



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

***March Newsletter 2020***

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**Ash Wednesday**

**Feb. 26**

**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, 2020 ~ Volume 45, Number 7

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

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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."

## 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

## HONORING A REVERENT SCOUTMASTER

*(Presentation Speech by Fr. Mark at St. Mary's  
Scout Sunday Mass, 9:30 AM, Feb. 2, 2020)*

As many of you know, this past year saw the retirement of Charlie Paradie as the Scoutmaster of Troop 14. Charlie was Scoutmaster for the past 9 years and has been an active leader in our Troop for 26 years.

Charlie's tenure was marked by hard work, commitment, generosity – and the elevation of at least 25 Scouts to the rank of Eagle Scout.

In so many ways, Charlie has served as role model and mentor for our Scouts – including as a man of faith. On Scout Sunday we celebrate that a Scout is reverent. Which means among other things, that he 'fulfills the obligations of his religion.'

And Charlie does that – worshipping at Mass faithfully on Sundays and Holy Days, contributing his time and talents to his parish, and living out his faith by his love of God and neighbor.

Charlie represents the very best of Scouting because he excels not only in worldly things, but in the spiritual life.

A man may be able to read a map, follow a compass, even chart his course by the stars. But if that man is without God – then he is lost.



As you may know, the Boy Scouts of America were founded on February 8, 1910.

After producing a Scout Handbook during their first year of operation, the BSA began working on a Scoutmaster Handbook almost immediately. Finally, in 1914, they released the first official Scoutmaster Handbook.

And in recognition Charlie of your many contributions to Troop 14 and to St. Mary's Parish life, it is my privilege now to present you with this gift -

- a First Edition Copy of that 1914 Scoutmaster's Handbook.

Congratulations Charlie!





## HEARTS SURGE AT ST. MARY'S!

For three nights, Catholics wanting to grow and strengthen their faith filled our Church for “Surge of the Heart” – our Parish Mission and the first major event of St. Mary’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. International speaker and best-selling author Jon Leonetti led the Feb. 9-11 event, entertaining and instructing a crowd of all ages.

On Night One, Jon focused on God as gift. *“God does not need us,”* said Jon, meaning that God’s love for us is pure gift. Jon talked about the awesome gift of Jesus’ suffering as the great proof of God’s love, using powerful images that made us appreciate Our Lord’s Sacrifice anew.

On Night Two, Jon began by asking how many present hoped to be “saints” one day. When a minority raised their hands, Jon reminded us that everyone in heaven is a saint. Not all may be named and “canonized”, but if you are in heaven you are a saint. Which is why sainthood should be the primary, overarching goal of our lives. He then used stories of the saints – with all their struggles and imperfections – to show that sainthood is possible. Purgatory was discussed as the great gift of final purification that allows us to enter heaven unstained and fully open to the joy of God.

On Night Three, Jon identified three characteristics that every saint had in common: A daily prayer life; a relationship with the Sacraments – especially Confession; and a devotion to Mary. He then offered practical steps to integrate these sources of grace into our lives, all with the goal of eternal life one day.



# From the Pastor's Desk

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

Thank you to all who made St. Mary's "Surge of the Heart" Parish Mission such a success. About four hundred people filled the church each night to reflect on and be inspired by the gift of our Catholic faith. Many thanks to Jon Leonetti for guiding us through these evenings of spiritual renewal. Our 150<sup>th</sup> Parish Anniversary celebrations are well begun!

About two years ago, when we first began planning St. Mary's 150<sup>th</sup>, parishioners stressed that it should be not only a celebration of our past, but also an opportunity to reach out to others in new ways. The idea was proposed of adopting a "sister parish" – a Catholic community of faith somewhere in the world with which we could enter into a relationship of mutual blessing and support. The criteria were as follows:

- 1) A parish in a part of the world where life is hard, and where our friendship would be a real balm.
- 2) A parish different from us in language and culture, allowing us a more diverse experience of Catholicism.
- 3) A parish accessible enough to receive gifts and visits from us.
- 4) A parish with enough electronic infrastructure that we could communicate and foster friendships.
- 5) A parish with leadership and people open to a "sister" relationship.

The first criterion led us to the Holy Land, where on our last St. Mary's Pilgrimage many parishioners were shocked at how difficult life is for the Arab Christian communities. As the result of government restrictions, discrimination, and at times outright persecution, the number of Christians in the Holy Land has plummeted. In 1950, for instance, Bethlehem and the surrounding villages were 86 percent Christian. But as of 2019, the Christian population has fallen to 11 percent. The territory of Bethlehem, (including Beit Sahour), is surrounded by an Israeli "security wall." In order to travel outside the city, residents must receive special, rarely granted permits, and then pass inspection by armed soldiers after waiting hours in line. This makes it very difficult to find work, go to the doctors, visit family, etc. Just this year, severe new restrictions were added to travel between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, a city just seven miles away. The Bethlehem territory itself is experiencing ongoing decay of its infrastructure.

Having settled on the Holy Land as a worthy prospect, we then reached out to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which provides the vast majority of funding for the Catholic Church in Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Cyprus. Together these areas make up the "Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem." Officials of the Order assisted us in getting permission from Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of the Patriarchate. We then began working with Dr. Sami El-Yousef, C.E.O. of the Patriarchate, who helped us narrow down the most likely candidate sister parishes.

At our January 12, 2020 Meeting, St. Mary's Parish Council voted unanimously to select Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Beit Sahour, the Shepherd's Fields outside Bethlehem. On February 4, 2020, Fr. Issa Hijazeen, the Pastor of Our Lady's, accepted the sister parish relationship proposal. He will be writing soon to the people of St. Mary's, Holliston, and I am working on a letter to the Catholics in Beit Sahour. Already Fr. Issa has pledged that each First Friday the morning Mass at Our Lady's will be offered for our parishioners in Holliston. We will be reciprocating with a monthly Mass for them, shifting it to our First Fridays as the calendar allows. Both parishes will immediately begin supporting each other in prayer.

We look forward to seeing how our new relationship with our fellow Catholics in Beit Sahour will evolve. We hope it will lead to personal friendships, spiritual enrichment, and better understanding of the lives of Catholics in other lands. As we learn more about the specific needs there, we hope also to become a source of charitable support. Please take a moment to read about our new Sister Parish in this Newsletter. They also have a great Facebook page with many photos: Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Beit Sahour).

God bless you. And may God bless the people of our Sister Parish in the Land of Jesus' Birth.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor



P.S. We look forward to visiting Beit Sahour and celebrating Mass with Fr. Issa and his parishioners on Wednesday, March 11, during our upcoming Parish Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. To that end, I asked Fr. Issa if there were any small, practical items we could collect and bring over in our luggage for the children in his parish school. He named these items:

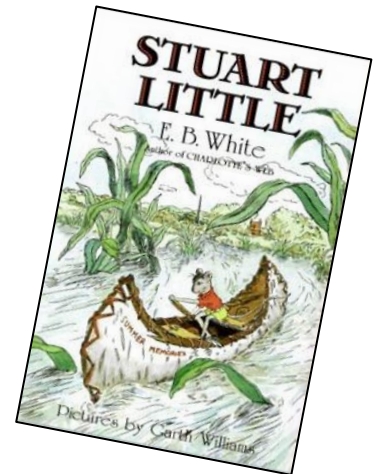
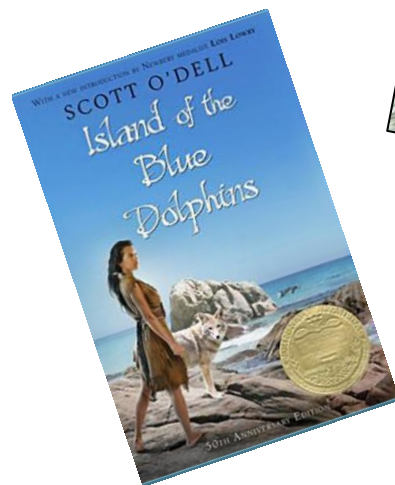
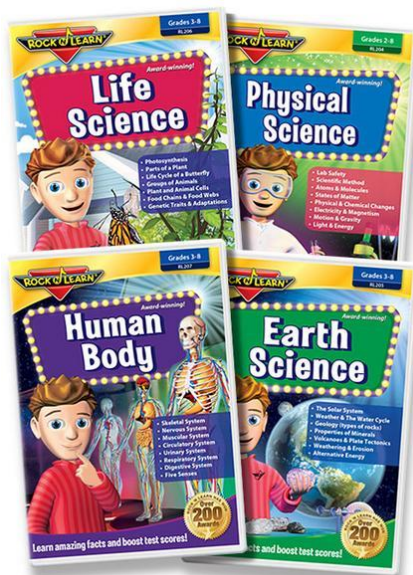
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- Good quality colored pencils; Educational Audio CD's for learning the English language.

- New “adventure” books in English, Grades 1-12, as all the students read in English ten minutes a day.

- Educational DVD's, Grades 1-12, in English, on science or other topics.



**A BIN TO COLLECT DONATIONS  
OF THESE ITEMS WILL BE IN THE  
PARISH CENTER LOBBY  
THROUGH SUNDAY,  
MARCH 1, 2020.**

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**Learn more about the current challenges for Christians and other Palestinians living in the territory of Bethlehem in this excellent article by Dalia Hatuqa:**

*“We are living in a touristic prison”  
Palestinians on life in the holy city of Bethlehem*

<https://bit.ly/39vj954>

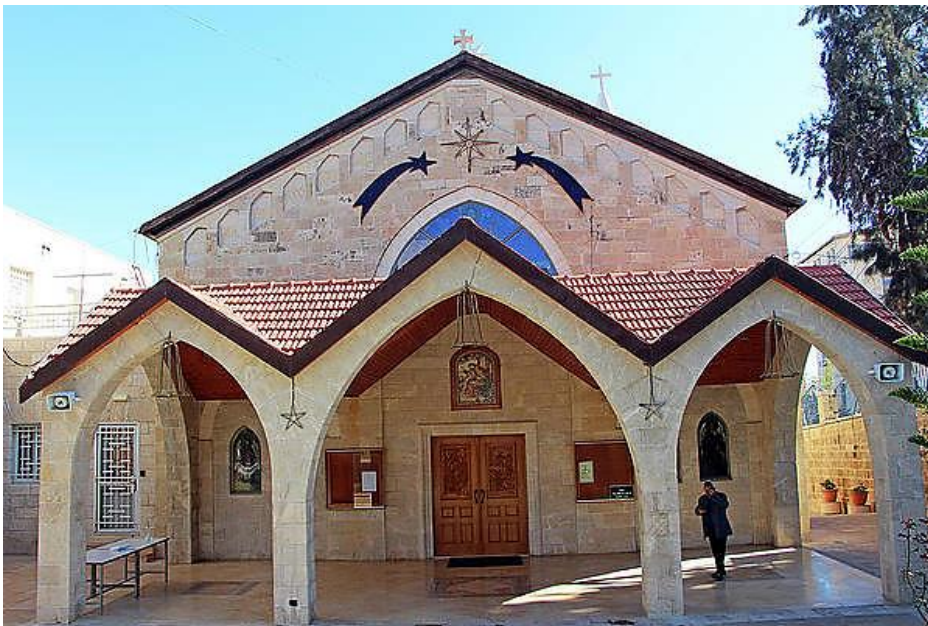
# Celebrating 150 years!

1870-2020



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Meet St. Mary's new Sister Parish ~ Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour, the Shepherd's Fields outside Bethlehem!



Beit Sahour, the Land of the Shepherds, has one of the largest Christian communities in the Palestinian Territories. The Parish was established in 1859, with only 80 families. Today, it is one of the most active parishes in the area with pastoral initiatives for various activities and groups: three youth groups, a choir and Scouts.

The first Latin Patriarchate School was built in Beit Sahour in 1864. Since then, thousands of Christians and an increasing number of Muslim children have continued to attend classes at the pre-school,

kindergarten, elementary and primary grades (up to Grade 12). Over the years Beit Sahour School has undergone renovations and expansions to serve the increasing demand for space. There are weekly parent-teacher sessions and meetings of the Scouts (boys and girls). The existence of the Pastoral Center continues to promote public encounters and sharing. Christ the King Bookstore, the first Christian bookshop in the Palestinian Territories opened in 2011.



Despite its aging and deteriorating physical structure, the Beit Sahour school, due to its performance and high-quality education, is attracting more and more students every year. Townspeople and others from the vicinity are seeking to enroll their children in Beit Sahour School that they might later profit from the advanced, standard education and instruction it offers in an open environment.

Beit Sahour Statistics:      Population 15,500.      Christians 12,000.  
Catholic Christians 2,000.

Photo Left: Father Issa Hijazeen, Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour



# Celebrating 150 years!

## ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



**1870 to 2020.** Those 150 years represent untold moments of ministry and grace that have blessed generations of Catholics in Holliston and the surrounding communities. We give thanks to God for this beautiful family of faith and ask Him to watch over and guide us into the future. There will be many special events to mark this Anniversary, including a new History of St. Mary's Book, the commissioning of an original St. Mary's Hymn, and Children's Activities. Additionally:

**February 22 & 23:** At all Masses this weekend, prayer requests will be collected for St. Mary's March Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. They will be divided among the pilgrims and prayed at Mass every single day of our Holy Land Journey.

**March 6 - 15:** Holy Land Pilgrimage. St. Mary's parishioners will be walking in the footsteps of Jesus these days, visiting among other places Bethlehem, Mount Tabor, the Jordan River and Cana. A highlight will be praying the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem before celebrating Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (photo right). We will also celebrate Mass with Fr. Issa at our new Sister Parish in Beit Sahour, Our Lady of Fatima in the Shepherd's Fields.

**On Sunday, May 10, at 11:30 AM,** our Archbishop, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, will celebrate Sunday Mass at St. Mary's in Holliston for the first time, joining us to mark our 150<sup>th</sup> year as a Parish Family. We are honored to welcome His Eminence. Save the date for this highlight of our Anniversary Celebrations!



**On Friday, May 22,** come enjoy our Anniversary Concert, "Sing of Mary," a night of the greatest music written in honor of Our Lady. St. Mary's Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs will perform, accompanied by Orchestra.

**On Saturday, October 10 - Sunday, October 11,** St. Mary's parishioners are invited to take part in a Retreat at Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury, MA.

<https://miramarretreat.org/wp/>

**Saturday, November 14,** is the date of St. Mary's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in the Regency Ballroom, DoubleTree Inn, Milford. There will be dinner, dancing, a silent auction and a Keynote Address by His Excellency, Robert P. Reed, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston and President of Boston Catholic Television. Join us!

# Celebrating 150 years!

## 1870-2020



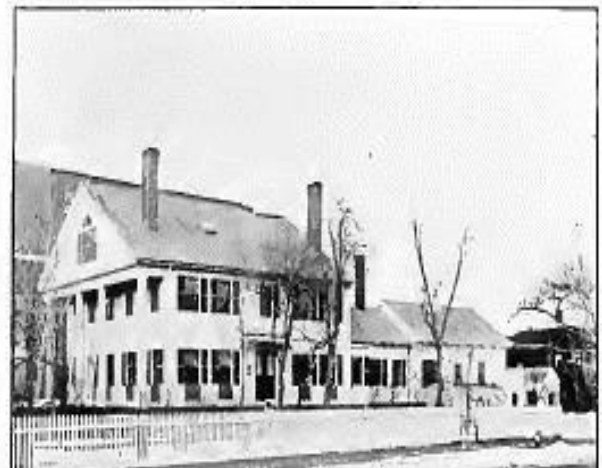
ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Did You Know?** This March Newsletter continues a series of 'Did You Know' articles with tantalizing tidbits from the research that's been done for the new history of St. Mary's book. A different story will appear in each Monthly Newsletter during 2020.

**Did You Know?** St. Mary's Parish Rectory was **not** built by our founding Pastor, Fr. Richard Quinlan. When Fr. Quinlan arrived in Holliston in December 1870, the rectory building was owned by a physician, Dr. Charles Spring, according to the *1882 Holliston Business Directory*. Dr. Spring settled in Holliston with his family around 1874, and was a member of the Holliston Board of Health and the School Committee. He died in October of 1890, allowing Fr. Quinlan to purchase the house in 1892.

Prior to Dr. Spring, the house was owned by James Simonds, a tailor who used the house as his residence and business. He was in Holliston as early as 1855, when the MA State Census recorded him living there with his wife and his son (also a tailor). His name is also on an 1875 map of Holliston at the corner of Church and Washington Streets. Ownership of the house cannot be traced before Mr. Simonds. It is possible he built the house.

So where was Fr. Quinlan living prior to purchasing the house in 1892? The same *1882 Holliston Business Directory* lists Fr. Quinlan as living in a house on Charles St. near Washington and his father was boarding with him. As early as June of 1871, his accounts ledger includes an expense of "House Rent \$50.00." His ledger lists house rent monthly through Sept. 1880 when the accounts ledger ended.



PAROCHIAL RESIDENCE, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, HOLLISTON.

The rectory photo above was taken around 1894 and was found in the book *One Hundred Years of Progress...Archdiocese of Boston* published in 1895. See if you can spot differences between this image and the current rectory.

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**St. Mary's Anniversary Video Series:** The Parish History video is now playing in the Religious Ed Center lobby. The Parish Pastors segment will begin on March 1. Don't worry if you haven't had a chance to watch them now. Each segment will be repeated in the Fall.

Thank you to the parishioners who have donated photos to be used in the video series. The Parish Life segment will not be shown until May 2020, so there is still plenty of time to donate photos. I would love photos from the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Nativity Pageant, Mr. and Mrs. Club and the various St. Mary's Ministries. Contact Betty Febo, 508- 429-7190 or [betty.febo@gmail.com](mailto:betty.febo@gmail.com).





## *Meet Him In Ashes ~ Wednesday, February 26*



6:45 AM

Liturgy

5:30 PM

Mass

9:00 AM

Mass

7:00 PM

Mass

4:00 PM

Liturgy

*"Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return ..."*

*"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 Around The Table, Friday Lenten Soup Suppers*



Beginning Friday, February 28 at 6:00 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://bit.ly/2OwJRSE>. Or you may email [mlorandos@verizon.net](mailto:mlorandos@verizon.net). Join us!



## *Meet Him Tuesday Evenings ~*

Come enjoy Lenten Evening Prayer, Tuesdays at 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 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, & April 7.

## *Meet Him In Sung Choral Vespers ~*

Sunday March 22 from 6-6:30 PM and Wednesday, April 1 from 7-7:30 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 For Forty Hours ~*

*Sunday, March 22 - Tuesday, March 24*

**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 22**

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

**Monday, March 23**

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, March 24**

9:00 AM	Closing Mass with Benediction
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*Meet Him With*

*The St. Paul's Boy Choir*

*~ Friday, March 27*

Friday, March 27, 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 James Kennerley and accompanied by organist Maks Adach, the Choir will perform works selected from the Classical repertoire. The Concert is free and open to all. For more information on the St. Paul's Choir School, please visit [www.saintpaulschoirschool.us](http://www.saintpaulschoirschool.us)



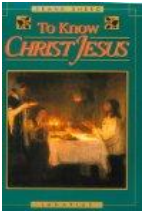


# RECOMMENDED READING FOR LENT

By Jennifer Fulwiler

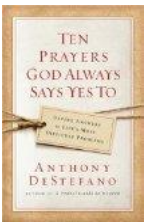
Reprinted with permission

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner (February 26), so I wanted to share my suggestions for great Lenten reads.



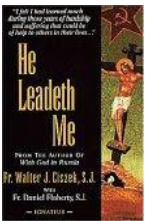
## **To Know Christ Jesus by F.J. Sheed**

No other book has brought the Gospels alive for me like this one. Sheed offers all sorts of interesting thoughts on the life of Christ, without veering into unfounded speculation. He mines the Scriptures and comes up with gems that I'd never seen before. It is a bit dense (I almost gave up on it about 40 pages into it), but it really picks up around page 50. If you can stick with it, you'll be richly rewarded.



## **10 Prayers God Always Says Yes To by Anthony DeStefano**

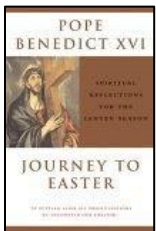
This slim little book is packed with all sorts of interesting thoughts about what God's will is for you, and how to grow closer to God in times of silence. I found it to be particularly helpful in the discussion of the age-old "Why does God allow bad things to happen?" question. This is the perfect read if you've been feeling angry with God, wondering why he's silent, feeling like he hasn't been answering your prayers, etc. (I first discovered it through [this recommendation from a mother](#) whose only child was murdered in the Virginia Tech shootings.)



## **He Leadeth Me by Walter Ciszek**

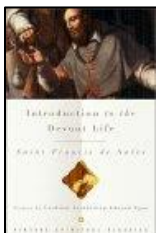
This stunning autobiographical account of Fr. Ciszek's wrongful imprisonment in Russia is one of the most life-changing books I've ever read. I read it more than a year ago and yet I still find myself thinking about it almost daily.

What was most surprising to me was how applicable the lessons he learned are to modern American life. His insights about everything from suffering to discerning God's will to trusting God in all things — which he learned the hard way during five years of brutal solitary confinement and fifteen years in a Siberian death camp — are amazingly inspiring, whether you're experiencing great suffering or just feeling numbed by the daily grind. I particularly loved his thoughts on how to maintain a lively spiritual life even when life feels mundane or boring. I highly, highly recommend this book.



## **Journey to Easter by Pope Benedict XVI**

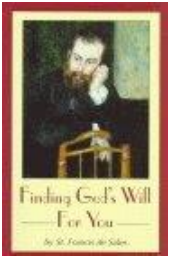
Based on a Lenten retreat he gave for John Paul II in the 1980's (hosting a retreat to help John Paul II grow in faith — how's that for pressure?!), Pope Benedict XVI walks us through a series of meditations based on Scripture readings for Lent. I admit that there were two or three chapters that were just way over my head, but the rest of the book offered powerful insights on everything from prayer to the Paschal mystery to conversion to the Church. I find myself going back to this book over and over again for inspiration. An excellent read for Lent.



## **Introduction to the Devout Life by Francis de Sales**

When I first read the 17th century classic *Introduction to the Devout Life*, I didn't feel like I got that much out of it. When I reached the last chapter I felt like I'd enjoyed reading it but couldn't point to anything specific I'd taken away from it. Then I picked it up off my desk one day and, as I flipped through and re-read the various passages I'd starred and highlighted, I realized just how much I really had taken away from this book.

Now that I've gone through it again, I count it among the best books I've ever read. It's the ultimate how-to manual for conforming yourself to Christ. Also, perhaps because the book is based on de Sales' letters of spiritual direction to his sister and other women who wanted to grow in faith, I find that his advice perfectly fits the things I struggle with on a day to day basis as a wife and mother. Just know that you may have to read it more than once to have the lessons really sink in.



**Finding God's Will for You by Francis de Sales**

How do we know what God wants us to do? Should we try to discern God's will even for little decisions like what to eat for dinner? What if we pray and it seems like God is telling us nothing at all? These were the questions I had when I decided to get a copy of this book. I found good answers to those questions and a whole lot more: the book has lots of practical advice for daily living that you can start applying to your life right now. It's also a little bit less dense and more readable than *Introduction to the Devout Life*.



St. Mary's Creation Care Team will show the Pixar animated film, **Wall-E**, on Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 AM in Rooms 3 & 4 of the Parish Center. Refreshments will be provided. **Wall-E** is a G rated movie that has engaging characters and a positive message about the future of the human race. Come join us for some fun...and popcorn!

**Book Review** by Sharon Febo: The new book, *Wild at Heart: America's Turbulent Relationship with Nature, from Exploitation to Redemption* by Alice Outwater, (New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 2019) provides historical perspective on current environmental difficulties including climate change and plastic pollution in the oceans. For instance, Outwater outlines previous ecological challenges related to migratory birds and waterway pollution which, when met with determination and resolve, led to the growth of the Audubon Society in the early 1900's and the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, respectively. *Wild at Heart* provides an interesting look at the way our relationship with nature has evolved over time and gives some hope that we too may eventually be able to resolve our current issues.

**Lent:** Lent 4.2 is a "seven-week faith formation program of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to heed the call of Pope Francis to care for our common home" (from the website). You can follow this program at [www.lent42.org](http://www.lent42.org). Each week there is a new theme along with church teaching on that particular theme as well as action steps to carry out the theme.





# St. Mary's EPIC High School Youth Ministry



## EPIC Winter/ Spring Events

### General Meetings

Mar. 8, Mar. 29, May 3, May 31  
7:15 – 8:45 PM in FHH - \$5 Dues

### Teen Mass

6:00 PM – Sun., Mar. 29 then  
7:00 – 8:30 PM General Meeting

### Prayer and Planning

Mar. 22 and April 26

7:15 – 8:15 PM in Rooms 3 & 4

### Service Project – Blessing Bags

Sunday, March 1

7:15 PM – Rooms 3 & 4

## Mission Trip - Gulfport, Mississippi

July 26 – August 1, 2020

Registration Paperwork was due last month,  
spots still remain, speak to Youth Minister Thiringer  
(stmarysym1870@gmail.com) for more information.



Pictures from January 25  
EPIC SkyZone 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. Next Meetings are Feb. 23 & March 15.



**VICTORY CELEBRATION!** Shown above, some of the MSYG Boys celebrate their come from behind victory at the Jan. 26 MSYG Battle of the Sexes! The boys got creamed by the Gender Culture Trivia but staged a major comeback with the Math Scramble and Hula Hoop Pass. Total wins now? Girls 6, Boys 7. But when it came to fun everyone was a winner this night!

**NEXT MEETINGS:** February 23 – Burning of the Palms, Cosmic Bowling Sign Ups, much more!

March 15 – Sandwich Making for Homeless, Whitewater Rafting Sign Ups, much more!





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**MSYG SNOW TUBING!** On Saturday, January 18, one hundred thirty-two MSYG teens hit the slopes of Nashoba Valley for two hours of extreme snow tubing. The lines were short due to a dusting of snow, so we got plenty of runs in! Thanks all for a great night.







# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 March, 2020

**Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella**

**Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish**

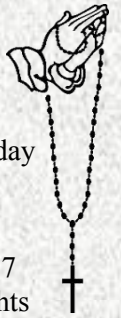
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST:** On January 22, at Marilyn Lourandos's Second Grade Religious Education Class, the Council presented three winners their certificates of participation and prizes in the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest (photo below). They are Mary Hupfer, Leo Wagner, and Mia Magnani. Rebecca Daley was another prize winner from St. Mary's. These winning posters have been entered into the State Knights of Columbus Poster Contest. The Council thanks Religious Education Director Fran Crespi for promoting this activity for our parish youth.



## MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be Wednesday, March 18. 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 PARISHONERS are invited** to share in this beautiful and powerful prayer with our Council.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE:** Council Knights are now selling raffle tickets. One raffle ticket is \$5 or five tickets for \$20. First Prize is \$1000. **Ask a Knight for tickets.** Knights will sell raffle tickets after all Masses on March 28 and 29. On April, May and June weekends, the Council will be selling raffle tickets at Superette and Fiske's downtown and at various shopping centers in adjacent towns. From raffle proceeds, the Council has donated over \$200,000 to local charities and veterans charities. These include the Holliston Pantry Shelf, Holliston Senior Center, local Habitat for Humanity projects, Homes for our Troops and other veteran's charities. Drawing will take place at Celebrate Holliston on September 26. Raffle co-chairmen are Knights Tom Anguish, Bill Heuer, Aaron Pyman and Grand Knight Al Scaramella.

**ANNUAL FREE THROW CONTEST:** The twelfth annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest was held in January and the winners are: 9 year old-Olivia Farara and Nicholas Flannery; 10 year old-Grace Schoenberg and Max McFayden; 11 year old-Grace Gorham and Jack McDonald; 12 year old-Bridget Doherty and Arav Prajapati; 13 year old-Makayla McHugh and Daniel Burke; 14 year old-Lindsey Haddad and Miguel Dejesus. The winners will move to the K of C District Free Throw Playoff to be held in late February at Holliston Middle School. Knight Donald Marden is the coordinator.

**WORCESTER CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE:** On March 28, this year's Conference will celebrate twenty years. Noted Speakers will be Bishop Robert Reed and Dr. Scott Hahn - noted Catholic lay theologian. All St. Mary's men are encouraged to attend this event to be held at Assumption College. You may register at [firstmensconf.org](http://firstmensconf.org). Council Knights will be carpooling and invite more men to attend. Contact Knight is Mitchell Liro.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2020:** 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](mailto:ajscaramella@comcast.net) OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website [kofc.org](http://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.

# women in WINGS God's spirit

*Spring 2020 –  
Recognizing God's Grace In our Lives*



**March 18 – Rev Richard Cannon: Grace for Every Need.** Fr. Cannon will help us understand the difference between sanctifying grace and actual grace. He will share how he has experienced grace in his personal life and priestly ministry. He is a graduate of UMASS Amherst and St. John's Seminary and was ordained a priest in 1986. He has parishes in Quincy and South Boston. He has been the Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Hopkinton since 2012. His brother, Ken, is also a priest of the Archdiocese.



**March 25 – Lauren Marshall: Jesus - The Source of Grace in My life.** Lauren applies her past professional experience in communications and education daily as a full-time at home mother of five children. A graduate of Duke University and lover of the humanities, she draws upon the grace of God to sanctify homemaking and childrearing. Her talk will focus on the graces of everyday life as illustrated by the wisdom of the saints and traditions of the church.



**April 1 – Jess McGuire –There is Light Amidst the Darkness.** Jessica's journey of faith shows that, through the healing power of God's amazing grace, we can offer mercy to those who have deeply offended us. Jess is a survivor of clergy sexual abuse. Joined by **Fr. Carl Chudy**, Jess' spiritual director, Jess will share her struggles to heal and her journey back to faith. Jess is a mother of two children. Fr. Carl is a Xaverian Missionary, stationed at Fatima Shrine, Holliston and a leader in interfaith dialogue.



**April 8 – Thomas Slick: God's Grace Leads us from Despair.** Tom will share how his life experiences have led him to a place where he is uniquely meeting the needs of the underserved. His work evolved from an accomplished sales career to serving in non-profit leadership roles at World Vision and Straight Ahead Ministries. He is the Founder and President of Provision Ministry, Inc, an organization that connects corporations, churches and individuals to non-profits who serve those most in need. Tom holds a degree in Marketing and is a Black Belt in Tai Kwon Do.



**April 15 – Kim Lisbon: God's Grace is Sufficient.** Kim places her trust in Jesus. She will share how His presence sustained her during a recent battle with cancer, allowing her to live and love through this unexpected journey. Kim has been married 34 years and loves traveling with her husband, Art. She holds a BA in Elementary Education from Annhurst College, has worked as a teacher, in Human Resource Management and, in the Catholic Church. She earned a Catechetical Certificate from St. John's Seminary and is active in the Catholic Charismatic renewal. She shares her musical talent at two local parishes and her prayer group, the Vision of Peace.

**April 22 – School Vacation – No WINGS**



**April 29 – Robert LeBlanc: Great Adventures.** Did you know that God's grace is for everyone? Robert will share life stories that show how great things can be accomplished through the gift of grace. Born in New Orleans, Robert grew up in Biloxi, Mississippi. At the age of 15 he turned his life over to God and began studying the Bible. He has witnessed and experienced many miracles during his life's journey. Several years ago, he wrote *Where Will You Plant Your Seed?* - inspirational stories of how God has worked in his life as well as others.





## Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America  
St. Mary's Parish \* March, 2020

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster  
508.579.4357

Email: [Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com](mailto:Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.Troop14Holliston.com](http://www.Troop14Holliston.com)

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, ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.

### SNOWSHOE BACKPACKING TRIP IN THE WHITE

**MOUNTAINS:** On January 25 and 26, armed with their backpacks, multiple layers of clothing and snowshoes, 20 Scouts and leaders hiked the White Mountains in 30" of snow and temperatures in the upper 20's. (Photo Bottom of Page) Their destination was the Lonesome Lake AMC 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. After arriving and having lunch, they split into two groups. One snowshoed a couple miles around and across the frozen lake, exploring the winter wonderland. The other took on the challenge of a 3-mile snowshoe hike, summiting a nearby 3769' peak where they experienced very different conditions. As they approached the summit with its steep terrain, the temperatures dropped to the single digits, winds picked up with 40-50 mph gusts and the clouds thickened limiting the visibility to a couple hundred feet. Despite that, all were proud of the accomplishment and enjoyed the quick hike down to the hut.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** On February 2, 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 attend the breakfast. Troop 14 would like to thank all who supported the Troop at this successful fundraising event. Some 80+ organizations and individuals donated to this event. These sponsors, St. Mary's, and the support of the community at large, allows us to provide the many great programs and activities undertaken by the Troop.

**COURT OF HONOR:** Troop 14 held their Court of Honor on February 3, where 20 merit badges were awarded and ten Scouts advanced in rank (Tenderfoot through Star). A number of Scouts were also presented their patches for various leadership positions in the Troop. A recap of the Troop's Fund Raising efforts, past and upcoming activities were announced. The evening ended with an overview of this summer's High Adventure trip to Arcadia National Park.





**ST. MARY'S DONATION:** Having a successful year of fundraising, Troop 14 wanted to give back to St. Mary's Parish who sponsors and supports the Troop year round. At the February 3 Court of Honor, Father Mark stopped by and the Troop presented him a \$500 check. Father Mark graciously accepted the check, thanked the Troop on behalf of St. Mary's Parish and told the Scouts the donation would go towards the parish's charity giving to help a local person in need. (Photo Below). Fr. Mark then shared with the Troop the name of St. Mary's new Sister Parish – Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour. Located in Palestine, Our Lady's also has a Boy Scout Troop. Fr. Mark invited St. Mary's Scouts to start thinking about how they might connect with the Troop in our Sister Parish, a beautiful opportunity to learn about life and Scouting in a distant land and culture.



**INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING:** On Saturday February 8th Troop 14 with 41 Scouts and leaders returned to Rock Spot in Lincoln, RI, 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 number of Holliston 2nd Year Webelos joined us and climbed with the Troop that evening. Scouts could be found all over the 10,000 sf gym either climbing the bouldering terrain, climbing on the top rope walls, or challenging themselves on the slack lines. This traditional Troop event encourages team building as well as challenging & testing their skills and abilities. (Photo Below Right)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Troop Swim at Milford HS rescheduled to March, TBA.
- Deer Lake Campout mid-March.
- Merit Badge University on March 7 and 21.

St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 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.

#### FUN SCOUTING FACTS:

The First Boy Scout was a British Baron - Robert Baden-Powell. Robert Baden-Powell was a colonel in the British Army during the second Boer War in 1899. When he and his troops found themselves surrounded - and vastly outnumbered - by the Dutch colonists, Baden-Powell enlisted a local Cadet Corps, 12 to 15 year olds who wore khaki uniforms and wide-brimmed hats (sound familiar?) to help out. The boys relayed messages and acted as guards and literal scouts, leaving Baden-Powell's adult troops free to fight.

In 1908, Baden-Powell published 'Scouting for Boys,' which focused on skills of the outdoors. Boy Scout Troops soon began popping up across the U.K. The United States' version, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), was formally established on February 8, 1910.

