

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

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SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1 PM

All are invited to attend a very special presentation by miracle recipient Deacon Jack Sullivan which will be followed by a Healing Service in the church. [Details Below:](#)

On August 15, 2001, Deacon Jack Sullivan was healed from a crippling spinal disorder after praying for the intercession of Cardinal John Henry Newman. His sudden, complete recovery was presented to the Vatican as part of its investigation into the beatification of Cardinal Newman. On July 3, 2009 Pope Benedict XVI announced that the healing was in fact a miracle which led to Newman's beatification in England on September 19, 2010. Deacon Sullivan participated as a Deacon in John Henry Newman's beatification Mass with Pope Francis as celebrant. Cardinal Newman was later canonized as a saint by Pope Francis on October 13, 2019 (saint's photo above).

In his presentation, Deacon Sullivan will speak about his miraculous healing, his devotion to Saint John Henry Newman and the subsequent healings he has been blessed to be a part of, here and abroad, through the intercession of St. John Henry Newman.

Deacon Sullivan was born and raised in Braintree and currently resides in Pembroke. Before becoming a Deacon, he was the Clerk Magistrate of the Plymouth District Court for many years.

After his presentation, Deacon Sullivan will lead a healing service for all, followed by individual blessings for those seeking St. Newman's help. Deacon Sullivan has the only first-class relic of St. John Henry Newman other than the original relic in the UK and will bring the relic with him to the healing service. The event is sponsored by St. Mary's Cor Men's Group but is open to everyone.

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next..."

- Saint John Henry Newman

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

May, 2026 ~ Volume 52, Number 4



EASTER SACRAMENTS CELEBRATED ~

At this year's Great Easter Vigil on April 4, five people were fully initiated into the Catholic faith at St. Mary's.

Victoria Knight-Connoni (Hildegard) and Melissa Moran (Gertrude), received Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Abigail Kelley-Lanser (Therese), Daniel Ethan Gorham (Philip), and Scott Blaisdell (James) received First Eucharist and Confirmation.

On April 9, four more parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Reed. (Photo Below).

Kyle Raffi (Michael)
Nolan Barry (Valentine)
Carter Greene (Philip)
Grace Gorham (Angela)

The saint names chosen by each person for Confirmation appear in parenthesis.

We rejoice to welcome these, our new Brothers and Sisters in faith. May we be a blessing to each other as we journey forward walking in the footsteps of Christ!

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:
religiusedsec@stmarysholliston.org

Parish Email Address: parish@stmarysholliston.org

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

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





MAY 3,
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 celebration, as we usher in Our Lady's
Month of May and ask her prayerful intercession on our behalf.



MAY 10,
Mother's Day ~
A special
Blessing of
Mothers will
take place at all
Masses this
weekend.
Lovely Flower

Bouquets will also be available Saturday and Sunday this weekend
in support of our High School Summer Mission Trip to Mississippi. \$20.00 a bouquet - cash,
check or Venmo. Your donation brings a smile to mom's face and helps our teens travel to do a
week of outreach among the poor. Thank you!





**MAY 14, Ascension
Thursday, A Holy Day of
Obligation ~**

**Vigil Mass, Wednesday,
May 13, at 6:15 PM.
Feast Day Masses,
Thursday, May 14, at 9:00
AM & 6:15 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 16, Miracle Recipient Deacon Jack Sullivan ~ All are invited to attend a very special presentation this Saturday by miracle recipient Deacon Jack Sullivan at 1 PM. The presentation will be followed by a Healing Service in the church. See this Newsletter's Cover for full details.

MAY 17, Class of 2026 Mass for Graduates! ~ On Sunday, May 17, at 11:30 AM, St. Mary's will offer her 14th 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 2026 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! Class of 2025 shown below.



VIRTUE'S VOICE

Reflections on Faith and Freedom

ST. MARY'S IN HOLLISTON

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL



FRIDAY, MAY 29 | 7:00 PM

Join us for the return of our annual Spring Choir Concert, celebrating the United States' 250th Anniversary and the virtues that uphold the dignity of all people.

ST. MARY'S MUSIC MINISTRY

ABIGAIL KELLEY-LANSER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE HOLLISTON CULTURAL COUNCIL,
A LOCAL AGENCY WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL, A STATE AGENCY.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

In these beautiful days following our Easter celebrations, we continue to bask in the light of the Resurrection. However, I know that for some of you, that light has felt clouded by the recent headlines and the divisive rhetoric filling our news cycles.

Specifically, the recent criticisms and verbal attacks directed toward Pope Leo by President Trump and Vice-President Vance have caused some distress and anger within our community of faith.

When our Holy Father is targeted in the political arena, it is natural to feel a sense of unease. Yet, it is in these moments that we must return to the heart of our faith. The Pope serves as the Successor of Peter, and his primary role is not to navigate partisan politics, but to be a tireless and fearless proclaimer of the Gospel. Central to that Gospel - and at the very heart of this Easter season - is the message of peace.

In the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection, we see a beautiful pattern. When the Risen Jesus first appears to His disciples, who were hiding in fear behind locked doors, His first words are not a rebuke for their abandonment. Instead, He offers them a gift, saying *"Peace be with you."*

This peace is the first fruit of the Easter mystery. It is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of a deep, divine reconciliation. By His death and resurrection, Christ broke down the walls of enmity, proving that love and forgiveness are more powerful than any earthly division.

As Catholics, we are called to be an "Easter people." This means we have a specific vocation to be peacemakers in a world that often prefers "an eye for an eye." Our role is to mirror the Holy Father's call for dialogue and compassion, even when the culture around us chooses vitriol. We must be the ones who lower the temperature of public discourse, seeking the dignity of the human person in every individual - including those with whom we most disagree.

Let us find strength in the wisdom of the saints who walked this path before us. St. Francis de Sales, a great doctor of the Church who knew much about navigating turbulent times, once wrote:

"The person who possesses Christian peace is dispassionate and tranquil... Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts."

Let us not allow the fleeting controversies of the day to rob us of the peace that Christ died to give us. Instead, let us pray for our civil leaders, pray for our Holy Father, and most importantly, pray that we may have the courage to be instruments of peace in our homes, our parish, our nation, and our world.

May the joy of the empty tomb remain in your hearts always.

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro



"URBI ET ORBI" MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV EASTER 2026

Central Loggia of St Peter's Basilica
Sunday, 5 April 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

Christ is risen! Happy Easter!

For centuries, the Church has joyfully sung of the event that is the origin and foundation of her faith: "Yes, Christ my hope is arisen / Christ indeed from death is risen / Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning" (Easter Sequence).

Easter is the victory of life over death, of light over darkness, of love over hatred. It is a victory that came at a very high price: Christ, the Son of the living God (cf. Mt 16:16), had to die - and die on a cross - after suffering an unjust condemnation, being mocked and tortured, and shedding all his blood. As the true immolated Lamb, he took upon himself the sin of the

world (cf. Jn 1:29; 1 Pet 1:18–19) and thus freed us all - and with us, all creation - from the dominion of evil.

But how was Jesus able to be victorious? What is the strength with which he defeated once and for all the ancient adversary, the prince of this world (cf. Jn 12:31)? What is the power with which he rose from the dead, not returning to his former life, but entering into eternal life and thus opening in his own flesh the passage from this world to the Father?

This strength, this power, is God himself for he is Love who creates and generates, Love who is faithful to the end and Love who forgives and redeems.

Christ, our “victorious King,” fought and won his battle through trusting abandonment to the Father’s will, to his plan of salvation (cf. Mt 26:42). Thus he walked the path of dialogue to the very end, not in words but in deeds: to find us who were lost, he became flesh; to free us who were slaves, he became a slave; to give life to us mortals, he allowed himself to be killed on the cross.

The power with which Christ rose is entirely nonviolent. It is like that of a grain of wheat which, having rotted in the earth, grows, breaks through the clods, sprouts, and becomes a golden ear of wheat.

It is even more like that of a human heart which, wounded by an offense, rejects the instinct for revenge and, filled with compassion, prays for the one who has committed the offense.

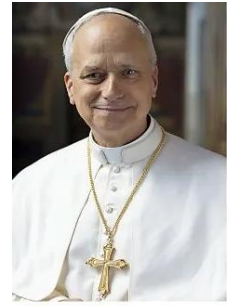
Brothers and sisters, this is the true strength that brings peace to humanity, because it fosters respectful relationships at every level: among individuals, families, social groups, and nations. It does not seek private interests, but the common good; it does not seek to impose its own plan, but to help design and carry out a plan together with others.

Yes, Christ’s resurrection is the beginning of a new humanity; it is the entrance into the true promised land, where justice, freedom, and peace reign, where all recognize one another as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father who is Love, Life, and Light.

Brothers and sisters, through his resurrection, the Lord confronts us even more powerfully with the dramatic reality of our freedom. Before the empty tomb, we can be filled with hope and wonder, like the disciples, or with fear like the guards and the Pharisees, forced to resort to lies and subterfuge rather than acknowledge that the one who had been condemned is truly risen (cf. Mt 28:11–15)!

In the light of Easter, let us allow ourselves to be amazed by Christ! Let us allow our hearts to be transformed by his immense love for us! Let those

who have weapons lay them down! Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace! Not a peace imposed by force, but through dialogue! Not with the desire to dominate others, but to encounter them!



We are growing accustomed to violence, resigning ourselves to it, and becoming indifferent. Indifferent to the deaths of thousands of people. Indifferent to the repercussions of hatred and division that conflicts sow. Indifferent to the economic and social consequences they produce, which we all feel. There is an ever-increasing “globalization of indifference,” to borrow an expression dear to Pope Francis, who one year ago from this loggia addressed his final words to the world, reminding us: “What a great thirst for death, for killing, we witness each day in the many conflicts raging in different parts of the world!” (Urbi et Orbi Message, 20 April 2025).

The cross of Christ always reminds us of the suffering and pain that surround death and the agony it entails. We are all afraid of death, and out of fear we turn away, preferring not to look. We cannot continue to be indifferent! And we cannot resign ourselves to evil! Saint Augustine teaches: “If you fear death, love the resurrection!” (Sermon 124, 4). Let us too love the resurrection, which reminds us that evil is not the last word, because it has been defeated by the Risen One.

He passed through death to give us life and peace: “I leave you peace; I give you my peace. Not as the world gives it, I give it to you” (Jn 14:27). The peace that Jesus gives us is not merely the silence of weapons, but the peace that touches and transforms the heart of each one of us! Let us allow ourselves to be transformed by the peace of Christ! Let us make heard the cry for peace that springs from our hearts! For this reason, I invite everyone to join me in a prayer vigil for peace that we will celebrate here in Saint Peter’s Basilica next Saturday, April 11.

On this day of celebration, let us abandon every desire for conflict, domination, and power, and implore the Lord to grant his peace to a world ravaged by wars and marked by a hatred and indifference that make us feel powerless in the face of evil. To the Lord we entrust all hearts that suffer and await the true peace that only he can give. Let us entrust ourselves to him and open our hearts to him! He is the only one who makes all things new (cf. Rev 21:5).

Happy Easter!

Leo P.P. XIV



K of C COUNCIL #14224 EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: Knights ARE NOW selling raffle tickets. One ticket is \$5 and a book of five tickets is \$20. The first prize is \$1000, then \$500, \$250, \$150, and \$100 prizes. The proceeds from this raffle go to local charities such as the Holliston Senior Center,

O'Connell House, Homes for our Troops, and the Doug Flutie Foundation for Autism. For tickets, contact Charlie Paradie at StMarysHollistonKofC@gmail.com. You can also buy tickets on the following dates at local markets: at Shaw's in Medway on May 22 and 23; at Roche Bros. in Millis on May 15 and 16; and at Shaw's in Ashland on June 6 and 7. The drawing will take place at the K of C Fourth Annual Golf tournament on June 26 at the Pinecrest Golf Club.

RESULTS FROM THE FIRST ANNUAL K of C DON

MARDEN MEMORIAL FREE THROW CONTEST: On January 24, 50+ boys and girls participated in the K of C Annual National Free Throw Contest. This year, our Council named our Holliston event in memory of deceased Knight Donald Marden, who led this event for the past 16 years. The local winners were: Age 9 - Celina Lahiani and Alessandro Salvatti; Age 10 - Charles Ogoreuc; Age 11 - Josie Brower and Tommy Baker; Age 12 - Lennon King and Cole Dennison; Age 13 - Danika do Rosario and Ryan Baker; Age 14 - Riya Yedugaki and Leo DeFazio. Our local winners then went to the Regional playoff held in March. Our 14 year-olds won their age group and will be in the State Final being held April 25. In addition, all local winners were presented trophies and cake at our April Council meeting. Our Council thanks Holliston Youth Basketball for participating in the contest. Knight John Harrahy led the event.



The Holy Saturday Knight's Mulching Crew!

PARISH SPRING MULCH AND CLEANING: Knights spread our Council donated mulch and swept detritus around St. Mary's grounds on Holy Saturday. After our two-hour efforts, coffee and donuts were enjoyed.

K OF C "SWING FOR CHARITY" GOLF TOURNAMENT: On Friday, June 26 at Pinecrest Golf Club, our Council will hold the Fifth Annual Knights of Columbus "Swing for Charity" Golf Tournament. The popularity of this event has reached full capacity regarding golfers. However, if you wish to register as a Sponsor for various sponsor levels, please go to KofCswingforcharity.com. Proceeds from this charity event will be donated to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and the O'Connell House (helps trafficked women and their families). Thank you for your continuing support of the St. Mary's K of C!

ST. MARY'S FAITH ENRICHMENT FOR MEN:

Cor has had a very active 2026 Spring session so far. The season kicked off with an in-depth discussion about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our next meeting dealt with the important role that prayer plays in building and maintaining our relationship with God, followed by a meeting focusing on understanding the Mass. In our most recent meeting, we discussed the trials and tribulations of the early Church as described in the Acts of the Apostles; and how, despite extreme hardships even leading to martyrdom, the Apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly proclaimed that the Resurrected Jesus is the Messiah of which the scriptures foretold.



Our final Cor meeting of the 2026 Spring Season will be on Thursday, May 28, from 7 - 9 PM in Father Haley Hall, and will focus on the sacraments of the Catholic Church. All men of St. Mary's parish age 18 and older are encouraged to join us for faith enrichment, bible study, catechesis, prayer and brotherhood. For more information, contact StMarysCor@gmail.com.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD:

St. Mary's CGS will continue in October with two sessions for children 3 - 5 years old: Sunday 8:00 - 9:15 AM or 10:45 - Noon. Learn more at <https://stmarysholliston.com/religious-education/catechesis-of-the-good-shepherd/>. Rebekah Rojewicz from the International Board for CGS is also offering Information Sessions on May 6 and 7 at different locations. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Melissa Kalpakgian at 617-746-5755 or mkalpakgian@rcab.org.





WINGS Spring Season Continues!

“One Body: Living Faith in a Fragmented World.”



What is WINGS?

WINGS is an opportunity for women of all ages to grow in faith wherever they are on their spiritual journey. Lifelong Catholic, new Catholic, or just curious – come learn and grow!

Join us in Person or on Zoom!

Our Spring Season features:

- *inspiring stories of faith from a variety of speakers living their Catholic faith during these challenging times.*
- *Time for discussion, fellowship, and friendship.*
- *Free childcare- Drop-ins welcome!*

**Meetings are held in Father Haley Hall
Wednesdays 9:45AM – 11:15AM
and on Zoom.**

Wednesday, May 6



Catherine Duggan:
“Walk Boldly with Jesus”
Podcast host., Author and
Member of Encounter Ministry.

Like our recently canonized Saint Carlo Acutis, Catherine will share how she evangelizes about faith and modern day culture via her podcast.

Wednesday, May 13



Mark Polny:
a former St. Mary's
parishioner and Youth
Minister.

*Using **The Our Father** as a guide, Mark will share experiences from his over thirty years serving as a youth minister (St. Matthews, Southboro), as well as currently caring for special needs adults at the Michael Lisnow Respite Center in Hopkinton.*



Email us for Zoom Link

We'd love to hear from you!

✉ stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com

🌐 scan for our Facebook page





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Our End of Year Parent Potluck Meeting is Sunday, May 17, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM!

NURSING HOME BINGO! On Friday, March 6, a group of MSYG 6th Graders hosted a BINGO event at Timothy Daniel's Nursing Home, right here in Holliston. The teens partnered up with residents; introducing themselves, finding out what their partner did before retirement, and just basically getting to know them. One resident only spoke Portuguese, but so did one of our teens, which was awesome for them both! Each player had two cards, which our teens helped them keep track of. Other teens called the BINGO numbers. Winners had their choice of a variety of delicious Easter treats. Many of them insisted on giving their prize to their MSYG partner, showing that the time spent together in friendship was the most important thing.



COSMIC BOWLING! On Friday, March 27, thirty-nine MSYG teens enjoyed a late night of Cosmic Bowling. First they gathered for the weekly Lenten Supper and Prayer. Next came a game of BINGO in the Lower Church Hall, with movie sized boxes of candy as the prizes. Finally, it was late enough to board the bus (Cosmic Bowling does not start until 9:30 PM). The destination was Bowlero in Cranston, RI, the largest ten pin bowling alley in New England. For two hours the group bowled to the sound of club music and pulsing lasers and light effects. With 96 points, Leo DeFazio took the first game high score, winning a large pizza to enjoy with his friends. Teens were also able to play arcade games until all headed back to St. Mary's for sleepy parents to pick them up at 12:30 AM.





St. Mary's Parish High School Youth Group

Contact Lisa Dufault, tgif@stmarysholliston.org, 508-429-6076 ext. 3

TGIF (Teens Gather In Faith): On March 29, TGIF hosted its 3rd Annual Eggstravaganza Mission Trip Fundraiser. There were crafts galore and games for the children to play. We saw some amazing photos with the Easter Bunny too. Congratulations to the two winners of the "Golden Egg" baskets! We would like to thank everyone who came to support our efforts. We raised \$1,659.00 for our Mission Trip at the EGGSTRAVAGANZA! Round of applause to the TGIF Teens and their Adult Leaders for creating such an engaging environment for the children who attended!





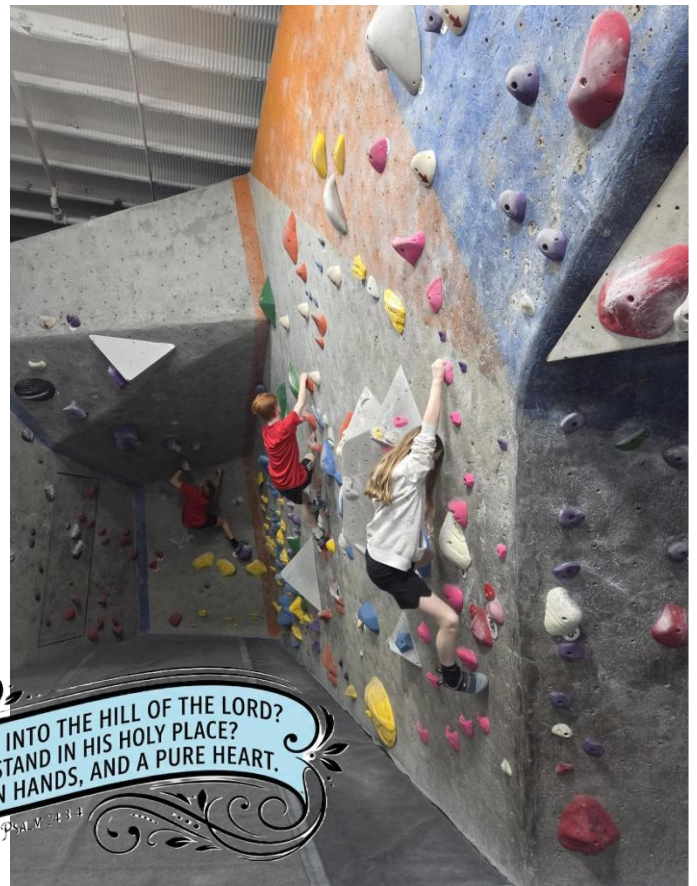
Meetings: Monday Nights 7 - 8:30 PM

Contact: Mike Hebert, Scoutmaster
603 - 520 - 9045

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.

ROCK GYM OVERNIGHT: On the night of March 7, Troop 14 Scouts journeyed to the Rock Spot Climbing Gym in South Boston for a night of climbing and fun. This annual event allowed Scouts after-hours access to the climbing gym and included games, pizza, and snacks. Troop 14 also hosted Webelos from Holliston Cub Scout packs during the climbing portion of the event. The activity was a great opportunity for the Webelos to meet Troop 14 Scouts and experience a fun Troop activity, as they decide which Troop to join when they cross over to Boy Scouts. After a night of climbing that went into the morning hours, Troop 14 set up hammocks on the rock gym walls for a few hours of sleep before the gym reopened for morning climbers.



WHO SHALL ASCEND INTO THE HILL OF THE LORD?
OR WHO SHALL STAND IN HIS HOLY PLACE?
HE THAT HATH CLEAN HANDS, AND A PURE HEART.
PSALM 24:3-4

