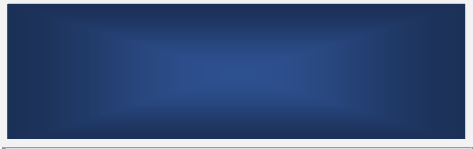


**ST. MARY'S PARISH  
8 CHURCH ST.  
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

**Non-profit  
Organization  
u.s. postage  
paid  
Holliston, MA  
01746  
Permit no. 2**

**NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER, 2019**

- All Saints Holy Day of Obligation,  
This coming Friday, November 1,  
Mass at 9:30 AM, 5:30 PM & 7 PM
- All Souls Mass, Tuesday, Nov. 5
- Parish Pasta Night, Sat. Nov. 9
- 2019 Grand Annual, Nov. 9 & 10
- St. Mary's Parish Turns 150 in 2020!  
Anniversary Celebration Event Dates
- Middle School Youth Group  
& EPIC High School Youth Group News
- Boy Scouts Troop 14 & K. of C. News
- Much more!



**STEERING HER ON HER COURSE**

In the dining room of St. Mary's Rectory there is a painting of a ship in a storm at sea. (Photo left / next page). It depicts a sailing ship surrounded by mountainous waves, fighting its way out of dark storm clouds and into a ray of light. Whenever I look at this painting, I am reminded of something St. Boniface once said. *"In her voyage through this world, the Church is like a great ship being tossed and battered by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship, but to steer her on her course."*

Certainly in recent times the Church has gone through terrible storms, shaken and damaged by the crimes committed by some, and the mishandling of those crimes by others. Despite massive efforts to assure safety and restore trust, at times new revelations of past sin have made it feel like we just cannot escape the storm. And yet, the Church belongs to Christ. It is His chosen vessel to bring souls safely to the distant shore of heaven. As members of the Church, our duty remains to steer her into the light. To commit ourselves with more fervor than ever to Christ's Gospel, the beautiful news of a nobler and holier life that we are called to live as Catholic Christians.

One thing to be alert to in tumultuous times, is the temptation to replace the Sunday Mass with volunteerism. Service - both in and out of the Church - is an essential part of Catholic living. But sometimes when things are rough in the Church, people abandon the Mass in favor of good works, thinking that volunteering in some way is itself a form of worship and will be enough. It is not. The Eucharist is our spiritual food for the journey and the Scriptures are our map for navigating life's treacherous seas. If we cut ourselves off from these, we begin to separate from Christ. Our volunteering proves inadequate to keep us spiritually healthy, and soon we abandon ship altogether. Even in priesthood it is a danger. If I start to focus on my work to the extent that it is not balanced in good daily prayer and un-distracted Sunday worship - that is when the journey starts to feel too much.

Let us with Jesus' help remain faithful in difficult times. Doing so is perhaps the great test of our faith. And let us reach out with love, welcome and a reconciling spirit to our fellow Catholics who have fallen, jumped, or even been pushed overboard. That too is part of how we steer God's Church into the light. God bless you. **— Fr. Mark**







# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

November, 2019 ~ Volume 45, 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](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com)  
Parish Email Address: [st.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marys1870@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://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

## A SCOUT IS HELPFUL ~

On Monday, October 21, members of St. Mary's Troop 14 helped transport items from the parish's annual "Baby Shower for the Unborn." Hundreds of beautiful new baby items were donated at Masses the weekend before by the good people of St. Mary's. These will directly assist women in crisis pregnancies through the "Pregnancy Help" Program of our Archdiocese.

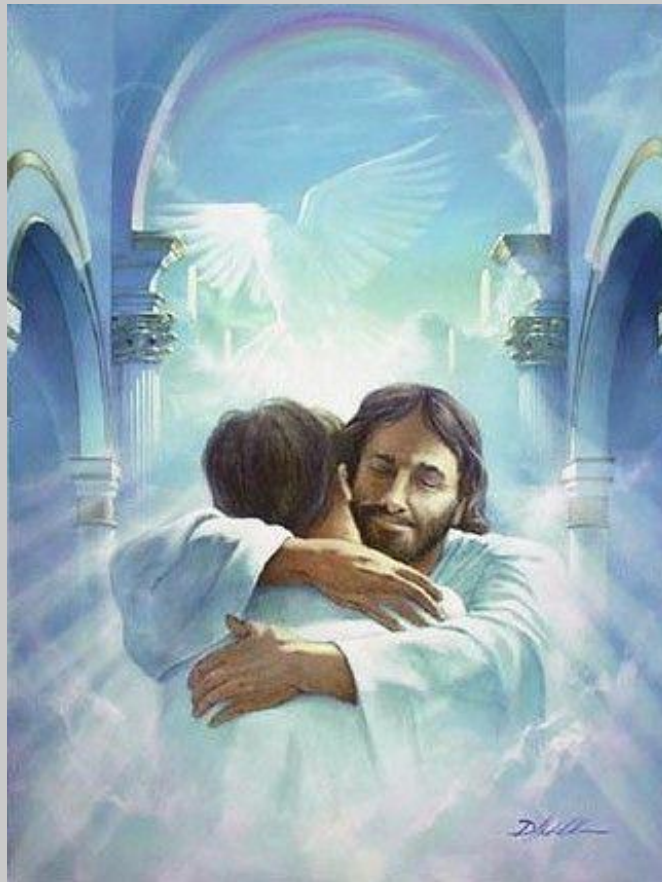
A Pregnancy Help Client Testimonial: *"When I got pregnant, I felt lonely, desperate, and confused. I found myself pregnant with no husband, no family, no money, no house and maybe no job. It was like being in a dark hole. I heard about Pregnancy Help, and they gave me the emotional and material support to get out of the confusion, to put aside all the obstacles that I thought I had and begin to take care of myself and my baby. I do not have words big enough to match the work they do."*

Learn more at: [www.pregnancyhelpboston.org](http://www.pregnancyhelpboston.org).

*"The Catholic community must offer support to those women who may find it difficult to accept a child, above all when they are isolated from their family and friends."* Pope Benedict XVI



Barbara Sullivan  
George McAdams  
Barbara Rossini  
George Levasseur  
George Gabriel III  
Frank Cashman  
Madeleine Dougherty  
Helen Shannahan  
Claire Medwid  
Mary Miller  
Norman Gallagher  
John Reilly  
Mary LeBlanc  
Anthony Stanton  
James Canty  
Charles Kring  
Joanne Moore  
Richard LaPointe  
Loraine DeJoie  
Louise Sullivan  
Thomas Burns



*“Blessed are they who have died in the Lord. Let them rest from their labors, for their good deeds go with them.”*

Rev. 14:13

Therese Rouse  
Mark Krauss  
Cynthia Sullivan  
Margaret George  
Edward McDonald  
Mary McKinnon  
Ada Diani  
Jane Sullivan  
Ernest Nichols, Jr.  
Mary Perry  
Thomas M. Burns  
Richard Hovsepian  
Mary Gerrior  
Treva Paltrineri  
Carol O'Rourke  
Mary Fuller  
Stephen Miller  
Andrea St. James  
Michael Alibrandi  
Elizabeth Cusack  
Kathleen Hannon

## 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 5 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.



# November



**Friday, November 1, Feast of All Saints:** 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 remember our own calling to become saints – holy witnesses of Christ’s love to the world. A Holy Day of Obligation, All Saints will be celebrated at three Friday Masses:

**9 AM, 5:30 PM & 7 PM.**

**Tuesday, November 5, 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. 5 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.



## **Saturday, November 9, 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 9 from 6 to 8 PM.** 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 immediate family

(parents and children). Tickets will be on sale after all Masses the weekends of October 26 and 27 and November 2 and 3, and at the R.E. Office starting October 28. *There are no tickets at the door on Nov. 9.* Mangia!

**November 28, Thanksgiving Day Mass:** Begin your family’s Thanksgiving this year by feasting on the Holy Eucharist at God’s table. Join your fellow parishioners at a special **Thursday, Nov. 28, 9 AM 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 home – connecting your table to the Table of God. As always, this Thanksgiving Day morning Mass will be followed by a pastry reception in Father Haley Hall.

# Celebrating 150 years!



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

In 1870, the Parish of St. Mary's, Holliston was officially established. At that time it was comprised of the towns of Holliston, Medway and Bellingham. Mass was celebrated in the Holliston Town Hall until enough of St. Mary's Church basement was constructed for worship to be held there. The first Mass in our own church building was celebrated in the rough, unfinished basement on Christmas Day, 1873. How far we have come from those humble beginnings! How many are the graces that have flowed through St. Mary's for the past 150 years! There will be many special events to mark this Anniversary, including a new History of St. Mary's Book, an original St. Mary's Hymn, Children's Activities, and a new partnership with a Parish in the Holy Land to support the Christians there. Additionally:

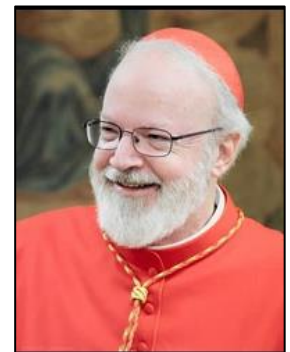
**From February 9-11, 2020**, Mr. Jon Leonetti will lead St. Mary's in a 3-night Parish Anniversary Mission entitled, "Surge of the Heart." Jon is a nationally known Catholic speaker, best-selling author and radio host who conveys a message of lasting fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through Jon's keynote presentations and parish missions, thousands of Catholics each year discover the freedom Christ offers by way of his life and love.



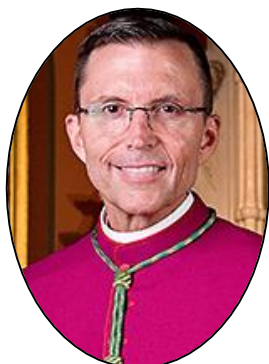
**From March 6-15**, St. Mary's parishioners may take part in an Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Full details are available at the website: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/frcoiro/>.

**On Sunday, April 26, 2020, at 11:30 AM**, our Archbishop, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, will celebrate Sunday Mass at St. Mary's in Holliston for the first time, joining us to mark our 150<sup>th</sup> year

as a Parish Family. We are honored to welcome His Eminence. Save the date for this highlight of our Anniversary Celebrations!

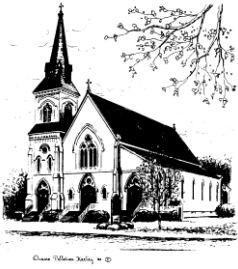


**On Friday, May 22**, come enjoy our Anniversary Concert, "Sing of Mary," a night of the greatest music written in honor of Our Lady. St. Mary's Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs will perform, accompanied by Orchestra.



**On Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11**, St. Mary's parishioners may take part in a Retreat at Miramar in Duxbury, MA, <https://miramarretreat.org/wp/>.

**Saturday, November 14**, is the date of St. Mary's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in the Regency Ballroom, DoubleTree Inn, Milford. There will be dinner, dancing, a silent auction and a Keynote Address by His Excellency, Robert P. Reed, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston and President of Boston Catholic Television. Join us! Did you know? Tuesday, November 29, 1870 was the day that St. Mary's Parish was officially established.



# Saint Mary's Parish

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

November, 2019

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

In just a few months, St. Mary's Parish will celebrate her 150<sup>th</sup> 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 59 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 2019 St. Mary's Grand Annual Collection is **Veteran's Day Weekend - November 9 & 10**. The goal is \$150,000 – the same as 2018 which was achieved.

The bulk of this year's Grand Annual, \$102,628.73, is needed to cover the major church repairs conducted over this past summer. The cracked and buckling tile floor was replaced, as was the splitting and damaged carpeting. The constantly breaking hardware on the kneelers was replaced, as were the torn and worn kneeler pads. Since the pews had to be taken up for the flooring repairs, we took the opportunity to reconfigure them for greater handicapped accessibility. This has been a true blessing for our elderly and wheelchair-bound parishioners.

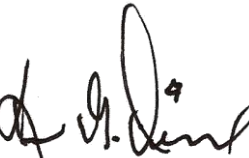
Normally, about \$85,000 of the \$150,000 Grand Annual is designated toward Staff Salaries and regular parish bills. However, because of the scope and expense of the summer church repairs, that will not be possible this year. It is therefore critical that, going forward, the parish offertory need of \$15,000 a week be consistently achieved. For this reason, please consider switching to Automatic Giving through your bank, or the new "WeShare" Online Giving option. WeShare information is provided here: <https://stmarysholliston.weshareonline.org>.

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 2019 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 2019 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 Piper

**Grand Annual Breakdown & Photographs:** Provided on the next two pages of this Newsletter.

## 2019 Grand Annual Breakdown:

- \$88,951.78 Replacement of tile flooring and carpeting for church, including materials and installation. Also, installation costs for the new kneeler pads and hardware.
- \$9,832.59 Replacement hardware, bumpers and pads for the church kneelers, 600 seats.
- \$3,844.36 Church sound system upgrades and repairs. St. Mary's old wireless system becomes illegal in 2020 as the FAA has purchased those channels.
- \$47,371.27 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.

### HOW TO MAKE YOUR 2019 GRAND ANNUAL GIFT

Please carefully review the Grand Annual information provided to you by the St. Mary's Finance Council in the 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 9 & 10. Extra Grand Annual envelopes are provided at the doors, but for tax purposes the one coded for your family should be used. (See your mailing).

There is only one collection taken up the weekend of November 9 & 10, so please place your orange Grand Annual envelope in the same basket as your weekly parish support.

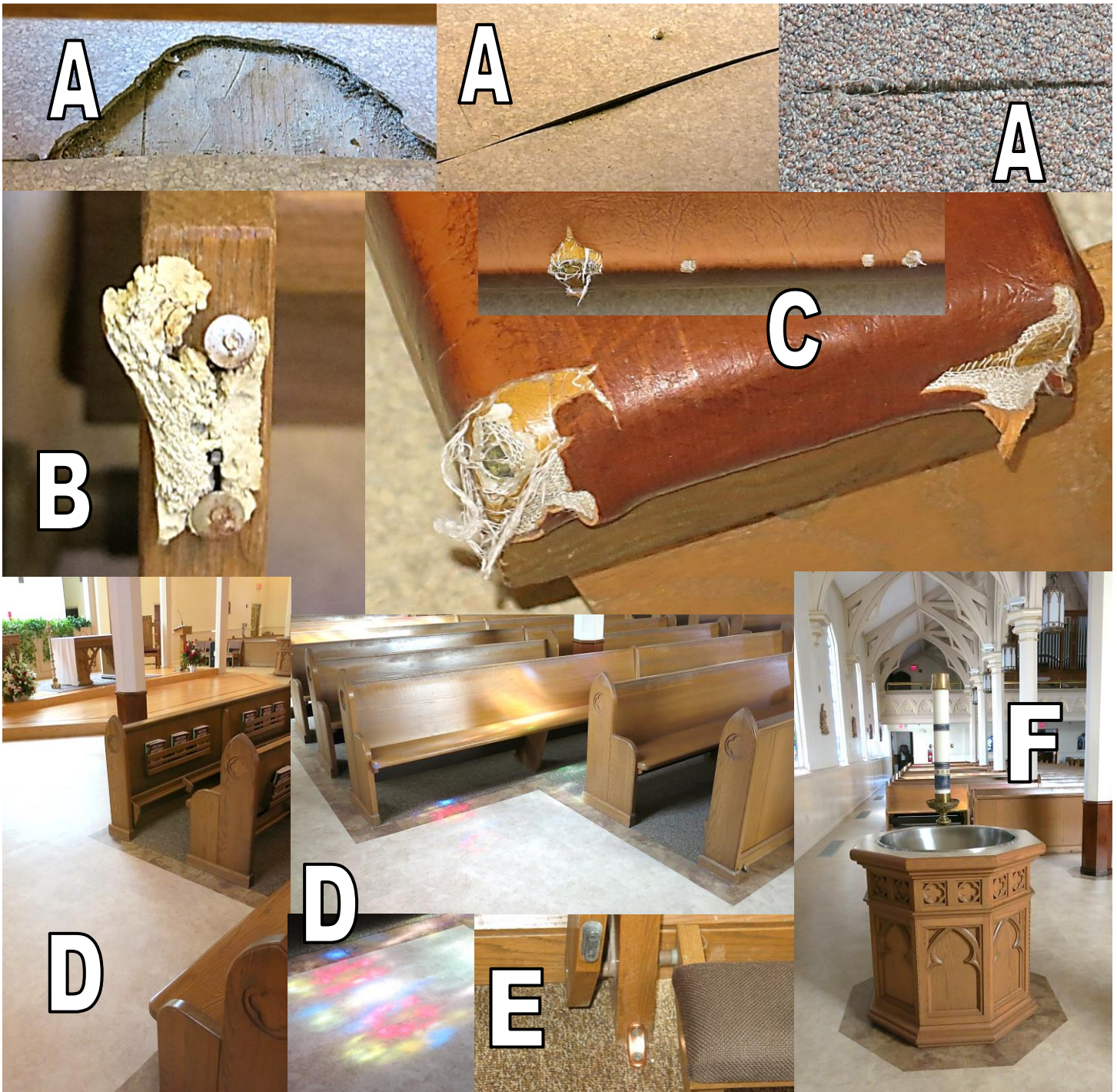
Your 2019 Grand Annual gift may also be made at any time thereafter by mailing it in to 8 Church St., dropping it off at the Parish Office, or placing it in any future Mass collection basket.

If put in a Mass offertory basket, however, the special 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 2019 Grand Annual Items

**A – Old Church Tile Floor & Carpet:** The 25-year-old tile was cracked and broken; carpet worn and splitting.

**B – Old Church Pew Bumpers:** These were almost totally degraded, with screws sticking through.

**C – Old Church Pew Pads:** These were 53 years old, worn and torn. All have been replaced.

**D – Improved Handicapped Accommodation:** St. Mary’s Church now has special areas cut out of the pews to accommodate wheelchairs. Four are located in the front of the nave, with two more in the back of the nave.

**E – New Hardware, Bumpers and Kneeler Pads:** This photo also shows the new carpet. For better maintenance and acoustics, the carpeted and tiled areas of the church were reversed.

**F – Church Photo Showing Baptismal Font and New Tile Flooring.**

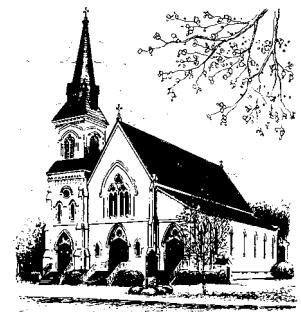
# St. Mary Parish

## Actual vs. Budget FY2019 and FY2020 Budget

	<u>FY2019</u> <u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY2019</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>FY2020</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
<b>OPERATING RECEIPTS</b>			
Offertory	677,338	680,000	765,000
Sacramental Offerings/Gifts/Donations	100,565	50,000	70,000
Religious Education Fees	79,975	75,000	76,000
Catholic Appeal Rebate to Parish	18,931	15,000	18,000
Other Income	3,307	10,000	4,000
Youth & Adult Programs	119,093	150,000	119,000
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>	<b>999,209</b>	<b>980,000</b>	<b>1,052,000</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Lay Salaries/Benefits	450,877	436,000	456,000
Clergy Salaries/Benefits	83,349	90,000	84,200
Total Salaries & Benefits	<u>534,226</u>	<u>526,000</u>	<u>540,200</u>
Office Expenses	78,179	75,000	80,000
Household Expenses	19,494	22,000	22,000
Utilities - Heat/Electric/Water	53,422	61,600	57,000
Property Insurance & Liability	17,940	17,000	20,700
Maintenance -			
Supplies/Equipment/Grounds/Building	92,129	80,000	90,000
Pastoral/Music/Liturgical	59,965	46,000	60,000
Church Meetings & Transportation	33,181	17,500	35,000
Youth/Adult Programs	163,689	150,000	160,000
Improvements -			
Furniture/Equipment/Buildings	53,969	40,000	72,945
Other Expenses	2,752	3,300	3,000
IFRM (Parish Tithe to Archdiocese)	83,538	83,532	83,933
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,192,484</b>	<b>1,121,932</b>	<b>1,224,778</b>
<b>Operating Gain or (Loss)</b>	<b>(193,275)</b>	<b>(141,932)</b>	<b>(172,778)</b>
<b>Unbudgeted - Grand Annual Collection Received</b>	<u>173,614</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>150,000</u>

The above Parish Financial & Budget Report was approved by the St. Mary's Parish Finance Council: Kevin Diamond (Vice-Chair), Kevin O'Connell, Ron Pipe, Diane McDermott Roy, Kim Latifi.

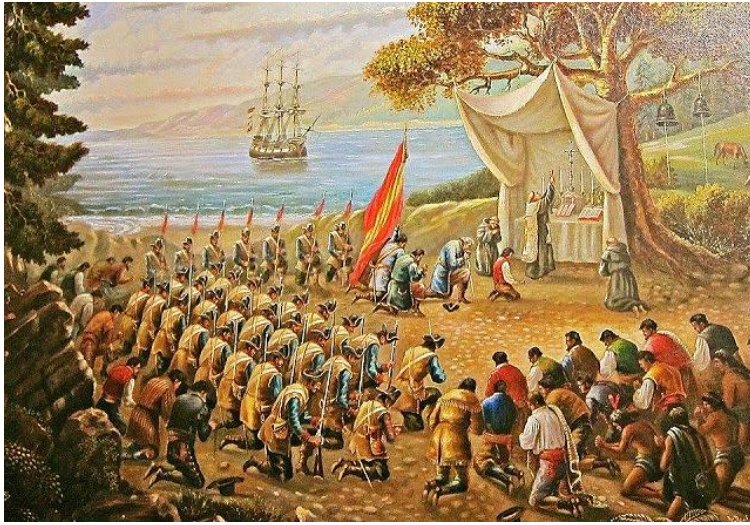
Any parishioners with questions/requests for clarification/etc. may contact St. Mary's Business Manager, Mary Sanning at 508-429-4427 x19. You may also email her at [st.marysbusinessmgr@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysbusinessmgr@gmail.com). Thank you for your faithful stewardship.



Diane McDermott Roy, ©



# The First Thanksgiving in America was a Catholic Mass. And it happened 50 years before Plymouth!



Did you know that the first “thanksgiving” meal in the United States was not celebrated by the Pilgrims in Plymouth, but by Spanish settlers, in what became Florida? And that first “Thanksgiving” was Eucharistic!

Historian Dr. Michael Gannon narrates the events that took place on September 8, 1565.

“When the first Spanish settlers landed in what is now St. Augustine on September 8, 1565, to build a settlement, their first act was to hold a religious service to thank God for the safe arrival of the Spanish fleet. . . After the Mass, Father Francisco Lopez, the Chaplain of the Spanish ships and the first pastor of St. Augustine, stipulated that the

natives from the Timucua tribe be fed along with the Spanish settlers, including Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles, the leader of the expedition. It was the very first Thanksgiving and the first Thanksgiving meal in the United States.”

The Spaniards, with food that they brought with them on the ship, prepared the communal meal. According to records, the meal would have consisted of salted pork, garbanzo beans, ship’s bread and red wine.

This account of the first “thanksgiving” reflects what was found in Father Francisco’s memoirs. In it we read, “the feast day [was] observed . . . after Mass, ‘the Adelantado [Menendez] had the Indians fed and dined himself.’”

The feast celebrated by the Spaniards was that of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s birthday, a day in the Church calendar that follows nine months after the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on December 8 (which just happens to be the patronal feast of the United States of America).

The meal “may have also included Caribbean foods that were probably collected when Menéndez stopped to regroup and resupply at San Juan Puerto Rico before continuing to Florida. . . If the Timucua contributed, it would likely have been with corn, fresh fish, berries, or beans.”

Additionally, before the Mass was celebrated, “Father Francisco López, the fleet chaplain. . . came ashore ahead of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, the leader of the founding expedition, and then went forward to meet Menéndez holding a cross. . . Menéndez came on land, knelt and kissed the cross.”

This historical event reminds us that the Eucharist (from the Greek that literally means “thanksgiving”) is the primary way to offer thanks on Thanksgiving Day, followed by a meal shared in a spirit of fraternity. Let God be a central part of your holiday! As Americans this is our heritage, one that we hope to pass on to the next generation.

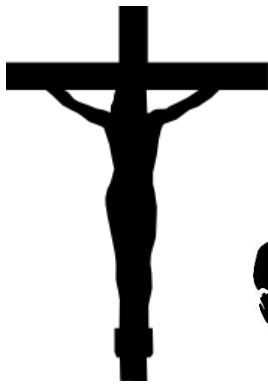
By Philip Kosloski

First Appeared in Aleteia on Nov 22, 2016.

Reprinted here with permission of the author.

## A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

**O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all;  
When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer,  
And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency;  
bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen.**



### Am I more likely ...

... to let my child miss a sports practice or a Religious Education Class?

... to let my child miss Sunday Mass or a sports game?

... to travel a long distance or get up extra early for Mass, or for a sport?

... to talk to my child about their prayer life or about the sport they play?



## SUNDAY WORSHIP ~ WHOM DO I SERVE?

*“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”*

- Exodus 20

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment is to keep Holy the Lord’s Day. Sunday is intended by God to be a day of rest, family, and worship. More and more, however, even the best intentioned parents are finding this difficult. The reason is the growing intrusion of sports games and practices into Sundays. There is a very present danger of something good (sports), becoming an idol, receiving more fidelity, time and commitment on Sundays than does God Himself. Faithful families become sporadic in their participation in Holy Mass, as the demands of sports teams steal away their time and energy. It is time and past time to start reconsidering our Sunday surrender to sports. Whom shall we serve?

---

## HDAAC TO OFFER NIGHT OF HOPE & HEALING THROUGH ART AND PRAYER

The Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness Coalition (HDAAC) is hosting a Hope & Healing night at the Holliston Public Library on December 4 from 6 to 8 PM, in the Lower Level meeting room. The night will feature an interactive art exhibit sponsored by The Opioid Project, and will begin with a short interfaith prayer service with ministers from area faith groups including Deacon John from St. Mary’s. The opioid epidemic in Massachusetts has claimed an estimated 2,033 deaths in 2018 and an estimated 497 between January and March of this year. Studies have shown that youth use of substances like alcohol, marijuana and prescription pain medication is associated with an increased risk of addiction to heroin and other opioids.

The Hope & Healing event hopes to facilitate dialogue and promote awareness about the disease of addiction, and to increase public understanding about all those affected by it. This event is also intended to increase public understanding about stigma and support advocacy efforts around addiction and access to mental health services.

The opioid project features artwork that captures the personal narrative of an artist’s experience in the midst of the disease and will have an audio component that can be listened to with headphones provided at the event. The project communicates the complex social narrative of addiction and co-occurring mental health challenges, with the goal of promoting positive social change and ultimately preventing substance abuse and opioid-related deaths. This display is open to all members of the public and is especially moving for all those that are touched by or treat those with addiction, including active users, those in recovery, first responders, and those grieving the death of a loved one to overdose.

Please contact Melissa Stacy, HDAAC Chair for more information at [hdaacoalition@gmail.com](mailto:hdaacoalition@gmail.com).



# Sports and Church ~ A Mom's Perspective



Last Sunday morning I found myself sitting on a soccer field with one of my children for a tournament game. It was a beautiful morning. The sun was shining. I was enjoying some fabulous coffee.

I was also experiencing great frustration and conflict as I reflected on how I got into this situation. My husband and I know the value of church family. We know that consistency is very important for our children to build relationships with their church family and to grow as disciples of Christ. We have made many decisions over the years to say “no” to other things in order to say “yes” to church. And, yet, here I was on a soccer field on a Sunday morning! A couple weeks earlier the coach gathered the parents around and presented this opportunity for the soccer tournament that would land on a Saturday and Sunday. The way it was put to us, I felt like I had no choice but to participate. The team wouldn’t be able to play in the tournament unless everyone chose to play. If we said no, we would be letting down 12 other kids.

So, here I was sitting on the sidelines of a soccer game contemplating the predicament of so many families. Many families I’ve talked to about this feel like they have no choice for a variety of reasons. Maybe it’s a sport that our kids love, maybe there are opportunities that would be missed if we pulled our kids, maybe we feel an obligation to a team, maybe there’s real potential in our little athletes that may never be recognized. There are many reasons that we come to the decisions that keep our families away from church. I completely understand how we get there – but I also know the long term effect that missing church will take on our families. And that’s the predicament that has been tormenting me.

Now, I’m not saying that one missed Sunday is going to derail your children’s spiritual growth. But I have noticed that our society is set up to undermine this discipline of regular fellowship with our church family. So unless we are very vigilant to protect our church commitment, we can quickly find that one Sunday missed has become many Sundays missed, and before long church has ceased to be a habit and is reduced to something we do when we don’t have anything else to do on Sunday mornings.

When we say “yes” to one thing, we are saying “no” to something else. I have seen it too easily happen that without meaning to reject church, families are saying “yes” to extracurricular activities – but this “yes” is also a “no” to consistency at church activities and developing relationships with our church family. I have spoken to so many parents who spend years on the field, at the pool, on the ski slopes, in the gym, or in the studio and when they get to the other side of these years have deep regrets. Their children don’t want to go to church, they don’t have relationships with peers or leaders who know and love Jesus, and they have not developed the discipline of making church a priority. These parents who now have grown children have expressed that they would do it differently if they could go back and do it again. I have had several parents with grown children express that it was not worth it. They did not carefully guard their priorities and allowed other commitments to push out what was most important. They can look back and see that the time spent on other activities directly affected their children’s relationship with church and this directly affected their relationship with God.

Church attendance is not the goal...however, church is the way that God has provided for people to grow in their knowledge and love of who God is and build relationships with other disciples and from this time of focusing on Jesus and connecting with others who love Jesus we can go out into the world and spread the good news of Jesus Christ and his love with others.

I’m back to my predicament...I know that church is important...I also feel like I don’t have a choice sometimes. Can we learn from the parents that have gone before us? Can we step back a bit and think about the adults that we are raising? What if our children get to their early 20’s and have no relationship with God or other disciples of Jesus? Will we look back and say, “Well, at least they made it to the championships!”? Or will we look back with regrets and disappointment that our priorities were not reflected on our calendar?

... Could there be a better way? What if we ALL joined together and said, “NO! No more sports on Sundays!”? When we were kids, there was never anything scheduled on Sundays. We never had to choose between sports and church. Sundays were saved for church and family and gathering with friends. Can we reclaim our Sundays if we all worked together?

I propose that we give it a try! I also will say that even if our society won’t cooperate, for me and my family I will do what I can to maintain consistency for my children to be at church and build relationships with other kids and youth who know and love Jesus! I will not tell you what is best for your family...I will encourage you to take some time out to prayerfully consider this, talk it over with your spouse, and make sure your priorities determine your calendar and not the other way around.

- By Youth Minister & Mom, Echo Kayser, *reprinted with permission*



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 November, 2019

**Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella**  
**Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE:** "Thank you!"  
St. Mary's parishioners helped our Council raise approximately \$2,000 for the K of C State Charity Fund. This Charity helps Special Needs families in the State of Massachusetts. (Photos Below)

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST:** The Council will conduct an essay contest for Catholic teens in Grades 8-12 this fall. The theme for 2019-2020 is "Discuss the meaning of Virtue and how you live and embody the Virtue of Charity". Contest entry forms are available at the Religious Education Office. Parental approval is required on the entry form. The typed 500 - 750 word essays will be due by November 8. Student winners will have the opportunity to compete state-wide and nationally. District Deputy Michael Kerrigan and Knight Mitchell Liro are contest leaders.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POSTER CONTEST:** The Council will also conduct a poster contest on "Keep Christ in Christmas" for elementary school boys and girls in November. Instructions for entering your poster are available in the Religious Education Office. Posters are due for judging by December 2. Student winners will have the opportunity to compete state-wide and nationally.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2019:** All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR [ajscaramella@comcast.net](mailto:ajscaramella@comcast.net) OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website, [kofc.org](http://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 20. The Council recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church at 7:00 PM.



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.



**Thank you to all who helped "God's Special Children" through the annual Knight's of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive. May God bless you for your kindness!**





# St. Mary's EPIC

High School Youth Ministry



**Pictures from EPIC Kickoff Meeting on October 20.**



**Pictures from Mini Golf Trip Last Year**



Contact Youth Minister Jake Thiringer at [stmarysym1870@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysym1870@gmail.com) for more information



## EPIC November Events

**Sunday, November 3 – Prayer and Planning Meeting 5 to 6 PM in Classrooms 3/4 (plan future EPIC meetings).**

**Wednesday, November 6 – EPIC Service Project, Sleeping Mats for the Homeless at 7 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.**

**Sunday, November 10 – EPIC General Meeting 7:15 to 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall, \$5 Dues.**

**Sunday, November 17 – EPIC Mini Golf and Ice Cream Trip at Trombetta's Farm from 5:30 to 9 PM, cost \$17.**

**Sunday, November 24 - EPIC General Meeting from 7:15 to 8:45 PM in Fr. Haley Hall, \$5 Dues.**





## Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America

St. Mary's Parish \* November, 2019

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
Lower Church Hall

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster  
508.579.4357

Email: [Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com](mailto:Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.Troop14Holliston.com](http://www.Troop14Holliston.com)

**CAMPOUT IN WHITE MOUNTAINS W/ MOUNT CHOCORUA DAY HIKE:** On October 12/13, twenty-one Scouts and leaders headed to central New Hampshire to camp for the weekend and hike Mount Chocorua. The Troop split into two crews, and summited the 3500' mountain despite hiking in the clouds and some rain for a good part of the 7 hour round trip hike. While some of the Scouts were veteran hikers, for nine of them, this was their first experience summiting a major mountain with the Troop. (Photos)



**FALL POPCORN FUND RAISER & DAY AT THE RECYCLING CENTER:** Troop 14 Scouts participated in our annual Popcorn fundraising this fall. In addition to the Scout's individual popcorn sales, on October 19 the Troop was at the Holliston Recycling Center (and again on November 16) to help unload vehicles and sell a variety of popcorn products to raise money for Troop activities and equipment. Altogether, the Troop is expected to sell just under \$9,000 in popcorn, with \$3,000 going to the Troop. Delivery is scheduled between Nov. 16 and 25 to all those who ordered popcorn. Thanks to the community at large for supporting our Troop!

**COURT OF HONOR:** Was held on October 21 to recognize Scouts who earned over 50 merit badges and 44 partials this summer, as well as six Scouts who advanced in rank. In addition, activities and campouts for the upcoming year were highlighted and a slide show of this past summer's high adventure trip (Baxter State Park, Katahdin, the Knife Edge and the 100 Mile Wilderness) was presented to the Scouting families.

**EAGLE SCOUT:** Congratulations goes out to Troop 14's Ian Shaw who completed all the requirements and passed his Eagle Board of Review on October 24, achieving Scouting's highest rank. Ian's Eagle Project was building an 80' boardwalk over a stream on one of the trails on the Fairbanks Conservation Land.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Campout with a Turkey Roast Dinner for Scout families November 2 through 4 (Webelos visit & Campout).
- Scouting for Food Service Project, Flyer Drop-off November 2 and Food Bag Pick-up November 9.







# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746 508-429-4427 [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)



**PHOTO ABOVE ~ MSYG KICK OFF:** Sunday, October 4 saw 177 teens enjoying the Middle School Youth Group Kick Off Event. The spiritual topic was prayer, and our scripture was the Annunciation. Just as Mary said “yes” to the Archangel Gabriel and let Jesus enter her womb, every day that we pray we are inviting Jesus to enter our lives. A day we pray is a day we walk with Jesus. A day without prayer is a day we walk alone. The night concluded with fun icebreaker games and a giant ice cream sundae bar. We're off!

**PHOTO BELOW ~ HAUNTED HAYRIDE:** This year's first MSYG trip was for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders only. On Friday, October 18, fifty-three brave teens travelled two hours to South Hadley, MA to face the biggest Haunted Hayride in New England. Happily all managed to survive the half-hour trip trundling through woods and fields populated by chainsaw wielding clowns, mutants and various hideous creatures of the night. A very long haunted house and ice cream at McCrae's Country Creamery rounded out the evening. Four more 8<sup>th</sup> Grade only MSYG trips are scheduled for this year. The next one is Tuesday, February 18 (Vacation Week) to BODA BORG!

