

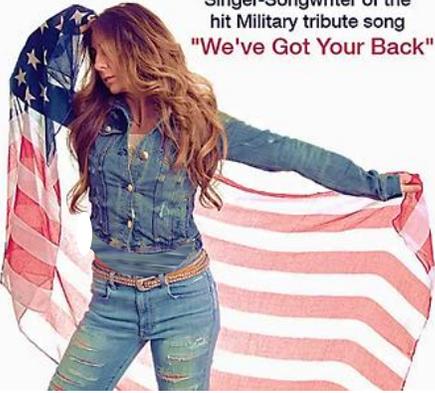
**ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

*June Newsletter 2025
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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 21!**

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 21 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 are on sale after all Masses this coming weekend, June 14/15, and may also be purchased through the Religious Education Office (508-429-6076), starting June 9.

There are no tickets at the door.

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

June, 2025 ~ Volume 51, Number 6



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

Rectory: 429-4427

Religious Education Center: 429-6076

Music Program: 429-6076

Religious Education Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com

Parish Email Address: st.marys1870@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

On May 14, over 80 members and friends of WINGS gathered to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Women In God's Spirit in our parish and in the Archdiocese of Boston. A beautiful Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by our pastor Fr. Mark, with Deacons Marty, John, and Ron all ministering. In his homily, Fr. Mark reflected that *"the very first Woman in God's Spirit was Mary of Nazareth, who said yes to God and was overshadowed by His Holy Spirit. Mary, who by the power of the Spirit conceived Jesus, the Son of God, in her womb. Because that is what the Spirit does. It brings us closer to Jesus. Which is the very heart and mission of the WINGS Ministry."* He also spoke of being "in the Spirit" as being in friendship with God and one another, part of the blessing of every WINGS group.



From left to right, WINGS Members Emma Peralta, Ann Chiango, Diane Collins, Pat Leblanc, Betty Febo, Lisa Dufault, Jennifer Schiller, and Cathy Stenquist were among those who took part in the 25th Anniversary of WINGS Celebration at St. Mary's. Read more about this wonderful event on the next page!

WINGS Ministry Celebrates 25 Years in the Archdiocese of Boston

25 years of learning, loving, and journeying toward God together

The May 18 Anniversary Mass was followed by a wonderful brunch and fellowship in Fr. Haley Hall. People from across the years had a chance to catch up, renew friendships and celebrate our faith. We were blessed to have members of the original St. Mary's core team as well as speakers and friends from around the Archdiocese join us.



None of this would have been possible without our founder, and current advisor, Jennifer Schiller (who brought WINGS with her from California) and Fr. Haley who said yes to this young mom who yearned to start a new faith group at the parish. Over the years, we have also been so fortunate to have the support and blessing of our pastor Fr. Mark.

We are also grateful to the many volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents to plan seasons, choose speakers and welcome women of all ages to this community of faith. Through their efforts, we have grown in so many beautiful ways, becoming more fully the women that God has called each of us to be.

We've studied and discovered the treasures of our faith, read and reflected on scripture and learned from the example of others how we might live the call of Christian discipleship. WINGS is a safe place to build friendships, share our

faith, our hearts, our suffering, our prayers and life lessons and encourage one another on our journey. The WINGS ministry allows women to build up God's kingdom here on earth and develop bonds of friendship with one another. **To learn more about WINGS or to join, please email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com, visit us on Facebook, or visit www.CatholicWings.com.**



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Good People of St. Mary's,

It has long been my habit while having breakfast and my morning coffee, to read the newspaper. I also keep the radio on tuned to a news station. Or at least I used to. For a while now, I have been getting up more and more often to shut the radio off. It is just too disheartening, especially the stories of the horrific suffering of the people of Gaza. The living hell the population there is experiencing.

I always feel guilty when I do shut off the news, because in a way that is a victory for evil in the world. To get us to just look away. To close our ears and eyes to the suffering, the horror, and the inhumanity. As Edmond Burke once famously said, "*All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*" And doing nothing starts by turning away.

That is why in recent days I have been forcing myself to keep the radio on. To stop and pray for those who are suffering. To keep informed even when listening seems to risk despair.

Recently a parishioner shared with me that she too has been finding it difficult to listen to the news. She also shared with me a prayer she found that she offers before doing so. I am providing it here in case it might help anyone reading this to keep facing the bad news, as we try to live out the Good News of God's love for this hurting world of ours. As we try to keep hope alive.

God bless you.



Prayer Before Reading the News:

My God, the soul you have placed in me is pure and vulnerable. I am afraid that looking at today's news will be painful.

Encircle me in a robe of light so that I can witness the wounds of the world without being wounded myself.

Let me learn what I need to know in order to be of greatest use, without being overwhelmed by despair.

*I feel your protective light now as I open myself to the world's suffering and the world's joys.
Amen.*



SACRED HEART

This past Fall, Pope Francis gave us a new Encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus (*Dilexit Nos: On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ*). In it, he encourages Catholics to find

courage and comfort in the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, and to promote devotion to it. Our new Archbishop, Richard Henning, has likewise requested that we make a special effort this June to draw close to Jesus' Sacred Heart.

Since the 17th Century, Catholics have dedicated the Month of June to the Sacred Heart. The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in this month, (Friday, June 27 this year). In addition to the liturgical celebration, many devotional exercises connected with the Sacred Heart of Jesus are celebrated in June.

Here at St. Mary's, we will be participating in a Novena to the Sacred Heart beginning on **June 15**. A special evening on Pope Francis' Sacred Heart Encyclical will be offered on Monday, **June 23** in Father Haley Hall from 7 - 8 PM. An evening Mass will be celebrated on the Feast Day, Friday, **June 27** at 7 PM.

Thanks to a Sacred Heart donation made by a parishioner, we were also able to offer our families lawn signs promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart in June. Jesus promised that special blessings flow wherever the image of His Sacred Heart is displayed and it has been wonderful to see His heart all over Holliston in the month of its devotion!

Devotion to the Sacred Heart highlights the deep love and mercy of Jesus for all humanity and is not limited to specific devotions or practices. It is a call to embrace His love, mercy, and compassion in all aspects of our life. It invites believers to encounter and respond to His love with devotion, gratitude, and a desire to share His love with others. Through this devotion, we seek to deepen our personal relationship with Jesus, embrace His love, and strive to live in accordance with His teachings and example. This June and always, may our hearts be one with His!



Front Row Left to Right:

Ty Bosselman ~ Bryant University
 Mikey McGovern ~ UMass Amherst
 Danny Burke ~ Bates College
 Ben Bulmer ~ Rutgers University
 Theo Schimidt ~ Trade School Electrician
 Brent Kiley ~ UMass Amherst
 Kellen Dietz ~ Virginia Tech University
 Ryan Flynn ~ Continuing Education
 Jack McElligott ~ Northeastern University
 Matthew Kipp ~ EMT
 Nathan Pirelli ~ University of Michigan
 William Irving ~ UMass Lowell
 Matthew Papas ~ Tufts University

Middle Row Left to Right:

Nina Ciri ~ University of New Hampshire
 Nora Keavany ~ UMass Amherst
 Paget O'Brien ~ College of the Holy Cross
 Lucia Perkins ~ Assumption University
 Sarah Kuchman ~ Clarkson University
 Cara Grant ~ Virginia Tech University
 Julia Rose Beard ~ University of Dallas
 Erin Kampersal ~ University of Connecticut
 Elizabeth Winchenbach ~ UMass Amherst
 Anna Gebski ~ Penn State University
 Megan Simpson ~ Colgate University
 Lila Bausch ~ Fairfield University
 Lily Olson ~ University of South Carolina
 Ava Lombardi ~ Saint Anselm College
 Veronica Daly ~ Worcester State University
 Vanessa Thompson ~ Virginia Tech University

Back Row Left to Right:

Hugh Fitzgerald ~ Fairfield University
 Danny Baribeau ~ University of Notre Dame
 Gianna Meisner ~ Westfield State University
 Anthony Nunes ~ Providence College
 Ethan Savage ~ UMass Amherst





St. Mary's 13th 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 2025 took place at 11:30 AM on Sunday, May 18 – 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 previous page.

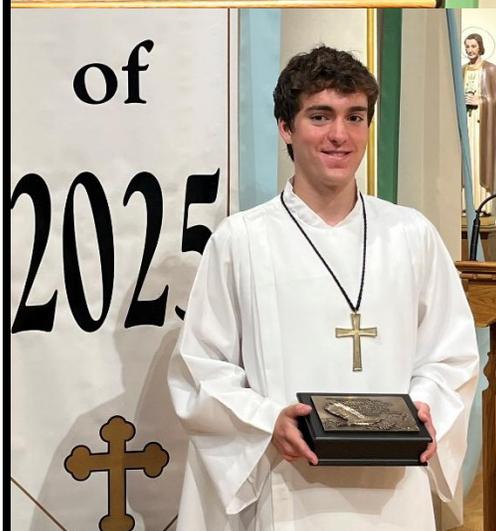
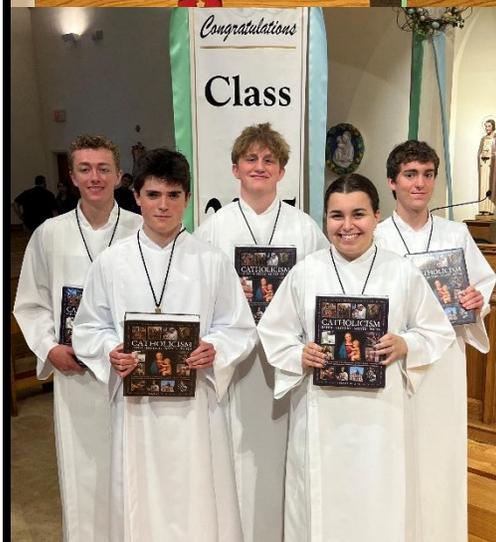
Shown above from left to right, graduates from several different high schools took on ministry roles at the celebration: Nina Ciri, (Buckingham, Browne and Nichols), offered the First Scripture Reading; Rosie Beard, (Montrose School), led the Responsorial Psalm; Danny Burke, (Holliston High School), offered the Second Scripture Reading; and Mikey Govern, (Holliston High School), led the Prayers of the Faithful. Shown together from left to right, graduating Senior Altar Servers Anthony Nunes, Hugh Fitzgerald, Ethan Savage, Gianna Meisner, and Danny Baribeau all served the Mass – each receiving a \$500 Senior Altar Server Scholarship. As always, it was beautiful to see students from many different schools all united by their shared parish and Catholic faith.

This year's Class Speaker was Anna Gebski (Holliston High School, photo left), who reflected on her own faith journey and called on her fellow graduates to embrace service in Christ. Fr. Mark spoke to the graduates about how God will be wherever they now go, and encouraged them to connect with their new college or parish Catholic communities. He also reminded them that they are Christ's Ambassadors and can bring the Lord to all the people God will now place in their life's path. A joyful 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."* This year, the Scholarship Committee chose Danny Baribeau to receive this \$2,000 gift. Danny has been an Altar Server for nine years, four of those as a Senior Altar Server. He has been a member of St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 for 8 years, serving in a number of Troop leadership positions during that time. He is an Eagle Scout, the recipient of the Ad Altare Dei Award, the Pope Pius XII Award, and the Pillars of Faith Award – this last being an honor so rare that it is usually bestowed by our Archdiocese only once every five years.

Danny has taught Grade 2 Religious Education at St. Mary's for 3 years and has been a VBS leader here for 7 years. He has been involved in both of our Youth Groups, and for the past several years has helped out on many Middle School Youth Group Trips as a Junior Chaperone. Danny will be studying at the University of Notre Dame as part of the Honors Program in the College of Arts and Letters. Congratulations Danny and all our 2025 Graduates!





CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2025

Mass for Graduates Reception!



St. Mary's High School Youth Group, Teens Gather In Faith

Contact: Lisa Dufault st.marystgif1870@gmail.com



Congratulations TGIF Seniors!

Our soon to be TGIF Grads were honored at the big Family Potluck on Sunday, June 1. The girls were given the book "Sincerely Stoneheart," and the boys received the book "Holy Moments." May God bless them all!



Save these Summer 2025 Dates!



Saturday, June 21 - Car Wash
Mission Trip Fundraiser at
the church, 10:30 - 3:00 PM

Tuesday, June 24 - Wednesday June 25 - Maine Rafting Trip

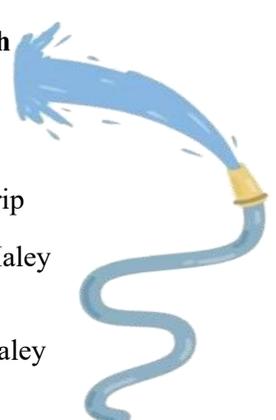
Sunday, June 29 - Mission Trip Mass 11:30 AM, and Fr. Haley
Hall for refreshments

Sunday, July 13 - Mission Trip Mass 11:30 AM, and Fr. Haley
Hall for refreshments

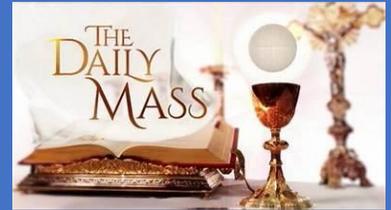
Saturday, July 26 - Mission Trip Mass Blessing and Commissioning at 5:00 PM

Sunday, July 27 - Saturday, August 2, 2025 – MISSISSIPPI MISSION TRIP

Sunday, August 3 - Mission Trip Welcome Home Mass and Social at 11:30 AM



JOIN US THIS
SUMMER!



Did you know there is Daily
Mass every weekday at St.
Mary's at 9:00 AM?

I encourage you to go this
summer!

On the following
Wednesdays, I would love
to gather for daily mass and
have light refreshments
after for those interested.

Wednesday, July 2

Wednesday, July 16

Wednesday, July 23

Wednesday August 6

Wednesday, August 20

SUMMER
EVENTS

We hope to gather
for a few events over
the summer. If you
would like to be
added to the email
list for this, please
send an email to the
TGIF email address!



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun! st.marysmsyg@gmail.com

SANDWICHES FOR THE HOMELESS! At their April 6 Meeting, our MSYG Teens made 150 sandwiches for the homeless. They had voted at their March Meeting to forgo snacks, etc, and apply the dues instead to this project. Teens made turkey and ham sandwiches, decorated lunch bags with uplifting messages, and sorted chips, cookies, and fruit for each recipient. The lunches were delivered directly to the homeless at various street locations in Boston the next day.



PAINTBALL BATTLE! On Tuesday, April 22, twenty-seven MSYG Teens spent the day outdoors playing paintball at P & L in Bridgewater. It was a cool, beautiful day, and the group enjoyed the teambuilding, tactics, and fun as they ran, hid, triumphed, or fell. Fr. Mark usually leads this trip but was prevented by an emergency. Thank you to Danny Baribeau and the adults who stepped up at the last minute to keep this vacation week tradition alive!



NURSING HOME BINGO! On Friday, May 2, a group of fifteen MSYG 8th Graders led a BINGO event at Timothy Daniel's Nursing Home. As always, the resident's favorite part was meeting and getting to know the teens, as well as sharing their own stories. Some teams got so into this that the BINGO was pretty much forgotten! For those who kept playing though, we had great prizes for our friends.





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun! st.marysmsyg@gmail.com

ANNUAL SCAVENGER HUNT! Friday, May 16 found twenty-six MSYG teens taking part in this amazingly fun Scavenger Hunt. They searched for items throughout Holliston, Medway, and Ashland, as well as taking pics and videos at certain locations doing certain things. A few examples: Pic of the whole team in a canoe; video of the team washing a car; video of the whole team pushing a child in a stroller – you get the idea! Teams enjoyed pizza while the items and points were tallied. Congratulations to the winning team of Millie Keefe, Mary Marshall, and Anders Nelson who all got \$30 Chipotle gift cards. The highest point item was donations for the Holliston Pantry Shelf, a nice blessing from the night!



END OF YEAR PARENT POTLUCK! The Hall was packed on Sunday, May 18, for this annual night of friendship, as families joined their MSYG teens to celebrate the year gone by. Delicious food was provided by the 6th and 7th Grade families, while the 8th Graders were our special guests. At the end of the night, the 8th Graders received the gift of a Daily Saints Prayer Book, and a blessing from Fr. Mark and their parents. Everyone watched a wonderful slideshow of this year's MSYG activities. In addition to all the fun social trips, our MSYG teens raised over \$2,000 for the Poor of Haiti through the Cookie Walk, led three BINGO's at Timothy Daniels Nursing Home, brought the joy of Christmas through song to Senior Citizens, hosted the Archdiocesan Boys Choir for a concert and pizza, made Easter Cards for and "spiritually adopted" residents of St. Patrick's Manor, made 150 lunches for the homeless, and assisted many needy persons through prayer. As is MSYG custom, we recognized and gave an award to the boy and girl in each class who did the most service. The awardees are listed below right. Well done!



- Gr 8 Girl Lilly Neitzel
- Gr 8 Boy Charlie Neitzel

- Gr 7 Girl Coco Reposa
- Gr 7 Boy Anders Nelson

- Gr 6 Girl Erin Breen
- Gr 6 Boy Andrew Menard





Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * June, 2025

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508-579-4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

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

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

MOUNT WACHUSETT HIKE: On March 29, a group of Troop 14 Scouts ventured out to Princeton, Massachusetts, for a 10-mile day hike that included the summit of Mount Wachusett. It was



especially fun avoiding the skiers and snowboarders as we traversed the open trails at the mountain. With the rain, cool temperatures, and windy summit, this was a good shake-down hike for the other planned Spring hikes on the Troop calendar.

HOLLISTON SPORTSMEN ASSOCIATION SERVICE

PROJECT: On April 19, Troop 14 Scouts helped our friends at the Holliston Sportsmen Association clean up their property for the annual Spring Trout Fishing Derby. This annual service project is a way to say thank you to the Association for letting us host our Annual Fall Turkey Roast on the Association's grounds.



MOUNT GREYLOCK HIKE: On April 26 and 27, Troop 14 Scouts hiked Mount Greylock, the highest point in Massachusetts. Normally, a summit with spectacular views across Massachusetts into New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire from the top of the War Memorial tower, we were greeted with gray skies due to the unusually cool and wet spring weekend weather. We hiked the Thunderbolt trail on the first day, which was once a ski trail that hosted the US Eastern Downhill Championship in 1938. After a long day of hiking, the Troop 14 Scouts set up camp at a Lanesborough campground. On day 2, Scouts hiked a new trail to the summit before heading back to Holliston.



FATIMA SHRINE SERVICE PROJECT: The Xaverian Brothers at Fatima Shrine, a close partner to St. Mary's and our community, requested help with their spring landscaping. Scouts from Troop 14 joined them on Saturday, May 3, for a few hours of landscaping and grounds cleanup.

BOUNDLESS ADVENTURES CAMPOUT: Troop 14 Scouts enjoyed a day of adventure, climbing a treetop ropes course and zip-lining in Berlin, MA, on May 17. This has been one of the Scouts' favorite trips in recent years. After climbing, the Troop spent the night at Camp Resolute in Bolton, where they cooked their meals, enjoyed a campfire, and a cracker barrel. They didn't let the rainy night spoil their fun.



WHITE MOUNTAIN WEEKEND CAMPOUT: Troop 14 Scouts who are training for the July High Adventure Trek in New Mexico participated in a 20-mile hike in the White Mountains on the weekend of May 24 - 26. While it is late spring here in Holliston, the White Mountains are still thawing out from winter. This hike included a mix of winter and spring weather: snow and ice at higher elevations, rain most of the weekend, and higher-than-normal water levels at the river crossings. In addition to adjusting to the weather, Scouts were able to practice their backpack camping skills by using hammocks for sleeping off-trail, lightweight stoves for cooking dinner, and proper clothing since campfires are not allowed off campsites. The Scouts carried all the required gear and food for the weekend. Due to the tough terrain and weather, both Leaders and Scouts agreed that these were the toughest hiking conditions of their Scouting experience. All this training is preparing Scouts for their July Adventure.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: Troop 14 took part in the annual Holliston Memorial Day parade on May 26. It was a beautiful day to show appreciation for all of the brave military personnel who died while serving in our Armed Forces.





FOR CATHOLIC MEN

COR ~ ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR MEN, Thursday, June 12 from 7 - 9 PM: All men of St. Mary's parish age 18 and older are encouraged to join us for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

The Spring 2025 season of *Cor* continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays through June with our mission to help focus Catholic men on Jesus by building Christ-centered brotherhood through a simple, flexible framework of prayer, formation and fraternity. Consider joining us at the last two *Cor* meetings of the season!



Thursday June 12, 7 - 9 PM in Father Haley Hall - We will discuss the Catechesis teachings regarding Saints; male Saint role models; and sharing our favorite Saints.

Thursday June 26, 7 - 9 PM in Father Haley Hall - At our last meeting of the Spring 2025 season, we will pray a Lectio Divina as a group, break-out into small group discussions, and then conduct a survey to inform the planning of the *Cor* Meetings for the Fall Season. **What is Lectio Divina?** A contemplative form of prayer that involves slow, prayerful reading of Scripture, in a four-step process: Reading, Meditation, Prayer, and Contemplation, with the intention of entering into a dialogue with God and allowing the Word to penetrate the heart. It's a practice that encourages a deeper relationship with God and helps us to live out His will.

FOR SINGERS AND SINGERS TO BE

The St. Mary's Music Ministry would like to invite you to join us in the Lower Hall on Wednesday, June 18 from 3:30 - 5:30 PM for our final Children & Youth Choir rehearsal and music party! This celebration serves to congratulate our current singers and invite all music-interested newcomers in Grades 3 - 12. Bring yourself, and your instrument if you play one, for musical games and treats. Siblings, friends, and parents are welcome. Come experience the joy of the Music Ministry!



FOR HOPE



On May 14, 2025, the Fatima Shrine hosted an interfaith prayer service titled "Restoring Hope," bringing together diverse faith leaders to support those affected by addiction and unhealthy attachments. As an Archdiocesan pilgrimage site designated for the Jubilee Year of Hope, the venue held a profound significance to Catholics who were in attendance. The event, co-hosted by the Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition (HDAAC) and iThirst Boston, highlighted the spiritual dimension of recovery and the power of prayer in community.

Attendees lit candles in honor of loved ones, creating a moving display of remembrance. Inspiring testimonies from Andrea Velez and Dominic Taverna shared personal journeys of struggle, faith, and recovery. Prayers from leaders of various faiths, including Catholic, LDS, Baha'i, Islamic, Jewish, and Sikh offered messages of serenity, resilience, unity and peace. Each prayer addressed specific groups impacted by addiction, underscoring the power of communal support.

The evening concluded with reflections on unity and healing, reminding all present of the strength found in coming together with compassion and solidarity. The event was co-hosted by the Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness Coalition (HDAAC), a community-driven organization focused on reducing substance misuse through education and outreach, and iThirst Boston, an initiative of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity. IThirst Boston integrates the spiritual dimension into recovery, emphasizing "The Healing Initiative - Recovery, Spirituality, and Twelve Steps." Both organizations highlighted the importance of addressing addiction not only as a medical or psychological issue but as a spiritual one that requires both community support and spiritual involvement. The evening ended with a collective sense of unity, hope, and renewed commitment to supporting those affected by addiction.

It was a powerful testament to the shared human experience of struggle and the universal need for healing; reminding all present that the light of hope shines brightest when communities come together in solidarity. - By Deacon John Barry

Knights of Columbus

St. Mary's Council #14224 June, 2025

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



COUNCIL #14224 AWARDED TOP STATE FAITH COUNCIL: At the State Convention in May, our Council was selected as the best Council exemplifying Faith activities. At our May meeting, District Deputy John Litchfield and State Program Director Michael Kerrigan presented the award to Grand Knight Al Scaramella.

COUNCIL ELECTION OF OFFICERS: At our June meeting, the Council will elect new officers for the fiscal 2025/2026 year. Current Grand Knight Al Scaramella announced his "retirement" and we thank him for his leadership over the past nineteen years. He has helped make this Council one of the strongest in the state!

K of C COUNCIL #14224 SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: The proceeds from this raffle go to local charities such as the Holliston [Senior] Center, O'Connell House, and Metrowest Veterans Emergency Relief Fund. The drawing will take place at the K of C Fourth Annual Charity Golf tournament on June 20. Our Council thanks all who have supported the raffle. Good luck!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2025: For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584, or you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org/joinus. Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men.

NATIONAL SHRINE OF DIVINE MERCY: The St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council will be celebrating the 2025 Jubilee Year by organizing a bus trip out to Stockbridge, Massachusetts on October 6, 2025. We are welcoming anyone in the parish to join us! Our plan includes a visit to the downtown shopping area of the town, a luncheon at the world-famous Red Lion Inn (with your choice of entrée) and a visit to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy. The plan is to leave St. Mary's parking lot at 7:30 AM and return at 6:00 PM. The council is subsidizing a portion of the cost to reduce the per person fee to just \$75. It promises to be a fun and wonderful day to spend with fellow parishioners. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Deacon Ron Dowding at 508-429-3961, Tom Brodo at 201-874-5635, or Mitch Liro at 508-429-6098.

MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be Wednesday June 18 in the church at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

THE PEARL ROSARY: Years back, when I was going through a tough time, a friend brought me a rosary from Lourdes. It had pretty, pearly beads. In part because I felt like I was losing so much, I carried it everywhere: in my jacket pocket, in my jeans pocket, even in my pajama pocket.



Pearls are porous and pick up oils from your skin. Over time, pearls will look more and more like your skin tone. That's why etiquette manuals used to advise young ladies to wear their pearls to sleep, so the necklace would match their skin on their wedding day. I thought to God, *"This rosary is going to become more and more like me,"* and in retrospect, I imagine God was thinking, *"Yes, but not the way you expect."*

Within a month, the "pearl" coating started flaking off the beads. They weren't pearls after all, just white beads with a glossy coating. As they rubbed against one another in my pocket, the friction ate down the perimeter, and eventually the shell chipped off. What remained was a clean white bead.

One afternoon, I looked at the rosary while praying and felt awful because my life was just like those beads, and everything beautiful in my life would be ruined. God replied, *"Look again. See what I'm doing to you."* That drew me up short, but then I saw it: the stuff coming off was the fake veneer. The friction and the action of life had worked away the part that wasn't necessary. What remained was the truth, what the bead really was...and what I really was. Neither of us needed a fake coating. God wanted us to just be what we were: a pretty white rosary, and a human soul without the trappings. - Submitted by Parishioner Jane Lebak

CROSSWALK

A conversation with Sarah Devoe

I welcomed the chance to sit down with Sarah, as I have always felt blessed with the insight and wisdom the youth have shared with me. I recognized her when she walked in and was immediately transported back to the young altar server I had seen at Mass - dark hair pulled back in a ponytail; sweet face sprinkled with freckles - focused on her tasks at the altar.



Sarah grew up on Robin Hill Road in Holliston and attended Mass faithfully each week with her family, receiving all her Sacraments at St. Mary's. Her earliest memory of church was sitting in the front pew at

Sarah, a Villanova grad! Mass every Sunday, while her father Rob, served as Eucharistic minister.

“When we studied the sacraments,” Sarah shared, “We got to see a real baptism of one of the student’s siblings. I remember watching James Hein be baptized. It was special watching a baptism up close. When I got older I helped out with Vacation Bible School. Interestingly, this year’s seniors are the kids that I taught. I love to see the joy and energy they have now as teens in the youth group,” Sarah said, “I also taught 7th grade Religious Ed this year with one of the kids who was in my kindergarten class”. A real full circle moment!

When Sarah was 8 - 9 years old, she became an altar server and continued serving through high school. “It was very task-driven, and something interesting to do during Mass. I had to always think one step ahead, to be ready with what the priest needed.”

Sarah was confirmed in 2016 and always involved in the youth groups EPIC (*Endless Possibilities in*



L-R: Sarah's sponsor, Tara Quinn, Bishop Reed, Sarah & her mother, Martha.

Christ) and TGIF (*Teens Gathered in Faith*) with Matt Chick and Jake Thuringer. “I went on three mission trips to NJ, Mississippi and Texas, zeroed in with my peers, we served in ways outside of my comfort zone and connected the experience with intensive thinking about our faith. While we each had very different experiences, it was very special to take turns lifting each other up.”

After High School, Sarah attended Villanova, the same school Pope Leo attended in 1977. “I was eager to leave Boston and try living away from home. There was some level of comfort in attending a Catholic university - Villanova felt like home.” Sarah recalled the Mass and Candle Ceremony at orientation, when their parents prayed over them:

Villanova's Orientation Prayer

**God bless and protect you.
May your heart and mind be united in faith,
so that you may be able to love wisely, work creatively,
laugh heartily, and live honestly.
May your education bring justice and peace to the world
for the benefit of our human family and all of God's creation.
And may you always know that you are loved.**

College had a significant impact on Sarah's faith. By spring of her first year, she wanted to participate in Mass again and considered becoming an altar server, but had such muscle memory from serving with Fr. Mark, she was not sure about working with another priest. So, she decided to become a Eucharistic minister. “I had training on logistics and how to bless people properly who were not receiving,” Sarah said, “It was a different perspective - looking friends in the eye and sharing Jesus with them - much more intimate than being an altar server.”

“In my dorm, Mass was woven into the social experience with my friends,” Sarah said, “being offered daily at Noon and 5 PM and Sunday at 5, 7 and 9 PM. Mass centered me and reset my week. The homilies were targeted to young adults, which felt real and timely in how the words applied to my life.”

The core values of Villanova's Catholic, Augustinian tradition: "Veritas, Unitas, Caritas," which means “Truth, Unity, and Love” are featured on the Seal of the University. Here are quotes from St. Augustine:

On Truth: *Let us equally give our attention with peaceful minds to the nature of the truth, which is neither yours nor mine but set before both of us for our contemplation.* - St. Augustine, Letter to Secundinus, 2

On Unity: *Signs of friendship sprang from the hearts of friends who loved and knew their love returned, signs to be read in smiles, words, glances and a thousand gracious gestures. So were sparks kindled and our minds were fused inseparably out of many becoming one.* - St. Augustine, *Confessions IV*

and on Love: *Whenever you show greater concern for the common good than for your own, you may know that you are growing in charity.*

-St. Augustine, *Rule, Ch. 5*

“I studied Catholic Social Teaching, majoring in Health and Life Sciences and minoring in Peace and Justice. I loved reading and learning together with my dormmates. In my *Faith and Reason* and *Theology* courses, I studied how different religious groups and orders think and believe and interact with each other and society.” During her mission trips with St. Marys, they had amenities to live fairly comfortably. But when Sarah went to Ecuador, on her “Broken Heart” mission, she lived in the slums with people in extreme poverty.

Villanova had two types of service trips you could join: **Broken Heart:** *Being in community with the people. Living as they live.* And **Restless Heart:** *Like St. Mary’s mission trips, hands-on to achieve a specific goal.*



Sarah’s group in Texas, at the house they worked on.

domestic violence or an after-school program. There was a siesta midday to rest, to journal and talk with each other about the experience. During St. Mary’s trips we always asked, ‘How did you see Jesus today?’ In Ecuador, we discussed what could we do to meet needs and keep it sustainable. The mission was not to change anything in their lives but to see all the different faces of Christ you don’t get to encounter in your daily life. The Rostro de Cristo group (Face of Christ) who started this outreach is based out of Braintree, close to home.”

“During the Pandemic, most classes at Villanova were virtual, with very little ‘in-person’ and not many people on campus. Mass was live-streamed. When we could social distance, there were sign-ups for Mass each week and spaces sold out every time. Even with the addition of more Masses, all spaces were taken.”



Villanova Seal with hearts on fire.

In 2022, a week after graduating from college, she was able to begin earning her Masters at Providence College for free by teaching science, religion and social studies at Our Lady of Mt Carmel’s Catholic school. In her 6,7 & 8 grade classes, they

used the same “We Believe” textbooks that she learned from at St. Mary’s. Sarah now teaches 8th grade science at a public school in Coolidge Corner. Many of her students are Jewish, with 30% of students from Israel. “When the election of Pope Leo was announced, my phone lit up with texts from college friends. It was a big deal. Everyone was happy and proud that he came from a US college. One person texted: “Villanova 1 - Notre Dame 0.”

Under Pope Leo’s guidance, Sarah is hopeful for “Unity, Truth and Love” and increased care and love of others. “I love that Pope Leo lived among the poor in Peru, as I did in Ecuador. I try to love others, see the good in them, be of service following the Beatitudes. I go to Mass every weekend to get my hour of peace, to think and center. I also enjoy helping with the youth group at St. Mary’s and will be a chaperone on the next mission trip. I am reassured by the row of young men who come to Mass each Saturday at 7:30 PM, seeing how the faith I see in the youth groups is moving beyond those gatherings and becoming part of their lives.”

Sarah’s favorite Bible verse.

“Let your light shine before others”

-Matthew 5:16

In this scripture, Jesus explained, “No one lights a lamp just to hide it under a basket. A lamp is meant to be placed on a stand to give light to everything around it. Whether you’re timid or outgoing, you’re called to be a light to the people around you.”

I cannot think of a better way to describe Sarah. She truly is a light... HIS light in the world.

Walking in His Name, Cathy Stenquist