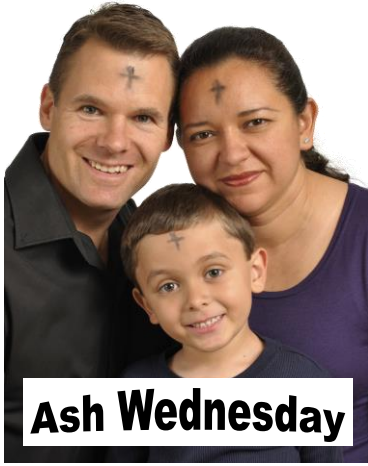


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Ash Wednesday

March 6

Five Services with Ashes ~

6:45 AM Liturgy of the Word

9:00 AM Mass

4:00 PM Liturgy of the Word

5:30 PM Mass

7:00 PM Mass

ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.

Why do we wear ashes on this day? Ashes symbolize two main things in the Old Testament – death and repentance. Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7). For example, Abraham told God, “I am but dust and ashes” (Genesis 18:27), a reference to his human mortality. We use ashes on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own mortality. We are all born here, but none of us is staying here. Death may come sooner, or it may come later, but it will surely come. This is not a cause for fear, but for urgency to embrace the Gospel with new vigor. We only have so much time to accept Jesus’ offer of salvation, and follow Him on the Way of the Cross, the way of sacrificial love.

Ashes are also a symbol of repentance for past sins. When the prophet Daniel shamefacedly clothed himself in sackcloth and ashes, they were a sign of his people’s contrition for their rebellion, wickedness and treachery (Daniel 9:3). When Jonah warned the Ninevites that God planned to destroy their city because of their corruption and depravity, the people covered themselves with sackcloth and ashes as a sign of their intention to turn from their evil ways (Jonah 3:6,10). Ashes are a plea to God for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness. Moreover, they are a public admission of guilt, an expression of sorrow for sins that have been committed, a promise to reform and a pledge to resist temptation in the future.

In His own words, Jesus “came to call sinners.” We, too, are sinners. When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy. **Our ashes say that we want to come back to Jesus.**

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

March, 2019 ~ Volume 44, Number 7



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

Rectory: 429-4427, 879-2322
Religious Education Center: 429-6076
Fax: 429-3324 ~ Music: 429-4427

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."

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

THANK YOU LIEUTENANT CRAIG DENMAN!

For the past thirty-three years, St. Mary's Parishioner Craig Denman has faithfully and honorably served our community as an Officer of the Holliston Police Department. Craig is now retiring from the Holliston Force and taking a new position with the Northeastern University Police.

Craig was honored by the Holliston Police and the whole Holliston Community at a Ceremony and Reception on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. Fr. Mark attended to represent our Parish. Shown below, Craig (left) was presented by Chief Stone (right) with the Holliston Police Department's "Police Service Award". He was also presented with a Town Proclamation from the Board of Selectmen and a Citation from Senate President Karen Spilka.

Craig's service in Holliston was characterized by great integrity, commitment, generosity and compassion. We thank Craig for his service and ask God's blessing upon him!





Meet Him In Ashes ~ Wednesday, March 6



6:45 AM	Liturgy	5:30 PM	Mass
9:00 AM	Mass	7:00 PM	Mass
4:00 PM	Liturgy	<i>"Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return ..."</i>	

"The sign of the cross we wear on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is not there only one day a year. It is the cross that is burned on our foreheads by the fire of the Holy Spirit to mark us as God's own lambs in Baptism. We show it once a year to remind ourselves that we belong to God. We remind ourselves that we die, daily to sin. We remind ourselves that Jesus' resurrection is our future. We will return to dust, but God is not finished with us. We renew the Baptismal covenant of God in this season of repentance, renewal and rejoicing. We all will be cleansed in the Vigil's Baptismal Flood." - L. Bouman

Meet Him With The St. Paul's Boy Choir ~ Friday, March 8



Friday, March 8, 7-8 PM in St. Mary's Church. Start your Lent with an evening of rapturous music by the internationally acclaimed Boys Choir of St. Paul's Archdiocesan Choir School in Cambridge. Directed by John Robinson and accompanied by organist Jeremy

Bruns, the Choir will perform works by Rheinberger, Lalouette and Fauré, among others. The Concert is free and open to all. For more information on the Choir School, visit www.saintpaulschoirschool.us.



Meet Him Around The Table, Friday Lenten Soup Suppers

Friday, March 8 at 5:30 PM (so you can hear the Boys Choir at 7 PM), then every Friday at 6 PM in the Lower Church Hall. Bring the whole family and friends to enjoy a homemade meal, prayer and friendship every Friday during Lent from 6 to 7 PM. Come meet other families in the parish as we seek the Lord anew. Start a new

tradition or continue with an old one by helping to prepare a soup, salad or delicious cheesy pasta. Don't like to cook? Bring a savory bread or just help out with setting up or breaking down. It's easy to volunteer, just visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2019-Lenten-Soup-Supper>. Or you may email mlorandos@verizon.net. Join us!

LEN +

Meet Him In The Evenings ~ Every Tuesday

Come enjoy Lenten Evening Prayer, 7 PM in the Church, (15-20 minutes). This is the daily prayer of the Catholic Church consisting of psalms, hymns, and intercessions. Come find peace at day's end. March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, & 16.

Meet Him In Sung Choral Vespers ~

Sung Choral Vespers: Wednesday, March 13 from 7-7:30 PM and Sunday, March 31 from 6-6:30 PM. Vespers, part of the Liturgy of the Hours, is meant to give thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Sung by our talented Youth Choir, Vespers includes the singing of psalms, intercessions and prayers. Come experience the beauty of sung prayer.



Meet Him In Faith, Hope And Love ~

Wednesday, March 27, April 3, and April 10 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in Classrooms 3 & 4. Join our Seminarian, Steven Booth, for "Love Endures", a three-part series, where we will examine the "greater supernatural order," the Cross which stands at its center and the God-given virtues of Faith, Hope and Love that make living the Christian Life possible. All are welcome for this time of reflection, discussion and questions about our Catholic Faith. Register by emailing Mary Beth at St.Marys1870@gmail.com.

Meet Him For Forty Hours ~

Sun., March 31 - Tues., April 2

40 Hours Devotion: In celebrating this devotion, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar at St. Mary's for forty continuous hours. The church will be open throughout and people may stop in at any time to visit with the Lord in prayer. The Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Additionally, three special dimensions surround this devotion:

- the protection from evil and temptation;
- reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory;
- and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities.



Sunday, March 31

11:30 AM	Opening Mass
6:00 PM	Sung Choral Vespers
7-7:30 PM	Organ Music
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

Monday, April 1

9:00 AM	Morning Mass (Hall)
Noon	Holy Rosary
6:00 PM	Evening Prayer
7-7:30 PM	Organ Music
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

Tuesday, April 2

9:00 AM	Closing Mass with Benediction
---------	----------------------------------



WORLD MARRIAGE SUNDAY

In honor of World Marriage Sunday, a special blessing of married couples was offered at every Mass the weekend of February 16 & 17, 2019. As is our tradition at St. Mary's, roses were presented at each celebration to the couple present together and married the longest. In honoring them we honor all the men and women living out this beautiful vocation. Shown above, Joseph & Joyce Hilliard have been married 57 years! They made their Vows on March 4, 1961 at St. John's Church in Hopkinton, Massachusetts (photo inset). Shown below, Frank & Connie Mulcahy have been married 65 years! They received the Sacrament of Marriage on November 28, 1953 at St. Ann's Church in Woonsocket, Rhode Island (photo inset). May God bless them and all Married Couples richly in His love!

"Married people must know that they have been called by God not only to human love but also to a divine love, through their human love. It is important for them to realize that they have been chosen from all eternity to cooperate with the creative power of God by having and then bringing up children. Our Lord asks them to make their home and their entire family life a testimony of all the Christian virtues." ~ St. Josemaria Escriva





From the Pastor's Desk

February 22, 2019
Feast of the Chair of Peter

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

On February 2, 2019, St. Mary's lost a good friend to our Parish in the person of Bishop Walter Edyvean. Bishop Edyvean died suddenly, after falling ill only the day before. I was honored to represent our parish at his Funeral Mass at St. Patrick's in Natick on February 8.

Bishop Edyvean was the Bishop of our West Region of the Archdiocese for many years and installed me as the Pastor of St. Mary's. He celebrated dozens of Confirmations here and joined us for many other important occasions – including the Funeral of Fr. Haley and the Blessing and Dedication of Father Haley Hall a year later. Bishop Edyvean was a fair-minded man and was always ready to back and support his priests provided they did the right thing – even if it was not the popular or easy thing. At the same time, he could be relied upon to gently challenge you when needed. Bishop Edyvean was, for instance, known for carefully reading every single Confirmation letter written to him. On one occasion, he called me to ask why I was recommending for Confirmation a young person who wrote in their letter that they never attend Sunday Mass!

The integrity Bishop Edyvean expected in the priests of his Region, was profoundly evident in his own life and ministry. He was a man of great faith, kindness and personal holiness. He brought immense dignity to the office of priest and bishop, serving as a model for all of us in ministry. Bishop Edyvean had a particular fondness for St. Mary's in Holliston. For instance, even after he retired as West Region Bishop, he still came to our Parish each year to celebrate Confirmation. He had a strict rule that in retirement he would no longer celebrate more than one Confirmation Mass in the same day. But for St. Mary's he always made an exception to that policy. Bishop Edyvean was always there for us, and I ask that you please be there for him now, offering him the gift of your prayers as he returns to the God he served so well.

I spoke on the phone with Bishop Edyvean just two weeks before his passing. I had no idea it would be our last conversation. The suddenness of his passing is a reminder that our earthly lives are fragile and temporary. On March 6, Ash Wednesday, we will receive this very reminder as we hear the words, "*Remember you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.*" Truly, this life is a highway to be travelled, not a destination to be reached. All of us are born here, but none of us are staying here. Our true home is in heaven, and our short, uncertain time upon this earth is to be spent loving God and neighbor as Jesus taught.

While Lent calls us to a new urgency, the truth is that our whole lives are meant to be lived with our eyes looking forward and upwards to the Father's House, where Jesus has gone ahead "to prepare a place" for us. It is so easy to be caught up in the joys and pleasures and good things of this world that we forget that they are passing. That their real value lies only in the opportunity they offer us to serve God, especially through loving service to others. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "*When you leave this earth, you can take nothing that you have received, but only what you have given.*" The time, the energy, the treasure, the patience and the mercy we give to others, these will clothe us as we pass death's threshold – these will mark us as having truly "put on Christ."

In His Service and yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

ANTI-SEMITISM: As you know, in early December two swastikas were found etched on the playground of Holliston's Placentino Elementary School. This month, another swastika was found on an internal door in Ashland High School. In light of these sad events, I offer on the following page the Catholic Church's official teaching rejecting anti-Semitism.

INTERFAITH ADDICTION RECOVERY PRAYER SERVICE: Wednesday, March 20, at 7:00 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. This event is open to all and will provide solidarity, support and hope to families and friends of those struggling with the disease of addiction. Each faith community representative will offer a prayer. A member of Community Impact, a mental health organization in Milford that has been active in the coalition against drug addiction in the MetroWest Region, will give a short talk and provide resources.





THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REJECTS ANTI-SEMITISM

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs: On behalf of the Bishops and people of the Catholic Church, as the Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, I want to express our deep sympathy, solidarity, and support to our Jewish brothers and sisters who have experienced once again a surge of anti-Semitic actions in the United States. I wish to offer our deepest concern, as well as our unequivocal rejection of these hateful actions. The Catholic Church stands in love with the Jewish community in the current face of anti-Semitism.

As Pope Francis recently said, "The grave danger is to disown our neighbors. When we do so...we deny the most important Commandments of Jesus." Herein lies the danger, dehumanization. But here we also find an opportunity: that the light of the love of neighbor may illuminate the Earth with its stunning brightness like a lightning bolt in the dark; that it may wake us up and let true humanity burst through with authentic resistance, resilience and persistence."

I encourage everyone to remember their neighbor, to find the opportunities to be lights of resistance, resilience, and persistence during these contentious times, especially with all our brothers and sisters of faith. As the sacred synod searches into the mystery of the Church, it remembers the bond that spiritually ties the people of the New Covenant to Abraham's stock.

From the DECLARATION ON THE RELATION OF THE CHURCH TO NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS,

NOSTRA AETATE: *The Church of Christ acknowledges that, according to God's saving design, the beginnings of her faith and her election are found already among the Patriarchs, Moses and the prophets. She professes that all who believe in Christ-Abraham's sons according to faith (6)-are included in the same Patriarch's call, and likewise that the salvation of the Church is mysteriously foreshadowed by the chosen people's exodus from the land of bondage. The Church, therefore, cannot forget that she received the revelation of the Old Testament through the people with whom God in His inexpressible mercy concluded the Ancient Covenant. Nor can she forget that she draws sustenance from the root of that well-cultivated olive tree onto which have been grafted the wild shoots, the Gentiles.(7) Indeed, the Church believes that by His cross Christ, Our Peace, reconciled Jews and Gentiles. making both one in Himself.(8)*

The Church keeps ever in mind the words of the Apostle about his kinsmen: "theirs is the sonship and the glory and the covenants and the law and the worship and the promises; theirs are the fathers and from them is the Christ according to the flesh" (Rom. 9:4-5), the Son of the Virgin Mary. She also recalls that the Apostles, the Church's main-stay and pillars, as well as most of the early disciples who proclaimed Christ's Gospel to the world, sprang from the Jewish people.

As Holy Scripture testifies, Jerusalem did not recognize the time of her visitation,(9) nor did the Jews in large number, accept the Gospel; indeed not a few opposed its spreading.(10) Nevertheless, God holds the Jews most dear for the sake of their Fathers; He does not repent of the gifts He makes or of the calls He issues-such is the witness of the Apostle.(11) In company with the Prophets and the same Apostle, the Church awaits that day, known to God alone, on which all peoples will address the Lord in a single voice and "serve him shoulder to shoulder" (Soph. 3:9).(12)

Since the spiritual patrimony common to Christians and Jews is thus so great, this sacred synod wants to foster and recommend that mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit, above all, of biblical and theological studies as well as of fraternal dialogues.

True, the Jewish authorities and those who followed their lead pressed for the death of Christ;(13) still, what happened in His passion cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive, nor against the Jews of today. Although the Church is the new people of God, the Jews should not be presented as rejected or accursed by God, as if this followed from the Holy Scriptures. All should see to it, then, that in catechetical work or in the preaching of the word of God they do not teach anything that does not conform to the truth of the Gospel and the spirit of Christ.

Furthermore, in her rejection of every persecution against any man, the Church, mindful of the patrimony she shares with the Jews and moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel's spiritual love, decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone.



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BY OUR ST. MARY'S MISSION TRIP TEENS.**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT THEIR TRIP TO
DO RELIEF WORK IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
THIS SUMMER, JULY 14-20, 2019.**

HELP OUR TEENS HELP OTHERS!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 March, 2019



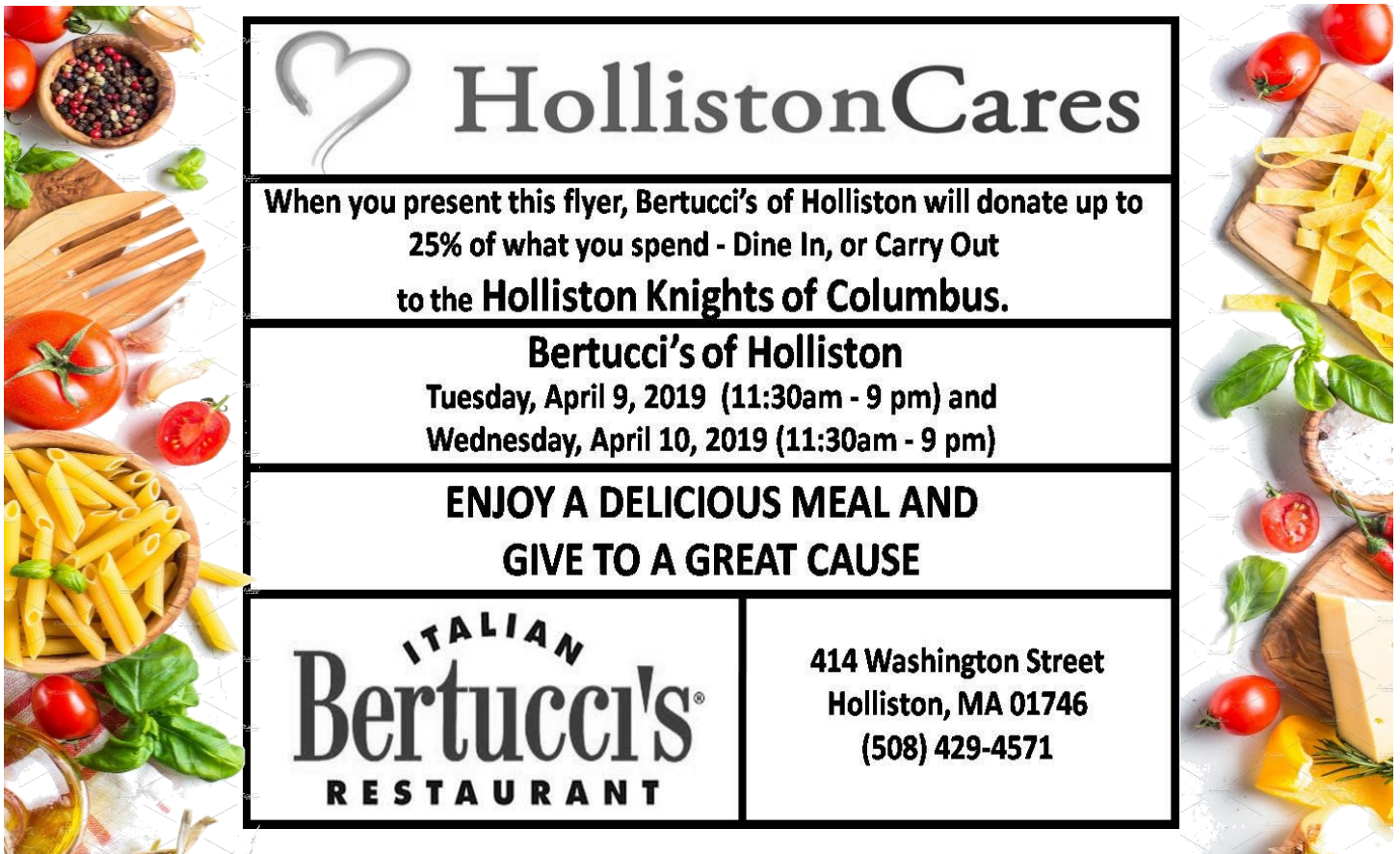
Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish


11th ANNUAL CHARITY FUNDRAISER RAFFLE: Council Knights are selling raffle tickets beginning February 20. 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 groups and others. Co-chairmen are Tom Anguish, Al Scaramella, Bill Heuer, and Aaron Pyman.

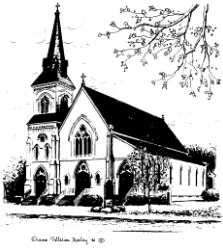
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2019: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For 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, March 20. 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.

K OF C BERTUCCI'S FUNDRAISER: Come to Bertucci's in Holliston for lunch or dinner on Tuesday, April 9 or Wednesday, April 10 from 11:30 AM – 9 PM, and Bertucci's will donate up to 25% of your purchase to the Holliston Knights of Columbus when you present this coupon whether you Dine In or Carry Out.



 HollistonCares	
When you present this flyer, Bertucci's of Holliston will donate up to 25% of what you spend - Dine In, or Carry Out to the Holliston Knights of Columbus.	
Bertucci's of Holliston Tuesday, April 9, 2019 (11:30am - 9 pm) and Wednesday, April 10, 2019 (11:30am - 9 pm)	
ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL AND GIVE TO A GREAT CAUSE	
ITALIAN Bertucci's® RESTAURANT	414 Washington Street Holliston, MA 01746 (508) 429-4571



Due to the **Snow Storm** the weekend of January 19 & 20, St. Mary's offertory that week came in **\$3,491.50 short** of what is needed each week to cover regular parish operating costs.

Due to February School **Vacation** the weekend of February 16 & 17, St. Mary's offertory that week came in **\$1,621.00 short**.

To protect your parish's financial health from the vagaries of weather and travel, St. Mary's Finance Council urges all parishioners to please consider making the switch to Automatic Giving. How does it work?

- 1) Your bank sends your weekly parish support, in the amount you dictate, year-round. 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.
- 2) **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 Automatic Giving, you don't have to remember to make up missed offertory.**
- 3) It's easy and your bank does it for free. Please see below to learn how.

How to Set Up Your Automatic Parish Giving:



- 1) Login to your online banking service (you will first need to be enrolled for this with your bank).
- 2) Go to "Add Payee" or similar function and enter/select:
Payee Name: St. Mary's Parish
Payee Address: 8 Church Street, Holliston, MA 01746
Phone: 508-429-4427
Account: none (since there is no account number your bank will mail a check)
- 3) Go to "Set-up Recurring Bill Payment" or similar function and enter/select:
Choose Payee: St. Mary's Parish
Amount: \$ (reflects one's means and commitment)
Payment Date: MM/DD/YYYY (payment will occur same day each month)
Frequency: monthly (preferred)
No. of Payments: 12 (or select "open ended" option, if available)
Memo (Optional): offertory

You are now set-up; your bank will automatically mail your offertory to St. Mary's, as instructed. Thank you for your faithful stewardship of your parish!

Spring 2019
Surrendering to God's Will
*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12)*

women in
WINGS
God's spirit



March 20 – Jake Thiringer - While raised Lutheran, joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil of 2017 after getting involved with Catholic Campus Ministry while he was studying music at Ramapo College of NJ. Following college graduation, Jake spent a year as a full time missionary at Camp Gray Catholic Camp in Wisconsin doing camp counseling, retreat leadership, music ministry and outdoor education. This past July, Jake moved to MA to serve as the High School Youth Minister and 8th to 10th grade Religious Education Director at St. Mary's.

March 27 – Joanne & Kevin O'Connell - Both Joanne and Kevin graduated in 1986 from The College of the Holy Cross, but did not meet until a few years after graduation. Married in 1992, they brought four sons into the world between 1997-2002. Their son Timothy was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in May 2007 and went home to God in September 2008, just two days after his 10th birthday. For both Joanne and Kevin that experience has shaped their faith and profoundly changed the way they see themselves and those around them.



April 3 – Jim Orcutt - Jim and his wife Terry are co-founders of *My Brother's Keeper*. Using their basement, they founded MBK in 1988 to help families in need. They have always been volunteers, choosing not to be compensated for their service. Both are members of the Board of Directors and are employed by the Congregation of Holy Cross as members of the Holy Cross Retreat House management team.

April 10 – Paula Watt - Paula's family joined St. Mary's four years ago. Married for eleven years, Paula is a mother of two, Noelle 7 and Christian 5. She has held various business positions including Economic Development Director for a large city. However, her most rewarding position has been as a stay at home mom for the last seven years. Paula will discuss her reconversion to the Catholic faith, the importance of praying the Rosary and the message of Our Lady at Fatima.



April 17 - NO WINGS- SCHOOL VACATION



April 24 – Kathy & Abe Schickel - Kathy and Abe have been married for 30 years and are loving parents of seven children. Abe is the owner of Abe Schickel & Company. Kathy is the Events Coordinator at Montrose School. Kathy & Abe will share the story of their beautiful daughter Elizabeth who was diagnosed with brain cancer at age 14. Her deep faith kept her strong and peaceful until the moment God called her home.

May 1 – Sister Maureen Clark - Is a Sister of St. Joseph of Baden. She is the long-time Catholic chaplain at Massachusetts Correctional Institute for Women in Framingham. She will speak on ministering to women incarcerated and spirituality.



May 8 – Closing Brunch

MARCH FOR LIFE 2019

AN EXPERIENCE OF ONE SEMINARIAN

By Steven Booth



I have been going to the March for Life for many years now. Growing up, the Pro-Life cause has always been near and dear to the heart of my family. I have many early memories of Washington, DC. I have memories of the biting cold and marching alongside siblings, memories of stifling bus rides and shoulder to shoulder masses. Memories of standing in fields and sore feet. I have beautiful memories of the Christian people coming to gather to pray at the National Basilica, and memories of a vast sea of people from all over our nation come together to defend the most vulnerable, the child in the womb that doesn't yet have the voice to say "Yes, I'd like to Live." I have many memories. I was taught that in our evolutionary history, memory

did not develop simply for the purpose of remembering our past but rather, *"the purpose of memory is to extract out from the past, a lesson that will structure the future."* So what do my memories of the March for Life tell me about the future? I believe that they inform me that the right to life, which has been enshrined in our Declaration of Independence but which has also been sadly misunderstood, is worth suffering for in order to defend and promote.

These past seven years I have had the good fortune of being able to go to the March with my seminary and seminarian friends. The groups and contexts have changed but the reasons for marching have stayed the same. This year was a pretty standard year. After an eight-hour train ride, we arrived Thursday evening for the vigil Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine. Friday I was interviewed for a podcast with the Archdiocese of the Military Services followed by Mass with the youth of my Diocese of Fall River. The March began at 1:00 PM and was impressively attended as usual, with the temperature being a balmy 45 degrees. This year the mood was especially hopeful because of the recent changes to the Supreme Court and the positive disposition toward Pro-Life matters from our President. My seminary was back on the train for 4:00 PM and after another eight-hour train ride we got back to Boston exhausted but happy.

Our faith reveals the dignity of the human person. From the beginning, God makes man and woman in His image with a rational soul. In the Incarnation, God takes on a human body in the person of Jesus Christ. In doing so, Pope St. John Paul II says, *"Jesus reveals God to man and man to himself."* God is in love with humanity, the record is clear on that. Philosophy spells out that a human person is constituted by a material body and an immaterial *"principle of life"* known as the rational soul. Philosophy goes on to argue that the soul is infused at the moment of conception because it is the soul that forms and shapes the body. Lastly and perhaps most significantly for our day and age, science shows us the fact of life in the womb of the mother. For example, *"The cardiovascular system is the first major system to function. At about 22 days after conception, the child's heart begins to circulate his own blood, unique to that of his mother's, and his heartbeat can be detected on ultrasound."*

The Pro-Life cause is an authentically Pro-Woman cause because abortion hurts women physically, emotionally and spiritually. It is Pro-Father because accepting and shouldering responsibility fulfills a man and draws him out of himself. It is Pro-Child because your size or dependency should never be a reason for removing a fundamental right to life. At the end of the day, an embryo is either a human person or not. If it is a human person then no one has a "right" to kill it. Science, Philosophy and Theology all tell us of the genuine humanity of the child in the womb. There is no more beautiful cause to sacrifice for than the cause of LIFE. That's why I march.



**St. Mary's Middle School Youth
Group Snow Tubing Trip!**

On Saturday, January 19, one hundred thirty-eight MSYG teens hit the slopes of Nashoba Valley for two hours of extreme snow tubing. The lines were short, the night was cold, and icy conditions made for perfect tubing runs. Thanks all for a great night!

Next MSYG Meeting: Sun. March 17, 6:30-8 PM with Sandwich Making for the Homeless, Summer Rafting Trip Sign Ups, Faith, Friendship & fun. Bring a friend!



St. Mary's EPIC

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN CHRIST

Pictures from
February 10 EPIC Meeting
on the Theme of "Encounter"
featuring the game
"Extreme Duck, Duck Goose"

High School
Youth Group!



EPIC is St. Mary's High School Youth Group full of friends, faith, food, games, adventures, trips, service and so much more! We have monthly meetings as well as some great social and service trips, including a mission trip to Gainesville Florida This Summer, July 14-20. If you have any questions about EPIC or want to get involved, come to our next meeting or contact our Youth Minister, Jake Thiringer at stmarysym1870@gmail.com

EPIC Events this Month

- March 10 – EPIC Meeting, FHH, 7:30 – 8:45 PM
- **March 17 – Homemade Irish Soda Bread Sale for Mission Trip - after Masses**
Baking the Friday and Saturday before
- March 24 –Service Project – Creating Blessings Bags for families in need – FHH 7:45 PM - will be distributed through Boston Sock Exchange
- March 31 – EPIC Meeting, FHH, 7:30 – 8:45 PM



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America

St. Mary's Parish * March, 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



CARTER NOTCH – On January 26 and 27, armed with their backpacks, micro-spikes and snowshoes, fourteen scouts and leaders hiked the White Mountains in five feet of snow and temperatures that

ranged from 0 to 15 degrees. (Photo Above) Their destination was the AMC Carter Notch Hut which provided shelter for the night, but they had to put their cold weather camping skills to use as there was no heat or electricity in the bunk hut.



SCOUT SUNDAY – Over 25 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Leaders from the Packs and Troops in town attended the 9:30 AM Scout Sunday Mass at St. Mary's on February 3. Father Mark talked about the meaning of the 12th point of the Scout Law "A Scout is Reverent." The reverent Scout sees God in Creation and is a good steward of that Creation; respects the Religions of others; and fulfills the Religious Obligations of his own religion. A special blessing was given to the Scouts and their leaders.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST – On February 3 over 300 breakfasts were prepared and served by Troop 14 scouts in Father Haley Hall. It was great to see so many from the community attended the breakfast as well as scouts from various troops and packs. (Photo) Troop 14 would like to thank all who supported the troop at this successful fundraising event. Some 50+ organizations and individuals donated to this event. These sponsors, the support of St. Mary's, and the support of the community at large, help support the many programs and activities undertaken by the troop.

INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING – On Saturday February 9 Troop 14 with 25 scouts and leaders spent a night at Rock Spot in South Boston, where they rock climbed late into the night, slept for a few hours on the padded floors and then woke to do some early morning climbing before the facility opened. A group of five 2nd Year Webelos joined us and climbed with the troop that evening. Scouts could be found all over the 11,000 foot gym either climbing the bouldering terrain, using the top rope walls or challenging themselves on the slack lines. This traditional troop event encourages team building as well as challenging and testing your skills and abilities. (Photo)

SWIM NIGHT - The troop took a break from their regular troop meetings and on February 25 met at the Milford HS pool for a night of fun, swimming and diving, as well as completing some aquatics related requirements.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March campout at Nobscot Scout Camp in Sudbury, MA. 2nd Year Webelos are invited to join the troop for the day on Saturday.
- Merit Badge University March 2 and 9.

ST. MARY'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 14 – The troop meets weekly on Monday nights. *If interested in joining Troop 14, come to any of our meetings. It is an ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.*



ADULT FAITH RESOURCES MARCH, 2019

got faith?

LENT: The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6. There are many resources out there to help you celebrate this season of conversion in a good and holy way. Here are a few of these resources. The US Catholic Bishops have a webpage devoted to the Lenten season. On it you can find resources such as a daily calendar, reflections on the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, videos on themes such as mercy and solidarity and suggestions for praying the Stations of the Cross. Here's the USCCB address: <https://bit.ly/1AmYycZ>. Fr. Mike Schmitz of Ascension Presents, a division of Ascension Press, has a Lenten youtube video at <https://bit.ly/1X6y3CR>. In his talk, Fr. Mike talks about putting the three disciplines of Lenten devotion, prayer, fasting and almsgiving into practice. At <https://bit.ly/2XbYEVw> you can register to receive daily reflections on the theme of mercy from Loyola Press. Finally, there are always informative articles on the Lenten season at <https://bustedhalo.com>.

SUNDAY READINGS: March 3 is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time; in the gospel, we are challenged to look first at our own failings (wooden beams in our eyes) before we chide another person for their faults (wooden splinter in his/her eyes). The remainder of the March Sundays are all Sundays in Lent. We hear familiar readings on these days: Jesus' temptation in the desert (March 10) and his transfiguration on the mountain (March 17); the story of the burning bush and the call of Moses (March 24); and the parable of the prodigal son (March 31). Perhaps you will hear something new in these readings this year. To prepare for the Sunday readings you can go to <http://www.liturgy.slu.edu/>.



PRAYER is one of the three disciplines of Lent mentioned in the Ash Wednesday gospel. Do you want some assistance in further developing your prayer life this Lent? You'll find information about the examen, an Ignatian prayer practice at <https://bit.ly/2zNZ4aH>. Loyola Press offers a daily three-minute retreat; you can sign up to receive this retreat via email at <https://bit.ly/2f8wZki>. A series of articles about Franciscan spirituality, including a link to Franciscan Media's daily Minute Meditations are found at <https://bit.ly/2ID5N1V>.

CREATION CARE TEAM: The Creation Care Team will show the film documentary, *A Plastic Ocean*, on Saturday, March 30 at 10:00 AM in Rooms 3 and 4 in the Parish Center. We have invited members of the other faith communities in Holliston to join us for this showing as well. This full-length documentary "brings to life the consequences of our global disposable lifestyle" (film advertising). Come and see! The Creation Care Team now has a page on the parish website: <https://stmarysholliston.com/parish-creation-care-team/>. Check it out.

ST. JOSEPH: St. Joseph's feast day is March 19. Joseph was the husband of Mary and Jesus' earthly father. You can find information about St. Joseph at Catholic Online, <https://bit.ly/1hATh6D>.

OUR ENVIRONMENT: In December, we noted that Psalm 104 asks God to "renew the face of the earth". The question to consider was "Have you ever considered our earth to be holy, or thought it worthy of God's renewal?" Here's a New Testament thought about this same idea. The Gospel of John reminds us that Jesus "was in the beginning with God, and all things came into being through him" (John 1:2-3, NRSV). We are also reminded that Jesus came into the world that he created: "and the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). Regina Boisclair, in an essay called "Preach Good News to All Creation", which appears in a book entitled *An Unexpected Wilderness: Christianity and the Natural World*, says that Jesus' coming to be in our world "sanctified" it (118). She adds that Jesus often used nature to "illustrate" the message in his teachings (118). Do we treat the world and nature as holy, created by God? --Leo Racine