



**ST. MARY'S PARISH
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NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY, 2019

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council #14224 Receives the Highest of Awards – Star Council Status!



STAR COUNCIL AWARD ACHIEVED BY ST. MARY'S KNIGHTS:

On Wednesday, January 16, 2019, Knights of Columbus State Secretary Michael Lesperance visited St. Mary's Parish. His purpose was to present our Knights of Columbus Council #14224 with the Star Council Award for the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year. Shown in the photo left, the award was accepted by Grand Knight Albert Scaramella.

The Star Council Award is the highest distinction any Knights of Columbus Council can achieve. It takes into consideration membership and insurance growth as well as the activities reported in each of the six categories (Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, Family and Youth) of the K. of C. "Surge with Service" program. St. Mary's Council was one of only eight Councils in Massachusetts to receive the award.

St. Mary's congratulates our Knights on their impressive achievement. Their service and charitable efforts for our parish, the community and various worthy charity groups in the state has been generous and exceptional. Well done! To learn how to become part of this Award Winning Council, see page 7 of this February Newsletter.



St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

February, 2019 ~ Volume 44, Number 6



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

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Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

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

Parish Clergy

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

BAPTIZED ON THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS!

Shown below with his family, Daniel Matthew Gahan was one of several babies baptized at St. Mary's on Sunday, January 13. This date was especially appropriate, as it was the Feast of The Baptism of the Lord. Whereas usually in Baptism the water makes the person holy, at His Baptism in the River Jordan Jesus made holy the waters of this world, so that through them we all might be Baptized into Him.

We have many important days in our lives – graduations, weddings, the births of children, etc. But through the eyes of faith we realize that our Baptism was the single most important day of our lives. For it was the day that God washed clean our souls and adopted us as His own sons and daughters. It was the day we became inheritors of the promise of eternal life with Jesus. Baptism is God's most precious gift, a gift we embrace and fulfill by living and loving as Jesus taught.



Special February Celebrations



Middle School Luau Dance: Friday, February 1, 7-10 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

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. There will be a great professional DJ, music, lights, tropical atmosphere, frozen drinks, Limbo contest, best beach outfit contest and total fun in the sun! Admission is \$8 at the door. Drinks & snacks will also be on sale separately. Invite a friend!

Boy Scout Mass & Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, Feb. 3, 9:30 AM.

February 3 is National Boy Scout Sunday, an occasion to remember that a Scout "is reverent." Catholic Scouts will gather together at the 9:30 AM Mass, ministering as Altar Servers and receiving a special Boy Scout Blessing. St. Mary's own Troop 14 will also be offering a delicious Pancake Breakfast this morning, from 8 AM -12 PM in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$5.00 per person, Scouts in uniform eat free!



Annual Blessing of The Throats: Saturday, Feb. 2 / Sunday, Feb. 3. In honor of the Feast of St. Blaise, this devotion will be celebrated after all Masses next weekend. St. Blaise, Physician, Bishop and Martyr, is invoked against diseases of the throats and other ailments.



Healing Mass With the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Sunday, Feb. 10, 11:30 AM.

This Sunday, Feb. 10, (one day before the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes), St. Mary's will mark 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, 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 Rel. Ed. Office at 429-6076. *"The special grace of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has as its effects: the uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his own good and that of the whole Church; the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of illness or old age; the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of penance; the restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his soul ..."* (CCC 1532).

Blessing of Married Couples: Saturday, Feb. 16 / Sunday, Feb. 17.

In honor of World Marriage Sunday, 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 abundant grace upon them.





From the Pastor's Desk

January 21, 2019

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

This past weekend we heard one of my very favorite Gospels – the Wedding at Cana. You know the story well. Jesus, His Mother Mary, and the disciples are all attending a wedding in Cana of Galilee. During the celebration a crisis occurs – the wine runs out. Mary informs Jesus of the situation. Jesus has the servants fill six stone jars with water. He then tells them to take a cupful of the water (now turned to wine), to the steward of the feast. As soon as the steward tastes it, he says to the groom:

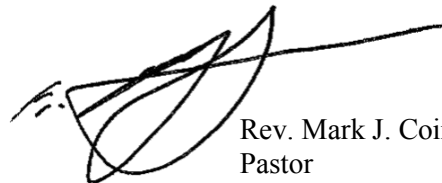
***"Usually people serve the best wine first and save the cheap for later ...
But you – you have saved the best until last."***

As we move forward in this New Year of Grace 2019, I know that some people do so with more despair than hope. Some feel overwhelmed by the troubles life has piled upon them. Some feel that their happiest years are now behind them. Others have nearly given up on themselves – thinking that it is too late for them to become godly and good. At some point, the wine runs out for all of us. We run short of health or wealth or kindness or peace or joy. We may even seem to have exhausted our supply of faith – a commodity that came so easily and was so abundant when we were innocent and young.

Which is why we must remember the Wedding at Cana and the great truth revealed there. The truth that sometimes God does His best work late in the celebration. That often it is late in life that He transforms people and makes them into something truly beautiful and new. Like water into wine. With God's help, for instance, there are many who spent most of their lives in thrall to alcohol or drugs or pornography – who now live in sobriety and peace. There are others who late in life found Jesus and by accepting His mercy themselves were at last able to let go of crippling angers and debilitating resentments.

Because truly God does accomplish some of His greatest miracles and most astounding transformations late in the celebration. Even if for the majority of our years we have rejected the Lord, He is still there to replace our watery wills with the rich wine of faith. As we read in the Book of Lamentations, *"I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: the favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness."* As has often been said, *"Where there is life there is hope."* And never is that truer than when a person humbly and sincerely turns to Jesus for help in time of need. Jesus – for Whom it is never too late.

God bless you!



Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

Welcome to St. Mary's!

With tremendous joy we welcome these six new families who recently joined our parish, and these eight infants & children newly baptized into Christ and His Holy Catholic Church. Welcome!

New Families:

The Christman Family – James, Jodi and Chase
The Simpson Family – Paul and Susan
The Herold Family – Martin, Sixtine, Thomas, Matthias & Charlotte
The Ryan Family – Patrick, Kathryn, Charlie and Teaghan
The Lombardi Family – Scott, Caitlin, Oliver, Henry and Charlotte
The Brady Family – Kevin, Anne, James, Thomas, John, Kathryn, Elizabeth and Caroline



Baptisms:

Michael Patrick Connors
Lucas Jose Silveyra-Dodds
Theodore Richard Leonard
Camden Alexander Beaton
Julianna Catherine O'Donnell
Tucker William Tarpley
Archre Gabriel Kipp
Kesia Cathy Kipp

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

“You received without payment; give without payment.” (Mt 10:8)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“You received without payment; give without payment” (Mt 10:8). These are the words spoken by Jesus when sending forth his apostles to spread the Gospel, so that his Kingdom might grow through acts of gratuitous love.

On the XXVII World Day of the Sick, to be solemnly celebrated on 11 February 2019 in Calcutta, India, the Church – as a Mother to all her children, especially the infirm – reminds us that generous gestures like that of the Good Samaritan are the most credible means of evangelization. Caring for the sick requires professionalism, tenderness, straightforward and simple gestures freely given, like a caress that makes others feel loved.

Life is a gift from God. Saint Paul asks: “What do you have that you did not receive?” (1 Cor 4:7). Precisely because it is a gift, human life cannot be reduced to a personal possession or private property, especially in the light of medical and biotechnological advances that could tempt us to manipulate the “tree of life” (cf. Gen 3:24).

Amid today’s culture of waste and indifference, I would point out that “gift” is the category best suited to challenging today’s individualism and social fragmentation, while at the same time promoting new relationships and means of cooperation between peoples and cultures. Dialogue – the premise of gift – creates possibilities for human growth and development capable of breaking through established ways of exercising power in society. “Gift” means more than simply giving presents: it involves the giving of oneself, and not simply a transfer of property or objects. “Gift” differs from gift-giving because it entails the free gift of self and the desire to build a relationship. It is the acknowledgement of others, which is the basis of society. “Gift” is a reflection of God’s love, which culminates in the incarnation of the Son and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Each of us is poor, needy and destitute. When we are born, we require the care of our parents to survive, and at every stage of life we remain in some way dependent on the help of others. We will always be conscious of our limitations, as “creatures”, before other individuals and situations. A frank acknowledgement of this truth keeps us humble and spurs us to practice solidarity as an essential virtue in life. Such an acknowledgement leads us to act responsibly to promote a good that is both personal and communal. Only if we see ourselves, not as a world apart, but in a fraternal relationship with others, can we develop a social practice of solidarity aimed at the common good. We should not be afraid to regard ourselves as needy or reliant on others, because individually and by our own efforts we cannot overcome our limitations. So we should not fear, then, to acknowledge those limitations, for God himself, in Jesus, has humbly stooped down to us (cf. Phil 2:8) and continues to do so; in our poverty, he comes to our aid and grants us gifts beyond our imagining.

In light of the solemn celebration in India, I would like to recall, with joy and admiration, the figure of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta – a model of charity who made visible God’s love for the poor and sick. As I noted at her canonization, “Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, of those unborn and those abandoned and





discarded... She bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity; she made her voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime – the crimes! – of poverty they created. For Mother Teresa, mercy was the ‘salt’ which gave flavour to her work; it was the ‘light’ that shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering. Her mission to the urban and existential peripheries remains for us today an eloquent witness to God’s closeness to the poorest of the poor” (Homily, 4 September 2016).

Saint Mother Teresa helps us understand that our only criterion of action must be selfless love for every human being, without distinction of language, culture, ethnicity or religion. Her example continues to guide us by opening up horizons of joy and hope for all those in need of understanding and tender love, and especially for those who suffer.

Generosity inspires and sustains the work of the many volunteers who are

so important in health care and who eloquently embody the spirituality of the Good Samaritan. I express my gratitude and offer my encouragement to all those associations of volunteers committed to the transport and assistance of patients, and all those that organize the donation of blood, tissues and organs.

One particular area in which your presence expresses the Church’s care and concern is that of advocacy for the rights of the sick, especially those affected by pathologies requiring special assistance. I would also mention the many efforts made to raise awareness and encourage prevention. Your volunteer work in medical facilities and in homes, which ranges from providing health care to offering spiritual support, is of primary importance. Countless persons who are ill, alone, elderly or frail in mind or body benefit from these services. I urge you to continue to be a sign of the Church’s presence in a secularized world. A volunteer is a good friend with whom one can share personal thoughts and emotions; by their patient listening, volunteers make it possible for the sick to pass from being passive recipients of care to being active participants in a relationship that can restore hope and inspire openness to further treatment. Volunteer work passes on values, behaviours and ways of living born of a deep desire to be generous. It is also a means of making health care more humane.

A spirit of generosity ought especially to inspire Catholic healthcare institutions, whether in the more developed or the poorer areas of our world, since they carry out their activity in the light of the Gospel. Catholic facilities are called to give an example of self-giving, generosity and solidarity in response to the mentality of profit at any price, of giving for the sake of getting, and of exploitation over concern for people.

I urge everyone, at every level, to promote the culture of generosity and of gift, which is indispensable for overcoming the culture of profit and waste. Catholic healthcare institutions must not fall into the trap of simply running a business; they must be concerned with personal care more than profit. We know that health is relational, dependent on interaction with others, and requiring trust, friendship and solidarity. It is a treasure that can be enjoyed fully only when it is shared. The joy of generous giving is a barometer of the health of a Christian.

I entrust all of you to Mary, *Salus Infirmorum*. May she help us to share the gifts we have received in the spirit of dialogue and mutual acceptance, to live as brothers and sisters attentive to each other’s needs, to give from a generous heart, and to learn the joy of selfless service to others.

With great affection, I assure you of my closeness in prayer, and to all I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

Vatican City, 25 November 2018, Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

FRANCIS



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 February, 2019

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish

11th ANNUAL CHARITY FUNDRAISER RAFFLE: Council Knights will begin selling raffle tickets beginning February 20. One chance is \$5 or a book of five chances is \$20. First Prize is \$1,000. Prize Drawing will take place at Celebrate Holliston in September. In past years, the Council has donated over \$185,000 to Holliston organizations, local food pantries, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans groups and others. Co-chairmen are Tom Anguish, Al Scaramella, Bill Heuer and Aaron Pyman.

ANNUAL K OF C BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST:

Holliston Basketball youth ages from 9-14 years tested their free throw skills in the Annual K of C Free Throw Contest held on January 26. Youth in each age group shot fifteen free throws-the highest scorer moving on to the District Free Throw Contest being held in February. Last year two youths became State Champions. Winner award details to follow in the March newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS: The Council welcomes new Knight Richard Masson and new Knight Fred Cullen. They received their First Degree in December.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2019: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at (508) 561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now **join ON-LINE** by going to the Supreme K of C website **kofo.org**. On-line membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council.

MONTHLY ROSARY: One of the greatest gifts we can offer to God and our Holy Mother Mary is the gift of prayer. It expresses our needs, desires, requests and thanksgiving, while strengthening our faith and hope and increasing our love of God. Of all the beautiful prayers we have in our Catholic faith, the holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary is one of the most powerful of all. It has won battles, fought off heresies and been responsible for countless miracles.

In many of her apparitions, Our Lady has been seen wearing or holding rosary beads and requesting that the rosary be prayed daily for peace in the world and family unity. So important and powerful is the rosary that our Blessed Mother has granted 15 promises to those who faithfully pray Her rosary daily.

"Give me an army saying the rosary and I will conquer the world." - Pope Pius IX

"No one can live continually in sin and continue to say the Rosary: either they will give up sin or they will give up the Rosary" - Bishop Hugh Doyle

The Council recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month.



**The next Rosary will be prayed Wednesday,
February 20, at 7 PM in St. Mary's Church.
All are invited!**

women in **WINGS** *God's spirit*

Please join us each Wednesday at 9:45 AM to hear an inspiring reflection on the upcoming Sunday Mass scripture readings. Small groups will discuss the readings after the speaker. This is a great opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge of scripture. Nurturing childcare is provided! All are welcome!

Winter 2019 Program *Study & Sharing on* *Sacred Scripture*



February 6 - Mrs. Fran Crespi is a former engineer, and has served the last seventeen years in ministry, eleven of which have been here at St. Mary's Parish. She completed her Masters Degree in Ministry at St. John Seminary in 2009, and is now also certified as a Spiritual Director through the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. Fran lives in Canton, has two children and three adult grandchildren. She currently serves as St. Mary's Director of Religious Education.



February 13 - Sister Agnes Therrien was born and raised in Pawtucket, RI and attended Our Lady of Consolation where she was taught by the Sisters of St. Chretienne. She went on to attend St. Chretienne Academy in Salem, MA. Upon graduation, she entered this community of Sisters. She taught for twenty-one years, and was a pastoral associate, spiritual director and retreat director for nine years. Sister Agnes also held

positions of leadership in her religious community for twenty-five years. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Boston College, a Masters from Wesleyan University, and a post-graduate certificate from Weston School of Theology in Cambridge.

February 27 - Mass at 9 AM in the church, followed by the Rosary at 9:45 AM in Fr. Haley Hall. Coffee, muffins and conversation to follow.





Mustard Seed
Communities

CARING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

"With faith the size of a mustard seed and a heart willing to serve."



My name is Jenna Calabrese and I am a longtime parishioner of St. Mary's. Currently a sophomore at Sacred Heart University, I had the privilege of travelling to the Mustard Seed Communities (MSC) in Kingston, Jamaica on a Campus Ministry sponsored mission trip over winter break. MSC is an international nonprofit organization striving to care for the most vulnerable, disabled populations in Jamaica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

Encouraged by the caring and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, with a consistent, heartfelt spirit of gratitude, MSC aims to achieve joy, hope, and dignity for all its residents. Although based at the

apostolate *Sophie's Place* outside Kingston, I travelled to several other homes throughout Jamaica, including *Matthew 25:40*, *My Father's House*, *Jerusalem*, *Martha's House*, *Mary's Child*, and *Jacob's Ladder*.

"He is Here. Thank you Lord.", a central theme at MSC, is a message I had never so fully experienced until journeying to MSC. Part of accepting God's invitation to aid in such a beautiful ministry was to first make myself vulnerable. Only when I completely surrendered myself to God's will, and rid all expectations for this experience, did I genuinely fulfill my team's mission: Empower Through Presence.

Upon arriving at Martha's House, immediately after I walked out of the restroom, a young girl quietly offered me her hand and said, *"Come."* I later realized such a simple offer was our Lord calling me to embrace the present moment. A keen appreciation for the simple delight of swaying back and forth on the swings with this resident, allowed me to recognize the authenticity of every, action, reaction, and emotion expressed at MSC. The helpless state of numerous residents is heartbreaking, yet the unconditional love and pure joy they radiate resembles, most closely, God's love for each and every one of us, His children. MSC is truly living the Gospel.

Although traveling to Jamaica, or other vulnerable countries, is physically impossible for many of you, I hope to have inspired you spiritually. We are all called to open our hearts and serve the people in our own communities, especially the poorest of the poor. At a minimum, I challenge you to consciously thank God each day for those small moments you felt His presence permeate your daily routine. He is always here, but we must never forget to say, *"Thank You Lord."*



Photos by: Geissy Bitencourt

St. Mary's EPIC

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN CHRIST

Pictures from
January 13 EPIC Meeting
"Extreme Reverse Scavenger
Hunt feat. Cereal and Milk"

Next Meeting
Sunday, February 10
7:30 – 8:45 PM
Father Haley Hall
High School Youth Group



EPIC is St. Mary's super awesome High School Youth Group full of friends, faith, food, games, adventures, trips, service and so much more! We have monthly meetings as well as some great social and service trips, including a Mission Trip to Gainesville Florida this Summer, from July 14-20. If you have any questions about EPIC, or want to get involved, just come to our next meeting. Or you can contact our Youth Minister, Jake Thiringer at stmarysym1870@gmail.com. Welcome!





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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



Middle School Youth Group Caroling

Friday, Dec. 14, saw 131 MSYG teens caroling for the elderly at 3 area Nursing Homes. Our army of singers brought joy to Timothy Daniels in Holliston, St. Patrick Manor in Framingham, and Valley Farm in Ashland. Small groups of carolers led by adults split up and visited patients in their rooms. In addition to singing, the kids spent time getting to know the residents – where they were from, what they did before retiring, etc. The evening ended with pizza and lights at the Fatima Shrine. Thank you to all who helped spread Christmas cheer!

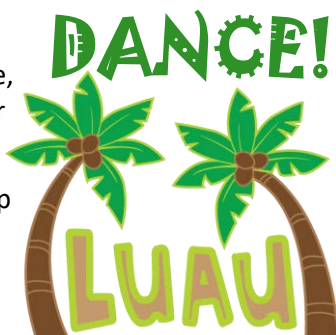


February, 2019

Friday, February 1: Luau Dance, 7-10 PM, open to any 6th, 7th or 8th Graders from anywhere.

Tues., Feb. 19: Blue Man Group & Quincy Market.

Sunday, February 24: Monthly Meeting, 6:30 – 8 PM.





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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



MSYG CELTICS TRIP: Friday, January 4, 2019

It was a great night for the Celtics, who defeated the Dallas Mavericks 114 to 93! 118 St. Mary's MSYG teens cheered them on to victory. It was an especially good game for Gordon Hayward who had 16 points, 11 rebounds and 3 assists. Star Celtics guard Kyrie Irving was still out, and we are pretty sure it was the enthusiastic support of our teens that got the Celtics through even without him!





Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America

St. Mary's Parish * February, 2019

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

Lower Church Hall

Contact: Charlie Paradie, Scoutmaster
617.697.8200

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.Troop14Holliston.com

DONATION TO ST. MARY'S PARISH: Having a successful year of fundraising, Troop 14 wanted to give back to St. Mary's Parish who charters and supports the Troop year-round. On January 7, the Troop invited Father Mark to a Scout meeting and presented him a \$500 check. Father Mark graciously accepted the check on behalf of St. Mary's Parish and told the Scouts the donation would go towards the parish's charitable assistance to local families in need. (Photo)



"A Scout is reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others."

SERVICE PROJECT: It was early on the chilly 15-degree morning of January 12, when five senior Scouts and three leaders from Troop 14 set out to do a conservation project on the Bay Circuit Trail crossing the Framingham/Sudbury town line. You see, the Scouts had hiked this trail several times over the past couple years and noticed how difficult it was to navigate the trail with areas of overgrown brush and some 20+ fallen trees scattered over this mile-long stretch of trail. As the 3-hour service project was nearing completion, several hikers and dogs hiked through and thanked the Scouts for the long-awaited improvement to the trail. (Photos)

SCOUT SUNDAY: Annually, during the 1st week of February, the Boy Scouts of America celebrate its founding, almost 110 years ago. In the mid-1940's, Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration and reminds the Scouts of the 12th Point of the Scout Law "Scout is Reverent" and the promise to do their "Duty to



God." Troop 14 invites all of our fellow Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scout Leaders in town to join us on Sunday, February 3 at St. Mary's for the 9:30 AM Scout Sunday Mass. Also on this day we host our ANNUAL Pancake Breakfast which is both a time to bring our community together and a fund-raising event to help support the many activities we do through-out the year. The Community at large is invited for breakfast at Father Haley Hall between 8 AM – 12 Noon on Sun., Feb. 3. Cost: \$5/person with max of \$20/ family. Boy and Girl Scouts in uniform eat free.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Late January snow-shoe backpacking trip to Carter Notch AMC Hut in the White Mountains.
- February 3, 2019 – Scout Sunday 9:30 AM Mass & Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser @ St. Mary's.
- Court of Honor on February 4.
- Indoor Rock Climbing overnight in mid-February.
- Swim Night at the Milford HS pool mid-February.

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

A Cross Walk Home

By Cathy Stenquist

***And home is not a house...It is a state of mind.
A place of communion and unconditional love.
It is where, when you cross its threshold,
you finally feel at peace."*** — Dennis Lehane

Reaching tenderly to take each ornament off the tree, I reflected on its story and tucked it away for another year. Perhaps it was the sweet carols playing one last time or the faint scent of pine that brought thoughts of "Home." As I snapped the lid on the red ornament box, I looked around the now bare room and began to ponder what home meant to me. Is it one place or many? Bricks, wood and glass or more than that?

By wisdom is a house built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. Proverbs 24:3-4

Over the past 59 years, I have actually called ten houses my home. My father worked for IBM, which we affectionately teased meant "I've been moved!" Every 4 years or so of my life, I would walk through my empty house, say thank you and goodbye to each room and prepare for new adventures in a different state.

After my freshman year of high school, we were transferred from Illinois to Boston. It could have been the Orient as far as I was concerned. At fifteen, having left all my friends, it wasn't easy to settle in and begin to feel like I belonged. Thankfully, I met a girl named Lois at school and latched on tight, meeting all her friends, who soon became mine.

Walking into St Zepherin's was intimidating. It looked very different from the more contemporary church I had attended. Then the familiar music swelled and the same Mass I already knew began. Soon strangers were praying the same prayers together, and offering peace with a handshake and a smile. I have always loved that about the Catholic church; you can always find a bit of home wherever you go.

It's been many years since we moved to Holliston. Occasionally, I will drive by two of my old homes nearby and feel that emotional pull for a moment, wanting to say, "This is my house!" But then I see another person's car out front, small and sometimes very large changes to its structure and unfamiliar children in the back yard. It is a stark reminder that what really was 'home' about these structures were the memories, the family and love that lived there; all things which we took with us when we left. Seeing the familiar frame only reminded me of those precious times. It was now holding onto the memories of a new family.



The Stenquist family Swedish Christmas celebration

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven not built by human hands. Corinthians 5:1-5

A manager I worked with, one day arrived at work having only the clothes on her back. The night before, her home had been claimed tragically by a fire. It is hard to imagine losing everything you have. My heart went out to her and her family. Understandably, this event made her take stock of what was really important. The furniture, accessories were just stuff and replaceable. Her family was not hurt, her memories were not burned, and she had the support of many to help her get back on her feet. Even amidst the shock and sorrow, she felt blessed by the outpouring of kindness to help them rebuild their lives.

The rains came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. Matthew 7:25

Nearly 38 years ago, Scott and I shared our vows and became man and wife; moving from our youthful homes to create a new one together. It became a garden of sorts, with love being nurtured and multiplying till the walls seem much too small to contain it.

There are many gifts of the sacrament of marriage, but one of the best, in my opinion, is feeling at home when I am with Scott. It doesn't matter where we are, when we look in each others eyes, we are home. We are a safe port for each other to return to when we are weary, and that firm foundation that gives us confidence and courage to venture out, and try new things.

"Your arms stretched wide, I'm perfectly content to be safe inside... where my deepest peace resides. "Home" Lyrics by Erica Leigh



Scott and I- What a wonderful journey together!

I'll share a little story here to illustrate. After our son, Mark, was born, I had complications. Scott had left to go home to care for our older son. I was in a panic. The nurses tried their best, but none could do what Scott did just by walking in the room and leaning over to kiss my forehead. We jokingly call it the 'Members Only' effect, as that was the brand of the jacket that brushed my cheek letting me know that he was there, and all would be ok.

"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

Sitting in the quiet of St. Mary's before Mass today, I saw familiar faces gathered in our Father's house. Like a home, this is where the important milestones in a family are celebrated. Many have lived most of their lives here and have celebrated each of the Sacraments as their family has grown.

I remember hearing Fr. Mark speak at a funeral once about gathering around God's table which reaches up to heaven with our loved ones who have passed still gathered on the heavenly end. And at the head of the table, God Himself. He went on to explain that each time we gather around the altar and share the Eucharistic meal, we are able to connect with them in a special way. What a lovely image of home. Just like families gather for meals each week, we come to the table to be fed. We listen and learn, help with the "chores" and grow, then we head out to into the world knowing the peace of our church home awaits us whenever we want to stop by.

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' Luke 10:5

We can be 'home' for others simply by being their soft place to land, catch their breath and talk about what is going on in their life. When I worked at St. Mary's, there were a handful of times where people would come by in crisis and need an arm to hold onto, a listening ear and some direction. I was grateful to be the face they saw sometimes late at night as I closed up, like a loving sister holding open the door, saying, "Come in. I'm here for you."

Lastly, if we remember our ultimate goal is to be with God in His heavenly home. it helps us put the value of our earthly 'things' in perspective. I will not in the end, need a moving van to bring all my stuff to heaven. I will go out as I came in... simply me, hearing at last, "Welcome home."

Walking in His Name,

Cathy



ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 2019

got faith?



“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES: *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* by Robert Barron is this month’s recommended book. Bishop Barron writes that the Incarnation, God becoming one of us, is the true “Catholic Thing” which distinguishes our religion from all others and which extends even into our own time in the life of the Church. There are ten wonderfully written chapters, each dealing with a different aspect of this “Catholic Thing”; the chapters include ones on the teachings of Jesus, the communion of saints and the end times. The artwork throughout the book is beautiful, too. Bishop Barron writes, on page 8, that he hopes this book is an “enchancing way into what G.K. Chesterson called a ‘house with a thousand doors’”. *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of Faith* is available in our parish library and can be purchased online.

ORDINARY TIME AND THE SUNDAY READINGS: This month we are solidly in Ordinary Time, a time when the Sundays are numbered (February 3 is the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time) and green is the official liturgical color. The Sunday readings this month first focus on the call we have received to be prophets of God’s word (February 3) and disciples of Jesus (February 10). In the second part of the month we will hear Luke’s telling of the Beatitudes (February 17) and other preaching of Jesus (February 24). In Ordinary Time, as we listen to stories of Jesus’ ministry, we are invited and challenged to make the good news our own and find ways to “practice” our faith. You can find suggestions for daily prayer during Ordinary Time at Creighton University’s Online Collaborative Ministries page at <https://bit.ly/2FqMnHt>. Do you specifically want to prepare for the Sunday readings? Go to <http://www.liturgy.slu.edu/>.

“JUST” WONDERING: Do you know what the Church’s position is on immigration? On the US Bishops’ webpage on immigration, <https://bit.ly/2cAq00e>, you will find numerous links to useful information on this important issue. One of the links notes three basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching on immigration; they are: 1) People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families. 2) A country has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration. 3) A country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy. In 2000 the US Bishops released a policy letter on immigration called *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity*; you can find this letter at <https://bit.ly/2QQfxAR>.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: February 11 is the day set aside in the church’s calendar to celebrate the optional memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes; it is also known as the World Day of the Sick. In 1992, Pope St. John Paul II instituted this day of prayer for those who are ill; Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation from the papacy, due to issues of failing health, on this date in 2013. Pope Francis’ message for the 2019 World Day of the Sick, which emphasizes the virtue of generosity in our response to those who are ill, can be found on the Salt and Light website, <https://bit.ly/2RQ5rEI>.

CREATION CARE TEAM: Advance Notice: The Creation Care Team will show the film documentary, *A Plastic Ocean*, on Saturday, March 30 at 10:00 in Rooms 3 and 4 in the parish center. More information will be available in the March newsletter.

OUR ENVIRONMENT: Last month, the work of theologian Anne Clifford, CSJ was cited in this space and she referenced the writings of Popes St. John Paul II and Benedict in her comments about creation. Both popes made the environment the subject of one of their World Day of Peace messages, John Paul in 1990 (<https://bit.ly/1PZQBoE>) and Benedict in 2010 (<https://bit.ly/1Fpanzr>). Pope Paul VI, in 1971, also wrote about the environment (<https://bit.ly/1APpCyc>). In each of these messages, the point is the same: we have a responsibility to act positively on behalf of God’s creation. Let’s do it! --Leo Racine