

ST. MARY'S PARISH
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HOLLISTON, MA 01746

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**NEWSLETTER
 MAY, 2019**

- Sung Vespers, May 8
- Mother's Day Blessing, May 11 & 12, also "Commitment Weekend"
- Annual Mass for Graduates, May 19
- Interfaith Addiction Recovery Prayer Service, May 22
- Spring Concert, "Mendelssohn and Rheinberger," May 24
- Feast of the Ascension, a Holy Day of Obligation, May 30
- **MUCH MORE**, including our own Olympic Torch Bearer, Joseph Whalen!

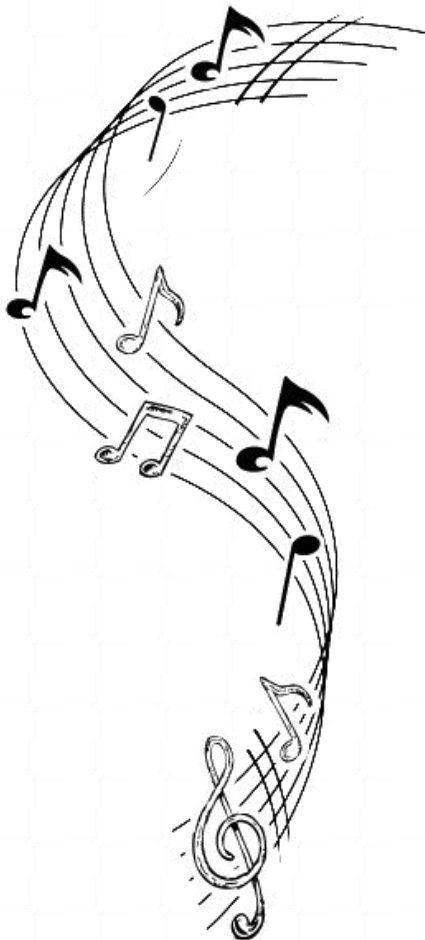


RAFFLE FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

St. Mary's Youth and Children's Choirs will be attending a week-long Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Course in Wilkes-Barre, PA from July 22- 28. Taking place in the scenic Appalachian Mountains, this course is the largest of its kind in North America and will allow our Choristers the opportunity to sing in a 180 person chorus, under the direction of world class musicians.

To help fund this exciting opportunity, we will be raffling a Bose Wave Sound Touch Music System IV, retail priced at \$599.95! This stereo system is complete with a CD player, AM/FM radio, and is compatible with Bluetooth, WiFi, Spotify and other similar apps!

Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Tickets will be on sale during Donuts, Juice and Coffee on Sunday, May 5 after the 9:30 AM Mass, as well as after all Masses the weekend of May 25 & 26. If you would like to purchase tickets at a time other than this, please email Kevin Lyczak at musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com. The drawing will take place after the Choir Promotion Mass at 9:30 AM on June 2, also during Donuts, Juice and Coffee!



St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

May, 2019 ~ Volume 44, Number 9



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

LIGHTING THE WAY!

On March 22, sirens heralded a parade of athletes through Holliston as fire trucks, police vehicles and buses transported the Special Olympians to Holliston High School. St. Mary's Parishioner Joseph Whalen, a senior at HHS, carried the torch with pride into the Field House. [Photo below]. He marched in to the beating of drums and the piercing call of bagpipes, beaming with joy and soaking in the clapping and cheering of all gathered for the 7th Annual Five Town School Day Special Olympic Games. This included family, friends, students, staff, administrators and volunteers. Special Olympic athletes from Ashland, Holliston, Medfield, Medway and Millis showed their hockey skills with support from the Boston Bruins Foundation and a special visitor - Blades, the Bruins Mascot. It was a beautiful event celebrating students with disabilities in the athletic arena and it was most heartwarming to watch current high school athletes assisting and playing alongside their classmates. The athletes enjoyed shooting on goal, table hockey, stick handling, passing the puck, photo booth, craft and snack. At the conclusion of the games, Joseph passed the torch to an athlete from Ashland - site of the 8th Annual Games. Well done Joseph!





STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

**THIS MAY, ST. MARY'S PARISH IS CONDUCTING AN
"INCREASED WEEKLY GIVING CAMPAIGN."**

WHY?

- It has been nine years since our parish last asked everyone to make an increase in their weekly giving. In 2010 the weekly offertory goal of \$11,900 was achieved, which with careful economizing and budgeting has gotten us through until now.
- Over the past nine years, parish expenses have risen considerably. Even combined with the Grand Annual, the current offertory is no longer adequate to cover them all. Utilities are among the most challenging expenses our parish has, between \$2,000-8,000 per month. For the year, utility expenses total over \$55,000 plus nearly \$68,000 more for maintenance of the buildings and grounds, provided that nothing major breaks.
- Our Business Manager and Finance Council calculate that a \$15,000 weekly offertory is now needed to stabilize St. Mary's Finances. \$15,000 is where our weekly offertory would now be if the weekly offertory average had increased a modest \$344 a year for each of the past nine years.
- St. Mary's weekly offertory has dropped \$20,000 in the current fiscal year, as compared to the same period last year. Largely due to important replacement hires, parish expenses are also up \$20,000 for that same period this year. We are therefore facing a \$40,000 shortfall.
- This summer, the church flooring is scheduled to be replaced and the pew kneelers repaired. This major project will be paid for by the 2019 Grand Annual next fall, but there are upfront costs and deposits that, because of the offertory fall off this year, our current cash flow will not be able to handle. Increasing St. Mary's weekly offertory can no longer be delayed.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

**THIS MAY, ST. MARY'S PARISH IS CONDUCTING AN
"INCREASED WEEKLY GIVING CAMPAIGN."**

HOW?

- You will very shortly receive a letter with a request for your increased commitment to the weekly offertory.
- Please pray about what your Catholic faith and St. Mary's mean to you. Discuss your parish's need as a family, and then please respond generously with a weekly offertory increase reflective of your means.
- An Offertory Pledge Form will be enclosed with your letter. Please return it by mail or by placing it in the collection basket on commitment weekend - May 11 & 12, or anytime thereafter.
- Please be as consistent as possible with your weekly offertory support, making it up when away, or using either the automatic banking or new online giving resources available.



We are truly blessed to have St. Mary's as our Parish Home. Her people are loving, her buildings and liturgies are beautiful, her outreach is generous, and she has some of the largest and most successful music, youth and adult faith programs in the entire Archdiocese. Let us all do our part to continue growing this parish that has welcomed and served us so faithfully and well.

Let a strong and healthy St. Mary's be our gift to generations to come.

Thank you.



TRIDUUM AT ST. MARY'S, 2019



HOLY THURSDAY, April 18

Fr. Mark washes the feet of twelve parishioners, in commemoration of Jesus' washing of His Apostles' feet at the Last Supper. This act of humility by Our Saviour reminds us all to serve one another, especially the poor, the suffering, the forgotten in our midst. Somehow a thirteenth parishioner appeared for the foot washing, prompting Father to comment that sometimes God calls us to serve more than we had expected, but never beyond what we can do with His Divine Assistance.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 19

At the Noon Stations, the children of St. Mary's acted out the Passion and Death of Our Lord. Shown right, Jesus is crucified, freely surrendering His life to save us from our sins. At the Evening Passion Service, parishioners venerated the Cross of Jesus with a kiss – symbolically undoing Judas' "kiss of betrayal" in the garden. Communion consecrated the night before was received, and all left the church in silence on this most solemn day of the Catholic year. *"No greater love is there than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."* Jn 15:13



HOLY SATURDAY, April 20

One of the great joys of the Easter Vigil is the reception of new members into the Church. Shown left, Alexander Barberio made his Profession of Faith, then received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. He chose John as his Confirmation name, in honor of St. John the Beloved Disciple. Standing to his right is parishioner Sophia Lindsay, who made her First Holy Communion on this sacred night. Other highlights of the Vigil included the lighting of the Easter Candle and the Sprinkling Rite, before which Fr. Mark invited all to call to mind those things they desired God to wash away – the mistakes, hurts, sorrows, regrets, griefs and anything else that has been keeping us from following Christ in peace and joy!

SILVER JUBILEE ~ This Spring our Pastor, Fr. Mark Coiro, is one of six Boston Priests celebrating his Silver Jubilee. He was ordained to the priesthood 25 years ago, on May 21, 1994. Congratulations Father Mark! In the Catholic tradition, priests celebrate their 25th and 50th Anniversaries.

Fr. Mark was installed as the Pastor of St. Mary's thirteen years ago, meaning that more than half of his priestly service has been to the people of our parish. He is also the first priest in our Parish's long history to minister here alone, having been "solo" at St. Mary's for the past ten years.

**All are invited to Fr. Mark's Silver Jubilee Mass,
on the Feast of Pentecost,
Sunday, June 9, 2019, at 11:30 AM.
A reception will follow in Fr. Haley Hall.**

The Silver Jubilee Mass will be concelebrated by a number of Fr. Mark's brother priests, including several formerly assigned to St. Mary's. Bishop Mark O'Connell will also be in attendance. This 25th Anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to thank Father for the countless ways he has served our people over the years – in our times both of joy and of sorrow.

Knowing of his love of travel, a group of parishioners is organizing a special 25th Anniversary gift for Fr. Mark in the form of a trip to Rome. To contribute, just place a separate envelope marked, "Fr. Mark's 25th Anniversary" in any collection basket, or mail it c/o Mary Beth Harris to the Rectory at 8 Church St. All who contribute will have their names listed on a card to accompany this special gift when it is presented to Father on June 9. If preferred, you may also provide your own card or note for us to include with the gift. As always, let us keep Father Mark and all our faithful priests in our prayers! [Photo Above: Ordained just one year, Fr. Mark meets Pope John Paul II in 1995].



ST. MARY'S PARISH TURNS 150 NEXT YEAR ~

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 Gala, a new History of St. Mary's Book, the commissioning of an original St. Mary's Hymn, a Concert, a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and the establishment of a new Charity to assist and connect with the Christians there. Additionally:



From February 9-11, 2020, Mr. Jon Leonetti will lead St. Mary's in a 3-night Parish Anniversary Mission entitled, "Surge of the Heart." Jon is a nationally known Catholic speaker, best-selling author and radio host who conveys a message of lasting fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through Jon's keynote presentations and parish missions, thousands of Catholics each year discover the freedom Christ offers by way of his life and love.

On Sunday, April 26, 2020, 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 150th year as a Parish Family. We are honored to welcome His Eminence. Save the date!

Did you know that when founded in 1870, St. Mary's Parish was comprised of Holliston, Medway and Bellingham?

A Brief History of Vespers

By Kevin Lyczak, St. Mary's Director of Music

The tradition of evening ritual predates the time of Christ, to the customs of ancient Judaism. In Exodus 30:8, it is written, "When Aaron sets up the lamps in the evening, he shall offer it, a regular incense offering before the Lord." However, the first mention of specifically Christian evening prayer is in the 2nd century AD by Pliny the Younger, who speaks of "coetus antelucani et vespertini," or gatherings of Christians in the morning and the evening. This evidence is corroborated by Tertullian's writings from the 3rd century AD. Tertullian, considered the Founder of Western theology, states, "we pray at least not less than thrice in the day, debtors as we are to Three – Father, Son and Holy Spirit: of course in addition to our regular prayers which are due, without any admonition, on the entrance of light and of night." This mandate was reinforced by a 4th century AD instruction for clergy known as the Apostolic Constitutions.

During the early centuries of the church, this communal evening prayer was referred to as "Lucernarium", which literally means "lamp lighting time." It took place at sunset, a time of day known as a "hinge hour"; the other hinge hour being dawn. As the day slowly turned to night, the lamps remained burning, gradually becoming more necessary as a source of light. Although this began as a practical matter, the light of the lamps eventually came to symbolize the light of Christ, present even in the darkness of evil.

It was not until the 6th century, however that this tradition of night prayer was codified into what we now know as Vespers by St. Benedict of Nursia, the founder of the Order of St. Benedict and Western monasticism as a whole. By this time, it was customary for those living the monastic life to pray eight times per day, forming what is known as the Divine Office. Monks would rise at 2 AM to pray Matins or Vigils. They would then go back to sleep before rising at dawn to pray Lauds, followed by Prime at 6 AM, Terce at 9 AM, Sext at noon, None at 3 PM (or ninth hour), Vespers at 6 PM and Compline at 7 PM. Out of all these offices, the most ancient are Vigils and Vespers.

Prior to the 13th century, the Divine Office was only celebrated communally or *in solidum*, either in monastic communities or at cathedrals. However, with the advent of friars, or religious priests who traveled to evangelize, it became increasingly difficult to continue the mandatory celebration of group prayer. Furthermore, with the development of the university, new clerical students were unable to pray communally and fulfill the obligation of their studies. For both of these reasons, it was permitted for the Divine Office to be prayed privately, although the communal setting was still preferred.

Contrary to popular belief, the first Breviary, or book containing all the liturgical texts for the Divine Office, was not compiled for private use or portable use. Rather, the purpose of the first Breviaries was simply to compile the numerous books used to recite the office, including: the antiphonary, homiliary, psalter, responsorial and legendary. The first Breviary to be mass-produced and used privately was printed in the early 16th century. Vespers remained relatively unchanged until the 20th century.

In 1911, Pope Pius X changed the structure and format in which the psalms were chanted. Over time, as the number of saints and their corresponding feast days multiplied, the practice of using commemorative psalms for individual saints meant that the original psalms for those days were almost never chanted. This was rectified by the creation of a separate psalter, or psalm book, which loosened the connection between individual psalms and specific days. In order to fulfill the original intention of reciting all 150 psalms each week, new rubrics called for flexibility in dividing the psalms so that an equal number of verses were recited each day, thereby accommodating feast day psalms. After Vatican II, the office of Prime (6 AM) was eliminated. In addition, the period of time over which the psalms were to be said was expanded from one week to four weeks.

Vespers has been used at times to symbolize unity among Christians. In 2016, Cardinal Vincent Nichols led a Roman Catholic Vespers service in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace, the chapel of King Henry VIII. This was the first Catholic service to be held in the chapel in 450 years and was done as a symbol of the easing of tensions between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church.

The tradition of Vespers truly has a profound and rich history spanning the ages. Please consider attending the last sung Vespers service of this academic year. It will be sung by the St. Mary's Youth Choir and will take place **this Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 PM.**





MAY HAPPENINGS



MAY 8, Sung Vespers ~ The tradition of Vespers truly has a profound and rich history spanning the ages. Please consider attending the last Sung Vespers Service of this academic year. It will be sung by the St. Mary's Youth Choir and will take place on Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 PM in the church.

MAY 12, Mother's Day ~ A special Blessing of Mothers will take place at all Masses this weekend. The annual Mother's Day Carnation Project will also be held, with beautiful blooms available at all Masses. This is the primary fundraising event held by Birthright of Framingham. The Birthright Center is staffed entirely by volunteers who offer friendship, emotional support and practical assistance to women in a crisis pregnancy. Birthright does not charge for its services, but relies on donations from generous supporters to continue helping pregnant women in need. Your support is deeply appreciated. Checks can be made out to Birthright of Framingham, 79A Main St., Framingham 01702. Any and all contributions are gratefully accepted.



MAY 19, Mass for St. Mary's Graduating Class of 2019 ~ On Sunday, May 19, at 11:30 AM, St. Mary's will offer her 6th Annual Mass for Graduates. This year our parish has teens graduating from eight different schools. The Mass will include a special blessing of Graduates and a student speaker (Sean Jewett). The Mass is followed by a light reception in Fr. Haley Hall, and a Group Class Photo for this Newsletter. Come congratulate our graduates!

MAY 22, Interfaith Addiction Recovery Prayer Service ~ Wednesday, May 22, 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 from the disease of addiction, those who have struggled with use or abuse and those who have lost loved ones to this disease. 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.



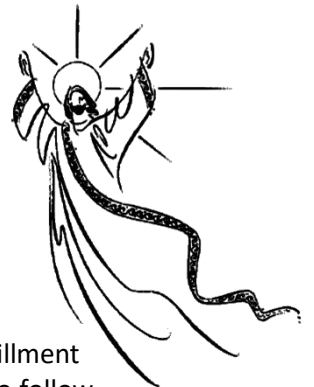
MAY 24, Spring Choral Concert, An Evening of Mendelssohn and Rheinberger! On Friday, May 24 at 7 PM, St. Mary's Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs will together present a program of fine choral music by the composers Josef Rheinberger and Felix Mendelssohn. Accompanied by Orchestra they will perform Rheinberger's Mass in C, op.169 as well as selections from Mendelssohn's Elijah and his St. Paul. This event is free and open to all.

MAY 30, Ascension Thursday, A Holy Day of Obligation ~

Vigil Mass, Wednesday, May 29, at 6:30 PM

Feast Day Masses, Thurs., May 30, at 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension also changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday, and marks an event of such importance that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. This means that Catholics attend Mass this day as on a Sunday. The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven. Where He has gone, we hope one day to follow.





2019 Easter 'Urbi et Orbi' Message of Pope Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Easter!

Today the Church renews the proclamation made by the first disciples: "Jesus is risen!" And from mouth to mouth, from heart to heart, there resounds a call to praise: "Alleluia, Alleluia!" On this morning of Easter, the perennial youth of the Church and of humanity as a whole, I would like to address each of you in the opening words of my recent Apostolic Exhortation devoted especially to young people:

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. Everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope" (Christus Vivit, 1-2).

Dear brothers and sisters, this message is also addressed to every person in the world. The resurrection of Christ is the principle of new life for every man and every woman, for true renewal always begins from the heart, from the conscience. Yet Easter is also the beginning of the new world, set free from the slavery of sin and death: the world open at last to the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of love, peace and fraternity.

Christ is alive and he remains with us. Risen, he shows us the light of his face, and he does not abandon all those experiencing hardship, pain and sorrow. May he, the Living One, be hope for the beloved Syrian people, victims of an ongoing conflict to which we risk becoming ever more resigned and even indifferent. Now is instead the time for a renewed commitment for a political solution able to respond to people's legitimate hopes for freedom, peace and justice, confront the humanitarian crisis and favour the secure re-entry of the homeless, along with all those who have taken refuge in neighbouring countries, especially Lebanon and Jordan.

Easter makes us keep our eyes fixed on the Middle East, torn by continuing divisions and tensions. May the Christians of the region patiently persevere in their witness to the Risen Lord and to the victory of life over death. I think in particular of the people of Yemen, especially the children, exhausted by hunger and war. May the light of Easter illumine all government leaders and peoples in the Middle East, beginning with Israelis and Palestinians, and spur them to alleviate such great suffering and to pursue a future of peace and stability.

May conflict and bloodshed cease in Libya, where defenseless people are once more dying in recent weeks and many families have been forced to abandon their homes. I urge the parties involved to choose dialogue over force and to avoid reopening wounds left by a decade of conflicts and political instability.

May the Living Christ grant his peace to the entire beloved African continent, still rife with social tensions, conflicts and at times violent forms of extremism that leave in their wake insecurity, destruction and death, especially in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon. I think too of Sudan, presently experiencing a moment of political uncertainty; it is my hope that all voices will be heard, and that everyone will work to enable the country to find the freedom, development and well-being to which it has long aspired.

May the Risen Lord accompany the efforts of the civil and religious authorities of South Sudan, sustained by the fruits of the spiritual retreat held several days ago here in the Vatican. May a new page open in the history of that country, in which all political, social and religious components actively commit themselves to the pursuit of the common good and the reconciliation of the nation.

[Continued on next page].

May this Easter bring comfort to the people of the eastern regions of Ukraine, who suffer from the continuing conflict. May the Lord encourage initiatives of humanitarian aid and those aimed at pursuing a lasting peace.

May the joy of the resurrection fill the hearts of those who on the American continent are experiencing the effects of difficult political and economic situations. I think in particular of the Venezuelan people, of all those who lack the minimal conditions for leading a dignified and secure life due to a crisis that endures and worsens. May the Lord grant that all those with political responsibilities may work to end social injustices, abuses and acts of violence, and take the concrete steps needed to heal divisions and offer the population the help they need.

May the Risen Lord shed his light on the efforts made in Nicaragua to find as rapidly as possible a peaceful negotiated solution for the benefit of the entire Nicaraguan people.

Before the many sufferings of our time, may the Lord of life not find us cold and indifferent. May he make us builders of bridges, not walls. May the One who gives us his peace end the roar of arms, both in areas of conflict and in our cities, and inspire the leaders of nations to work for an end to the arms race and the troubling spread of weaponry, especially in the economically more advanced countries. May the Risen Christ, who flung open the doors of the tomb, open our hearts to the needs of the disadvantaged, the vulnerable, the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized, and all those who knock at our door in search of bread, refuge, and the recognition of their dignity.

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ is alive! He is hope and youth for each of us and for the entire world. May we let ourselves be renewed by him! Happy Easter!



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Members of St. Mary's,

*"Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me." Ps. 71:18*

As we enter Mary's Month of May, I am struck by Our Lady's journey following her visit by the Archangel Gabriel. Rather than being overwhelmed or immobilized by the news that she would bear God's Son, Mary immediately set out to visit her cousin Elizabeth, whom Gabriel had told her was also pregnant *"in her old age."* The journey from Nazareth to Ain Karim was nearly 100 miles long. But concerned for the health and wellbeing of her elderly cousin, Mary undertook it without hesitation. Her first act after accepting God's Son into her womb, was an act of love and compassion for an older person – a sign of why God chose Mary in the first place. The journey culminated of course, with the Visitation, a meeting between the pregnant mothers of John the Baptist and Jesus, a meeting that was Spirit filled and revealed the great destiny that lay before these unborn babes.

God blesses those who are a blessing to the elderly, sometimes even in this life. I remember one occasion at Market Basket when I saw a short, elderly woman unable to reach her oatmeal box on the top shelf. I helped her get it down, and as I did so was struck by the packaging of an oatmeal brand I had never noticed before. I gave it a try, liked it much better, and thereafter switched from Quaker Oats to McCann's Irish Oats! A tiny blessing and discovery, but one that started with noticing the need of an elderly person.

A bigger example occurred when my parents attended a church supper a few years back. They noticed an older couple, the husband in a wheelchair, sitting all alone. So instead of joining friends, my mom and dad introduced themselves and joined the lonely looking couple. During the supper, they learned that this elderly couple lived only one street away from them, with wooded land in between. They then discovered that because of medical bills, this couple was going to sell their back wooded lot for development, which would have placed a house in view of my parents' back yard, compromising their privacy. In the end, my parents ended up buying the land from that couple! If they had not chosen to sit with this older couple they didn't even know, they might never have gotten the chance.

God has a special love for the elderly, a love that Our Blessed Mother shared and demonstrated by her visit to Elizabeth. Consider honoring Mary this May by visiting an elderly person, or otherwise going out of your way to assist a senior in need. Blessings will flow and follow!



**GET READY FOR
"ROAR ~ LIFE IS WILD,
GOD IS GOOD!"
ST. MARY'S 13th ANNUAL
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
COMING, JULY 22-26, 2019!**

At ROAR, kids discover that God is good even when life gets wild! ROAR is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids see, hear, touch and even taste! Teamwork-building games, cool Bible songs, tasty treats and creative crafts are some of the activities that help faith flow into real life. Each day kids meet new Bible Buddies to remind them of God's love; and create crafts to bring home the memories.



VBS Registration is now open to those entering kindergarten through Grade 6. Registration is limited to 150 children. All forms are online at stmarysholliston.com, under Registration, Parish Forms. We provide child care for children under age 5 whose parents are volunteering the entire week at VBS. Teen volunteers must be in Grade 7 or above.

Contact Patty Baribeau at stmarysvbsholliston@gmail.com with any questions/concerns/interest, especially if you are interested in helping with planning this week of Fun, Faith & Friends!



REGISTER FOR FALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BY JUNE 14, 2019 ~

The deadline to register your child / children for Religious Education Classes in Fall of 2019 is Friday, June 14, 2019. Class time choices are on a first come first served basis. Be sure to get your preferred time and day by registering on time.

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

Open to families with children entering Pre-K through Grade 10. Registrations have been mailed to current students. If you are new to Holliston and want to register your children please contact us at 508-429-6076 or at st.marysre1870@gmail.com. Welcome!



Troop 14 Holliston

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

EAGLE PROJECT: On multiple days in late March and early April, Troop 14 Scouts and leaders and well as a number of friends helped Jon Lukowiak work on his Eagle Project. Jon's project included two different tasks to beautify the Holliston High school grounds. Over 25 volunteers helped Jon with the first phase of his project cleaning up the sports fields of the trash that had been piling up over a number of years. Altogether they collected 19 bags of trash. (Photo Below Right).

For the second phase of the project, Jon and seven volunteers built a hexagon shaped bench (Photo Below Left) that would then be partially disassembled, transported a few days later and reassembled around an existing tree in the Holliston High School courtyard to create additional and varied seating options for the students to use. With the completion of his project, Jon has fulfilled all the Eagle Rank requirements and is waiting for his Eagle Board of Review to be scheduled.



MOUNT WACHUSETT: On March 31, several older Scouts from Troop 14 with a couple of leaders set out for a day hike climbing Mount Wachusett. Taking the shortest, but steepest trail to the summit (Pine Hill Trail) the Scouts were surprised to realize that more than two-thirds of the trail was still covered in snow and ice making a normally easy hike a challenge. At the summit (elevation 2006') the Scouts took a break, found an area sheltered from the wind and cooked a hot meal, before heading down Old Indian Trail and hiking across four active ski slopes, carefully staying clear of skiers heading downhill. Finishing up on the Balance Rock Trail, the Scouts did their part in helping the rock remain balanced. (Photo Right)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May campout at the Boston Harbor Islands
- Memorial Day Parade
- June Bike Trip on Nantucket

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. Boy Scouts is an ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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



BINGO!

Monday, March 18: Thirteen 8th Grade members of the Middle School Youth Group assisted with Bingo Night at St. Patrick's Manor. The evening started with a smaller group going upstairs to visit some residents and see how their evening was going. Our other 8th Graders helped residents find seats for Bingo. One of the residents, Sister Violanda, told us jokes and posed riddles as Bingo was being set up. All the 8th Graders then helped the seventeen residents fill their Bingo cards during the five rounds, as well as the big Jackpot round! We had two youths designated as treasurers to give out the prizes. There was much chatting and joking around during the Bingo games. Then the youth group members helped pass out ice cream and water to share with the residents. The evening ended with some hugs and escorting the residents back to their rooms. This is the third year most of these 8th Grade members have been to St. Patrick's Manor for events like this one and everyone enjoyed seeing each other again.

MSYG END OF YEAR CLOSING CEREMONY & POT LUCK MAY 19, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

All MSYG moms & dads are invited to this annual End of Year Celebration. Please bring your potluck item as assigned, except for 8th Grade parents & teens who are our special guests. The night will include:

- Delicious Pot Luck Supper
- Prayer & Closing Ceremony
- Awards & Honoring of 8th Graders
- Sign Ups for Brownstone Quarry & the Scavenger Hunt
- Summer raft team sign ups
- A Giant Slideshow Movie of all this past year's events

SUMMER CALENDAR

- Sunday, June 23 - Monday, June 24:** 8th Grade Kennebec River Rafting Trip.
- Tuesday, July 30:** Brownstone Quarry
- Friday, August 16:** 6th & 7th Grade Deerfield Whitewater Rafting Trip

"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me."

Ps. 71:18

St. Mary's EPIC

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN CHRIST

Pictures from Blessings Bags Service Project and March 31 EPIC Meeting which featured a beautiful reflection from Seminarian Steven Booth and time for Eucharistic Adoration



Thanks to everyone who bought our homemade Irish Soda Bread, as we were able to raise **\$1,700** for our Mission Trip to Gainesville, Florida this summer!

We had a Service Project where we made 78 "Blessings Bags" containing socks, toiletries, snacks, soap, razors, and other useful things that will be distributed to those in need through Boston Sock Exchange!

Wednesday, May 1

Meeting for parents of teens going on the Mission Trip
7:30 PM – Lower Church

Wednesday, May 8

Evening meeting to stuff Mission Trip Raffle Envelopes in Annex
(TBA)



Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Say NO to Expanded Abortion Access

The Massachusetts State Legislature will consider passing into law two deeply troubling bills this legislative session. They are identical in text but differ slightly in their titles. The first, (House Bill 3320) is “*An Act removing obstacles and expanding access to women’s reproductive health*”. The second, (Senate Bill 1209) is “*An Act to remove obstacles and expand abortion access*”. Current law would be dramatically changed by:

- 1) Expanding abortion access, including late-term abortions, during the nine months of pregnancy for virtually any reason.
- 2) Eliminating requirements that late-term abortions be performed in a hospital.
- 3) Eliminating the requirement that provides medical care to a child who survives an abortion attempt.
- 4) Eliminating the requirement that a minor under the age of 18 have the consent of a parent, guardian, or the courts.
- 5) Expanding state funding for women who cannot afford the procedure.

How can your voice be heard?

Contact your legislators, let them know you are a Massachusetts voter, and say NO on Abortion Expansion! Log on to www.macatholic.org and follow the links to find contact information for:

- Your individual State Senator and Representative via zip code link.
- Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary who will consider House Bill 3320.
- Members of the Joint Committee on Public Health who will consider Senate Bill 1209.

For individuals without internet access, please call the Massachusetts Catholic Conference at 617-746-5630 for legislative contact information.

“We, the Roman Catholic Bishops of the four Dioceses of Massachusetts, call on our elected officials to carefully consider the consequences that these bills would bring to the lives of infants, parents, families and the citizens of the Commonwealth. We urge all people of good will, regardless of what faith they practice, to vigorously oppose these extreme measures.”¹



¹ Statement of His Eminence Seán P. O’Malley, OFM, Cap., Archbishop of Boston; Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester; Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield; Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, SDV, Bishop of Fall River
April 11, 2019

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES MAY 2019

got faith?

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY: May is the month dedicated to Mary, Jesus' Mother and the Mother of our Church; she is also the patron of our parish. The practice of dedicating this month to special devotion to Mary goes back many centuries. At CatholicCulture.org you'll find more information about this practice. Once on the site, search May, the month of Mary. Jennifer Gregory Miller offers a number of ways to celebrate Mary and the month of May. The following are just a few ideas:

- * Celebration of the Word of God, imitating Mary when she pondered all these things in her heart.
- * Praying the Angelus, (or Regina Coeli during the Easter season)
- * Praying the Rosary
- * Praying Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A Mary Garden or planting certain plants honoring our Lady are age-old ways to honor Mary, particularly through the month that bring flowers. ("March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers.")

JUST WONDERING: Have you ever wondered about the origins of the Hail Mary prayer? Here is a bit of information to help with your understanding of the basis of the first half of this text. The line "Hail [Mary] favored one, full of grace... with you" is the greeting given to Mary by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:28). "Blessed are you among women...fruit of your womb" are the first words spoken by Elizabeth to Mary when Mary comes to visit her (Luke 1:42). Many years ago Yvonne Racine and Colleen Toronto, leaders of our parish bible study program, *Quick Journey*, learned that these words echo what is spoke to Jael (Judges 5:24) and Judith (Judith 13:18), women of the Old Testament, who, in the strength of their faith, destroyed enemies of their people. This further recalls the text in Genesis 3:15 where God tells the serpent that the offspring of the woman (Eve) will crush its head, prefiguring the future destruction of Satan by Mary's son Jesus.

PRAYER: Sacred Space, a website sponsored by the Irish Jesuits, offers the opportunity to pray quietly with the scriptures each day. Go to <http://www.sacredspace.ie/> for this experience. Loyola Press provides a daily three minute retreat at their website. Enjoy the many possibilities!

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYERS: Mother's Day is May 12. Looking for a special prayer for that unique person you call Mom? At <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Mothers/> you will find a variety of prayers for Mothers.

