

# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

May, 2020 ~ Volume 45, Number 9



St. Mary's Parish  
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Holliston, MA 01746

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Mission ~ *"To Know Christ and to make Him Known."*

## Parish Clergy

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor  
Deacon John Barry, Permanent Deacon  
Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon

## LIFE GOES ON

On Sunday, April 26, 2020, St. Mary's celebrated the Baptism of Isabella Melode Johnson. Shown below, Isabella was the only one not wearing a mask, and her family resumed social distancing positions right after the photo was taken.

While those present may have stood apart, we know that in the life-giving waters of Baptism God drew very close to young Isabella – embracing her in love and claiming her as His very own child.

During these days of Pandemic, let us remember that as scripture says, *"God is close to those who call upon Him."* (Psalm 145:18) Let us remember also that He loves us with a Father's love, and is always there for us in time of need.

Baptisms and Weddings are still taking place during the Pandemic, provided that less than ten people are present, masks are worn, and social distancing is practiced.





# From the Pastor's Desk

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

*"It is not good that the man should be alone!"* These words spoken by God in the Book of Genesis have taken on special meaning in this time of social distancing. We find ourselves cut off from family, work, and even from the worship that is the anchor of our week and life as Catholic Christians. When God spoke those words, he was speaking of Adam's need for a helpmate. But the love of Adam and Eve then allowed a more intimate relationship between them and God. In fact, the first words ever spoken directly to God by a human being are Adam exclaiming his joy in Eve. Jesus Himself promised that *"whenever two or more gather in my name, I will be there."* This was another reminder that our human relationships directly impact our ability to experience God.

It should not be surprising then, that Masses said privately, or in front of a camera on Sunday's, are so much less satisfying. The "coming together" as God's people is missing or watered down, the element of community sorely missed. An old saying says that "absence makes the heart grow fonder." And my prayer is that even as I am feeling the loss of our people face to face, they will feel a deeper hunger than ever for the Eucharist. Sometimes we need to be deprived of something to truly realize what it means to us, and the difference it makes in our lives. I feel so badly that our people are being deprived of the Bread of Life and the spiritual sustenance it provides. But God has a way of bringing grace out of trial. And "hearts grown fonder" of our Eucharistic Lord would be a grace indeed.

For me one of the saddest aspects of the Pandemic is not being able to offer the full Funeral Mass for our faithful departed. Instead, only graveside prayers with ten or less people present are allowed. I say a Mass privately for each departed parishioner, for grace for their soul. But their families are still deprived of the comfort and help in grieving that the Catholic Funeral Liturgy provides. I have included in this Newsletter the names and photos of those parishioners who have died without Funerals during the Pandemic, and I ask that you please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers.

Usually this month of May is graced by the joy of First Communions, the St. Mary's Spring Barbecue, the Crowning of Mary, the Giant Youth Group Potluck Supper, and many other events that have now been cancelled or postponed. Sadly, Mother's Day falls within the Governor's shelter in place advisory, but we will certainly still bless all our moms through the live-streamed Mass that day. Although this Mother's Day will have no parish carnation sale, please consider making a gift to Birthright of Framingham directly to assist mothers in need: <https://birthright.org/framingham>.

The Mass for the Graduating Class of 2020 scheduled for May 17 will be held as planned, though live-streamed. Class Speaker Isabelle Larche will still give her speech, Mass readings will be done by graduating seniors, and the Blessed Mother Scholarship will be presented at Mass. In place of the usual St. Mary's Graduating Class Group Photo, seniors are invited to email a photo to the parish, as well as the name of the college they will be attending, or other plans. (Send to Mary Beth at [st.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marys1870@gmail.com)). These photos and Fall plans will be published in the St. Mary's Monthly Newsletter for June.



Finally, please note that Mass for the Holy Day of the Ascension of Jesus will be live-streamed on Thursday, May 21, at 5 PM. You will be able to watch and pray along on Holliston Cable Access: Verizon Fios Ch. 33 or Comcast Xfinity Ch. 96, or view online at: <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>. On this day, Jesus Ascended to take His place at the right hand of His Father in heaven. Jesus went ahead "to prepare a place" for us, and where He has gone we hope one day to follow.

May God keep you and yours physically healthy and spiritually safe.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

P.S. As shown in this photo, during the Pandemic it is Crispin's job to let me know when I've spent too much time working at the computer and that it's time to play!



# In Loving Memory



**Peter Sullivan**  
April 2, 2020



**Doris O'Neil**  
April 17, 2020



**Mary Messina**  
April 19, 2020

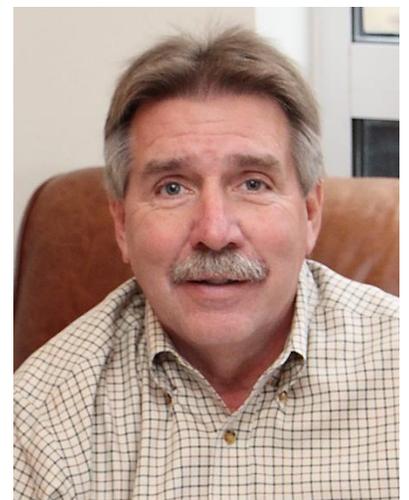


**Ileana Bachman**  
April 26, 2020

These five St. Mary's Parishioners passed during the Pandemic and were therefore unable to receive their Funeral Masses.

Their full Funerals will be celebrated when social distancing rules allow.

Please keep them in your prayers, that they may now enjoy the perfect peace and joy which comes from being with God.



**Stephen Rothrock**  
April 28, 2020



## A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS!

As soon as the churches closed, St. Mary's placed the Blessed Sacrament in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor rectory window facing the Town Hall.

This allows people to park on Washington Street, look up, and pray before the Holy Eucharist in safety.

May the Body of Christ now visible, remind us of the abiding presence of God in this hard time, and the greatness of His love for us.

Please help spread the word!

## ST. MARY'S MASS LIVE-STREAMED

History was made on Sunday, March 22, 2020, when Mass was live-streamed from St. Mary's Church in Holliston for the very first time. With churches closed due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the live-streamed Masses allow our Parish Community to pray "together from afar." It means so much to people to be able to see their spiritual home each week!

How can you join in?

**Every Sunday, the 11:30 AM Mass is being live-streamed from our beautiful St. Mary's Church.**



You may watch this Mass live on Holliston Cable Access: **Verizon Fios Ch. 33** or **Comcast Xfinity Ch. 96**.

Or you can visit: <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston> and scroll down. You do not need a Facebook account to access this page. If you arrive "early," you may need to hit the refresh button. Welcome!

On weekday mornings, you may also join Deacon Barry at 7:30 AM for live-streamed Morning Prayer. <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston/>.

# STEWARDSHIP IN TIME OF PANDEMIC ~

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,

As you know, due to the Pandemic Church Closings, St. Mary's has lost her Mass Collection income. This has understandably led to some significant Offertory Shortfalls:

April 25/26 Shortfall:	\$ 573.30
April 11/12 Shortfall:	\$ 941.65
April 4/5 Shortfall:	\$1,737.19
March 28/29 Shortfall:	\$3,375.53
March 21/22 Shortfall:	\$9,194.54
March 14/15 Shortfall:	\$6,323.27

**Photo Left:** Many parishioners visit the church in person to drop their weekly offertory through the Rectory Office outdoor mail slot.

**We are very grateful** to all those who have continued to give, especially in this time when many have been laid off from work. May God bless you for your faithful stewardship!

In order to assure that St. Mary's can continue to pay her staff and bills, we do ask those parishioners not already using Automatic Giving or WeShare, to please consider signing up for one of those services as your means allow.

Full details on how to do so are provided on the St. Mary's Website under the HOW TO GIVE tab: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>. We recommend setting up the WeShare option, which can be done right now on your computer by clicking the link here: <https://stmarysholliston.weshareonline.org/>.

If you are unable to do Automatic Giving or WeShare, then please drop off or mail in your parish offertory support each week until you can place it in the basket at Mass again.

None of us knows how long the current COVID-19 Crisis, and subsequent shutting down of Masses, will continue. But we all want to make sure that St. Mary's remains strong and healthy throughout, able to pay her hardworking staff, maintain her buildings, and continue serving her people in love.

Thank you and God bless you!



## 2020 CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE ~

The Catholic Appeal Kick Off Weekend, March 14/15, was the very same weekend that all public Masses were cancelled throughout the Archdiocese. Despite that, many St. Mary's families have made their Appeal pledge.

As of April 30, 2020, St. Mary's Parish Holliston had reached **\$64,729.00** in Catholic Appeal gifts and pledges.

This is **74%** of our parish's goal of **\$87,486**. If you have not yet participated in the Appeal, your Catholic Appeal Envelopes may be dropped off at St. Mary's anytime and will be credited toward our St. Mary's "In Pew Count." If we reach our in pew count goal, St. Mary's becomes eligible for Catholic Appeal rebates.

As always, the best reason to support the Appeal is because of all the holy ministries and charitable good works it accomplishes. The Catholic Church is the largest provider of social services in Massachusetts after the Commonwealth itself. With so many out of work from the Pandemic, and a looming recession, a successful Appeal will be more important than ever to assist the poor and vulnerable. Learn more, or make an online pledge, at [www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org](http://www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org). Please be sure to identify St. Mary's, Holliston as your parish. And thank you for supporting this important effort!

# Special Alert



**We Need Your Help**  
**April 23, 2020**

Dear Catholic School Friends,

The Catholic school family – teachers, staff and school leaders – have worked tirelessly together to ensure a quality education continues to be provided to your children and all who attend Catholic schools. **Now, we need your help!**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a very large financial impact on the economy, unemployment and our schools. The White House and the U.S. Congress passed a relief bill called the CARES Act that seeks to provide help to all schools, including Catholic schools. Governor Baker now has to make a decision on how this money is allocated, and to make sure Catholic schools get the relief we need.

We ask you to take less than 2 minutes to click on the link below and sign a petition that will help make sure Catholic schools get our fair share of funding.

**Click here:** <https://forms.gle/SbQLsZx9fLxRcTXM7>

Once you have signed the petition, please forward this email to anyone else you think might be willing to sign, including family members, neighbors, co-workers, and fellow parishioners. The more signatures we obtain, the greater chance that our schools will get the funding they need and deserve to continue to provide an excellent education to your children.

Catholic schools offer a safe, family-based environment for nearly 50,000 students across Massachusetts, more than 30,000 just in the Boston Archdiocese. As we have done for 150 years, Catholic schools serve the poor and middle class, welcome immigrants, and open our doors to all children of all faiths, nationalities and ethnicities.

Catholic high schools in the commonwealth have extraordinary graduation rates with 96% of the students attending college. Catholic high schools, as well as Catholic elementary schools, educate the whole child, graduating students with a strong sense of self-worth, character, and faith.

As a longstanding educational institution in the state of Massachusetts, Catholic schools are deserving of fair representation in the allocation of the money in the Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund. We appreciate your support in bringing the value of Catholic schools to the attention of Governor Baker.

God bless!

Tom

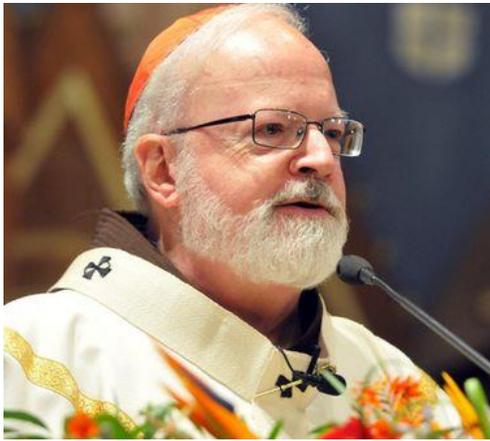
**Thomas W. Carroll**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Archdiocese of Boston

# 1870-2020 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:



**Sunday, May 10, at 11:30 AM:** On account of the continuing Pandemic threat, Cardinal O'Malley has had to cancel his visit this day. We will alert the parish as soon as he is able to commit to a new date. The Cardinal is looking forward to helping us celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and will definitely make it to Holliston at some point in the near future.

**On Friday, May 22:** Our Anniversary Concert, "Sing of Mary," has been postponed. The choirs have been unable to rehearse due to the Pandemic restrictions. Music has played an important role in the history of St. Mary's, and this concert will be rescheduled, not cancelled.

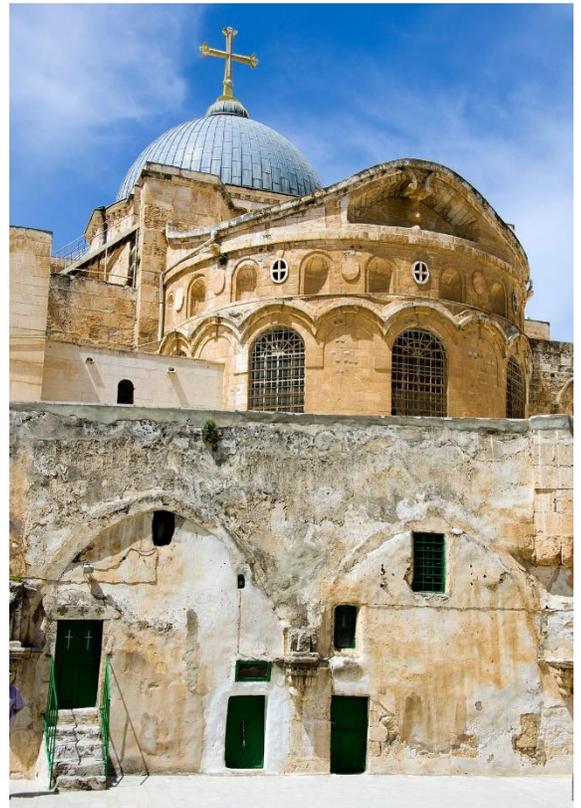
## **On Saturday, October 10 - Sunday, October 11:**

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:** This 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!

**March 12-21, 2021:** Due to the Pandemic, the Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been rescheduled from March 2020 to these new dates. Anyone interested in "adding on" should contact Cara Camden at 206 Tours, [cara@206tours.com](mailto:cara@206tours.com). The items already collected for our sister parish, Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour, will be shipped over. The prayer intentions collected at Mass were faithfully prayed each day of Lent by the pilgrims to whom they were entrusted. **Photo Right: Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem**



# 1870-2020 Celebrating 150 years!

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



**OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH, BEIT SAHOUR, PALESTINE:** One of the great disappointments of the postponement of the St. Mary's Parish Anniversary Pilgrimage, was not getting to visit Father Issa and celebrate Mass with the people of our new Sister Parish in Palestine. We have, however, stayed in contact with them. Here are some of Fr. Issa's latest emails.

**EMAIL RECEIVED MARCH 20, 2020:**

Dear Father Mark & Parishioners of St. Mary. Peace be with you.

I would like to share with you the experience of our people here in Our Lady of Fatima. As the entire world, we have also suffered from corona virus, since 16 days, after discovering 4 cases of people who were affected by corona virus, in Beit Jala, near of Bethlehem. The government closed the area immediately, which was good to blockade the spread of the virus. Until now, we have 47 cases in all Palestine. The majority are in Bethlehem area. But thanks, be to God that nobody was died, and this morning 17 persons become in a good condition, and they come back to their Family. From Our Parish we have one case which was discovered three days before, his name is Anwar Ayyad, I am keeping touch with his family who tell me that he becomes good; we hope that he becomes better as soon as possible. I think the situation is under controlled here in Palestine. And I hope you have the same.

I hope to hear good news from you, and I hope that all of you are doing well. we pray for you, and please pray for us.

Fr. Issa Hijazeen

**EMAIL RECEIVED APRIL 1, 2020:**

Dear Father Mark

At the beginning, I would like to thank you and all of our brothers and sisters in Saint Mary Parish for your prayer for us, especially for Anwar Ayyad. Our situation in Beit Sahour is very good until now. Since two weeks, we have no new cases

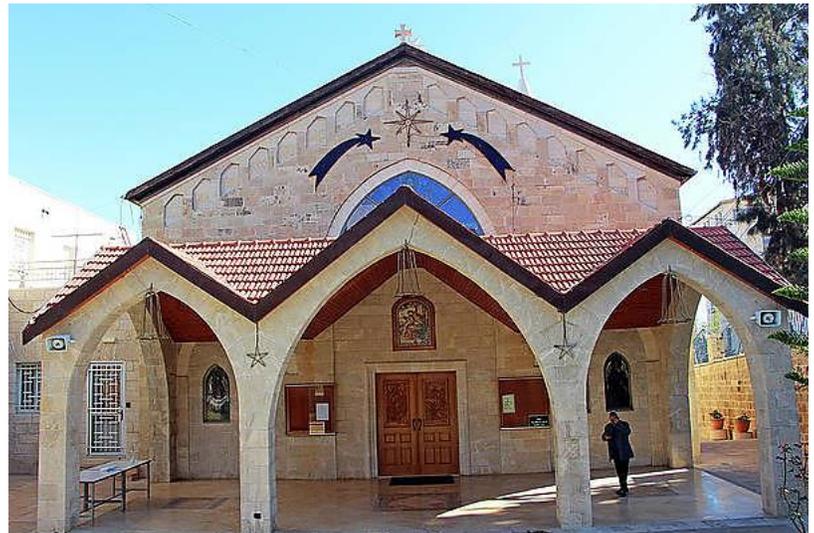
registered. Anwar Ayyad is very good. Tomorrow, he will go back to his home. Thanks be to God. I think it would be better

to delay sending the Gifts, because the situation is very complicated, because anything coming to the country will be booked for unknown period.

The Situation in USA is very worrying and bad, we pray to God for you to stop the spread of the epidemic.

Thank you again Father.

Fr. Issa Hijazeen



**Photo Above: Our Lady's, Beit Sahour**

# 1870-2020 Celebrating 150 years!



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

**Did You Know?** Thanks to Shirley Chipman, daughter of long-time parishioners Ed and Kay Hamlet, St. Mary's owns the ledger account books from Fr. Richard Quinlan, St. Mary's first pastor. Shirley found them in an antique shop, bought them and donated them to St. Mary's. Here is a sample:

*Receipts July, Aug, Sept 1874*

July	31 <sup>st</sup>	Collection for church in July	45.00	
July	5 <sup>th</sup>	Pew Rent	\$77.00	
"	13 <sup>th</sup>	" "	36.00	25
"	19	" "	28.00	
"	20 <sup>th</sup>	Picnic at Milford July 18 <sup>th</sup> 1874	702.50	
"	26	Pew Rent	21.00	
"	"	" "	3.75	<u>165.76</u>
Aug	2 <sup>nd</sup>	" "	56.00	
"	14	" "	23.00	
"	10	3 mos. Note in Holl Na Bank <small>due Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 74</small>	491.16	
"	16	Pew Rent	20.00	
"	23	" "	13.00	<u>112.70</u>
Aug	31	Collection for church in Aug	95.00	
Sept	6	Pew Rent	27.00	
"	13	" "	22.50	
"	20	" "	31.00	97.50
"	27	" "	17.00	<u>1708.91</u>
"	30	Balance on Hand	663.85	
			<u>2772.76</u>	

# 1870-2020 Celebrating 150 years!



## ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The image on the previous page shows receipts for July, August and September 1874. The income in the very early years consisted of pew rent, collections, and picnics held at Milford. Income for 1871, the year after St. Mary's was founded and Fr. Quinlan arrived, included \$986 in monthly pew rent (\$21,000 today), \$1,913 in bi-monthly collections (\$40,000 today), and \$610 from the picnic at Milford. These same revenue sources are listed for 1871, 1872, and 1873. The first Mass was said in the mostly unfinished church basement in December 1873. In 1874, short term loans and a mortgage also appear as income to pay for an architect, builder, roofer and assorted building supplies.

Expenses for 1871 included rental of Town Hall for about \$20 per month (where Masses were held prior to the completion of the Church), vestments, holy water, and other church supplies, and, beginning in June 1871, house rent of \$50 per month (the rectory had not yet been purchased). Fr. Quinlan also paid himself a salary of \$50 per month, perhaps to cover the rent on his Charles Street house.

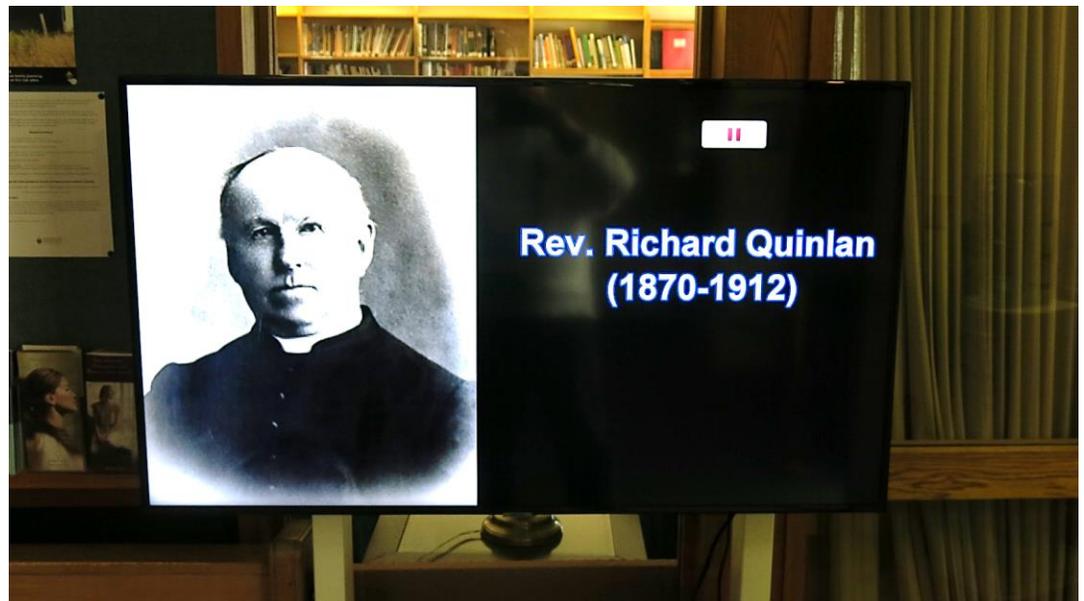
These receipt amounts are impressive, considering parishioners at that time were mostly devout Irish immigrants who worked in the shoe and boot industry setting up little shops in their homes in Mudville. The salary for men was not above \$2.00 per day and women and children were often employed as well to bring in extra money for the family. The contributions made to start their own church represented a real sacrifice – one that these faithful Irish Catholics and new parishioners of St. Mary's were glad to make.

### St. Mary's Anniversary

**Video Series:** The Video Series has been on hiatus since Masses and Parish activities have been suspended. Currently, the Parish Buildings video is scheduled for May while the Parish Life video will debut in June. The entire series will be repeated in Fall 2020.

Thank you to the parishioners who have donated photos to be

used in the video series. I am still working on the Parish Life Video and, of course, the new St. Mary's history book. If you have something to share, either a photo or a story, and can do so via email, please contact Betty Febo, 508- 429-7190 or [betty.febo@gmail.com](mailto:betty.febo@gmail.com).





## Troop 14 Holliston

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

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

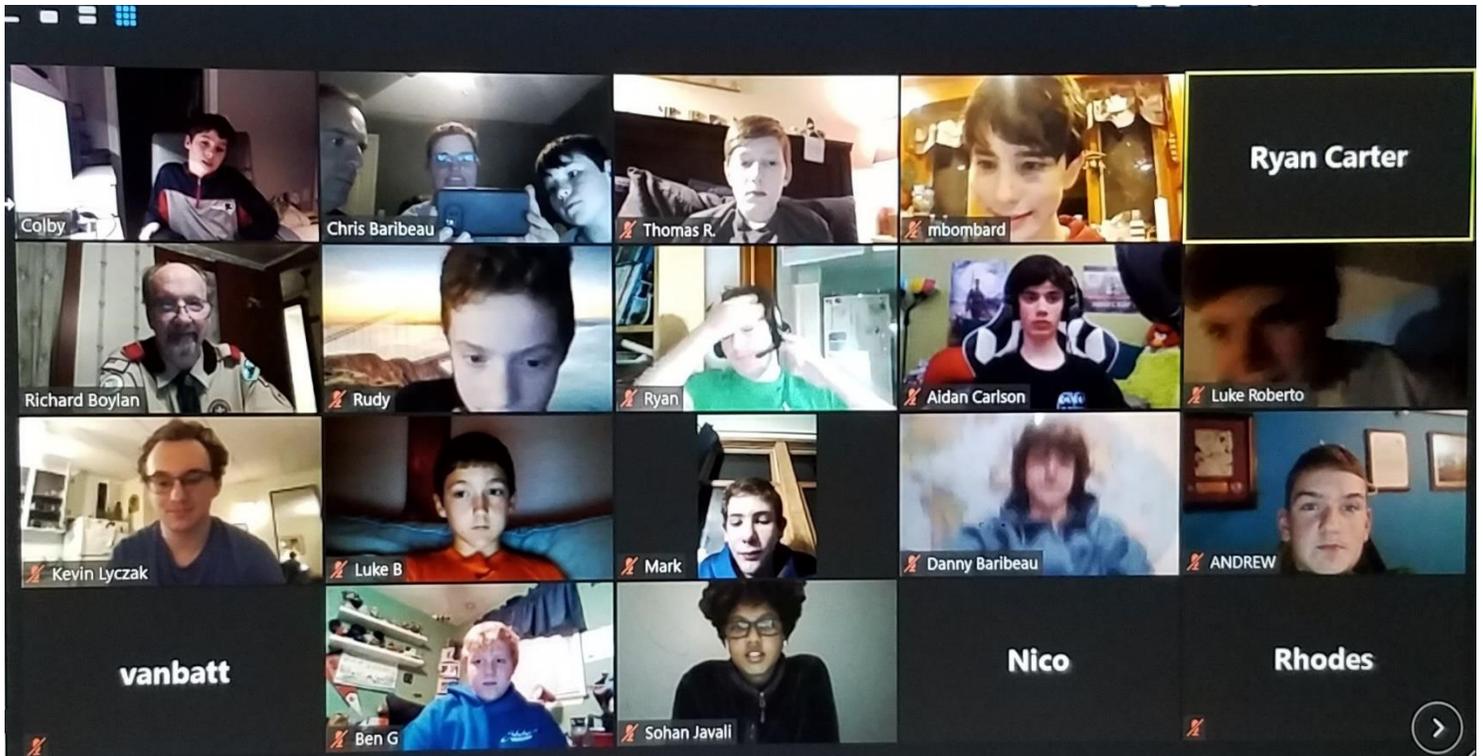
Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster  
508.579.4357

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

St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 meets weekly on Monday nights in the Lower Church. If interested in joining Troop 14, come to any of our meetings. It is an ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 14 TAKES ON THE CHALLENGE AND FINDS WAYS TO DELIVER THE SCOUTING PROGRAM DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES:** COVID-19 has impacted everyone locally as well as worldwide in many ways. Many Boy Scout programs including certain advancement requirements, campouts, group activities, and service projects had to be put on hold. But the Scouts and leaders of Troop 14 found ways to safely continue meetings, work on advancement, development of skills and leadership and spending time in nature. It certainly looks different, and there are additional guidelines to follow, but thanks to the use of technology, being creative and thinking outside the box, we are able to continue providing the Scouting program. Here are a few activities we are doing.

**VIRTUAL TROOP MEETINGS:** For over six-weeks now we have been holding weekly virtual meetings with 75% to 85% of the Scouts attending along with 5-6 leaders. How does it work? We all log in to the invite with our computers. If you have a camera, everyone can see you. When not talking you turn off your mic. (Photo Below) Meetings are generally following the traditional format with opening and closing ceremonies, announcements, planning for upcoming activities, advancement and games. Every other week, the Scouts have been working on the Public Health Merit Badge and learning about many public health issues including health dangers, food safety, natural disasters, diseases, public health agencies, treatments and prevention. A timely merit badge based on what we are now experiencing in the world around us.



**HIKING CHALLENGE:** In mid-March, Scoutmaster Chris Baribeau challenged the Troop to get outside and hike! The challenge goes until early June and the Scouts, hiking with their families and following social distancing guidelines, log in their miles. Through April 23 the Scouts logged in 280 miles. Currently Luke B. is leading the Troop with 80 miles. Check in next month to see how many miles the Troop hiked.



Click this link to see a video of the Virtual Hunt!  
<https://bit.ly/3bPxPw>

**SCAVENGER HUNT:** How many Troop 14 Scouts can we get to hike to the same spot in Holliston and take a picture of themselves? The rules were clear and everyone had to follow all the current social distancing guidelines and could not do this as a group activity. The activity ran from April 7 to April 14 and took place in Wenakeening Woods. Scouts had to find a specific location identified on the map. Over 15 Scouts and leaders participated in the activity and a video was made with all the photos received by Danny B. who ran the activity. Click the link in the green box (left) to see it! A second Scavenger Hunt is underway now on the Red Trail behind the upper half of the Pinecrest parking lot which was organized by Trevor F.

**PRESENTATIONS BY OLDER SCOUTS:**

At the Troop April 20 Virtual Scout Meeting, two of the senior Scouts made presentations to the Troop. Nico D. talked about the different types of rock climbing, equipment and bouldering. Then everyone with ropes in hand, learned how to tie the Double Figure 8 Climbing Safety Knot. (Photo Right). Brandon P. followed with a presentation on Critical High

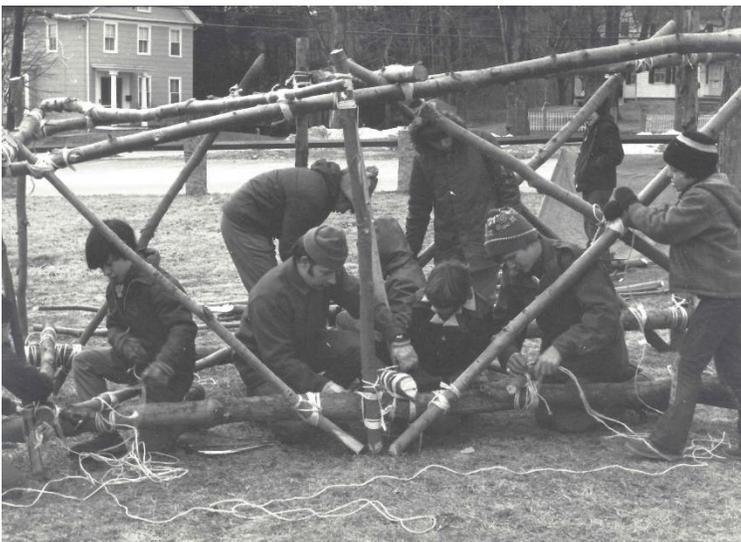


Adventure Gear, discussing the top ten pieces of gear, with important features to consider when buying. This information was critical as the Scouts prepare for the Troop 14 Summer High Adventure trips.

**TROOP 14 LEADERS STEP UP AND REGISTER AS MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS:** Over the past month over ten Troop 14 Leaders have registered as Merit Badge (MB) Counselors, which allows those leaders to teach specific MBs to our Scouts as well as Scouts from other Troops. To be a MB Counselor, you have to have expertise in the subject matter of that MB. The BSA currently has 135 MBs covering a variety of subjects ranging from Robotics to First Aid and Entrepreneurship to Snow Sports. Troop 14 now has MB counselors for all the Eagle Required MBs as well as 20 other MBs.

**TROOP 14 HISTORY:** As part of St. Mary's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, over the next few months we will be presenting some of Troop 14's history. Following are a few historical tidbits about Troop 14:

- St. Mary's Catholic Church was granted a Charter by the Boy Scouts of America, establishing Troop 14 in 1965, and has continuously provided the Boy Scout Program for the past 55 years.
- Troop 14 has had 21 loyal and dedicated Scoutmasters, many of whom were St. Mary's Parishioners. Four of the Scoutmasters are still involved in the Troop today.



- Over the years, 75 of Troop 14 Scouts have earned the Rank of Eagle, the highest rank in Scouting. This equates to over 12% of Troop 14 Scouts, well above the national average of 4%.
- Troop 14 has had a long-time reputation of being an active Troop including monthly campouts and activities, services projects and fund-raisers, as well as a number of traditions carried on for many years. The Left Photo is Troop 14 in the mid-70's building a tower in the center of town across from St. Mary's. Walt Baker, Scoutmaster from 1975-76 is teaching the Scouts lashing skills. Does anyone recognize any of the Scouts?

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Virtual Campout on Saturday, May 2. Scouts camping outside are connected virtually.



# 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!

**PANDEMIC UPDATE:** Due to the need for social distancing even after the Stay at Home Advisory ends, the May 17 End of Year Potluck Supper and the June 25-26 Kennebec River Whitewater Adventure are both cancelled. Refunds will be sent to the Rafter's, and we are working on a way to put the End of Year Slideshow online for Youth Group Members and their families to enjoy. The August 14 Deerfield Rafting Trip is a GO at this time. Let us pray that things will be much better by summer's end!



**HAPPIER DAYS!**  
Remember when there was no "six feet apart" like at the MSYG Luau Dance shown here? Almost 400 teens danced the night of Friday, January 31 away!

# MISSION TRIP GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI July 26 – August 1, 2020



If possible, our group of 69 registered EPIC teens and adult leaders will be serving on a Mission trip to Gulfport, MS this summer. The Coronavirus Pandemic has complicated our Mission Trip procedures, however our Youth Ministry staff is working with the Archdiocese, as well as Repair and Replenish Retreat Missions, as we strive to make the trip happen. We do not know when we will have a definitive answer on how the trip will be affected, but we will notify participants and families via email as soon as we have a final answer.

Usually during this time we are planning and sending out information of all the pre-trip events (meetings, fundraisers, dinners, Masses, when final payments are due, and more). However, those are on hold for the time being.

Right on the Gulf Coast, Gulfport has still not fully recovered from Hurricane Katrina. It is stricken by poverty, and needs our help. The home base for the trip is a retreat center run by Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pass Christian, Mississippi. Some of the organizations that Repair and Replenish partners with are Fixin' the Coast, Habitat for Humanity and ReStore of the MS Gulf Cost, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Gulfport and Biloxi Fire Departments, as well as home building and improvement projects.



Pictured: EPIC Teens working on a Fence on last year's trip to Gainesville, FL.



## REGISTER FOR FALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BY JUNE 15, 2020 ~

The deadline to register your child / children for Religious Education Classes in Fall of 2020 is Monday, June 15, 2020. 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](http://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](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com). Welcome!



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 May, 2020

**Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella**  
**Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE:**  
We've donated over \$210,000 in the past eleven years, **but this year is especially important because the pandemic has really hurt many charities.**

Council Knights are now selling raffle tickets. One raffle ticket is \$5 or five tickets for \$20, and we have five prizes from \$100 to \$1000. **Ask a Knight you know for tickets. Due to the current pandemic, Knights will follow all social distancing rules and happily deliver or mail your tickets.**

**You may also purchase tickets by sending your check payable to KofC #14224, name, address, and phone number to TOM ANGUISH, 542 WINTER STREET, HOLLISTON.** We'll fill out your tickets and send your portion back to you. **Live sales at local stores have been put on hold. New schedules will be announced once the state of emergency has been lifted.** We're donating to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and food pantries in other local towns, the Holliston Senior Center, local Habitat for Humanity projects, Homes for our Troops and other veteran's charities. The Drawing is scheduled to take place at Celebrate Holliston on September 26. Raffle co-chairmen are Knights Tom Anguish, Bill Heuer, Aaron Pyman and Grand Knight Al Scaramella.

## MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be Wednesday, May 20.

**This Rosary will be a group phone conference at 7:00 PM. Phone details will be sent to all Knights.**

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.**



**12th Annual Charity Raffle** 

**Knights of Columbus Council 14224**  
St. Mary's of Holliston

**First Prize .... \$1000**

Second Prize ..... \$500    Third Prize ..... \$250

Fourth Prize ..... \$150    Fifth Prize ..... \$100

**DRAWING: September 26, 2020**

*Proceeds Benefit*

Holliston Senior Center, Holliston Pantry Shelf, Veterans Charities  
Habitat for Humanity, Local Food Pantries & Other Charitable Donations

**For Official Rules see [hollistoncares.com](http://hollistoncares.com)**

Ticket price \$5.00    Winner need not be present to win

**1706**

**MONTHLY ROSARY HELD BY PHONE:** On March 15, the normal Monthly Meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions but eleven Knights recited the Rosary by phone led by Knight Don Marden. The group conference call was arranged by Knight Anthony DeStefano. We plan to have the phone Rosary again on May 20.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COUNCIL VOLUNTEER DAY:** Cancelled till further notice.

**NEW EXEMPLIFICATION FOR NEW MEMBERS:** On April 16, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson introduced the first ever online Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. "The exemplification was hosted digitally by the Supreme Council as a unique opportunity for men to

join the Order in a time of social distancing and minimizing mass gatherings." (18Apr20 K of C News-Room). The online event had 2,000 new members and 7,000 First and Second Degree Members obtained the Third Degree. First and Second Degree Knights from our Council receiving their third degree online were: John Curran, Jeffrey Hastie, Donald Marden, Richard Masson, James Merski, and Daniel Nash. The Council will announce its first live Exemplification after Council training is completed.

**KNIGHTS SERVICE IN THE PANDEMIC:** Twenty-two Knights participated in St. Mary's Phone Check to all St. Mary's Families. The Holliston Pantry Shelf is remarkably serving families in need with help from Knights Anthony Polise, Richard Masson, and Frank Caron.

**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.

Good Afternoon,

We hope that you are safe and healthy. We wanted to give you an update on how things are going during this challenging time - please share this email with the members of your food group and others that support your volunteer efforts. We certainly miss having your group in and hope everyone is doing well.

Here are some updates from PSI:

- Shelter guests are now being tested for COVID-19 and those with symptoms will be sheltered separately. We have tents set up outside our shelters and the city's shelters have also done this. Pine Street Inn's four shelters and the city's two shelters serve more than 90% of the adult homeless population in Boston, so we have a very big responsibility. This entire process has been rolled out in close partnership with Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, the Boston Public Health Commission and state health officials.



- Inside our shelters, we are doing as much as is possible to implement social distancing, including extending meal times so we can have just a few people at each table and hanging shower curtains between shelter beds to provide some protection amid the close quarters.

- This weekend we started moving some of our guests into one of the dorms at Suffolk University and this will be a great help to give people more space and encourage social distancing.

- Across all of our facilities, we have added extra cleaning protocols and brought in an external company to do additional sanitizing.

- We have distributed \$100 gift cards to tenants in our supportive housing to help them secure groceries and medication.

- All non-essential staff are working from home and frontline staff are being paid above and beyond their regular pay in recognition of their incredible dedication.

- Volunteering and food donations remain on hold. Staff from across the organization are pitching in to do the jobs normally done by volunteers, like meal service, and to help with frontline work.

We are seeing a strong outpouring of support from our community of supporters but the magnitude of our need is considerable. We are very much in need of masks at the moment. We are looking for manufactured ones but also homemade cloth ones for our staff and guests. If you're interested in helping with this endeavor please reach out to us so that we may answer any questions or provide instructions on how to send them.

Additionally, tenants at our housing sites are in need of non-perishable food items and supplies. We have an Amazon wish-list that cites the most needed/requested items for them. Please feel free to share this list with other members of your group.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/72721YD3YK0Q?ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_wl\\_dp\\_kWJ8wHhHj9i0C](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/72721YD3YK0Q?ref=cm_sw_em_r_wl_dp_kWJ8wHhHj9i0C)

This is truly a time when our core values of hope, dignity and respect for all are more important than ever. We are so grateful to have you as a partner in our mission. Thank you so much again for everything you do for us. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Best,

Lauren  
617-892-9232

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**St. Mary's, Holliston, partners with the Pine Street Inn by cooking and serving meals for the residents once a month. The Pandemic forced this beautiful ministry to be suspended, but our prayers and donations are still needed.**

The WINGS Spring Season was cancelled due to the Pandemic, so we asked one of our scheduled speakers – Kim Lisbon – to share her talk in writing instead. Thank you, Kim, for your witness of faith and perseverance in the Lord!

## Singing on the Way to Surgery

By Kim Lisbon

*"In Him my heart trusts and I find help; then my heart exults and with my song I give Him thanks. Psalm 28:7*

I had been looking forward to sharing with WINGS my cancer story and the wonder of God's healing in my life. Praise God I am now cancer free! I was planning to tell my story with songs and images. It is difficult to express with words the many blessings I received as I surrendered to God's will in my life. Music is a better way to communicate the things of the heart. I hope I may have the opportunity to sing God's praises with the women of WINGS after the COVID-19 quarantine is lifted.

Months of Chemotherapy and radiation treatments can be physically exhausting and emotionally isolating but my experience was filled with God's nearness and I had no anxiety. I experienced it as a time of quiet retreat with Jesus. We are now living through a worldwide pandemic. Is this God's way of spiritual surgery? Is He cutting away our idols and placing us in a time out? For so long we have been experiencing a crisis of truth. How many souls have been lost to the lies of the devil and the "culture of death?" I'm reminded of the quote by C.S. Lewis, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

When I was told that my cancer was stage 3 and I would need surgery and months of Chemo and radiation therapy, I had two immediate but opposite reactions. The first was a strange feeling of joy; maybe I was going to die. Lucky me to be leaving this veil of tears. That was a temptation to give up and not enter the mystery of redemptive suffering which I was being offered. The other thought was the deep love I have for my husband and what he would suffer. I resolved to place my life in God's hands trusting His plan for me and our future. My work in music ministry was such a joy and I wanted to continue to be God's instrument in the world. My prayer became a desire for God to use my cancer for His glory. I asked God for a great witness story. I know that our personal witness stories are one of the best ways to share our faith with others. I also offered the Lord all the suffering involved in my treatments for the salvation of souls, especially my family members who have lost their faith.

My prayers were answered as only Jesus can. The ups and downs of my days included pain as well as consolations and a deepening bond with Our Lord. Once during prayer I felt the Lord ask me, "Do you want to resemble me? Let me see my reflection in you."



On the morning of my major surgery, two spiritual sisters accompanied me for support. When we entered the waiting room I was surprised to see a young woman I knew from my home parish. She had been on our prayer line and I knew why we had been praying for her. The child she had been carrying in her womb had died in utero. You can imagine the sadness and loss for her and her family. She was alone in the waiting room. Her husband was at work while other family members were home watching her young children. I knew her from our parish Life Teen program and I had the joy of singing at her wedding Mass. I knew it was a Divine set-up to be scheduled for surgery on the same day and time. My two spiritual sisters and I were there to embrace her and pray with her in the waiting room. She was not alone. This was not the only time I saw the Lord's hand in a hospital waiting room.

I was prepped for surgery but my surgeon was late so they let my friend Nancy come in and sit with me as I waited. Nancy and I were still excited about the joy of praying with my young friend and about God's mysterious ways. We were talking about the Mass readings of that day. The first reading of the day was from Revelation 15:3-4. We knew a lively song based on the same scripture and began to sing it out loud.

*"Great and wonderful are your mighty works, Lord God Almighty!  
Just and true are all your ways O King of the nations!*

*Who would dare refuse you honor or the glory due your name since you alone are holy?  
All the nations shall come and worship in your presence for your glory shall be revealed.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen...la la la la..."*

As we were singing, hospital staff began coming to see what was going on. They were smiling and making cracks, "Who is singing in here? Where's the party? Hey, do you know any Billy Joel?" God gave us the opportunity to sing His praise right there in pre-op. The Lord had already begun to answer my request; make me a witness.

The surgery was successful in removing most of the cancer but as I was informed later, I would have to undergo 2 rounds of Chemotherapy and 3 rounds of radiation treatments. During the months of radiation and Chemo I had no anxiety at all, I knew people were praying for me. In a special way I wish to thank all my WINGS friends and so many others who sent me beautiful cards and notes to let me know they were praying for me. I felt protected and covered by prayer. My husband was a patient nurse and I felt very close to the Lord as if on a healing retreat. During one of my prayer times, while listing in my prayer journal all the blessings I was receiving, I heard the Lord ask me, "Are you surprised by the extravagance of my love for you?"

I had wonderful nurses and therapists who were my new companions. My Chemo nurse had a lively faith. She also loved worship and singing hymns. We spoke to one another with hymns. She would say, "What a friend we have in Jesus" and I would reply, "It is well with my soul."

My friend Pat came with me on many of my Chemotherapy days. We laughed about how strange it was to "enjoy" Chemotherapy at Dana Farber in Milford. We would be given a quiet, clean and comfortable treatment room to chat and enjoy each other's company. There were many wonderful volunteers who came to us. There was a Eucharistic Minister so I could receive Jesus! There was a reflexology therapist who provided foot massage! A lunch cart would come around with soup, sandwiches, fruit and pudding! Volunteers also came around with gift baskets full of comforting and practical gifts; handmade quilts, socks, lotions etc.

In addition to all the wonderful medical staff and volunteers, I was so appreciative of the medications to alleviate the side effects of the treatments. They put steroids in with the Chemo drip which gave me a feeling of well-being lasting for as long as 24 hours. At home I had other medications to help fight the nausea and pain. I am constantly amazed when thinking about the advances in medicine, knowing that if I had been born earlier all these therapies and treatments for my cancer were not yet invented.

God planned when I would be born and knows the day of my death, “truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb.”(Psalm 139:13).

My first round of radiation therapy took place Monday through Friday for 31 days. I soon found the waiting room to be a wonderful place to meet new friends. We were a support group for each other. I tried to arrive a bit early so that I could greet them and get the latest updates on their progress.

Each one had a story and a special beauty. One woman in particular touched my heart. Her cancer was aggressive and inoperable. Each day she came with one of her siblings who were taking turns accompanying her for her visits and helping out at home. She was a divorced mother and so very strong. I admired her courage and was inspired by her family. I pray that she wins her battle.



The radiation room was large and dimly lit. Just outside the treatment room the control room was filled with large screens which looked like spaceship control panels. A huge machine moved around me as I lay on the treatment table. My new friends who ran ‘the spaceship’ knew what music I preferred to listen to and they always cued up my favorite Christian music station. As I lay on the treatment table above me in the black ceiling was a cross-shaped cavity with a green light inside.

It glowed and flickered while the radiation treatment was going on. I used that green cross as my focus point during the treatments. I was literally under the Cross uniting myself to Jesus. The green color spoke to me of new life, the Cross our victory over sin and death. For a long time I’ve known that Eucharistic Adoration is like radiation therapy. If we could pull away the veil during adoration I think we would see Jesus as He is pictured in the image of Divine Mercy. Jesus is coming toward us, His hand outstretched in a blessing, healing rays of water and blood pouring from His merciful heart. At the end of my long days of treatments, I knew I would miss the kind technicians who treated me every day. They tossed confetti over me as I exited on my last day!

One of the side effects of Chemo is hair loss. I had my hairdresser shave my head when it started to fall out. I asked the Lord to use this opportunity to take away my vanity but I found I enjoyed wearing hats and my insurance covered the cost of a wig. The Lord would not let it be so easy. I will have to fight against vanity for a longer time. It was worth asking. Sometimes God says no, not now. Persevere and fight the good fight.

When the quarantine is lifted and we are once again able to worship together, I pray we are more fervent and zealous for our faith. I hope we don’t go back to the way things were. Now we can better appreciate that which is essential and eternal. I don’t want to hear the Lord say that we have become lukewarm, that we have lost our first love. I pray the Divine Physician has prescribed this time as healing for His world. Let’s take advantage of what we are being offered. One of the great gifts of my cancer was all the quiet time of prayer. During His earthly sojourn Jesus often sought places of quiet to pray to His Father. In this quarantine we are being offered this same grace. Count it all joy to know you are the beloved child of the Father. Psalm 91 has been the perfect prayer for this time of Pandemic. “You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High say to the Lord, “my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.” It is also one of my favorite hymns, set to music by Michael Joncas, “On Eagles Wings.”

God is doing all sorts of things that we cannot see, measure, control or fully understand. We are in a spiritual battle for sure. Yet we know God has a plan to bring good out of every evil. How can you not fall in love with such a God? How can we not sing for joy?

# Grace not Fear

By Jennifer Schiller

The overcast sky descended upon me like rainfall. My intent to enjoy a hearty walk was not deterred. It had been a few days of poor weather and I was longing to get outside and exercise. As I strolled through the picturesque village of my dad's neighborhood on Cape Cod, I came upon a hidden trail in the woods. I decided to take it. Despite the lack of people outside, the trail brought a sense of peace and solitude that I had been seeking in the midst of the coronavirus crisis. There is something quite special about walking amongst the trees with no one else around. When the rain finally began to fall, I smiled at my good fortune of having a canopy of branches to keep me dry. By the time I finished my walk, I found myself giving thanks to God for the many graces that I had received during my hour long excursion – peace, silence, natural beauty and time to contemplate the current crisis and pray for healing for all those affected by the virus.



Many of us struggle with the proper meaning of the word grace. I found a beautiful definition in a Catholic resource, “Grace is a gift of love that invites us into relationship with God.” I really like this definition, especially in light of the recent chaos in our lives and in the world. To be honest, for me, the coronavirus is just one more thing to think about on a daily basis. Most of my readers know that I have had the challenge of managing chronic back pain for many years. Just last week I had a nerve ablation procedure that was both painful and uncertain.

In spite of the discomfort though, the day of the procedure was one filled with many graces. Due to the “no fly” order from my husband’s company, he was able to take me to the procedure. Once there, the nurse was incredibly empathetic and kind. She wrapped me in warm blankets while I waited to be taken into the procedure room. She also drove me around in a wheelchair claiming that my blood pressure was too low to walk. (Hint...it’s always that low.) Her smile and genuine thoughtfulness made the experience so much easier. Once in the procedure room, the doctor and nurses told jokes to lighten the mood. I am sure they were more nervous than normal due to the risks associated with the coronavirus, but they never showed it. Their generosity and positive attitudes helped me remain calm which in turn allowed me to focus my mind on others.



During the most difficult part of the procedure, I kept visualizing the faces of people who have asked for my prayers. Alone, I was not able to pray or endure the pain. It was God’s grace – His free gift of love, which I had received that day through my husband’s presence and the medical professionals’ kindness, which allowed me to turn my pain into a prayer. I actually felt quite close to God that day, despite what one would think. I thank God for his goodness and many graces which I have been blessed to receive during my lifetime. I also give thanks for my beautiful mom who showed me how to recognize God’s grace in my daily life. She lived in gratitude (not fear) during good times and challenging times and taught me how to find balance amidst the storms of life.

So – in this time of challenge and uncertainty – I invite all of you to turn away from fear and notice the many graces which you receive each day – a kind word, a smile, a home cooked meal, an emptied dishwasher, an unexpected call, email or letter – anything which draws you closer to the God of love, is a grace worth being grateful for. Perhaps you could then offer a prayer for the person on the other end? Your relationship with God will deepen and flourish if you pay attention to the graces in your life every day.

# Casting the Internet

*Leveraging social media to help foster fellowship in a virtual world*

## Daily Reflections

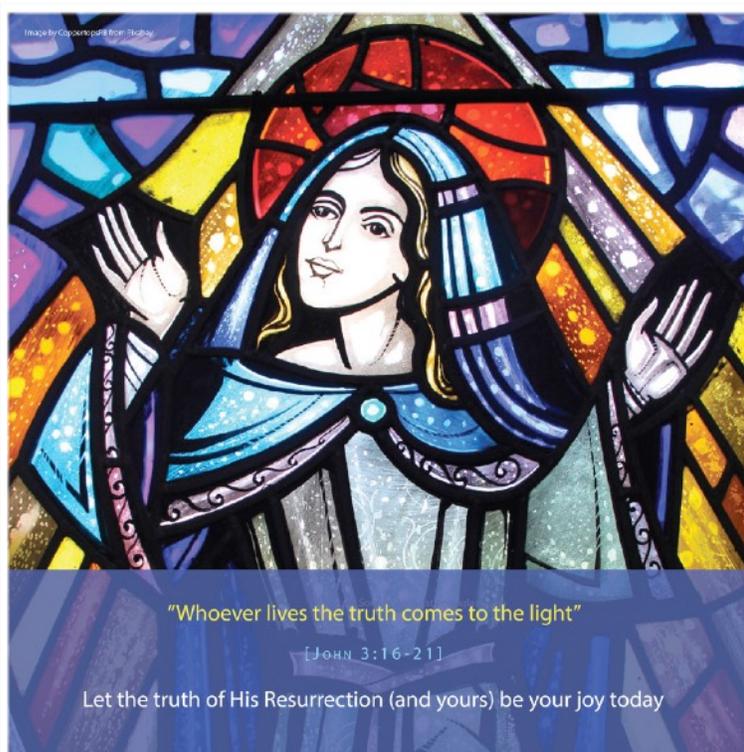
Each day during the pandemic (except Sunday), I am posting a one sentence reflection on the Gospel, along with a corresponding image (see inset at right). They can be accessed at my Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/john.barry.779642>) or on Instagram at 'deaconjohnbarry' (<https://www.instagram.com/deaconjohnbarry/>).

## Morning Prayer

During the week we are offering a Morning Prayer video from the Church, with the reading of the Gospel and a short reflection. These can be accessed on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston>).

## The Rosary

Diane & I videotaped each Mystery of the Rosary prior to Easter. These can be accessed from my Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/john.barry.779642>).



## Thinking Outside the Box

I am no social media expert. A year ago I barely knew what *Instagram* or *LinkedIn* were; but necessity is the mother of invention, and living with the constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic, I am finding myself using social media a lot these days. Email, *Zoom*, *FaceTime*, *Microsoft Teams*, *FaceBook* posts and *Instagram* have become daily terms in the Barry household. The whole concept of virtual ministry is a bit of an oxymoron for me. In my opinion, "Social distancing" is about as far from the Christian message as Tom Brady is from Foxboro (too soon?). But these are strange times we are living in, and I soon came to realize that in order to be



## Parish Outreach Effort

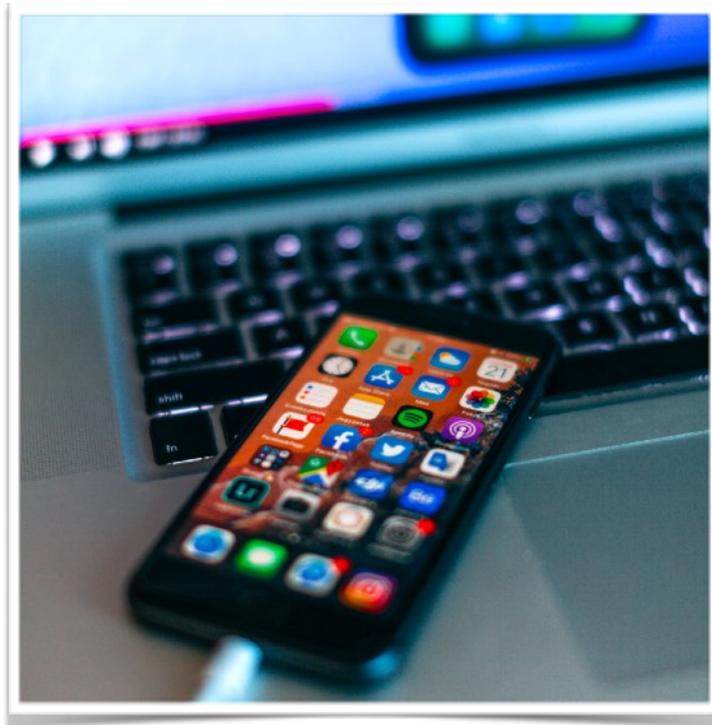
(Photos by [engin akyurt](#) & [Szabo Viktor](#) on [Unsplash](#))

The judicious act of sheltering in place may very well limit the effects of the Coronavirus, but it can also exacerbate a feeling of isolation; especially for those who live alone. We were aware of the need to reach out to those in our parish family who might feel lonely, neglected, or have a need to fill - spiritual or material, but we were uncertain of exactly who these individuals might be. So our parish decided to contact every one of the households on our parishioner list, just to check in and see how they are managing during this crisis.

Eighty six volunteers from across our parish ministry groups willingly took on this task and, by Easter, nearly every one of the households on our list had been contacted. Many of the volunteers commented on what a blessing it was for *them* to take part in this effort. I never cease to be amazed at the goodness that comes from our parish family. If you know of anyone who has not received a phone call, please let us know so we can reach them.

true to the mission of St. Mary's: "Know Christ and make Him known," I had to find creative ways to use social media as a way to gather "in communion," *especially* as we are committing to sheltering in place.

Living with two adults in our home proved advantageous for me, as I was personally tutored in setting up an *Instagram* account and creating video posts for the St. Mary's *FaceBook* page. My family and friends have been using the platforms *Zoom*, *WhatsApp* and *FaceTime* to connect on a regular basis, and my diaconate classmates set up a *Microsoft Teams* account so that we can share our Evening Prayer together. Ironically I'm finding that, in some ways, I'm more connected to certain people than I was before the pandemic. Still, I long for the time when we can gather again as a parish family in our church, receive Our Lord physically in the Eucharist, and share with one another a physical sign of Christ's peace. Until then, I'll keep washing my hands, practice this social distancing thing (that I never was very good at), and continue to cast the net from the other side.



# ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

## MAY, 2020

# got faith?



**“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES:** *Finding Chika: a little girl, an earthquake, and the making of a family* by Mitch Albom is this month’s recommended book. While not an explicitly religious book, *Finding Chika* speaks eloquently of the power of love as we read Albom’s story of the little Haitian girl, Chika, who brings a new purpose into his and his wife’s life; as he writes it, Chika made them a family. Albom is the author of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, the best-selling memoir of all time, and seven works of fiction, including *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, which have all topped the New York Times bestselling list. *Finding Chika* is available from online booksellers.

**SUNDAY READINGS:** We spend this month fully enveloped in the Easter season, a time of *Alleluias* and great rejoicing as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The Sunday gospels this month are all from John’s gospel; the first readings are all taken from the Acts of the Apostles, the story of the first Christians. The gospel passages from the first two Sundays of May feature Jesus making “I AM” statements: “I AM the gate” on May 3 and “I AM the Way...” on May 10. These statements are ones which the evangelist, John, uses to show his readers that Jesus truly is God, for God referred to himself as “I AM” when speaking to Moses from the burning bush (recounted in Exodus 3). On May 17, we hear Jesus promise his apostles that he will send them the Holy Spirit, a promise that is fulfilled on the feast of Pentecost, which we celebrate on May 31. On May 24 we hear Jesus tell his Father, in the presence of his apostles, that he is praying for them (his apostles), the people to whom he has spoken God’s word. We are these apostles, too, and Jesus intercedes for us. If you’d like to prepare for the Sunday readings, go to <http://www.liturgy.slu.edu/>.

**YOUNG ADULTS:** One of the most helpful resources for young adults who are seeking to develop their relationship with God is [www.BustedHalo.com](http://www.BustedHalo.com). Its “tag line” is Faith Shared Joyfully. The site has podcasts, videos and short articles which address concerns that are common to young people...and even those who are a bit older as well. Take a look!

**PRAYER:** Do you need a little boost in your prayer life? A little extra support, perhaps? Here are a few websites that can offer you some assistance. Daily prayer is the focus of [www.sacredspace.ie](http://www.sacredspace.ie); click on Begin the Prayer, choose a date and you are on your way. Watch a Paulist Evangelization Ministries video on *lectio divina*, or divine reading at <https://bit.ly/3eWhfy2>. Learn how to pray the Jesuit prayer, the examen, at <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-examen/>. Finally, in this month of May, refresh your knowledge of the Rosary at the US Bishops’ website, <https://bit.ly/3cM8HYH>.

**MEMORIAL DAY:** This year, Memorial Day is celebrated on May 25. You can read about this American holiday on the Old Farmer’s Almanac website at <https://bit.ly/3axOEeQ>. For Memorial Day prayers, you can go to the Xavier University prayer index site at <https://bit.ly/2VC23yx>.

**ENVIRONMENT:** This month marks the fifth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis’ encyclical on *Laudato Si’: On Care of Our Common Home*. In this encyclical, or letter, Pope Francis calls for all of us to be transformed, to understand that it is our great responsibility as human beings and as Catholics to care for the earth and for our brothers and sisters throughout the world. You can read the encyclical on the Vatican website at <https://bit.ly/2KwjJFi>. For a great explanatory video on *Laudato Si’* from the UK Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), go to <https://bit.ly/350t4x>. If you would like to learn more about or participate in our parish’s care for our common home, contact Leo Racine at 508-429-7476 and ask out the St. Mary’s Creation Care Team.

---Leo Racine