our prayers, sacrifices, and especially the offering of the Holy Mass, we can assist these souls on their journey to Heaven. This beautiful tradition reminds us that the Church is one family, united in Christ across the boundaries of life and death.

November is therefore a month of both remembrance and hope. As we pray for our beloved dead, we look forward in faith to the joyful day when we shall be reunited with them in God's eternal Kingdom.



PARISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE: Through the month of November, traditionally referred to as the "Month of the Holy Souls" the Book of Remembrance will be in front of the Baptismal Font and Easter Candle in the church. You are invited to write the names of your own departed loved ones in the book. Their intentions will then be included in all the Masses celebrated at St. Mary's during November.

FOR THOSE IN NEED

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by the Martinelli 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!

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 retreat is scheduled for 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 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

THANK YOU FROM THE LEVASSEURS: Margaret and Ed Levasseur would like to thank Fr. Mark, Mary Beth Harris and the entire community for their outstanding support for the Blood Drive we hosted in memory of our son, Marc. We want to thank Fr. Mark for announcing the Blood Drive at Masses the weekend before the drive. Mary Beth was instrumental in making sure the Blood Drive was mentioned in the bulletin for the weeks before the drive. We were thrilled that emails went out to parishioners reminding them of the Blood Drive. Most of all we want to thank everyone who came to donate. This was the 10th Blood Drive we have hosted for Marc and because of all of you it was the most successful. This community over the last 10 years has donated over 350 units of blood in memory of our son. No one anticipated so many walk-ins this year, so we want to apologize to the donors who were scheduled near the end of the drive and were turned away because we had run out of blood collection bags. We are blessed to live in such a kind, generous community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Hope to see you again next October 16!

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: Food items needed at the Pantry: white vinegar (16 oz), canned regular and decaf coffee (11 oz), canned tuna fish (5 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), canned fruit cocktail (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.

FOR WOMEN

ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP: St. Mary's Mom's group will begin a study on the Gospel of St. Luke on November 17 using the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible Version with commentary and questions by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch. Our study will run through March and is open to moms of any age or stage in the parish. Little ones are welcome! We will provide toys and snacks while we read, discuss, and grow in fellowship. Meetings are at 9:45 AM on Tuesdays in Fr. Haley Hall following Mass. Contact Lauren at 954-803-9942.

WINGS, "Women In God's Spirit!"

Please join us this Wednesday, November 4 for the fifth meeting of our six week Fall Season "The *Spirit Moves: How Vatican II Opened the Church to the Modern World*." Our presentations are on Wednesday, from 10 - 11:15 AM in Father Haley Hall and on Zoom. **This week we will focus on Bringing Christ's Love to Our Neighbors.** We will talk about: **Sharing the Journey:** How the Church stands side-by-side with humanity, sharing in the everyday joys, hopes, and anxieties of all people; **Dignity and Peace:** Why the Church speaks out on big topics like politics and technology to protect human rights and peace and **A Heart for Others:** How we can live out our faith by building a world where every single person can truly flourish and grow closer to God. **Speaker: Olivia Hastie,** Doctoral Student in Theological Ethics, Boston College**.** 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.

SMCWG: The Wednesday, November 18 meeting will be held in the Parish Library from 12 - 2 PM. Please eat your lunch at home. During this meeting we will be making scarves for our Craft Fair to be held on Sunday, December 6. If you have any questions, call Adele at 508-429-5083. All are 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, November 12 at 7 PM for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. At our last meeting we discussed the Letter of James. At our upcoming meeting, we will continue our exploration of the epistles, focusing on the Letters of 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, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

FOR OUR YOUTH

FOR OUR YOUTH

All 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders are invited to the St. Mary's

Middle School Youth Group

MSYG — SERVITE DOMINO GAUDIUM — MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

TONIGHT - SUNDAY November Meeting!

TONIGHT - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, from 6:30-8 PM, at the Parish Center.

At this meeting you'll enjoy a Giant Milk & Cookie Bar, Games, Faith, Friendship and Fun.
We will also pray for our beloved dead, *as is Catholic custom in November.*

Please bring:

- If not already paid, your one-time Annual Membership Fee.
- Sign Up Form & Payment for the Wednesday, November 11 All Day Paintball Trip (Holiday).
- Sign Up Form and $10 Prize Donation for the Nov. 20 BINGO 7th Grade Service Trip to Timothy Daniel Nursing Home, Holliston. (7th Grade Only, Grades 6 & 8 will have separate events in 2027).

We will also have baking signups for our Annual Cookie Walk for the Poor of Haiti the weekend of December 12 & 13.
All MSYG members are asked to help with this beautiful annual effort if they possibly can, so please ask your parents for permission to bake!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

T G I F

Our next TGIF MEETING is **November 22,** from 7 – 8:45 PM.

CATHOLIC YOUTH RALLY

We are looking forward to attending 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.

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

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.

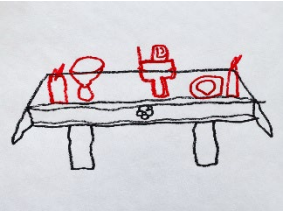
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW) TODAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026. The children will remain in the church this Sunday to listen and learn what Jesus has to teach us in the gospel reading for Sunday, November 1, 2026 **(Solemnity of All Saints)** as Jesus presents the Beatitudes to the crowd in the Gospel of Matthew 5:1-12a.

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES THIS WEEK:

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., November 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	

There are still openings for teachers, teacher assistants, and monitors!! Is this part of God's plan for you? Please complete the **Volunteer Application** below if you can offer your time to share our faith with the children and youth. https://stmarysholliston.com/religious-education/religious-education-volunteer-registration/.

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 assistant
GR-2 (Sunday, 8:10 to 9:25 AM) ~ 1 monitor
GR-4 (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 assistant



After hearing a work called the Model Altar, a five-year-old created the following drawing. It combines tracing and free drawing. The Montessori Method and Catechesis of the Good Shepheard use tracing as a way to help children develop concentration and focus as well as strengthen their hand muscles. Shown are the candles on each end, the chalice, the crucifix, and the paten.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY~2026: Sign up is now open for the 2026 Christmas Nativity held during the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Vigil Mass in Father Haley Hall. Families with children in Grade 1 - 4 will receive the form via email. Printed copies will also be available outside of the Religious Education office. Please return your child's sign-up form by **Monday, November 23**. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings from 9-10 AM on **Dec 5, 12 and 19.** Email with any questions: special.innkeeper1224@gmail.com.

Fall is upon us and that means that Thanksgiving is right around the corner. **Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors** will be coordinating the Thanksgiving Drive once again for the Holliston Pantry Shelf and other local organizations that support Holliston youth such as Head Start and Wayside Youth & Families as well as support the Holliston Lions Thanksgiving Meals for Seniors effort. Please visit the HNN Donations Webpage at http://www.hollistonnewcomers.org/donations and select **Thanksgiving,** or if you prefer to mail your donation, please send a check made out to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors to PO Box 6581, Holliston, MA 01746 and note that it is for Thanksgiving. Please submit your donation by **Sunday, November 15**. Thank you!

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors
Thanksgiving Donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make your check out to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors and note on the check that your donation is for Thanksgiving.

We appreciate your donation!

Mail your check along with this certificate to:
Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors
PO Box 6581, Holliston, MA 01746