

St. Mary's May Happenings

2025 ~ Volume 51, Number 5



St. Mary's Parish
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Mission: "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known!"

WELCOME TO THE FAITH!

At this year's Great Easter Vigil, ten individuals received Sacraments of Initiation to the Catholic Faith. Four teens were Baptized, then they and six adults all were Confirmed and made their First Holy Communion.

We also congratulate Kristi Kaas, shown here with her husband Christopher, on celebrating her Confirmation this Lent!



Please warmly welcome and pray for all these, our brothers and sisters in Christ!



From left to right, those Initiated at St. Mary's Easter Vigil were: Lukas Toth, Nathan Pirelli, Phoebe Quinlan, Susanne Hernberg, Jacqueline Grant, Owen Darling, Aidan McEntegart, Max Moran, Michael McGovern, and Katherine McGovern.



In the Catholic Church, May is traditionally known as the Month of Mary, a period dedicated to honoring and celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary. This devotion is a time for Catholics to express their love and reverence for Mary, the Mother of God, through special prayers, devotions, and celebrations. May is often associated with spring, a time of new life and growth in nature. This aligns with Mary's role as the Mother of God and the one who brought the world Christ. The month of May provides a special opportunity for Catholics to deepen their devotion to Mary and seek her intercession.

SATURDAY, MAY 3



7:30 PM Mass of Initiation for Ethan Suhajda. At this special Mass, we will celebrate Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation for catechumen Ethan Suhajda. Ethan was abroad for Easter, so we look forward to welcoming him tonight instead. Mass will be followed by a reception in the Parish Center Lobby and Library. Welcome Ethan!

SUNDAY, MAY 4

9:30 AM CLOW Mass. There will be an upstairs Interactive Children's Homily at our 9:30 AM Mass next Sunday, May 4. As always, the Mass will be followed by D.J.&C.

Donuts, Juice, and Coffee following the CLOW Mass. The Parish Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners and their families to come down to Fr. Haley Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass for donuts, juice and coffee! Come enjoy the chance to connect with and get to know your fellow parishioners. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be attending D.J.&C. and welcome any comments or ideas you have for St. Mary's. Their role is to hear and represent you.



Rosary Repair Table. Has your favorite rosary or chaplet come apart and you can't get it back together? Bring it to D.J.&C. today and we'll try to fix it for you!



SUNDAY, MAY 4

Pre-Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop for Children at D.J.&C.

Join us for our special Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop! This heartfelt event gives children the chance to shop for a gift for their mom or a special mother figure in their life - all in a fun, safe, and educational environment. While browsing, kids will learn valuable lessons about money, thoughtful spending, and the joy of giving. For many children, this may be their first time picking out a gift on their own, making it an exciting and meaningful experience for everyone involved! TGIF Teens will be there to assist the young shoppers, while moms enjoy some well-deserved alone time at D.J.&C. Dads and father figures are also warmly invited to join and support their child during the shopping experience. All donations help reduce the cost of our upcoming Teen Summer Mission Trip to Mississippi.



11:30 AM Crowning of Mary Mass. This Mass will conclude with a Marian Procession. Led by our Grade 3 - 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!



7:00 – 9:00 PM TGIF Meeting. All High School Teens are invited and please note the longer meeting time. Final Mission Trip Payments are due tonight! Have questions? Contact Lisa at st.marysTGIF1870@gmail.com. Be sure to check out our Instagram @stmarys_tgif for a daily dose of faith and to see upcoming events.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

10:00 AM WINGS Meeting. The 5th and last meeting of our WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) 2025 Spring Season "Called to Holiness – Living for God and Others," will be held in Father Haley Hall and over Zoom. Our presenter is Scott Morin, Director of Evangelization for the Catholic Parishes of Arlington. Our topic is "Holiness is Possible in the Ordinary." Babysitting is available; please register in advance. To register please email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795.



THURSDAY, MAY 8



7:00 – 9:00 PM Cor Meeting. Cor is St. Mary's Faith Enrichment Ministry for Men. As we continue to help focus Catholic men on Jesus by building Christ-centered brotherhood, consider joining us at the next Cor Meeting - Thursday May 8, 7 - 9 PM in Sister Ricci House. The meeting theme will be Prayer. What is prayer? In the words of St. John Chrysostom: *"Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness."*

All men of St. Mary's Parish age 18 and older are welcome to join us for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, brotherhood, and prayer. For more information, please contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 10 & SUNDAY, MAY 11

Mother's Day Blessing ~ A special Blessing of Mothers will take place at all Masses this weekend. Thank you, moms, for the gift you are to us!

Mother's Day Flowers ~ Lovely Flower Bouquets will be available for purchase after all Masses in support of our High School Summer Mission Trip to Mississippi.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 14



10:00 AM WINGS Anniversary Mass. Join Women In God's Spirit in commemorating our 25th Anniversary! The Celebrant will be Fr. Mark Coiro, with WINGS Members lecturing and performing ministries. Music will be offered by Abbey Kelly-Lanser and a Vocal Quartet. A catered brunch in Father Haley Hall will follow the Mass (please email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to RSVP for the brunch).

March 15, 2000, brought the WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) ministry to our parish. WINGS, a group of women who meet for spiritual nourishment and fellowship and desiring to learn and grow in their relationship with God, was started at Saint Mary's by Jennifer Schiller. Speaker presentations and small group faith sharing

are cornerstones of WINGS. From St. Mary's, WINGS has spread through the Archdiocese of Boston, becoming a true blessing in many lives. We give thanks for the gift it has been to our parish family! Learn more about WINGS at <https://stmarysholliston.com/women-in-gods-spirit-w-i-n-g-s/>.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM Marriage Fellowship. St. Mary's Marriage Fellowship is a parish ministry that provides opportunities for married couples to support and encourage each other as we grow spiritually. Come enjoy fellowship and a brief reflection on topics related to marriage, raising children, faith formation and service. Whether you are newly married or have been together for many years, we'd love to meet you! Our next reflection is Thursday, May 15, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in Sister Ricci House. Free onsite childcare will be provided. For information, contact stmarysmarriagefellowship@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

11:30 AM Class of 2025 Mass for Graduates! At this Mass, St. Mary's will offer her 13th Annual Mass for Graduates. This year our parish has teens graduating from five different schools. The Mass will include a special Blessing of Graduates, the Presentation of the 2025 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!



6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Middle School Youth Group End of Year Parent Potluck!

Service awards will be given out, there will be a giant slideshow of all this year's events, our 8th Graders will receive gifts and a special blessing as they head off to High School, and there will be raftmate and Brownstone Quarry Sign-Ups this night. As always, the End of Year Meeting is for current members only. Thanks everyone for another amazing year of faith, friendship, service, and fun!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

7:00 PM Family Rosary. All parishioners are invited to pray the rosary in the church this night. The intention will be for "Peace in the World." Let us ask our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, to intercede for all her hurting children, and to help us see Christ in all peoples.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

7:00 – 9:00 PM Cor Meeting. Our second May Cor Meeting will focus on Scripture. All men of St. Mary's Parish age 18 and older are welcome to join us in Fr. Haley Hall this night for faith enrichment, scripture, catechesis, brotherhood, and prayer. Why is Scripture essential? Because, as St. Lawrence observed, *"The Word of God is a light to the mind and a fire to the will!"* For more information on Cor, please contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 28 & THURSDAY, MAY 29

Solemnity of the Ascension, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Vigil Mass, Wednesday, May 28, at 6:00 PM. This Mass will feature a Vocal Sextet singing Thomas Tallis' Missa Ascendens Christus in Altum, a six-voice a cappella Mass setting written for this Feast Day.

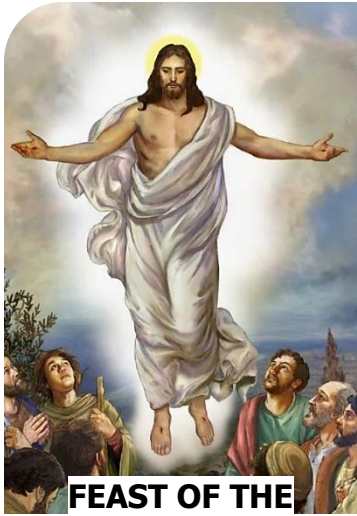
Feast Day Masses, Thursday, May 29, at 9:00 AM & 5:30 PM. The 5:30 PM Mass will feature the full St. Mary's Adult Choir.



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

May Happenings 2025
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**FEAST OF THE
ASCENSION OF JESUS
A HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION**



**Vigil Mass, Wednesday,
May 28, at 6:00 PM.**

**Feast Day Masses,
Thursday, May 29,
at 9:00 AM & 5:30 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".