

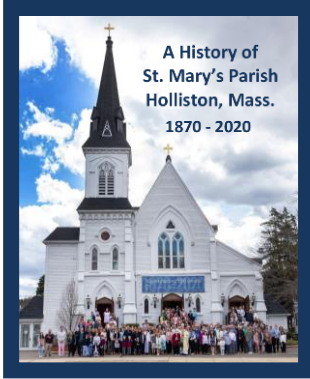


**ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

Newsletter, January 2023

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Christmas Mass Schedule Below.



Pick up your family's book after Christmas

Mass! If you are a registered parishioner (receiving this Newsletter), you may pick up your family's copy in the Lower Church Hall after any Christmas Mass. They are sorted alphabetically by last name, in clearly labelled plastic bags.

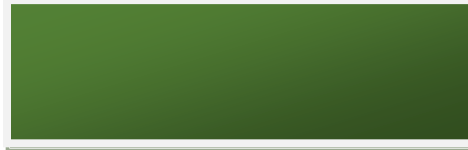
Yes, the St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Book is finally here! This new 134-page history of our parish was researched and written by Betty Febo, St. Mary's Librarian and Historian.

It contains beautiful color photos of parish life for the past century and a half, as well as details about the people and events that have shaped our dear St. Mary's.

A \$10 donation (cash or check), to cover the cost of your book is requested. It may be placed in the large wooden collection box / stand provided in the Lower Church.

If you cannot afford the \$10 donation, please take your book anyway. We want to be sure that every St. Mary's household has a copy of this book which helps us know where we have come from as we move forward together into the New Year of Grace 2023.

Books may be picked up in the Lower Church through January 15. Extra books will be available for sale. Merry Christmas!



Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

(No Saturday Confessions on December 24)

4:00 PM Mass in the Church

4:00 PM Mass in Fr. Haley Hall

(Hall Mass includes children's pageant)

5:30 PM Mass in the Church

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

11:00 PM Midnight Mass in the Church

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

11:30 AM Mass in the Church

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

January, 2023 ~ Volume 49, Number 1



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

Rectory: 429-4427

Religious Education Center: 429-6076

Music Program: 429-6076

Religious Education Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com

Parish Email Address: st.marys1870@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

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



Called to Serve!

On Sunday, November 27, 2022, the First Sunday of Advent and the start of a new year in the Church, nine young people of our parish were installed in the Ministry of Altar Server. Shown above from left to right they are: Ben Baril, Julianne Digiacomio, Hope MacEvoy, Evan Scaramella, Aidan Kramer, Brendan Kramer, Christine Bernier, Keegan Kramer, and Andrew Cataldo. Jacob Enriquez was away and will be installed soon. All ten completed four liturgical training sessions in preparation for their new role, learning the names and set up of the sacred vessels, and how to minister during Mass itself. During the Installation Ceremony, the new servers were each "vested" in a white alb, the symbol of Baptism, by a family member. We thank them for their generous response to the worship needs of our parish.

A New Altar Server Class will be forming up very soon in January of 2023. Any parish youth currently in Grades 4-12 may study to become an Altar Server. Please email Patty Baribeau to sign up at: st.marys.altarserver@gmail.com. Patty is also available to answer any questions about this beautiful ministry of faith.

PARISH PASTA NIGHT!



The date was Saturday, October 22, the food was delicious, the crowds were festive, and the live music made us feel like we were on a gondola in Venice. Thank you to the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus and all who made the evening such a success! It was a particular joy to welcome so many new parish families as our special guests.

Benvenuto!





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Fr. Mark J. Coiro

On Tuesday, December 6, I entered the church just before 7 PM for the weekly Advent Holy Hour and Confessions. Deacon John was about to start Exposition, and I expected to step right into the Reconciliation Room to welcome folks for Penance. This is what I saw when I opened the door:



No, the room had not been vandalized. Rather, I had totally forgotten to remove the props used for the Children's Mass homily the Sunday before. Reflecting on John the Baptist's cry to "prepare the road and make a straight path," the kids identified items that can block a road. Branches then were placed in the main church aisle, large stuffed trash bags followed (representing rocks), and finally white packing peanuts were dumped out as "snow." It was truly a mess!

We then talked about how sins can block the way of Jesus, preventing Him from coming directly and powerfully into our hearts. When asked if there was a place we can take all these obstacles and be rid of them, the kids did not hesitate. "Confession!" they shouted.

Then they all helped grab the items lying in our road, and carried them into the Reconciliation Room. Where they remained totally forgotten by me until Tuesday night.

As I frantically cleaned everything out to make room for penitents to enter, I found myself reflecting that if these objects were really sins, then this would never have happened. Because once we bring our burdens to Christ in Confession, those sins are gone. They are forgiven. Some of the saints say that they are even totally "forgotten," by God.

We may in our weakness sin again and have to confess again. But as St. Don Bosco put it, once confessed, "you achieve something most important – you remove all doubts about your past confessions. You may then say, 'I have no worries about the past. I can look more cheerfully to the future.' You can indeed count on Our Lord's help in all circumstances because you are His sons and daughters by grace."

God bless you!

ORDINATION AT ST. MARY'S

**Saturday, January 7, 5 PM Vigil Mass
for the Feast of the Epiphany**

On this Final Feast of the Christmas Season, Saint Mary's is honored to host the Ordination of Pietro Rossini to the Transitional Diaconate. Pietro has been in residence at the Fatima Shrine for several years, studying for ministry one day as a Xaverian Missionary Father.



All are invited to attend this special celebration. It is extremely rare for an Ordination to take place in a parish, in fact it has never happened at St. Mary's before. It is a beautiful and inspiring celebration, and we hope parents with high school students in particular will bring them to experience it, as they begin to discern their own vocations in life. The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be administered by Bishop Robert Reed.

PARISH CEMETERY

A scanned copy of our most recent St. Mary's Cemetery Policies (1985) may be found on the last page of this Newsletter. While most of the cemetery is compliant, the new section has seen many installations of benches, trees, and other prohibited items. It is no longer possible to access some graves for burials without removing these items. We therefore urge you to remove any such items yourself as soon as possible. Burials happen with little notice, and we are not always able to reach you. Thank you.

GIVE A GIFT 2022

The good people of Saint Mary's came through once again, donating more than 600 Christmas gifts of toys and clothing for the children of two inner city Catholic parishes. As you can see, on December 3 & 4 the altar was surrounded by mounds of presents. Well done!

Sixteen Knights and several family members, along with nine High School Religious Education Students sorted and packed the 630 gifts donated by St. Mary's parishioners. Two Knights delivered the gifts to St. Mary of the Angels, Roxbury and St. Thomas Aquinas, Jamaica Plain.



"A Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."



Stewardship of Retired Priests ~ The 2022 Christmas Collection

There is only one collection taken up at Christmas Masses and every penny of it goes to support the housing and healthcare costs of our retired priests – holy men who have given their entire lives in service to God's people. The Clergy Fund that provides for their needs is currently underfunded. So please, if you can, try to make a truly sacrificial gift for our priests at this year's Christmas Mass. Please also pray for these wonderful men. On behalf of all our retired priests, THANK YOU! Christmas Offerings may be placed in the wooden offertory boxes at Mass, mailed in, or dropped off. Gifts may also be made through WeShare: <https://stmarysholliston.weshareonline.org/>. (We also HOPE to have Christmas Ushers).

Stewardship of Parish ~ The 2022 Grand Annual

Thank you to all who have already done their part in this year's Grand Annual – the single most important collection at our parish each year. For 62 years, combined with the weekly offertory, it has allowed our parish to cover its operating costs. If you have not yet done so, please return the orange Grand Annual envelope you received in the mail as soon as possible (extras at the church doors). Grand Annual envelopes may be placed in the wooden offertory boxes at Mass, mailed in, or dropped off. Gifts may also be made through WeShare: <https://stmarysholliston.weshareonline.org/>.

We ask every single family of our parish to please participate in the Grand Annual, doing the best they can according to their means. Thank you and God bless you. *"No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, God has bestowed on you."* - Deuteronomy 16

2022 St. Mary's Parish Grand Annual Update

"What return can I make to the Lord for all He has done for me?" Psalm 116

2022 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:	\$150,000.00
Grand Annual parishioner support received as of December 11:	- <u>\$134,235.00</u>
Parishioner support still needed to reach 2022 Grand Annual goal:	\$ 15,765.00
% of 2022 Grand Annual achieved to date:	89%
% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	45%



As the Grand Annual continues, contributions may be placed either in the gold G.A. envelope you received in the mail, or in a separate envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual." G.A. envelopes may be mailed to 8 Church Street or dropped through the Rectory Office Door Mail-slot. The wooden offertory boxes at Mass may also be used.

As explained in the special mailing to all parishioners, the \$150,000 goal will fund staff salaries, the exterior painting of the church and the repair/refurbishment of all four Parish Center bathrooms. Your generous support will assure the financial health of our parish continues. **Thank you for your support of this most important annual collection!**



ST. MARY'S PARISHIONERS TAKE ON NEW MINISTRY IN CHIVALRIC ORDER

On Saturday, November 5, 2022, three St. Mary's Parishioners were among those invested by Cardinal O'Malley as Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. They are Kristin Roberto, Jennifer Schiller, and Thomas Brodo. Four current Members of the Order were promoted to the rank of Knight Commander and Dame Commander. They are Brendan Cavalier, Sue Cote, Kim Latifi, and Anthony Nunes. The Mass of Investiture took place at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Manchester, New Hampshire.



The Equestrian Order is a worldwide Catholic Order of Chivalry that is comprised of lay and clerical members. One of the oldest international Orders of Knighthood, it was founded in 1099 to safeguard the Holy Sites in the Holy Land, especially the Tomb of Christ. Today, members of the Order commit themselves to continue growing in their knowledge and love of Jesus, and to supporting the Church's works of mercy in the Holy Land – particularly through schools, hospitals, clinics, and the Latin Patriarchate. They assist in the preservation of a living and viable Christian presence in the Holy Land held dear by all Catholics as the land where Our Lord was born, preached, died and rose to save us.

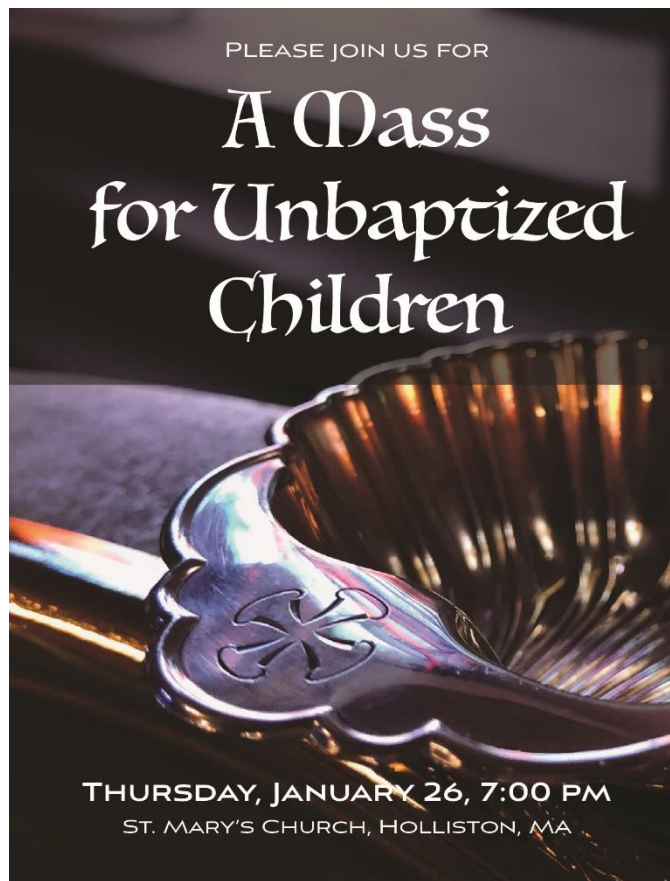
The Order of the Holy Sepulchre has approximately 30,000 members, of which 14,291 are in the United States of America. It is comprised of Catholic men and women who have distinguished themselves in their adherence to the teachings of the Church and in meritorious service to their parish and diocese. Membership is by invitation only. The nomination of a person to the rank of a Knight or Lady of the Holy Sepulchre is extended to Catholics who have demonstrated a "heart for service" and who desire to work together for an important cause of the Church – the preservation of Christianity in the Land of Christ. Learn more at:

<http://www.oessh.va/content/ordinequestresantosepolcro/en.html>

“Let the Children Come to Me”

January is a month when Catholics commemorate the Baptism of Our Lord and His Presentation in the Temple. It is also a month to remember the innocent children who have lost their lives before baptism; not only through abortion, but by miscarriage or a sudden infant death as well. Parents who have lost a child at such a tender age carry a great burden, and they should have every opportunity to grieve and to pray for the salvation of their child, but most are not afforded such opportunity, due to the fast pace of our modern society.

A feast day we celebrate each year, just three days after Christmas, is one that I have always identified with. Known as the Feast of the Holy Innocents, it commemorates the children mentioned in Matthew, 2:16-18 who were martyred by Herod in response to the birth of the Messiah. Every year I think of the anguish those parents must have felt, having lost their child to the aggression of a brutal, fearful dictator. And I reflect on the similar pain parents of miscarriage or a sudden death are experiencing after losing their child today. I have felt it; we have experienced a miscarriage of our own. And when we lost our child more than twenty years ago, we were not made aware of any funeral or burial rite that the Church could offer for our child. We just tried to move on. “It is important for us to have closure,” one parent told me. “We want our child to know that we have not forgotten; that we will never forget (them).”



To provide a sense of closure and to offer our prayers for unbaptized children, St. Mary's will celebrate a special Mass on Thursday evening, January 26, at 7:00 PM. The Mass will be offered for the souls of every child lost before receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. By commending these children to Jesus, Whose tenderness toward them caused Him to say: 'Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them,' (CCC1261) we will be surrendering our grief, and the hope that God, Who desires that all people should be saved, will see to it that His precious children, and ours, may soon share His joy in heaven.

If you have lost a child prior to baptism, know someone who has, or just want to show your solidarity for grieving families, come to our special Mass on January 26. Add your voice to theirs in Communion with our Lord.

Knights of Columbus

St. Mary's Council #14224 January, 2023



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

MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be Wednesday, January 18 in the church at 7:00 PM. The Rosary is open to all parishioners. As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer."

NOVENA FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH: For nine consecutive days in November, the Council conducted the Novena led by Deacon Knight Ronald Dowding and Deputy Grand Knight Thomas Brodo. The Novena was offered live on the parish Facebook site. Each session has been saved on the Facebook site and can be viewed anytime. Also, a link to the parish site is provided on the Council's site - kofc14224.org. The Council thanks those who faithfully attended live and watched at home.

VETERANS CHARITY DONATIONS: At the annual Veteran's Day luncheon in November, sponsored by the Lion's Club, our Council veterans presented checks for \$2,500 each to the charities Tunnel to Towers and Homes for Our Troops. Chrissy Knowlton from Tunnel to Towers and William Seymour from Homes for Our Troops were present to accept the Council's donations. Funds for the donations came from our 14th Annual Charity Raffle. Again, the Council thanks all parishioners who participated in our annual raffle.

COATS FOR KIDS: The Council purchased seven boxes of winter coats from the Supreme Council and distributed them to the Give A Gift parishes, Project Just Because, and local food pantries. The seven boxes totaled 84 new winter coats. COATS FOR KIDS is an annual program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus both nationally and this year in particular, for refugee children in Ukraine and Poland.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2023: 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.



GIVE A GIFT: Sixteen Knights and several of their family members were among those who sorted and packed the 630 gifts donated by St. Mary's parishioners this year. Two Knights then delivered the gifts to St. Mary of the Angels, Roxbury and St. Thomas Aquinas, Jamaica Plain. Photo Left.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sat. Jan. 21



St. Mary's



**ONE DONATION CAN POTENTIALLY
SAVE THREE LIVES**



**EVERY TWO SECONDS SOMEONE IN
THE U.S. NEEDS BLOOD**



**ABOUT TWO OUT OF FIVE PEOPLE
ARE ELIGIBLE TO DONATE BLOOD**



**A SINGLE CAR ACCIDENT VICTIM CAN
REQUIRE AS MUCH AS 100 PINTS OF
BLOOD**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPONSORING RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:

On Saturday, January 21, 2023, in St. Mary's Father Haley Hall, the Council will sponsor its annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Hours are from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-REDCROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and search by zip code (01746) in the "Find a Blood Drive" field. For further information, contact the Knights of Columbus Council Blood Drive coordinator, Rodman Burgett at 508-653-6130.

women in
WINGS
God's spirit

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) has successfully concluded our Fall 2022 Season in Person and through Zoom, "Called to Relationship." Thanks to the heroic efforts of our Tech Consultant, Virginia Calapa, the presentations of our fall speakers are now available to view on the WINGS page of St. Mary's website. Scroll all the way to the bottom for the link. After you click on the link, you will see the presentations listed by date. Also available is a beautiful original song composed by a musician and singer new to WINGS titled "Listen as you Pray." You do not have to be a WINGS member to view these presentations. Watch for details on our Winter Season in starting in mid-January. For more information call Jennifer Schiller at 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins at 508-259-7795 or email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com.



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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



UPCOMING MSYG EVENTS ~

**Friday,
January 13:**
Snow Tubing at
Nashoba.



**Sunday,
February 5:**
Monthly
Meeting, 14th
Annual Battle of
the Sexes, 6:30
– 8:30 PM in Fr.
Haley Hall.



PAINTBALL: On Friday, November 11, the MSYG had its annual fall Paintball Battle at PnL Paintball in Bridgewater. Fr. Mark talked with the kids about the evils of real warfare and stressed that we play paintball as a sport and for teambuilding. He then led the group in a prayer for all our Veterans and also a prayer for peace in Ukraine. A day of adventure in the sunny fields, woods, and Ghost town followed. Thank you parent chaperones for leading us!





2023 FLORIDA MISSION TRIP

In 2022, St. Mary's High School teens traveled to Mississippi to spend a week serving others and bringing Christ to them. This mission trip not only greatly impacted the lives of those living in Mississippi, but the lives of our teens and chaperones.

THIS YEAR, our 2023 Mission Trip will take place on July 16 - July 23 and we will be serving in FLORIDA- helping those affected by the devastating hurricanes.

MISSION TRIP INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday, January 12, 2023,
from 7-8 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.
All teens currently in High School,
and parents, are invited.

HURRICANE IAN

Hurricane Ian slammed Southwest Florida on Sept. 28, producing widespread damage and significant storm surge in Lee and Charlotte counties. Forty-three days later, Hurricane Nicole made its landfall. Almost 200 people died in the storms, and roughly 3.8 billion dollars in damage was done to homes and businesses. Now the rebuilding begins.





T.G.I.F

TEENS GATHER IN FAITH

High School Youth Group has been off to a rocking start here at St. Mary's! With a new name has come a new year full of fun, faith, and making great memories with friends.

Our teen leaders have really taken the reigns and helped to make each event fun, faith-filled, and full of excitement!

Want to join in on the fun?

Our January meeting will take place on January 22, 2023 from 7:15-8:45 PM in FHH.

Hope to see you there!

Any questions, email Theresa at StMarysYM1870@gmail.com.

Follow us on Insta @ tgif.stmarys.





Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * January, 2023

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

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

2022-2023: The Troop meets weekly during the school-year, Mondays from 7 - 8:30 PM.

November was a busy month for Troop 14. Between our annual Turkey Roast, the first Eagle Court of Honor we've had in 5 years, and our two service projects, we were active every week through Thanksgiving!

TURKEY ROAST: Twenty-eight Scouts and ten leaders spent the weekend of November 4-6 at the Holliston Sportsman's Club for the Turkey Roast; we arrived late Friday night and then woke up early Saturday to hang flyers for our annual Scouting for Food drive around town. Scouts returned to the streets the next week to pick up food people left out for us. We collected over 350 bags; thanks to everyone who donated!



Back at the club, the Sportsmen presented on firearm safety before organizing a game of Trap for us - a big thanks to our gracious hosts. A barbeque lunch was followed by the arrival of 12 Cub Scouts, who received an introduction to Troop 14's culture and traditions throughout the evening. Later on, over 100 Scouts, leaders, and families were served a delicious turkey dinner.



EAGLE SCOUT: One week later, the Troop gathered again in celebration, this time for Eddie Bombardieri's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Eddie, who is 18, has been with the Troop since the fifth grade, and this was an opportunity to recognize his Scouting accomplishments. The service took place at St. Mary's in Father Haley Hall and was followed by a reception. Eddie's Eagle Project was to develop two picnic areas on the Holliston Rail Trail (one south of Arch Street and one near Lil' Folk Farm). The Project included building picnic tables for each location. Well done Eddie!

Wrapping things up, the Troop volunteered at the Holliston Recycling Center on November 19, helping people unload their debris, and our annual Popcorn Fundraiser concluded this month. We exceeded our goal, thanks to everyone who supported us!



CROSSWALK

By Cathy Stenquist

For those of you new to my Crosswalk articles, this is how it all began.

A few years ago, I found myself in a very difficult situation, I never thought I'd be in. I slunk down into the hard bench, mind racing; praying as hard as I could for God to hold me up in my weakness. The clock ticked in slow motion. Nervously, my eyes darted around the room, looking for something to slow my breathing. Then I saw it. There, in the embellished wall, the flat amber wood had perfectly aligned in one spot to make a cross. I stared... breathing slowed... shoulders softened. My focus gently shifted to the Divine. I felt God slip His hand into mine. His triumph over the cross reassuring me that with His help, I could get through this; and with His grace I did.

Steps in Boston



This experience inspired me so, that I began looking for crosses everywhere. I called it my "Crosswalk."

The word had dual meaning for me; a fun scavenger hunt

to see the shape of a cross in the ordinary, but also where the paths of God and I could intersect. On weekend walks, I continued to find crosses everywhere. My husband laughed as I would abruptly stop, run up to something and take pictures. "Another cross?" he would smile and ask. When I'd find one when joyful things happened, they reminded me to say thank you and in the tough times, they were a tool to give me strength and discernment.

Fast forward to 2012, I was going through some of the most difficult days of my life. I had lost my job, my daughter and mother in law were both dealing with cancer. All this, while flying back and forth to Birmingham, Alabama to help my mother struggling with the decision and the logistics of moving my disabled father to a skilled care facility. Any one of these would have been quite enough.



Tape on an elevator floor

Seeking solace at Mass one Sunday, I listened closely as a confirmation candidate walked up to the ambo and shared a bit about his life as a Catholic at St. Mary's. I found it fascinating and hopeful to hear

about his faith journey and times where he had felt God active in his life. It was such a rare moment, seeing a high school student be so beautifully vulnerable, talking about something so deeply personal. I was inspired. My Cross Walk idea kept simmering, getting richer, and filling with flavor.

My eyes scanned across the breadth of the church; gray hair and brunette, retired and just born, male and female...I realized how many of this faith community I had never met, and that each of them was someone just like me, going through events good or bad and trying to see God in the midst of it all. I hungered to know more.



Sheets at Target

I began to imagine what taking "Crosswalks" with others would look like. Little by little God's 'recipe' for this "Crosswalk" idea He gave me was nearly ready to 'bake'.



Then, in God's perfect timing, it all came together. Father Mark asked me if I would be interested in writing for the newsletter. Immediately, I offered my idea of taking some

"Crosswalks" with parishioners to hear about a their faith journey; a struggle, a moment of hope, of clarity or comfort. I reminded him of Steve Hartman, the CBS news correspondent, who does a segment on TV where he throws a dart at a map and finds someone in that town and features their story. "Why couldn't this be done with faith stories?" I asked. He smiled and replied, "It sounds good, but NO darts!"



And so it began. I came in a different door each week to Mass and sat in a place I was not used to. Admittedly, at first it was a bit uncomfortable.

Packing boxes at my mother's house

We are certainly creatures of habit, aren't we? After our final "Hail Mary" at the end of Mass, I'd introduce myself to my "neighbors in the pews" and begin chatting. Often my invitations lead to coffee and a lovely faith sharing. We both came out of the chat feeling more connected and richer for having shared our faith experiences.

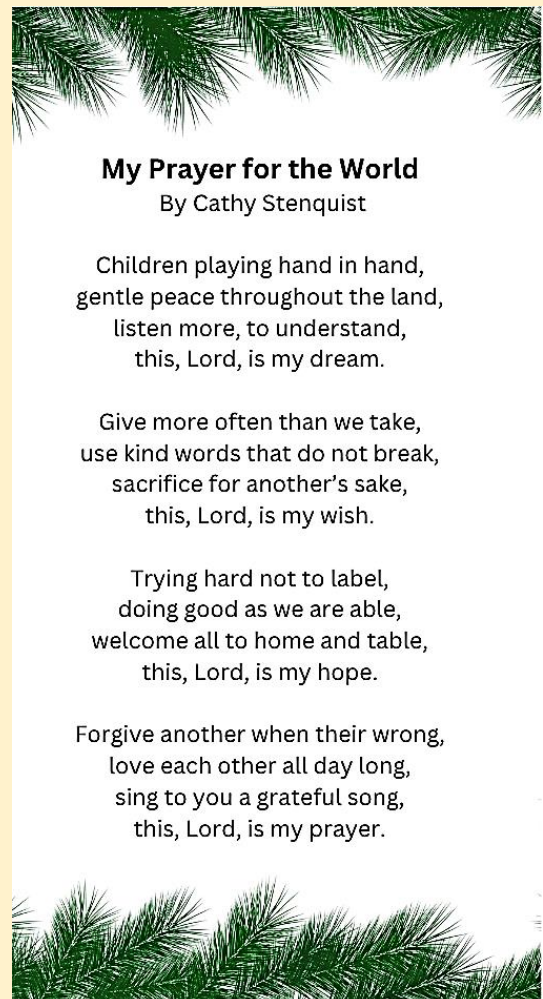
Since my first walk in 2017, I have "walked" with over 16 people sharing my reflections in the newsletter. It has been a remarkable experience. Now, after taking a break with the pandemic, I am eager to get back to my Crosswalk chats with St. Mary's parishioners. Be sure to check in next month, for a very meaningful chat I am excited to share with you. Till then, I leave you with a New Year's family challenge.

Look for crosses where ever you go, especially in unexpected places and let me know what you find!



Three! Found at my neighbors house. You can see more of the crosses I've found with reflections on Instagram @findingcrosses.

My New Year's gift to you and your family-
a special prayer I recently wrote.



My Prayer for the World

By Cathy Stenquist

Children playing hand in hand,
gentle peace throughout the land,
listen more, to understand,
this, Lord, is my dream.

Give more often than we take,
use kind words that do not break,
sacrifice for another's sake,
this, Lord, is my wish.

Trying hard not to label,
doing good as we are able,
welcome all to home and table,
this, Lord, is my hope.

Forgive another when their wrong,
love each other all day long,
sing to you a grateful song,
this, Lord, is my prayer.

Walking in His name, Cathy Stenquist.

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

JANUARY 2023

got faith?



SEASONS AND SUNDAYS: As we look at the liturgical calendar, January 2023 is a bit different than other Januaries. The first Sunday of January is January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; the second Sunday, January 8, is the Feast of the Epiphany. Both of these Sundays are within the season of Christmas. Often, the next Sunday is remembered as the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and it

concludes the Christmas Season. However, this year, we commemorate Jesus' baptism on Monday, January 9; the following day, Tuesday, January 10, marks the beginning of Ordinary Time. The readings for the first two Sundays of January are specific to the Solemnity/Feast of the day. The gospel readings for the first three Sundays of Ordinary Time (January 15, 22 and 29) encourage us in our Christian identity as a light to the nations, invite us to reflect on Jesus' call to his first apostles and challenge us to live the Beatitudes. We are also asked to respond with the psalmist "[h]ere am I, Lord. I come to do your will," and "the Lord is my light and my salvation." You can prepare for the Sunday readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18-25. The week of prayer, previously called the Church Unity Octave, was first celebrated in 1908 in Garrison, New York after being developed by Servant of God, Fr. Paul Wattson, SA (Society of Atonement). The theme this year is "Do Good; Seek Justice" (Isaiah 1:17). The Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute's website states that "The entire scriptural passage for the theme is Isaiah 1:12-18, lamenting a lack of justice among the People of God. Yet, it also promises redemption by encouraging acts of justice." Information and Resources concerning the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity can be found at <https://bit.ly/2023ChristianUnity>.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE: January 1 is known in Catholic circles as the World Day of Peace; it was first marked by Pope St. Paul VI in 1968. Pope Francis' messages regarding this day can be found at <https://bit.ly/FrancisPeace>.

PAX CHRISTI: Pax Christi USA is a national organization which is "grounded in the Gospel and Catholic social teaching". It is a "membership organization that rejects war, preparation for war, every form of violence and domination, and personal and systemic racism" (Pax Christi website). You can read more about this organization, its vision and its programs at <https://paxchristiusa.org/>. The Xaverian Missionaries at Fatima Shrine host a chapter meeting of Pax Christi on a monthly basis. For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/fatimashrine>.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Catholic Relief Services (<https://www.crs.org/>) was founded in 1943 by the Catholic bishops of the U.S. to assist poor and disadvantaged people outside the country. In collaboration with the US Bishops' Conference, CRS has developed a wonderful series of teaching videos on the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. You can search for the videos on the CRS website. Catholic Extension, founded in 1905 by Fr. Francis Kelley, is the largest supporter of Catholic missionary work in the U.S. and its territories. You can read more about Catholic Extension's activities on its website, <https://www.catholicextension.org/>.

PRAYER: Contrition, telling God we are sorry, is the second type of prayer highlighted by the ACTS acronym. Fr. Joseph Breighner, writing for the *Baltimore Catholic Review* in 2008, said that "oops" is a great word for contrition. You can read his entire article at <https://bit.ly/ACTScontrition>. On the Hallow website (<https://bit.ly/HallowACTS>), you will find a complete guide to praying with ACTS. --Leo Racine

Saint Mary's Parish
8 Church Street
Holliston, Massachusetts
01746

St. Mary's Cemetery Policies

One full size grave can have three cremations and/or one full size burial.

The maximum monument (headstone) size for the number of graves purchased is as follows: single grave (2x1) under 3 feet in height; two graves (3x1); three graves (4x1); four graves (4x1). The only exception is in the older sections of the Cemetery.

Flowers may be planted within 12 inches directly in front of the stone.

Bushes may be planted on either side of the monument (never to exceed two feet in height) and must be kept pruned by the planter accordingly. Rose Bushes are not allowed.

No planting of trees.

No planting or any other alterations in the back of the headstone.

No fences, borders, curbing, statues, chairs, hedges or hardscapes shall be erected.

Benches may be placed only if serving also as the grave headstone and located accordingly at the head of the grave.

Seasonal flowers may be placed on graves with the understanding that the cemetery staff will remove them if they interfere with maintenance of the area.

No glass containers may be left on graves as they are a safety hazard.

The Parish reserves the right to change, alter and or amend any of the above policies or to add new ones at any time without notice.

(Promulgated May 1, 1985)