

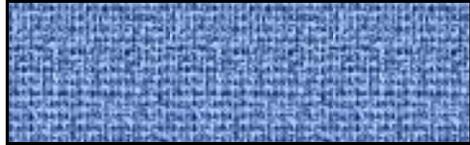
**ST. MARY'S PARISH
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HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

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**NEWSLETTER
JUNE, 2019**



75 St. Mary's Children make their First Holy Communions!



"DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME..." (Lk. 22:19)

Two-thousand years ago, Jesus spoke these words at the Last Supper and First Mass. He shared God's Word, Blessed Bread and Wine into His Body and Blood, and then told the Apostles to do these same things in His memory. Thus was born the Holy Mass, the means by which each Sunday Jesus draws close to His people to nourish our souls by Word and Sacrament. To strengthen us in His love.

On two consecutive weekends this May, three classes totaling seventy-five students made their First Holy Communions at St. Mary's. In doing so, they entered more deeply into the grace and mystery of the Mass. As Fr. Mark told them, *"Up until now when you prayed to Jesus it was like a long distance phone call. But when you receive Jesus in Communion and then pray to Him – it's like He is right there sitting with you and holding your hand as you open your heart to Him!"*

After years of watching their mothers and fathers receive Holy Communion, these young people were finally able to take their place at God's table. Because the First Communions took place on Saturdays, the children made their Second Holy Communions the very next day on Sunday, where they were called forward and applauded by the whole St. Mary's Parish Family. Welcome!

See group photos of all three Communion Classes on page 12 of this Newsletter!

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

June, 2019 ~ Volume 44, Number 10



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

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Religious Education Center: 429-6076
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Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

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

Parish Clergy

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

A PROUD MOMENT!

Shown below with his parents, brothers and grandfather, Henry Liro was the winner of this year's Blessed Mother Scholarship. This \$1,500 award is given annually to a graduating St. Mary's teen who has given "exceptional service" to our Parish Family.

Henry was presented with the scholarship by Fr. Mark at the May 19 St. Mary's Mass for Graduates. Father shared that Henry has participated in our St. Mary's Mission Trip three times, including as a Peer Leader. He was a member of both our Middle School and High School Youth Groups from 6th Grade through the present. He has been an Altar Server for nine years, and a Religious Education Assistant Teacher for two years. Fr. Mark also observed that "*Henry worships faithfully at Mass each Sunday, and by his generous spirit, faith, work ethic, and Christian conduct has won the respect of all of us here at St. Mary's.*"

Henry will be studying Chemical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute this Fall. St. Mary's congratulates him and all our 2019 Graduates. Well done! [See the next few pages for more about our 2019 Graduating Class].



SAINT MARY'S PARISH ANNUAL MASS FOR GRADUATES ~ CLASS SPEAKER SEAN JEWETT



Good Morning. As Father Mark said, my name is Sean Jewett and I have been a parishioner at Saint Mary's since I was a little boy and an altar server since I was in 4th grade.

First, I want to congratulate the Class of 2019 graduates. As we progress into our lives after high school, we will face many choices of what we can do and how we can fill our time. It will be easy to be distracted from our faith. Saint Mary's Parish has always provided me a place to develop my strong moral foundation. I thank Fr. Mark and so many others in our parish, who offered me everything from Youth Group to Altar Serving, and so many other ways to let God grow and live in my life. My involvement at St. Mary's has truly shaped me into a better Catholic person. But it certainly didn't start out that way.

When I was younger, I would do ANYTHING to get out of going to church! I'd say things like "Oh my fish died mom I don't know if I can go today" or "we are out of peanut butter for breakfast, I just can't make it to church". But my Mom would always say the same thing: "ok, Sean there are 2 ways to do this: We can get in the car together and go to church or I'll have dad strap you to the roof... and we will go to church".

As I grew up I realized that getting into the car myself was the best route and that going to church was more than sitting down quietly for an hour and eating stale bread. It was the symbolism behind church. Believing in something beyond just what is in front of me today and knowing that God has a plan for us. Knowing that God is there, and it is up to us to keep Him alive in each one of us.

As the Gospel spoke of today, our discipleship calls on us to "Love one another". This feels easy to do when we think of all the great people we know in our community here. But God also calls us to think beyond that and to think of those who may be harder to love.

Knowing that I will come across so many new people, some with similar beliefs and others who may differ in their beliefs, this is how, I think, God calls on us to love one another. He says Love one another - Love your enemy as if they were your family. One way to show love is how God calls on us to turn the other cheek. This is essential to truly fulfill the call to love one another in the world.

Even if others show you hard times, are rude or even disrespectful: Turn the other cheek. It's not always the easy route. I tried this with my brother one day when I was younger. Me and my brother (who shall remain nameless!) got in an argument about who knows what, and he hit me in the arm. So, I turned the other arm to him. He said, "what are you doing" so I proudly said, "I'm turning the other cheek, I'm being the bigger person".

My brother looked a little confused and then he proceeded to hit me in the other arm. So, maybe I was being a little bit too literal in that case. But thinking back on this today I would still do the same thing. Although he did hurt me (I'd like that on record!) I felt as though he could never hurt my spirit. And that is what God calls on us to do in the world. He calls on us to learn and grow from each experience that may hurt us. He allows us choices of how to handle each and every situation.

I am so very excited for my next steps in life and my acceptance to Stonehill College. I also know the next steps of our faith journey are up to us. So, no more excuses of why not to go to church. It's your choice to keep God in your life. I am very thankful to be part of our community at Saint Mary's and the Graduating Class of 2019. My hope is you remember these two things as you move into life after high school:

1. Always love one another. Especially when it feels easier to not love. Love one another.
2. Choose wisely. It is up to us now. We are grown up. It's our choice to carry on our faith in our lives and into all that we do in the world.

Thank you and Best of luck Class of 2019!



St. Mary's Annual Mass for Graduates

Each year St. Mary's sets aside one of her regular Sunday Masses to honor and pray for our parishioners graduating from High School. This year's Mass for the Class of 2019 took place at 11:30 AM on Sunday, May 19 – the 5th Sunday of Easter. A photo of our participating parish graduates with the names of the colleges they plan to attend is provided on the next page. Shown above from left to right, graduates from several different schools took on ministry roles at the celebration: Chris DeMarkey offered the First Scripture Reading, Henry Liro led the Responsorial Psalm, Lauren Salley offered the Second Scripture Reading, and James Michielli and Kiley Warren led the Prayers of the Faithful. The gifts were brought up by Joseph Whalen, photo left. As always, it was beautiful to see students from different towns and schools all united by their shared parish and Catholic faith.

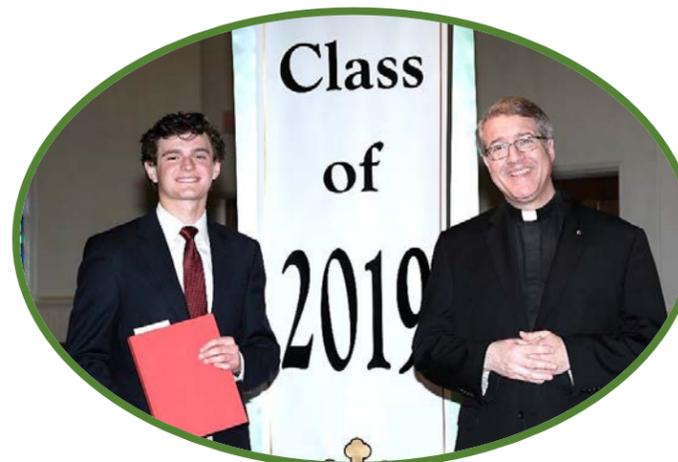
Fr. Mark spoke to the graduates about learning to love like Jesus did – sacrificially and without counting the cost. This, he said, will be what brings purpose and peace and fulfillment to all the other aspects of their lives. Student Class Speaker Sean Jewett, addressed the congregation at the start of Mass, thanking St. Mary's for the difference our parish has made in the lives of the Class of 2019, and reflecting on the Gospel message to love one another - especially as it pertains to forgiveness [full text previous page]. After Mass, a reception was enjoyed by friends and family in Father Haley Hall. Good luck Class of 2019. We are proud of you!





BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:

Mathew Tomacelli - UMass Amherst
 Peter Smith - Sacred Heart University
 Christopher Demarkey - Saint Anselm College
 Alexander Naya - Union College
 Sean Jewett- Stonehill College
 James Michelli - Trinity College
 Henry Liro - Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 William Flannagan – University of California, LA
 Drew Frey- Hamilton College
 Shane Lunny - USA Renewables
 Billy Nash - Southern New Hampshire University
 Grace Kocur - Bucknell University



FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:

Grace Inman - University of Delaware
 Danielle Kiley - University of New Hampshire
 Anna Siegel - University of Vermont
 Sarah O’Neil - Fairfield University
 Madeline Cerulli - Villanova University
 Keara Savage - Bucknell College
 Lauren Salley - University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Erin Kipp - John Carroll University
 Kylie Warren - Saint Anselm College
 Julia Dansereau - University of Hartford
 Jane Daly - University of New Hampshire
 Aidan Kocur - ACCEPT Collaborative Passages Program
 Joseph Whalen - Holliston High School Transition Program

**The Parish Family of St. Mary's, Holliston
invites you to join us in celebrating
the 25th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination
of our Pastor**

**Rev. Mark Joseph Coiro
on the Feast of Pentecost
Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 11:30 AM.**

**Mass will be followed by
a Reception Luncheon
in Fr. Haley Hall.**



**The Silver Jubilee Mass will
be concelebrated by ~
Rev. James Flynn,
Rev. David Lewis,
Rev. Brian Mahoney,
Monsignor Timothy Moran,
Rev. Rocco Puopolo, sx,
and Rev. Francis Signorelli, sx,
with Bishop Mark O'Connell
also participating.**



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Members of St. Mary's,

On Saturday, May 11, our Seminarian Steven Booth was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate. The Sacrament of Holy Orders was conferred by Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V. in Steven's home parish of St. Francis Xavier in Acushnet. A number of St. Mary's parishioners attended (photo right), but I was unable to due to the two First Communion Masses here that same morning. I have invited our freshly minted Deacon Steven to preach here at St. Mary's on the Feast of the Holy Trinity, Sunday, June 16 at the 9:30 AM Mass. We look forward to welcoming him back!



At 25, Steven is now the same age I was when I began priestly ministry 25 years ago. As I prepare to mark my first official "milestone" as a priest with you next weekend, I thank all those parishioners who have so kindly organized the celebration. They have not let me in on all the details, but I know it is in good hands. I thank in advance Joanne O'Connell, whom I understand has organized a delicious repast for us all following the Mass. The last time a priest's Silver Jubilee was celebrated at St. Mary's was way back in 1977, and I am truly blessed to be sharing mine with you. I look forward to reflecting on the ministry of priesthood, and what the good people of St. Mary's mean to me. A priest has no purpose without the people he serves.

As you know, St. Mary's Parish has a long tradition of hosting and providing experience for young men preparing for priesthood. This summer we will be joined by Seminarian Andrew John Rondelli, arriving on June 15. I know he will receive a warm welcome, and that many of you will take him into your hearts. An introduction article by Andrew has been provided on page 19 of this Newsletter.

Finally, as you will see on the next page, the need to strengthen St. Mary's weekly offertory – and to keep it consistent through Online Giving – has become acute. The very week that the offertory came in over \$5,000 short of what is needed to pay the bills, is the same week that we needed to pay our twice monthly payroll of \$16,764.00. We were forced therefore to cut into our very small emergency reserve – much of the rest of which will be needed to cover a major, unplanned church A/C and Heating System repair that just hit us. There is no reason for a parish of our strength and size to be experiencing this financial stress. So please do your part.

- 1) Return the Offertory Pledge Form you were mailed, making a pledge of weekly offertory support that reflects the means with which you have been blessed.
- 2) Please switch to Online Giving so that your support is there even on Memorial Day or other weekends you are away. Your parish's bills have to be paid whether you are travelling or not.

The Financial stewardship of St. Mary's is the responsibility of all who call our parish their spiritual home. It is also a sign of our spiritual health. Jesus said, "*Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" If we don't invest in something, we tend to stop caring about it. And we need to care about St. Mary's. It is where our children are Baptized, our Married Lives begin, and it is the final stop before we are laid to rest in Christ when our travelling days are done. In a world where voices of hate and division become louder every day, St. Mary's is a place where the Good News of God's love for us is proclaimed. It is where we connect to our better selves, embracing with the help of Word and Sacrament a nobler and holier way of life – the way of sacrificial love that leads to the Father.

Whether you always realize it or not, you need your parish.
And now your parish needs you.

God bless you.

St. Mary's 2019 Memorial Day Weekend Offertory came up **\$ 5,566.00 short.** Please make the switch to **Online Giving** to get your parish through the Summer.

The St. Mary's Finance Council asks all parishioners not already using Automatic Giving through their bank to please consider using Online Giving. This is by far the most convenient way for you to give, and *the most helpful form of giving for your parish.*

With Online Giving you don't need to remember offertory envelopes or checkbooks when you come to Mass. As with Mass envelopes, you will receive an annual tax statement for your giving.

Your parish is protected against long holiday weekends, summer vacations, severe weather and other times that you may physically be away but St. Mary's still must pay her bills. With Online Giving, you don't have to remember to make up missed offertory.

How does it work?



Online Giving is now available for St. Mary's Parishioners through **WeShare**, an easy and convenient way to save time and support your Parish. Donating is simple and completely secure.

With **WeShare**, you can set up a recurring weekly or monthly transaction using your checking, savings, or credit card account.

The benefits of online giving with **WeShare** include web access at all times, the ability to schedule your payments to coincide with your pay period, and the ease of adjusting your contributions at any time.

You can allocate different amounts for different collections and make your donations one-time or recurring. You can setup **WeShare** yourself using their secure web site, which will give you the ability to look at your giving history whenever you wish.

If you would like to enroll in **WeShare** Online Giving, please visit <https://stmarysholliston.weshareonline.org>. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call our Parish Secretary Mary Beth at 508-429-4427.

MAY 5 MASS WITNESS TALK

By Paula Watt

Good morning!

My name is Paula Watt, and my family, which includes our 7-year-old daughter Noelle, 5-year-old son Christian and my husband Eric, have been parishioners here at St. Mary's for 4 years.

When we moved to Franklin 4 years ago from Portsmouth, Rhode Island, one of the hard things about moving was leaving the parish we were married at, had both children baptized and of

course the friendships we built there. We prayed we could locate a new parish that would welcome us and make us feel at home. Upon arriving in Franklin, we attended Masses at all the local parishes for the first few months

While visiting St. Mary's we felt incredibly welcomed by the parish community and the ongoing events and were excited about the potential of our children's involvement in the youth group one day. We all know down the road for so many children those middle school and high school years can be some of the most challenging years, to our youth's faith. I was also looking to learn more about my faith and was excited to hear about the women's group Wings. I will always remember the big warm smile on Heather's face as I approached Father Haley Hall on my first day of Wings. I was also interested in participating in some of the adult formation classes at St. Mary's. Upon all these considerations we chose St. Mary's as home! We were immediately welcomed with an invitation to our parish dinner, where new families were welcomed to meet other new families and existing parish members. Our children had a great time that night dancing to the music and enjoying the Italian food.

Shortly after joining St. Mary's, and my husband taking a new job, we encountered the most challenging time for our family, with two family members encountering life threatening circumstances. We turned to God and the support of our parish for strength during that dark period. In the end, our Lord answered our prayers, as both family members recovered, in fact, one member just joined the Catholic faith receiving all the sacraments last Sunday.

Our children enjoy attending the Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:30 Mass every Sunday. Mom and Dad were also pleasantly surprised to see how Father Mark invites the children to gather around the altar the first Sunday of each month to engage our youth on the Gospel. We can't help but smile with pride, when we see our daughter Noelle always wanting to raise her hand to any questions Father Mark asks the children during the liturgy, and recently our youngest, Christian followed her lead. We are again impressed with the various youth programs, for our Middle and High school students, and our children last summer participated in the bible camp for the 1st time at St. Mary's, and each said it was their favorite camp last summer and couldn't wait to attend this summer.

The warmth and various opportunities at our parish has led me to so much enjoyment, teaching Religious Education, joining the parish council, recently speaking at the WINGS group, and volunteering in such areas as the kids summer Vacation Bible School. These opportunities are tremendous blessings to be closer to our parish and faith. I hope you all will consider how you can further contribute to our wonderful parish and meeting more of our parish family in these wonderful groups. Our parish will continue to be what we as a parish community make it!



Being an active member of St. Mary's for the last 4 years has showered our family with many blessings. We continue to hope to get to know more people in the parish and watch our programs continue to grow and help so many others for years to come. And while we are so grateful to have a parish family like St. Mary's, I'm not naïve to think that things could never change. Will we still have these faith programs in future years, and for our children to one day share with their families, and the future families in this area? We unfortunately all have seen so many parishes close throughout New England and across our country.

Has being involved with your parish impacted your life in a profound way?

The reason I am up here today is to ask you to prayerfully consider your support of St. Mary's. As you may have read in the bulletin, for the first time in nine years we are asking parishioners to increase their offertory.

These are challenging times for our Catholic Church and our strong offertory has dropped off. Meanwhile, it is more expensive than ever to operate and maintain our church and parish.

Recently you all received a letter asking for your increased support with a pledge form. Please use this pledge form and the giving table on it to prayerfully consider your support of St. Mary's.

We have a wonderful parish, and we must recommit to supporting it to the fullest. I came up here to share why I am committed to St. Mary's, and why my family is going to strengthen our support of this faith community. I hope that you will prayerfully consider increasing your support as well.

St. Francis of Assis once said – *“Let us have charity and humility, and give alms, for almsgiving cleanses our souls from the filth of sin. At death we lose all that we have in this world, but we take with us charity and the alms-deeds we have done, and for these we shall receive a great reward from God.”* As members of Christ's body, the Church, we must prayerfully consider our role as disciples. Thank you for your time and God bless you.

A Prayer for My Parish

Almighty God, my parish family is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a parish with a noble spirit, if I - who make it what it is - am filled with these same qualities.

Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish family to be.

Bless my journey, Lord God, that I might build the Church through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 June, 2019

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella

Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish

11th ANNUAL CHARITY FUNDRAISER RAFFLE: Council Knights are selling raffle tickets now. One chance is \$5 or a book of five chances is \$20. First Prize is \$1000. Prize Drawing will take place at Celebrate Holliston in September. In past years, the Council has donated over \$185,000 to Holliston organizations, local food pantries, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans organizations and others. Co-chairmen are Tom Anguish, Al Scaramella, Bill Heuer, and Aaron Pyman. Knights will be selling raffle tickets at the following locations: **June 1 & 2 - SHAW's, Medway; June 8 & 9 - SHAW'S, Ashland; June 15 - Downtown Holliston; June 20 - Downtown Holliston; July 20 - Downtown Holliston.** Other dates in next newsletter.

SAINT MARY'S SPRING CLEAN-UP AND MULCH SPREADING: The Council purchased and spread 10 yards of mulch around the church on May 4. Thanks to all Knights who used their rakes and backs to make the grounds bright for Spring. This is our eleventh spreading of the mulch for St. Mary's.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CONTEST-TWO STATE CHAMPIONS FROM ST. MARY'S COUNCIL: Knight Donald Marden proudly announces that Bridget Doherty was State champion for 11-year-old girls and Alesio Pinci was State Champion for 10-year-old boys. Congratulations!

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION FOR CHARLES SPAZIANTE: On May 18 at Hanscom Air Force Base, the State Council held the Fourth Degree Exemplification. Our Council Knight Charles Spaziante was among the candidates receiving the degree of Patriotism. He is now Sir Knight Charles Spaziante. Congratulations! [Photo Right].

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Our Council participated in leading the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet after each Mass on April 27 & 28. God's Mercy was explained and pamphlets and rosaries were handed out.

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

MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be **Wednesday, June 26, (rescheduled from 3rd Wednesday).** The Council recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church at 7:00 PM. As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer." **ALL parishioners are invited** to share in this beautiful and powerful prayer with our Council.





**First Communion Mass
Saturday, May 11, 10:30 AM**



**First Communion Mass
Saturday, May 11, 1:30 PM**



**First Communion Mass
Saturday, May 18, 10:30 AM**

A Cross Walk with Kim Latifi

By Cathy Stenquist

“There is only one God and He is God to all; therefore, it is important that everyone is seen as equal before God. I’ve always said we should help a Hindu become a better Hindu, a Muslim become a better Muslim, a Catholic become a better Catholic.”

Mother Theresa, A SIMPLE PATH pg. 31

At the end of a very moving Holy Saturday, with the images of candlelit faces glowing in the darkness still fresh in my mind, I turned to get my coat and purse off the pew and was greeted with a hand extended in kindness.

“You’re Cathy, who does the Cross Walks, right?” “Yes,” I smiled. “I just love reading them. My name is Kim Latifi. You and I have a lot in common,” she continued, “My husband is not Catholic either, he’s a Muslim.”



I was intrigued. “Sounds like there’s a story there,” I answered, “Would you like to have a cup of coffee? I’d love to hear your story.” A few emails later, I waited, coffee in hand. There was a palpable, positive, faithful energy about her and I could not wait to hear more.



“The love and energy at St. Mary’s is amazing. I have tons to say, I could keep you here for days!” she laughed. Before we began she reached in her coat and handed me this cross. I was so touched by her gesture. As we got to know each other, the word on the back, FAITH, became a bright golden thread woven through each of her stories. I knew we were kindred spirits when she leapt to her feet saying, “I’ll get the Kleenex! I may need this.”

“I just love meeting people and talking with them.” Kim began. “God gives us our gifts, and I was blessed with an affinity for language. I attended Assumption College, graduating with a double major in French and Foreign

Affairs. Interacting each day with teachers, priests and other people of faith had a big impact on me. It was the first time I was taught by and worked on a daily basis with priests and brothers. My friends were all people of faith. I got to see these religious people as real people in ordinary everyday circumstances.”

Kim now works at Nichols & Pratt, a private wealth management company in Boston. Her husband, Aziz (a-zeez), whose full name, Abdelaziz means ‘beloved of God’, was a high school Chemistry and Physics teacher in Morocco. “What a beautiful name,” I said, enjoying how her simple explanation of the meaning of people’s names invited me closer. “I could not do what I do without the great support of my husband.”

When the public schools in Morocco changed the language in which classes were instructed to classical Arabic, Aziz, whose education had been delivered entirely in French, decided he needed a change. He took a sabbatical, visiting friends in the Boston area. A mutual friend, Said (sigh-eed), introduced Kim to Aziz, commenting at a gathering, “This is the girl I told you about.” Kim was so impressed with his solicitous, respectful and peaceful nature that they soon began dating. “His personality was so kind and gentle,” she shared.

When Aziz moved from Morocco to the states and became a U.S. citizen, he had the opportunity to change his name, but declined with her encouragement. “It was the name his mother gave him and the meaning of his name meant so much. He is Aziz, not a Kevin or a John. That’s who he is. To change that didn’t feel right. I felt he should be proud of his name.”

“Were your parents uneasy at all about you dating a Muslim?” I asked. “Initially, I was anxious about introducing him to my family,” Kim shared, “but as they got to know him they were happy I had found someone so special and could see how in love we were. Aziz grew up in a progressive and very integrated community in Morocco. It was a natural part of their lives to interact with people of other faiths and cultures.” Here’s a ‘Fun Fact’,” Kim offered like an enthusiastic teacher, “Muslims have a profound respect for the ‘people of the Book’, i.e. Jews, Catholics. Muslims pray five times a day, turning their attention to God. What a wonderful way to center yourself. Muslims also revere Mary. They believe that Jesus was an important prophet and His mother Mary has a special place in their faith.”

Kim and Aziz were always curious about each other’s faith, having many interesting conversations. “We would say, ‘Tell me what you believe? How do you see this? or What does your faith say about that?’ As they got to know each other, they found more similarities than

differences which gave them comfort in making the choice to spend their lives together.



The Latifi family apple picking. (L-R) Aziz, Kim, Zak and Anissa.

They were married by Deacon Marty Breinlinger after marriage prep with Father Haley. On their wedding day they had a service at St. Mary's attended by Aziz's mother, Kim's family and many of their Muslim friends.

"In the Muslim culture, hospitality is VERY important. When you are invited to dine at someone's home, you should accept the invitation and go, so as not to offend anyone. There is always a friendly offer of friendship and help in the Muslim community for whomever needs it." To that end, early in their marriage, at different times, they welcomed two men and two women to stay with them; helping them to learn English, get their driving license, find a job and housing. "It was great for our kids to get to know different people and understand the importance of compassion."

Kim and Aziz were blessed with two children, Anissa and Zakaria (Zak). When Anissa was born, they made the decision to expose their children to both faiths. They share some of the Muslim celebrations with other Moroccan families in the area.

Kim always took her kids to Mass each weekend. "In fact," she went on, "young Zak would not leave St. Mary's until he went up to see the statue of Mary after Mass. My kids attended Religious Education, but still did not 'get it' until they saw faith in action on the mission trips. Going into these terribly poor neighborhoods and being in a home where 8 people shared two bedrooms, the kids saw first hand the poverty, but also the faithful, hopeful spirit of the community. They saw God working through these people, commenting, 'I met Jesus there'. We need to not be misled by appearances. Whether rich or poor, messy or put together, everyone is just doing the best they can."

Kim has chaperoned eight mission trips and continues to be involved. "It is the most amazing thing when you take kids out of their comfort zone, and away from technology. This new diverse group of teens becomes a family for the week. Transformation happens and lifetime friendships develop. They get close to people they normally would not have spoken to."



Kim's "teens" on the Mission Trip.

"Recognizing Jesus in those they served and in each other was the big lesson they all came away with. I believe God chose me for this ministry. I pray those teens always know how loved they are. There is so much anxiety, hopelessness and need among our teens. I love them like my own, not because I have to, but because they are each wonderful and unique. And I am a hugger! When I spend time with the teens, I need to trust that God will help me to give them what they need in that moment. I use humor to connect with as many kids as I can, especially those who are struggling. If they give me just a little," she smiled squeezing two fingers together, "then I'm in! And they can't get rid of me!"

Now 19 and 23, her own kids have celebrated the sacraments, and have been active in the mission trips and EPIC. Anissa graduated from Providence College which nurtured and deepened her faith so much that she is now completing her masters degree in Social Work. Her heart was sensitized to many social issues over four mission trips, so that when she took a social work class at college, she recognized her calling.

One of the things the mission group brought back to St. Mary's was the practice of having greeters at the doors at Mass. Kim went on, "I cannot tell you how many people I have gotten to know just by saying hello and seeing them each week. There is so much healing to be had when we just smile and say hello. You may say something I need to hear and I may say something you need to hear. It all starts with a smile. No matter where I am, I can be a reflection of God's love. He is going to do His work through me. I just have to show up and be engaged."

I was curious how it was for her and her family during the days after 9/11. "That experience was devastating to Aziz. He became very disillusioned that there were

Muslims who could do something so contrary to the teachings of Islam. I did not know how to help him or protect him.” Kim recalled with a far away sadness on her face. “Suddenly, because of outward appearance and his name, he was assumed to be a terrorist.” She told me a heart breaking story of Aziz going to a store he had visited many times and as he approached, the shopkeeper quickly locked the door and yelled at him to get away, shouting that he was a terrorist. He became fearful of taking his own children out and perhaps unwittingly putting them in danger.” “I’m sorry that happened to him. It was a crazy time,” I followed up, “We were all so afraid, fearing that nothing and no one was safe.”

“How did your faith help you at that time?” I asked. “It helped us to remember that God is good and that He would bring some goodness out of this. The call to prayer for Muslims is ‘Allahu Akbar’ (a-la-who-ack-bar) which means ‘God is most great’ in Arabic. For both of us, believing that God was bigger than anything that happened kept both of us grounded.” I am very passionate about the immigration issue. I believe to whom much is given, much is expected. By the grace of God, we were born here and we have to help those who were not. We need to see beyond skin color or unusual names and see the person.” “I listen to a radio station that plays contemporary Christian music, because it so often speaks to my heart. One day I heard a song by Jason Gray that contains this lyric:

*God put a million, million doors in the world
For his love to walk through
One of those doors is you
With Every Act of Love from the album Love Will Have the Final Word*

“Isn’t that beautiful? I want to be that door to as many people as possible. I am passionate about faith and being a window of love.” Kim is an amazing, passionate woman of faith, who just exudes compassion and love of all. I told her she would make a great motivational speaker and do hope you all have the chance to meet her at Mass. I am grateful for this chance to walk with her, to gain some understanding and to be inspired.

Thank you for sharing another year of Cross Walks with me. I hope over the summer, you will reach out a hand in friendship along the way to a stranger and share your own stories. See you in the Fall!

Walking in His name, Cathy



St. Mary’s Parish Middle School Youth Group Open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders for Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun.



Good Luck MSYG 8th Graders!





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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



RECENT MSYG EVENTS

Thursday, May 16 – Prom Night: Nineteen MSYG 6th Graders spent this evening acting as escorts for the elderly at St. Patrick Manor's "Prom Night." They assisted the residents by getting them food and beverages, dancing with them to the live band, and just generally brightening the evening by their youthful joy and exuberance. As one resident put it, "*St. Mary's kids were the life of the party!*" (Photos this page).

Sunday, May 19 – End of Year Closing Ceremonies & Pot Luck Supper: Two hundred seventy people packed Father Haley Hall as our MSYG members' parents joined their teens for this night of good food and friendship. 6th and 7th Grade families provided a huge variety of entrees and desserts, while the 8th Graders were the special guests. Thirty-five 8th Graders were honored as they moved on from Middle School Youth Group to High School (photo bottom of previous page). Each received a beautiful Daily Scripture & Prayer Book for Teens. Father Mark led the 8th Grade parents in a special blessing of all those going forth. Everyone enjoyed a video of all this year's Youth Group activities, and prizes were awarded to Middle School Youth Group members for exhibiting exceptional dedication to Youth Group and great generosity through their involvement in MSYG service. Thanks everyone for a great 12th year of MSYG!

UPCOMING MSYG EVENTS

- Sunday, June 23 – Monday, June 24 ~
Kennebec River Rafting, ME
- Tuesday, July 30 ~
Brownstone Quarry Park, CT
- Friday, August 16 ~
Deerfield River Rafting, MA



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * June, 2019

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

Contact: Charlie Paradie, Scoutmaster
617.697.8200

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

NEW SCOUTS JOIN TROOP 14: Troop 14 welcomes ten new Scouts into the Troop this past month, significantly increasing the membership of the Troop to 40 Scouts. They have been working hard to earn the Scout Rank for the June Court of Honor and a couple have already been on their first campout with the Troop. The new Scouts crossed-over into the Troop from Holliston Pack 2 and Pack 47. Welcome aboard!

BOSTON HARBOR ISLAND CAMPOUT: On May 18 & 19, Troop 14 with 21 Scouts and Leaders boarded a Lobster boat in South Boston and with an Off-Season Camping Permit in hand, set out to Bumpkin Island, one of the Boston Harbor Islands. Arriving, we unloaded our gear, food and water for the weekend and the boat left to return back to the mainland. The Troop setup camp at the highest point on the Island (70' above sea level) near the ruins of a Hospital for Crippled Children, built in the early 1900's by philanthropist Albert C. Burrage. The Scouts then set out to explore the 62-acre island paths through woods and small fields, as well as the remains of the hospital and an old stone farmhouse. We thought we were the only occupants on the island until we spotted a herd of deer, that later was seen swimming back to the mainland to Hull. That evening we had a bonfire on the beach as the sun set over Boston off in the distance. (Photos below)

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: Over 85 Scouts and Leaders from the three Scout Troops in town (including 35 from Troop 14) marched in the Holliston Memorial Day Parade on May 27th to remember and honor our fallen service men and women who fought for our freedoms in this great country of ours.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Annual end of year Troop Cookout and Court of Honor on June 10.
- Bike trip on Nantucket in June.
- Summer Camp at Camp Squanto in July.
- August High Adventure – Hiking Mt. Katahdin, the Knife Edge & a portion of the 100-mile Wilderness.



St. Mary's EPIC

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN CHRIST

June 16 (Father's Day)

Final EPIC Meeting of the Year
FHH: 7:30 – 8:45 PM ~ \$5 Dues
(Teens should attend 5 meetings
before going on the Mission Trip)

June 30

BBQ Potluck for Mission Trip
Participants and their Families
in FHH Following 11:30 AM Mass

July 7

Drawing winners of
Mission Trip Raffle

St. Mary's High School Youth Group



Last month, St. Mary's youth minister Jake Thiringer received his Catechetical Certificate through the Theological Institute for the New Evangelization at St. John's Seminary. The Catechetical Certificate is a yearlong course of study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church with classes on the Creed, Sacraments, Moral Life, and Prayer, with an emphasis on how we further the work of the New Evangelization. Jake is thankful for the opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith, and is excited to share all he learned with the teens of the St. Mary's Community.



Andrew John G. Rondelli Welcome!

I am delighted to join Saint Mary's Parish for the summer! Having completed my first two years of philosophy at Saint John's Seminary in Brighton, I am studying for the Holy Priesthood of Jesus Christ for the Archdiocese of Boston. The eldest of three children to my faith-filled parents who live in Middleboro, near Plymouth, I have studied theology and music at Providence College (2014 graduate), worked in retail and in Catholic churches as a musician, and never traveled outside of America yet (though hope to in the future). You have a beautiful church, welcoming staff, and a loving pastor in Father Mark, and I am sure that I can learn much from you all in my eight-week assignment at Saint Mary's. I am a walker and you may see me on the walking path in Holliston. Thank you for welcoming me and please pray for me as I pray for you!

What are some of the factors that led to your decision to enter the seminary and discern the question of a vocation to the priesthood? Ever since I was very young, I considered the call to the holy priesthood. I attribute this to my family, who raised me Catholic, with a love for Holy Mother Church. My mother in particular stressed that my siblings and I pray about our vocation, and that we be open to whatever God calls us to, whether the holy priesthood (for my brother and me), the consecrated life, or holy matrimony. The reception of the sacraments were a regular part of our upbringing, as was the daily Rosary, which we prayed together as a family, typically before sleep. After graduating from Providence College, I participated in a couple Catholic liturgical conferences, e.g., Sacra Liturgia USA 2015 in New York City. These conferences prompted my interest in learning more about the Sacred Liturgies of the Catholic Church and profoundly expanded my spiritual growth. Partaking in Ignatian retreats in Allentown, New Jersey further aided in my development as a mature Catholic man. Through this retreat I met two of my very closest friends today. These two strong Catholic friends, along with my Catholic friend from Nigeria who befriended me in graduate school at Providence College, were especially influential in my decision to enter the seminary. Having devoted, rooted Catholics in my life has been essential to my discernment of the priestly vocation.

Who are some of the people who influenced your decision to enter the seminary? From within my own family, my parents first instilled in me a positive association with the holy priesthood by bringing me to Holy Mass while I was a mere infant, only a week out of the womb, and onward. My godmother, who sadly died in September of 2013, encouraged me often to think about the priesthood by speaking often about the beauty of this supernatural vocation and praying for me, letting me know every so often that she was praying for me. Another departed lady in her fifties, Elizabeth Thomas, in the midst of her fight with terminal cancer challenged me to take seriously the possibility that the holy priesthood was my calling. In my early youth, my associations with the priests of my parish were quite friendly. This was indispensable to fostering in me a love for the priestly life. In my adolescent and young adult years, after many of those priests had died, I was blessed to know Father Kevin Cook, of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, then chaplain at Coyle and Cassidy High School. Other priests who have influenced me to enter the seminary are Father Donald Clifford, Father Mark Derrane, Father Thomas Bouton, Father Jason Worthley, and Father Kwang Lee, all priests devoted to Christ and His Church and who have served the South Shore.

What do you like most about being a seminarian? I am so thankful to God for leading me to Saint John's Seminary. After two years at Saint John's Seminary, I have become well acquainted with many men who seriously are considering the life of the holy priesthood. Amongst these men I have made quite close friendships in a very short time, given that we spend our time together praying, studying, and eating. My particular class at Saint John's Seminary is composed of young Catholic men who, while each unique and distinctive, are united in their love for Christ, His Mother the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Holy Mother Church. In addition, one of the priests I have come to know through entering Saint John's Seminary is one of the holiest men I have ever met.

What are some of your hobbies or pastimes? Before I entered the seminary, I was an organist for three Catholic parishes in southeastern Massachusetts. During my breaks and holidays away from Saint John's Seminary, I often return to these parishes and play the organ for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Working on a challenging transcription of a classical work such as a string quartet for organ or piano is laborious but worth every moment of time and concentration. I also keep in contact with my dear friends as best I can, which often means going for a walk with a friend or speaking over the phone with an out-of-state friend. While only a novice cook, my parents have instilled in me an interest for the culinary arts. I also enjoy the occasional movie, especially from the Hays Code era, and I am becoming aware of the great value derived from private prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and habitual spiritual reading.

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES JUNE 2019

got faith?



“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES: *Rediscover Catholicism: A Spiritual Guide to Living with Passion and Purpose* by Matthew Kelly is this month’s recommended book. Matthew Kelly, a business consultant and internationally acclaimed speaker, encourages us to see the genius of Catholicism. He writes that Catholicism is a dynamic lifestyle; its goal is for each of us to be the best version of him/herself, the person that God created us to be. This goal is also called holiness and it is achieved, according to Kelly, through the discipline of seven habits that he calls the Pillars of Catholic Spirituality. You can find this inspiring book in our parish library, at www.dynamiccatholic.com or at your regular online booksellers.

ORDINARY TIME AND THE SUNDAY READINGS: Ordinary Time begins again right after the celebration of Pentecost Sunday, June 9. We celebrate two important Solemnities at the opening of this season, the Holy Trinity (June 16) and the Body and Blood of Christ (June 23). We then start with the numbered weeks (Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time on June 30) and go up to Thirty-three, before celebrating the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 24. The Sunday gospel readings of the next several weeks include ones we probably remember from years past: the miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fishes on June 23, the parable of the Good Samaritan on July 14, Jesus’ teaching of the Our Father on July 28. Let’s try to approach these tried and true stories with a new ear; perhaps we will hear something new! You can prepare for each Sunday’s readings at <http://www.liturgy.slu.edu/>.

YOUTH and YOUNG ADULTS: Pope Francis released his post-synodal exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God on the Feast of the Annunciation this year; it is called *Christus Vivit or Christ is Alive!* In this exhortation, Pope Francis calls all young people to know three things: God loves you, Christ saves you and Christ is alive! He tells young people that “becoming a saint means becoming more fully yourself, becoming what the Lord wished to dream and create, and not a photocopy” (162). He tells all of us, young and old alike, that “growth in maturity can coexist with a fire constantly rekindled, with a heart ever young” (160). To read the exhortation, go to <https://bit.ly/2WHYm8a>. At the end of the document, you will find the table of contents, should you wish to direct your reading.

SAINTS: The months of June and July give us many saints to consider as role models in faith. They include Charles Lwanga and companions (June 3), Anthony of Padua (June 13), Irenaeus (June 28), Elizabeth of Portugal (July 4), Bonaventure (July 15), and Mary Magdalene (July 22). You can read about each of these saints and many others at the Franciscan Media Saint of the Day site (<https://bit.ly/2dcFuYF>) or at Catholic Online (<https://www.catholic.org/saints/>).

CREATION CARE TEAM: Earlier this year, the Creation Care Team hosted a showing of the film, *A Plastic Ocean*. In the bulletin over the past few weeks, the Team offered several recommendations on how to care for the environment, the first set of which was from the Plastic Oceans website, <https://plasticoceans.org/>. To see the recommendations, scroll down to the short video about the nine ways you can help reduce plastic pollution.

PATRIOTISM: We celebrate the birth of our nation on July 4 every year. Here are some articles and a song that shed some Catholic light on the issue of patriotism here in our country. The Philadelphia archdiocesan website, <https://bit.ly/2w8llwJ>, has a short 2018 article on patriotism which has links to longer articles on the Catholic News Service. The Diocese of St. Paul has a brief 2015 article on its website at <https://bit.ly/2LTSdVz>. Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego wrote a 2017 article for *America Magazine* on the Catholic response to the rise of nationalism; see it at <https://bit.ly/2waWIAI>. Finally, there is a beautiful YouTube video of the hymn *This Is My Song* at <https://bit.ly/2HsQOB7>.

--Leo Racine