



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

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# Palm Sunday

**MARCH 24, 2024**

**Full Holy Week  
& Easter Schedule**

**Enclosed. Photos Below:  
St. Paul's Boy Choir Sings  
at St. Mary's on March 1.**





# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

April, 2024 ~ Volume 50, Number 2



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

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Website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

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

## SOUPER BOWL MOST SUCCESSFUL YET!

On Friday, February 9, St. Mary's hosted the annual "Souper Bowl" event in support of the Holliston Pantry Shelf. With over 200 tickets sold and over \$10,000 raised, it was their most successful one to date.

Participants enjoyed delicious soups and sides donated by local restaurants and supporters:

Chicken Noodle Soup donated by the Superette,  
Butternut Squash Soup donated by Bazel's,  
Broccoli Cheddar Soup donated by Outpost Farm,  
Lentil Soup donated by Bertucci's,  
Chicken & Dumpling Soup donated by Casey's Pub,  
Sausage, Bean & Winter Vegetable Soup by Bar Athena,  
And Chili donated by the Holliston Lions Club.

"Celebrity" Servers included: Senate President Karen Spilka; State Rep. James Arena-DeRosa; Police officers; Town officials (Tina Hein, John Cronin), local business supporters of the Pantry (Wayne and Jackie Griffin, Chris Cain, Mark Ahronian); Citizens of the Year, and more.

Thank you to *everyone* who in any way contributed to the success of this important charitable effort!





## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

I recently calculated that during my time at St. Mary's I have spent well over a thousand hours in the Reconciliation Room hearing Confessions. And that's just the regularly scheduled Saturday ones! This is the forward view from my chair in that room:



As you can see, there are two objects hanging on the walls – a San Damiano Cross, and a framed Divine Mercy Image. I did not hang either one, they were in place when I came to St. Mary's. But I sometimes reflect on their meaning, and why they are so appropriate in that space.

The Divine Mercy, of course, shows the red rays of light (Eucharist), and the white rays of light (Baptism), shining from Jesus' heart. The space between them represents the Sacrament of Confession – the gift that cleanses us anew and restores us to the life of grace.

The San Damiano Cross is the cross St. Francis was praying in front of when God spoke to him saying, "Rebuild my church." It was the beginning of a radical conversion of life for Francis – from wealthy playboy to a religious brother embracing poverty and prayer in order to know and serve the poor.

The Divine Mercy reminds us of the power and depth of God's forgiveness. The San Damiano Cross reminds us that Confession always includes a sincere intention to make a change of life. To go forth from the Reconciliation Room fortified by God's grace to better resist temptation, to walk in His peace, and to be even more of a blessing to the people He places in our life's path.

God bless you!

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



## FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

In the musical play, "Jesus Christ Superstar," an ensemble of the cast lyrically poses the question and sings a song titled, "Could We Start Again Please?" Within and without the context of the play, the question can be interpreted on many levels.

For decades, those exact words have often echoed in my mind as I have approached the Sacrament of Confession to cleanse my soul. Each time, I really do feel that I want to spiritually start again.

And the good news is that through the revelations given to Saint Sister Faustina in the 1930's, Jesus offers a reply; and His answer is 'Yes, we can start again.' Jesus told her that He wants us all to experience the great depths of His mercy and therefore offers us "extraordinary graces" each year on Divine Mercy Sunday (the Sunday immediately after Easter).

Specifically, Jesus wants to give complete forgiveness of sin and remit all associated punishment in Purgatory to those who will do the following on that day:

- Worthily receive the Holy Eucharist.
- Sincerely confess sins in the Sacrament of Confession. Note: Lenten Confession is also acceptable provided you remain in a state of grace (no mortal sins).
- Perform an act of mercy.
- Venerate the Image of the Divine Mercy.

Spiritually, this promise can put us into a greater state of grace than the day we were born! It's actually better than starting again; it's starting anew! I pray that all of us will be able to accept Jesus' offer this year.

For more information about the great graces of Divine Mercy Sunday (including the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Divine Mercy Novena) go to [www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org).

Peace,

Deacon Ron Dowding



# Holy Week Schedule



## **PALM SUNDAY**

**Saturday, March 23:**

5 PM & 7:30 PM Masses

**Sunday, March 24:**

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM Masses

Palms will be blessed &  
the Passion read at all Masses.

## **HOLY THURSDAY**

**Thursday, March 28:**

9 AM

Morning Prayer

7 PM

**Mass of the Lord's Supper**

The Mass of the Lord's Supper recalls the events the night before Jesus died, especially the institution of the Holy Eucharist. The ceremony of the washing of the feet reminds us of Jesus' call to serve one another. The Mass concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose in Father Haley Hall, where Adoration will continue until 10:00 PM. At Mass a collection will be taken up for the Holliston Food Pantry.

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

*Day of Fasting & Abstinence*

**Friday, March 29:**

9 AM

Morning Prayer

12 PM

(Kindergarten – Grade 5) Younger Children's Stations of the Cross

7 PM

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

The 7:00 PM Lord's Passion Celebration is the official Good Friday Liturgy that continues the three day Triduum Celebration begun on Holy Thursday and concluding at Easter. It consists of the Liturgy of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. The Noon Stations are designed for younger children K – Grade 5, (accompanied by parents), and utilize a living tableau and special station prayers to help young children discover Jesus' love for them in the here and now.

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. In every single Catholic parish around the world this day, a collection is taken up to maintain the Shrines and struggling Christian communities in the Holy Land. This collection is taken up at both the Stations and Passion Services.

## **HOLY SATURDAY**

*Please Note: No Confessions on Holy Saturday*

**Saturday, March 30:**

9 AM

Morning Prayer

8 PM

**The Great Easter Vigil (brass, adult choir)**

The Great Easter Vigil is rightly called the "Mother" of all liturgies. It includes the blessing of the new Easter Candle, the sung Exultet Prayer, and readings that capture the fullness of God's saving work for humanity. The Church rejoices in a special way to receive new members this night through the Sacraments of Initiation. All Easter collections go to support the retired priests of our Archdiocese. Please generously support these men who have given their whole lives in your service.

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

**Sunday, March 31:**

7:30 AM

Church Mass

9:30 AM

Fr. Haley Hall Mass

9:30 AM

Church Mass

11:30 AM

Church Mass



## 2024 Mississippi Mission Trip! Teens Gather In Faith!

This July, 72 high school students from St. Mary's will travel to Gulfport, Mississippi for a week of faith-filled Mission work and service. This is a life-changing week for the teens and chaperones as they live out their faith, make lifelong friendships and get to know the people they serve. It is a beautiful extension of our parish family's Mission to know, love and serve God. The cost of the trip this year has increased to \$1,100 per student. The teens are busy planning fundraising events to defray the cost.



If you'd like to help support the Mission financially, please use the **St. Mary's Venmo QR code above to the right and include your name and "Mission Trip Donation"** in the comments. Alternatively, you can write a check to St. Mary's Parish with "Mission trip" in the memo. Most importantly, please keep us in your prayers!



## Easter Bunny Eggstravaganza!



*To support the 2024  
Mississippi Mission Trip.*

**What:** Photos with the Easter Bunny, Children's Easter Crafts, and a Golden Easter Egg Grab! Each child gets to grab eggs full of candy and prizes. If they grab a "Golden Egg," they win a fabulous prize for the whole family!

**When:** Sunday, March 24, 10 AM to 1 PM.

**Where:** Fr. Haley Hall.

**Suggested Donation:** \$25 per family.

## Family BINGO Night!

*To support the 2024  
Mississippi Mission Trip.*

**What:** Fun Family BINGO with gift cards and other awesome prizes! Snacks and drinks on sale will also benefit the Mission Trip.

**When:** Friday, April 5,  
7 PM – 9 PM.

**Where:** Fr. Haley Hall.

**Donation:** \$20 for an Adult Prizes Card; \$10 for a Kiddie Prizes Card – both good for two hours' play!







# St. Mary's High School Youth Group

## Teens Gather In Faith!

**LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS:** On Saturday, February 3, twenty-one TGIF Teens gathered in Fr. Haley Hall to make lunches for the homeless. They began by reflecting on MT 25, where Jesus promises that *"Whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers, so you do unto me."* Then they decorated white lunch bags with beautiful art and uplifting messages, including some from scripture. Finally, they donned gloves to make turkey or ham sandwiches - adding chips, fruit, and home baked cookies to each bag. Fr. Mark blessed the completed lunches, praying that they would provide spiritual as well as physical nourishment to those who received them. Fifty packed lunch bags were delivered to Fr. Bill's Place in

Quincy by TGIF Adult Leader Mark Schellings. Thank you everyone for being a blessing to others this day!

**NEXT TGIF MEETING: SUNDAY, APRIL 21, FROM 7 – 8:45 PM. INVITE A FRIEND & SAVE THE DATE!**







# St. Mary's High School Youth Group

## Teens Gather In Faith!

**CONFESSION & BALLOONS:** At their February 25 Monthly Meeting, the TGIF Teens were led in a fun and meaningful team building exercise by Kristin and Luke Roberto. Groups formed randomly were told to build a piece of furniture out of balloons. Then a team member had to lie down on it or sit in it for at least ten seconds without the balloons popping! Later that night, "Father" Sebastian Bureau (TGIF Senior), heard the Confession of teen Paget O'Brien. Using a script, they acted out a Confession, including penance, questions, and some spiritual counsel. All teens were then given an Examination of Conscience to help their Lenten Confession this year be as fruitful as possible.



**EGGS & ADORATION:** The March 10 TGIF Monthly Meeting began with the stuffing of hundreds and hundreds of plastic eggs with as many pieces of candy and prizes that each could hold. Organized by Traci and Alex Robie, these eggs are in preparation for the big "Eggstravaganza" Mission Trip Fund Raising Event on March 24. Pizza was then enjoyed, followed by several fun games. The last of these involved moving left or right as a story full of both words was read. There was lots of laughter and bumping into people. Even though listening for those words, people often missed them or did not act in time. This led to a discussion on how hard it can be to hear God, even when we want to. Time spent quietly in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament can be a help with this. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent Adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering." Deacon John Barry then gave a powerful witness about the True Presence of Jesus in the Consecrated Host, sharing his own visit to the site of a Eucharistic Miracle in Spain. Then the teens had time to go to the church for Adoration at St. Mary's 40 Hour Devotion.







# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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

**FEBRUARY 4 BATTLE OF THE SEXES!** Just two nights after the Luau Dance, the Youth Group gathered for their Monthly Meeting and the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Sexes! This is a fun competition of speed, teamwork, and knowledge. The boys won the Math Scramble, the Girls won the Bible Trivia, and the lead swung back and forth most of the night. The "Bear Hunt" pulled the boys way ahead though, leading to victory. Shown right, some of the MSYG Boys celebrate their victory. Total wins now? Girls 7, Boys 8. But when it came to fun everyone was a winner this night!



**FEBRUARY 9 SNOW TUBING:** Shown below, thirty-three MSYG teens spent this Friday night snowtubing at Nashoba. Conditions allowed them to string tubes together for their runs. Despite crazy warm temperatures the weeks before, there was plenty of cover and good speed down the mountain.



**FEBRUARY 20 CATHEDRAL & BLUE MAN GROUP TRIP!** Tuesday of Vacation Week found forty-two MSYG Teens

on an outing to Boston. First, they visited the largest church in New England - our very own Cathedral of the Holy Cross. The seat of Cardinal O'Malley and Mother Church of our Archdiocese, the Cathedral is a local parish as well. Fr. Mark gave the teens a tour of this magnificent building, after which the group stood around the altar and prayed for peace in the Holy Land. Next, they enjoyed lunch at Quincy Market, followed by "Blue Man Group" at the Charles Playhouse. Drums were beaten, comical interactions abounded, and reels of toilet paper poured down on us from above. It was a blast!







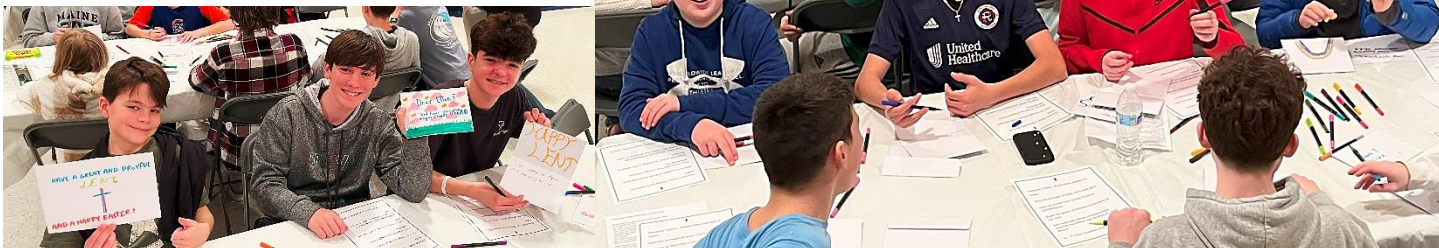
# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Next Meeting is Sunday, April 7, from 6:30 – 8 PM in Fr. Haley Hall!

**MARCH 1 HOSTING THE BOY CHOIR!** As has been our tradition for many years, the Middle School Youth Group hosted the St. Paul's Boy Choir when they came to offer a Lenten Concert. Dressed up for the event, our MSYG teens welcomed the choirboys, and served them dinner. They also passed out programs to concertgoers, before attending and enjoying the concert themselves. Finally, the teens helped clean and reset the church. Their most important contribution was making the choirboys feel welcome! Special thanks to Natalie Pomarico and her Lenten Supper team for accommodating the visit and arranging extra food.



**MARCH 3 NURSING HOME PRAYER PARTNER PROJECT!** At this night's Monthly MSYG Meeting, our teens decorated Easter Cards for the residents of St. Patrick Manor in Framingham. Each teen was given the first name and last initial of an elderly person, allowing them to personalize the cards. They then kept the names and committed to pray each remaining day of Lent for their assigned St. Patrick partner. The cards were filled with hopeful, kind sentiments, and were delivered to the Manor two days later. We know that both the cards and prayers will be a great blessing to those who receive them!







## Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America  
St. Mary's Parish \* April, 2024

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster  
508-579-4357

Email: [Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com](mailto:Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com)

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

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

**BOY SCOUT SUNDAY MASS:** On Sunday, February 4, Boy Scouts gathered at the 9:30 AM Mass. Scouts were Altar Servers and Lectors, and of course they provided a delicious pancake breakfast afterwards. During the Scout Mass, three Scouts were presented with the Ad Altare Dei Emblem. One of the oldest awards available to Scouts, this Emblem was originally given to recognize those Scouts who were Altar Servers. The Ad Altare Dei (To the Altar of God) program is today designed to help Roman Catholic Scouts develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community. It involves a course of study based on the Seven Sacraments, including Bible study, group discussions, and the undertaking of various activities to put the lessons of the Sacraments into action. This year's Ad Altare Recipients are (from left to right): Scott Baribeau (Troop 14), Elijah Hopke (Troop 367), and Louis Connoni (Troop 76). The Scouts were under the direction of Deacon Ron Dowding. Fr. Mark presented each with the Ad Altare Medal, and Scoutmaster Chris Baribeau presented them with the BSA Religious Knot Patch. Congratulations!

Troop 14 had a busy schedule during the January, February and March winter months and is looking forward to an early Spring!

**CARTER NOTCH CAMPOUT:** Six Leaders and 17 Scouts ventured into the White Mountains on January 20 and 21 for cold weather hiking. The single digit temperatures offered a new experience for many of the Scouts requiring layered gear, crampons, snowshoes and 0 degree sleeping bags. These hearty hikers ventured up to the Carter Notch Hut embracing the challenge of overcast skies, snow and ice. After reaching the hut, a group of Scouts and Leaders made the remaining 1-mile hike to the top of Wildcat Mountain for a brief stay since temperatures at the 4,000 foot peak were minus 20 degrees. Scouts enjoyed a spaghetti dinner in the hut before some well-earned rest for the night in their unheated cabin. All Scouts and Leaders made the hike back to the trailhead the next morning with full view of the surrounding Whites.







**ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** Thank you to everyone who came to support Troop 14's annual Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast held on February 4 in Father Haley Hall. The day was a huge success and helped the Troop raise funding that goes toward offsetting costs associated with troop expenses and adventures.

**FEBRUARY COURT OF HONOR:** Troop 14 held its second Court of Honor (COH) for the current Scouting year on February 5 at St. Mary's. It was a night to celebrate all of the hard work and achievements since last October's COH. There were many Merit Badges awarded, as well as great progress towards rank advancement for the troop.



**NOBSCOT CAMPOUT:** Scouts with Star rank and above attended an early March campout at Nobscot Scout Reservation next door in Sudbury. Everyone enjoyed a hike around the reservation that included Tippling Rock with views of the Boston Skyline, and the Nobscot Hill summit with its fire tower landmark. The evening included board and card games in one of the newly refurbished cabins equipped with a wood stove and bunks for sleeping. The Scouts even expanded their culinary skills with the introduction of home-made donuts and crepes.





# women in WINGS God's spirit

*"Scripture is a living, interactive gift from God - it can sometimes be confusing and troubling but it's God speaking through his words to each of us."* Dr. Aldona Lingertat, Adjunct Professor, St. John's Seminary

## RECAP

Our winter program continued the fall theme of prayer using Kevin Perrotta's book "Becoming a Praying Person" as our guide. Our impactful speakers opened our eyes to how scripture can enhance our prayer life, while deepening our understanding of the selected Bible readings.

## WHAT'S NEXT

Stay tuned for details on our Spring season, also known as the "faith focus season", which helps us to discern ways of putting our faith into practice in:

- **family life**
- **community**
- **the world**

## JOIN

- ✉ stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com
- 🌐 scan for website
- 📘 facebook.com/wingsholliston



Free babysitting is available!



*The Spring speakers, and schedule will be available in the coming weeks.*

*"WINGS is such a beautiful ministry that nurtures my weary spirit. The speakers each season breathe life into me... there is always a takeaway that spiritually nourishes me. I encourage you to carve out the time to feed your soul by attending a WINGS meeting!"*

-CURRENT WINGS MEMBER



# Knights of Columbus



St. Mary's Council #14224 April, 2024

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

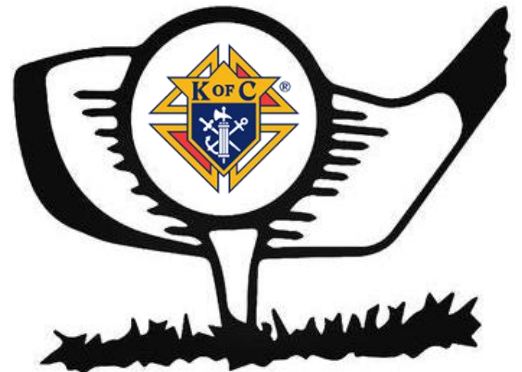
**COUNCIL #14224 ANNUAL FREE THROW CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED:** The Council held the contest on January 27 at the Holliston High School. Seventy-eight participants, a new record, competed. Age groups from 9-14 years old shot 15 free throws monitored by Council Knights. The winners in each age level were feted at our February Council meeting with trophies and cake. Nine year-old winners; Isabelle Bartels and Thomas Baker; 10 year-old Brianna Cooper and Declan Aldredge; 11 year-old Danika do Rosario and Donovan Vail; 12 year-old Olivia Yang and Ben Furey; 13 year-old Chelsea DuFault and Chris Baker; 14 year-old Mia Faletra and George Kuttub. Winners move on to the regional play-off and if successful, to the K of C State Council playoff. Knight Don Marden was chairman.



**COUNCIL #14224 SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE:** Knights are ready to sell raffle tickets! This year, in line with inflation, we have doubled the first prize to \$2,000! One ticket is \$5 and a book of five tickets is \$20. In May and June, Knights will be selling tickets at various locations downtown and at local markets. On May 18 and 19, Knights will sell tickets after all Masses at St. Mary's. The Raffle drawing will be held on June 21 in conjunction with our Swing for Charity Golf Tournament. Charity Raffle proceeds will benefit local food pantries, The MetroWest Veterans Emergency Relief Fund, Autism research, and local charities. Contact [KofCCouncil14224@gmail.com](mailto:KofCCouncil14224@gmail.com) for tickets.

## **COUNCIL #14224 THIRD ANNUAL "SWING FOR CHARITY"**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT FRIDAY, JUNE 21:** Proceeds from the tournament will go to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and the MetroWest Veterans Emergency Relief Fund. Sign up your foursome for \$500 or an individual player for \$125. Shotgun start at 8:00 AM at Pinecrest Golf Club. Tournament Format is Best Ball scramble. Individual and team prizes will be awarded. Other prizes will be offered via separate gifts and 50/50 raffles. You can promote your business by becoming a Sponsor. Sponsorship levels are Presenting Sponsor (\$2,000), Lunch Sponsor (\$1,000), Cart Sponsor (\$500) and Hole Sponsors (\$150). Go to [KofCCouncil14224@gmail.com](mailto:KofCCouncil14224@gmail.com) to register as a sponsor or golfer or call chairman Tony Polise at 508 654-0020.



**MONTHLY ROSARY:** The next Rosary will be Wednesday, April 17 in the church at 7:00 PM. Any and all persons are welcome to attend. As quoted in the March, 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer."

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2024:** 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/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus). Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men.



# Leftovers and Love

By Jane Lebak

During a difficult time in my life, a friend decided to make me a memorial scarf pattern. In the middle of charting out angel wings, she heard God speak: “Keep it simple.”



She backtracked and wrote the simplest crochet pattern ever. You ready?

- 1) Leaving a four-inch end on either side, chain the length of a scarf. Cut the yarn at the end.
- 2) Again leaving a four-inch end, single crochet all the way across. Cut the yarn again.
- 3) Repeat line 2 until you have the width of a scarf.

God knew what He was doing when He told my friend to keep it simple. This self-fringing scarf was so dead easy, it started me making things with yarn, and I've never stopped.

This pattern is ideal for using up what's leftover at the end of other projects. When my scrap bag gets full, I think, "I bet there's a scarf in there." The final result is unique. It includes green from slippers I made my child, gold and blue from a hat I donated, and burgundy from fingerless gloves I gave a friend. I'm the only one who ever made all those original projects, and therefore I'm the only one with all those leftovers.

Without enough to make anything big, these leftovers were going to waste away. Except, that's not what God wants. Our gifts and talents and graces are to be used for Him, every last little scrap. He encourages us to use our gifts for one another.

This scarf begins as a bunch of disparate memories of love, but by the time I donate it, it's all one piece. The scarf's colors harmonize as if everything belonged together from the start. Sometimes the yarns clash, but even the oddities look good when you view the whole.

They're just bits and leftovers, but they make warmth.

These scarves make me wonder: if I can make warmth with strands of useless yarn—if even the mistakes vanish into the beauty — then what can God do with the bits and pieces of our lives?

Stay warm. Warm others.

*Jane runs St. Mary's Prayer Shawl Ministry. If you're interested in contributing shawls (or anything else), please contact her at [JaneLebak@gmail.com](mailto:JaneLebak@gmail.com).*