



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

*\* Return Service Requested*

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**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

 **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4:00 PM** Masses in **both** the Church and Father Haley Hall (*Hall Mass includes the Christmas Pageant, 4:00 PM parking is difficult, so please plan accordingly*)

**5:30 PM** Mass in the Church

**7:30 PM** Mass in the Church

**11:00 PM** (Midnight) Mass in the Church



 **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9:30 AM** Mass in the Church

**11:30 AM** Mass in the Church



**NEW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OFFICERS**

On Sunday, November 23, twelve men were sworn in as officers for St. Mary's Parish Knights of Columbus Council #14224. Congratulations and may God bless you in your new roles!

**K of C OFFICERS**

- Grand Knight - Tom Brodo
- Deputy Grand Knight - Charlie Paradie
- Chancellor - John Abucewicz
- Advocate - Mike Kerrigan
- Recorder - Tim Daly
- Treasurer - Tony Polise
- Warden - Rod Burgett
- Inside Guard - Kevin Crocker
- Outside Guard - Fred Sheehan
- Trustee 3 Yr. - Billy Duffy
- Trustee 2 Yr. - Paul Lawless
- Trustee 1 Yr. - Henry Febo

# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

January, 2026 ~ Volume 52, 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](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com)

Parish Email Address: [st.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marys1870@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

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

## GIFTS OF FAITH AND LOVE!

A record 783 Christmas gifts were donated by the good people of St. Mary's at this year's Give A Gift. December 6 & 7 saw the church sanctuary piled high with presents of toys and clothing, all of which went to needy children at two inner city Catholic Parishes. The number of gifts this year was 11% greater than the 2024 total and was the highest number we have ever recorded. Well done! Special thanks to the fifteen Knights and the ten Confirmation students who sorted, counted, and delivered the gifts.



**Welcome to our newest parish families and to these precious babies recently baptized into the life of Christ! May God's grace surround you with joy, strengthen your faith, and help you to know how precious you are in His sight. And in ours! May we more and more discover Christ in one another.**

## **NEW FAMILIES**

The Hukki Family ~ Eric, Karen, Jackson and Chloe

The Bianco Family ~ Dhana

The Cheetham Family ~ Phillip, Jacquelyn, Robert and Thomas

The O'Neil Family ~ Danielle, Elizabeth and Noah

The Hubbard Family ~ Mary Kate

The Heise Family ~ Joseph, Shana, Joseph James and Boden

The Poutier Family ~ Keith, Amanda, Walker and Sawyer

The DiSalvo Family ~ Thomas, Amy, Carmella, Jack and Sally

The Edinger Family ~ James, Kathleen and Patrick

The Joseph Family ~ Noah and Meredith

The Shunney Family ~ Kevin, Andrea, Quinn, Brayden and Liam

The Falvey Family ~ Kathleen

The Beaupre Family ~ Robert

The White Family ~ Ben and Monica

The Coughlin Family ~ Brian, Laura, Connor, Rory, Annie and Finn

The Defonzo Family – Sharon and Nicole

The Lessard Family ~ David, Alyson, David, Emerson and William

The Pardo Family ~ Anna

The Martinho Family ~ Ryan, Emily, Lena and Colin

The Palandri Family ~ Diana

The Eagan Family ~ Conor, Kristen and Olivia

The Murray Family ~ Michael, Gabriela and Benjamin

The Tufts Family ~ Matthew, Arielle, Matthew, Anthony and Adalyne

## **NEWLY BAPTIZED**

Beatrice Lee Gavin

Julian Jacob Rivers

William Maxwell Lechner

Owen Mitchell DeAngelis

David Robert DeAngelis

Theadora Willow Henault

Charlotte Mae Labberton

Nico John Brovelli

Sally Leona DiSalvo

Arianna Lucila Morse

Julian Anthony Pomarico

Sawyer James Poutier

Penelope Ellen Fijacko

William Paul Lessard

Bernadette Rose Keefe





## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

As we stand at the threshold of the New Year 2026, we are reminded that time itself is one of God's greatest gifts. The turning of the calendar does not simply mark another cycle of days and months; it invites us into renewal and deeper fidelity to the Gospel. Each January offers us a spiritual "reset," a chance to reflect with gratitude on what God has done, to surrender what has burdened us, and to open our hearts to the grace that awaits.

On the very first day of the year, the Church sets before us the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. This is no coincidence. As we step into unknown days, the Church gives us Mary as our compass and companion. In her, we encounter the perfect model of discipleship, a woman who pondered and trusted even when the path ahead was clouded in mystery.

Mary teaches us that renewal begins not in self-made plans, but in the quiet openness of a heart that says, *"Let it be done to me according to your word."* She reminds us that every year, every moment, is fruitful only insofar as it is entrusted to God. If we begin this New Year with Mary, we begin it with Christ, the One she carried beneath her heart and now invites us to welcome into our own.

As we journey into 2026, may we seek to live more intentionally as disciples, rooted in prayer, strengthened by the sacraments, and ready to bear Christ's light to a world starving for hope. The challenges of our age are real, but so is the grace that God pours out upon those who ask. Let us not fear the unknown future. The God who has led us this far will continue to guide and bless us with His mercy.

To help us begin the year with purpose, I offer here "Ten New Year's Resolutions for Catholics." These are not burdens to carry, but invitations to grace.

1. Begin each day with a simple prayer of surrender, "Jesus, I trust in You."
2. Attend daily Mass at least once a week, beyond Sunday, when possible.
3. Pray the Rosary regularly, entrusting your intentions to Mary, the Mother of God.

4. Spend at least ten minutes a day in silent prayer, allowing God to speak to your heart.
5. Go to Confession monthly, seeking ongoing conversion and renewal.
6. Practice intentional charity, setting aside time or resources each week for those in need.
7. Fast from negativity, gossip, cynicism, and unnecessary complaining.
8. Read Scripture daily, even if only a short passage.
9. Strengthen family life, restoring meals together, shared prayer, and meaningful conversations.
10. Perform one hidden act of kindness each day, known only to God.

May this New Year be a time of deepened faith, rekindled hope, and renewed love. May Mary, our mother and model, guide us ever closer to her Son.

And may the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, dwell richly in your homes and in your hearts throughout 2026.

Under His Mercy,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



## SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

- A Holy Day of Obligation -

**Wednesday,  
December 31**

5:30 PM  
Vigil Mass

**Thursday,  
January 1**

9:00 AM  
Feast Day Mass  
6:15 PM  
Feast Day Mass



# *FAMILY BINGO NIGHT!*

*Friday, January 23, 2026!*



*To support the 2026 High School Mission Trip to Mississippi.*

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

**When:** *Friday, January 23, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.*

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

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

**The Cause:** This July, high school students from St. Mary's will travel to Gulfport, Mississippi for a week of faith-filled Mission work and service. This is a life-changing week for the teens and chaperones as they live out their faith, make lifelong friendships, and get to know the people they serve. It is a beautiful extension of our Parish Family's Mission to know, love, and serve God. The estimated cost of the trip this year is \$1,500 per teen.





# St. Mary's Parish High School Youth Group

Contact Lisa Dufault, [st.marystgif1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marystgif1870@gmail.com), 508-429-6076 ext. 3

**TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith):** At our November TGIF Meeting our teens, along with donations from the "I'm Holliston Happy" Facebook community, collected 206 Advent Calendars. They were dropped off to the Holliston Pantry Shelf, Mission Springs, Cole Court, Catholic Charities in Milford and United Way in Framingham. We also had a candlelight prayer vigil for those who are 'Gone but not Forgotten.' We spoke their names and their relationship to us. It was a beautiful way to unite our prayers and keep their memory alive.



## 2026 TGIF DATES:

- TGIF Movie Night - Saturday, January 10, 2026
- **BINGO FUNDRAISER** - Friday, January 23, 2026
- TGIF Meeting - Sunday, January 25, 2026
- TGIF Movie Night - Saturday, February 7, 2026
- TGIF Meeting - Sunday, February 22, 2026
- TGIF Movie Night - Saturday, March 7, 2026
- TGIF Meeting - Sunday, March 15, 2026
- **EGGSTRAVAGANZA FUNDRAISER** - Sunday, March 29, 2026
- TGIF Meeting - Sunday, April 26, 2026
- **MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE FUNDRAISER** - Saturday, May 9 & Sunday, May 10, 2026
- TGIF Family Potluck - Sunday, May 31, 2026
- **MISSION TRIP** - July 26 to August 1, 2026



**Sign-Ups for the TGIF Movie Nights were at the December 14, TGIF Meeting. If you are interested but did not sign up contact Lisa Dufault @ [st.marystgif1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marystgif1870@gmail.com). More dates and events will be added in 2026!**

**TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith):** We look ahead to our July 26 - August 1, 2026 Mission Trip to Mississippi. Last year we had 81 teens and 17 adult chaperones attend the Mission Trip. We will be holding many fundraisers in the coming months. Our first event is our **Family Bingo Night on Friday, January 23**. We hope to see you there!



**SPONSOR A TEEN FOR THE 2026 MISSION TRIP:** St Mary's TGIF High School Youth Group is preparing for our 2026 Mississippi Mission Trip, where our teens will spend a week serving others growing in faith and witnessing God's love in action. While we are still working on the numbers, based on flights and lodging, we estimate the cost to be around \$1,500 per teen. Many of our teens are eager to go but need financial assistance. If you feel called, please consider sponsoring a teen. Your generosity will help cover travel, lodging, food and service project expenses, and will make it possible for them to experience this life-changing week of faith, service and community. **To**

**sponsor a teen or to make a partial donation, please contact Lisa Dufault, St. Mary's High School Youth Minister, at 508-429-6076, ext. 3. or [st.marystgif1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marystgif1870@gmail.com).** Checks can be made payable to Saint Mary's Parish, in the memo line please write "**Mission Trip Sponsor.**" Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## FUNDRAISING DONATION FOR THE 2026 MISSION TRIP:

If you would like your donation to go towards all teens attending the trip, and our overall fundraising efforts, please make checks payable to St. Mary's Parish, in the memo line please write "Mission Trip Fundraising." These donations will take money off the final invoice of all teens attending the trip!

**Be sure to follow us on Instagram at STMARYS\_TGIF to hear about upcoming events and to keep up with our adventures! You don't have to be a Teen or Parent of a Teen in TGIF to follow along. It is a wonderful way, in addition to your prayers, to show your support for this amazing ministry!**



STMARYS\_TGIF



# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Our Next Meeting is Sunday, January 11, from 6:30 - 8 PM, Welcome!

**GRADE SEVEN BINGO SERVICE TRIP:** Each year, the three grades of St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group take turns running a fun BINGO event for the residents of Timothy Daniel's Nursing Home. On Friday, November 21, it was the Seventh Grade's turn. The kids introduced themselves to the residents, learning where they were from and their former occupations. Most then helped the players keep track of their BINGO cards, while a few called out the numbers and passed out prizes to the winners. According to the residents and staff, St. Mary's always has the best prizes! At the end of the event, several residents gave the prizes they had won to the teens who had helped them. It was a reminder that the residents value this time with the young people far more than the items they win. Some of the teens then accompanied Fr. Mark and the Activities Director to visit and pray with several sick residents. God bless you!





## Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America  
St. Mary's Parish \* January 2026

Meetings: Monday Nights 7 - 8:30 PM

Contact: Mike Hebert, Scoutmaster  
603 - 520 - 9045

Email: [Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com](mailto:Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com)

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

The Troop meets weekly during the school year, Mondays from 7 - 8:30 PM in the Lower Church.

**ANNUAL TURKEY ROAST CAMPOUT AND SCOUTING FOR FOOD:** Over the first weekend of November, Troop 14 held a Turkey Roast and Campout at the Holliston Sportsmen's Association. This annual event was a fun weekend that included campfires, cooking, games and supervised activities such as orienteering, axe throwing, and clay target shooting. Cub Scouts from Packs across town joined us on Saturday for the day's activities and the evening campfire, and flag retirement ceremony. The weekend activities concluded with a turkey dinner on Saturday evening that included the Scouts and their families.



**SCOUTING FOR FOOD:** Early Saturday morning, on that same weekend, Scouts participated in a Scouting for Food service event where they dropped off door hangers around town to request donations for the Holliston Pantry Shelf. Scouts collected more than 350 bags of donated food and supplies the following Saturday. Thank you, Holliston, for your donations to the Pantry Shelf!

**DECEMBER CAMPOUT:** Since the warm weather departed, Troop 14 Scouts had the opportunity to experience cabin camping at Camp Norse, a 325-acre wooded Scout Camp by the Narragansett Council in Kingston, MA. This was a new scout camp for us to explore, with a lake and cranberry bogs on the property. Scouts were also able to focus on cooking with new recipes that they collected during Troop meetings leading up to the campout. This meal preparation allowed the Scouts to test their cooking skills.

### NEXT UP:

**January 10:** Winter hike and campout at the picturesque Carter Notch Hut in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.



**February 2:** Annual Scout Sunday Mass and Pancake Breakfast fundraiser in Father Haley Hall.



# Knights of Columbus

St. Mary's Council #14224 January, 2026

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



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #14224 SPONSORING JANUARY

**17 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:** On Saturday, January 17, in 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](http://redcrossblood.org) and search by zip code (01746) in the "Find a Blood Drive" field. For further information, contact the Council Blood Drive Coordinator Rodman Burgett at 508-653-6130. Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages, such as accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.



Saturday, January 17,  
St. Mary's, Holliston

**American  
Red Cross**



## RECYCLING EVENT WITH THE GREEN TEAM JUNK REMOVAL:

The Council thanks all those who recycled their unwanted goods on Saturday, November 22. We had plenty of volunteers and were able to raise money for Council services. Thanks to all who participated.

**ST. MARY'S CRECHE & LIGHTS SET-UP:** On a cold November 29 Saturday morning, Council Knights set-up the Christmas Creche and lights. In keeping with tradition, after the hard labor, Knights enjoyed coffee and donuts before departing for home and warming up.

**DEPARTED MEMBERS MASS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ON NOVEMBER 23:** The 11:30 AM Mass was for the Council's departed Knights. After the Mass, State Program Director Michael Kerrigan and Father Mark installed the 2026 Officers. Grand Knight Tom Brodo congratulated the new officers and set the agenda for a 2026 year of service for our church and community. Knights and their wives adjourned to lunch in Father Haley Hall. See photo on the Newsletter Cover.



**COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY:** On Wednesday, December 17 the Council held its traditional Christmas Party where Knights enjoyed Pizza, several raffles and a Yankee Swap. Grand Knight Tom Brodo led the meeting. A good time was had by all.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2026:** For membership information contact Grand Knight Tom Brodo at [StMarysHollistonKofC@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysHollistonKofC@gmail.com) OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus). Our Council respects members limited time but desires new members to share our faith, present innovative ideas, and be part of our journey as Roman Catholic men.

**MONTHLY ROSARY:** The next Rosary will be Wednesday, January 21, in the church at 7:00 PM. Any and all persons are welcome to attend. As quoted in the March, 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer."



**WINGS (Women in God's Spirit)** is a ministry of encouragement and enrichment for women of all ages who seek to deepen their faith and grow in relationship with God and one another. We had a fascinating Fall 2025 Season focusing on "Spiritualities of the Catholic Church." We learned about the Augustinian, Dominican, Franciscan, Benedictine, and Jesuit (Ignatian) spiritual traditions. To view these recorded presentations, visit our WINGS webpage <https://stmarysholliston.com/women-in-gods-spirit-w-i-n-g-s/>. Watch the bulletin for details on our Winter Season starting in late January. For additional information about the WINGS ministry, please call Jen Schiller at 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins at 508-259-7795. To register for WINGS, email [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com).

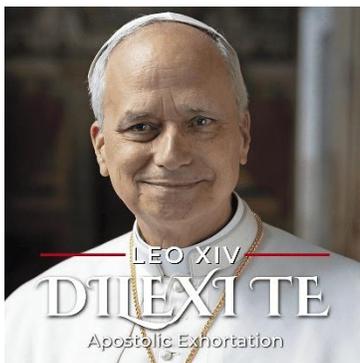
### **COR ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN**

Cor, St. Mary's faith enrichment program for men, wrapped up its second season in December with a guest speaker, Deacon Don LaRose, who delivered an enlightening presentation on the proof of the resurrection. Because of the universal appeal of the topic, all members of St. Mary's parish were invited to attend.

Our goal for the second season of Cor was ambitious: to gain a better understanding of God's salvific plan for us and for all mankind through an exploration of the Old Testament in six meetings or less, while still leaving time for thoughtful discussion, prayer and catechesis.

Our first two meetings were a sweeping overview of the Old Testament from the Fall in Genesis, all the way to the reign of King Solomon. Our next two meetings focused on the prophet Jeremiah and the Psalms. Finally, our most recent meeting featured presentations on four of the minor prophets. As usual, each meeting was filled with lively discussions and numerous insights.

**The next season of Cor will begin in February 2026. Our schedule for the upcoming season will be announced in the weekly parish bulletin shortly.** All men of St. Mary's parish aged 18 or older are invited to participate. Our mission is to help and support each other as we seek to deepen our relationship with God, through scripture, catechesis, prayer and small group discussions. For more information, contact [StMarysCor@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysCor@gmail.com).



### **DILEXI TE ~ POPE LEO'S FIRST APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION, January 24 & 31, 2026**

Are you interested in reading more about "*the close connection between Christ's love and His summons to care for the poor*" (Dilexi Te, #3)? Following up on last year's discussion of Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, (Dilexit Nos), St. Mary's, Holliston Parishioner (also St. Mary's, Franklin Pastoral Associate), Leo Racine, will be facilitating a Zoom discussion of Pope Leo's October 2025 Apostolic Exhortation, Dilexi Te: On Love for the Poor. It will take place at 10:00 AM on the last two Saturday mornings in January:

**January 24 and 31.** Call Leo at 508-429-7476 or email him at [leoaracine@msn.com](mailto:leoaracine@msn.com) for more information or to register. When you register, you will receive the reading plan and be asked to share your email address for participation purposes. **Click the Pope's image above left to access the document online.**