

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

***NEWSLETTER,
FEBRUARY, 2020***

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***Are you struggling
in your faith?***

***Have you fallen
away from Mass?***



***Do you need a shot
of spiritual
adrenaline?***



Then Join Us February 9, 10 & 11 in the church for ... *SURGE OF THE HEART!*

Jon Leonetti will lead St. Mary's in our 150th Anniversary Parish Mission. Jon is a 5x Bestselling author, a radio host, and according to Matthew Kelly, Founder of Dynamic Catholic, gives ...

"One of the most inspiring parish missions available in America today!"

Who is God and Why That Matters

Sunday, February 9 from 7 to 8:15 PM

God's Dream For Your Life

Monday, February 10 from 7 to 8:15 PM

Living God's Dream

Tuesday, February 11 from 7 to 8:15 PM



Jon conveys a message of lasting fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through Jon's keynote presentations and parish missions, thousands of Catholics each year discover the freedom Christ offers by way of his life and love. Be one of them!

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

February, 2020 ~ Volume 45, Number 6

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

Rectory: 429-4427, 879-2322
Religious Education Center: 429-6076
Fax: 429-3324 ~ Music: 429-4427

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."

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

OUR PARISH MISSION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are The Way, The Truth,
and The Life.

With full confidence we run to You now, bringing
with us all those we know and love.

We ask that our forthcoming Parish Mission
be a time of renewal and
growth in our walk with You.

Enter into every household of our parish, Lord;
especially those who are tired,
lonely, and in need of Your embrace.

Heal our brokenness and awaken our hearts
to a life fully lived in You.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, pray that all
who experience this mission
may grow in discipleship of your Son.

We ask all this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



SURGE OF THE HEART!
St. Mary's Parish Mission
Feb. 9, 10 & 11
7 PM in the church.
All are
welcome!

Celebrating 150 years!



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1870 to 2020. Those 150 years represent untold moments of ministry and grace that have blessed generations of Catholics in Holliston and the surrounding communities. We give thanks to God for this beautiful family of faith and ask Him to watch over and guide us into the future. There will be many special events to mark this Anniversary, including a new History of St. Mary's Book, the commissioning of an original St. Mary's Hymn, Children's Activities, and a new partnership with a Parish in the Holy Land to support the Christians there. Additionally:

From February 9-11, Mr. Jon Leonetti (photo right), will lead St. Mary's in a 3-night Parish Anniversary Mission entitled, "Surge of the Heart." Jon is a nationally known Catholic speaker, best-selling author and radio host who conveys a message of lasting fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through Jon's keynote presentations and parish missions, thousands of Catholics each year discover the freedom Christ offers by way of his life and love.



From March 6-15, St. Mary's parishioners may take part in an Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Details at: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/frcoiro/>

On Sunday, May 10, at 11:30 AM, our Archbishop, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, will celebrate Sunday Mass at St. Mary's in Holliston for the first time, joining us to mark our 150th year as a Parish Family. We are honored to welcome His Eminence. Save the date for this highlight of our Anniversary Celebrations!



On Friday, May 22, come enjoy our Anniversary Concert, "Sing of Mary," a night of the greatest music written in honor of Our Lady. St. Mary's Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs will perform, accompanied by Orchestra.

On Saturday, October 10 – Sunday, October 11, St. Mary's parishioners may take part in a Retreat at Miramar in Duxbury, MA. <https://miramarretreat.org/wp/>

Saturday, November 14, is the date of St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Gala in the Regency Ballroom, DoubleTree Inn, Milford. There will be dinner, dancing, a silent auction and a Keynote Address by His Excellency, Robert P. Reed, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston and President of Boston Catholic Television. Join us!

Do you remember? This fresco of Mary (left) used to be above our church sanctuary. It was removed in 1997 as part of the church expansion renovation.

Celebrating 150 years!

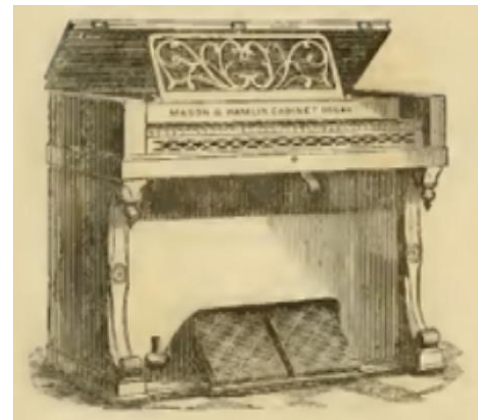


ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Did You Know? This February Newsletter will continue the series of 'Did You Know' articles with tantalizing tidbits from the research that's been done for the new History of St. Mary's Book. A different story will appear in each Monthly Newsletter during 2020.

Did You Know? The tradition of exceptional and inspiring music at St. Mary's started with our first pastor, Fr. Richard Quinlan, and his music director, Etta Kennedy. Fr. Quinlan's ledger for May 20, 1875 details the purchase of a cabinet organ for \$125.00. In April 1876 he began paying Etta Kennedy as organist. The 1880 Census shows Etta living on Washington St. with her parents. She eventually purchased a house on Church Street and lived with them there.

Her musical abilities were recognized early and she completed her education at the New England Conservatory of Music. She spent her entire career serving as organist and Music Director for St. Mary's. The *Holliston Transcript* newspaper, Christmas 1875, states "The new choir which has of late been practicing will make their debut." A *Boston Globe* article dated Dec. 18, 1884 mentions the children's choir of St. Mary's Church participating in a Christmas tree singing. She gave vocal solos at Masses and prepared special musical programs for the choirs. She was also a member of St. Mary's Cathedral Choir Guild of Boston.



Example of cabinet organ

In addition to her job as organist and Music Director, Etta played a major role in the drama and music performances at the fairs, bazaars and reunions held at the Town Hall to benefit St. Mary's. She was prominent in musical circles in Holliston and surrounding towns. She died on Feb. 29, 1912 of pneumonia. Her funeral Mass was said at St. Mary's and she is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. Ironically, after serving with Fr. Quinlan for 40 years, they both died in 1912, one month apart.

St. Mary's Anniversary Video Series: Plans are well underway for the 150th Anniversary Video Series. There will be a series of four 10 – 20 minute segments highlighting Parish History, Parish Pastors, Parish Buildings, and Parish Life. The segments will be shown in the Religious Education Center lobby, one segment each month from February to May 2020 and then repeated September to December 2020. The Parish History segment will debut February 1.

Thank you to the parishioners who have donated photos to be used in the video series. The Parish Life segment will not be shown until May 2020, so there is still plenty of time to donate photos. We currently have photos from the music ministries, EPIC, Boy Scouts and the Knights of Columbus just to name a few. More are always welcome!

Contact Betty Febo at (508) 429-7190 or betty.febo@gmail.com.



From the Pastor's Desk

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

This month of February we celebrate the first special event of St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Year – “Surge of the Heart.” All Parish meetings, classes, rehearsals and other activities have been suspended for the three nights of this Parish Mission to allow as many people as possible to experience it. If you have not already done so, be sure to mark down February 9, 10 and 11, 7-8:15 PM in the church. Come Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights or even just one evening if that is all your schedule allows.

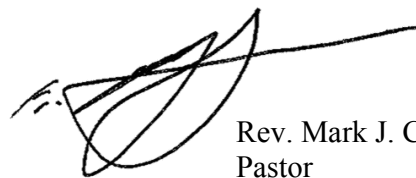
We felt that the first Anniversary event should be about spiritual renewal and refreshment. If you know anyone who is struggling in their faith, or maybe even has ceased to practice it – please give them the enclosed color flyer, along with our warmest invitation. Jon Leonetti is one of the best Parish Mission directors in the country, and we want those who are feeling discouraged in their faith to enjoy the grace and blessings we pray this Mission will give.

The phrase “Surge of the Heart,” was actually penned by St. Theresa of Lisieux. She wrote, *“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”* As you know, Theresa devoted her entire life to prayer, and yet she herself knew periods of spiritual dryness. When prayer became difficult, she would turn back to the simplicity and power of the Our Father, praying it word by word and reflecting on its meaning for her life. In this way a single Our Father could take her the better part of an hour to recite. But always this careful savoring and meditating on the words that Jesus Himself taught us to pray would help her start getting spiritually back on track.

Even that first word of the Lord's Prayer, “Our,” is rich with meaning. Jesus did not teach us to pray, “My Father.” Jesus shows us that we are not in an isolated relationship with God, but rather that we are connected to our brothers and sisters as part of the Church and indeed the whole human family. This has implications for how we are to treat the people that God chooses to place in our life's path. The fact that our human relationships are part of how we relate to God is clearly expressed in Jesus' answer to the question, *“What is the greatest commandment?”* Jesus says, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Jesus is asked to name one commandment, but He answers with two commandments that are inseparable – love God and love your neighbor. The first is not possible without the second. The “Our” in the “Our Father” is therefore a call to build community, to extend ourselves selflessly to each other in love as Jesus did before us. May this month's Parish Mission and indeed this whole Anniversary Year strengthen us in that holy vocation.

God bless you.



Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

P.S. We regret to inform you that in addition to fake emails, some parishioners are now receiving fake text messages purporting to be from me. Below is an actual scam text received. Those of you whose contact information appears on our website or in the bulletin or newsletter are most likely to be targeted, but all should be on guard.

SCAM TEXTS: *"Good afternoon (parishioner name), hope your day is going well? I need a favor from you urgently, text me back as soon as you get this message. With God's Love," Fr. Mark Coiro.*

"I would've ringed your cell but I'm away from the Rectory now for an Urgent Pressing Meeting and can't talk on the phone. I just need to get Apple store gift cards today for some women suffering from cervical cancer at the hospital but I can't do that right now because of my busy schedule. Can you get it from any store around you possibly now? and I will pay you back later in cash or check. Let me know if you can get the Cards for these Patients."

The phone # the most recent texts came from is shown as 619-786-9185, though other fake numbers may be used.

Special February Celebrations

Annual Blessing of The Throats: Saturday, Feb. 1 / Sunday, Feb. 2. 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.

Boy Scout Mass & Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, Feb. 2, 9:30 AM.

February 2 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, with max of \$20/family. Scouts in uniform eat free!



“Surge of the Heart,” St. Mary’s Parish Mission with Jon Leonetti: Sunday, Feb. 9, Monday, Feb. 10 and Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 7 - 8:15 PM in the church. All other parish activities are cancelled these nights in order to allow as many people as possible to be part of this special event! Mr. Jon Leonetti will lead St. Mary’s in a 3-night Parish Anniversary Mission entitled, “Surge of the Heart.” Jon is a nationally known Catholic speaker, best-selling author and radio host who conveys a message of lasting fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through Jon’s keynote presentations and parish missions, thousands of Catholics each year discover the freedom Christ offers by way of his life and love.

Blessing of Married Couples: Saturday, Feb. 15 and Sunday, Feb. 16.

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.



Healing Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Sunday, Feb. 23, 11:30 AM.

This Sunday, Feb. 23, 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).

Collection of Old Palms for Burning: Saturday, Feb. 22 and Sunday, Feb. 23.

Bring your old palms to any Mass this weekend. They will be collected and burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday a few days later, Wednesday, February 26.



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

***“Come to me, all you who labour and are
burdened, and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28)***



Dear brothers and sisters,

1. Jesus' words, "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28) point to the mysterious path of grace that is revealed to the simple and gives new strength to those who are weary and tired. These words of Christ express the solidarity of the Son of Man with all those who are hurt and afflicted. How many people suffer in both body and soul! Jesus urges everyone to draw near to him – "Come to me!" – and he promises them comfort and repose. "When Jesus says this, he has before him the people he meets every day on the streets of Galilee: very many simple people, the poor, the sick, sinners, those who are marginalized by the burden of the law and the oppressive social system... These people always followed him to hear his word, a word that gave hope! Jesus' words always give hope!" (Angelus, 6 July 2014).

On this XXVIII World Day of the Sick, Jesus repeats these words to the sick, the oppressed, and the poor. For they realize that they depend entirely on God and, beneath the burden of their trials, stand in need of his healing. Jesus does not make demands of those who endure situations of frailty, suffering and weakness, but offers his mercy and his comforting presence. He looks upon a wounded humanity with eyes that gaze into the heart of each person. That gaze is not one of indifference; rather, it embraces people in their entirety, each person in his or her health condition, discarding no one, but rather inviting everyone to share in his life and to experience his tender love.

2. Why does Jesus have these feelings? Because he himself became frail, endured human suffering and received comfort from his Father. Indeed, only those who personally experience suffering are then able to comfort others. There are so many kinds of grave suffering: incurable and chronic diseases, psychological diseases, situations calling for rehabilitation or palliative care, numerous forms of disability, children's or geriatric diseases... At times human warmth is lacking in our approach to these. What is needed is a personalized approach to the sick, not just of curing but also of caring, in view of an integral human healing. In experiencing illness, individuals not only feel threatened in their physical integrity, but also in the relational, intellectual, affective and spiritual dimensions of their lives. For this reason, in addition to therapy and support, they expect care and attention. In a word, love. At the side of every sick person, there is also a family, which itself suffers and is in need of support and comfort.

3. Dear brothers and sisters who are ill, your sickness makes you in a particular way one of those "who labour and are burdened", and thus attract the eyes and heart of Jesus. In him, you will find light to brighten your darkest moments and hope to soothe your distress. He urges you: "Come to me". In him, you will find strength to face all the worries and questions that assail you during this "dark night" of body and soul. Christ did not give us prescriptions, but through his passion, death and resurrection he frees us from the grip of evil.

In your experience of illness, you certainly need a place to find rest. The Church desires to become more and more the "inn" of the Good Samaritan who is Christ (cf. Lk 10:34), that is, a home where you can encounter his grace, which finds expression in closeness, acceptance and relief. In this home, you can meet people who, healed in their frailty by God's mercy, will help you bear your cross and enable your suffering to give you a new perspective. You will be able to look beyond your illness to a greater horizon of new light and fresh strength for your lives.

A key role in this effort to offer rest and renewal to our sick brothers and sisters is played by healthcare workers: physicians, nurses, medical and administrative professionals, assistants and volunteers. Thanks to their expertise, they can make patients feel the presence of Christ who consoles and cares for the sick, and heals every hurt. Yet they too are men and women with their own frailties and even illnesses. They show how true it is that “once Christ’s comfort and rest is received, we are called in turn to become rest and comfort for our brothers and sisters, with a docile and humble attitude in imitation of the Teacher” (Angelus, 6 July 2014).

4. Dear healthcare professionals, let us always remember that diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic treatments, research, care and rehabilitation are always in the service of the sick person; indeed the noun “person” takes priority over the adjective “sick”. In your work, may you always strive to promote the dignity and life of each person, and reject any compromise in the direction of euthanasia, assisted suicide or suppression of life, even in the case of terminal illness.

When confronted with the limitations and even failures of medical science before increasingly problematic clinical cases and bleak diagnoses, you are called to be open to the transcendent dimension of your profession that reveals its ultimate meaning. Let us remember that life is sacred and belongs to God; hence it is inviolable and no one can claim the right to dispose of it freely (cf. Donum Vitae, 5; Evangelium Vitae, 29-53). Life must be welcomed, protected, respected and

**Life must be welcomed,
protected, respected and served
from its beginning to its end: both
human reason and faith in God,
the author of life, require this.**

served from its beginning to its end: both human reason and faith in God, the author of life, require this. In some cases, conscientious objection becomes a necessary decision if you are to be consistent with your “yes” to life and to the human person. Your professionalism, sustained by Christian charity, will be the best service you can offer for the safeguarding of the truest human right, the right to life. When you can no longer provide a cure, you will still be able to provide care and healing, through gestures and procedures that give comfort and relief to the sick.

Tragically, in some contexts of war and violent conflict, healthcare professionals and the facilities that receive and assist the sick are attacked. In some areas, too, political authorities attempt to manipulate medical care for their own advantage, thus restricting the medical profession’s legitimate autonomy. Yet attacking those who devote themselves to the service of the suffering members of society does not serve the interests of anyone.

5. On this XXVIII World Day of the Sick, I think of our many brothers and sisters throughout the world who have no access to medical care because they live in poverty. For this reason, I urge healthcare institutions and government leaders throughout the world not to neglect social justice out of a preoccupation for financial concerns. It is my hope that, by joining the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity, efforts will be made to cooperate in ensuring that everyone has access to suitable treatments for preserving and restoring their health. I offer heartfelt thanks to all those volunteers who serve the sick, often compensating for structural shortcomings, while reflecting the image of Christ, the Good Samaritan, by their acts of tender love and closeness.

To the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all those who bear the burden of illness, along with their families and all healthcare workers. With the assurance of a remembrance in my prayers, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 3 January 2020

Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Francis

ARE YOU LOOKING TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH?



Women in **WINGS** God's spirit



Inspiring speakers like Professor Kerry Cronin from Boston College.

What is WINGS?

- An opportunity for women of all ages to **grow in faith** wherever they are on their spiritual journey. Lifelong Catholic, new Catholic, or just curious - come learn and grow!
- Time for fellowship and friendship.
- Presentations, Q&A and discussion.

Childcare is available.

Can't come every week?

Drop-ins *always* welcome!

SAVE the DATE
Spring Program
Starts Wednesday,
March 18 @ 9:45 -
11:15 AM
**Recognizing God's
Grace in my Life.**

Questions: Jen Schiller 617-852-9632

Sign up: betty.febo@gmail.com

JOIN US NOW
**during our Winter
Program** Wednesdays,
February 5 through 22
@ 9:45 - 11:15 AM

***Great Themes of the
Old Testament***

**God is Ever
Faithful.**





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 February 2020

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPONSORED RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: On Saturday, January 18, in St. Mary's Father Haley Hall, the Council held its twelfth annual Red Cross Blood Drive. About 50 donors participated. The Council thanks all who contributed to the success of the blood drive. Blood Drive coordinator was Knight Rodman Burgett.



TWELFTH ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE KICK-OFF: On February 19, Knights will begin selling raffle tickets for the Council's annual charitable fund drive. From the raffle proceeds, the Council has donated over \$200,000 to local charities and veterans charities. These include the Holliston Pantry Shelf, Holliston Senior Center, local Habitat for Humanity projects, Homes for our Troops, and other veteran's charities. One raffle ticket is \$5 and five tickets for \$20. First prize is \$1000. Contact any Knight to purchase tickets. Knights will sell raffle tickets after all Masses on March 28 and 29. On April, May and June weekends, the Council will be selling raffle tickets at Superette and Fiske's downtown and at various shopping centers in adjacent towns. Drawing for prizes will take place at Celebrate Holliston on September 26. Raffle co-chairmen are Knights Tom Anguish, Bill Heuer, Aaron Pyman, and Grand Knight Al Scaramella.

ANNUAL FREE THROW CONTEST: The twelfth annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest took place at Holliston High School on January 25. Participants from ages 9-14 shot fifteen free throws and the one winner from each age group will move on to the district shoot-out in February. Last year two Holliston winners were State Champions. Council coordinator is Knight Donald Marden.

WORCESTER CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE: On March 28, this year's Worcester Conference will celebrate twenty years. Noted speakers will be Bishop Robert Reed and Dr. Scott Hahn-noted Catholic lay theologian. All St. Mary's men are encouraged to attend this event to be held at Assumption College. You may register at firstmensconf.org. Council Knights usually carpool to the conference and invite more to attend. Contact Knight is Mitchell Liro.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2020: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at (508) 561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org. 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:

The next Rosary will be Wednesday, February 19. The Council recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church at 7:00 PM.

As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer." **ALL PARISHIONERS are invited** to share in this beautiful and powerful prayer with our Council.



Troop 14 Holliston

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

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com
Website: www.Troop14Holliston.com

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, ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.

EAGLE SCOUT DREW: Congratulations goes out to Troop 14's Drew Mahoney, who completed all the requirements and passed his Eagle Board of Review on January 23, achieving Scouting's highest rank. Drew's Eagle Project was building railings on both sides of a bridge, just south of the Village Plaza entrance to the Rail Trail. (Photo of Completed Railings Below). The project also included clearing the path and laying gravel at the access point to Village Plaza. Drew's Eagle Court of Honor will be scheduled within the next few months.

SCOUT SUNDAY: Annually, during the first week of February, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its founding 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 "A 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 2 at St. Mary's for the 9:30 AM Scout Sunday Mass.

PANCAKES: On Scout Sunday we also 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 throughout the year. The Community at large is invited for breakfast at Father Haley Hall between 8 AM - 12 Noon on Sunday, February 2. Cost: \$5/person with max of \$20/family. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts in uniform eat for free.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Late January snow-shoe backpacking trip to Lonesome Lake AMC Hut in the White Mountains.
- Scout Sunday 9:30 AM Mass, St. Mary's Church, February 2.
- Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, Father Haley Hall, St. Mary's Church, 8:00 AM - Noon on February 2.
- Court of Honor on February 3.

Mission Trip - Gulfport, Mississippi

July 26 – August 1, 2020



Right on the Gulf Coast, Gulfport has not fully recovered from Hurricane Katrina. The community remains stricken by poverty and needs our help.

Mission Trip Paperwork can be picked up from the Religious Education Office, or during Confirmation Prep Classes and needs to be submitted to the St. Mary's Youth Ministry office by Friday, February 7. Teens must attend 5 EPIC Meetings and 1 EPIC Service Project before participation in the Mission Trip. (There are still 5 meetings left and we could schedule an extra one if needed.)

Adults who chaperoned the 2019 Mission Trip can submit sign up paperwork as normal. Adults who were not on the 2019 Trip should speak to EPIC Adult Leaders Kim Latifi or Kathleen Larche to discuss expectations and skillsets needed from trip chaperones. Adult Chaperones are expected to be involved with EPIC meetings and events leading up to the Mission Trip.

The Trip is organized between St. Mary's EPIC and Repair and Replenish Retreat Missions. Our camp will be at a retreat center run by Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pass Christian, Mississippi. St. Mary's EPIC will be the only group at our Camp and Worksites. Some of the organizations that Repair and Replenish will partner us to work with will be Fixin' the Coast, Habitat for Humanity and ReStore of the MS Gulf Coast, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, The Gulfport and Biloxi Fire Departments, as well as home building and improvement projects.

Pictures from Jan. 14 EPIC Meeting & 2019 Mission Trip to Gainesville, Florida



EPIC Winter/ Spring Events

General Meetings

Feb. 12 (Wed), Mar. 1,
Mar. 29, May 3, May 31

7:15 – 8:45 PM in FHH - \$5 Dues

Service Project – Blessings Bags

Sunday, March 12

Prayer and Planning

Mar. 22, 7:15 – 8:15 PM in
Classrooms 3 and 4

Teen Mass

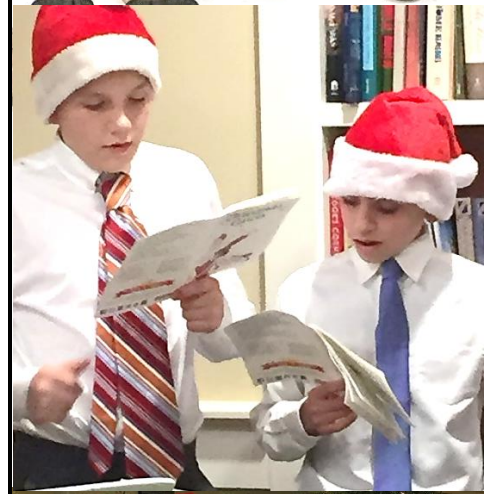
6:00 PM – Sun., Mar. 29 then
7:00 – 8:30 PM General Meeting



Middle School Youth Group Caroling Night

Friday, Dec. 13, saw 137 MSYG teens caroling for the elderly at 3 area Nursing Homes. Christmas cheer was spread to St. Patrick Manor, Timothy Daniels, and Valley Farm. One of the residents visited at St. Patrick's Manor was a retired priest who removed his oxygen mask, struggled to sit up, and with a shaking hand gave a blessing to the carolers visiting him. You could tell how much being able to give us this grace and gift meant to him.

After caroling, all three groups convened at the Fatima Shrine to see the lights and have a pizza party. Unfortunately we found the Shrine closed due to bad weather, so everyone went back to Father Haley Hall instead. No lights – but plenty of pizza and fun. Thanks everyone for a beautiful night!





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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

MSYG CELTICS TRIP: Friday, January 3, 2020

It was a close night for the Celtics, who often trailed then just managed to defeat the Atlanta Hawks 109 to 106. The game ended with a last-second Daniel Theis block of a Trae Young 3-pointer.

We are pretty sure it was the enthusiastic cheering of the 108 MSYG teens in attendance that helped the Celtics to victory!

