

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

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FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

Feb. 5 & 6: St. Blaise Blessing of Throats after all Masses.

Feb. 13, 11:30 AM Mass: Healing Mass with Anointing of the Sick.

Feb. 19 & 20: Blessing of Married Couples at all Masses.

Feb. 26 & 27: Collection and Burning of Palms for Ash Wednesday.



ST. MARY'S MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, November 14, eleven families from St Mary's participated in a service project, making treat bags for seniors at the Holliston Senior Center. Children aged 2-17 years were especially involved - working diligently at various stations. Teens made batches of chocolate chip cookies in the kitchen, while the younger children filled sachet bags with festive holiday scented potpourri. They also made place mats imprinted with a "turkey" hand and made water colored autumn leaves.

One family had this to say about the event: *"Fun and lovely way to serve our neighbors while continuing to get to know one another better. We've had lots of good conversations sparked at our house by having participated in this project and getting our box of joy put together too."*

The seniors were delighted to receive their treat bags - each of which included pictures of the children which was especially appreciated. Senior Center staff couldn't express enough how much the bags meant to the seniors. Marriage fellowship is hoping to host another service project making holiday treat bags for the seniors in either February or March.

Marriage fellowship families also participated in a "Christmas in a shoe box" service project by bringing shoe boxes filled with gifts for either a boy or a girl. These boxes were distributed to children in need in over one hundred countries.

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

February, 2022 ~ Volume 48, Number 2



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

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Music Program: 429-6076

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Lessons & Carols ~

On the cold night of December 12, 2021, the choirs and ensembles of St. Mary's Music Ministry joined forces to present our annual service of Lessons and Carols. Fr. Mark presided the service, and Andrew Scanlon accompanied at the organ. Conducted by St. Mary's Artist in Residence Scott Ellaway, the choirs sang music by Praetorius, Victoria, Rutter and others, and all present joined in the singing of Advent and Christmas carols. It was a truly inspiring evening of music and scripture! Do you enjoy making joyful song? Consider joining St. Mary's Adult, Youth, or Children's Choirs. In doing so you will bless our worship and experience the Lord in new ways.





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Good People of St. Mary's,

“As was his custom.” This phrase occurs only twice in the entire New Testament. The first time, which we just heard at Mass on January 23, says that Jesus “went as was his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day.” (LK 4:16)

Just think of it! It was Jesus' custom, His habit, His way of life, to go to worship with others in God's house on the Sabbath! When we go to church on Sunday, then, we are not only doing what Jesus instructed us to do – we are imitating the life and practice of Jesus Himself. Jesus' presence in the synagogue for public prayer was not an isolated incident, nor something occasional in His life. Jesus went “as was his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day.”

The second, and only other occurrence of this phrase, is in Luke chapter 22:39. There we are told that Jesus “went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him... After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed.”

We understand from this second use of “as was his custom,” that in addition to His regular public prayer in the synagogue on the Sabbath, Jesus also had a regular private prayer life. These two practices, public communal prayer and individual private prayer, were the customs of Jesus. They were the regular things He did to stay close to God and to help Him discover His Heavenly Father's will.

As we move further into 2022, let us make Jesus' customs our own. Let us keep holy the Lord's Day by coming together in prayer, as Jesus Himself did every week. Let us use the Sunday Mass as a launching pad for a more meaningful and lively private prayer life. Let us imitate Christ most of all by offering to others the same mercy, kindness, and compassion that He did - all the while remembering the customs of Jesus that kept Him so very close to God. The two customs that together allowed the love of God to shine so brightly in His life.

It is particularly important that parents share the gifts of prayer and Sunday worship with their children. That prayer is part of the family experience at home, and that parents help their young people to develop the holy habit of talking daily to the Lord. As has been rightly said, a day that we pray is a day we invite God into our lives – to walk beside us, and guide us, and strengthen us by His grace. A day that we do not pray, though, is a day we walk alone. And as we know from Genesis, “It is not good that the man should be alone.”

The example of family fidelity to the Mass each week is also a precious gift to the next generation, and one that is their right by Baptism. Over the years I have met many Catholics who were raised faithfully, but who then later fell away from Mass and the practice of their faith. But then something changed. They experienced a moment of profound joy or sorrow that brought them back. In some cases, it was a sense of emptiness and longing that they finally realized material things could not fill, but only the Lord.

The point is that even though they strayed and wandered for a time, they had been “anchored” to the faith by their experience of the Church when growing up. And so when they needed the support and succor of faith, they knew where to turn. Rather than finding themselves spiritually adrift. Or even trying to fill the inborn longing of their souls for God instead with harmful things.

Certainly, the pandemic has created its own challenges when it comes to keeping holy the Lord's Day. And the same care and precautions taken when going to school, or sports, or other public activities must be observed. But we also should beware the sin of sloth, defined as “disdain for the spiritual because of the physical effort involved.” Much has been written lately about how the pandemic has put students at risk of being socially or academically stunted. Let us do all we can to make sure they do not grow up spiritually stunted. But rather imitate the “customs” of Jesus Himself, and walk always in His ways.

God bless you.



Rev. Mark J. Coiro

Special February Events

Annual Blessing of Throats: Saturday, Feb. 5 & Sunday, Feb. 6. 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.



Healing Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Sunday, Feb. 13, 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 following 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 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. 19 & Sunday, Feb. 20.

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.



Taking the time to invest in your marriage is extremely important. The health of your relationship impacts your happiness and the well-being of any children. So, whether things are going well and you're just looking for an enriching experience or if you're having difficulties and are looking for help, we hope you find something here that may be of assistance to you:

<https://www.bostoncatholic.org/familylife/marriage-enrichment>.



Collection of Old Palms for Burning: Saturday, Feb. 26 & Sunday, Feb. 27.

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, March 2.

Relationship Check-In ✓



World Marriage Day

There have been times in our marriage when we felt ourselves drifting apart. Not because of any one catastrophic event, but just because we weren't working on our relationship. We were just getting by. But in a culture antithetical to marriage, just getting by is not enough. All Catholic couples need to work to cultivate a dynamic, vibrant relationship, strong enough to bear the demands of family life, and weather everything the world will throw at it.

The reality is, we are never done working on our marriage. St. John Paul teaches us, "Love is never something ready made, something merely given to man and woman, it is...a task which they are set. Love should be seen as something which never 'is' but is always only 'becoming'..." This is true whether you have been married for 5 years or 50 years. We can never get to the point with our spouse when we say, "OK, now we finally have learned to love perfectly!" We never get there!

Take some time on to celebrate World Marriage Day by doing a "Relationship Check" with your spouse. Get away from the kids, from work, from the house and ask, "How are we doing?". Imagine your relationship as a separate entity (a tree is a good image). Step back from it and assess its health together. This isn't a time to point out faults or establish blame, instead it's a time to work together towards a noble goal.

You are the primary witness to the sanctity of the sacrament of matrimony. Your marriage is of vital importance not just to your family, but also to the whole Church! Don't allow yourselves to drift apart, but be intentional about having an exceptional marriage. Get more advice, ideas, and encouragement at our website: www.messyfamilyproject.org. We can change the world, one family at a time.



Our Sunday Visitor
OSV.com

Here are some discussion topics and prompts to help you as a couple more clearly see the state of your relationship and identify areas you need to work on. They are just to get you started! As you prayerfully assess your unique friendship, feel free to add your own topics.

Before you begin your discussion, start by honoring each other, then go on to other questions.

I love you because....
I feel loved when you....
Thank you for....

- Do we make each other a top priority?**
 - Do you feel I make enough time for you?
 - When do we have uninterrupted time to talk?
 - Are there activities we should make more room for?

- Do we experience generous physical love?**
 - How do you feel most loved by me?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What would an ideal romantic evening be for you?

- Do we provide each other emotional support?**
 - Do you feel safe with me?
 - Can talk you with me about anything?
 - Do I help you with challenges in your life?
 - How can I support you?

- Do we feel respected and valued when we discuss issues such as finances?**
 - When we talk, do you feel listened to?
 - Do you think I understand your values?
 - How can we work together on this?

- Have we created a "vessel of grace" in our marriage?**
 - In what areas of our life can we be more in union with the Church?
 - How can we pray better together?
 - How can I support you in your relationship with Our Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?

**St. John Paul
on marriage....**



"In this entire world there is not a more perfect, more complete image of God, Unity and Community. There is no other human reality which corresponds more...to that divine mystery"

For free downloads and podcasts on Marriage and Parenting visit www.MessyFamilyProject.org

OUR SISTER PARISH

بيت ساحور

OUR LADY OF FATIMA IN BEIT SAHOUR



FATHER ISSA GREETING

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Saint Mary Parish,

"The Angel said to them: Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger". (Luke 2:10-12). I ask God always to show you his Divine Presence in your life. And I wish you a happy Merry Christmas and a New Year full of love, peace and joy. A warm greeting from your Sister Parish, Our lady of Fatima. - Fr. Issa Hijazeen

LITTLE BETHLEHEM CHRISTIANS

After all Masses December 18 & 19, St. Mary's hosted an offering of beautiful olive wood religious carvings crafted in the Holy Land and brought to us by members of the Alsaouri Family. In 2003, the Alsaouri Family fled the fighting in Bethlehem between Palestinians and Israelis, finding a new home in the United States. Christians used to make up 80% of the population of Bethlehem, but many have been forced to flee. Now less than 10% of Bethlehem's residents are Christian, with 300 + of those families supporting themselves by carving religious articles of olive wood. The Alsaouri's then sell some of these artworks in Catholic parishes in the United States and send the proceeds back to Bethlehem. The Alsaouri's used to be members of our Sister Parish there. As you can see, this year many special Christmas gifts were found right in our lobby!



OUR SISTER PARISH

بيت ساحور

OUR LADY OF FATIMA IN BEIT SAHOUR

2022 HOLLISTON – HOLY LAND FRIENDSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

This annual Scholarship fully funds the education of one boy and one girl for a year at the Patriarchate School of our Sister Parish, Our Lady's in Beit Sahour - the Shepherd's Fields outside Bethlehem. The cost is roughly \$1,200 per student, so the cost to St. Mary's is about \$2,500 in total. The students who benefit from the scholarship have shown a strong commitment to their studies and have a demonstrated need. The Scholarship recipients are Andrea Elias Salim Jaraisseh, (he goes by Andy), 11 years old, Grade 6; and Malak Majdi Hanna Odeh, 16 years old, Grade 10. Photos and thank you notes from our two scholarship students follow.

This scholarship is funded by a once a year second Collection, this year the weekend of January 29 & 30, 2022. If you are away that weekend, you can still contribute by mailing in or dropping off an envelope clearly labelled "Holliston – Holy Land Friendship Scholarship." You may also give through WeShare.



Andy with his family (he is in the middle), and with his classmates.

My name is Andria Jarayseh I am 11, years old I am in the sixth grade I have four sisters The oldest sister is in the Tenth grade and the youngest sister is in the second grade My Father used to work in olive wood Due to the coronavirus he stop work shop and sometimes he work ~~shop~~ as a worker to cover our daily needs

We would like to Thank you about The scholarship For andria For helping him complete his education under, difficult circumstances and lack of work The scholarship will help us provide education For Family members

OUR SISTER PARISH
بيت ساحور
OUR LADY OF FATIMA IN BEIT SAHOUR



Malak with her family (she is second from left), and writing in school.

Dear Friends,
My name is Malak Odeh, from the Shepherd's Field of Beit Sahour the Holy Land. I would like to thank you very much for your help covering the school fees, which will help my continuing my education, especially during covid-19 as my parents could not help during the corona virus spread. My father works in the olive wood and my mother does not work. I have two sisters one at the same school and oldest one at Bethlehem University, besides my brother attending a vocational training course in electronic devices maintenance.
Thank you again, I will be grateful to you for your help and I will remember you during my prayers.
Sincerely,
Malak Odeh





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 February, 2022

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Brodo

MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be prayed on **Wednesday, February 16 in the Church at 7:00 PM. The Rosary is open to all parishioners.** Current COVID-19 policies in effect. As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer."

WORCESTER DIOCESE CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE: Save the date! On April 2, 2022 at Assumption University, the twenty first Annual Worcester Catholic Men's Conference will be held. There will be six speakers. Lunch included. Tickets are on sale now at firstmensconf.org. Adults \$45, Students \$20. This Conference is always a day of inspiration for all Catholic men seeking time to reflect on their faith, family, and vocation. Many members of our Council will be there!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2021: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org/joinus. On-line membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" POSTER CONTEST AND THE "CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST: Congratulations to Madelyn Wegrzyn, Alexander McCluskey, and Caroline McCluskey for winning posters in the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. Congratulations to William Irving for winning the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest.



women in
WINGS
God's spirit

Deepen Your Faith in 2022

Give yourself the gift of God's Word

St. Mary's WINGS Winter Season
Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:15 AM (via Zoom)
January 26 to March 2, 2022

Catholic Social Teaching



Catholic Social Teaching

“Amos/Hosea/Micah: A Call to Justice”

Study Book By: Joe Paprocki

“The prophets Amos, Hosea, and Micah – tell us that other peoples’ business is our business when those people are suffering economic hardship and oppression.”

Speaker Joe Javorski (friend of late WINGS Spiritual Advisor David Thorp), will lead our Winter Program. Joe will share personal reflections each week, helping to illuminate the words of sacred scripture for every WINGS member.

Our weekly program includes a **speaker** presentation providing insights and reflection on selected Scripture followed by **small group discussion**. The study books are available for purchase on Amazon or through Loyola Press, but we encourage you to participate even if you do not have the book. Suggested dues are \$20 for those who are able unless you have already paid for the year.

Women of all ages are encouraged to attend the ZOOM Meeting.

Email: stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to sign up or call Jennifer Schiller at 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins at 508-259-7795 with questions. If you have received our Fall Zoom link, you will automatically be sent the link for the Winter program.



RSCM AMERICA

The Music Program at St. Mary's is affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) in America, and because of this, both Children and Youth choirs participate in the RSCM's "Voices for Life" program. This means that, on top of singing in rehearsals and on Sunday masses, children and youth receive training in different areas for their musical development. They learn about music theory and vocal techniques, they develop their

aural skills, and they learn about liturgy, choral etiquette, and everything that is necessary for being part of a musical ensemble. As children become more and more skilled in all these areas, they advance up in levels, and they are able to test for colored ribbons that indicate their level of achievement. There are five levels of proficiency: white level, light-blue level, dark-blue level, the red level, and finally the yellow level.



Weekly RSCM Classes will be led by Scott Ellaway. Professionally qualified as an organist (Royal College of Organists) and choral director (Choral Directing Diploma of the Royal College of Organists). Honorary Fellow of Jonathan Edwards College, Yale University, and champion of the RSCM program as pictured left teaching the program to choristers at Worcester Cathedral aged nineteen. Each class, lasting thirty minutes each, will be open to Children and Youth of the Parish (Grades 4 - 12). Instruction takes place on Wednesdays at 3:15 PM for white and light-blue training, Thursdays at 3:30 PM for dark-blue training, and 4:15 PM for red and yellow training.

As it is customary, on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, those who have successfully completed the course will receive their ribbons and medals, and probationers (choristers in training) will receive their cottas - the white vestment worn on top of the robes. Earning a ribbon indicates that the singer has reached a certain level of proficiency in musical skills according to the standards of the Royal School of Church Music. Receiving a cotta indicates that the singer has become an official member of the choir, after being trained for a year on the essentials of choral singing.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR is open to all interested children from 4th to 7th grade. St. Mary's Children's Choir sings for the 9:30 AM Family Mass on selected Sundays each month and for special liturgies on Christmas, during Holy Week, for Pentecost, for the May Devotions and other feasts of the liturgical year.

Rehearsals are from 3:30 - 4:15 PM on Wednesdays in the lower church from September to May.

THE YOUTH CHOIR is open to all interested youth from 7th to 12th grade.

St. Mary's Youth Choir sings for the 9:30 AM Family Mass on selected Sundays each month, for a monthly Sung Vespers service, and for special liturgies on Christmas, during Holy Week and other feasts of the liturgical year. In addition, St. Mary's Youth Choir participates in the yearly "Spring Concert" where they get an opportunity to sing with a specially hired orchestra and soloists.

Rehearsals are from 4:00 - 5:15 PM on Wednesdays in the lower church from September to May.



If your young person has an interest in music, they may work with Scott this semester in the St. Mary's Children's Choir or Youth Choir.

As choir members, they also have the additional option of having classes with Scott through St. Mary's Royal School of Church Music Program, now gearing up.

If interested in St. Mary's Music Program, or for more information, please contact Scott Ellaway directly at musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com.

FULL ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC SCHEDULE INFORMATION 2022

White and Light Blue

Classes: Wednesday, January 19 – Wednesday, May 18 at 3:15 PM

Review: Wednesday, May 25 at 3:15 PM

Final Exam: Wednesday, June 1 at 3:15 PM

Promotion Ceremony: Sunday, June 5 at 9:30 AM

*Classes will not take place during the week of **February 21 - 25** and **April 18 - 22** due to school vacation.*

Dark Blue

Classes: Thursday, January 20 – Thursday, May 19 at 3:15 PM

Review: Thursday, May 26 at 3:15 PM

Final Exam: Thursday, June 2 at 3:15 PM

Promotion Ceremony: Sunday, June 5 at 9:30 AM

*Classes will not take place on **February 3** and during the week of **February 21 - 25** and **April 18 - 22** due to school vacation.*

Red and Yellow

Classes: Thursday, January 20 – Thursday, May 19 at 4:15 PM

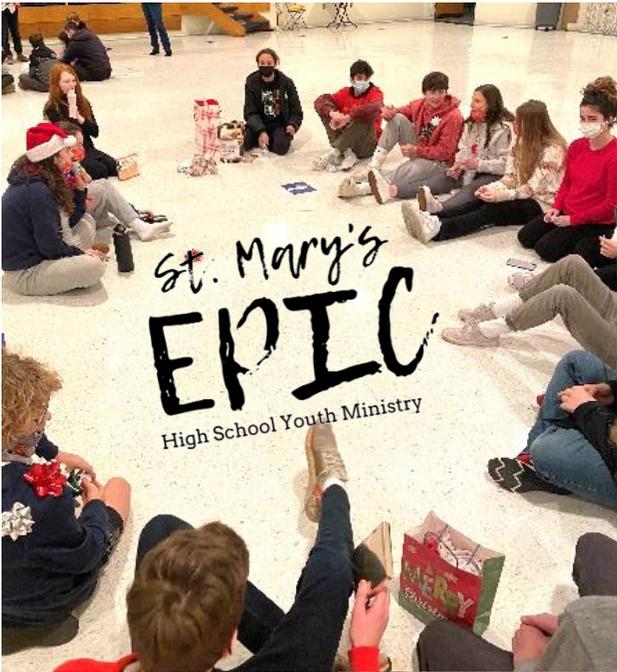
Review: Thursday, May 26 at 4:15 PM

Final Exam: Thursday, June 2 at 4:15 PM

Promotion Ceremony: Sunday, June 5 at 9:30 AM

*Classes will not take place on **February 3** and during the week of **February 21 - 25** and **April 18 - 22** due to school vacation.*





In 2021, we kicked off EPIC High School Youth Group with loads of fun, games, prizes, and friendships. This February, we will be having our first Chipotle meeting! This meeting will have catered Chipotle in the hall on **February 27, from 7:15-8:45 PM**. It will be \$5 per person, and you must RSVP to Theresa Virzi at stmarysym1870@gmail.com by February 13, 2022. Come for a night of burritos, music, games and fun. All High Schoolers are welcome, so bring your friends. I am currently looking for Student Leaders to help assist in planning social activities for this spring semester. If that is something that interests you, please reach out to me. We are looking forward to a New Year full of an EPIC amount of fun!



Our Next EPIC is Sunday, February 27 ~ Chipotle Night!

St. Mary's Eucharistic Holy Hour Every Thursday Night

As part of our parish's celebration of the Year of the Eucharist, we offer a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration concluding with Benediction every Thursday from 7-8 PM in the church.

In February, we invite you to please make the following intentions part of your time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Thursday, February 3: For Catholics who have fallen away from Confession or the Holy Mass.

Thursday, February 10: For healing and peace for married couples experiencing difficulties.

Thursday, February 17: For all medical and family caregivers during the pandemic.

Thursday, February 24: For an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746 508-429-4427 www.stmarysholliston.com



TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF THE COOKIE WALK! Cancelled by the pandemic in 2020, the annual Middle School Youth Group Cookie Walk was back this December! Youth Group families baked thousands of cookies, which were then wrapped 2 x 2 in plastic by type. For better spacing and ventilation, the Walk was also moved upstairs to Fr. Haley Hall. Masked Youth Group Members wearing plastic gloves, carefully filled customer bags with whatever cookies they chose. The donations came to \$1,652 – every penny of which was sent to Mother Theresa's Missionary Sisters to help the poor in Haiti. Thank you everyone for reaching out to Our Lord Jesus "in His most distressing disguise."

SAVE THESE DATES!

Sunday, February 6: Monthly Youth Group Meeting from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, a half hour longer because of the 15th Annual Battle of the Sexes. There will be faith, friendship, fun, and signups for the February Vacation full day trip! All 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders are welcome!

Friday, February 11: Our rescheduled Snow Tubing date, 68 teens are already signed up!

Sunday, March 13: MSYG Mtg. – FHH

Sunday, April 3: MSYG Mtg. – FHH

Sunday, May 15: MSYG Mtg. Dinner – FHH





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746 508-429-4427 www.stmarysholliston.com



GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING! If you were near Mission Springs the evening of December 17, you may have heard the strains of joyful music heralding the coming of Christmas. Seventy-four Youth Group teens accompanied by parent volunteers, gathered at the Fatima Shrine Chapel to rehearse. Each was given a Santa or Elf hat, plus a Christmas Caroling Book. They rehearsed, then crossed the road to Mission Springs to spread Christmas cheer. Fr. Mark led the group in prayer and carols using a portable microphone – first for the residents gathered outside the main entrance. The St. Mary's Group then circled the building, serenading residents who listened and waved from their windows. We missed visiting close up in person with the residents of several area Nursing Homes as in years past. But the outdoor singing was safer and allowed us to let at least some of our local Senior Citizens know that they are remembered, valued, and loved. Pizza and viewing the Shrine Christmas lights followed. Hope you had a safe and Merry Christmas everyone!





Troop 14 Holliston

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

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.hollistonTroop14.com

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

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

Upcoming Events:

- Scout Sunday 11:30 AM Mass, St. Mary's Church, February 6, 2022.
- Indoor Rock Climbing in February.
- Snow-shoe backpacking trip to Carter Notch Hut in the White Mountains in February.

SCOUTS MEET VIRTUALLY: Troop 14 has been conducting weekly virtual meetings since Christmas and hopes to be meeting in person again in February. The Scouts are using this virtual format to work on the new Citizenship in Society merit badge which was introduced in November and will become an Eagle required merit badge beginning in July. This merit badge encourages Scouts to explore important topics around diversity, equity, inclusion and ethical leadership and learn why these qualities are important in society and in Scouting.

ASHLAND STATE PARK HIKE: Following the 1st major snow fall of the year, sixteen Scouts and leaders headed out in the fresh snow to Ashland State Park on January 8. They hiked over 3 miles exploring the reservoir, dam and spillway. The Scouts ended the cold winter hike warming up with some hot chocolate before heading back to the comforts of home. Did you know? The 83' tall, 630' long Ashland Reservoir earthen embankment dam and spillway was built in 1885, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and was part of the water supply system of Metropolitan Boston until 1927.

SCOUT SUNDAY: Annually, during the first week of February, the Boy Scouts of America celebrate its founding 112 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 Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scout Leaders in Holliston to join us on February 6, at St. Mary's for the 11:30 AM Scout Sunday Mass. There will be a strong Scout presence; please attend in uniform and sit with your families.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST RESCHEDULED: Troop 14's Annual Pancake Breakfast fundraising event traditionally held the 1st Sunday in February has been postponed to Sunday, April 3 due to the current spike in COVID cases. The Troop 14 Scouts look forward to serving you breakfast in April!



ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 2022

got faith?



“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES: This month’s recommended book comes to us from our parish librarian, Betty Febo. *Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future* was written in 2020 by Pope Francis in collaboration with his biographer, Austen Ivereigh. Betty writes: “During the current pandemic, Pope Francis saw the cruelty and inequity of our society exposed more vividly than ever before; yet, he also saw in the generosity and creativity of many people, the means to rescue our society and our planet. *Let Us Dream* is thus written in three sections: A Time to See (recognize our problems), A Time to Choose (decide what to do about them) and A Time to Act (translate our decisions into concrete actionable items). Pope Francis reminds us that a Christian’s first duty is to serve others, especially the poor and the marginalized, just as Jesus did. Rather than simply offer generic prescriptions, Pope Francis shows how ordinary people acting together despite their differences can discover unforeseen possibilities. *Let Us Dream* is a call to arms and a pleasure to read.” *Let Us Dream* will be available in the parish library, on the New Books shelf by the window. It is also available through the Minuteman Public Library system and from online booksellers.

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY: Hear ye, hear ye, all those with a passion for the environment and eco-justice! St. Mary’s is offering an informative and interactive *JustFaith* program, *Sacred Land: Food and Farming*, that celebrates our interconnectedness with the land and those who live on it. The program will be presented on Zoom on eight Sunday nights, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, beginning on February 20 and ending on April 10. Contact Leo Racine at 508-429-7476 or leoracine@msn.com for more info and to register.

SUNDAY READINGS: The Sunday celebration of Ordinary Time ends in February...for now; Ordinary Time returns again in June, following the Feast of Pentecost and our remembrance of the seasons of Lent and Easter. The readings on the Sundays in February may be somewhat familiar. For instance, on February 6, in our Old Testament reading, we hear about the Lord’s call of Isaiah the prophet and then we hear about Jesus’ call of his first apostles in the Gospel. On February 27, we will listen to Jesus talk about splinters and wooden beams in our eyes and trees known by their fruits. You can prepare for all the Sunday readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

“JUST” WONDERING: February is Black History Month. Read about the history of this celebration of Black culture at National Today, <https://nationaltoday.com/black-history-month/>. This year’s theme is Black Health and Wellness. See the website of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (<https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>) for information about this theme as well as the themes for previous years. For a Catholic’s perspective on Black History Month, read Franciscan father Daniel Horan’s 2020 article at <https://bit.ly/BHMDanHoran>.

BIBLE: *Bible In a Year* with Fr. Mike Schmitz is sponsored by Ascension Press. This is exactly what it sounds like. Fr. Mike reads the entire Bible over the course of one year, following a plan inspired by the Great Adventure *Bible Timeline*® learning system developed by Jeff Cavins. You can listen to or download a particular episode or subscribe to the yearlong series, presented in a daily podcast at <https://bibleinayear.fireside.fm/>. Each episode is 20-25 minutes long and includes 2 or 3 Scripture readings along with a commentary and prayer by Fr. Mike.

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST: We remember that Cardinal Seán has designated this year as the *Year of the Eucharist*. If we truly believe that when we receive the Eucharist we become what we eat, then we also believe that we are becoming the Body of Christ as we share in Communion. Food for thought! - Leo Racine