

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

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**NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER, 2018**

**"I LIKE BEING
CATHOLIC!"**

**45 Parishioners
shared why ...**



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Sunday, October 21, 2018, St. Mary's celebrated our 13th Annual Blessing of the Animals. The Lower Church Hall echoed with barks, meows, and the voices of proud owners as creatures of all description assembled for this joyful prayer. Fr. Mark spoke of how St. Francis used animals to share the Gospel, such as with his famous "Sermon to the Birds." Still today, Father said, our animal friends can help us experience God's love. Together we thanked God for the gift of our animals and asked His help to be good stewards of all the living creatures of the earth. Then we asked His grace upon all the pets present, and upon those too sick to attend. The celebration concluded with everyone singing the hymn, "All Things Bright and Beautiful."

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

November, 2018 ~ Volume 44, Number 3



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

Rectory: 429-4427, 879-2322
Religious Education Center: 429-6076
Fax: 429-3324 ~ Music: 429-4427
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."

Parish Clergy

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
Rev. James Flynn, Weekend Assistance
Deacon John Barry, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon

Baby Shower for the Unborn

"Whoever welcomes one child in my name welcomes me." Mk 9:37 In this beautiful scripture verse, Jesus reminds us that our service must consist above all in welcoming and caring for the weak and vulnerable. The good people of St. Mary's put this teaching into practice the weekend of October 20 & 21 through our parish's annual Baby Shower for the Unborn. Hundreds of brand-new baby items were donated at our Masses, as we offered welcome and support to the weakest and most vulnerable of God's children – the unborn.

The baby gifts were given to the Pregnancy Help Program of our Archdiocese, supporting women in crisis pregnancies. Thank you to all who so generously participated in the Baby Shower event. You welcomed not only the babies who will receive these gifts, but Our Lord so powerfully present within them. [Shown below, some students from Mr. Charlie Coughlin's 8th Grade Religious Education Class pitched in to carry donated items out of the church].





May Jesus the Good Shepherd welcome you and acknowledge you as one of His flock. May He carry you to the bright and verdant pastures of the Lord.

May you dwell forever in His Presence, His Peace, and His Love.
Amen.

Deborah Mckinnon

Theresa Parnell

Victor Camilleri

John Rego

Leon Marsh

Theresa Reardon

Marilyn Marston

Patricia Zack

William Hosmer

Brian Evers

Walter Baker

William Flannery

Charles Kadlik, Jr.

Robert Gallerane

Angelo DeToma

Ernest Grolimund

Susan Zanchi

Elinor Sheehan

Theodore Mankus

Claire Burroughs

Maurice Connors

Carolyn Connors

Beverly Collari

Raymond Yarashus

Robert Murphy

Mary Flatley

Alice Morse

Mary Crotty

Mary Aquino

Barbara Richardson

Thomas Mahoney

Robert DeJoie

Philip Minervino

David Moore

Edward Hilliard

Edward Tynan, Jr.

Melissa Bachman

Gloria Sullivan

Donald LaRoche

Jack Evans

John Dwyer

FEAST OF ALL SOULS

The individuals listed here were honored with Christian burial from St. Mary's since the Feast of All Souls last year. They will be commemorated in a special way at an All Souls Mass,

Tuesday, November 6 at 7 PM

A candle will be lit in each one's memory as their name is read. They and all our beloved dead will be kept in prayer throughout the month of November, according to Catholic custom.

All are invited to take part in the All Souls Mass to pray for the repose of their own departed loved ones.



From the Pastor's Desk

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

Recently, I attended the Funeral Mass of a priest's mother. As the priest delivered the sermon for his mom, I found myself wondering if I will have the strength and composure to do the same when my own mother passes someday. My mom and I are very close, and it's hard for me to imagine a world without her. I once came across something C.S. Lewis wrote about his own mother's death. Lewis said, *"With my mother's death, all settled happiness, all that was tranquil and reliable, disappeared from my life. There was to be much fun, many pleasures, many stabs of joy; but no more of the old security. All was sea and islands now; the great continent had sunk like Atlantis."*

It's clear from that quote that C.S. Lewis' mother was his rock. She was the ground beneath his feet and he felt thrown adrift when she was gone. I suspect that I shall feel the same. Which is why before I face the loss that he did (hopefully far off), I need to make sure that Christ is more and more the foundation of my life. Christ having died once for us, dies no more. If our lives are built primarily on the foundation of human relationships, we can fall. Human beings can let us down through betrayal, infidelity, or just the hurtful choices that human weakness so often engenders. Even the best, most trustworthy and faithful people in our lives – like my mom – will eventually pass from us through death.

But Christ's life is eternal. He is ever present and always true. Which is why those who make Christ their first love and trust above all in Him, are unmoved when evil comes. Saddened yes, badly hurt, maybe. But because Jesus is "the great continent" of their lives they are not defeated. They are not cast forever adrift on a sea of despair. I was reminded of this truth recently when I spoke with a parishioner after Sunday Mass. The topic of scandal in the Church came up, and this man said to me, *"Father – my faith isn't about what any priest, or bishop, or one of these other people in the pews does right or does wrong. Yes, we have to do better, together, all of us. But I come here for the Eucharist. I come here because Jesus is here. And my faith is in Him."* May the same be true for all of us!

God bless you.



Rev. Mark J. Coiro



With joy St. Mary's welcomes eleven new families to our parish & ten new children to the Catholic Faith by baptism. Welcome!

The Camara Family ~ William

The Wolfrey Family ~ Michael and Christine

The Beaton Family ~ John, Erica, Tanner and Camden

The Jansen Family – Peter, Tracy and Theodore

The Brickman Family ~ Josh, Shawna, Grady and Charlie

The Blaisdell Family ~ Sean, Kim, Madelyn and Olivia

The Neitzel Family – David, Dana, Lilly, Charlie and Amelia

The Leonard Family – Thomas, Laura and Theodore

The Rothrock Family – Stephen and Debra

The Neeland Family – Daniel, Kathryn, Abigail, Audrey and Morgan

The O'Brien Family – Richard and Stacey

Baptisms

James William Grady

Louis Patrick Noel

Amy Elizabeth Arnold

Charlie Marie Brickman

Catherine Anne Kelly

Sophia Grace Hutchinson

Ronan Matthew Brannigan

Declan Peter Brannigan

Sophia Elizabeth Lindsay

Lily Katherine Piersiak



Thursday, November 1, Feast of All Saints ~ A Holy Day of Obligation: Holy Day

Masses at 9 AM & 7:00 PM: Today the Church celebrates the Feast of All Saints – honoring and asking the prayerful intercession of all the Holy Men, Women, and Children who have gone ahead of us in faith and now live in the light of God’s presence. Some of the saints have been “declared” by the Church and their names are known to us. Most, however, are known only to God, and this day we both commemorate their holy lives and recall our own calling to become saints – holy witnesses of Christ’s love to the world.

Tuesday, November 6, All Souls Mass: Catholics believe that our prayers assist souls that died in a state of grace through purgatory – a journey of purification that allows a soul to enter God’s eternal presence in a state of perfect innocence, able to receive fully the light and glory of God. At St. Mary’s, a special candlelight All Souls Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 7 PM. Those buried from the parish over the past year will have their names read and a candle lit in their memory. The candlelight Mass is open to everyone who would like to pray for their own departed loved ones. The full Adult Choir will be ministering.

Wednesday, November 7, Solemn Vespers: Join our talented Youth Choir for Solemn Sung Vespers on Wednesday, November 7 at 7:00 PM. This 30-minute meditative service, which is also known as Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours. Through it we give thanks to God before the end of the day through the singing of psalms, intercessions, and prayers. Come experience the beauty of sung prayer!

Saturday, November 10, Parish Pasta Night: Come join your fellow parishioners for fine Italian fare, live music and great company at this year's Pasta Dinner on Saturday, November 10 from 6 to 8 PM. Music will be provided by Frank Zarba (vocalist) and Ray Cavicchio (accordion). Check them out at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vibnVvYfYOQ>.

The menu will include rigatoni with red sauce, rigatoni with broccoli and chicken, rigatoni with butter, meatballs, salad, rolls and soda, water, juice and Italian pastries. Families with children of all ages are welcome. The cost is \$10 per person, or \$30 for a whole immediate family (parents and children). Tickets will be on sale after all Masses on November 3/4, as well as at the Religious Education Office. (Advance sales only, there are no tickets at the door). Mangia!



Thursday, November 22, 9 AM Thanksgiving Day Mass: Begin your family's Thanksgiving this year by feasting on the Holy Eucharist at God' table. Join your fellow parishioners at this beautiful annual Mass, at which together we will thank God for all His many blessings. Bring an item of food that will grace your family Thanksgiving dinner to be blessed at Mass and then take it home – connecting your family table to the Altar Table of God. As always, this Thanksgiving Day morning Mass will be followed by a pastry reception in Father Haley Hall.



WHY I LIKE BEING CATHOLIC

Back in 2007, St. Mary's invited any parishioner to answer the question, "Why do you like being Catholic?" The parishioner replies were then published over many months in the weekly bulletin. In this current time, when much attention is rightly focused on purifying and correcting serious problems in God's Church, it is important to keep the big picture in mind. To remember that there is so much more right than wrong, and good than bad in the Catholic Family of Faith. As we work to bring healing and justice to those impacted by past Church failures, and to make sure that they are never repeated, let us not forget all the beauty, truth and grace that abounds in Christ's Living Body. So today ask yourself what it is that you love and value about your Catholic faith? Here is what some of your fellow parishioners said eleven years ago ...

"I like being Catholic because I can go to church and I can sing in the choir. I can go up and eat the bread of life. I can sit up front and bring the gifts to the priest." - Monica Sullivan, Grade 4, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because it offers joy, thanksgiving, reconciliation and redemption by a God of love." - Oscar Isabelle, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because I feel good after I get out from Sunday Mass and my day almost always is great after going to Mass. When I think about how much Jesus loves everybody it helps make days better." - Emily Miller, Grade 5, Medway

"I like being Catholic because the Eucharist, Jesus, is always present in our church. I can stop in and visit Him any time and receive peace and strength in my daily life, and help to bring His light to all I meet." - Eileen Kampersal, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because when I am sad or angry I can pray to Jesus and I have the comfort of knowing I'm never alone." - Emma Mulvaney, Grade 5, Holliston

"Mom sang stridently in church and I, embarrassed, hid my face in my hands. But her hands held my face serenely when she'd say, 'God love ya, honey.' Now I sing loudly because she cannot. And I find peace in knowing if we're singing, hiding, or just holding on – God loves us. As sure as a mother's touch."

- John Barry, Medway

"I like being Catholic because when I pray for help God helps me. God's house feels secure. I love to pray in church and at home for people like my friend's one year old sister who has cancer, and my mother, my father, my sister, my dog, my hamster, things that died and that are ill, like your grandparents, your uncle, your aunt, your mother, your father, your sister or a pet or a friend. You can ask God to bless things like your house or a person you like." - Mark Toronto, Grade 4, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because it is so invigorating and refreshing that one would gleefully shout out to our beloved separated brethren, 'Come on in! You too will be reinvigorated and refreshed.'" - Victor Terranova, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because when I go to church it is a place I can clear my mind and calm down. I am in a peaceful place, because I know that God is forgiving any sins I did in the past week." - Daniel Yates, Grade 4, Medway

"I like being Catholic because it allows me the opportunity to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ, my greatest love, not only at Sunday Mass but also at Mass on any day of the week." - Charlotte Fortin, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because I love God and he did so much for me and I want to pay him back. He made me so I am going to thank Him." - Stefani Skerry, Grade 5, Holliston



"I like being Catholic because God is present in the Holy Tabernacle of every Catholic Church around the world. When I enter a Catholic Church, it never feels like an empty building or that I am there alone. Christ Jesus is waiting for me with His love and Peace." - Mary Lou Ferriero, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because when I die I will get a new life like Jesus did. - Brigid Calapa, Grade 4, Medway

"I like being Catholic because when I need help the most, going to Mass on Sunday refuels me, enlightens me and makes me feel like I am a part of something so wonderful that I can get through another week doing work for Jesus. I teach Religious Education to pass along my love for Jesus so another generation can live and love for Jesus." - Susan Wassmus, Medway

"I like being Catholic because I can go to Church and be a part of it because I can go up and have the Eucharist and also if we get there early enough and sit up close we can bring up the Lord's gifts."
- Katie Salley, Grade 4, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because it helps me to be a better person. Being Catholic keeps me honest, and has encouraged me to help people who are less fortunate than me." - Kathleen Hadden, Medway

"I like being Catholic because I get to go to Church and I get to have Jesus in my heart and God in my heart and I get to have love in my soul." - Evan Graziano, Grade 4, Mendon

"I like being Catholic because I'm deeply rooted in being Catholic. As I continue to grow in faith, hope and love, I find that the Liturgical Year Cycles mirror the cycles of my life...anticipation and hope, reflection and celebration, disappointment and grief, repentance and sustenance." - Ann Chiango, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because believing in Jesus means a lot to me by following the rules, expressing my faith, talking to Jesus when I feel the need, when I'm sad or just whenever. I like to talk to Jesus because he's with me all the time and I feel strong with his advice." - Joe Bellomo, Grade 4, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because my faith gives me the strength to overcome difficulties and the sacraments bring so much inner peace and healing." - Deirdre Isabelle, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because when I am nervous or scared I know Jesus is always with me right next to me."

- Shannon Croke, Grade 5, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because God, like a lighthouse built on solid rock, is always there for me. He guides me through raging storm and starlit night with His ever-present light gently leading me closer to Him."

- Mary Leary, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because I can always talk to God and always know he is watching over me."

- Kelly Barden, Grade 5, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because our Church, Christ's Church, never compromises on its stance for the poor, the sick...for morality. The Catholic Church is a loving and forgiving place – now more than ever!"

- Patti Jorash, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because when I'm lost, in trouble or lonely, I can pray to God. So if I need help I know who to go to." - Brendan Robinson, Grade 4, Medway

"I like being Catholic because no matter how hectic, or out of control my life gets, I can find peace through prayer and Mass, and give everything over to God and His will. - Kim Flynn, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because I get to communicate with God and Jesus because then I can ask for forgiveness of sin." - Anna Clark, Grade 4, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because we believe that no matter how far we prodigals stray, Jesus is waiting with love and forgiveness to welcome us home. All we need to do is turn to Him." - Barbara Brown, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because we don't just care about ourselves. We look out for poor people too."

- Jason Sears, Grade 5, Medway

"I like being Catholic because we have the Saints! I'm especially grateful to St. Anthony, who helps me find things almost every day. I'm also very moved by other Catholics. The community of believers is inspiring."

- Katherine Doolittle, Cambridge, MA

"I like being Catholic because I feel connected to the faith of my mother and my husband's family and all our ancestors. We take great joy in seeing the faith passed to our grandchildren." - Sandy Liro, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because that's what all the people in my family are and it makes me feel closer to them and Jesus." - Denise Morrow, Grade 5, Medway

"I like being Catholic because of the inspiring example of the saints. They faced the same struggles we do but triumphed with Christ's help. I love it when the 'Wisdom from the Saints' feature in our St. Mary's bulletin cites a saint I've never heard of before. I look them up online and it's like meeting a new member of my Catholic family!" - Yvonne Gannon, Holliston



"I like being Catholic because you can come together as a community and look to God and others for support."
- Nicole Bajdek, Grade 7, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because I get to learn so much about Jesus and the past, because in school we can't talk about God or Jesus. It's fun to be able to be with people like me who love and care for Jesus and God."
- Shauna Wassmus, Grade 5, Medway

"I like being Catholic because my faith is a source of strength to me and my Catholic Church is my home. Saying the Rosary is better than any pill for health of mind and body, and the Rosary group is a treasure."
- Barbara Flanagan, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because Church is fun. Sometimes the priests are funny too. In Church I like hearing the readings and the gospel." - Parker Jean, Grade 4, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because it is logical. Catholicism provides the basis for morality and ethics, two necessary skills needed to make hard decisions / judgments. Christ, by His examples and teachings, shows us how to live these values. In following His lead, we create a compassionate and loving community, a sanctuary where one may find respite and peace in a difficult world." - Marilyn Lourandos, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because I am comforted knowing that I have a friend in Jesus. He walks with me through joyful times and carries me through times of darkness. He is truly a forever friend." - Erin Barry, Medway

"I like being Catholic because I know that whatever happens in my life, God and the Church community will always be there." - Sarah Doherty, Grade 10, Holliston



"I like being Catholic because I like to settle down and have a quiet time with Jesus and God."

- Brendan Wassmus, Grade 4, Medway

"I like being Catholic because I trust that God's love is a gift and believing in that fills my heart."

- Carey Valli, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because you get to sit in the front row at the Church if you come early and you get to talk to God and Jesus." - Lindsay Pisapio, Grade 4, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because we have the Eucharist, a name that means 'thanksgiving'. The Mass is how I say thank you to God for the many, many blessings He's given me, including life itself." - Robert Donley, Holliston

"I like being Catholic because of the Mass. At Mass I get fed. I know I am weak. I want to be selfless, more charitable, more kind. I want to be braver when I hear a racist remark, stronger when my children need a firm response, purer of heart when tempted to take an easier, softer way. I want to absorb the patterns of the life of Jesus. The Host on the tongue gives strength to run the race. The wine gives heart and willingness to continue." - Tom McGrath



K N I G H T S OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 November, 2018

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella

Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish

THE COUNCIL THANKS ALL FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2018 COLUMBUS DAY TOOTSIE

ROLL DRIVE: Our Council raised over \$1800 from this year's annual Tootsie Roll Drive the weekend of October 6 and 7 including Masses at St. Mary's. All donations go to the K of C State Council for aid to special needs children throughout the state.

DECEASED MEMBERS MASS: November is the month dedicated to the remembrance of our departed loved ones. Council #14224 will honor deceased members at the 11:30 AM Mass on Sunday, December 9. All brothers are encouraged to attend as we give our departed members the gift of prayer.

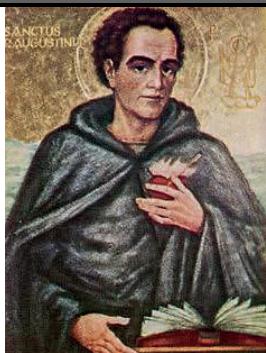
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2018: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508 429-7588 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now **join ON-LINE** by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org. On-line membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council.

MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be Wednesday, November 14. The Council normally recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church at 7:00 PM. Due to Thanksgiving being early this year, the Rosary date for November is the second Wednesday. As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer." **ALL** parishioners are invited to share in this beautiful and powerful prayer with our Council.

Women in WINGS *God's spirit*

We had a FANTASTIC fall program: **Catholic Cliff Notes, A Study of Great Catholic Thinkers and Writers!** Speakers inspired and taught us so much including:

- **Saint Augustine** was a social justice warrior! Augustine wrote one of the most important books of his time, *The Confessions*, which is still very relevant today.
- **Saint Joan of Arc** lived a normal childhood. She could not read, write or ride a horse. She did not seek to become France's warrior but trusted completely in God's plan for her.
- **Saint Ignatius of Loyola** taught that each piece of the mosaic of our life is part of God's plan for us. Even the challenges in our life have a purpose and are part of the mosaic.
- **Dante Alighieri** wrote *The Divine Comedy* (the most commented upon piece of literature after the Bible) after he was exiled from Florence. Dante realized that without the grace of God he could do nothing.



Save the Date!

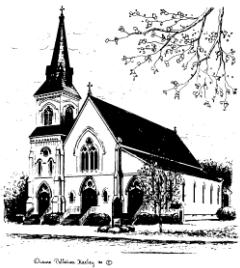
Winter Season: January 23, 2019 – February 13, 2019

Winter Scripture Study
(Led by a professional)

Spring Season: March 20, 2019 – May 1, 2019

Surrendering to God's Will

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (Rom 12:12)



Saint Mary's Parish

8 Church St. ~ Holliston, MA ~ 01746 ~ (508) 429-4427

November, 2018

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

In just 2 years' time, St. Mary's Parish will celebrate her 150th Anniversary. Those 150 years represent untold moments of ministry and grace that have blessed generations of Catholics in Holliston and the surrounding communities. We give thanks to God for this beautiful family of faith and ask Him to watch over and guide us into the future.

For the past 58 years, one of the things that has helped keep St. Mary's strong is the Grand Annual – a once a year special collection that goes entirely toward parish operating costs. In combination with the weekly offertory, the Grand Annual allows St. Mary's to pay her bills and maintain her four buildings, three of which are well over 100 years old.

As you know, the Grand Annual always takes place in November. The 2018 St. Mary's Grand Annual Collection is **Veteran's Day Weekend - November 10 & 11**. The goal is \$150,000 – the same as 2017 which was achieved.

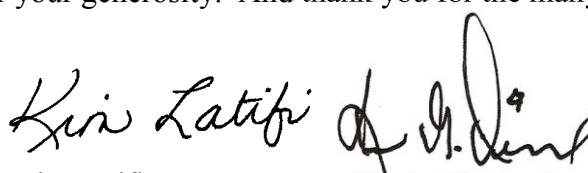
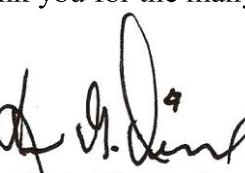
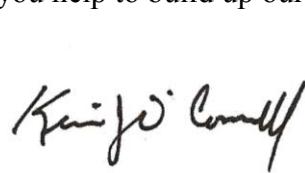
The largest facilities items included in this year's Grand Annual are the church kneelers and church floor. The kneelers are very old, with an average of four needing patching and repairs each month. The lowest estimate for their replacement is \$17,590. We hope to do this work in the summer of 2019 or 2020 in conjunction with the church floors.

As many of you have brought to our attention, the floors under the kneelers and church pews are deteriorating, with cracks opening up and even chunks of linoleum breaking off entirely. We are still getting estimates on the floor work – a major project which requires physically removing all pews from the church. \$20,000 of this year's Grand Annual is designated *toward* that project.

Since successfully paying off the last of her \$1.2 million loan debts in the fall of 2010, St. Mary's has been able to pay her bills and remains debt free. Your generous support of St. Mary's 2018 Grand Annual will assure that the hard-won financial health of our parish continues. We realize that these current economic times remain difficult for many. But if we all do what we can according to our means, then the 2018 Grand Annual will be a success. Thank you in advance for your generosity. And thank you for the many ways you help to build up our beautiful parish family.

Sincerely,

The St. Mary's Finance Council


Kim Latifi

Kevin Diamond

Kevin O'Connell


Dianne McDermott Roy

Ron Pipe

Partial Grand Annual Breakdown: Provided on the next page of this mailing.

Partial Grand Annual Breakdown:

\$65,000	Staff Salaries: The eight men and women of St. Mary's Staff are hardworking, dedicated individuals. This portion of the Grand Annual will go toward their salaries.
\$20,000	<i>Toward</i> the replacement of the floors beneath the church pews in the church.
\$17,590	New kneelers for the church pews.
\$9,000	Rectory repairs and refurbishment. Except for the Secretary's Office, no interior refurbishing work in the rectory has been done since 1982. After 36 years, paint is peeling, wallpaper is split and falling down, while several carpets are worn all the way through. (See photos). The stairs to the third floor of the rectory also need to be replaced, as a number of the steps are sagging and unsafe. St. Mary's rectory is over 140 years old. The stairs and the three most deteriorated rooms will be addressed.
\$6,400	Church painting, exterior touch ups and interior painting of the lower sanctuary (altar area).
\$5,370	New heating and air-conditioning system for the Parish Center Library. The old one has been out of order since June and has proven irreparable.
\$4,000	Designated for improvements for our handicapped members, including adding exterior church lighting for the handicapped parking spaces which currently are totally dark once night falls.
\$5,000	Repairs to Lower Church exterior stairs (rectory side), and interior ceiling damage (see photos).
\$3,000	Replacement electronic organ for St. Mary's Music Program. The portable Viscount organ we used to borrow for Lessons & Carols, Vespers, and other sanctuary events is no longer available.
\$2,850	Bills for emergency plumbing for the Parish Center and Annex Classroom Building.
\$2,000	Replacement of 11-year-old Video Projection System for Religious Education & Youth Ministry.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR 2018 GRAND ANNUAL GIFT

Please carefully review the Grand Annual information provided to you by the St. Mary's Finance Council here and in the postal mailing you will soon receive.

Pray about it and **decide as a family** what gift you can make according to the means with which God has blessed you.

If you have children, make them aware of your Grand Annual support so that they can learn good stewardship by your example.

If possible, please return your orange Grand Annual envelope at Mass the weekend of November 10 & 11. Extra Grand Annual envelopes are provided at the doors, but for tax purposes the one coded for your family should be used. You will receive it in your postal mailing.

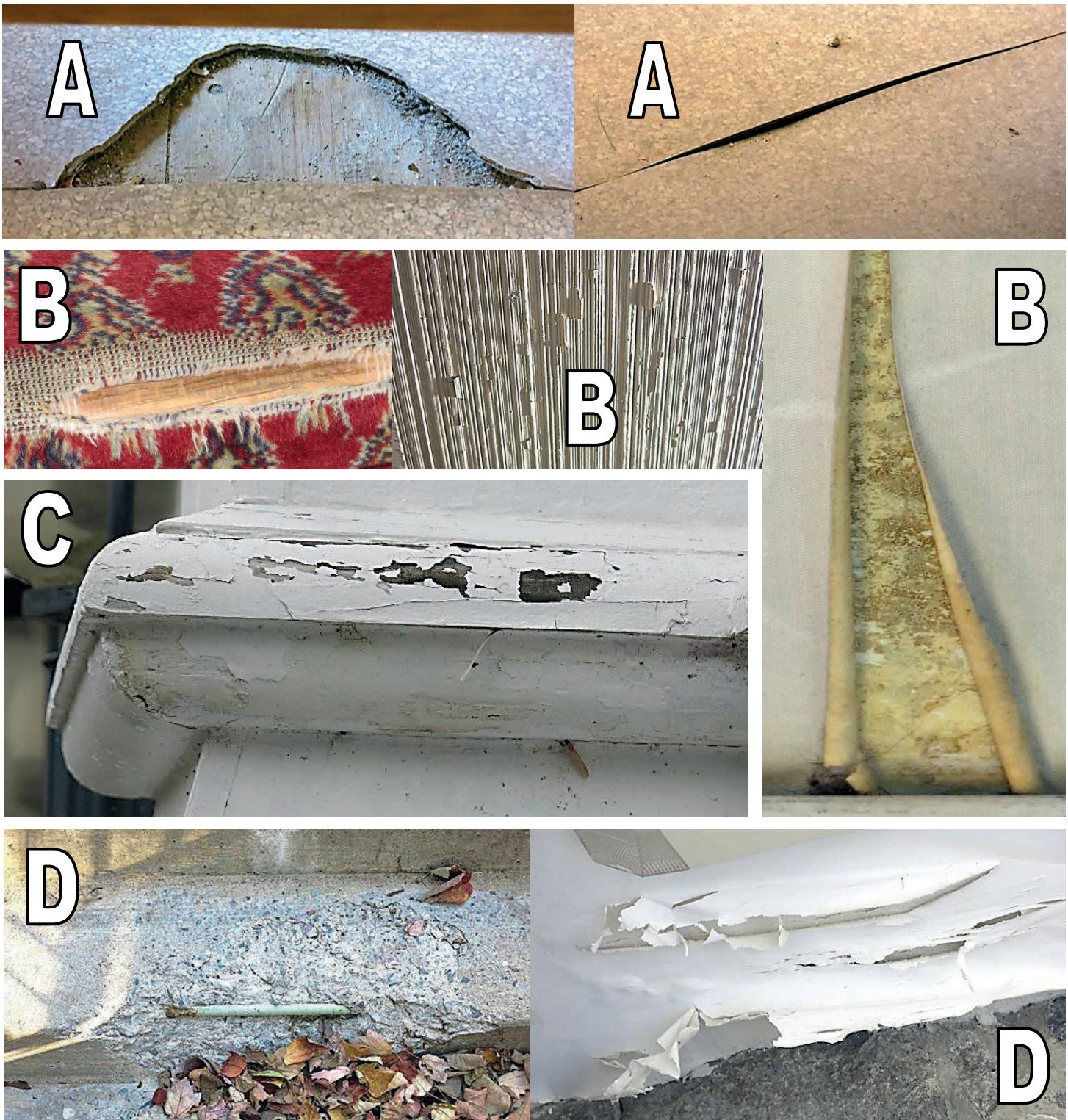
There is only one collection taken up the weekend of November 10 & 11, so please place your orange Grand Annual envelope in the same basket as your weekly parish support.

Your 2018 Grand Annual gift may also be made at any time thereafter by mailing it in to 8 Church St., dropping it off at the Parish Office, or placing it in any future Mass collection basket.

If put in a Mass offertory basket, however, the orange envelope, or an envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual" must be used.

Thank you for doing your part to support this essential annual stewardship effort!

**"Every person shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD
your God which He has given you."** Deuteronomy 16:17



Photos of a few of the 2018 Grand Annual Items

A – Church Floor: Cracked and breaking floor under the pews. Pew kneelers also need to be replaced.

B – Rectory: Shown from left to right - worn through carpet, peeling ceiling paint, and splitting / peeling wallpaper. The stairs to the third-floor rooms, used by guests and our seminarians, are also sagging and in disrepair.

C – Church Exterior: A number of small exterior areas need repainting, this one is by the main doors. The interior church sanctuary will also be repainted to the pillar tops.

D – Lower Church (Rectory Side): Crumbling concrete exit stairs and interior ceiling damage.



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746 508-429-4427 www.stmarysholliston.com



PHOTO ABOVE ~ MSYG KICK OFF: Sunday, September 30, saw two hundred two teens enjoying the Middle School Youth Group Kick Off Event. 94 – 6th & 7th Graders signed up for the Haunted Mansion and 45 – 8th Graders for the Haunted Hayride! We learned about praying instead of saying the Our Father, and what makes this prayer special above all others. We watched a great slideshow of this past summer's MSYG Trips, enjoyed fun games and ate delicious ice cream sundaes. We got our 12th year of Middle School Youth Group off to a great start! It was great to see so many new faces - WELCOME!

HAUNTED TRIPS: Watch for the December Newsletter to see pics of our October 19 Trip to McCray's Haunted Hay Ride (8th Grade), and our October 20 Trip to Barrett's Haunted Mansion (6th and 7th Grade).

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Monday, November 12: Veteran's Day Paintball Battle, P & L
Monday, November 26: 7th Grade BINGO, St. Patrick Manor

DECEMBER EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 2: Monthly Meeting 6:30 – 8 PM
Saturday Dec. 8 / Sunday Dec. 9: Cookie Walk for Haiti - All Masses
Friday, Dec. 14: Christmas Caroling & Shrine Light Walk

JANUARY EVENTS

Friday, Jan. 4, Celtics vs Mavericks
Saturday, Jan. 19: Snow Tubing, Nashoba
Sunday, January 27: Monthly Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Battle of the Sexes

FAITH
FRIENDSHIP
SERVICE
FUN



St. Mary's EPIC

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN CHRIST

EPIC's Next Meeting is Sunday, November 18
7:30 – 8:45 PM in Father Haley Hall
Open to *anyone* in High School
BRING A FRIEND!



KICKOFF MEETING + MINI GOLF/ ICE CREAM TRIP TO TROMBETTA'S FARM

EPIC is St. Mary's super awesome High School Youth Group! We share friendship, faith, food, games, adventures, trips, service, and so much more! We have Monthly Meetings as well as some great social and service trips. If you have any questions about EPIC or want to get involved, just come to our next meeting or contact our Youth Minister, Jake Thiringer at stmarysym1870@gmail.com. Come be EPIC!



A Cross Walk with Nancy Monson

By Cathy Stenquist

The FaceTime screen sat quiet while my mother, over a thousand miles away in Alabama, caught her breath. "I've made a decision," she hesitated, "I want to come back to Boston to be near you." And with those few words, prayers were answered and lives began to change. Within a few months, a lifetime of belongings had been loaded on the truck and were headed north. Most boxes have been opened now and the house is slowly turning into a home. After living apart for thirty years and wanting to introduce my mom to her new church community, I thought a Cross Walk with the woman who first planted the seeds of faith in me would be a treat.

"Oh honey, I have nothing to tell. I don't know what I am going to say," she offered. Lets just have some coffee I reassured. Sitting in her cream chair next to the fireplace, I

was struck by her beauty. Even at 79, she still has the style from being a former model. But what really shines is the beauty of her deep faith within.

"Who helped your faith to grow as a child?" I asked. She explained how my grandmother had converted to Catholicism at age 30 and was very strong in her faith. Every first



Nancy Monson

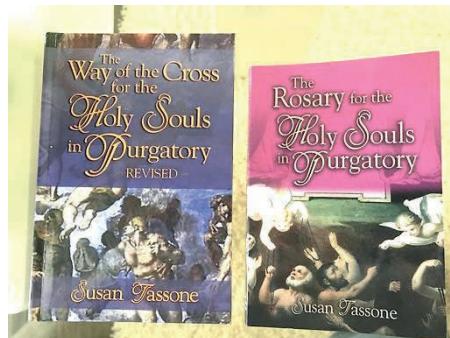
Friday of the month they would go to confession. She smiled and told me a story that illustrated how much her faith had become part of her. "I was 10 or 11, when a friend named Betty Watkins, told me that she had done something wrong. 'You need to go to confession!' I reminded her and took her by the hand down to the church. I sat in the pew and waited. When she came out and finished her penance, I proudly asked, "Now don't you feel good?"

I had to laugh as I heard this, reminding my mom about the time when she took all five of us kids to St. Norbert's for confession and afterward pausing on the church steps, hand in hand and saying, "Now, don't you feel good?" The more things change... the more they stay the same!

She then married and had five children in seven years. My father traveled a lot, so she made sure the basics were done like getting us kids to Mass each week and bedtime

prayers. "I remember those prayers," I added. "and still have them memorized. I really appreciate the fact that you made sure that we understood the connection to God in all the little things of life."

She became more serious about her faith as an adult and began hungering to learn and get involved. One day the parish priest invited her to become a Eucharistic minister. She was thrilled and honored to be asked, and remembers smiling the whole time out of complete joy in what she was doing."



Two of my mother's favorite books for Meditations using the Rosary

Her love of the Rosary has changed her life. "My devotion to it began when we lived in over 30 years ago in Bolton, she shared, "I had lost a necklace your father had given me and was anxious to find it. I prayed to God promising to say the Rosary everyday for a year if He could help me find it. Sure enough, I found it right way and began saying the Rosary. On the 366th day, I thought, 'This has been good. I am going to continue.' I reached out in a note on the community bulletin board to see if there was interest in gathering to say the Rosary. A handful of people started and 14 years later we were still meeting every Wednesday. One of the blessings of the Rosary is that it tends to bring people together in prayer."

"Do you ever get bored with the repetition of the prayers?" I asked. "Never! No, never!" she hastily added, "It never gets boring. I think the key to good prayer is to slow down and take your time. Better to say one Hail Mary slowly and thoughtfully than speeding through a decade. It allows me to imagine the scene and really contemplate it, learning what Christ endured and how that impacts my life."

"You have a real fascination with the saints, in particular Padre Pio." I asked, "Can you tell me about that?" "Yes, I have read a lot about him and bought a 3-hour movie about his life and have watched it many times. I am inspired by what this holy man went through for Christ. He did not pull punches. He was known to remind you of any sins you left out when you went to confession! I have a decal on my car of his image and invite him along on my journeys. Its kind of a joke, she laughed, 'Oh, Pio, You're so precious!' I tell him."

We went on to discuss how each person is on their own faith journey and though we want them to be beside us, the best thing we can do is to share our love of our faith in the everyday moments. "I've experienced that myself," I added, "Just by being willing to talk about my faith I have had opportunities spring up at a corporate office, even in a grocery store where amazing conversations have taken place. I think people are hungering to talk about God, they just need to be invited."

"I have always loved your miracle stories, Mom." I said. "I have collected many books on miracles through the years," she replied. "The power of God is unexplainable. You see it when he performs miracles in your daily life. I think God has a wonderful sense of humor. Last month my license was missing for weeks. I looked high and low. I finally gave it up to God. A short while later, opening a book in my tote bag, I found it! Believe it or not... the book was called 'The Case for Miracles.' God is Good!"

"How did the Divine Mercy Shop begin?" I asked. "At my church in South Carolina," she went on to explain, "the ladies in my rosary group complained that they had to drive for many miles just to buy a new rosary. I came up with the idea of a Catholic gift shop. The pastor gave me a corner with the understanding that all profits would go to charity. Through the years we supported the soup kitchen, created a catholic school scholarship and donated thousands of dollars to charity. I sold \$2500.00 of Nancy Noel angel prints in one day! It was extremely well received and I loved every minute."

My mother went on to become a Lay Carmelite. She had heard there were Lay religious orders and wanted to know more. A short time later a Lay Carmelite nun hosted a class for those interested in joining that community. She studied for two years and in 1999 was professed. As part of her commitment, she says the rosary and a shortened Liturgy of the Hours each day, goes to a Carmelite meeting once a month and must be an active Christian, serving her community. "It is a very enriching part of Catholicism that I wish more people knew about," she added.

"One of the greatest things I have learned," she went on, "is to be glad when you get a trial. It teaches you patience, perseverance and acceptance of God's will. I believe if you trust Him, He will help you through anything. When your sister became pregnant in high school, what seemed like a crisis, actually turned out to be a great blessing. Not only did we receive the gift of a beautiful grandson, but your father and I went on to be very actively involved in Pro-life organizations that make a difference in many lives. Look what we would have missed! Sometimes you don't see the blessings right away, but they always come."

When she is at St. Mary's now, she feels like she has found her home. She commented that the priests are amazing with their beautiful homilies and give her something to take home and think about. She admits she did not have this in Birmingham. "I am fed here by both the Eucharist and the words at Mass. I joined WINGS and it is very wonderful being around women who want to learn more about their faith and share experiences. I am really impressed by the genuine faith of so many there."

One of the big draws of coming up to this area for my mother, is all the opportunities to grow in her faith. When she visited Fatima Shrine and attended St. Mary's on previous visits north, she knew this was the place to be. "I'll be 80 next May and want to spend my last years close to things that are holy," she said.

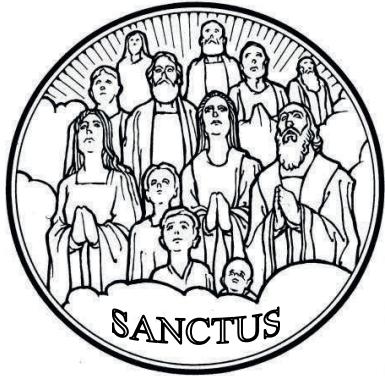
My mom has been active in so many ways serving others through her life. From being a 7th grade Religious Education teacher, visiting the elderly as the much loved 'Cookie Lady' and being a foster parent for several years. I realized as we continued to talk, what an impact witnessing her service has had on me. Because of my mother inviting me to visit the elderly with her, I have been visiting assisted living homes with my granddaughter for almost three years and we now have many 90+ year old friends. I am delighted to see how Hadleigh is already learning about compassion at such a young age.



Now I know where my love of crosses came from!

Looking around my mother's home, it is so clear that she is a woman of faith with an ever expanding collection of crosses, a real crown of thorns and hauntingly beautiful images of Christ. I am impressed how comfortable she is in openly sharing how much she loves God and how He is woven through every experience in her day. I could not be more delighted to be sharing the ordinary moments now with a mother that I have missed so much. And I know that by being close to her my faith will be enriched and her witness will impact members of my own family.

Till Next Month.... Walking in His name, Cathy.



ADULT FAITH RESOURCES NOVEMBER 2018

got faith?

SAINTS: November is a great month for saints. The Solemnity of All Saints is celebrated on November 1. And there are lots of other men and women saints whom we commemorate during the month, including Memorials for Martin of Tours (Nov. 11), Francis Xavier Cabrini (first American citizen to be canonized...Nov. 13), and Elizabeth of Hungary (Nov. 17); the Feast of St. Andrew, the Apostle is on November 30. Franciscan Media posted a wonderful blog entry entitled *We Are All Called to be Saints*, written by Lucy

Fuchs; see it at <https://blog.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit/we-are-all-called-to-be-saints>. The US Bishops have created a webpage on saints which, among other things, talks about the canonization process; find it at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/saints/index.cfm>. Finally, if you are interested in knowing about the differences between the liturgical celebrations of memorials, feast days and solemnities, see Fr. William Saunders' article at <http://catholicstraightanswers.com/what-is-the-difference-between-a-solemnity-a-feast-and-a-memorial/>.

ONLINE FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES: Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry's online continuing education program, Crossroads, is offering a three week Advent course entitled *Jesus, Foretold and Fulfilled*; you will find it at <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads.html>. The Church in the 21st Century Center at Boston College (<https://www.bc.edu/church21.html>) also has many online resources for young people and the rest of us; check it out!

SUNDAY READINGS: November bring us to the close of this liturgical year and culminates with the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 25. On November 4 we hear the shema ("you shall love the Lord, your God...") in the first reading and then repeated in the gospel, only this time with an addition from Jesus to love our neighbors, too. The next Sunday, we hear of the widow of Zarephath who uses her last bit of oil and flour to feed Elijah the prophet. On November 18 we begin to prepare for the end times, with a reading from the book of Daniel. Finally we hear of Pilate's confrontation with Jesus on November 25; what is truth, Pilate asks. See the Sunday Connection for ways to prepare for and celebrate the Sunday readings: <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>.

THANKSGIVING: We will celebrate this national holiday on Thursday, November 22. Fr. William Saunders explains the history of the holiday as well as talks about the religious nature of this day. See his article at <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/thanksgiving.html>. Looking for something a little different? Listen to Johnny Cash tell a moving story and sing a simple prayer about giving thanks at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuaC6h_4AB8&feature=youtu.be. On the Lifeteen blog, <https://lifeteen.com/blog/year-round-thanksgiving/> you can read Maddy Bernero's reflection entitled *Eight Ways to a Never-Ending Thanksgiving*. Enjoy the day!

OUR ENVIRONMENT: We continue our focus on the environment. Spring Hill College, a Jesuit college in Alabama, has an online theology library page that lists (and links us to) many, many resources on this important issue. For example, Pope Benedict's 2010 World Day of Peace proclamation, entitled *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation*, is listed. You can also find the 1998 statement (*A Common Declaration on the Environment*) by the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee on this site; the site's address is <http://theolibrary.shc.edu/environ.htm>. The US Environmental Protection Agency has a webpage on the need to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; you'll find this at <https://www.epa.gov/recycle>. Finally, the National Resources Defense Council also has a webpage devoted to the practices of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as well; it's at <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/reduce-reuse-recycle-most-all-reduce>; the message is "most of all, reduce!" The EPA and NRDC websites have concrete suggestions for everyday living. --Leo Racine