



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

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May Newsletter



GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST. MARY'S ~

For Pandemic safety there was no congregation this year, but the children of St. Mary's were in church to do their part on Good Friday, April 2.

Each Station of the Cross was reverently portrayed in tableau, as the Passion of Jesus was honored in song, scripture, and prayer. Deacon John Barry presided, and the service was livestreamed to both Facebook and Holliston Cable Access. Worship aids were provided to all St. Mary's families to allow their children to participate and pray along virtually from home.

Did you miss it? Watch now at: <http://go/photos>.

Special thanks to Fran Crespi and Lisa Dufault for organizing this beautiful celebration. Thank you to all the children who took roles as actors and readers, and to George Martell and Virginia Calapa for their livestreaming and photography ministries.

May the Life, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus remind us of His perfect love for us. And may we all be filled with the joy and new hope which is Easter!

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

May, 2021 ~ Volume 46, Number 6



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

Rectory: 508-429-4427
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GROWING GOD'S FAMILY!

Shown below with her parents and older siblings, Genevieve Rachel Cavalier was one of the children recently Baptized at St. Mary's. Shown left, Abigail Dorothy Piccirillo was all smiles at her Baptism.

We give thanks to God for all those Baptized into the Mystery of Christ's Love, Death and Resurrection. Welcome!

RECEIVED IN HOLY BAPTISM:

Aiden Connolly Berg
Vivienne Ann Perry
Lindsay Meredith Haynes
Lilah Elizabeth Leroy
Jacob Mark Tlumacki
John Samuel Licciardo
Maddox Jameson Jeffers
Patrick Gregory Beaudoin
Charlotte Faith Antonioli
Harlow James Cogan
William Daniel Nichols
Leonardo Marco Estevam
Jaxon Ford Brown
Mark Andrew Coss
Annette Katherine Foley
Suzanne Allison Mahoney
Tabitha Ann Clabeaux
Talia Marie Pomarico
Lilliana Rose Grace
Ellie Rose Faillace
Matthew James Connors
Ryan Thomas Long
Anthony Michael Krenselewski
Zachary Joseph Bouzan
Addison Marie Noel
Genevieve Rachel Cavalier
Abigail Dorothy Piccirillo
Chloe Elise Morga Enriquez





MAY 9, Mother's Day ~ A special Blessing of Mothers will take place at all Masses this weekend. The annual Mother's Day Carnation Project will not be held due to the pandemic. This is usually 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. Even without the Carnation Project, your support is deeply appreciated. Donations can be made by check and mailed to Birthright of Framingham, 79A Main St., Framingham 01702.



MAY 9, Farewell Jake Thiringer ~ At the 11:30 AM Mass this Sunday, we will say farewell to our outgoing Youth Minister and Confirmation Coordinator, Jake Thiringer. Jake moved to Massachusetts three years ago to minister here at St. Mary's. Since then, he has faithfully and humbly poured himself out in dedicated service to the young people of our parish, sharing and witnessing the love of the Lord in countless ways. Having completed his three-year commitment here, Jake will be moving back home at the end of May to take up ministry in a parish closer to his family. We thank him for his fine work here and ask God's good blessing upon him. He will be missed!

MAY 13, Ascension Thursday, A Holy Day ~

Vigil Mass, Wednesday, May 12, at 7:00 PM

Feast Day Mass, Thurs., May 13, at 9:00 AM & 6:30 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, in non-pandemic times, 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. *"O Lord, in Your mercy help us as we pray, and just as we believe the Savior of the world is seated with You in Your majesty, we may also be assured that He dwells with us as He has promised, even to the end of the age; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, now and forever. Amen."*



MAY 16, Parish 150th Anniversary Mass with Cardinal O'Malley

Presiding ~ After two postponements due to the pandemic, Cardinal Sean O'Malley will celebrate Sunday Mass in our parish for the first time ever on Sunday, May 16, at 11:30 AM. The occasion is the 150th Anniversary of St. Mary's, well worth celebrating even though we are now a few months past 2020, our official anniversary year. We are honored by the visit of our Archbishop, and hope that this joyful moment will uplift and brighten the lives of all who call St. Mary's their spiritual home. Save the date!

MAY 23, Mass for the Class of 2021 ~ On Sunday, May 23, at 11:30 AM, St. Mary's will offer her 10th Annual Mass for Graduates. This year our parish has teens graduating from six different schools. The Mass will include:

- 2021 Student Class Speaker, Ryan Stanwood,
- A Special Blessing of All Graduates,
- Presentation of the Blessed Mother Scholarship,
- Graduate Photographs (see below),



- Members of the Class of 2021 will also serve in various ministries at this Mass. While the Pandemic prevents us from having the traditional Class group photo and reception, we have engaged a professional photographer to take an individual photo of each graduate after the Mass (outdoors so it can be mask-less). These will then be published in the Parish Newsletter, along with the name and fall plans of each graduate. Congratulations Class of 2021!

PRAYER DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ~

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary,
We, your children of every nation,
Turn to you in this pandemic.
Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great.
Grant that we might lay them at your feet,
Take refuge in your Immaculate Heart,
And obtain peace, healing, rescue,
And timely help in all our needs.
You are our Mother.
Pray for us to your Son. Amen.





Mary, friend and mother to all,
through your Son, God has found a way
to unite himself to every human being,
called to be one people,
sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on
your Son, seeking forgiveness for the
times when we have failed
to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining
from your Son the grace we need
to overcome the evil of racism
and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following
your Son, so that prejudice
and animosity will no longer infect
our minds or hearts but will be
replaced with a love that
respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church,
the Spirit of your Son Jesus
warms our hearts: pray for us.

Amen.

April 21, 2021

CARDINAL SEÁN O'MALLEY'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING CHAUVIN VERDICT

“The killing of George Floyd has had a traumatic impact on our society. The suffering he endured and the immense loss his family has experienced speaks to us on a very human level.

The death of Mr. Floyd in a very public and raw manner catapulted this case into the conscience of the nation. The resulting anger and protest that culminated in the trial and conviction of Derek Chauvin is one important step in the process of addressing the broader issues facing our country in terms of racism, a criminal justice system many feel needs reform and the reality of living as a person of color in America.

As a nation we must face these issues with a real desire built on a foundation that values human life. We have a moral responsibility to not let George Floyd's death become a distant memory in the years ahead but a force for building communities of love, acceptance and fellowship.

It is not enough to simply want to end racial injustice, we are called to work towards that goal. We can begin that process by each of us examining our own conscience and considering how we can help heal our nation.

We call on all members of our Church to embrace the Gospel ideals Christ has taught us by working to change hearts and to promote healing and unity in our country.”

+ Seán, OFM Cap

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II, THE CHURCH AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY

“Even in this wealthy nation, committed by its Founding Fathers to the dignity and equality of all persons, the black community suffers a disproportionate share of economic deprivation. Far too many of your young people receive less than an equal opportunity for a quality education and for gainful employment. The Church must continue to join her efforts with the efforts of others who are working to correct all imbalances and disorders of a social nature. Indeed, the Church can never remain silent in the face of injustice, wherever it is clearly present.

In the most difficult hours of your struggle for civil rights amidst discrimination and oppression, God himself guided your steps along the way of peace. Before the witness of history the response of non-violence stands, in the memory of this nation, as a monument of honor to the black community of the United States. Today as we recall those who with Christian vision opted for non-violence as the only truly effective approach for ensuring and safeguarding human dignity, we cannot but think of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and of the providential role he played in contributing to the rightful human betterment of black Americans and therefore to the improvement of American society itself.”



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

On the Church Street side of St. Mary's Parish Center, there is a wild cherry tree. Its trunk is rotted, hollowed out, and half missing. The upper parts of the trunk are shattered and disintegrating. It is to say the least, in very rough shape.

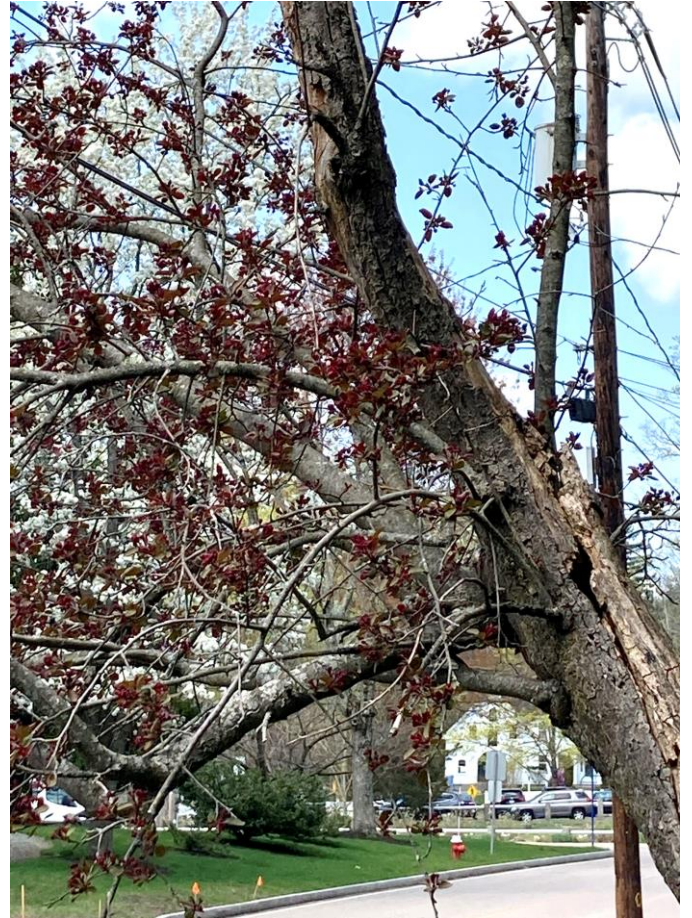


Every year like clockwork, a staff-member or parishioner will ask permission to cut this sorry looking specimen down. "No way!" I always respond. "That's our miracle tree!" Because, you see, every spring this tree still buds and blooms. In the fall, it even produces huge amounts of wild cherries that cover the grass and sidewalk.

When I look at this tree, I am always reminded of one of the great graces of God – His ability to bring forth life and even produce an abundance of fruit from that which is broken and damaged. I think of Peter, who denied Jesus three times, abandoned the Lord, and yet went on to become the first pope and a rock of faith for the Church.

I think of Mary Magdalene, a woman with a sinful past from whom Jesus drove out seven demons. A woman who then became the first witness to the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Morning. I think of Paul, guilty of the deaths of many Christians, who then became the great Apostle to the Gentiles.

I think of so many followers of Jesus, then and now, who are flawed, imperfect, and have perhaps even fallen into sin. I think of how Jesus is able to redeem and transform them into instruments of blessing for others.



Pope Saint John Paul II once said that *"We are not the sum of our failures and weaknesses, but of the Father's love for us, and our real capacity to become the image of His Son."*

How important it is to remember this great truth. That even if our lives seem as shattered as the trunk of that wild cherry tree on St. Mary's lawn – still God can work for us and through us. Still He can bring forth something beautiful and nourishing if we humbly give ourselves to Him.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro





EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSION EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT IN MAY, IN THE CHURCH ~

As part of our ongoing celebration of the Year of the Eucharist, St. Mary's has been offering special Evening Adoration Celebrations once a month. In honor of Mary's Month of May, Adoration will be expanded to once a week, with Confession available during the Holy Hour.

The time will be from 7 – 8 PM, except Ascension Thursday, May 13, when Adoration will be celebrated from 7:30 – 8:30 PM due to the 6:30 PM Holy Day Mass.



EUCCHARISTIC HOUSE BLESSINGS ~

During this Year of the Eucharist, St. Mary's clergy have been blessing the homes of parishioners with the Blessed Sacrament. Over a hundred homes have been blessed to date!

The blessing is done from outdoors with social distancing. May the houses and apartments so blessed be protected in every way as the Presence of Our Lord is strengthened within them.

To have your home blessed, call Mary Beth at 508-429-4427, or email her at St.Marys1870@gmail.com. Our priest or one of our three deacons will then contact you to set up a time for the blessing, at which the whole family should be present. This is a beautiful and powerful way to invite Jesus - Truly Present in the Eucharist - to bless your family and be with you in your home and lives. Photo Above: Three special "mini-Monstrances" that St. Mary's has prepared for use in blessing your home.



STEWARDSHIP IN TIME OF PANDEMIC ~

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,

As you know, due to the Pandemic, St. Mary's has lost her in person Mass Collection income. This has understandably led to some offertory shortfalls.

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 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!

2021 CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE ~

We want to thank everyone from St. Mary's who has so far participated in the 2021 Catholic Appeal.

As of April 25, our parish has raised \$80,465.00 from 40% of St. Mary's active households, reaching 92% of our parish goal of \$87,486. Please do your part today.



These contributions support the many ministries of our Archdiocese and will improve the lives of so many vulnerable persons. The Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish. If you have not yet made your gift, please consider making a pledge.

(Option 1) If you have given previously to the Catholic Appeal, then you should have received a 2021 Pledge Form in the mail. Mail it to St. Mary's or to the Archdiocese. You may also drop it off at St. Mary's, and we will mail it in. Any checks we receive made out to the 2021 Catholic Appeal will also be forwarded.



(Option 2) Scan the QR Code left.

(Option 3) Visit <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/> and scroll to the bottom of the page to donate online. This website also offers you a video to watch and detailed information about the Catholic Appeal.

However you give, please be sure to indicate St. Mary's, Holliston as your parish so that your gift is applied to our parish goal. Thank you for doing your part to support the good works of our Catholic Church.



REGISTER FOR FALL 2021 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BY FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021 ~

The deadline to register your child / children for Religious Education Classes in Fall of 2021 is Friday, June 18, 2021. Class time choices are on a first come first served basis. Be sure to get your preferred time and day by registering early.

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!

SUMMER 2021 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

St Mary's VBS Team is working hard on planning a safe and fun outdoor summer program for VBS. So save the date for Monday, July 19 – Thursday, July 22 (with Friday July 23 as a rain date).

Registration will open on May 15, with a limit of 50 children for St. Mary's registered families on a first come, first served basis. We will have a waitlist available for families. VBS Registration Forms will be at stmarysholliston.com, under Register / Parish Forms on the main page.





Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * May, 2021

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM
(Currently online).

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.hollistonTroop14.com

St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 is meeting outdoors and online during the Pandemic.

If interested in joining Troop 14, contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for Boys 11-17 years old.

TROOP MEETINGS: Since March 22 and the onset of daylight savings, Troop 14 has been holding weekly outdoor meetings at Goodwill Park. This gives Scouts the opportunity to interact in person, learn outdoor skills, do some local hikes, and most importantly - spend quality time together having fun! When the weather does not cooperate, the Troop still meets virtually.

NOBSCOT CAMPOUT: With the Governor having lifted certain COVID restrictions, on March 19, 20 & 21 seventeen of Troop 14's Scouts and Leaders set out to the Nobscot Scout Reservation in Sudbury. This was their first chance to camp out in five months. Fourteen 2nd Year Webelos with their parents joined us and spent Saturday afternoon with them learning about our Troop. They hiked to the top of Tippling Rock to enjoy some great views of Boston, Wachusett Mountain, and the surrounding towns. (Photo Below). Arriving back at the campsite, Troop 14 cooked dinner for everyone, topping the meal off with a couple of delicious Dutch Oven Peach Cobbler desserts.



MOUNT MONADNOCK HIKE: On the weekend of April 17, Troop 14 headed to southern New Hampshire and hiked Mount Monadnock. Because of its proximity to metropolitan areas, Monadnock Mountain is reputed to be one of the most hiked mountains in the world. Troop 14 has hiked the mountain many times over the years. On this day, a group of almost twenty Scouts and leaders hiked above the tree-line and across Monadnock's bare and rocky summit at 3,165 feet, where they enjoyed 360 degree views. Following the hike down, they camped overnight at Monadnock State Park situated in the foothills of the mountain.



TEN NEW SCOUTS JOIN TROOP 14! Troop 14 welcomed ten new Webelo Scouts into the Troop during the month of April. Troop 14 Scouts and leaders were present as the 2nd Year Webelos crossed over from Holliston Cub Scout Pack 2 on April 10, and Cub Scout Pack 47 on April 25, officially becoming Boy Scouts. Welcome aboard!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Treetop Adventure & Campout at NE Base Camp in Blue Hills Reservation in May.
- Bike trip and Campout on Cape Cod in June.
- Annual end of year Troop Cookout and Court of Honor on June 14.
- Summer Camp at Camp Squanto in July.
- August High Adventure – Backpacking the White Mountain Presidential Range.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 May, 2021



Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT, SATURDAY, MAY 8:

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council #14224 is teaming up with Green Team Junk Removal to hold an **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT**. Proceeds will benefit the Holliston Pantry Shelf and the MetroWest Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund. Here is what can be accepted: Computer CPU scrap, motherboards, hard drives, power supplies, RAM memory, peripheral cards, keyboards, telecommunications equipment and boards, printers, phone systems, cellphones, radio equipment, gaming systems, amplifiers, and receivers. **NO TV's AND COMPUTER MONITORS!** A minimum donation of \$10 is requested for the first three items and \$5 for each additional item. The event will take place on Saturday, May 8 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in St. Mary's Church parking lot. You get to clear out electronic items no longer needed in your home and help our Holliston Pantry Shelf and needy MetroWest veterans.

MONTHLY ROSARY AND COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD BY "ZOOM": Due to COVID-19, the Council recites the Rosary and holds the business meeting via "ZOOM." We hope to go live as soon as COVID-19 protocols allow. The next Rosary will be Wednesday, May 19. "ZOOM" details will be sent to all Council Knights.



KNIGHTS LEAD DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Led by Deacon and Knight Ronald Dowding, Council Knights and parishioners recited the Divine Mercy chaplet after the 11:30 AM Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11. During Lent, Deacon Ron conducted a ZOOM presentation of "The Second Greatest Story Ever Told," a documentary about Divine Mercy in the Catholic Church.

SUPREME KNIGHT ADDRESSES MEMBERS - STRESSES STRENGTH IN LOCAL COUNCILS: Newly elected Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly addressed the Order on March 1, the day he took office. He emphasized that local Councils are the foundation of the Order. "For nearly 140 years, we have been inviting men to become the disciples of Christ and men of virtue whose witness can change our communities, ... The Order was made for the moment we are in - as a Church, in our families, and as men," he said. "Now is the time for courage and faith, in memory of those who became before, and for the sake of those who will yet join. The challenges we face require nothing less." Quoted from the April 2021 issue of Columbia magazine.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2021: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-Knights.html>. Online membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council. A special is offered for new e-members, annual dues are waived till June 30, 2021 by using the coupon code MCGIVNEY2020 when signing up online for membership.

women in WINGS God's spirit

Receiving the Gift of God's Grace

During the Spring Season, the women of WINGS were uplifted by a variety of *inspiring speakers* via Zoom. These men and women of faith helped us draw closer to God and recognize His life-changing **grace** in our lives. Some beautiful take-aways included:

- ◇ “*Sanctifying grace* is a supernatural gift **freely given by God** which allows us to be saved.”
- ◇ “God’s *grace* leads to interior conversion, which is an ongoing process throughout our lifetime. We slowly evolve into the image that God created us to be.”
- ◇ “God uses all of our experiences in service of Him, which leads to our happiness.”
- ◇ “Receiving the sacraments can help Catholics build up *sanctifying grace* in our souls.”
- ◇ “Conversion happens in the head *and* in the heart. Be open to God’s *grace* daily.”
- ◇ “The gift of the Eucharist helps us to forgive and be open to God’s *grace* in good and tough times.”
- ◇ “With *God's grace* and through prayer, we are able to increase our trust in God and give up our need to control our circumstances and those of our loved ones. It takes practice and can be aided by routine - for example reading a daily reflection from a source like Sacred Space or practicing silent prayer each day.”



WINGS will host a special *Marian Prayer morning in May* via Zoom. Watch the bulletin for details. Women of ALL ages are welcome and encouraged to join.

For questions about WINGS, email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com or call Jennifer Schiller at 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins at 508-259-7795.

Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, May 6, 2021

Amanda Freeman, a St. Mary's teen in High School and a member of the "Red Cross' Leader Saves Lives Program," has organized a Blood Drive on May 6, in St. Mary's Father Haley Hall from 2 to 7 PM. Amanda first donated blood at age 16 and realized how much of an impact the donation could make. This inspired her to hold the drive with the Red Cross to make an even greater impact. Let's help Amanda and the Red Cross make this drive a success!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, appointments are required and no walk-ins will be allowed. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>, search by zip code (01746), and pick the blood drive titled "St. Mary's Parish" for May 6, or contact 1-800-REDCROSS. Thank you, St. Mary's and Amanda.



LEARNING HOW TO SEEK RACIAL EQUITY WITHIN FAMILY, CHURCH, AND COMMUNITY.

Submitted by Ed Kofron and Leo Racine



Members of St. Mary's and nearby parishes recently completed the program, "Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege," which consisted of eight 2-hour sessions via Zoom, led by two parishioners. The program's content, assignments, and materials were planned by *JustFaith Ministries*, www.justfaith.org. *JustFaith Ministries* writes that their program materials "...approach social justice issues through the lens of the Christian Scriptures"; we were thus asked to use prayer and scripture as a foundation to inform ourselves and work to advance social justice and racial equity in our Church and communities. Subsequently, each program session began and closed with a prayer. There was a scripture reading each week as well, the readings, such as the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) often familiar to us.

Other program materials included guest speakers, videos, session handouts, and 3 books as primary reading:

- "40 Days of Prayer for the Liberation of American Descendants of Slavery" by Cheri Mills,
- "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin Diangelo,
- "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" by Austin Channing Brown.

The participants used the materials to center their discussions on a theme each week; some of the themes were privilege and white fragility, origins of race and racial identity, racial privilege embedded in the US education system, and the influence of racialized messages in the media. The materials provided our group with an enhanced sense of our nation's history and insight to the reaction and perspective of persons of color to words and actions by whites.

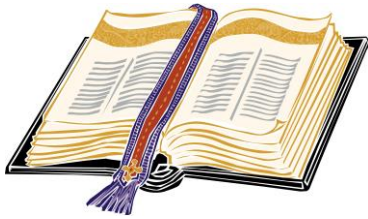
Program materials acknowledge that discussions about racial equity are complicated, challenging, and necessary. In the first paragraph of their introduction to the program, *JustFaith Ministries* writes, "No one wants to talk about race, especially at church.....But ignoring a gaping wound only leads to infection: it is only through acknowledging racism that we can work toward healing." Their session 1 handouts include guidelines and tips for productive discussions about these issues. In the concluding chapter to *White Fragility*, the author writes: "Interrupting racism takes courage and intentionality; the interruption is by definition not passive or complacent. So in answer to the question 'Where do we go from here?,' I offer that we must never consider ourselves finished with our learning." (Robin Diangelo, *White Fragility*, Beacon Press 2018, page 153).

If you would like to have a glimpse of the enhanced sense of history we now have as a result of participating in this program, take a look at the beginning of a video we watched, which is part of a series called *Race: The Power of an Illusion*. Here's the link: <https://bit.ly/39nTXjo>. (Go to <http://bit.ly/VimeoRace> if you are interested in viewing one or all three of the episodes of the series; there is a nominal cost.) Or if you are interested in hearing the perspective of a person of color on the topic of racial injustice, see Megan Ming Francis's 2016 TED talk at <http://bit.ly/MMFrancis>. Learning really is the beginning!

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

MAY 2021

got faith?



SEASONAL READINGS: The month of May includes both Easter Season and Ordinary Time readings; in addition, there are the readings of Ascension Thursday to consider. The Sundays of the Easter season include May 2, 9, 16 and 23 (Pentecost). The first post-Easter Sunday in Ordinary Time is May 30, the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity; Ascension Thursday is May 13. The second readings for each of the first three Sundays of May are taken from the First Letter of John; they speak about love, the love of

God for us and the love we are to have for each other. At <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/1john/0>, you will find a brief introduction to this letter. On the feast of the Ascension, we have two accounts of Jesus' ascension to heaven, the first from the book of the Acts of the Apostles and the second from the gospel of Mark. We are reminded in these readings of our responsibility to be witnesses to Jesus' teachings throughout the world, proclaiming the gospel to all. The readings on the feast of Pentecost continue this theme of witness and tell us of how Jesus' disciples are emboldened by the Spirit. The gospel reading on May 30 tells the story of Jesus' ascension yet again, emphasizing the disciples' mission to make disciples of all nations. You can prepare for the Sunday readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

PRAYER: Every month, the Pope offers prayer intentions for the world. The Pope's Universal Prayer Intentions for the month of May are for the world of finance. We are asked to "pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate financial markets and protect citizens from its dangers" (Network website). You can find out more about Pope Francis's Universal Prayer Intentions at <https://www.popesprayer.va/>, which provides a link to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN). The PWPN is also known as the Apostleship of Prayer and was begun in France in 1844.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA: May 13 is the day to celebrate the Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. This year, we remember the feast of the Ascension on May 13, so the Optional Memorial is not celebrated.

However, here are a few resources to help you to know more about this feast. First, here's the link to an article about the apparitions of Mary that took place in Fatima, Portugal in 1917, beginning on May 13:

<http://bit.ly/CNAFatima>. The Blessed Mother, appearing to the children under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary, is believed to have given the children three secrets, the last of which was carefully guarded until it was made public in May 2000. Here is the link to an article about this secret:

<http://bit.ly/3rdSecret>. Two of the visionaries died as young children in the 1918-1920 flu epidemic; here is a link to an *America Magazine* article about them, written in anticipation of their canonization in 2017:

<http://bit.ly/FatimaSaints>. Finally, if you wish to watch it, the 2020 movie, *Fatima*, is available on Netflix.



MOTHER'S DAY: Mother's Day is celebrated on May 9 this year. The Diocese of Little Rock published a 2019 article about the origins of Mother's Day as well as its religious significance; you can find this article at <http://bit.ly/DLRMothers>. There are a variety of prayers for mothers on the Creighton University online ministries site: <http://bit.ly/CreightonMothers>.

- Leo Racine