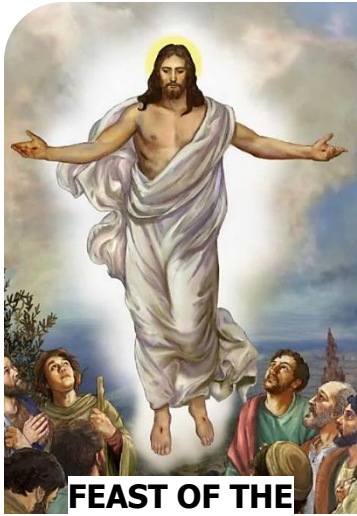




ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746

May 2024 Newsletter
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**FEAST OF THE
ASCENSION OF JESUS
A HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION**



**Vigil Mass, Wednesday,
May 8, at 7:00 PM.**

**Feast Day Masses,
Thursday, May 9,
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 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.

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs". (Mk. 16:19-20).

The Gospel of Mark ends with this phrase. Jesus says farewell to his companions to return to his Father with whom he has inaugurated the Kingdom of God. This is a joyful guarantee that this is where we are headed on our journey. Jesus did not come only to give us a new way to live, but that this new way to live might find its orientation and goal. Thus, the things of this world might become our way to heaven, and that everything, even moments that are difficult and contradictory in life, might take on new meaning.

The Ascension most certainly marks the completion of Jesus's earthly life. But it is also a mystery of our own lives, it holds a truth about ourselves: just as He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father, so we too are made for this same "ascension", this return to the Father. All of creation, as Saint Paul recalls, "awaits with eager expectation...to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God" (Rom. 8:19-21). Jesus's Ascension in body and soul also tells us that our life, body included, is not an obstacle, but a way to reach Heaven. This is why we are called to make everything we are and do an "offering that is pleasing to God".

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

May, 2024 ~ Volume 50, Number 3



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

Rectory: 429-4427

Religious Education Center: 429-6076

Music Program: 429-6076

Religious Education Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com

Parish Email Address: st.marys1870@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

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

WELCOME TO THE FAITH!

At this year's Great Easter Vigil, three individuals were welcomed to the Catholic Faith. Francisco Wood, Lisa Mendoza Wood, and William Wood all received Sacraments of Initiation at this joyful and beautiful celebration. (Photo Below, shown from left to right).

Husband and father Gordon Wood will be receiving Confirmation in the Catholic Faith soon, along with Erin Afienko.

Following the Easter Vigil Mass, a reception was held for the Woods, giving their new brothers and sisters in Christ a chance to meet and welcome them personally.



IT WAS AN EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

On the morning of Sunday, March 24, St. Mary's had a very special visitor – the Easter Bunny! A devout Catholic, he made time to stop by for photos with the kids who came to the “Eggstravaganza” Event. One ticket gave entry for a whole family to come into Fr. Haley Hall for professional photos with the big guy, and to participate in Easter themed crafts. Every child also got to select eggs full of candy and other prizes from a huge basket. Some eggs had a “Golden Egg” inside, winning a basket full of gifts for the whole family to enjoy! These included Southwick Zoo and Mendon Drive In Gift Passes, Red Sox Tickets, Games, and more. The Eggstravaganza was sponsored by our St. Mary's High School Youth Group, TGIF, as part of their Mission Trip Fundraising efforts. Thank you to all who supported our teens in this special and very fun way!



MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS ~

On this special day for mothers, we would like to help you celebrate her with a unique bouquet to show your appreciation. The teens who will be attending the Summer Mission Trip to Mississippi will be selling beautiful bouquets of flowers for a suggested donation of \$30 / bouquet. All proceeds from the sales will go directly to the TGIF teens to offset the cost of the Mission Trip. Flower bouquets will be for sale after all Masses on Mother's Day Weekend, May 11 and 12. Thank you!



SUMMER IS COMING!

FAMILY BBQ, June 22 :

St. Mary's Family Barbecue is Saturday, June 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in Father Haley Hall. Join us as Tennessee BBQ fires up the grill for BBQ chicken, pulled pork, cheeseburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, corn on the cob and much more. Bring the kids and experience a fun filled evening of good food, friendship and live country music! Come meet your neighbors! There will be family games and contests! Tickets: \$7 for kids 12 and under, \$10 for adults. Tickets go on sale after all Masses the weekend of June 8 and 9, and 15 and 16, and may also be purchased through the Religious Education Office starting June 3. There are no tickets at the door.



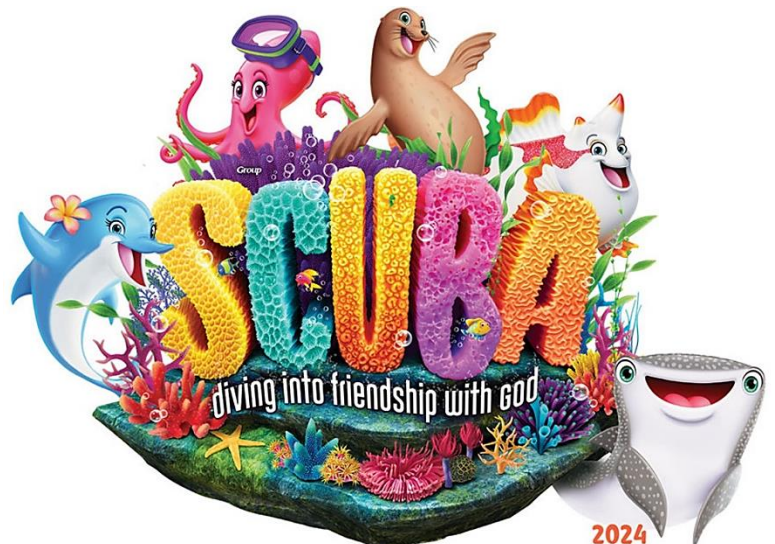
This year's BBQ musical entertainment – the Adlie & Mike Duo! Adlie Thrower & Michael Leach combine to make one of New England's finest vocal acoustic acts. Although unbound by category, Adlie & Mike have a decisively Country/Americana feel. Their natural chemistry and impeccable musicianship is apparent with every performance. Pop, Rock, Country or Oldies, they sing it all. From the classic vocal harmonies of The Beatles to fun arrangements of today's pop hits, they've got you covered. Song requests are always encouraged! **Listen to the Adlie & Mike Duo here:** <https://vimeo.com/910168437>.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, July 22 -26:

VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! 'SCUBA', Our 17th Annual Vacation Bible School, will take place July 22-26, 9:00 AM to Noon. Join us as we DIVE DEEP into friendship with Jesus! VBS is a weeklong celebration of faith with song, arts, crafts, movies, games, drama and Scripture. \$75 per camper, \$200 family limit. Space is limited. Register today! Camper registration: <https://forms.gle/RGKP8s6ZXBsXFLdS8>.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: It's no secret that the volunteers have just as much fun as the campers! Teens (entering Grade 7 or older) along with adults are needed to make our underwater adventure a success. Full week or partial week volunteers welcome. Volunteer registration: <https://forms.gle/HsAhsPjPkBrXVGwo7>

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS! Make some coral at home to add to the VBS set. Coral can be made with things you already have in your house such as cupcake liners, bottle caps, pipe cleaners and so much more! Google search for coral crafts or make anything you can imagine. Drop off to the Religious Education office. Thank you!





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

A few months ago, I led our Middle School Youth Group on a tour of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. During our time there, we joined in a circle around the altar and prayed for an end to the horrific war in the Holy Land.

We prayed for the victims of the October 7 attack, and for the tens of thousands of innocent Gaza civilians killed in the subsequent war of reprisal. We prayed for peace.

My tour ended with visits to the various stained-glass windows, including the one shown above – Our Lady Breaker of Chains and Liberator of Prisoners. Before her image, we prayed for the safety and release of the Israeli hostages. We prayed also for everyone involved in the conflict to be freed from the fear, anger, and hatred that have so long marred the lands made holy by Christ.

As this and other wars drag on, it would be easy to despair of resolution. We might even be tempted to feel our prayers for peace are so much wasted breath. We might forget the beautiful witness of Mary, who stood resolute before the Cross of her innocent Son's suffering. Mary, who kept faith even when it seemed that darkness had triumphed; and whose faith was rewarded on Easter Day.

As we enter now Our Lady's Month of May, let us pray with renewed vigor for peace. Let us ask Mary to intercede for her Son's grace upon Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, and every place where His love does not yet hold sway.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



CHILDREN OF GOD!

With joy, St. Mary's receives these little ones now Baptized into the Mystery of Christ's Life, Death, and Resurrection. May we all be faithful witnesses of Jesus' love to them!

Delaney Marian Lohan
Winifred Kate Ela
Colton Ryder Stok
Lucia Elizabeth Leonard
Benjamin George Leonard
Thomas Edward Reeves
Cody Bernard Robshaw
Hudson Douglas LaPia
Amara Mia Balarezo
Lillian Cecile Hess
Charlotte Mary Christman
Callie Lynn Jonasson
Callum Roy Gasner
Raphael Andrew Onak
Olivia Anne Ozzella
Noah Robert Kazan
Joseph Douglas Boucher
Lukas Bryan Mark
Emmett Elias Fleischer
Emma Catherine Chaisson
Nicholas James Gahan
Lucy Louise Haas
Piper Jean Dennison
Payton Taylor Burke
Claire Elizabeth Santucci
Robert John Perrault
Patrick John Bresnahan
Emmaline Aurelia Dahlstedt
Raphael George Courbon
Natalie Anne McLaughlin
Addison Mae Howard
Jacqueline Faith Mulhern
Colton Maxwell Kaas
Mona Elizabeth O'Donnell
Ciela Marie Pomarico
Jonah Isaiah Rodriguez
Sean Michael DeJute
Sophie Emerson Faillace
Benjamin Alcides Shepard
Lyla Diane Barry
Lucas Grant Torch
Theodore Emilio Estevam
Jack Harlin Ristuccia
Luis Gomes Ayres Pereira
Ryan Morris McPhail
Nora Elaine Cooley
Felicity Ann Hauver
Lucia Aurora Pennell
Brian Alexander Jones

Colton Michael Szlosek
Tyler William Thompson
Charles William Tranfaglia
Owen Achilles Gervasio
Jayden James McKernan
Peyton Arthur Kannon
Sally Elizabeth Beaudoin
Lucy Elizabeth Lydon
Genevieve Grace
Krenselewski



In the beautiful sacrament of Baptism, one is immersed into the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

In the waters of Baptism original sin is washed from the soul, as we are reborn in the Lord. To be baptized is to be adopted by God as His very own child, and to receive the promise of eternal life.

Baptism is the foundational sacrament by which one becomes a Christian and is the first step of initiation into the Catholic faith. One becomes a full member of the Church by receiving Baptism, First Holy Communion, and finally Confirmation.

To be part of the Church is to be part of Christ's Living Body, sharing in the mission of proclaiming His Gospel to the world.

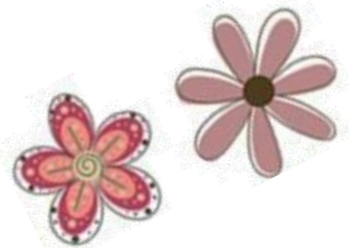


MAY 5, Crowning of Mary Mass ~ The 11:30 AM Mass this Sunday will conclude with a Marian Procession. Led by our Grade 5 Students, and weather permitting, the Statue of the Blessed Mother in front of the rectory will be crowned, and a decade of the Rosary prayed. All Parishioners are invited to be part of this joyful celebration, as we usher in Our Lady's Month of May and ask her prayerful intercession on our behalf. Blessed Mother – Pray for us!

MAY 9, Ascension Thursday, A Holy Day of Obligation ~

Vigil Mass, Wednesday, May 8, at 7:00 PM

Feast Day Masses, Thursday, May 9, 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 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!



MAY 12, Mother's Day ~ A special Blessing of Mothers will take place at all Masses this weekend. Lovely Flower Bouquets will also be available in support of our High School Summer Mission Trip to Mississippi.

MAY 12, Class of 2024 Mass for Graduates! ~

On Sunday, May 12, at 11:30 AM, St. Mary's will offer her 12th Annual Mass for Graduates. This year our parish has teens graduating from seven different schools. The Mass will include a special Blessing of Graduates, the Presentation of the 2024 Blessed Mother Scholarship, and a Student Class Speaker. The Mass is followed by a light reception in Fr. Haley Hall, and a Group Class Photo for the Newsletter. Come congratulate our graduates!



Living as a Praying Person

SPRING 2024

women in
WINGS
God's spirit

About WINGS

WINGS is a ministry of encouragement and faith enrichment for women anywhere on their spiritual journey. Each week an inspiring speaker helps us to enrich our prayer life and expand our knowledge of our faith. *Free babysitting is provided!*

Our Current Program

Please join us in Fr. Haley Hall or on zoom for our Spring season Wednesdays from 9:45 - 11:15 AM. You don't have to be a member to attend - all women are welcome! If you missed our previous speakers, you can view the zoom recordings on our website.



May 8, 2024 – *Behind Barbed Wire – Praying with Incarcerated Women:*
Mary Jo Kriz.



May 15, 2024 – *End of Season Celebration: Rosary, Fellowship, & Refreshments.*

How to Join

Send us an email - that's it! Not quite ready to join? Drop in to a meeting or visit our website and Facebook for more details. Suggested dues are \$20/season but all are welcome to attend regardless of ability to pay.

Contact us



stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com



scan for website



facebook.com/
wingsholliston



Knights of Columbus



St. Mary's Council #14224 May, 2024

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

COUNCIL #14224 SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: Knights are ready to sell raffle tickets! This year, in line with inflation, we have doubled the first prize to \$2000! One ticket is \$5 and a book of five tickets is \$20. Contact your friendly Knight to purchase tickets now. In May and June, Knights will be selling tickets at various locations downtown and at local markets. On May 18 and 19, Knights will sell tickets after all Masses at St. Mary's. The Raffle drawing will be held on June 21 in conjunction with our Swing for Charity Golf Tournament. Charity Raffle proceeds will benefit local food pantries, the MetroWest Veterans Emergency Relief Fund, Autism research, and local charities.

COUNCIL #14224 THIRD ANNUAL "SWING FOR CHARITY" GOLF TOURNAMENT FRIDAY, JUNE 21: Proceeds from the tournament will go to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and the MetroWest Veterans Emergency Relief Fund. Sign up your foursome for \$500 or an individual player for \$125. Shotgun start at 8:00 AM at Pinecrest Golf Club. Tournament Format is Best Ball scramble. Individual and team prizes will be awarded. Other prizes will be offered via separate gifts and 50/50 raffles. You can promote your business by becoming a Sponsor. Sponsorship levels are Presenting Sponsor (\$2000), Lunch Sponsor (\$1000), Cart Sponsor (\$500) and Hole Sponsor (\$150). Go to KofCCouncil14224@gmail.com to register as a sponsor or golfer or contact chairman Tony Polise at 508-654-0020.

COUNCIL #14224 ANNUAL MULCH SPREADING FOR ST. MARY'S CHURCH: Did you notice on Easter Sunday the new mulch? Our church was spruced up by Council Knights with 12 yards of mulch as part of our service to our parish. Thanks to all who helped, led by Grand Knight Al Scaramella, and we then enjoyed coffee and donuts when the task was finished.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Knights led the Divine Mercy Chaplet after each Mass. Thanks to Tom Brodo, George Wilverding, Michael Kerrigan, Mitch Liro, and Don Marden for leading the recitation of the chaplet.

MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be Wednesday, May 15 in the church at 7:00 PM. Any and all persons are welcome to attend. As quoted in the March, 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer."

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2024: For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org/joinus. Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men.



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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

MARCH 15 NURSING HOME BINGO! A group of our Youth Group 8th Graders spent this afternoon at Timothy Daniels Nursing Home, leading a fun BINGO event for the residents there. Teens were paired up with senior citizens and helped them keep track of the two cards they each played. There were a lot of winners, and our laundry basket full of prizes ran out about fifteen minutes earlier than expected. It led to an awesome social time, where the teens got to know their partners even better, learning where they grew up, what their careers were before retirement, and sharing laughter and stories. Well done!



MARCH 22 COSMIC BOWLING: Shown below and on the next page, more than fifty MSYG Teens enjoyed this late Friday night of Cosmic Bowling! First they took part in the Lenten Supper, then it was off to 'Bowlero' in Cranston, RI – the largest ten pin bowling lane in New England. Fun music, pulsing strobe lights, and fluorescent everything created a unique atmosphere as the boys and girls tested their skills. Special thanks to Todd Pierce for leading the trip!





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Next Meeting, Sunday, May 19, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall!

COSMIC BOWLING CONTINUED:





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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



MSYG BODA BORG

Tuesday, April 16: Forty-two MSYG teens spent this School Vacation Day at Boda Borg in Boston. Nineteen different quests were available for the teens to choose from! Teams of four to six teens raced to solve escape room quests – some physically demanding, others requiring knowledge and mental skill. Teamwork and a good memory were required to keep the lights on in a town during a huge storm, while teens raced and climbed to reach safety during a battle in Platoon. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Quincy Market Food Court, with the winning Boda Borg Team eating for free. Congratulations to Pablo Acevedo, Santiago Silvera-Dodds, Ben Fury, Charlie Nietzel, and Will Hayes. Together they conquered six quests - Alcatraz, Haunted House, Spy Catcher, Quiz Show, Farm, and Platoon. Great job!



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

All MSYG Moms & Dads are invited to this annual End of Year Celebration. Please bring your potluck item as assigned. The night will include:

- Delicious PotLuck Supper,
- Prayer & Closing Ceremony,
- Awards & Honoring of 8th Graders,
- Sign Ups for Brownstone Quarry,
- Sign Ups for Summer Spelunking,
- Summer raft team sign ups,
- A Giant Slideshow Movie of all this past year's events.



St. Mary's High School Youth Group Teens Gather In Faith ~ Next Meeting is May 5!

LUNCH AND DINNER: The morning of Saturday, March 9, found our High School Youth Group Teens making delicious, bagged lunches in Fr. Haley Hall. Each bag was decorated with hopeful messages, and contained a sandwich, chips, homemade cookies, and fruit. The group then loaded up these, and many dozens of extra homemade cookies, and drove them to Father Bill's Place Homeless Shelter in Quincy. The grateful staff welcomed them, and offered a thirty minute tour of the facility. Then it was off to the South Shore Plaza Mall for lunch and a crazy fun Mall Scavenger Hunt. Groups got points for finding certain stores, getting photos of certain items with a group member (a live animal was one, the most expensive item they could find was another, the biggest sneaker, etc.). The winning team (Henry Hayes, Wyatt Kuchman, Ethan Suhajda, Luke Burgett, and Michael Butler) got free dessert!



On Friday, March 22, TGIF teens prepared and served food at that night's Lenten Supper. The parishioners enjoyed interacting with them, and they were a big help breaking down the Hall and prepping it for a large event Saturday.





St. Mary's High School Youth Group

Teens Gather In Faith ~ Next Meeting is May 5!

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT! Folks of all ages filled Fr. Haley Hall on Friday, April 5, for this event to benefit our TGIF Mississippi Mission Trip. You could buy either an adult BINGO card with prizes of donated gift cards from local businesses and wonderful gift baskets. Or you could opt for a kiddie prize card, with toys, games, craft items, and lots and lots of candy to win! The shrieks of joy and excitement from little kids (and some grownups) who won, created a truly joyful and fun atmosphere for all. In the end, our TGIF Family BINGO Night made \$1,661.82 toward the Mission Trip! Thank you to all who pitched in, including Mrs. Dufault who solicited prizes and created those amazing decorations!





Troop 14 Holliston

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

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508-579-4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

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

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



TROOP SWIM NIGHT: Troop 14 held its Annual Swim Night at the Milford High School pool on March 11. This activity includes a fun night of swimming, while allowing leaders to teach water safety and Scouts to work on their swimming rank requirements.



EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECTS: Two Troop 14 Scouts, Jack Baribeau and Ryan Lukowiak, completed their Eagle Scout project requirements by organizing, leading, and managing their extensive service projects. Jack led a group of Scouts in the building of two kayak/canoe racks at Pleasure Point on Lake Winthrop. Jack's efforts have added needed storage for town residents due to the popularity of existing racks. Jack's project is the third Eagle Scout project completed by Troop 14 Scouts at Pleasure Point. Ryan led a group of Scouts in the building of a much needed handrail along the old granite bridge on the rail trail. Ryan's handrail can be seen along the old cranberry bog near the Hopping Brook Industrial Park. Congratulations to Jack and Ryan for enhancing the outdoor recreational offerings in town.



NOBLE VIEW CAMPOUT: Over the weekend of March 16 and 17, Troop 14 Scouts attended a campout in Western Massachusetts at the AMC Noble View campsite in the town of Russell. Scouts were able to practice setting up camp, outdoor cooking, and a day of fishing and hiking on the Pitcher Brook Trail. Scouts viewed the gorge of Pitcher Brook that included deep pools and two waterfalls called Big Pitcher and Little Pitcher. After dinner, the chilly evening was spent around the campfire enjoying the Dutch Oven Cobbler.

Prom and graduation are almost here; have you talked with your teen about your expectations when it comes to alcohol and drugs?



Prom and graduation celebrations are big events, and most teens have a fun, safe time! Be aware that many students may feel pressure or will take part in risky behaviors. Ongoing discussions of family beliefs and values are part of setting the stage for the best and safest time. Listening to and respecting your teen's point of view can also help support them during these events and exciting times in their life!

Resources

Download the "Talk. They Hear You." App
One-Pager (Front Only | PDF | 568 KB)

Use These 5 Goals When Talking to
Kids about Alcohol and Other Drugs

8 Tips for a Safe Prom & Graduation —
(thestandprojectua.org)

*DEA Fentanyl (dea.gov)

Fentanyl Facts (cdc.gov)

**Prom & Graduation
Tips for Parents
and Caregivers.**

Is it worth it?

Social Host Liability Law

- Massachusetts' legal drinking age is 21. 'Social host liability' means you can be held financially and/or civilly responsible if your guest harms, injures, or kills another person after having consumed alcohol at your home.
- Parents who give permission for their underage child to drink alcohol could also be civilly liable.
- Anyone who furnishes alcohol to a minor risks a fine of up to \$2,000 and a one-year jail sentence.

Contact Us

- **Parents / Caregivers**
Do not hesitate to call!
- **Holliston Youth & Family Services**
(508) 429-0620
- **Holliston Police Department**
(508) 429-1212
- **Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness Coalition (HDAAC)**
(508) 429-0620

**Talk.
They Hear You!**



HDAAC

The Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition



Holliston High School
370 Hollis Street
Holliston, MA 01746

www.HDAAC.org

"The night you danced like you knew our lives would never be the same." Taylor Swift - "Long Live"

"Making memories with you is my favorite thing to do!" unknown

Talk With Your Teen

- **Personal safety and a safe prom night/graduation is everyone's priority.**
- **Teens crave clear and consistent limits** and want to know expectations and consequences; this is a big stress relief for them.
- **You are the strongest influence on your teen.** Talk with them early and often this prom and graduation season about the dangers of drinking, drugs, and peer pressure.
- **Give teens the opportunity to share their thoughts** with open-ended questions – jumpstart with: What are you excited about? Is anything causing you stress? Are you feeling pressure about prom/graduation? What myths have you heard about prom/graduation parties? When you think of prom/graduation what peer pressure comes to mind? It is also good to share your thoughts as well as how you might manage different situations.
- **Talk with other parents/caregivers** – most are not okay with parties that involve alcohol or drugs.
- **Binge drinking is a set up for teens to make bad decisions** and to lose control when it comes to sexual behavior, criminal mischief, violent behavior, or using illicit drugs.

Fully charge phones for safety and selfies!

Prom and graduation are to be celebrated! Most students make healthy lifestyle choices throughout their school experience which includes these very events. Encourage accountability and safety through the "buddy-system" to support healthy and fun celebrations.

Trusting your teen is key! Part of giving trust is discussing pre- and post- prom/graduation party plans. Let your teen know they can **call or text anytime for any reason** – you can discuss details later. **Have a code**, emoji, or word they can share **to ask for help especially** if they are **in an unsafe situation**. You and your teen can think ahead, plan for potentially tricky situations, and determine ways that can keep them, their friends, and all kids safe.

**Talk with your teen;
help them
have a memorable,
safe night!**

Be Aware! Potentially Deadly Consequences...

- Right now, the dangerous and alarming presence of the powerful synthetic opioid **fentanyl is being mixed with almost every street drug** – including marijuana, cocaine, and pills made to look like Adderall or other prescription medicine.
- **More deaths of Americans under age 50 are related to fentanyl – more than any other cause of death** including heart disease, cancer, homicide, suicide, and other accidents. (*DEA, 2023)
- Fentanyl's extreme **potency makes** drugs cheaper, more powerful, more addictive, and more dangerous; even **deadly. Please talk to your teens! The risk is REAL!**



LETHAL
DOSE of
Fentanyl

*Source: DEA, www.DEA.gov