

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

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FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

Feb. 1 & 2: St. Blaise Blessing of Throats after all Masses, Pancake Breakfast Sunday morning.

Feb. 9, 11:30 AM Mass: Healing Mass with Anointing of the Sick.

Feb. 22 & 23: Blessing of Married Couples at all Masses.

Feb. 28: Family Bingo Night!



A GRADE 6 - 12 INVITATION FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Happy New Year, everyone! As you can see in these Lessons & Carols photos, the Music Program at St. Mary's is steadily growing. As a further expansion, I invite all middle and high schoolers to help us start a new young adult Youth Choir!

I witnessed the high schoolers bring such dedication and fun to Christmas caroling for the residents at St. Patrick's Manor in December, and I would love to see this enthusiasm transformed into a weekly-rehearsing Youth Choir to prepare worship music for occasional Masses.

All interested middle and high schoolers grades 6 - 12 are welcome to sign up or receive more information by contacting me at musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com.

Consider sharing and growing your musical joy with our parish family in a new way this year! - Abigail Kelley-Lanser



St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

February, 2025 ~ Volume 51, Number 2



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

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Music Program: 429-6076

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Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

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

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

With great joy we welcome the following families to our parish. May we be a true blessing to each other!

The Hodge Family - Douglas, Kelly and Thomas

The Wade Family - Gregg, Karolina, Henry and Arthur

The Montalbano Family - Dominic, Angela, Maria, Luca and Carmela

The Arno Family - Justin, Jaime and Francesca

The Carr Family - Patrick and Mary Elizabeth

The Leger Family - Erika and Haley

The Yablonski Family - Stanley and Elaine

The Tate Family - Samuel, Lauren, Liam and Noah

The Marchessault Family - Nick, Danielle, Nicholas and Cameron

The Miller Family - Evan, Brittany, Emerson, Lydia and Sloan

The Phillips Family - Ryan, Elizabeth and Lila

The Agostinelli Family - Mark, Tina, Thomas and Lucas

The Quinlan Family - John, Cassandra, Chloe and Phoebe

The Cashman Family - Barry, Jennifer, Conor and Violet

The Katamba Family - Barbara and Martina Nakakeeto

The Santos Family - Scotty, Alice, Isabella and Olivia

The Paru Family - Joseph, Ashley and Benjamin

A RARE HONOR

On Sunday, January 5, at the 11:30 AM Mass, St. Mary's Parishioner Danny Baribeau received a rare honor - the Pillars of Faith Award. This award provides special recognition to those Boy Scouts who have earned all four of the traditional Catholic Religious Awards. Less than 4% of Scouts earn the top rank of Eagle Scout, and even fewer earn a Religious Award from their faith. So to earn all four Religious Awards is a monumental feat and demonstrates tremendous commitment to their Catholic Faith. For this reason the award is usually given only about once every five years in our Archdiocese.

The name and design of the award represent the fact that the four traditional Religious Awards for each program are like pillars, supporting the Scouts' development in and appreciation of their religious faith. The Religious Awards are the pillars, not the roof, for none are ever done growing in their faith. The design also includes the Church, the Bible, and the Cross - other essential elements in faith.

Scouts must have completed Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, and Pope Pius XII Awards - all at the proper age. Danny received his Pius XII emblem along with five other Scouts at the January 5 celebration. Congratulations Danny!





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Later this month, we will celebrate St. Valentine's Day. Saint Valentine was a Catholic priest in ancient Rome. When he kept marrying couples even after the Emperor Claudius had prohibited new marriages, Fr. Valentine was arrested, imprisoned, and eventually martyred for his Christian faith.

Fr. Valentine left behind in his jail cell a beautiful note to a friend, signing it, "Love from your Valentine." Thus began the custom of giving gifts and messages of love on February 14 - the day Valentine died in the year 269 AD.

St. Valentine's Day is now customarily a day when we give gifts of love. And as February 14 approaches, let us pause to remember that God gave us the greatest gift of love in the person of Jesus, His Only Son, Who died to save us from our sins. It is a gift that fills us with gratitude, joy, and hope.

I saw a great video recently which went something like this. Imagine you are drowning in the ocean. You are struggling to stay afloat, but you are far from shore and cannot make it there. You start to sink, to swallow water ... you are dying.

Suddenly, you are grabbed by the arm. A stranger is rescuing you - he lifts your head above water and swims, pulls your exhausted body along with him through the water, and finally manages to drag your body onto the beach.

Then without warning - the stranger collapses. He has had a heart attack. The strain of rescuing you was too much. And he dies right there, literally having given his life to save yours.

A few days later, the wife of the man who died saving you calls you. She tells you they are having a memorial service for her husband, Sunday morning, and she would like you to come. Would you say, "*Oh I'm sorry, but Sunday is my morning to sleep in?*" Would you say, "*I'd like to, but my daughter has a soccer game?*" Would you say, "*No, but don't worry, I'll honor your husband in my own way by thinking of him during the commercials of the football game?*"

Of course not! You would go. You would be grateful! You would want to honor the memory of the man who saved you. You would want to learn all you could about the man who gave his life for yours.

Well, you and I have such a man. His name is Jesus. And at the Last Supper, the First Eucharist, Jesus established a Memorial for Himself - saying "Do *this* in memory of me." He blessed bread and wine, and gave us the gift of the Holy Mass - in which we honor and remember and meet Jesus anew every Sunday.

Can you imagine, if you are a Catholic who has been away from the Sunday Mass - the smile - no the BEAMING GRIN that it would bring to God's face - if He looks out into His Church on Sunday, and finds your place no longer empty - but filled? So that He can talk to you again in Scripture, nourish you in sacrament, and in so many powerful and mysterious ways, grow closer to you, in love.

If that is not a gift and joy that you have given to God in a while, then I hope you will consider making it your Valentine's gift to Him this year.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



ATTENTION MEN OF ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's is excited to announce the implementation of Cor, a new, nationwide faith enrichment and fraternal opportunity for men. Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, faith formation, and fraternity. Cor is Greek for "heart"; chosen as the name of this program because Jesus wants to claim kingship over our hearts.

St. Mary's is launching this program this upcoming Lent. All men of St. Mary's parish age 18 and older are encouraged to join us for faith enrichment, bible study, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. This will be a great opportunity to kick-start your Lenten journey and then continue with the Cor program long after Easter with fellow parishioners.

Meetings will take place twice a month on Thursday evenings. There is no cost for this program.

Registration and meeting details will be announced in the March Newsletter and in weekly bulletins leading up to Lent. For more information email StMarysCor@gmail.com.

Special February Events

ANNUAL BLESSING OF THROATS: Saturday, February 1 & Sunday, February 2. On or near February 3, the Feast of Saint Blaise, the Church continues its ministry to the sick with the blessing of throats. This blessing invokes God's healing and protection. Two blessed candles, joined in the form of a cross, are placed around the throat of each person seeking a blessing. The minister then prays, *"Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."* The blessing will be offered after all Masses this weekend. Humbled by physical weakness, we acknowledge our faith in God's protective love for all who call upon Him.



ANNUAL FAMILY PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Sunday, February 2. St. Mary's BSA Troop 14 will hold its Annual Family Pancake Breakfast from 8 AM - 12 PM in Father Haley Hall. Save room for delicious pancakes, sausages, coffee, juice, and great company! Funds raised from this annual event help fund Troop 14 activities throughout the year. Thank you for your support!

HEALING MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Sunday, February 9, 11:30 AM. February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is the World Day of the Sick. On this day we are encouraged to remember in our prayers all persons who are seriously ill. At the 11:30 AM Mass the previous Sunday, helped by our 5th graders, St. Mary's will offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anyone diagnosed with a serious illness is invited to receive this holy sacrament as a source of hope, strength, and healing (James 5:13-15). Anyone needing a ride to the Healing Mass should contact the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076.



BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES: Saturday, February 22 & Sunday, February 23. In honor of World Marriage Month, St. Mary's will offer a special blessing to all married persons at Masses this weekend. As is our custom, the couple at each Mass present together and married the longest will be presented with roses, as we honor all our married couples and ask God's good grace upon them. By the Holy Sacrament of Marriage, God becomes the Third Partner in this Vocation.



FAMILY BINGO NIGHT: Friday, February 28. Enjoy a night of fun for the whole family as we support our parish teens going on Mission to Mississippi this coming summer! Photos from last year's Family BINGO Night above; full event details on the next page.

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT!

Friday, February 28, 2025!



To support the 2025 High School Mission Trip to Mississippi.

What: Fun Family BINGO with gift cards and other awesome prizes! Snacks and drinks will also be on sale to benefit the Mission Trip.

When: **Friday, February 28, from 7 - 9 PM.**

Where: Fr. Haley Hall, St. Mary's Church, Holliston, MA.

Donation: \$20 for an Adult Prizes Card; \$10 for a Kiddie Prizes Card - both are good for two hours of play! Cash, Check, or VENMO accepted.

The Cause: This July, 91 High School students from St. Mary's will travel to Gulfport, Mississippi for a week of faith-filled Mission work and service. This is a life-changing week for the teens and chaperones as they live out their faith, make lifelong friendships, and get to know the people they serve. It is a beautiful extension of our Parish Family's Mission to know, love, and serve God. The cost of the trip this year is \$1,100 per student.



HAWAIIAN LUAU!

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

TIME: 7 PM – 9:30 PM

PLACE: St. Mary's Parish Center
708 Washington St., Holliston.

COST: \$10 at the door. *Drinks & snacks will be on sale separately.*

WHO: Any and all 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade Middle School Students are invited to attend. The dance is sponsored by St. Mary's Youth Ministry, but is open to all Middle School Students from anywhere!



**PROFESSIONAL DJ,
MUSIC, LIGHTS,
TROPICAL
ATMOSPHERE,
FROZEN DRINKS,
LIMBO CONTEST,
BEST BEACH
OUTFIT CONTEST,
PRIZES & TOTAL
FUN IN THE SUN!**





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Next Meeting is Sunday, February 2, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Welcome!

Battle of the Sexes Victors:

2008-Boys 2009-Girls 2010-Girls 2011-Boys 2012-Girls 2013-Girls

2014-Boys 2015-Boys 2016-Girls 2017-Girls 2018-Boys 2019-Boys

2020-Boys 2022-Girls 2023-Boys 2024-Boys 2025- ????????????????

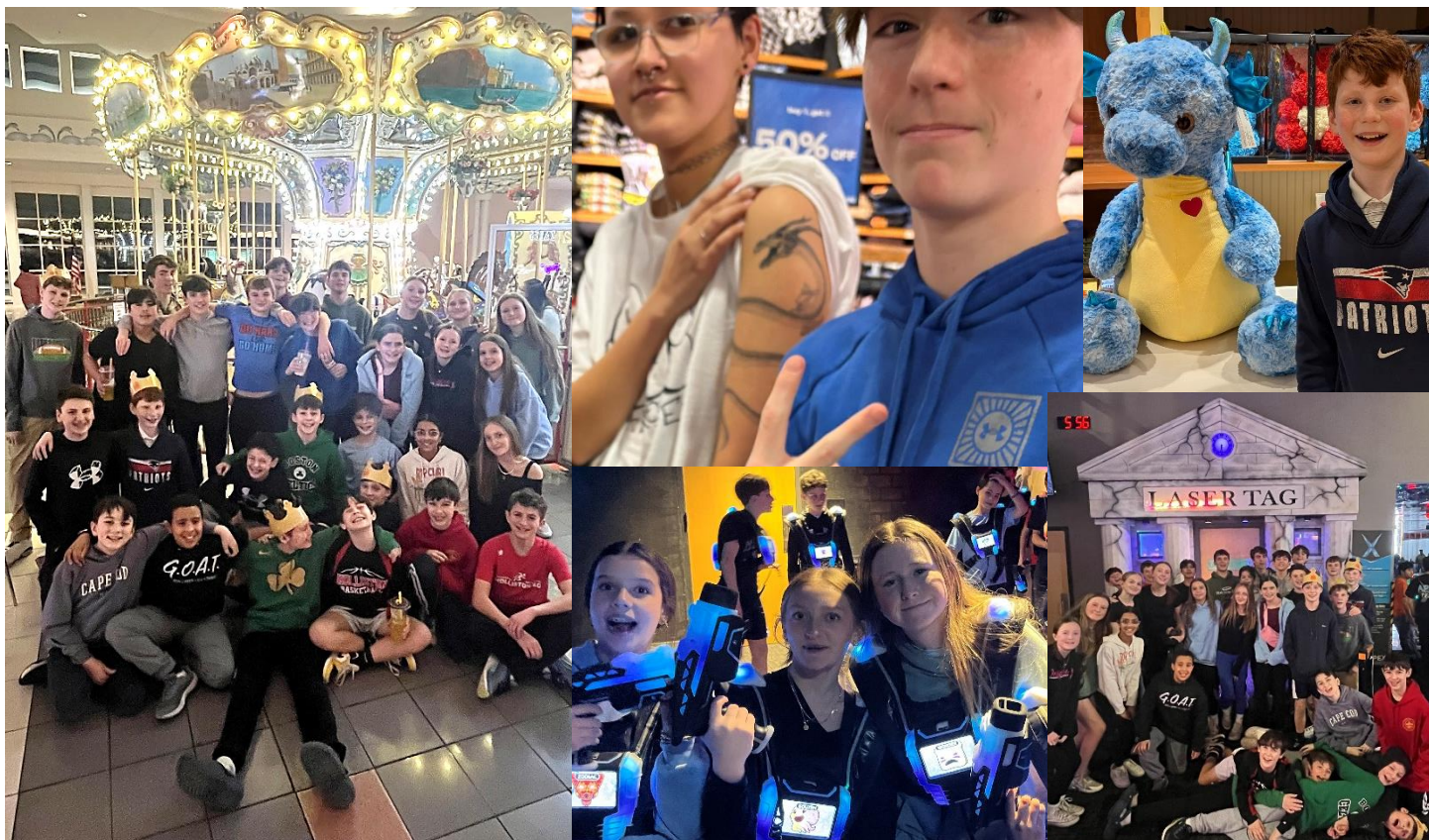
Our Next
MSYG Meeting is
Sun. Feb. 2 from
6:30 – 8:30 PM, a
half hour longer due
to the 17th Annual
Battle of the Sexes!



COME TO THE FEBRUARY 2 MSYG MEETING TO SEE WHO WINS THE BATTLE TROPHY IN 2025!

MYSTERY TRIP! The Sunday, January 12, MSYG MYSTERY TRIP was a blast! Event One was a Mall Scavenger Hunt that included items such as “take a pic of a team member with a dragon,” (yes tatoos counted), “take a pic of one team member holding an Etch-A-Sketch,” and many more. The winning team all won Regal Movie Passes. Congratulations to: Chelsea Dufault, Michael Bukow, Johnathan Ellis, Tyler Benoff, Strummer Keith, and Lauren Plante!

Next we enjoyed dinner at the Food Court before heading to Event Two - a FULL HOUR of Laser Tag at APEX in Marlborough! We rented out the whole arena just for MSYG! Team Blue dominated, and Tyler Benoff was the MVP almost every game! Special thanks to both our parent chaperones and High School leaders who made this fun event possible. Let us remember that the greatest mystery is the depth of God's love for us as revealed in His Son Jesus! Colossians 1:26 *"The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints."*





St. Mary's Parish High School Youth Group

Contact Lisa Dufault, st.marystgif1870@gmail.com, 508-429-6076 ext. 3.



**TGIF trips to
La Salette and
Christmas
Caroling at St.
Patrick's
Manor in
Framingham**



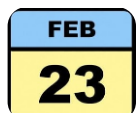
Coming Events ...

On Saturday, February 8, we have our TGIF trip to TOPGOLF in Canton! Ready for some friendly competition? We will share some laughs as we hit the driving range together! Whether you're a pro golfer or have never swung a club, it's all about having fun and connecting with each other.



On Sunday, February 16, we will join the residents of Mission Springs for some Valentine's Day BINGO. We will play BINGO with them and have some light refreshments. Of course there will be some fabulous prizes for the WINNERS!

On Sunday, February 23, we gather for our Monthly TGIF Meeting, 7 - 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. All High School Students are welcome for prayer, faith, friendship, and fun!





Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * January, 2025

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.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 -



Troop 14 will hold its Annual Pancake Breakfast on February 2, from 8 AM - 12 PM in Father Haley Hall. Save room for delicious pancakes and great company. Funds raised from this annual event help fund Troop 14 activities throughout the year. Thank you for your support!

THE BLACK WATCH TARTAN: Boy Scout Troops often wear customized neckerchiefs with unique colors and designs to represent their Troop. The Black Watch Tartan is the name of the pattern on the neckerchief worn by Troop 14 Boy Scouts. On December 9, Father Mark presented the history of the Black Watch Tartan to Troop 14. His talk included a slideshow, samples of the tartan, and he even had a Black Watch Uniform Badge, photo right.



The Black Watch is a Scottish Army Regiment, first formed in 1725 to serve the British Crown following the Jacobite rebellion. Today the Black Watch is officially The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland. The name is derived from the dark color of the tartan the men wore, and the company's role to "watch" over the highlands. Troop 14 has the distinction of being the only BSA Troop to wear the Black Watch Tartan by special permission from that regiment given in 1968.



After sharing the rich history of the Black Watch Tartan, Fr. Mark ended his presentation with these words:

"We hope that the next time you put on your neckerchief, you'll remember that it's not just a random pattern you are wearing - it's a part of history."

It's a reminder of a friendship between Boy Scout Troop 14 and a Scottish Scout Leader way back in the 1960s when our Troop was just finding its feet."

It's a connection to a very long and distinguished military organization that has fought in more than 100 major battles and has seen active duty all over the world.

The Black Watch, whose tartan you wear, is known for courage, brotherhood, loyalty, and sacrifice - all ideals also held up by the Boy Scouts of America.

I mentioned that when I first became the Pastor of St. Mary's, the Troop 14 Paperwork I received said, 'Proud Wearers of the Black Watch Tartan.' And we hope that after what you have learned tonight, you will be truly proud to wear it!"

POPE PIUS XII RELIGIOUS EMBLEM: On Sunday, January 5, at the 11:30 AM Mass, six Boys Scouts were awarded the Pope Pius XII emblem for their completion of this year long program. Led by Deacon Ron Dowding, the six Scouts explored vocations (single, married, religious, ordained) and ministries in the Church as calls from God. The program included lessons taught by Deacon Ron with discussions on current issues facing the church and society, speakers from each vocation, a day long retreat that included Scout presentations, reflection and adoration.



Shown above from left to right, the Scouts who received the Emblem were: **Luke Roberto, Louis Connoni, Danny Baribeau, Jack Baribeau, Luke Burgett, and Michael Butler.** Well done!



A PRACTICAL GIFT: Troop 14 thanks St. Mary's for the parish's recent donation of a brand-new four-season tent. Shown above, some of the Scouts practiced setting it up at a meeting. As our Troop continues to grow, another tent was much needed. Thank you, St. Mary's!



Inspiration & encouragement for your spiritual journey.



Winter Bible Study Began January 22 in Fr. Haley Hall & on Zoom!

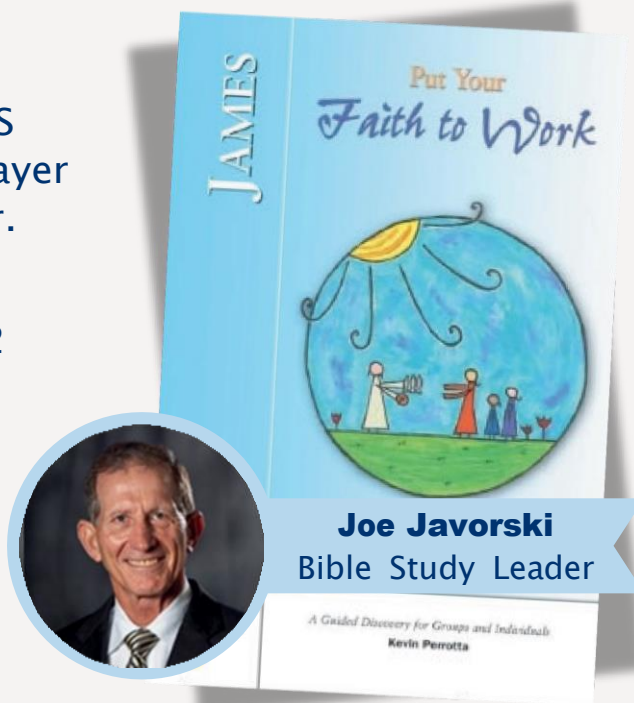
You can still join us Wednesdays at 10 – 11:15 AM through February 26 for our Winter Bible Study. Join from anywhere on Zoom (being local or a parishioner is not required!) or come in person – free babysitting is available!

Continuing the fall theme of “Called to Holiness”, we will focus on spiritual growth through the study of scripture using Kevin Perrotta’s book “James: Put Your Faith to Work” as our guide.

Speaker & Schedule

Our speaker is Joe Javorski, a previous WINGS speaker, a member of the Vision of Peace Prayer Group and an experienced Bible study leader.

- **Jan. 22** – Introduction.
- **Jan. 29** – Ch. 1 “Maturity, Anyone?” & Ch. 2 “Be Blessed in Your Doing”.
- **Feb. 5** – Ch. 3: “Not Seeing as the World Sees”.
- **Feb. 12** – Ch. 4: “Is Your Faith ‘Out of Order’”?
- **Feb. 19** – Ch. 5: “A Call to Conversion”.
- **Feb. 26** – Ch. 6: “Keep On Keeping On”.



Contact us to Join or to Learn More

Email us or drop in to a meeting.
Member suggested dues are \$20/season but all are welcome to attend regardless of ability to pay.



stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com



scan for Facebook



Knights of Columbus



St. Mary's Council #14224 February, 2025

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

K OF C COUNCIL SPONSORED ANNUAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: On Saturday, January 18, in St. Mary's Father Haley Hall, the Council held its annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Forty donors gave 44 units of blood. Your blood donation has helped the Council cross the Red Cross 1,000-pints donated plateau with this drive. Our Council thanks all those who donated to help save lives. God bless you!



SAVE THE DATE, 24th ANNUAL WORCESTER CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE ~

SATURDAY, APRIL 5: The conference will be held at the DCU Center. Registration begins at 7:30 AM with the first speaker beginning at 9:00 AM. Multiple speakers will offer inspiring talks, including Fr. Donald Calloway! Adoration, confessions, exhibitors, and closing Mass at 4:00 PM. Council members have attended and plan to do so again. We usually have a carpool leaving from St. Mary's parking lot. Purchase tickets at www.catholicmenworc.com, \$50 for adults, \$30 for students. Prices are good until March 26. Lunch included in ticket purchase. For further information, contact Tom Brodo at 508-429-6576 or tjbrodo@comcast.net.



FR. DONALD CALLOWAY

No Turning Back: A Witness To Mercy

Before his conversion to Catholicism, he was a high school dropout who had been kicked out of a foreign country, institutionalized twice, and thrown in jail multiple times. Today, Fr. Donald Calloway is an author of 15 books and speaks passionately about Divine Mercy, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Joseph in his moving conversion story.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2025: The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic Fraternal organization in the world with "...more than 2.1 million members in over 16,800 local councils 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.**

MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be Wednesday, February 20, in the church at 7:00 PM. Any and all persons are welcome to attend.

CROSS WALK

Walking with John Leary

Attending 7:30 PM Mass on Saturdays with my dear friend Ann Chiango, has been such a blessing. Along the way, I have been able to meet many of her friends, including John Leary. Over the past few weeks, we have seen each other at Mass, and at a friend's wake. Each time, I could see both his strength and the love and tenderness in his heart for his wife.

One day after Mass, John pulled a card from his pocket and shared with Fr. Mark and I the beautiful 90th birthday card that his family had made for him. "90?" I said in disbelief. I could tell he had a lifetime of stories, and I invited him for a Cross Walk.



John grew up in New Bedford, one of five children. Tragically, one sister died very young. They were a devout Catholic family, whose faith origins began with his grandmother, who immigrated from Ireland, and died six weeks before John was born. She was a very faithful Irish Catholic, who had great influence on the importance of faith and church to John's mom. "I have

some Catholic prayer books that were my grandmother's" John said, "Inside she has recorded each time she went to confession."



John – 3 years old

John became an altar server in 4th grade and by his sophomore year in high school, was taller than the priest! He reminisced about helping at communion by holding the paten under people's chins while they kneeled at the altar rail.

He went to Catholic School for eight years taught by The Sisters of Mercy. He recalled one incident that left an impression. A bully, named Jack, a real "hell-raiser," was picking on John one day, when they were both called to the principal's office. The principal took the side of the bully. John told me how Sister Francella, a young nun, and one of his teachers, stood up for him. It

really made an impression on him, and nearly 80 years later still brought a tear to his eye.

In 8th grade he was selected to serve a special High Mass with three priests and three other altar servers. As luck would have it, the altar server he was paired with was the same bully that he had known in 4th grade. "The good news is," John added, "this bully went on to do very well in his life."

When time for high school rolled around, his mother commented to him, "The nuns are good for eight years, after that you need males." So, he was sent to Msgr. James Coyle High School in Taunton where he was taught by the Brothers of Notre Dame. During High School, John frequented the local drugstore where they had a soda fountain. He got a job there being a "soda jerk" (for those who are younger - preparing and serving ice cream sodas). He thought John would make a good pharmacist and encouraged him. John ended up going to Mass College of Pharmacy, the second oldest one in the country (est. 1823). After 4 years of schooling and lots of Biology and Chemistry courses, he got his license.

L-R: Kevin, Marybeth, Martha, John Jr. (Jay), Mary & John



Back then, the pharmacist couldn't substitute brands of medication. If you can imagine, all records kept were paper ones, with communication via landlines. John learned how to compound and make eye drops. He worked to get through grad school where he studied *Pharmacognosy*, the study of medicinal drugs obtained from natural sources such as plants, microbes, and animals. Throughout his career, John worked in pharmacies located in retail shops, community drug stores, hospitals, and skilled nursing homes. He received his doctorate from UConn in 1963 and taught about natural medicinal products at St. John's University in Jamaica, NY. He then worked for 25 years teaching at Mass College of Pharmacy. In 2001, John retired from being a pharmacist and worked for the Framingham Heart Study for 14 years. This was particularly meaningful to him because of his

mother's challenges with high cholesterol and how it had affected her health. John met his beloved wife Mary, through a grammar school friend. A Memorial Day picnic to Purgatory Chasm was their first date. John didn't have a job at the time and things kind of quieted down, till one day he was invited to a square dance and needed a partner. He went to the phone booth at the pharmacy, pulled a dime out of his pocket and called and asked her. They were novices at square dancing, making mistakes left and right. But the rest is history. They have been married for 67 years, and have been blessed with four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren with another due this spring.



L-R: Mary & John

One particularly challenging time, money was very tight. John had an opportunity to go to Oregon for ten weeks at a higher paying position.

Incredibly, he did what he had to do for his family and took an apartment, living thousands of miles away across the country. Since his wife, Mary, was expecting their second child, they decided it would be best for her and their son Jay, to stay here with her mother and father. Forty-eight hours after he left, Mary went into labor and gave birth to their daughter Martha. John welled up with tears sharing that he did not get to meet his daughter till two months later on a trip home for Christmas. I cannot imagine how hard that was for him.



**"I NEVER REALIZED, TILL RECENTLY...
HOW MY FAITH
HAS CARRIED ME THROUGH ALL THESE THINGS."**

In 1968, John and Mary moved to Holliston and have lived here ever since. When the Leary family joined St. Mary's Parish, Fr. O'Brien was the pastor. John enjoyed teaching H.S. Religious Ed and later, Mary worked as a part-time secretary with Mary Beth Harris.

John and Mary served as Eucharistic ministers for many years. To be able to touch and share the Eucharist has been a very moving experience for him. One Sunday, someone called and couldn't make it, so John filled in. Walking toward him, a gentleman who was terminally ill with a brain tumor came up to receive Communion. As John said, "Body of Christ," and gave the Host to him,

John was moved to tears. The fact that he could be the one to connect Christ to this very ill man was overwhelming. What a gift it must have been for this man to see John's deep faithfulness shining forth from his face as he received our Lord.

Among the religious highlights in John's life are:

- His trip with Fr. David Lewis to eastern Italy to see St. Padre Pio and to Paris where they visited the chapel where St. Catherine Laboure lies incorrupt.
- Visiting the Vatican and Sistine Chapel. "I found these experiences very moving," John said.
- John has a special devotion to The Divine Mercy Chaplet and really enjoyed a day trip to The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge with Fr. Mark and Deacon Ron.
- Attending a very meaningful Marriage Encounter event with Mary in 1975.

In the late 80's, Mary and John were instrumental in forming the NE Chapter of Retrouvaille, a program for couples in difficult marriages to rediscover the goodness in their spouse. Their chapter presented three weekends a year for about 30 couples per weekend with six follow up sessions to expand on the weekend talks. Retrouvaille was 75% effective in saving the marriages of those that attended. John mentioned how grateful he was for the support Fr. Haley gave to this program. Retrouvaille still continues to help couples today, with many chapters around the world. For more info, contact **Retrouvaille** at: 508-271-7155 or by email at: newengland@helpourmarriage.org.

John's favorite Bible Verse



**"FOR I AM NOW READY TO BE OFFERED,
AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND.
I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE,
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH."**

2 TIMOTHY 4: 6-7

I have been truly blessed to spend this time with John, listening to his stories and as he spoke, see in his eyes the depth of his love for his wife Mary and the courage, perseverance and faith that has carried him through his 90 years. May God bless you always, John and Mary.

Walking in His Name, Cathy Stenquist