



ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER, 2018

*** ADVENT STARTS THIS
COMING SUNDAY, DEC. 2**

*** CHRISTMAS MASS
SCHEDULE ENCLOSED**

*** PARISH PASTA NIGHT**
(photos below)



PARISH PASTA NIGHT! On Saturday, November 10, the Knights hosted St. Mary's Annual Parish Pasta Night. Families of all ages came to enjoy delicious food from Bertucci's and good company with each other. Families new to the parish were invited for free as our special guests. For the third year live music was provided by Frank Zarba (vocalist) and Ray Cavicchio (accordion). The crowd *loved* them, especially the kids who danced to their music. Thank you to all the Knights of Columbus (and their Ladies), who made this evening of food and fellowship possible. It is important that our parishioners have chances like these to get to know each other better. *(Photos by Kylie Warren)*



St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

December, 2018 ~ Volume 44, Number 4



St. Mary's Parish
8 Church Street
Holliston, MA 01746

Rectory: 429-4427, 879-2322
Religious Education Center: 429-6076
Fax: 429-3324 ~ Music: 429-4427
Religious Education Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com
Parish Email Address: st.marys1870@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Mission ~ "To Know Christ and to make Him Known."

Parish Clergy

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
Rev. James Flynn, Weekend Assistance
Deacon John Barry, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon

Witness to Love ~ Couples Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage!

On Sunday, October 28, the Annual Golden Anniversary Mass was celebrated by Cardinal O'Malley. Because the Cathedral of the Holy Cross is being renovated, this year the event took place at St. Mary's Church in Waltham. During the Mass, the couples renewed their vows and received a special blessing.

In reflecting on the occasion, Cardinal O'Malley said, *"This is always a significant event because the witness of these couples' lives of married love and fidelity are a very important testimony in today's world. Their witness encourages people to have the courage, generosity and faith to embrace this vocation and this sacrament."*

Shown in the bottom right of the photo below, two St. Mary's couples took part in the Mass to mark their 50th Wedding Anniversaries. Congratulations to Henry and Betty Febo, and Tony and Janet Alexander. May God bless them and all our married couples richly in His love!



"Love is never something readymade, something merely 'given' to man and woman, it is always at the same time a 'task' which they are set. Love should be seen as something which in a sense never 'is' but is always only 'becoming', and what it becomes depends upon the contribution of both persons and the depth of their commitment."

- Pope Saint John Paul II

FAREWELL BEST FRIEND

By Fr. Mark

On Saturday, November 17, Loki the Parish Pooch suffered a stroke shortly after rising for the day. He died in my arms a few hours later, just three days shy of celebrating his 16th Birthday.

A Standard Manchester Terrier, Loki was born on November 20, 2002 and entered my life eight weeks later. I was stationed at St. Joseph's Parish in Medway at the time, a very dark time as it was the year the abuse scandal broke. Like most of us, I had known only good and holy priests during my life. So I was horrified and badly shaken by the revelations of the crimes committed by some, and the mishandling of those crimes by others.

It would be an exaggeration to say that Loki saved my priesthood. But during those awful news days, when there was so much sorrow and ugliness, having that little black and tan puppy romping around and making me laugh with his antics was truly a balm and blessing.

As the years went on, Loki would be a great gift to my ministry. At the Medway Dog Park, for instance, people would get to know me as a fellow dog owner before even learning I was a priest. They would then often open up to talk about their faith, their trials and sorrows. I heard no less than five Confessions standing in a corner of that dog park – all thanks to Loki.

At both St. Joseph and St. Mary's Rectories, Loki also did his part. Upon hearing the doorbell, he would race to the front parlor to greet whoever the secretary let in. When I got there, the appointment was usually petting Loki; and when I tried to put him out, Loki would make such a show of sadness that almost always the visitors would say, "*O let him stay, Father, we love dogs.*" At which point Loki would fly up onto my chair and sit quietly for the rest of our meeting. Loki heard many private confidences at these meetings, but never repeated a single one, strict as any confessor under the seal.

Some people are nervous coming to a rectory, and having a dog there put them at their ease and was a great conversation starter and icebreaker. To be honest, Loki was not universally all warm and fuzzy. Manchesters are described as "*very affectionate to family, but aloof with strangers.*" Loki was no exception. He was fine with other people, just not very interested. However – if someone was very upset or started to cry, Loki would leave my chair, walk over and jump onto the sofa with them. In response to their pain, he would snuggle up beside them to be petted, those strokes of the hand helping to calm and soothe their souls.

Loki only truly disliked mailmen (he was traditional that way), and my good friend Fr. Brian Mahoney. Loki figured out early on that when Fr. Brian came over it usually meant I was going out for a while or even worse, leaving on vacation. For this reason, poor Fr. Brian was always greeted with growls and the barring of teeth. Sorry Brian. But Loki hated to be separated from me for any reason. He was "Dog Velcro," following me everywhere around the rectory and more devoted than any animal I've ever known. Loki was devastated when I went out and he was left behind. Whenever I got into my car without him, his little head would be there in the kitchen window by the driveway, his eyes full of sorrow and betrayal.





When I left the rectory for any significant amount of time, Loki would go into the dark dining room and howl, loudly and mournfully. He would vigilantly await my return, and for the past sixteen years I never came home without receiving his joyful greeting, barking, jumping and licking. What a difference to enter the silent, empty rectory now. In Catholic tradition, a dog waiting alertly and expectantly for his master's return has often been used as a symbol for how good Christians should await the return of Jesus. If only we could all be that devoted and faithful!

Loki had many good friends during his life, including Monsignor Timothy Moran and Fr. David Lewis. When Loki fell seriously ill this past summer and it looked like the end, both of them visited with and blessed Loki – Fr. David driving all the way down from Peabody to do so. I will always be grateful to Monsignor Moran for allowing me to get Loki when I was with him in Medway, and for the love Fr. David lavished on Loki in Holliston. Named for the Norse god of mischief, Loki often lived up to his name. If Fr. David and I came home and found Loki had flipped the trash, or eaten butter or whatever, I would say sternly, “LOKI! Look what you did!” At which Loki would leap into Fr. David's arms and ashamedly hide his head. Fr. David would laugh and stroking Loki say, “*I am the Refugium Peccatorum – the Refuge of Sinners.*”

Probably Loki's best friend besides myself was our secretary Mary Beth Harris. When I was out, Loki would often sit behind her on her office chair while she worked. Mary Beth also cared for Loki whenever I was on vacation, helped out with walks and feedings when I was tied up, and above all gave Loki constant love. I am forever grateful for her generosity and kindness to him.

For myself, I thank God for the gift that Loki was in my life. His love of playing kept me from becoming too serious. His love of walking got me up and exercising – including on cold or stormy days when I would otherwise have not. His love for me spoke always of the unconditional love of God – joyful, forgiving and devoted in a way I never deserved. All living creatures come from God, and I truly believe that those animals that love us and allow us to become better people by our love for them, have a place with God Who is love.

Until arthritis prevented him the last year or so, one of Loki's favorite things was to run up the rectory stairs ahead of me. He would grab his favorite ball, and by the time I got to the top step, he would be there above me, crouched in the play position, shaking his ball in his mouth, trying to entice me to play. More often than not he succeeded. In art, heaven is sometimes portrayed as atop a golden stair. And if one day I am blessed to climb those sacred steps, I suspect Loki will be there waiting at the top, young and hale once more - ready to play.

God bless you best friend. May the Lord Who made you hold you safe for me. Amen.



“All things of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man.”
- St. Francis of Assisi

“Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring - it was peace.”
- Milan Kundera





From the Pastor's Desk

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



"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference."

Most of us are familiar with these beautiful words by Robert Frost, and as Christmas now comes rushing upon us, they are worth considering. There are in fact two very distinct roads by which we may arrive at Christmas. The wider, more traveled road is paved exclusively with shopping, decorating, socializing and every kind of worldly distraction. It is a road that consumes our time with busyness and the accumulation of things. It is a road that brings us to December 25 feeling stressed and spiritually exhausted for having travelled it.

There is however, another road – the road of Advent, which when deliberately travelled can bring us closer in love to Jesus, the One Whose birth we are preparing to celebrate. This road is less popular and at times less convenient. But at its end waits a Christmas full of peace and a renewed sense of joy and wonder at God's greatest gift – the gift of His Only Beloved Son.

I encourage you this December to choose the road of Advent. Make a good Confession, especially if it's been awhile. Read completely one of the Gospels, they are shorter and richer than you think. Take home a daily Advent prayer book from the church after Sunday Mass. And if Mass has been missing from your life, know that you are wanted, welcome and that we have been holding your place for you at the Table of the Lord. This Advent perhaps make a special family trip to select items for the poor through Give A Gift on December 8 & 9. Or come together to add your voices to the magnificent Lessons & Carols Celebration on December 16.

Do something *new*, opening up to God in a way you haven't for a long while or maybe even never at all. Take the road less travelled by, the road of faith, the road of sacrificial love that Jesus walked before us. And when Christmas finally comes, you will discover that truly it *"has made all the difference."*

May the Lord of Our Advent Journey bless you and yours,

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

Thank You. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all who showed me such kindness during a very difficult November. First, I was hospitalized for three days with a bacterial infection that left me severely dehydrated and was causing me to lose kidney function. I visit the sick in hospitals every single week, but never before in my fifty years of life have I ever been a patient. I thank the medical staff at Milford Hospital who got me well, and all of you who sent get well cards, emails, flowers, baked goods and enough homemade soup to fill a bathtub. I am truly blessed to be part of a parish family with so many kind-hearted and caring individuals.

The true spirit of St. Mary's also shone through following the sudden death of Loki, my best buddy and constant companion for the past sixteen years. I was deeply moved by the many expressions of condolence I received, and by so many who took the time to share a favorite Loki story – either personally experienced or from one of mine or Fr. David's sermons. I have been a solo priest at St. Mary's for some years now, but only with Loki's passing have I felt that I actually live alone. Your thoughtfulness reminds me that I am surrounded by a faith community that truly cares for one another. Thank you.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

at St. Mary's Church in Holliston



December 16, 2018, 5:00 PM

Join us for an Advent and Christmas celebration through scripture and music. St. Mary's Choirs and Ensembles will join together to present choral works by Handel, Rutter, Brahms and others, as well as traditional Christmas carols to sing along!

Nationally-renowned organist Brandon Santini will present a free 30-minute organ recital at 4:30 PM, and will accompany the service.



This event is free and open to all



The Holy Season of Advent is marked by increased prayer, fasting and good works. It is a time to renew our love of Jesus and through Him our love of others. It is a time in which we ask God's mercy and rededicate ourselves to His joyful service. In this way, even as we mark the birth of Jesus, we ourselves are making a new beginning as children of God.

“THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS” ~ AN ADVENT MINI-RETREAT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2:00 – 3:00 PM. Come and prepare your hearts for the season of Advent by spending one hour of prayer and reflection before the busyness of Christmas takes over. Join us in the Church for an Advent Retreat with Eucharistic Adoration. Deacon John Barry will give a reflection on preparing our hearts to receive the Lord anew this Christmas. Refreshments will be served following the retreat.



“FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,” A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION ~

FRIDAY, DEC. 7 VIGIL MASS AT 6:30 PM. SAT., DEC. 8 FEAST DAY MASSES AT 9 AM & 12 PM. The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna's womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception.

CONTEMPORARY VESPERS ~ TUESDAYS, DEC. 4, 11, & 18, 7:00 PM. Bring your day to a restful end with this twenty minute experience of the Psalms, calming your spirit and letting go of distractions and anxieties. The Liturgy of the Hours connects you to the whole Church in prayer worldwide.



CLASSICAL VESPERS ~ WED., DEC. 5, 7-7:30 PM. Join our talented Youth Choir for this Sung Service on the second Wednesday of Advent. Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, takes place as dusk begins to fall. Evening Prayer gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Vespers is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, part of the daily prayer of the Universal Church worldwide. It consists of the singing of psalms, intercessions, and prayers. Come experience the beauty of sung prayer!



COOKIE WALK ~ DECEMBER 8 & 9, AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES. Long rows of tables will be set up in the lower church – tables loaded down with over 2,000 delicious homemade cookies baked by St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group Members. For \$6, you may purchase an empty cookie bag, then “walk” down the rows of tables and select a dozen cookies which youths (wearing plastic gloves) will place in your bag. All proceeds will benefit the poor of Haiti.



GIVE A GIFT ~ DECEMBER 8 & 9 AT ALL MASSES.

Once again we ask the people of St. Mary's to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. All items go to needy families in Boston, and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, unwrapped together in a plain bag or gift bag with a tag stating “Boy” or “Girl” and size or age up to age 18. No adult gifts please. Kindly place your gift in front of St. Mary's altar at any Mass the weekend of December 8 & 9. **Gift bags only please** - no wrapping.

ORGAN, LESSONS & CAROLS ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 5-6 PM IN THE CHURCH. Join us for an evening of beautiful music and scripture, anticipating the wondrous birth of our Lord Jesus. This year's Lessons and Carols will feature the combined choirs and ensembles of St. Mary's Church, as well as nationally-renowned organist Brandon Santini, who will also offer a 30-minute organ concert at 4:30 PM. The program will include familiar carols as well as choral music by Rutter, Handel, Pearsall, Brahms, and others. Bring your whole family and fill your Christmas preparations with plenty of holiday cheer!



Christmas Mass Schedule



Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4 PM Masses in both the Church and Fr. Haley Hall ~ (Hall Mass includes the Christmas Pageant)

5:30 PM Mass in the Church

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

11 PM Midnight Mass in the Church ~
(Caroling starts at 10:30 PM)

Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day

** Please remember that there is
no 7:30 AM Mass on Christmas Day.*

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

11:30 AM Mass in the Church



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #14224

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella, **Deputy Grand Knight:** Tom Anguish

DECEASED MEMBERS MASS: The Council will honor deceased members at the 11:30 AM Mass on December 9. All brothers are encouraged to attend.

COUNCIL HONORS NEW SECOND AND THIRD DEGREE KNIGHT:

Congratulations to Knight Nicholas Calapa who received his second and third degree honors in an induction ceremony conducted at the Walpole K of C Council on October 28.

ANNUAL COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY: All Knights are encouraged to attend the December meeting on December 19. Pizza, salad and ice cream will be served followed by a \$10 Yankee Swap.

ANNUAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: The Council will sponsor the Blood Drive in Father Haley Hall on Saturday, January 19, 2019. Knight Rodman Burgett is chairman. Details to follow in weekly bulletins.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2019: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at (508) 429-7588 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now **join ON-LINE** by going to the Supreme K of C website **kofc.org**. On-line membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council.

MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be Wednesday, December 19. The Council recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church at **6:30 PM** (changed from 7:00 PM due to party).

2018 GRAND ANNUAL NOW UNDERWAY

| | |
|----------|--|
| \$65,000 | Staff Salaries: The eight men and women of St. Mary's Staff are hardworking, dedicated individuals. This portion of the Grand Annual will go toward their salaries. |
| \$37,590 | Toward the replacement of the floors beneath the church pews in the church and new kneelers for the church pews. |
| \$9,000 | Rectory repairs and refurbishment. Except for the Secretary's Office, no interior refurbishing work in the rectory has been done since 1982. After 36 years, paint is peeling, wallpaper is split and falling down, while several carpets are worn all the way through. (See photos in your postal mailing or here: https://bit.ly/2yCyscc). The stairs to the third floor of the rectory also need to be replaced, as a number of the steps are sagging and unsafe. St. Mary's rectory is over 140 years old. The stairs and the three most deteriorated rooms will be addressed. |
| \$6,400 | Church painting, exterior touch ups and interior painting of the lower sanctuary (altar area). |
| \$5,370 | New heating and air-conditioning system for the Parish Center Library. The old one has been out of order since June and has proven irreparable. |
| \$4,000 | Designated for improvements for our handicapped members, including adding exterior church lighting for the handicapped parking spaces which currently are totally dark once night falls. |
| \$5,000 | Repairs to Lower Church exterior stairs (rectory side), and interior ceiling damage. |
| \$3,000 | Replacement electronic organ for St. Mary's Music Program. The portable Viscount organ we used to borrow for Lessons & Carols, Vespers, and other sanctuary events is no longer available. |
| \$2,850 | Bills for emergency plumbing for the Parish Center and Annex Classroom Building. |
| \$2,000 | Replacement of 11-year-old Video Projection System for Religious Education & Youth Ministry. |



HOW TO MAKE YOUR 2018 GRAND ANNUAL GIFT

Please carefully review the Grand Annual information provided to you by the St. Mary's Finance Council in the mailing you received in November. You may also find it in the November Newsletter: <https://bit.ly/2yCyscc>. **This year's need is \$150,000, the same as last year.**

Pray about it and **decide as a family** what gift you can make according to the means with which God has blessed you. If you have children, make them aware of your Grand Annual support so that they can learn good stewardship by your example.

Place your Grand Annual Gift in an orange Grand Annual envelope. Extra Grand Annual envelopes are provided at the doors, but for tax purposes the one coded for your family should be used. This was in your direct mailing.

Your 2018 Grand Annual gift may be made at any time by mailing it in to 8 Church St., dropping it off at the Parish Office, or placing it in any Mass collection basket.

If put in a Mass offertory basket, however, the orange envelope, or an envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual" must be used.

Thank you for doing your part to support this essential annual stewardship effort!

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 2018 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses: | \$150,000.00 |
| Grand Annual parishioner support received as of Nov. 25, 2018: | - \$ 89,966.00 |
| Parishioner support still needed to reach 2018 Grand Annual goal: | \$ 60,034.00 |
| % of 2018 Grand Annual achieved to date: | 60 % |
| % of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift: | 39% |





EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

On Saturday, November 3, five St. Mary's Parishioners were Invested by Cardinal O'Malley as Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. They are Mrs. Susan Cote, Mrs. Kimberley Latifi, Mr. Brendan Cavalier, Mr. Joseph DeMarkey and Dr. Anthony Nunes. The celebration began on Friday, November 2, with Solemn Evening Prayer led by Bishop Mark O'Connell at the Mission Basilica in Boston. The "Knights and Ladies to be" made their Solemn Oaths orally and by signature. The various symbols of their membership in the Order were then blessed. A number of current Knights and Ladies were also promoted, including Deacon John Barry, who was elevated to the rank of Knight Commander. Our Pastor Fr. Mark, also a Knight, was present to support our parishioners. The Service concluded with a Blessing of everyone with a Relic of the True Cross.

On Saturday afternoon, again at the Basilica, Cardinal O'Malley celebrated the Solemn Mass of Investiture. In the photo below left, St. Mary's Parishioner Joseph DeMarkey kneels as Cardinal O'Malley uses a sword to knight him. Cardinal O'Malley serves as Grand Prior of the Order's Northeastern Lieutenantcy. The photo below right shows Cardinal O'Malley with the other four St. Mary's Investees. We know that all five new Knights and Ladies will bring great credit to the Order and strengthen this Apostolate of our Church, more critical than ever as Christians in the Holy Land today are under terrible duress.



The Equestrian Order is a worldwide Catholic Order of Knighthood that is comprised of lay and clerical members who have distinguished themselves in their adherence to the teachings of the Catholic Church and in the performance of meritorious service to their parish and diocese. One of the oldest international Catholic Orders of Chivalry, it was founded in 1099 to safeguard the Holy Sites in the Holy Land, especially the Tomb of Christ. Today, members of the Order commit themselves to continue growing in their knowledge and love of Jesus, and to support the Church's works of mercy in the Holy Land - particularly through schools, hospitals, clinics and the Latin Patriarchate. They assist in the preservation of a living and viable Christian presence in the Holy Land held dear by all Catholics as the land where Our Lord was born, preached, died and rose to save us.



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America

St. Mary's Parish * December, 2018

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Lower Church Hall

Contact: Charlie Paradie, Scoutmaster
617.697.8200

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.Troop14Holliston.com

SUMMER CAMP: From July 15 – 21, twenty-three Scouts attended Camp Squanto, bordering Myles Standish State Park in Plymouth MA. It was a great week for the Troop with seven Scouts attending camp for the first time. Highlights of the week: Troop 14 was awarded the Program Award; Troop 14 won the Inspection Unit Award on Tuesday for the best looking and cleanest site; for the 6th year in a row our Troop took 1st Place in the camp-wide APACHE RELAY on Wednesday night; the Troop remembered past leader Walter Baker at the Memorial Service on Thursday evening; and Scouts earned 59 merit badges over the course of the week.



MASSJAM 2018 JAMBOREE: On Columbus Day weekend over 5,000 Scouts from Massachusetts and surrounding states descended on the Cape Cod fairgrounds in East Falmouth, Massachusetts for three days of Scouting fun, exhibits, challenging activities, competitions, entertainment, and fellowship. Troop 14 took full advantage of the festivities with 28 Scouts and leaders in attendance. (Photo Above Right). One of our highlights was attending the United States Navy Band afternoon concert just a 100' from our camp site. Our Scouts enjoyed connecting with old Scout friends from around the state.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD: On October 27, Troop 14 took to the streets in BSA's & Troop 14's annual "Scouting for Food" service project where flyers were distributed throughout ten neighborhoods in Holliston. The following Saturday, on November 3, the Scouts collected 166 bags of food and brought them to the Holliston Food Pantry for Holliston families in need. Thanks to all that donated food.

TURKEY ROAST AND CAMPOUT: Troop 14's annual Turkey Roast Campout and Dinner was held November 3 and 4 at the Holliston Sportsmen's Association. The Troop invited the Webelos from the Holliston Cub Scout Packs (future recruits), and over a dozen Webelos and families enjoyed a Saturday afternoon of activities including setting up tents, knot tying, dutch-oven cooking, and tomahawk throwing. Prior to the event Scouts practiced the skills they would be teaching the Webelos. (Photo Below Left). That evening, Turkey dinner with all the fixings was served to 115 Scouts, Scout families and Webelos families. After dinner, some of the Webelos stayed for a campfire and camped overnight with the Troop.



FALL POPCORN FUND RAISER & DAY AT THE RECYCLING CENTER:

Troop 14 Scouts participated in our annual Popcorn Fundraising Event this fall. In addition to individual sales, on October 20 and November 17 the Troop was at the Holliston Recycling Center to help unload vehicles and sell a variety of popcorn products to raise money for Troop activities and equipment. Thanks to the community at large for supporting our Troop.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Early winter weekend campout in December – Yawgoo Scout Camp in RI.
- January snow-shoe backpacking trip to Carter Notch in the White Mountains.

ST. MARY'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 14: The Troop meets weekly on Monday nights. If interested in joining Troop 14, come to any of our meetings. Scouts is an ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

st.marysmsyg@gmail.com Open to all any 6th, 7th & 8th Graders!



HAUNTED HAYRIDE:

On October 19, forty-one MSYG 8th Graders drove all the way to S. Hadley, MA to experience the massive Monster Mash Scream Park at McCrae's Farm. Apocalyptic scenes, chainsaw wielding clowns, and a very long Haunted House – what better way to spend a Friday night?!

HAUNTED MANSION:

Saturday, October 20, found 101 MSYG 6th & 7th Graders at Barrett's Haunted Mansion in Abington. This year's theme was "Unhinged – Black Hinge Maximum Security Penitentiary." Demented prison guards took us inside and locked us in a cell! A secret passage led not to escape, but a true labyrinth of horrors complete with psychotic scientists wanting to use us for research. No thank you! Next Domino's delivered piles of pizza, and then it was off to Peaceful Meadows Ice Cream for a sweet ending to a scary night.

"Even when I walk in the valley of darkness, I will fear no evil for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff-they comfort me."

PS 23



DECEMBER MEETING:

Sunday, Dec. 2, 6:30 – 8 PM, with Sign Ups for Caroling, Cookie Walk Sales, Snow Tubing, and more. Bring a friend!

DECEMBER EVENTS:

Saturday, Dec. 8 / Sunday, Dec. 9: Cookie Walk for the Poor of Haiti at All Masses.

Friday, Dec. 14: Christmas Caroling & Shrine Light Walk 5:30 – 9:00 PM.

st. Mary's EPIC

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN CHRIST

**EPIC's Next Meeting is Sunday, December 9,
7:30 – 8:45 PM in Father Haley Hall.
Open to anyone in High School.
BRING A FRIEND!**



Pictures from November Meeting – First Ever St. Mary's Games

EPIC is St. Mary's super awesome High School Youth Group full of friends, faith, food, games, adventures, trips, service, and so much more! We have monthly meetings as well as some great social and service trips. If you have any questions about EPIC or want to get involved come to our next meeting or contact our Youth Minister, Jake Thiringer at stmarysym1870@gmail.com

**Next Event – Dec. 8
Christmas Party with Caroling
With Norfolk County
Catholics
At Doolittle Nursing Home in
Foxboro**

ADVENT SUMMONS

Come forth from the holy place,
Sweet Child,
Come from the quiet dark
Where virginal heartbeats
Tick your moments.

Come away from the red music
Of Mary's veins.
Come out from the Tower of
David
Sweet Child,
From the House of Gold.

Leave your lily-cloister,
Leave your holy mansion,
Quit your covenant ark.
O Child, be born!

Be born, sweet Child,
In our longing hearts.

Come to our trembling,
Helpless Child.
Come to our littleness,
Little Child,
Be born unto us
Who have kept the faltering vigil.
Be given, be born,
Be ours again.

Come forth from your holy
haven,
Come away from your perfect
shrine,
Come to our wind-racked souls
From the flawless tent,
Sweet Child.

Be born, little Child,
In our lonely hearts.

Sr. Mary Francis, P.C.



ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

DECEMBER 2018

got faith?



“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES: It’s December and so it’s time to talk about seasonal books for children and adults. This year’s recommended children’s book is *The Friendly Beasts*, adapted and illustrated by Jan Burlingame. This is a setting of a medieval carol that tells the story of the unique gifts the stable animals gave baby Jesus as they welcomed him into our, and their, world. A book by Anselm Grün, OSB, *A Time of Fulfillment: Spiritual Reflections for Advent and Christmas*, is recommended for adults. This is not a daily meditation book, but a book that reflects on the *O Antiphons* (the basis of the hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*) and a number of New Testament writings. Both of these books are available in our parish library and through online booksellers.

HAPPY NEW LITURGICAL YEAR: This year is Liturgical Year C, the year of Luke. This means that the gospel we will hear on most Sundays from Advent 2018 until the 2019 Solemnity of Christ the King will be from the New Testament book of Luke’s gospel. You can read about this gospel on the US Bishops’ website at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/luke/0>. Franciscan Media has an article about Luke’s gospel which can be found at <https://bit.ly/2PYvqBr>. Finally, you can also find information about this gospel on the website created by Felix Just, SJ: <http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Luke.htm>.

SEASON OF ADVENT PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES: Join in our parish celebration of Evening Prayer on the three Tuesdays of Advent, December 4, 11 and 18 at 7:00 PM in the Church. Evening Prayer is one part of the Church’s official daily prayer called the Liturgy of the Hours. It consists of psalms, prayers, readings and a little singing, and lasts about 20 minutes. If you are interested in a daily experience of prayer this Advent, Loyola Press is offering a daily retreat; sign up to receive a daily email at <https://bit.ly/2RQQZZo>, where you will also find a link for an Advent Calendar for adults.

CREATION CARE TEAM: Sharon Febo of the St. Mary’s Creation Care Team has provided us with some information about having a less materialistic Christmas, courtesy of the New Dream Organization. She suggests that we might consider giving an experience gift such as a museum membership, event tickets, or a class/lessons. This works for adults or children. A personalized coupon booklet can also work for any age group. Adults might enjoy a coupon for a free morning to sleep in, a dinner out, or completion of a household chore. Coupons for children might also include chore completion, an extra 15 minutes before bed time, or reading an extra story. Create your own or use this template from New Dream: <https://bit.ly/2OJrvS>. Finally, you can donate to a charity in a person’s name. A donation to an animal shelter would be great for a pet lover while donating to a food pantry might please a person who loves cooking. Some organizations share what a specific amount can buy which makes the donation more concrete.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY: Leo Racine will be facilitating a three week reading and discussion group on Pope Francis’ 2018 apostolic exhortation called *Gaudete et Exultate: On the Call to Holiness in Today’s World*. The group will meet on Thursday evenings, January 10, 17 and 24 from 7:30 to 8:30 PM in the Parish Center. Please contact Leo at 508-429-7476 or leoracine@msn.com for more info.

OUR ENVIRONMENT: Have you ever considered our earth to be holy, or thought it worthy of God’s renewal? At the Easter Vigil, we listen to the story of creation and hear that God saw that what he had made was good (Genesis 1). As a response to that reading, and again on the Feast of Pentecost we sing from Psalm 104: “Lord, send out your spirit and renew the face of the earth.” Our earth is holy and in need of our care, and God’s renewal. View the video, *Our Future* at <https://bit.ly/1OqbE1>. --Leo Racine