



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

**Non-profit
Organization**
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01746
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CHRISTMAS MASSES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

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

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

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

11:00 PM (Midnight) Mass in the Church



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

** Two Masses Only*

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

11:30 AM Mass in the Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

** Sunday Mass Obligation, no Saturday
Vigil Masses on Sat., December 25.*

7:30 AM Mass

9:30 AM Mass

11:30 AM Mass

CHRISTMAS PROTOCOLS ~

The Church and Father Haley Hall
will be aired out and sanitized
between all Christmas Masses.



**Starting December
18/19, 2021,
through January
17, 2022, the Archdiocese is
requiring that masks be worn
by everyone at all Masses –
regardless of vaccination
status.**

Please sanitize your hands upon
entry to St. Mary's buildings.

Kindly check your Sunday Bulletin
for the latest safety protocol
updates. Come let us adore Him!



THE JESSE TREE

Shown left, some Saint Mary's 6th Graders recently created and hung ornaments on a Jesse Tree in the Parish Center Lobby. Each ornament contains a symbol representing the story of one of the ancestors of Jesus.

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree.

Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Our Lord.

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

January, 2022 ~ Volume 48, Number 1

GALA

150th ANNIVERSARY!

Several hundred St. Mary's parishioners came together on Saturday, November 13, for a night of fine food, dancing, friendship, and reminiscence. The Gala celebrating our parish's 150th Anniversary was held at the Regency Ballroom in Milford.

Fr. Rocco and Fr. Francis represented our good friends the Xaverian Fathers, and Bishop Robert Reed delivered the keynote address. The bishop described St. Mary's as exceptional and said how impressed he has been by this lively community of faith. Referencing Diane Collin's remarks at the May Anniversary Mass, he agreed that *"While St. Mary's is located at the very western edge of the Archdiocese, it is a parish at the very heart of the Catholic Church."*

Special thanks to Karen Magrini, Jennifer Schiller, Lisa Dufault, Betty Febo, Mary Beth Harris, and Mike Roberto for their amazing efforts organizing the Gala. The celebration was a joyful moment for all who took part, and we thank everyone who contributed to it by their presence. Thank you also to all who took part in the Gala Silent Auction - virtually or in person. Nearly \$9,000 was raised towards St. Mary's outreach programs, including the High School Youth Group's Summer Mission Trip.

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

Rectory: 429-4427

Religious Education Center: 429-6076

Music Program: 429-6076

Religious Education Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com

Parish Email Address: st.marys1870@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com



150th ANNIVERSARY GALA!

Our Pastor Fr. Mark opened the evening with these words: Good evening, everyone and welcome. Some of you may be familiar with the story of the young man who was running late for a very important business meeting. This meeting could literally make or break his career, but no matter how hard he tried, the young man couldn't find a parking space.

Again and again he circled the block, until finally in desperation he stopped the car, raised his eyes to heaven and prayed. *"Dear God," he said. "Please help me. If you get me a parking space I swear that I'll start going to church every Sunday. I'll stop drinking. And I'll start giving generously to the poor!"*

No sooner had the young man uttered these words, than miraculously, a car pulled out and a parking space opened up right in front of him. At which point the young man said, *"Never mind God – I found one!"*

It's easy to take credit for what God does – easy to not recognize the movement and work of His hand. But the 150th Anniversary of a Parish is not one of those times. You and I belong to a beautiful family of faith that has not only LASTED for a century and a half. But that has grown. And prospered. And been a blessing to countless people in Holliston and beyond.

And that would not have happened without the grace of God. The grace we invite by prayer and worship. The grace we live out in holy works. The grace that makes St. Mary's the spiritual home that so many cherish.

Earlier today I was working on the labels for our upcoming December Newsletter. And I was struck by the number of former parishioners who have moved away – but who have requested to still be mailed the St. Mary's Newsletter each month. They live on the Cape, in Maine, in Florida – I saw one label for an address in Louisiana.

These people live far away now – but they still feel CONNECTED to St. Mary's. They still care about what goes on here. And that I think, says a lot, about the love, and faith, and goodness of this our parish home.

Let Us Pray.

Gracious God, as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future.

We pray that you will continue to make Your love known among us and through us.

Give us a zeal for mission. Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know You.

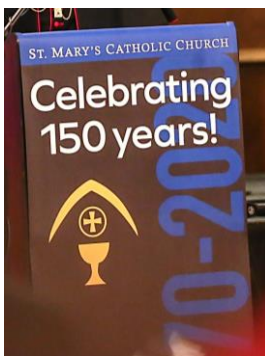
Make this parish a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with faith, hope, courage, and love toward what lies ahead.

In all things may we seek Your will.

Amen.



150th ANNIVERSARY GALA!





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Good People of St. Mary's,

Please join me in welcoming the following fourteen families to our Parish Family of Faith.

The Bowler Family – Daniel, Camille and Adeline

The McCarthy Family – Stephen, Katherine, Matthew, and Claire

The Sithole Family – Eunice and Coreen Gardner

The Chaisson Family – Adrian, Heather, and Lillian

The Lafferty Family – Christopher, Eliana, Bianka, and Leonardo

The Bresnahan Family – Kevin, Mary and Dominic

The Ozzella Family – Michael and Emily

The Cordero Family – Jose, Astrid, Austin, and Lydia

The Collier Family – Ries and Katherine

The Durham Family - Jeffrey, Kristina, and Quinn

The Rossini Family – Keryn and Savannah

The Gervasio Family – Frank and Meaghan

The Pennell Family – Reba and Xavier

The Nelson Family – Jeff and Cathryn

Family has been very much on my mind recently, as I was unable to be with mine on Thanksgiving Day. I was blessed to visit with gracious friends, but it wasn't the same as gathering at table with my parents, siblings, and many nieces and nephews. Thanksgiving is about more than food – it is about renewing the bonds of love that keep families united and at peace.

It is not by accident that Jesus chose a meal, the Holy Eucharist, to ensure those same gifts for His Family the Church. This is expressed beautifully in the Mass when the priest says, *"Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit."* The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus, Who is the great unifier – the One Who connects God to man, heaven to earth, the dead to the living, and believer to believer.

Sharing faithfully in the Eucharist each week is one of the most effective ways a family can foster unity,

allowing Jesus to strengthen the love that draws them to God and to each other. *"The family that prays together, stays together,"* is a common sight on bumper stickers, but it is far more than a slogan. Those who invest time in their relationship with God by visiting His House, listening to His Word, and partaking of His Table, can only grow in the qualities so essential to Christian family life. Chief among these are patience, selflessness, fidelity, purity, and humility.

There is a reason that just one day after Christmas, on Sunday, December 26, we Catholics will gather at Mass again for the Feast of the Holy Family. The family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was holy not because they never struggled or suffered, but rather because they always had Jesus in their midst. This is exactly what happens at the Holy Mass, when He comes to join us and accompany us home through the Holy Eucharist.

Blessed Adolph Kolping once observed that, *"The first thing a person finds in life and the last to which he holds out his hand, and the most precious that he possess, even if he does not realize it, is family life."* As a New Year is about to begin, let us each consider the place of family in our lives – both our individual families, and our faith family the Church. Let us try to renew these relationships as needed, recognizing them as opportunities to embrace sacrificial love and in so doing imitate Jesus.

With Christmas coming fast, I also make my annual call for you to please reach out to any of our Catholic brothers and sisters who have fallen away from the practice of their faith. Invite them to accompany you to Mass. Tell them how much they are missed. Encourage them to come home to the Eucharist, a word which means "thanksgiving," and a celebration that is never as beautiful as when all the family is gathered together to share it.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor



SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, January 1, 2022
Holy Day Mass celebrated
at 9 AM in St. Mary's Church.

2021 GIVE A GIFT

On Sunday, December 5, St. Mary's Sanctuary was piled high with gifts donated by the good people of our parish at every Mass that weekend. Parishioners attending the 11:30 AM Mass helped carry them to Fr. Haley Hall, where fourteen Knights of Columbus, and nine Religious Ed. students sorted and packed the 583 gifts for delivery to the children of two Roxbury parishes. Six Knights drove into Boston and delivered the gifts to St. Mary of the Angels and St. Patrick's. Thank you to all those who assisted in this annual St. Mary's Christmas Charitable effort. May God bless you!



"A Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."



Stewardship of Retired Priests ~ The 2021 Christmas Collection

There is only one collection taken up at Christmas Masses and every penny of it goes to support the housing and healthcare costs of our retired priests – holy men who have given their entire lives in service to God's people. The Clergy Fund that provides for their needs is currently underfunded. So please, if you can, try to make a truly sacrificial gift for our priests at this year's Christmas Mass. Please also pray for these wonderful men. On behalf of all our retired priests, THANK YOU! Christmas Offerings may be placed in the wooden offertory boxes at Mass, mailed in, or dropped off. Gifts may also be made through WeShare: <https://stmarysholliston.weshareonline.org/>. (We also HOPE to have Christmas Ushers).

Stewardship of Parish ~ The 2021 Grand Annual

Thank you to all who have already done their part in this year's Grand Annual – the single most important collection at our parish each year. For 61 years, combined with the weekly offertory, it has allowed our parish to cover its operating costs. If you have not yet done so, please return the orange Grand Annual envelope you received in the mail as soon as possible (extras at the church doors). Grand Annual envelopes may be placed in the wooden offertory boxes at Mass, mailed in, or dropped off. Gifts may also be made through WeShare: <https://stmarysholliston.weshareonline.org/>.

We ask every single family of our parish to please participate in the Grand Annual, doing the best they can according to their means. Thank you and God bless you. *"No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, God has bestowed on you."* - Deuteronomy 16

2021 ST. MARY'S PARISH GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE 12/12/21

"What return can I make to the Lord for all He has done for me?" Psalm 116

2021 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:	\$150,000.00
Grand Annual parishioner support received to date:	- \$141,950.00
Parishioner support still needed to reach 2021 Grand Annual goal:	\$ 8,050.00

% of 2021 Grand Annual achieved to date: **95 %**

% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift: **48 %**



As the Grand Annual continues, contributions may be placed either in the gold G.A. envelope you received in the mail, or in a separate envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual." G.A. envelopes may be mailed to 8 Church Street or dropped through the Rectory Office Door Mail-slot. The wooden offertory boxes at Mass may also be used.

As explained in the special mailing to all parishioners, the \$150,000 goal will fund staff salaries, the replacement of the Church sanctuary lighting system, the exterior church door repairs and threshold replacements (completed), and electrical safety upgrades and repairs for office space in Sr. Ricci House. Your generous support will assure the financial health of our parish continues. **Thank you for your support of this most important annual collection!**



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders for Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun.

UPCOMING MSYG EVENTS ~

Saturday, January 15: Snow Tubing at Nashoba.

Sunday, February 6: Monthly Meeting, (delayed from January 30), 13th Annual Battle of the Sexes, 6:30 – 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.



PAINTBALL: On Thursday, November 11, the MSYG had its annual fall Paintball Battle at PnL Paintball in Bridgewater. Sixty-eight teens took part in the event, which started with a safety instruction. Fr. Mark talked with the kids about the evils of real warfare and stressed that we play paintball as a sport and for teambuilding. He then led the group in a prayer for all our Veterans. The day was sunny and cool, perfect for a day in the woods and fields!



NEW ALTAR SERVERS!

On Sunday, November 21, the Feast of Christ the King, six young people were installed as new Altar Servers for St. Mary's Parish. All completed a four-week course of training and instruction. Congratulations to Shane Bernier, Michael Bukow, John Enriquez, Ben and Elijah Hopke, and Juliana MacLeod.

May their ministry be a blessing to all who worship here at the Holy Mass. May it also bring them and their families closer in love to Christ Jesus.



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * January, 2022

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.hollistonTroop14.com

If interested in joining Troop 14, contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for Boys 11-17 years old.

The Troop is back in full swing with weekly Monday Night Meetings from 7 - 8:30 PM in St. Mary's Lower Church Hall. Join us!

AD ALTARE DEI – CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EMBLEM

PROGRAM: After seven months of hard work culminating with individual Board of Reviews in October, nine Scouts from Troop 14 and Troop 73 completed the Ad Altare Dei Award. The purpose of the Ad Altare Dei (to the altar of God) program is to help Catholic Scouts develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community, helping the Scout grow in their spiritual relationship to God and the Church.

The program is organized around the seven Sacraments which serve as the primary means toward spiritual growth. Many thanks to Deacon Ron Dowding who led the program and Charlie Paradie who assisted. So significant is the Religious Emblem achievement, that only it and the Eagle Scout badge may be worn by Adult Scout Leaders on their uniforms.

On Sunday, October 31 at the 11:30 AM Mass, the following Scouts were individually called forward as Father Mark presented each with the Ad Altare Dei Medal. Both Troops will also recognize the Scouts at their respective Troop's Court of Honors.

Troop 14

Danny Baribeau
Eddy Bombardieri
Luke Burgett
Rudy Demeo
Luke Roberto



Troop 73

Michael Butler
Ethan Savage
Liam Savage
Andrew Schiller



TROOP 14 CAMPOUT AT THE SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 5-7: The onset of the cold weather did not slow down Troop 14 in early November. The Troop had an action packed campout with 25 Scouts and four leaders attending, that included two nights of camping and huge bonfires each evening; Distributing Scouting for Food flyers throughout Holliston (see article below); 18 Scouts participated in a Gun Safety course taught by the Sportsman Association, with 12 Scouts perfecting their Trap shooting skills; Leader Appreciation Lunch (burgers, dogs and chips prepared by the Scouts); and 13 Holliston Webelos that spent the afternoon with the Troop and participated in a round robin of five Scout skill stations, including fire building, tent set-up, axe and saw safety, cooking and tomahawk throwing (the most popular station). Sadly this year, no Turkey Roast dinner with the Troop and Webelo families but hopefully we will be able to bring back this tradition next year.

BSA'S & TROOP 14'S ANNUAL "SCOUTING FOR FOOD" SERVICE PROJECT

PROJECT: This year marks the 15th year that Troop 14 has participated in the BSA's Annual "Scouting for Food" Service Project, with all of the food collected going directly to the 200+ local families that use the Holliston Pantry Shelf. On the morning of November 6, 24 Scouts, eight Cub Scouts and a number of leaders and parents spent a few hours distributing 2,117 custom made door hangers to 15 neighborhoods around Holliston. Then a week later, on November 14 they retraced their routes and collected 502 bags (which equals over 5,000 pounds of food), slightly under last year's record-breaking total. Thanks to all the Holliston residents who donated food to help our neighbors in need!



TROOP 14 UPCOMING EVENTS:

- January snow-shoe backpacking trip to Carter Notch Hut in the White Mountains.
- Indoor Rock Climbing in February.

EPIC **ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN CHRIST**

**NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 23,
FROM 7:15 – 8:45 PM IN FR. HALEY HALL.**

High School Youth Group is back at St. Mary's Parish! I am so happy to report the successful start of our High School Youth Group Program. The kick-off meeting took place in November, and it was a night full of fun, laughter, games, faith, and fellowship. I am looking forward to monthly meetings just like that one!

Why join EPIC? This youth group is an opportunity to establish Christ-centered friendships, meet new people, try new things, and learn how to live out your faith while still having fun! This youth group not only meets monthly, there also is an opportunity for some service, and adventure! If you are looking for an opportunity to give back this summer, join us on our Mission Trip to Mississippi! In order to qualify for the Mission Trip, you must attend at least four EPIC meetings. We need to come together as a Mission Team.

I am looking forward to a year full of fun, faith, friendship, and getting to know each and every one of you! Please know that I am praying for you always!

- Theresa Virzi, Youth Minister





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 January, 2022

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Brodo

MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be Wednesday, January 19 in the church at 7:00 PM. The Rosary is open to all parishioners. Please check your Sunday bulletin for the latest pandemic safety information.



COUNCIL #14224 13th CHARITY RAFFLE DONATIONS: The Council presented checks to the Holliston Pantry Shelf, Holliston Senior Center, Homes for Our Troops, and Habitat for Humanity. At the Council's November meeting, Richard Pratt of Homes for Our Troops gave a presentation how they select, prepare and build ergonomic homes for handicapped veterans. He emphasized how the homes change the lives of the veteran's families by securing housing which in turn helps to find jobs and pursue higher education opportunities. Knight Joe Mongelli presented a \$3,300 check to this charity, (photo left). The Council has now donated over \$250,000 since the raffle began 13 years ago. The Council thanks all St. Mary's parishioners who took a chance on a ticket. You are all winners in our eyes for supporting these worthy charities.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2022: 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 508-561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org/joinus. 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.

ST. MARY'S CRECHE SET-UP: Knights continued a Christmas tradition by setting up St. Mary's Creche on December 4. Their reward was donuts & coffee and good fellowship.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPONSORING

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: On Saturday, January 22, 2022 in St. Mary's Father Haley Hall, the Council will sponsor its annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Hours are from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-REDCROSS or visit

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and search by

zip code (01746) in the "Find a Blood Drive" field. For further information, contact the Knights of Columbus Council Blood Drive coordinator, Rodman Burgett at 508-653-6130.

Dangerously Low Blood Supply: This is serious. The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. The dangerously low blood supply levels have forced some hospitals to defer patients from major surgery, including organ transplants. Your donation is desperately needed this holiday season. Please schedule an appointment to give now.



Save the Date - *WINGS Winter Program*

Wednesdays, January 26 – March 2, 2022.

The WINGS ministry provides an opportunity for Catholic women to **deepen their faith and grow closer to God.**

Details of the Winter Program include a speaker led Bible Study:

"Amos/Hosea/Micah: A Call to Justice" by Joe Paprocki (this can be purchased on

Amazon or any related bookstore). Watch our Facebook Page for more details. www.facebook.com/WingsHolliston. The weekly Program begins at 10:00 AM via Zoom. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com with questions or call Jen Schiller @ 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins @ 508-259-7795.

The fall program featured speakers addressing topics on **Catholic Social Teaching**. WINGS members were able to *deepen their understanding of this hidden treasure* through inspiring and educational speaker presentations and group discussions. Some memorable take-aways included:



- "God has chosen each one of us for this time in the world. Our task is to continue to *learn how to love.*" - Sr. Dorothea
- "The greatest good is what we *do for one another.*" - Saint Mother Teresa/Fr. Chris
- "The measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the *life and dignity* of the human person." - Deacon John Barry
- "Euthanasia is not a compassionate choice. Palliative care/hospice care are good choices (and Medicare funded). They give family's *time to suffer together* – which is the message of the Cross." - Deacon John Barry
- "In writing *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis looked to St. Francis' example of 'love your brother wherever he is.' The Pope wrote *Fratelli Tutti* to encourage all people to respond with *love in action* in the face of dark clouds (individualism, utilitarianism, etc.) all around us." - Leo Racine
- "Looking at the things we love (oceans, forests, lakes, etc.) makes us realize how important God's creation is. Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* calls all people of the world to take *swift and unified global action to save our common home.*" - Fran Ludwig



EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

On Saturday, November 6, twelve St. Mary's Parishioners were Invested by Cardinal O'Malley as Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. They are Mrs. Tracy Abucewicz, Mr. Tony Alexander, Mr. Anthony Bellomo, Mr. Michael Kerrigan, Dr. Kathleen Larche, Mr. Kevin O'Connell, Mrs. Joanne O'Connell, Mr. Charlie Paradie, Mrs. Lucy Servidio, Mrs. Kristin Ward, Mr. Matt Ward, and Mrs. Najat Whalen.

The celebration began on Friday, November 5, with Solemn Evening Prayer led by Bishop Robert Reed. The "Knights and Dames to be" made their Solemn Oaths orally and by signature. The various symbols of their membership in the Order were then blessed. The Service concluded Eucharistic Benediction.

On Saturday afternoon, at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Cardinal O'Malley celebrated the Solemn Mass of Investiture (Center photo). You may view the Mass here: <https://www.facebook.com/rcabcathedral/videos/423554499375736>. In the photo below left, St. Mary's Parishioner Tony Alexander kneels as Cardinal O'Malley uses a crozier to knight him. Cardinal O'Malley serves as Grand Prior of the Order's Northeastern Lieutenancy. In the top right photo, Joseph Whalen hugs his mom, newly invested Dame Najat Whalen. The bottom group photo is of the Cardinal with all of St. Mary's Members of the Order. We know that St. Mary's newest Knights and Dames 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. Let us all pray and work for peace, and together support our Christian brothers and sisters in the land of Our Saviour's birth.



ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

JANUARY 2022

got faith?

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES: Here are some opportunities, both in Holliston and online, to enhance your faith experience this year.

- 1) An introduction to Pope Francis' engaging 2016 Post-synodal Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*): *On Love in the Family*, utilizing a reading/discussion format:
 - Meetings will be held on Saturday mornings, January 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the parish annex.
 - You can find *Amoris Laetitia* on the Internet at <https://bit.ly/FrancisAL>. Copies of the Exhortation are available from online booksellers as well.
 - Contact Leo Racine at 508-429-7476 or leoracine@msn.com for more information.
- 2) A JustFaith Ministries program on Eco-Justice, entitled *Sacred Land: Food and Farming*:
 - Meetings will be held on Sunday nights (meeting place TBD) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, beginning on February 20 and ending before Easter.
 - You can read about *Sacred Land* at <https://bit.ly/JustFaithLand>.
 - Contact Leo Racine at 508-429-7476 or leoracine@msn.com for more information.
- 3) Online faith formation opportunities:
 - Go to the parish website, <https://stmarysholliston.com/>, and click on Online Faith Enrichment Courses under Faith Education/Adult Faith Resources.
 - All three universities listed in this section are offering courses that begin in January.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS: Are you planning to resolve to eat healthier and get more physically fit in 2022? How about some different resolutions this year? See <https://bit.ly/ChristianResolutions> for ideas from *Catholic Digest* on making resolutions that focus on your spiritual health. Or perhaps you can make this a Year of Faith Formation by participating in at least one of the programs listed above. Go for it!!

SUNDAY READINGS AND SEASONS: This month we see the transition from the Christmas Season to the beginning of Ordinary Time. In the Christmas Season we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany on January 2 and commemorate Jesus' baptism on January 9. These two Sundays are all about Jesus' manifestation as the Son of God. There is a third chapter to this "divine showing" and it is heard in the gospel of the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time on January 16; it is Jesus' miracle at the wedding feast at Cana. Listen to the hymn, *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* (verses 1 and 2, especially) for references to these three holy events: <https://bit.ly/ChristManifest>. You can prepare for the Sunday readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

SAINTS: Among the saints celebrated this month are Elizabeth Ann Seton (January 4), Francis de Sales (January 24) and Thomas Aquinas (January 27). You can check out their biographies and see what gifts they brought to our Catholic faith in their time, and continue to bring to us today, at the Franciscan Media *Saint of the Day* website, <https://bit.ly/FMSaints>.

AMORIS LAETITIA YEAR: As noted on the October *got faith?* page, this is a year designated by the Vatican for learning across the church about Pope Francis' Post-synodal Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Loving*): *On Love in the Family*. This exhortation gets much of its foundation from the Scriptures. For instance, in Chapter 1, Pope Francis discusses Psalm 128, a psalm often prayed at Catholic weddings and in Chapter 4 he writes about the reading about love we all recognize, he refers to it as a lyrical passage, from First Corinthians ("Love is kind", etc.). Turning to a later point, in Chapter 9, Pope Francis writes "[i]t is a profound spiritual experience to contemplate our loved ones with the eyes of God and to see Christ in them." Join the reading/discussion group mentioned above and learn about this inspiring work. —Leo Racine