

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

Fall 2024 Newsletter
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THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS IS COMING!

Sunday, October 6, 2024



in the Lower Church Hall.
All critters are welcome!



DANNY BARIBEAU ACHIEVES EAGLE SCOUT RANK!

St. Mary's Parishioner and Senior Altar Server, Danny Baribeau, celebrated his Eagle Court of Honor in Fr. Haley Hall on September 8. Danny's Eagle project involved building a raised, enclosed community garden for the Xaverian Missionaries at the Fatima Shrine. This garden was part of the Shrine's response to "Laudato Si," Pope Francis' Encyclical calling on Catholics to care for the earth, our common home. Danny's garden was the first of seven vegetable gardens built and maintained by various Holliston groups to provide fresh produce for the Holliston Pantry Shelf.



At his Eagle Ceremony, Danny spoke gratefully of the support he received from his fellow scouts, the Troop 14 leaders, and his parents. He mentioned how seeing his dad Chris's commitment to Troop 14 (Chris is the Scoutmaster), inspired him in many ways – not only to keep up his Scouting efforts, but to give fully of himself in all endeavors. In the bottom photo, Danny presents his mom Patty with her Eagle Scout Mother's pin.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank. Congratulations Danny! And may God bring to completion the good work He has begun in you. Amen.

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

Fall, 2024 ~ Volume 50, Number 6

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

Mission: "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known!"

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: Sunday, October 6 at 1:30 PM.

Parishioners are invited to bring their pets to the Lower Church as we celebrate the Church's Rite of the Blessing of Animals. Each pet will receive an individual blessing as we ask God's protection for our animal friends and remember that all living things are precious to Him. This blessing takes place in October as St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day is this month, and he had a special love of the furred, finned and feathered creatures of the earth.



NEW ALTAR SERVER CLASS: Sunday, October 20 from 7 - 7:30 PM in the Church. Any parish youth currently in grades 4 - 12 may study to become an Altar Server. Just bring the youth accompanied by a parent with your family calendar to this planning meeting. Also, please email Patty Baribeau to indicate your interest: st.marys.altarserver@gmail.com. Shown left to right, Senior Altar Servers Louis Connoni, Julianna MacLeod, and Ben Kaufmann were presented with Senior Altar Server Scholarships before heading to college this fall. Also given scholarships were Ben Hopke and Kate Queeney. May God bless these departing Altar Servers, and the new servers who will soon take their place in ministry!

BABYSHOWER FOR THE UNBORN:

October 26 & 27 at all Masses. Please bring new baby items and clothes to Mass and place them in or around the baby stroller in the sanctuary. These gifts will directly assist mothers in crisis pregnancies through the Pregnancy Help program of our Archdiocese. Thank you for supporting families and babies in their time of need!

A Pregnancy Help Client Testimonial: *"When I got pregnant, I felt lonely, desperate, and confused. I found myself pregnant with no husband, no family, no money, no house and maybe no job. It was like being in a dark hole. I heard about Pregnancy Help, and they gave me the emotional and material support to get out of the confusion, to put aside all the obstacles that I thought I had and begin to take care of myself and my baby. I do not have words big enough to match the work they do."*
Learn more at: www.pregnancyhelpboston.org.





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A wonderful list of families new to St. Mary's follows on the next page. But I would like to offer an additional welcome to our very newest and littlest parishioners – both born in the last few weeks. These little miracles are Samuel Jakob Vale (top photo), and Ellie Marie Cordero (bottom photo). I thank God for their safe delivery, and I thank their parents for sharing these photos. May Samuel's and Ellie's lives be holy and happy, and may they build beautiful memories here. Welcome!



I would also like to welcome our new High School Youth Minister, Lisa Dufault. Lisa has assisted me as a volunteer with our Middle School Youth Group, and I know she will be a wonderful blessing in the lives of our older teens. She will be leading our TGIF High School Youth Group, starting with the big TGIF Kickoff Sunday, September 22. Her office is located off the lower church hall, and she may be reached at st.marystgif1870@gmail.com. Welcome aboard Lisa!



This August I was blessed to spend nine days on vacation in New Orleans. Our hotel was right behind St. Louis Cathedral, which was open all day. At night a shadow of Jesus was cast onto the wall. We were able to attend Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday, August 25 - the actual Feast of St. Louis. Archbishop Gregory Aymond presided, and it was a truly magnificent celebration. I always treasure those rare times when I am not presiding at a Mass but worshipping from the pews. It means that after receiving Communion I can just kneel, close my eyes, and “commune.” I feel that those moments of prayer with Jesus, right after we have received His Body, are the closest we can come to God in this life.

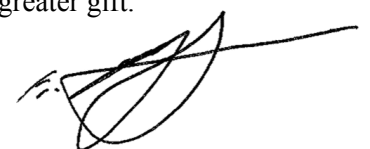


One thing that really struck me as I sat in the pews was the ministry of parents to their children at Mass. The pews between me and the altar were packed with families. And I was so moved when I saw a dad helping his son find the right song in the hymnal; a mom showing her daughter how to sign forehead, lips, and heart at the Gospel reading; and parents just doing all they could to teach their little ones how to participate and get the most out of the celebration.

For me it was a reminder that parents truly are “the first teachers of the faith” to their children. And so, I take this opportunity to say to all our St. Mary's moms and dads - **thank you** for the wonderful blessing you are to them, and the countless ways you find to bring Christ into their lives. There is no greater gift.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



With Joy St. Mary's Warmly Welcomes These New Families to Our Parish!

The Whitaker Family - Michael, Corinne, James, Caroline,
Patrick and Clare

The DeMello Family - John, Christina, Leo and Rita

The Barba Family - Salvatore, Caitlin and George

The Kadra Family - Jim and Sheila

The Porcello Family - Domenic, Alexis, Elliana
and Roman

The Lyons Family - Thomas, Christina, Marleigh and Layla

The Baker/Valle-Hoag Family - Thomas and Claudia

The Stanton Family - Robert, Stephanie and Conall

The Amador Family - Francisco, Jacqueline, Anthony
and Thomas

The Carlson Family - Jason, Carol Lora and Jevriel Perez

The Ebersole Family - Jase, Jocelyn, Quinn and Carter

The Atkinson Family - Clint, Angelika and Dean

The Albert Family - Robert and Linda

The Bruno Family - Mark and Susan

The Tracy Family - Jonathan, Kerri-Anne and Lillian

The Holmes Family - John, Brittany, Caelan and Cillian

The Pansa Family - Leonard and Nancy

The Bosnjakovic Family - Luka, Katherine, Kiara and Lina

The Irving Family - Bryan, Kristin, Jack, Juliette
and Genevieve

The Gavin Family - Patrick, Christi, John and Edward

The Nissi Family - Oliver, Nicole and Thomas

The Sullivan Family - Sean, Kathleen, Emily and Conor

A PRAYER FOR MY PARISH

**Almighty God, my parish family is
composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.**

**It will be friendly, if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.**

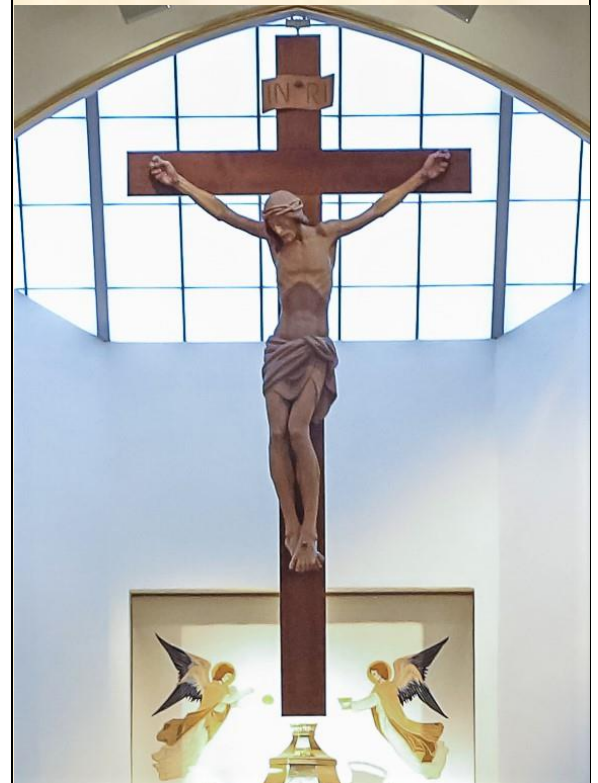
**It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.**

**It will bring other people into its worship
and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.**

**It will be a parish family of loyalty and
love, of fearlessness and faith, and a parish
with a noble spirit, if I - who make it what
it is - am filled with these same qualities.**

**Therefore, with the help of God, I will
dedicate myself to the task
of being all the things that I want my
parish to be.**

**Bless my journey, Lord God, that I might
build the Church through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**





“SCUBA VBS!”

Over one hundred campers and seventy-five adult and teen volunteers dove into their friendship with God at St. Mary’s Vacation Bible School this summer. At VBS Scuba our campers explored what it means to have God as your dive buddy. It was a jam-packed week full of awesome adventures and surprises. Campers participated in memorable Bible learning activities, sang catchy songs, made ocean-themed crafts, played teamwork building games, devoured yummy ocean-themed treats, experienced one of a kind Bible adventures, and participated in fun science experiments that got their imaginations bubbling. They even got to climb inside the belly of a whale!

But most importantly, they learned that God is a forever friend. Throughout the week, our campers found evidence of God’s love all around them as they spotted over one hundred God Sightings. We would like to acknowledge the hard work of all our fabulous volunteers, most especially our fearless VBS leader Melissa Cataldo, who in addition to running VBS this year also produced some of the most amazing VBS decorations and props we have ever had! Many thanks also to our Station Leaders: Emily Bukow, Katie DellaRocca, Nate Pirelli, Kristin Roberto, and Najat Whalen. We would also like to thank our two youth actors: Marie Meisner and Matthew Loscocco for their participation in our daily skits and presentations. We are also grateful for the support of St. Mary’s staff members: Fr Mark Coiro, Jen Burgett and Owen Simpson. It was truly a Fin-tastic week!

Throughout the week, campers collected over ten bags of donations for the Holliston Food Pantry and \$100 for the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy!

MORE VBS PICS!



PLEASE TEACH!

TEACHERS AND MONITORS ARE NEEDED: **Teachers** - Our Religious Education program begins on Sunday, September 29. We are still short teachers. The start times and days for the Religious Education classes are listed below. **Monitors** - If you can volunteer one 90-minute slot once a month we will be very grateful for your time helping to keep the students safe. Training is provided and the tasks are simple. *Thank you!* Volunteer online on our website: <https://stmarysholliston.com/>.

CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29.

GRADE	START DATE	SESSION DAY AND TIME	TEACHER NEEDS
SUNDAY			
PRE-K	Oct. 6	9:15 to 10:30 AM	1
GR-K	Sept. 29	9:15 to 10:30 AM	2
GR-1	Oct. 6	8:10 to 9:20 AM	2
GR-2	Sept. 29	8:10 to 9:25 AM	Filled
GR-2	Sept. 29	10:45 AM to Noon	Filled
GR-3	Sept. 29	7:55 AM to 9:25AM	2
GR-3	Sept. 29	10:45AM to 12:15 PM	3
GR-4	Oct. 6	10:45AM to 12:15 PM	2
GR-5	Oct. 6	10:45AM to 12:15 PM	3
GR-6	Oct. 27	4:00 to 5:30 PM	3
MONDAY			
GR-7	Oct. 7	7:00 to 8:30 PM	4
TUESDAY			
GR-3	Oct. 8	4:00 to 5:30 PM	3
GR-4	Oct. 8	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2
GR-5	Oct. 8	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2

GRADE	START DATE	SESSION DAY AND TIME	TEACHER NEEDS
TUESDAY CONT.			
GR-6	Oct. 8	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2
GR-6	Oct. 8	5:00 to 6:30 PM	4
GR-8/9	Oct. 8	7:00 to 8:30 PM	2
GR-10	Oct. 15	7:00 to 8:30 PM	1
WEDNESDAY			
GR-2	Oct. 9	4:15 to 5:30 PM	2
GR-3	Oct. 9	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1
GR-4	Oct. 9	6:00 to 7:30 PM	2
GR-5	Oct. 9	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1
GR-7	Oct. 9	7:00 to 8:30 PM	4
THURSDAY			
GR-3	Oct. 10	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1
GR-4	Oct. 10	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2
GR-5	Oct. 10	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1
GR-8/9	Oct. 10	7:00 to 8:30 PM	2
GR-10	Oct. 17	7:00 to 8:30 PM	2

OUR GRADE 4 AND 5 PROGRAM WILL BEGIN WITH A TOUR OF THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AND TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1. The church tour is part of the Grade 4 and 5 curriculum. Families can choose what day is best for their children to attend the ninety minute tour. Knowing the sacred areas within the church reinforces the beauty and meaning of the space we worship God at Mass each week and receive the Bread of Life in the Holy Eucharist. Parents are always welcome to join us. Our music director will invite the children to the choir loft to experience the wonder and sounds of pipe organ!

St. Mary's Music Ministry



The Music Ministry at St. Mary's Parish involves people of many ages and the music of varied traditions. All our music, though, shares the same purpose: to give glory to God, and to help our people experience Him through the power and beauty of sacred song.

ALL ENSEMBLES BELOW ARE OPEN FOR NEWCOMERS!

Children & Youth Choirs

Our St. Mary's Children and Youth Choirs are seeking more singers! These choirs provide our children and youth with a wonderful chance to grow in musicality and faith through worshipful song. Rehearsals include a variety of songs, games, and activities designed to hone their musical skills toward singing for Mass and for life.

Children's Choir: Open to children grades 3 - 6.
Rehearses Wednesdays from 3:30 - 4:20 PM.
Sings every few Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass,
with 9:00 AM warmups.

Youth Choir: Open to youth grades 7 and above.
Rehearses Wednesdays from 4:00 - 5:00 PM.
Sings every few Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass,
with 9:00 AM warmups.

Adult Choir

Our Adult Choir is a dedicated and warm group with a passion for traditional music. They enrich the Sunday liturgy and other Holy Celebrations with a variety of choral anthems ranging from Gregorian chant to modern compositions, both a cappella and accompanied, aided by the help of professional section leaders.

Adult Choir: Open to singers ages 13 and older.
Rehearses Thursdays from 7:00 - 9:00 PM.
Sings every Sunday at the 11:30 AM Mass,
with 10:45 AM warmups.

**WHETHER YOU ARE AN EXPERIENCED MUSICIAN, OR TOTALLY NEW TO MUSIC,
THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU IN ST. MARY'S MUSIC MINISTRY!**



Contact our Music Director, Abbey, to join anytime.

MusicAtStMarysHolliston@gmail.com

(508)-429-6076, ext. 224



ST. MARY'S
HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP

TEENS GATHER IN FAITH



TGIF KICK OFF MEETING

SUNDAY

September 22
7-8:45 PM

FR. HALEY HALL

St. Mary's Catholic Church 8
Church St., Holliston

QUESTIONS

Contact Lisa Dufault,
High School Youth Minister @
st.marystgif1870@gmail.com

WHAT TO BRING: \$5 Monthly Dues, White
Registration Form, Plus Permission Forms &
Payment for the October 19 Homeless Lunch
Making, and the October 25 Haunted Hayride Trip!

**Open to ALL High School Students,
Grades 9 to 12 - Bring a Friend!**

SOCIAL - SPIRITUAL - SERVICE

TGIF meets on Sunday evenings once a
month during the school year with a
Mission Trip in the summer.

WELCOME!

- ✓ GROWTH IN FAITH & FRIENDSHIP.
- ✓ FUN GAMES, PRAYER, & ICE CREAM.
- ✓ VIDEO & RECAP OF 2024 SUMMER
MISSION TRIP TO MISSISSIPPI.
- ✓ INFO ON OUR 2025 SUMMER MISSION
TRIP TO MISSISSIPPI!
- ✓ SIGN UPS FOR THE HAUNTED HAYRIDE
(LARGEST IN NEW ENGLAND), & SCREAM
HOUSE TRIP.



St. Mary's High School Youth Group

Teens Gather In Faith ~ See you on September 22!

JULY 21 - 27: My name is Lisa Dufault, and this past July, alongside my son Ben, I had the honor of participating in the TGIF Mission Trip to Mississippi. We were among eighty-three parishioners who went on this adventure! As an adult on the trip, I anticipated this journey would be focused on guiding and mentoring our teens. What I didn't expect was how profoundly this experience would shape my own spiritual life. I knew that this trip would involve hard work, long days, and the challenges that come with serving in unfamiliar settings. Yet, from the moment we arrived, I felt a stirring of something deeper, a sense that this was not just a mission to help others, but also a mission for my own soul.

Working alongside the teens, I was struck by their energy and passion. Their faith was vibrant and raw. As they threw themselves into the work, I found myself reflecting on my own faith journey. In their eagerness to serve, I was reminded of the simple truth that serving others is one of the most direct ways to experience God's presence. I began to see my faith not just as something to be practiced within the walls of a church, but as something to be lived out in the world. The mission trip was a living expression of the Catholic principles of charity and solidarity, and it allowed me to experience firsthand the beauty of our faith in action.



Lisa and Ben

The daily routines of the mission, whether it was painting, clearing debris, building animal habitats, building wheelchair ramps, removing coastline trash, or spending time with the local community, became acts of worship for me - became a reflection of the Gospel message of love and service. Each task allowed me to see the mission not just as a project to complete, but as a sacred opportunity to connect with God's love for His people.



Van Group # 7

One of the most powerful aspects of the trip was the sense of community that developed among us. "Us" as a whole, the adults as a unit and within our van groups. (Shout out to my van group #7, Megan, Aiden, Amelia, Hugh and Liam). This unity deepened my understanding of what it means to be the Body of Christ.

During the trip, I grew closer to God in ways that were both unexpected and deeply personal. The mission trip stripped away the distractions of daily life and brought me back to the basics of faith, serving, loving, and being present. I returned home not just with memories of what we accomplished, but with a heart that had been profoundly changed, carrying with me a clearer vision of how I want to live out my faith in everyday life.

The daily rhythm of prayer, work, and community on the trip deepened my connection with the spiritual traditions of the Church. Praying the Rosary with the group, attending daily Mass, and taking moments of quiet reflection amidst the busy days brought me closer to the sacraments. One memory that I tucked deep in my heart was witnessing the teens attend Confession during Adoration. It was profoundly moving. Seeing their courage to approach the sacrament, seeking forgiveness and healing, reminded me of the beauty of God's mercy. As they knelt in humble repentance in the pews of the church, I felt a deep sense of reverence and awe. Their willingness to be vulnerable before God was a powerful witness to the transformative grace of Confession, and it renewed my own appreciation for this sacred sacrament.

This mission trip was not just a journey to serve others; it was a pilgrimage of the heart. It reminded me that faith is not static but a living, breathing relationship with God that grows through service, community, and the sacraments. I returned home with a heart full of gratitude, not only for the work we were able to do but for the ways in which God used this experience to draw me closer to Him and to the richness of our Catholic faith.



St. Mary's High School Youth Group

Teens Gather In Faith ~ See you on September 22!

JULY 21 - 27: My name is Luke Burgett and I am a Junior at Holliston High School and a member of St. Mary's TGIF High School Youth Group. This past summer, I had one of the most incredible experiences of my life attending the TGIF Mission Trip in Gulfport, Mississippi. It was my first

Mission Trip and I am very happy to say that it was a life-changing week. From the start, the teens and adults that had attended previous trips welcomed me and all of the many other first-timers with warm smiles and welcome arms. I feel that perfectly reflected the Catholic attitudes everyone adopted for the week.



Going into the trip, many teens were familiar with each other, but they didn't have that shared experience or closeness typical of really good friends. However, after the settling in and getting into the routine, at around the halfway point of the week, there was a complete shift and a visible joyfulness began to be felt throughout the Retreat Center. Many games were played, among them Thumper (a Mission Trip staple), Taps, soccer, basketball, and countless card games. What was amazing to see was that it wasn't the same teens playing the same games the entire week. Everyone was welcome to join in and participate. There was a unity in that Retreat Center characteristic of a close family.

Another huge piece of the trip was strengthening our relationship with God and Jesus Christ. Almost every night, there would be a spiritual activity, and these nights would allow us to reflect on the day and how we saw Jesus in those around us. It really kept me focused on the reason we were on the Mission - to spread Jesus' love by helping others. Not only did I get to grow my faith throughout the week, I was also a witness to others having revelations about their faith. It was amazing to see others find a deeper connection to God.



The worksite to which my Van Group was assigned was an animal rehabilitation center called Woodside Wildlife Rescue. We worked there for all five days of the week, and our task was to construct an "Owl Flight Enclosure" for the purpose of rehabbing injured owls. My Van Group worked tirelessly every day in the heat and humidity, but didn't ever complain and came to the site with a smile each day. It was awesome to see, and it was such great motivation. One of my greatest witnesses during the experience actually came a day after getting home. The wonderful caretaker of the



center sent a text saying that she had walked down to the Owl Enclosure, looked around, and began to cry. She was so appreciative of the work we had done that she was moved to tears. That perfectly summed up the power of sharing Jesus' love and the power of the Mission Trip as a whole.



I want to thank Restore & Replenish, the company that helped run the trip smoothly and who helped lead much of the nightly spiritual activities; all of the adult chaperones that selflessly sacrificed their time to make this trip possible; to Father Mark and all of the Parish Members that supported us in fundraisers and in prayer; for Deacon John for being such an influential and impactful spiritual leader throughout the week, providing us with spiritual direction; and for Jesus Christ who gave us the strength and courage to help all of God's children in Mississippi. To close, in the words of St. Francis of Assisi that guided us through the week: *"O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."*



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group Open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders for Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun.



JOIN THE ADVENTURE!
**A New Year of Youth Group
Faith, Friendship, and Fun
starts October 6,
and YOU are invited!**

MSYG BROWNSTONE QUARRY ADVENTURE! Tuesday, July 30, found forty-seven St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group Members enjoying Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park in Portland, Connecticut. The day was sunny and hot – perfect for swimming, rock climbing, cliff diving, zip lining, wakeboarding, and screaming down the huge water slides. The tallest zip line started atop an eighty-five-foot quarry cliff, while others required climbing a rock wall to access. The swimming area was dotted with giant inflatable icebergs, spaceships, and other objects for climbing and sliding. Check out the photos above (or in color on the web)!

MSYG FALL 2024 KICK OFF MEETING: Sunday, October 6 from 6:30 – 8 PM in the Parish Center Hall. Open to any and all 6th, 7th and 8th Graders. There will be Youth Group Registrations for the new school year, a Giant Slideshow of all this summer's MSYG trips, an Ice Cream Sundae Bar, Sign Ups for our October 25 Haunted Mansion Trip, and most importantly - opportunities for prayer, service and growing in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. Full details will be mailed out soon. Bring a friend!

ALTAR SERVER APPRECIATION TRIP!

On Friday, August 9, St. Mary's treated her Altar Servers to a day at Six Flags New England. This annual trip is a thank you for their faithful and reverent ministry at Mass, twice and sometimes even three times a month. Only about half of our Servers could make the date this year, but those who went had an awesome time. Forecasts of late day rain and wind remnants from Tropical Storm Debby kept most people away. Without crowds, our Servers were able to go on the most popular rides repeatedly and without lines! They enjoyed Superman Ride of Steel, Bat Man, Pandemonium, Flashback, and even the classic Thunderbolt wooden roller coaster. The park did end up closing earlier than expected for weather, but really - how many times in a row do you want to go on Superman? (One of our Server groups rode it five times without even having to get off between rides). Thank you to Fr. Mark and all the parent chaperones who made this day possible and so fun for everyone. And thank you St. Mary's Altar Servers for the important role you fulfill at the celebration of the Holy Mass!



Want to become a St. Mary's Altar Server? A new class is starting up Sunday, October 20 at 7 PM in the church. All in Grades 4 - 12 qualify. Welcome!



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * Fall, 2024

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508-579-4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

If interested in joining Troop 14, contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for boys in sixth grade or above.

The Troop meets weekly during the school year, Mondays from 7 - 8:30 PM in the Lower Church.

2024 HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP: In August, four Scouts and two adult Leaders travelled to Minnesota and Canada for a six-day, five-night wilderness canoe trek. The "Northern Tier" Canoe High Adventure is the oldest of the four Scouting "High Adventure" camps and is the ultimate test of Scouting skills and endurance.



While Troop 14 has more than 50 Scouts, the High Adventure trips are for the older and more experienced Scouts who want a major mental and physical challenge beyond what local camping trips provide. The canoe trek spanned 75 miles of the Quetico Provincial Park which is a wilderness area in Ontario, Canada. Quetico, along with the Boundary Water Canoe Wilderness Area in Minnesota, is over two million acres of wilderness. It is some of the finest backcountry canoeing on the planet with areas that see very few people per year.

The trek challenged Scouts Luke Roberto, Colin Hodgdon, Xander Hafford, and Jeffrey Hebert as they paddled over ten miles each day and traversed challenging portages, carrying their personal gear, three canoes, six days of food, and a kitchen. While some packs weighed more than one hundred pounds and terrain ranged from tall hills with roots and rocks to swampy grasslands with knee-high water, the four young Scouts showed exemplary physical skills, endurance, and a positive mindset to collectively accomplish this impressive feat.



After the end of a long day paddling and portaging, the Scouts, guided by their "interpreter" Ariella, cooked dinner, cleaned up, and hoisted the kitchen items on a rope to deter bears who can smell food from over a mile away. The remaining hours of the day were spent taking advantage of the finest freshwater fishing in North America or spending a few brief moments by the campfire and talking before sleeping. The trek had no official itinerary or schedule and things like weather or a local wildfire caused the route to shift, after discussing the implications and agreeing on possible solutions. Select older Scouts who meet age and rank requirements will be training throughout this new Scout year in preparation for next year's "High Adventure, New Mexico" trip to Philmont Scout Ranch, the largest and most impressive High Adventure camp there is!



“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

1 PETER 1:15-16

2024 FALL PROGRAM BEGINS OCTOBER 9

Called to Holiness - Becoming our Best Selves

WEDNESDAYS, 9:45AM-11:15AM IN FR. HALEY HALL & VIA ZOOM

Women in God's Spirit (WINGS) is a faith enrichment group for women of all ages wherever they are on their spiritual journey. Join us this fall as inspiring speakers share encouraging wisdom to grow in holiness while learning alongside a wonderful group of supportive women.

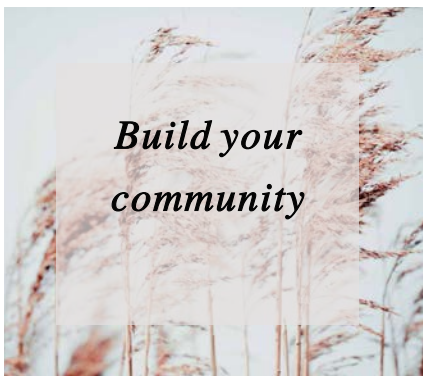
SCHEDULE:

- *Oct. 9: “All Called to Holiness.”*
- *Oct. 16: “Be What You Are.”*
- *Oct. 23: “Friends Who Guide the Way.”*
- *Oct. 30: “Saints Next Door.”*
- *Nov. 6: “Holiness in a Distracted World.”*
- *Nov. 13: “How does the Church Grow in Holiness?”*

NEED BABYSITTING?

Childcare is offered at no cost for WINGS attendees!

FULL SCHEDULE & SPEAKER DETAILS TO FOLLOW...STAY TUNED!



QUESTIONS? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



STMARYSWINGSSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM



STMARYSHOLLISTON.COM/WOMEN-IN-GODS-SPIRIT-W-I-N-G-S/



FACEBOOK.COM/WINGSHOLLISTON

Knights of Columbus

St. Mary's Council #14224 Fall, 2024

"In Service to One, In Service to All."



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 142nd SUPREME CONVENTION - QUEBEC CITY AUGUST 6 - 8: 2,500 Knights and their families as well as nearly 60 Bishops from around the world attended the convention. The convention theme was "On Mission". That mission, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said in his opening speech, "...requires Knights to be resolute, undaunted, (and) zealous," has become more critical than ever, especially at a time when in many places around the world Catholic baptisms are declining and secularism is on the rise" [from August 16 PILOT, pg.7]. Cardinal O'Malley also attended [a long time Knight] and in his blog of August 9, he gave "the keynote speech in which I [he] spoke about global indifference."

CELEBRATE HOLLISTON - COUNCIL BOOTH AND CHECK PRESENTATIONS: Our Council will have a booth at Celebrate Holliston on **September 21**. The Council will also present donation checks to the Holliston Pantry Shelf, Holliston Senior Center, MetroWest Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund and Autism Research. Funds for these donations were raised from the Annual Charity Raffle and the Annual Swing for Charity Golf Tournament. Please stop by our booth to meet Council Knights and play some games.



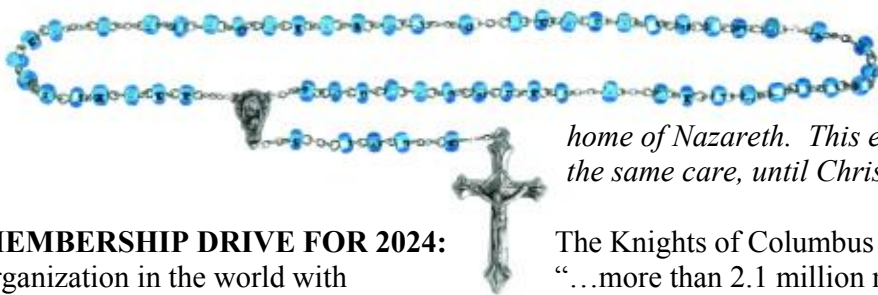
ANNUAL TOOTSIE ROLL

DRIVE: The Council will conduct the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive the weekend of **October 12 / 13** after St. Mary's Masses and at various downtown locations. All proceeds are given to the K of C State Council for donation to Special Needs charities in Massachusetts.



MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be **Wednesday October 16** in the church at 7:00 P.M. All parishioners are invited. Why pray the rosary? Pope Saint John Paul II offered this wisdom:

"Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word: "She kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk2:19; cf. 2:51). The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart, were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her Son's side. In a way those memories were to be the 'rosary' which she recited uninterruptedly throughout her earthly life."



"The Rosary mystically transports us to Mary's side as she is busy watching over the human growth of Christ in the home of Nazareth. This enables her to train us and to mold us with the same care, until Christ is 'fully formed' in us."

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2024:

organization in the world with globally" [from August 16 PILOT pg.7]. 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. **Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men.**



Stepping Up in Faith

By Deacon John Barry

How Steps 4 & 5 of the 12-Step Program, and the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, can help us on our journey towards holiness.

In the Summer newsletter, we discussed how Steps 2 & 3 of the 12-Step Program of Addiction Recovery are linked to our journey of holiness. Step 2 focuses on a Belief that a greater Power than ourselves (which we know as God) can restore us to sanity. Step 3 enables us to make the decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him. Let us understand better the next two steps, Steps 4 and Step 5.

Step Four: Honesty & Self Awareness

Step 4 of the 12-Step Program of Alcoholics Anonymous requires us to “Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.” It parallels with Ignatian Spirituality’s step of conversion and self-awareness, calling for the recognition of sin and the desire for healing. This step in our faith process requires intellectual honesty and introspection of ourselves, our frustrations, our resentments; and of all people, things or principles with whom we have found disappointment and anger. This step enables us to face our resentments, our fears, our disappointments, and ask ourselves where we can take ownership of them. This step can be overwhelming for some who have suffered any kind of trauma or abuse and may expose feelings of shame and guilt that people can feel when having not followed their own moral compass. But it is important for each of us to overcome these obstacles, because they stand in the way of a right relationship with our Lord. What is most important to remember, despite any disappointments we may feel about ourselves or our actions, is that we are still beloved, beyond measure in the sight of our Creator.

Step Five: Accountability

The Spiritual Exercises align this step with the desire for deeper union with God, becoming aware of our own sorrow for sin and compassion for God’s suffering people. Step 5 of the 12 Steps requires us to “Admit to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs”. This process of awareness and sorrow allows us to step into the light of community. It calls us out of the darkness of shame and guilt and beckons us to share with another person the nature of our wrongdoings. The shame and guilt that we often feel, especially when in active addiction or attachment, is frequently at the root of a deeper problem: isolation. Isolation can be one of the most difficult obstacles to overcome in our faith journey, as it is common for people to remain alone in their pain and suffering. Admitting to others our wrongdoings exerts a sense of control over the situation, freeing us from our guilt and pain. Asking God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation frees us from the weight of our sin, enabling God’s loving grace to enter our hearts, and revealing the beauty of His merciful healing and love.

We will continue in upcoming newsletters to highlight the remaining steps, and how they connect with Ignatian Spirituality and our religious journey of discovery. In the meantime, let’s concentrate on our honesty, self-awareness and accountability in relationship with a God who loves us beyond measure.

Be a Beacon of Hope: Become an iTHIRST Companion. Classes start October 15! The Archdiocese of Boston is offering a one-time 65 % subsidy for any Catholic interested in becoming a certified iTHIRST companion through Seton Hall University. If interested, contact Deacon John at (508) 794-9128. Learn more about the iTHIRST program by adding the following link to your browser:

<https://ithirstinitiative.org>.

