



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

*June Newsletter 2023*

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01746  
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*Shanna Jackman*



Singer-Songwriter of the  
hit Military tribute song  
"We've Got Your Back"

**SHANNA JACKMAN TO  
PERFORM AT ST. MARY'S  
FAMILY BBQ,  
SATURDAY, JUNE 24!**

Based in Massachusetts, Shanna is an award winning singer-songwriter and powerhouse entertainer, who entered the country music scene back in 2009 and has been featured with many national recording artists since including Blake Shelton, Sara Evans, Gretchen Wilson, and many others. She has performed for the Boston Bruins since 2009 and is sought after by many in the Military community.

Shanna's style is centered in country, but with roots in rock, pop and soul. Her first Nashville recorded EP in 2013, includes original songs that take a personal look into her life and experiences. Her single 'Answer the Call' has streamed over 1 million times on Spotify and iTunes and has over 3 million views on YouTube.

In 2020, Shanna went back in the studio writing for a more faith inspired project. Recording in the Rosewood Studios in Tyler, Texas, she released 3 new songs in 2021 (Amen to That, God Fearin' Woman and Control). Listen to Shanna at <https://shannajackman.com/home!>



**THE FAMILY BBQ IS COMING:** St. Mary's Family Barbecue is Saturday, June 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in Father Haley Hall. Join us as Tennessee BBQ fires up the grill for BBQ chicken, pulled pork, cheeseburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, corn on the cob and much more. Bring the kids and experience a fun filled evening of good food, friendship and live country music featuring Shanna Jackman! Come meet your neighbors!

Tickets: \$7 for kids 12 and under, \$10 for adults. Tickets go on sale after all Masses the weekend of June 10/11, and 17/18, and may also be purchased through the Religious Education Office (508-429-6076) starting June 5.

There are no tickets at the door.



# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

June, 2023 ~ Volume 49, Number 5

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!"

## BRING FLOWERS OF THE FAIREST!

God gave us a cool, sunny morning for the Annual Crowning of Mary Celebration. On May 7 the 11:30 AM Mass concluded with all singing Hail Holy Queen and processing outdoors to the statue of Mary facing Washington Street. It is a Catholic tradition to honor Mary, our Heavenly Mother, during the month of May by placing on her statue a crown of flowers to signify her honor as Queen of Heaven and Earth. The May Crowning gives the faithful, but children in particular, an opportunity to especially honor the Blessed Mother of Jesus, and to give thanks to her for bringing our Savior into the world.

Mary was crowned by 5<sup>th</sup> Grader Annabel Schroder, assisted by Court Members Madeline Cavalier, Shaughnna Nicholas, and Jaeggar-James Nicholas. The following children were part of the "Living Rosary," holding up a candle as all prayed a decade of this beautiful prayer: Ethan Browne, William Miles, Kesia Kipp, Macy Hupfer, John Gebski, Lindsay Hayes, Cecilia Mott, Melanie Flynn, Natalie Harrahy and Hope MacEvoy. Holy Mary, pray for us!







**Front Row Left to Right:**

Amelia Bonarrigo ~ University of MA, Amherst  
 Allie Harrahy ~ St. Anselm College  
 Gannon MacLachlan ~ University of Oregon  
 Andrew Denison ~ Anna Maria College  
 TJ Kiley ~ Westfield State University  
 Josie Quinn ~ Xavier University  
 Maeve Garvey ~ Villanova University  
 Ava Tobin ~ Northeastern University  
 Dayanara Castro ~ City College of New York

**Middle Row Left to Right:**

John Liro ~ University of MA, Lowell  
 Jake Hermann ~ Clarkson University  
 Owen Simpson ~ Villanova University  
 Caroline Brady ~ Fairfield University  
 Abby Winchenbach ~ Bentley University  
 Emily Falcao ~ University of MA, Amherst  
 Sienna Robie ~ St. Lawrence University  
 Ella Kuchman ~ St. Lawrence University  
 Ella Bosselman ~ University of MA, Amherst

**Back Row Left to Right:**

Eddie Bombardieri ~ Washington & Lee University  
 Matthew Hunt ~ Merrimack College  
 Kaden Dumas ~ University of New Hampshire  
 Sean Anderson ~ St. Anselm College  
 Luke Frauton ~ Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
 Owen Bulmer ~ University of Maine  
 Colin Kerr ~ University of Delaware  
 Stephen Corrou Jr. ~ Northeastern University  
 Nicholas Larche ~ Pennsylvania State University





## St. Mary's 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2023 took place at 11:30 AM on Sunday, May 14 – the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. A photo of our participating parish graduates with the names of the colleges they plan to attend is provided on the previous page.

Shown above from left to right, graduates from several different schools took on ministry roles at the celebration: Owen Simpson (Holliston High School), offered the First Scripture Reading; Amelia Bonarrigo (Medway High School), led the Responsorial Psalm; Nick Larche (Holliston High School), offered the Second Scripture Reading; and Eddie Bombardieri (St. John's High School), led the Prayers of the Faithful. Senior Altar Servers Stephen Corrou Jr. (Xaverian Brothers High School); and John Liro (Holliston High School), served the Mass. As always, it was beautiful to see students from different schools all united by their shared parish and Catholic faith.

This year's Class Speaker was Josie Quinn (Holliston High School), whose talk is included in this Newsletter. [Photo Left]. Fr. Mark spoke to the graduates about Mother's Day, and that the greatest gift they can give their parents is by "honoring" them by the way they live, especially when they are soon living away from home. He encouraged the Class to stand out at college by the way they love, worship, pray, forgive, and witness the love, peace and purpose that come from living in Christ. A reception followed in Fr. Haley Hall. [Photos next page].

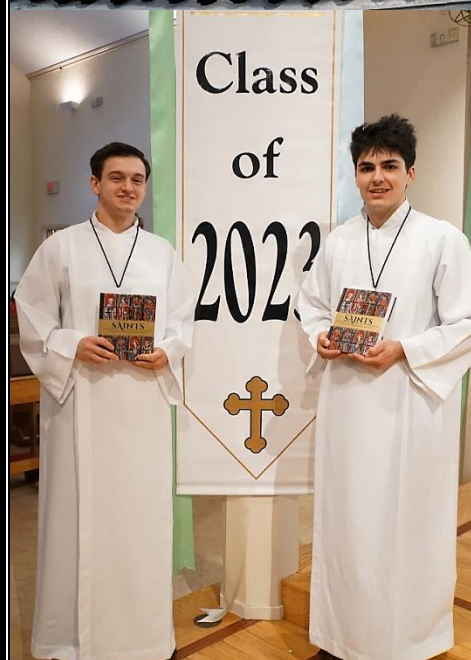
## Blessed Mother Scholarship

This scholarship is given each year to a graduating high school senior "*in recognition of exceptional service to the St. Mary's Parish Family.*" St. Mary's is blessed by many teens who enrich our common parish life, and in giving this scholarship, it is the intention of St. Mary's to honor all their contributions.

This year, the Scholarship Committee chose Josie Quinn to receive this \$2,000 gift. Josie has been active as an altar server, Middle and High School Youth Group leader, Vacation Bible School Volunteer, Mission Trip participant, and has also taught a First Grade Religious Education Class for the past two years. Josie will be attending Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She will be double majoring in Elementary Education and Speech Pathology. Congratulations!

## Senior Altar Server Scholarships

Both St. Mary's Altar Servers since the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Stephen Corrou Jr. and John Liro received Scholarships to help with purchasing books for college. We thank them for their faithful and reverent service at the Altar of the Lord and congratulate them on their achievement! [Photo bottom left].









# Class of 2023 Speaker

Good morning everyone! My name is Josie Quinn - and I have been so blessed to be a part of the class of 2023 at Holliston High School this year! I would like to start out by congratulating the other graduates gathered here today. We attend a number of different schools, but we share one faith, and one Parish Family.

I want to thank St. Mary's for being such a huge part of my life these past four years. Specifically, I want to recognize Father Mark, Deacon John, Theresa Virzi, and Fran Crespi for truly making an impact on my faith and experience here in the Parish. I know I speak for a lot of us when I say we have learned so much from each and every one of them. I would not be who I am today if it wasn't for their patience, guidance and support.



Today's Mass is in celebration of all we have accomplished to get us to this point. As we head off on our own paths and go our separate ways, everything will change. One thing will remain constant though - our faith. In today's Gospel Jesus preaches that in times of hardship and trouble we should look to Him for guidance.

He says, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." This means that we can look to our faith during the changing seasons in our lives. We can replace our worry with concern for others. We can play a part in growing God's Kingdom - even in times of change and uncertainty.

I know I am not the only graduate here today that can say they are scared, sad, and unsure when it comes to moving on from home. I truly love everything about my life in Holliston the way it's been this year it feels as though I could almost live like this forever. There have been days where all I think about is being able to go back and do it all one more time. Not only are my favorite people in this town, but the experiences I've had and lessons I've been taught are all rooted here.

I am so extremely blessed and grateful for all of these things and I think that's what makes leaving so hard. At the beginning of this year, I saw the rest of my life very clearly and leaving didn't seem so bad. But now I know why people say things change as you grow up, and I really never knew what it meant until I saw it. I had everything planned and when I saw it all change it was humbling to say the least. Seeing people ready to move on while I felt stuck is not something I was prepared for and it has left me in a strange place, where I don't quite know where to go.

Through this, I've now been able to recognize that my relationship with Christ and the support of St. Mary's has been the biggest blessing in this changing and scary but also very exciting time in my life. Whether it be chatting with Theresa when I run in to her, or drawing on the chalkboard with my first-grade CCD students on a Sunday morning, it is easy to say my experiences at St. Mary's have been the biggest influence on my relationship with Christ.

I would like to share just a small word of what Jesus revealed to me in my time in our Parish, in hopes it can encourage my classmates in their faith as their new lives begin. And that word is this. God knows and sees your trials. He understands. He is not up there to watch you run around and try to figure out this world He's thrown you into. He's there to guide you. He has a plan far greater than anything we can imagine. And if you ask, God will show you the way He has prepared for you. If you trust Him, and invite Him to walk with you, then you will see life in its purest and most beautiful form.



I hope this can encourage all of you getting ready to leave High School behind. We are heading off into one of the most exciting chapters in our lives. Each of us has a new beginning and amazing opportunities ahead. I pray you will find comfort in Jesus' promise never to abandon you - but to be with you faithfully wherever you may go.

As we the class of 2023 get ready to go on to the next chapter, let us remember that Jesus is there for us in times like this. And that no matter where life takes us the next few years, He continues to remain in us, and we in Him ...

I wish everyone the best of luck in their futures.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us all!

On behalf of the St. Mary's Class of 2023, thank you and God bless!





# ST. MARY'S 2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Blast off for a STELLAR week of Faith, Friendship and Fun at VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**MONDAY, JULY 24 – FRIDAY, JULY 28.**



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for children in Grades K-6! Adult and Teen volunteers are needed! Forms may be found in the Religious Education Office Lobby or online at: <https://stmarysholliston.com/vacation-bible-school/>. For additional information, please email the VBS Team at [st.marysVBSolliston@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysVBSolliston@gmail.com).

**The deadline to register your child is Friday, June 9, 2023!**

**Experiencing God's Word!**

At Stellar, one memorable Bible Point is reinforced throughout each station, each day - making it easy to apply light years after VBS is over. At Stellar VBS, kids launch into rotations that reinforce relevant Bible Points and immerse kids in new adventures.

Begin your space odyssey by preparing for the day's adventure by singing fun songs and meeting fun Bible Memory Buddies! Then move on to experience each Bible story with all of your five senses. After a Bible story, dig into surprising and authentic discoveries at Imagination Station. Release your energy at the All-Star Games and feed your hunger with Galactic Snacks. Let's cool down and watch a movie at KidVid Cinema and complete your day with a Cosmic BLAST Closing!







## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

About three times a week, I take my dog Crispin and his best friend Charlie hiking on the Charles River Trails. At a certain point, the trail is covered by a wooden slatted "bridge." This is because sometimes that area becomes flooded with rainwater, especially in the spring. Frogs spawn in it, and the water becomes home to tadpoles.



Unfortunately, as the water dries up there is less and less room for the tadpoles. They become confined and crowded into just a few small puddles, all squirming together in an almost solid mass. When the last puddles dry out, the tadpoles all die.

Or at least most of them do. Because each spring when I see this happening, I take my plastic dog treat bag out of my pocket, empty it, and scoop up tadpoles and water from the jammed puddles. I then carry them a bit farther up the trail and release them into a permanent water pool connected to a stream.

Why bother? I think it's because my parents instilled in me a reverence for all life. When we found a spider or other creepy crawly in our house, for instance, my siblings and I were taught to capture it and carry it outside. This simple lesson had a lasting impact on me, one that goes beyond tadpoles to life in all its beautiful and varied forms.

Life is a gift that we humans cannot bestow where we please. And never should we then take a gift beyond our power to give. Hopefully our respect for life will go beyond doing no harm, to actively preserving life where we see it vulnerable and threatened. In doing so we honor God's Creation and fulfill our role as stewards of the world He has made. Trapped tadpoles are just a symbol and a start.

God bless you!



## REGISTER FOR FALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BY FRIDAY, JUNE 30 ~

The deadline to register your child / children for Religious Education Classes in Fall of 2023 is

**Friday, June 30, 2023.**

Class time choices are on a first come first served basis. Be sure to get your preferred time and day by registering on time.

The Registration Form is available on the St. Mary's Website: <https://stmarysholliston.com/> under Register / Parish Forms on the main page. Forms should be accompanied by full payment made out to St. Mary's Parish. Scholarships or payment plans are available.

Our Program is open to families with children entering Pre-K through Grade 10. Registrations have been mailed to current students. If you are new to Holliston and want to register your children please contact us at 508-429-6076 or at [st.marysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com). Welcome!

## BEIT SAHOUR RAFFLE WINNER ~

Congratulations to parishioner Carol Salvi, winner of our Beit Sahour School Raffle. Carol won a Bose Smart Soundbar 600 with Dolby Atmos. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraising effort to purchase an Interactive Projector and Smartboard

Epson 695 WI for classroom use at our Sister Parish's School in Palestine. Thank you also to St. Mary's Members of the Equestrian Order who donated the raffle prize. The kids are thrilled!







# Welcome to God's Church!

St. Mary's rejoices to receive these thirty-six little ones newly Baptized into Christ. In this beautiful sacrament one is immersed into the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. In the waters of Baptism original sin is washed from the soul, as we are reborn in the Lord. To be baptized is to be adopted by God as His very own child, and to receive the promise of eternal life.

Baptism is the foundational sacrament by which one becomes a Christian, and is the first step of initiation into the Catholic faith. One becomes a full member of the Church by receiving Baptism, First Holy Communion, and finally Confirmation. To be part of the Church is to be part of Christ's Living Body, sharing in the mission of proclaiming His Gospel to the world.

\* Babies in photo above.

Delaney Marian Lohan

Winifred Kate Ela

Colton Ryder Stok

Lucia Elizabeth Leonard

Benjamin George Leonard

Thomas Edward Reeves

Cody Bernard Robshaw

Hudson Douglas LaPia

Amara Mia Balarezo

Lillian Cecile Hess

Charlotte Mary Christman

Callie Lynn Jonasson

Callum Roy Gasner

Raphael Andrew Onak

Olivia Anne Ozzella

Noah Robert Kazan

Joseph Douglas Boucher

Lukas Bryan Mark

Emmett Elias Fleischer

Emma Catherine Chaisson

Nicholas James Gahan

Lucy Louise Haas

Piper Jean Dennison

Payton Taylor Burke

Claire Elizabeth Santucci

Robert John Perrault

Patrick John Bresnahan

Emmaline Aurelia Dahlstedt \*

Raphael George Courbon \*

Natalie Anne McLaughlin \*

Addison Mae Howard \*

Jacqueline Faith Mulhern \*

Colton Maxwell Kaas \*

Mona Elizabeth O'Donnell \*

Ciela Marie Pomarico

Jonah Isaiah Rodriguez





# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BINGO!

Recently a group of generous MSYG 8<sup>th</sup> Graders brought joy and fun to the residents of Timothy Daniel Nursing Home. They did this by hosting a BINGO for the residents on the afternoon of April 28. Each participant paid a small fee to take part, which was used to buy fun prizes for the winners. Prizes included plants, scratch cards, candy, cookies, guest towels, and window and door decorations. BINGO winners got to choose their own prize, with candy by far the most popular item. Our amazing teens each had an elderly BINGO partner who soon became a friend. A few repeat winners ended up with quite a pile of loot, but happily every single player won at least once. These photos say it all! Thank you as always to our parent chaperones, and also two High Schoolers (Danny Baribeau and Grace Burgett), who helped out.



## 2023 MSYG SUMMER CALENDAR

**Sunday, June 25 - Monday, June 26:** Kennebec River Rafting Trip.

**Thursday, July 20:** Brownstone Quarry.

**Friday, August 18:** Deerfield Whitewater Rafting Trip.





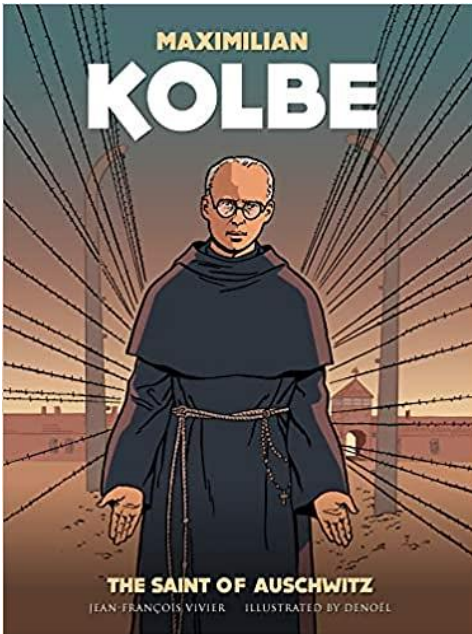


# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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



## MSYG END OF YEAR CLOSING CEREMONY & POTLUCK SUPPER



Middle School Youth Group Teens, moms and dads filled Fr. Haley Hall on May 7 for the Annual Potluck Supper and End of Year Ceremonies. The night began with grace and a delicious meal provided by the families. Next came a Prayer Service, with the Opening Prayer led by Ben Dufault. Fr. Mark offered a brief reflection on John 6:3-13, in which Andrew brings the boy with a few loaves and fishes to Jesus and a great miracle occurs. When we bring the gifts of our young people to the Lord, He blesses and magnifies them in all ways!

Next, awards of Movie Passes and Scripture Bracelets were given to teens who exhibited exceptional commitment and generous service as part of the Youth Group this year. They were: Kate McGovern, Aiden Kramer, Keira Brannigan, Scott Baribeau, Alex Cataldo, Chelsea Dufault, and William Hayes. Mrs. Sue Cote and Mrs. Amy Hunter were also recognized for their work organizing the MSYG paperwork and meeting snacks respectively.

Finally, all 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Members present were called forward by name and presented with a Graphic Novel of the Life of Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Just as Maximilian gave his life to save that of a fellow prisoner in Auschwitz, so Father encouraged the teens to live sacrificially as did Christ. By

putting the needs of others first, he said, they will discover real happiness and their best and truest selves as God's children. Each 8<sup>th</sup> Grader was also given a blessed St. Michael medal inscribed with these words from Psalm 91: "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." The 8<sup>th</sup> Graders then posed for a group photo (above), and received this blessing from Fr. Mark and their parents:



*Heavenly Father, we ask your grace upon these young people, as they go forth to High School.  
Bless them with wisdom, to make right choices. Bless them with courage, to stand up for what is right.  
Bless them with openness, to learn - and to grow into the people you created them and call them to be.  
Keep them safe from all danger; and preserve them as Your faithful followers – true witnesses of Your love in the world.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

The night ended with a movie of all this past year's events. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who made it possible!





# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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







## Troop 14 Holliston

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

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster  
508.579.4357

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.

**SERVICE PROJECT:** Troop 14 kicked off April by participating in a service project at the Holliston Sportsman's Association located on Bullard Street. The Troop assisted Association members with landscaping activities around their Trout Pond in preparation for the Association's annual Trout Fishing Derby. Scouts cut, raked, and blew debris from the pond surroundings to make it safe and accessible for the fishing derby participants.



**WELCOME NEW TROOP 14 SCOUTS!** Each spring, the Holliston Cub Scouts graduate Scouts, known by the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> year Webelos. Webelos that choose to continue into Boy Scouts visit Troops within town to determine the Boy Scout Troop with which they wish to continue their Scouting experience. Troop 14 is pleased to have welcomed fourteen new Scouts into our Troop in April. A big Troop 14 welcome to: Mark Bolshakov, Owen Brainerd, Nolan Burke, Henry Desmarais, Oliver Desmarais, Ronin Hedin, Garin Lyons, Calvin Marlar, Henry Marlar, Miles Marlar, Eli Peterson, Kameron Stepansky, Arthur Traverse, and Nick Valevski!

**LAFAYETTE CAMPOUT:** For the April campout, the Troop ventured North to the Lafayette Campground located next to Cannon Mountain in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The ten Scouts were able to practice their camping and cooking skills. Even with the spring thaw, Scouts were able to experience winter-like conditions as they hiked through snow along the 10-mile Mount Kinsman trail which included a 4000 foot summit. April showers concluded this campout as a front moved in during the hike descent and the rain stayed with them into their Sunday departure.



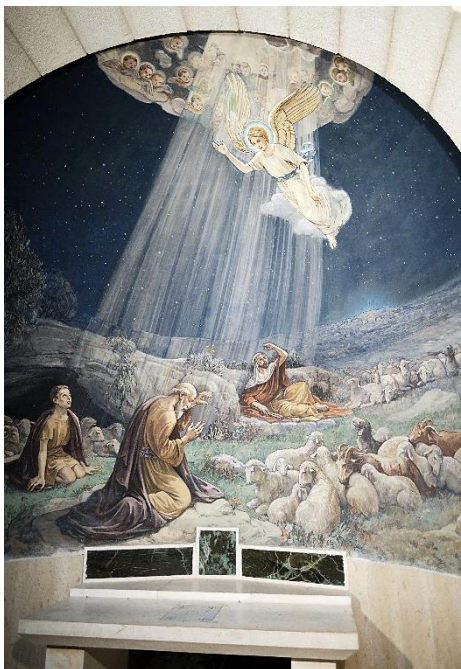




# Our Journey to the Holy Land

By Deacon John Barry, continued from the May Newsletter.

**Our Visit to Bethlehem:** “Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you, Who is Christ the Lord! And this will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” [Luke 2:11-12]. The church in the city of Bethlehem (translated in Hebrew as “House of Bread”), can only be entered through a doorway less than five feet in height (photo top left). Known as the “Door of Humility,” it compels pilgrims to bow before entering the birthplace of Our Lord. Just outside Bethlehem, we also visited Fr. Issa and the people of our Sister Parish, Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour. The name Beit Sahour means “House of the Night Watch,” and it was in this area that the shepherds were visited by the angels who announced the birth of the Savior. Our guide from 206 Tours, Rami Munayer, told us how the shepherds were considered unclean by the inhabitants of the city, having kept dogs in their company watching over the sheep. The lambs for the Passover sacrifice would be selected from those flocks and brought to Jerusalem in swaddling in order to protect them from blemish. It is significant that the angel of God came to these shepherds first and gave them the sign of an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, (Shepherd’s Field Chapel, photo left). Jesus came to the earth to offer the holiest of sacrifices for the simple and unclean.



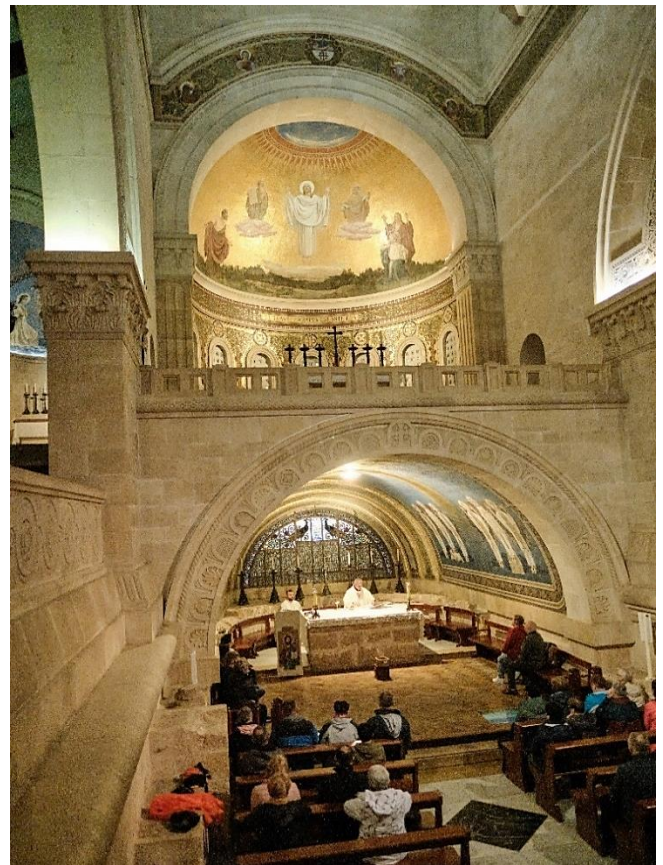
**Our Visit to Jerusalem:** “This is my blood of the New Covenant, shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.” [Matthew 26:28] The most difficult journey of the pilgrimage for me was the descent into Jerusalem. Leaving the Mount of Olives, we descended down a narrow winding path to the garden of Gethsemani, where Jesus knelt in anticipation of His Passion. We celebrated Mass in the Church of All Peoples, built directly over the rock in which He prayed. (Photos below). Surrounded by a grove of olive trees, one can get the sense of Our

Lord’s loneliness and trepidation, alone in that garden. The sorrow inside that church is real; the interior is dim, with dark purple hues, reminiscent of painful anticipation. But the color purple is also a symbol of nobility and power, and I thought about the passage in which Jesus spoke of His moment of glory; reminding us of the fruit His sacrifice would yield: “And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” [John 12:27-28].





Nothing of value comes without cost. Every cross we carry, every sorrow we hold, God shares with us in the price of His Son. Every church we enter, every Communion we share, brings us to the doorway of heaven's glory. Each of us, whether here or in the Holy Land, are pilgrims on a journey of faith. When we bend into our suffering we don't enter it alone; we have with us a God who has experienced it all. By His example we can raise our hearts to the joy He holds for us on the other side. Before we arrived in Jerusalem, we had ascended to top of Mount Tabor, where the church of the Transfiguration is located (photos right). During our celebration of the Eucharist there, Fr. Mark delivered a homily that captured the spirit of our journey. He spoke about Jesus as the door that links heaven and earth together [John 10:9-16]. On that mountain Jesus became the door that Elijah and Moses reentered in conversation of His Paschal sacrifice. On that mountain Jesus became the door which the Father peers through; beckoning His beloved children to enter into His joy. Whatever the reason we pass through this Door, we can be assured of one great truth: Jesus provides an opening for us. Not simply an opening into a church, but an opening into a whole new way of living.



## Fidelity Month

By Deacon John Barry

As a natural complement to the Catholic Church's dedication of June

to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dr. Robert George of Princeton University is organizing an effort to establish June as national Fidelity Month. Fidelity Month is an invitation to embrace a virtue; a positive movement intended to call all Americans back to our founding principles. It is a movement intended to heal the deep divisions within our country today, and a way to unite us again in a common purpose. Fidelity Month will be formally initiated with an online symposium/webinar slated for June 1. It will feature Dr. George, Harvard University's Dr. Jacqueline Rivers, Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik and others. A Facebook page has been established where the meaning and intention of Fidelity Month can be further articulated. Material and resources can be found there, such as details on the webinar and links to articles and activities related to the movement. The link to that page is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/950965989274228>. Anyone interested in the movement is invited to join the Facebook page. A website for the movement will be available soon.

Dr. George, a prominent Catholic figure of the pro-life movement who recently received the prestigious Evangelium Vitae Medal by the University of Notre Dame, would like this movement to operate as much as possible under the principle of subsidiarity: a grass-roots effort to engage the energy and creativity of various groups and regions across the country. "Fidelity Month is not just Catholic," he said. "It's for everyone who is interested in restoring the importance of being faithful to God, our spouses and families, and our communities and country." Dr. George and his colleague Deacon Michael Forrest engaged the professional assistance of our own Deacon John Barry, a graphic designer and founder of Top Dog Design Studio in Millis, to create the visual identity and branding for the Fidelity Month movement. The mark features the word "Fidelity" embraced by a golden myrtle wreath on a blue field. Its symbolism is representative of divine purpose, achievement, wisdom and truth. A website for the movement will be available soon at <http://fidelitymonth.com/>.



# Knights of Columbus



St. Mary's Council #14224 June, 2023

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



**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2023:** The Council welcomes new member Jerome Deise (photo left). For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR [ajscaramella@comcast.net](mailto:ajscaramella@comcast.net) OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html>. Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men.

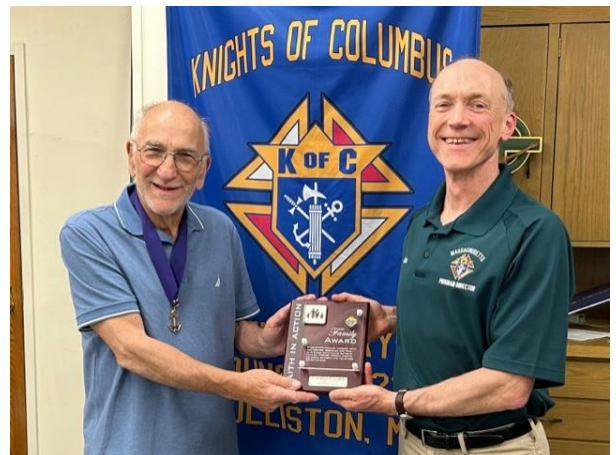
**MONTHLY ROSARY:** The next Rosary will be Wednesday, June 21 in the church at 7:00 PM. This praying of the Glorious Mysteries is open to all parishioners. As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer."

**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE:** The Council Knights have raffle tickets to sell for your lucky chance to win the \$1000 first prize while benefiting needy local charities. One ticket costs \$5 and a book of five tickets costs \$20. Ask a Knight to purchase tickets. Also note these local opportunities to buy tickets: June 2 & 3 at Shaw's in Ashland; June 23 & 24 at Shaw's in Medway. Ask any Knight to purchase tickets or send a check to: Tom Anguish at 542 Winter Street 01746. The Council's annual raffle has now donated over \$280,000 to disabled veteran's charities, local food pantries, the Holliston Senior Center, Autism research, and other very worthy non-profit organizations. Thanks for your past support and we pray you will participate this year.

**COUNCIL SHARES RECYCLE DAY WITH GIRL SCOUTS:** On Saturday April 29, the Council and the Girl Scouts hosted an electronic recycle drive in the parking lot of St. Mary's. Green Team Junk Removal managed the recycling process. The day raised \$2,550 and was split between the Council and the Girl Scouts. At the monthly meeting, the Council presented the share to the Girl Scouts, (photo right).



**COUNCIL WINS FAMILY SERVICE AWARD AT STATE CONVENTION:** At the State K of C Convention in May, our Council was awarded the State Family Service award for donating \$9,000 to the Holliston Pantry Shelf. The Council raised the funds at the first Swing for Charity Golf event held at Pinecrest Country Club in June 2022. State Deputy Thomas Butler and State Program Director Michael Kerrigan presented the award to Council member Sir Knight Joseph Mongelli at the convention (photo below left). On May 16, the State Program Director presented the award to Grand Knight Al Scaramella (photo below right).





# CROSS WALK

*With Heather, Andrew and Claire Santucci*

By Cathy Stenquist

Finding the next person to take a Cross Walk with, is an adventure that I always look forward to each month. I never know what treat is in store!



During a recent Mass, I heard a sweet little voice behind me singing. I smiled wondering

*L-R: Heather, Claire and Andrew Santucci*

who the little cherub was. At the sign of peace, I turned around to see Claire, an adorable 6-month-old, mouth open, smiling and listening to her own voice praising God. After Mass, I introduced myself to her parents Andrew and Heather and soon we were planning a time to meet. The Santucci family lives in a lovely home in Hopkinton that Andrew built recently. It is warm and homey, the kind of place you immediately feel welcome. While Claire babbled and played on her play mat, we enjoyed a nice chat together.

Andrew grew up in Holliston attending Marian High School in Framingham. "My graduating class was only 60 or so," Andrew shared, "I remember feeling very respected by the principal and liked how the staff really got to know you. I received a good education there, which taught me basic life skills like good decision making and discipline." Andrew studied for his confirmation when Matt Chick was St. Mary's Youth Minister. "Our work and service projects taught me that there are a lot of people in the world living in very different circumstances." Andrew was confirmed in 2008, and chose St. Angelo, an early member of the Carmelite order who was martyred for his faith, as his saint's name.

Heather remembers hearing during her CCD classes, that they were looking for altar servers. She enjoyed being up where the action was.

"I am the type who studies a lot and wants to be prepared, but even after learning, I was still quite nervous." She said. "Being an altar server helped me understand the parts of the Mass, why they do certain things, and what happens behind the scenes to get ready."

Heather was confirmed at St. Pius X in Leicester. She chose someone close to the family, who had baby sat her, for her confirmation sponsor. "I remember feeling like I wanted to be like her," Heather said, "She was always very faithful and is still living that faith. To Andrew and I, faith is an important part of our life together now, something to fall back on. Learning about it as a youngster, gave us a good foundation and taught us good morals."

"My mother is an ICU nurse." Heather offered, "She had a patient who was critically ill. His family stayed by his bedside praying for two weeks



*Heather & her Godparents, David & Cheryl.*

and miraculously, he turned around. My mother commented that she had no idea how he lived through it, but he did. Some things can't be explained, you take them on faith when you see these things happen."

The love and bond between Heather and Andrew was palpable to me, I asked them how they had met. "It was January 2020, just before the pandemic," Heather began, "Both of our sisters encouraged us to try online dating where we met. While we couldn't do the ordinary things like go to the movies, we chose to stay in each other's 'bubble.' It actually worked out well. There was nothing distracting us from getting to know each other. Soon we fell in love and in 2022 we were married."



“We have always worked well together.” Heather continued, “We have never really fought about anything. If we need to have a conversation on a difficult topic, we don’t ignore it. We ask the other one to sit down and we talk it out. We take life day by day and know we will figure it out together.”



*L-R: Brian, Heather, Andrew, Claire, Jennifer & Deacon Ron Dowding.*

Their daughter Claire was born in October 2022. For her baptism, they realized how serious the church takes the role of godparent. There was certain criteria the person needed to meet. “We had to take time to really think about this decision. Deacon John Barry was helpful in that process.” I asked them what their wishes were for Claire regarding her faith. “The world has gotten so crazy.” Heather shared, “Andrew and I want her to be educated in the Catholic faith which will be a constant in her life forever. This Bible quote really resonates with us right now, on our journey to pass on our faith to Claire and in how we parent her.”



*Claire on her baptismal day*

Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it.

*Proverbs 22:6*

“I think our generation has a greater understanding,” Heather added, “that some rules and direction are helpful in this life. We sometimes share with friends who have gotten away from the church, what happened this week at Mass. And sometimes they offer, ‘We should get back to church.’”

“You both speak so freely and comfortably about your faith,” I replied, “what a beautiful witness this is to those around you.”

I asked Andrew and Heather if there was a cross that has special meaning to them. Immediately, Heather pointed to the door. Sitting there on the molding was a palm leaf cross.



“We have a friend, Lisa, who we have known for years. Every Palm Sunday, she leaves a bag tied on our mailbox with a special gift. She weaves

us a cross out of the palm fronds from Mass. We look for the bag every Palm Sunday. This year, it did not show up, and we wondered out loud where it was. Sure enough, it showed up very soon with an apology for being late. It is such a sweet thing to do.”

I love each month, how a simple hello turns into a wonderful conversation that makes me feel a greater part of the St. Mary’s community. It was a pleasure to meet you, Andrew and Heather. You are such loving and faith-filled parents. Keep on singing Claire!

**Walking in His Name - Cathy Stenquist**



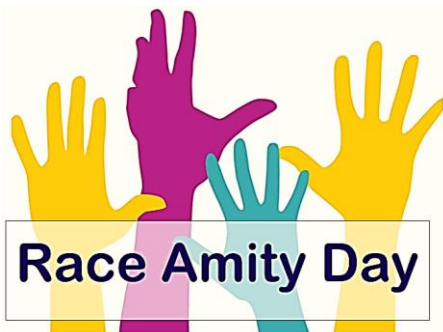
## ADULT FAITH RESOURCES ~ JUNE, 2023

got faith?

**“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES:** This month’s book recommendation is Timothy O’Malley’s *Real Presence: What Does It Mean and Why Does It Matter?* This book, written in 2021, is part of the *Engaging Catholicism* series published by the University of Notre Dame, the aim of which is to highlight the connections between our Catholic doctrine and the way we live our Catholic lives. Although difficult to understand at times, O’Malley’s book is a good one to pick up, as it helps us to see that we receive Christ, and the totality of His love for us, in the Eucharist, so that we might then give this love for others (p. 123). O’Malley explores the believer’s perception of God’s real presence in the world and in the Eucharist, as he looks at the Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) and the teachings of the early Church, respectively. He also offers information on the mystery of transubstantiation, the Catholic Church doctrine that states that, during the consecration of the Mass, the elements of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ...though they still are perceived by our human senses to be bread and wine. O’Malley is a proponent of Eucharistic devotion and adoration and he dedicates a chapter in his book to this topic, presenting it through the experiences of several women in Catholic history. *Real Presence* is available for purchase from online booksellers. There is a copy of the book in the parish library as well.

**SUNDAY READINGS:** The Church celebrates the liturgical season of Ordinary Time once the feast of Pentecost is completed. The first two Sundays of this second round of Ordinary Time (the first round was between the Christmas season and the season of Lent) are the Solemnities of the Most Blessed Trinity (June 4) and the Body and Blood of Christ/Corpus Christi (June 11). Ordinary Time then continues uninterrupted to the Season of Advent, which begins in early December. During the summer months this year, the second readings for most Sundays are from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans. The US Bishops have written an introduction to this letter at <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/romans/0>. Gospel readings you might recognize this summer include Jesus’ commissioning of His apostles (June 18) and the parable of the sower (July 16). You can prepare for the Sunday readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

**FATHER’S DAY:** Father’s Day is celebrated on Sunday, June 18 this year. The Farmer’s Almanac has a page dedicated to Father’s Day, its history and ideas for celebration: <https://bit.ly/June18FathersDay>. You can go to Creighton University’s Online Ministries (<https://bit.ly/CUFathers>) to find prayers for fathers and husbands.



**RACE AMITY:** Race Amity Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of June, this year, June 11. According to the National Center for Race Amity (<https://raceamity.org/>), “race amity is the ‘other tradition,’ a tradition of close interracial partnership and collaboration that has served throughout our history as the moral counterweight to the dominant tradition of racism and oppression.” There is a celebration of this day at the Weston Community Center on June 11, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. The program will focus on Indigenous Peoples, their history, and

cultural traditions. On Saturday, July 29, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM the annual Boston Race Amity Arts and Music Festival returns to Faneuil Hall Marketplace with a diverse musical lineup, community art projects, handmade local arts and crafts and free Ben & Jerry’s ice cream from sponsor Boston Scoops!

**PRAYER:** The method of prayer highlighted this month is the Mass, our Eucharistic liturgy. During the Mass we have the opportunity to practice all the forms of prayer mentioned over these past few months: adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and supplication/petition (ACTS). The Mass also offers us the opportunity to both listen to and speak to God, and to do so as a community of believers. Amen!

---Leo Racine