



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

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NEWSLETTER DECEMBER, 2020

- 1st Sunday of Advent, November 29
- Love Finds A Way
- 22 New Families Welcomed
- Advent 2020 at St. Mary's
- Christmas Masses by Reservation
- Happy 150th Birthday St. Mary's!
- 2020 Grand Annual Update
- Knights of Columbus
- Rel. Ed. & Choir Online
- Deacon Marty's Book Review
- Adult Faith Resources
- Interested in Becoming Catholic?



ARE YOU UNBAPTIZED?

ARE YOU BAPTIZED BUT NEVER MADE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION?

ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO WAS NEVER CONFIRMED?

WERE YOU BAPTIZED IN ANOTHER FAITH BUT ARE NOW CONSIDERING BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

St. Mary's offers an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Called **R.C.I.A.** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) these sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Christ's Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season.

There are separate sessions for children or youth. You are invited to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a supportive and accepting setting. Our wonderful R.C.I.A. team and our whole parish are waiting to give you a warm welcome. Please call (508) 429-4427 for more information.

"Go and make disciples of all nations'. ... Jesus is calling you to be a disciple with a mission!"

- Pope Francis, Waterfront Mass, Rio de Janeiro, XXVIII World Youth Day, Sunday, 28 July 2013



St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

December, 2020 ~ Volume 46, Number 2



St. Mary's Parish
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Holliston, MA 01746

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PANDEMIC CAN'T STOP LOVE!

On Saturday, October 24, Meghan Missett and Jacob Kushner received the Holy Sacrament of Marriage in St. Mary's Church. All but those in the sanctuary wore masks throughout, and the aisle the bride and her father walked down was marked with blue six-foot spacing markers. But nothing could lessen the joy as two became one with each other and the Lord. Congratulations!

"Authentic married love is caught up into divine love and is directed and enriched by the redemptive power of Christ and the salvific action of the Church." (Gaudium et Spes, 48).





St. Mary's Warmly Welcomes 22 New Families to Our Parish!



The Woods Family – Michael, Susan and Alexandria

The Woodcock Family – Roland, Kimberly, Alexandra and Katelyn

The Tobin Family – Nathaniel, Noreen, Michael, Molly and Emma

The Spilka Family – Daniel, Julie, Hailey and Connor

The Ross Family – David, Sharon, Abigail and Charles

The Rediger Family – Dan, Meghan, Nolan and Trent



The O'Neill Family – Robert, Margaret, Tyler, Michael and Shae

The Ondrasek Family – Michael, Jackie, Andrea and Spencer

The Olynciw Family – Timothy, Meghan, Matthew and Olivia

The Leoncini Family – Jeffrey, Dianna and Isabelle



The Johnson Family – Paul, Jennifer, Andrew, Kathryn and Molly

The Bacchiochi Family – Jason, Dawn, Abigail and Jake



The Hoben Family – Brad, Michele, Macie and Kayla

The Hetzel Family – Matt, Jeanine, Elyse, Grant and Warren

The Gonzalez Family – Jarret, Stacey, Victoria and Isabella

The Frauton Family – Adam, Kristyn, Luke, Shawn, Bryanna, Erik and Alyssa

The Digiacommo Family – John, Jennifer and Julianne

The Cunniff Family – Michael, Michelle, Shannon, Josh and Timothy

The Cormier Family – Richard, Colleen, Adeline and Coleman

The Chandler Family – Michael, Jeanine, Carlie and Emma

The Supple Family – Edward

The Giangarra Family – Philip and Suzanne



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

In recent weeks I have been called to the bedsides of dying men and women an unusually large number of times. Thankfully, most of them were at peace, having lived long and full lives. If they had regret it was not apparent. Very apparent was their faith and the love of the family members caring for them.

All of these visits have made me reflect more than usual on my own mortality, and what a beautiful gift from God is each new day. I know that the current COVID Pandemic has had the same effect on many of you, even those fortunate enough not to have lost someone they know to the virus. Life seems more fragile, and fleeting, and perhaps more precious than once it did.

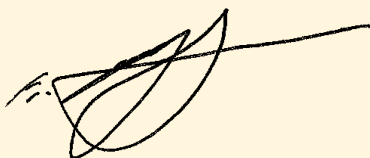
As Advent now begins, we think of the life carried for nine months by Blessed Mary in her womb – the life of Emmanuel, “God With Us.” Christmas Day is simply the revealing to the world of the great miracle that had already occurred so many months before - the miracle of God becoming a human being.

In a sense, this all prefigures our own experience as Christians. This earthly life is like a womb, a place of preparation for the life which is to come. Our passing from this world marks the moment when we are born into the presence of God.

Like an unborn child hearing muted sounds and seeing dim and shifting lights, we can sense something of what awaits us - we can catch glimpses of the glory of God, we can see “as through a glass darkly.” But it is only when we leave this temporary place, this worldly womb, that we will finally see God face to face, and discover the true depth of His love for us.

Until that time, let us embrace each day as a gift – an opportunity to serve the Christ Who experienced this passage before us and awaits us at its end.

God bless you!



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,
Into 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,
Into our lonely hearts.*



Sr. Mary
Francis, P.C.



Advent is the season when we prepare for the First Coming of Christ at Christmas and also when we reflect that there will be a Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. The liturgical color of Advent is purple since the season like Lent is one of preparation for a great mystery. On the third Sunday the priest wears rose (pink) for Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete means rejoice). Throughout Advent we do not say or sing the Gloria in Excelsis Deo as this is heaven's response to the glorious birth of Jesus. Hence we sing it again once Christmas arrives.

Due to the Pandemic, many of St. Mary's traditional Advent events have been forced to be cancelled this year. This means that Catholic families will need to find more ways to bring Advent alive at home – especially for their children. One way to do this is to have an Advent Wreath in your home.

YOUR FAMILY'S ADVENT WREATH ~ What is the meaning of Advent Wreaths? The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life offered by Jesus Christ. The evergreens that make up the wreath are also significant: laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew: immortality; and cedar: strength and healing. Holly also reminds us of the crown of thorns and the red berries of the blood of our Lord Jesus.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple, and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing, because we are half-way through the preparation and close to Christmas. The light of the candles again signifies Christ, "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. Jn 3:19-21).

Wreaths with candles pre-date Christianity. In Northern Europe they were lit in the dark days of December as a sign of hope that the warm and longer days of spring would come. In Scandinavia during winter, lit candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth. Christians adopted the tradition of wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Prayers for Lighting the Candles on Your Family's Advent Wreath.

First Week: All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to His side in the kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. AMEN.

Second Week: God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN.

Third Week: Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Fourth Week: Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.





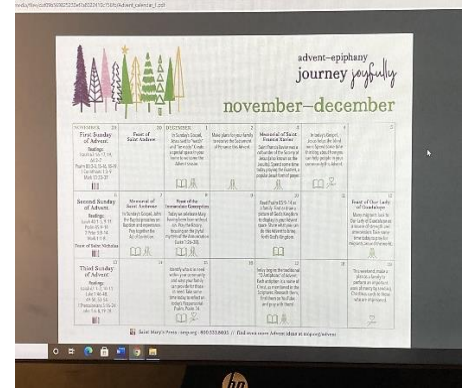
ADVENT 2020 ONLINE RESOURCES ~

Advent 2020 Calendars may be downloaded for free at:

<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/14012/>

Advent Resources of many types are available for free at:

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/site-index.html>



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ~

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, Masses at 9 AM & 6:30 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.

LIVESTREAMED VESPERS ~ TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 1, 15, & 22 at 7 PM.

This year, Advent Vespers will be celebrated at St. Mary's and livestreamed for your virtual participation. Vespers, or "Evening Prayer," is part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours. You can participate in the prayer via the Music at St. Mary's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>.

GIVE A GIFT ~ DECEMBER 5 & 6 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 18 years. No adult gifts please. Kindly place your gift in front of St. Mary's altar at any Mass the weekend of December 5 & 6. **Gift bags only please** - no wrapping as they need to see what the gift is for proper distribution.

* The Pandemic has hit inner city, low income families especially hard. Many are in service industries and have been laid off, many have jobs that cannot be done from home. Please be generous!



POPE FRANCIS ~ A MESSAGE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today we begin the journey of Advent, which will culminate in Christmas. Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return. He will return to us in the celebration of Christmas, when we will remember his historic coming in the humility of the human condition; but he enters our heart each time we are willing to receive him; and he will come again at the end of time to "judge the living and the dead". Therefore, we must always be vigilant and await the Lord with the hope of encountering him. Today's liturgy introduces us precisely to this evocative theme of vigilance and waiting.

In the Gospel (cf. Mk 13:33-37) Jesus exhorts us to take heed and watch, so as to be ready to welcome him at the moment of his return. He tells us: "Take heed, watch ... for you do not know when the time will come.... Watch therefore ... lest he come suddenly and find you asleep" (vv. 33-37).

The person who takes heed is the one who, amid the worldly din, does not let himself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others. With this manner we become aware of the tears and the needs of neighbors and we can also understand their human and spiritual strengths and qualities. The heedful person then also turns toward the world, seeking to counter the indifference and cruelty in it, and taking delight in its beautiful treasures which also exist and are to be safeguarded. It is a matter of having an understanding gaze so as to recognize both the misery and poverty of individuals and of society, and to recognize the richness hidden in little everyday things, precisely there where the Lord has placed us.

The watchful person is the one who accepts the invitation to keep watch, that is, not to let himself be overpowered by the listlessness of discouragement, by the lack of hope, by disappointment; and at the same time it wards off the allure of the many vanities with which the world is brimming and for which, now and then, time and personal and familial peace is sacrificed. It is the painful experience of the people of Israel, recounted by the Prophet Isaiah: God seemed to have let his people err from his ways (cf. 63:17), but this was a result of the unfaithfulness of the people themselves (cf. 64:4b). We too often find ourselves in this situation of unfaithfulness to the call of the Lord: He shows us the good path, the way of faith, the way of love, but we seek our happiness elsewhere.

Being attentive and watchful are prerequisites so as not to continue to "err from the Lord's ways", lost in our sins and in our unfaithfulness; being attentive and being watchful are the conditions that allow God to permeate our existence, in order to restore meaning and value to it with his presence full of goodness and tenderness. May Mary Most Holy, role model for awaiting God and icon of watchfulness, lead us to her son Jesus, rekindling our love for him.



Franciscus



Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

3:00 PM Masses in both the Church and Fr. Haley Hall

5:00 PM Masses in both the Church and Fr. Haley Hall

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

11:00 PM Midnight Mass in the Church

** All worship areas will be fully cleaned, aired out, and sanitized between Masses. So dress warmly because we will have opened the windows to change out the air.*

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

11:30 AM Mass in the Church



** All Christmas 2020 Masses will be by advance Sign-Up Only. In this way we can assure that there is a seat waiting for all who come. With seating greatly reduced by the pandemic, we want to make certain that there is "room at the inn!" So sign-up your family for Mass as soon as you can commit.*

A Sign-Up link for Christmas will be emailed to all Parishioners, and will be available on the Parish Website, on Monday, December 14.

You may also register by phone through Noon on Wednesday, December 23. Online Sign-Ups will end at Midnight, Wednesday, December 23.

DOES YOUR PARISH HAVE YOUR EMAIL?

If you receive this Newsletter then you are already a registered member of St. Mary's Parish. But do you receive the Bulletin by email each Monday? If not, please email us your family name at St.Marys1870@gmail.com.



MAKE SURE ST. MARY'S CAN EMAIL YOU THE CHRISTMAS MASS SIGN UP LINK!

Due to Pandemic space restrictions, Christmas Mass attendance is by reservation only this year. Don't miss out. Send us your family email TODAY!

Celebrating 150 years!

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Did You Know? This December *Newsletter* concludes the series of “Did You Know” articles that have been part of this 150th anniversary year. I have decided to end with a few of St. Mary’s early and continuing Christmas events and traditions.

Framingham Gazette, December 31, 1873: *“Christmas was a proud day for the Catholics, inasmuch as they on that day occupied for the first time the vestry of their new church. Although not finished it was made very comfortable, the audience room being tastefully decorated, and over the altar this motto ‘I.H.S. Gloria in Excelsis Deo.’ The pastor, Rev. R.J. Quinlan, congratulated his people on the acquisition of a room which was henceforth to be set apart for their worship, where they could feel more at home than when using the Town Hall. The usual Christmas collection for the pastor, who is deservedly popular with his people, was taken, amounting to over \$500, after which he delivered an address appropriate to the day. The vestry will be occupied until the completion of the church room above...”*



Christmas Pageant 1983

Milford Daily News, December 29, 1932: “Rev. Patrick J. Lyons...was host to the children of his Sunday school yesterday afternoon when he tendered them a Christmas tree party in St. Mary’s Hall. *(This would have been the Lower Church).* A large beautifully decorated Christmas tree adorned the platform, beneath which there was a huge pile of gifts. Santa Claus was impersonated by Paul Mahoney. A program of entertainment including recitations, vocal and instrumental music, was furnished by the children. Refreshments were served by the ladies of the Catholic Guild. The pastor gave each child a religious picture and a box of candy.”

Many of St. Mary’s current beloved Christmas traditions date back to the 1980s. The CYO (currently Youth Ministry) planned an annual Special Needs Christmas Party in 1981. The service of Lessons and Carols during Advent began with then Music Director Leo Abbot in 1983. The Children’s Christmas Pageant at Christmas Eve Mass began in 1984 and was coordinated by Associate Pastor Fr. Frank LeBlanc and Laura Koziol. The Grade 4 Christmas Happening was first organized in 1984 by Kathy Fitzgerald, Grade 4 Coordinator. Christmas Give-a-Gift was first sponsored by the Respect Life Committee in 1985. The Middle School Youth Group Christmas Cookie Walk to benefit the poor in Haiti is a more recent tradition, started by our current Pastor, Fr. Mark Coiro.



Advent Lessons and Carols 2012

The “Did You Know” *Newsletter* series is concluded, but work on the anniversary book is continuing. Publication is now set for Fall 2021. I still welcome stories, anecdotes, photos, etc. The history is focused on the St. Mary’s parishioners who came together to form the close-knit, welcoming, nurturing parish community of St. Mary’s that continues today. Contact betty.febo@gmail.com.

2020 GRAND ANNUAL NOW UNDERWAY

- \$79,650.00 Cracking church ceiling plaster repairs and the first painting of St. Mary's Church interior in twenty-six years. Every single surface will be repaired and repainted, from ceilings to baseboards. The ceiling fans which do not actually move air, will be permanently removed. Happy 150th Birthday St. Mary's!
- \$70,350.00 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.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR 2020 GRAND ANNUAL GIFT

Please carefully review the Grand Annual information provided to you by the St. Mary's Finance Council.

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.

Please return the gold Grand Annual envelope you were mailed at any time by mailing it in to 8 Church St. or dropping it through the Rectory Office Door Mail-slot.

To keep it separate from your regular offertory support, the special gold envelope, or an envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual" should be used.

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



2020 Grand Annual Goal:	\$150,000.00
Grand Annual parishioner support received as of Nov. 15, 2020:	- \$ 62,905.00

Parishioner support still needed to reach 2020 Grand Annual goal: \$ 87,095.00

% of 2020 Grand Annual achieved as of November 15:	42 %
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% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	19 %
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Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * December, 2020

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Lower Church Hall (Suspended)

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.hollistonTroop14.com

St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 is meeting outdoors during the Pandemic, Lower Church & Fr. Haley Hall soon. If interested in joining Troop 14, contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for Boys 11-17 years old.

Upcoming Events

- December Campout TBD, pending COVID Restrictions.

TWO NEW EAGLES IN ST. MARY'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 14: Congratulations go out to Troop 14's Nico Doyle and Brendan Irons who have completed all the Eagle requirements and on October 22 passed their Eagle Board of Review, earning Scouting's highest rank. Did you know that since the inception of the Eagle Scout award in 1912, only 2.01% of eligible Scouts have earned Scouting's highest honor? While in recent years, that percentage has grown to about 6% each year, the award is still a major achievement that is rarely achieved.

COURT OF HONOR ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 26: Held in St. Mary's Church so that Scouts and their families could socially distance, while others participated virtually, Troop 14 held its Fall Court of Honor on October 26. Since June, Troop 14 Scouts earned a total of 22 merit badges, (Photo Right). Seven Scouts advanced in rank, including Evan Craze & Hiatt Mueller to Scout; Ryan Balardini, Tanush Basavaraj & Ryan Carter to Tenderfoot; Sohan Javali to Second Class; and Eddie Bombardieri to Life.

SCOUT DAY AT THE SPORTSMAN'S CLUB: (Photos Below & Top of Next Page). For over 35 years, the first weekend in November has traditionally been Troop 14's Turkey Roast Campout. But this year, due to



the COVID-19 restrictions, many of our usual activities had to be cancelled, including the campout, gun safety and shotgun practice, Webelos visit with the Troop, and Turkey dinner with the Troop families. While it looked different this year, the Troop did spend Saturday, November 7 together, with the Scouts cooking a Leader Appreciation Lunch, working on advancement, and participating in various activities such as fire building, badminton and tomahawk throwing. The four patrols each cooked dinner, including such dishes as Chicken Parmesan, Beef Stroganoff, Chicken & Broccoli Kabobs, and Chicken Pot Pie. The day ended with a Troop campfire.





ST. MARY'S OFFERS RELIGIOUS EMBLEM PROGRAM TO ALL CATHOLIC SCOUTS IN HOLLISTON:

The Twelfth point of the Scout Law is "A Scout is Reverent." Given this emphasis, the BSA encourages all Scouts to pursue the Religious Emblem Awards appropriate to their faith. A variety of religious emblems programs are developed by various denominations and are used by the Boy Scouts of America to promote spiritual growth and knowledge. So important is the spiritual aspect of Scouting, that only the Religious Emblem and Eagle Scout decorations may be worn on the Adult Scout uniform.

For Catholic Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, there are four programs based on a Scout's age (Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII). (Photo Below). The Boy Scouts of America encourages all Catholic Scouts to earn the Religious Emblems appropriate for their age. St. Mary's is conducting the "Ad Altare Dei" ("To the Altar of God") program this fall/winter, open to any Catholic Scouts in Holliston aged 13 and older. The 6-month program consists of activities, meetings, short readings and written assignments. At the Cub Scout level, the Scouts work on the program with their parents or guardians.

Duty to God

All Catholic Scouts whether they are Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts or Venturers have the opportunity to earn Religious Emblems to exhibit their spiritual growth within their age-appropriate scouting programs.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #d3d3d3;">LIGHT OF CHRIST</div> 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #d3d3d3;">PARVULI DEI</div> 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #d3d3d3;">AD+ALTARE+DEI</div> 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #d3d3d3;">LIGHT IS LIFE</div> 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #d3d3d3;">PIUS XII</div> 
<p>"Light of Christ" is to help the Cub Scout develop a personal relationship with Jesus. With the parents' active assistance & participation in this program, it is hoped that the Cub will come to see Jesus as a real person and his friend.</p>	<p>"Parvuli Dei" (Children of God) emblem is to help young boys explore a wide range of activities in order to discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their families & parishes.</p>	<p>"Ad Altare Dei" (To the Altar of God) program is to help Catholic Scouts of the Roman Rite develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community. The program is organized in chapters based on the seven Sacraments.</p>	<p>"Light is Life" is a program developed for scouts of the Eastern-rite Catholic Churches. Light is Life respects the cultural and ritual differences among the various Eastern Catholic Churches.</p>	<p>"Pope Pius XII" The program deals with different life choices (single, married, religious, ordained), occupations and ministries in the church as calls from God. (Vocations)</p>

If you are interested in earning a Religious Emblem or have questions about the program, please contact St. Mary's Religious Emblems Coordinator, Deacon Ron Dowding directly at Ronald.dowding@verizon.net who can provide resources, support and guidance.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 December, 2020

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish

MONTHLY ROSARY:

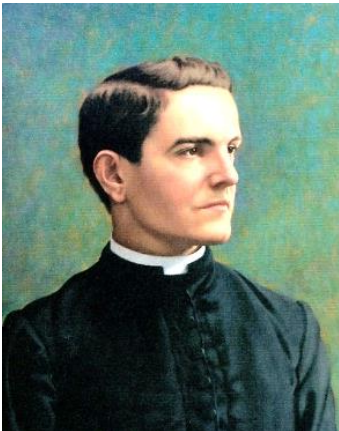
The next Rosary will be
Wednesday, December 16.
It will be via a group
"Zoom" conference
at 7:00 PM. "Zoom"
details will be sent
to all Knights.



ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS CRECHE SET-UP: The Council invites any and all men of St. Mary's to assist the Knights in setting up the Christmas lights and Creche at 8:00 AM on Saturday, December 5. Coffee and donuts will be offered to all. Come and meet the Council Knights and participate in our commitment to serve our parish.

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE FOR 2020 & COVID-19: Miss getting your Tootsie Roll and contributing to the Massachusetts State Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation? Due to the Pandemic, this annual event was not held on Columbus Day. The Foundation gives grants to Massachusetts families seeking funds for wheelchair ramps or other handicap aids for adults and children and supports special needs organizations in our state. You may contribute online through GOFUNDME (www.charity.gofundme.com/masskofctootsierolls) or Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) choosing Massachusetts State K of C Charitable Foundation. Our Council expresses thanks for your donation.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY" CONTEST: The Supreme Council sponsors this international annual essay contest "...to give students an opportunity to define the role of a Catholic citizen in many different scenarios and to strengthen the bond between the Knights of Columbus and local schools." Eligibility is open to all Catholic students in public, private, or parochial schools in grades 8-12. **Contest information and entry forms will be in the Grades 8-12 Religious Education Office or can be downloaded from <https://rb.gy/5lybbo>.** Judges from our Council and the Religious Education Directors will judge the 500-750 word essays and acknowledge all entrants. The winner for each grade will be entered in the District Contest. District winners will advance to the State Council level. Awards will be presented to all winners. Essays must be completed by December 5, 2020. The contacts are Confirmation Coordinator Jake Thiringer and Council Knight Mitchell Liro.



**FOUNDER OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
BEATIFIED!** On Saturday,
October 31, 2020, Venerable
Michael McGivney became
"Blessed" Michael McGivney,
now only one step from declared
Sainthood. Learn all about this
holy and inspiring priest at
<https://rb.gy/iaohsh>. At this site
you may also watch the
magnificent and moving Mass of
Canonization, recorded at

St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford, Connecticut.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "KEEP CHRIST IN
CHRISTMAS" POSTER CONTEST:** The contest is open to
all youth between the ages of 5-14. There are three age groups:
ages 5-7, ages 8-10, and ages 11-14. The suggested poster size is
11x14 inches. Each poster must be submitted with an entry form
by December 5, 2020. Council prizes for winners. Winners will
enter the District Council Contest. District winners will enter the
State Council contest. **Entry forms are available in the
Religious Education Office or can be downloaded from
<https://rb.gy/afjrrp>.** The contacts are D.R.E. Fran Crespi and
Council Knight Mitchell Liro.

PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY FOUNDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

God, our Father, protector of the poor and
defender of the widow and orphan, you called
your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an
apostle of Christian family life and to lead the
young to the generous service of their neighbor.
Through the example of his life and virtue, may
we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely,
fulfilling his commandment of charity and
building up his Body which is the Church. Let the
inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater
confidence in your love so that we may continue
his work of caring for the needy and the outcast.
We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael
McGivney on earth according to the design of
your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the
favor I now present (here make your request).
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please report all favors received: The Father McGivney Guild, 1
Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • USA
www.fathermcgivney.org

St. Mary's Religious Education Temporarily Moves Classes Online For Grades 8, 9, and 10 ~

In October, our Religious Education classes for older grades had sessions offered both in person and live online, so students could attend either way. However, these last few weeks, with Holliston being in Massachusetts' COVID-19 Red Zone, Archdiocesan regulations meant we were no longer able to have in person classes. Nevertheless, our classes continued without a hitch, moving entirely live online using the video conferencing software, ZOOM. We are incredibly grateful to our volunteer catechists and students who are adjusting to these new technologies, and continuing their faith education, even when classes cannot meet in person. We pray that Holliston will leave the Red Zone soon and we can resume offering in person class options. As soon as this happens, we will need some more volunteer help. Specific needs are: Monitors for Grade 8 Monday classes from 6:00 - 7:00 PM, every 3 weeks in person. Group Leaders for Grade 10 Sunday classes from 4:30 - 6:00 PM, every other week live online.



Pictured: Youth Minister and Confirmation Coordinator Jake Thiringer teaching a 9th Grade Confirmation Prep Class streaming live from his office.

St. Mary's Adult Choir Makes Music Virtually ~

Due to COVID-19, St. Mary's will sadly not be having a Lessons and Carols service for the first time in 37 years. However, the Adult Choir is currently in the process of remotely recording an anthem, *Lord For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*, to be shared digitally and also to be played live during an Advent Mass at St. Mary's. Using everyday technology, over 20 choir members have sent in audio and video recordings of themselves singing, which will be professionally mixed by Jeremy Lobenberg, Audio Engineer and Catholic FOCUS missionary.

"Chesed" is a Hebrew word used in the Old Testament which can be translated as kindness, love, loving kindness, goodness, grace, compassion, mercy or favor. Bishop Robert Barron believes that the closest translation to the word in the New Testament would be "Agape." The King James Bible translates the word as "tender mercy," a beautiful description of God's providence and care for us. The text of the piece, which is taken from the 1568 book *Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations* by John Bull and set to music by English composer Richard Farrant during the same time period, clearly is influenced by this translation and concept. The piece concludes with an Amen sequence that musicologists widely view as one of the most exquisite in the whole canon.



*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,
lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives;
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart
before thee now and evermore.*



Jeremy Lobenberg

In keeping with the Advent message of tender mercy, preparation and amendment of life, the plan is to premiere the piece at an 11:30 AM Mass during the season of Advent. Please check the bulletin in the coming weeks to find out the exact weekend.

Book Review

RIISING OUT OF HATRED

by Eli Saslow

The subtitle of this book is “The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist.” It is the story of Derek Black, whose father is Don Black, a white nationalist leader. Derek’s godfather is David Duke, ex-grand wizard of the Ku Klux



RIISING OUT OF HATRED

THE AWAKENING
OF A FORMER
WHITE NATIONALIST

ELI SASLOW

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

Klan. Derek’s mother is Chloe Black, the ex-wife of David Duke. Don Black founded a white nationalist program entitled “Stormfront,” the largest racist community on the internet. This is the environment that Derek Black grew up in. As Derek was growing up he was a frequent contributor to “Stormfront” and was destined to be the next white nationalist leader in the United States. To shield him from the rest of the world, Derek was home schooled and indoctrinated with white nationalist beliefs. After his home schooling was complete, Derek went off to college, hiding his real identity and continuing to be a major contributor to “Stormfront.”

Some of the first people Derek met at college were a Peruvian student and several Jewish students. One of the Jewish students invited him to a weekly Friday night Shabbat dinner. Derek accepted the invitation and continued to attend on a regular basis. It was because of those dinners and the diversity of students attending that Derek started to question the prejudices behind his white nationalist world view.

He also met a fellow student named Allison who discovered his white nationalist identity. Instead of rejecting him, she challenged him and his beliefs. This led Derek to confront those beliefs and the damage he had caused as a well known rising star in the white nationalist world. The interaction between Derek and Allison reveals much of the mindset of white nationalism. White nationalism is serious business and a dangerous movement in our country and it is incumbent on all of us to be aware of the movement and its dangerous beliefs.

I sincerely hope that many of our parishioners at St. Mary’s will read this book and take the time to absorb the information therein. This book can help all of us understand this American moment in history, the increasing divide in our country, and help us better understand one another. - Deacon Marty

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES DECEMBER 2020

got faith?



THE ENVIRONMENT: Last November, the Creation Care Team sponsored an Alternative Gift Fair, whose purpose was to support some local charities and reduce the amount of stuff that we have in our homes. Because of the pandemic, we have not held the Gift Fair this year. However, you can still make a donation in the name of a family member or a friend to one of the charities we invited to the 2019 Alternative Gift Fair (Holliston Food Pantry, Bethany House Ministry, Baypath Humane Society of Hopkinton, Project Just Because or Birthright) or another charity of your choosing. We have generated a lot of waste (plastic containers and wrapping, especially) this year during the pandemic. Why not try an alternative gift this holiday season? You'll be happy you did, and so will the planet!

SUNDAY READINGS: The Advent Season is in full swing this month. December 6 is the Second Sunday of Advent, December 13, the Third Sunday and December 20, the Fourth Sunday. Advent, as well as the new Liturgical Year, begins on November 29. According to the Church's *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, "[a]dvent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time" (39). The First Sunday of Advent's Gospel reading focuses on Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. The Gospel readings of the Second and Third Sundays of Advent introduce us to John the Baptist and his call to God's people to prepare for the first coming of the Lord into the world. The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent tells the awe-filled story of the Annunciation. You can prepare for each Sunday's readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>. Looking for a little extra? Each Sunday in Advent we hear the song *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*; you will find an explanation of the verses of this song, the *O Antiphons*, at <http://bit.ly/USCCBOAntiphons>.

SAINTS: The month of December provides many opportunities for us to reflect on the lives of saints who have gone before us. On December 3, we remember the missionary, Francis Xavier; our friends at Fatima Shrine take their name from him. December 6 is the day to remember St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra, who has been linked to Santa Claus. And there are two Marian feast days during December. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8 and Mary's feast as Our Lady of Guadalupe is observed on December 12. You can find information about all the saints at <http://bit.ly/SaintsFM>.

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES: January 2021 delivers two programs of adult faith formation. **First**, beginning on Saturday, January 9 and going for two more Saturdays, January 16 and 23, we will offer a three-session reading/discussion of Pope Benedict's 2007 Post-synodal Exhortation on the Eucharist, *Sacramentum Caritatis* (*Sacrament of Love*). The group will meet on Zoom, from 10 to 11 AM. **Second**, beginning on Sunday, January 31 and continuing until Palm Sunday, March 28, we will offer, via Zoom, the *JustFaith* program called Faith and Racial Equity: Exploring Power and Privilege. *JustFaith* states that this program "awakens small groups to the economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others." Contact Leo Racine at 508-429-7476 or leoracine@msn.com for information about, or to register for both programs.

PRAYER: Advent Evening Prayer, part of the Church's official daily prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, will be offered virtually on Tuesdays, December 1, 15 and 22 at 7 PM. You can participate in the prayer via the Music at St. Mary's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>. — Leo Racine