

# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

October, 2021 ~ Volume 47, Number 2



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

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## TIMMY CAKES RETURN!

The weekend of September 11 and 12 saw the return of a beloved St. Mary's Tradition – the Annual Timmy Cake Sale! Representatives of the Timothy O'Connell Foundation, including Joanne and Kevin O'Connell, sold Tim's favorite chocolate cake after all Masses. All 230 cakes were sold for a \$60 donation each, and some made donations without taking a cake. The net to charity, after costs of goods, was approximately \$12,000 to the Foundation's charitable mission, including its Scholarship Fund. Well done! Learn about the Foundation and its gifting programs at [www.timsteam.org](http://www.timsteam.org).



# NEW ALTAR SERVER CLASS

Any parish youth currently in grades 4-12 may study to become an Altar Server. Just bring the youth accompanied by a parent with your family calendar to this planning meeting – **Sunday, October 17 from 7-7:30 PM in the Church.** Also, please email Patty Baribeau to indicate your interest: [st.marys.altarserver@gmail.com](mailto:st.marys.altarserver@gmail.com).



## BABY SHOWER FOR THE UNBORN

**October 16 & 17 at all Masses.** Please bring new baby items and clothes to Mass and place them in or around the baby stroller in the sanctuary. These gifts will directly assist mothers in crisis pregnancies through the Pregnancy Help program of our Archdiocese. Thank you for supporting families and babies in their time of need! 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).



## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

**Sunday, October 24 at 1:15 PM.**

Parishioners are invited to bring their pets to the Church Parking Lot (Lower Church if inclement), as we celebrate the Church's Rite of the Blessing of Animals. Each pet will receive an individual blessing as we ask God's protection for

our animal friends and remember that all living things are precious to Him. This blessing takes place in October as St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day is this month, and he had a special love of the furred, finned and feathered creatures of the earth.

## BECOME A CATHOLIC!

Are you un-Baptized? Are you Baptized but never made first Holy Communion? Are you an adult who was never Confirmed? Were you Baptized in another faith but are now considering becoming a Catholic? St. Mary's offers an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Called R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) these sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Christ's Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter. You are invited to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a supportive and accepting setting. Our wonderful R.C.I.A. team is waiting to give you a warm welcome. Call 508-429-4427 to learn more.





## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Like many of those who contracted the Covid virus, I had no sense of smell for a good part of this past year. For almost seven months I could not detect the fragrance of a candle, or flowers, or the food I ate. Happily, it slowly came back. But the loss of my sense of smell got me thinking.

For instance, I've considered that if I had to lose one of my five senses, at least smell was the one I would pick. I certainly wouldn't want to lose sight, touch, taste, or hearing! Then it occurred to me that there is actually a sense more valuable than any of these, the loss of which would be most tragic of all. I speak of the spiritual - the ability to sense the presence of God and detect His movement in my life. This sense tends to be stronger or weaker at different times in our lives, and many know what it is to lose it all together. Even Jesus once felt totally separated and cut off from God, crying out from the Cross, "*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*"

Even as He uttered those words though, Jesus was actually showing us how to regain our sense of the spiritual when it has disappeared. He prayed. He spoke to the God He could no longer perceive. He shared with God exactly what was going on in His heart. And so He persevered, finding grace even to forgive His murderers as He moved through death to the resurrection - a state of being where His sense of the spiritual would never be limited again.

Many of those who have lost their sense of smell from Covid are now trying various remedies or seeking the help of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists. In a real way, we all have received a referral from Jesus to the Father for help when our faith is failing. We have even been given the words to say to Him, "*Our Father Who art in heaven ...*" Prayer is the way to start recovering our spiritual sense. Prayer is the simple, beautiful way that we invite God into our lives to walk with us, to guide us, to strengthen us, and to reveal His will for us - a will that is always for our lasting good and benefit. Again, as Jesus prescribed, "*Thy will be done.*"

If you have lost to some degree your sense of the spiritual, I hope that very soon you will act to recover it. Pray every day. Offer carefully and reflectively the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught. Then tell God what you are feeling, even when you cannot feel Him. Ask His grace and protection upon those you love. Ask His help to forgive those you do not love, so that anger cannot

find a home in you. Seek by prayer the restoration of your most precious sense, the awareness of God in your life and of the greatness of His love for you. Do this and every other sense will slowly come alive, as your life takes on a new meaning and richness in Him.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

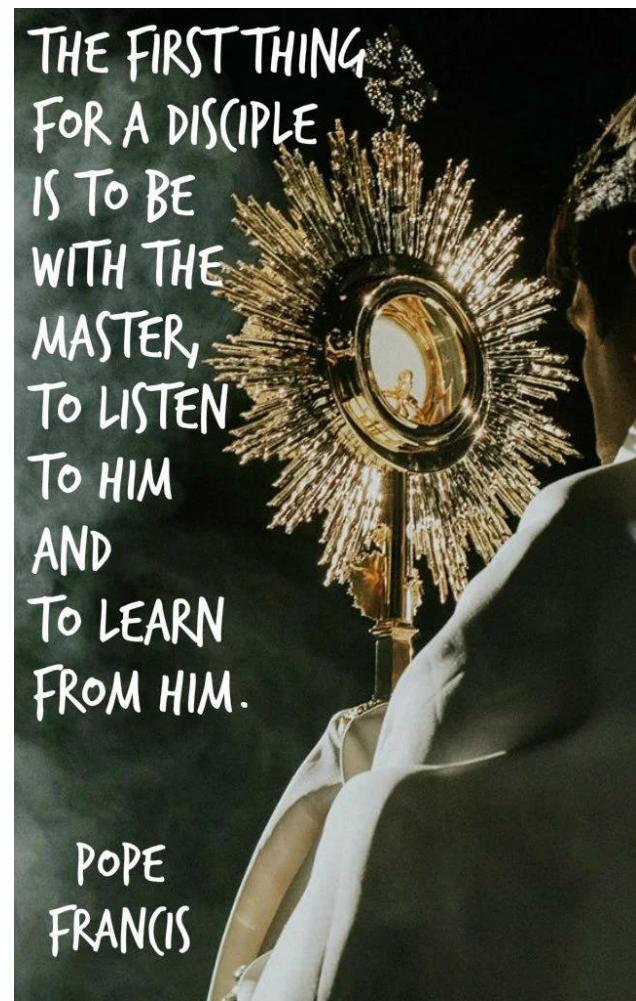


## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
**FROM 7 – 8 PM**  
**IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH.**

**STARTING ON OCTOBER 7, 2021, THE FEAST  
OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, AND  
CONTINUING THROUGH MAY.**

**COME MAKE A HOLY HOUR WITH  
OUR EUCHARISTIC LORD.**



St. Mary's Parish  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# GALA



Saturday, November 13  
Regency Ballroom  
Doubletree Hotel  
11 Beaver Street  
Milford, MA

Join your fellow St. Mary's Parishioners and Keynote Speaker Bishop Robert Reed for a wonderful evening of celebration and entertainment with a cash bar cocktail hour, silent auction, plated dinner, and dancing to an extraordinary band! Cost per person is \$35.

Music by 'The Party Factor,' an energetic 7-piece band including male and female lead vocalists, keyboard, sax/percussionist, drums, bass, and guitar offering a wide repertoire of music.



Reserve your seats by calling Mary Beth at 508-429-4427, or by using this link:

<https://is.gd/kos42g>

Be sure to indicate your choice of entrée. Pay by WeShare, or by check to "St. Mary's Parish," with "GALA" in the memo line, and mail to St. Mary's, 8 Church St., Holliston, MA, 01746.

**6 PM** - Cocktail Hour with Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle, Cheese and Cracker Display, Vegetable Crudité Display and Dip, Cash Bar

**7 PM** - Plated Dinner with Harvest Salad  
Warm Rolls & Butter,  
Roasted Rosemary Potatoes,  
Sautéed Whole Green Beans,  
Regular & Decaf Coffee and Tea,  
Strawberry Cheesecake

- Choice of one of the following entrées  
Orange Maple Breast of Chicken,  
Baked Haddock,  
Eggplant Parmigiana w/ Marinara Sauce

St. Mary's Parish  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# GALA



## SILENT AUCTION FINAL DONATIONS NEEDED

Baskets of any shape & size for use in packaging and presenting the Silent Auction items.

Items needed to complete baskets:

1. Uber Gift Cards of any amount
2. Restaurant/Cafe Gift Cards of any amount
3. Movie Gift Cards of any amount
4. Boston Sports team tickets
5. Golf items - balls, golf towel, tee times
6. Bowling Alley Gift Cards
7. Crystal Champagne Flutes

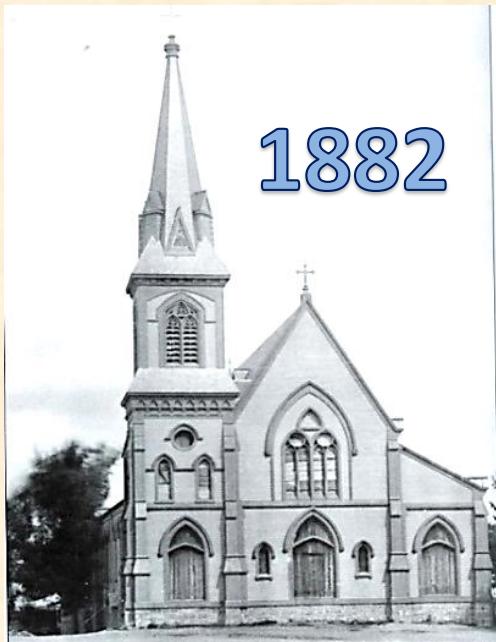


Auction proceeds will support St. Mary's Parish outreach, primarily the High School Summer Mission Trips Program.

Please contact Jennifer Schiller at [jaschiller3@gmail.com](mailto:jaschiller3@gmail.com), or Kathy McKenna at [kmurphmckenna@comcast.net](mailto:kmurphmckenna@comcast.net), to arrange donations or with any questions. Thank you!

# WHY SHOULD WE VOLUNTEER AT ST. MARY'S?

By Betty Febo



I have spent the past two+ years researching and writing a history of St. Mary's Parish for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I have been both amazed and humbled by the spirit of togetherness, determination, hard work, and shared sense of purpose shown by St. Mary's parishioners over the past 150 years. Holliston newspaper articles from the early 1900's detail the parish picnics, bazaars, fairs and field days arranged by our ancestors in faith both to raise funds for the care and maintenance of our beautiful church, and to build our vibrant St. Mary's faith community. The articles detail the names of parishioners who comprised the various committees and organized the multi-day events.

One article described a July "Monster Field Day" in the early 1900's organized by the assistant pastor and an executive committee of twenty parishioners with nine additional parishioners supervising the entertainment, sporting events, refreshments, and parish organization tables. This particular multi-day event included track and field

competitions, baseball games, a mock trial, and evening parades with floats. The article states "*No effort has been spared to make this field day and reunion memorable in the annals of the town...*"

A multi-day Field Day and Garden Party in 1913 was under the supervision of a ten person executive committee with eighteen others participating in a one-act play. There was also a five-person sporting events committee. Nineteen people acted in another play held the next evening, while musical solos and parish tables featured additional parishioners. This was all done with a parish population of "130 families and 554 souls" as recorded by Rev. John Lyons (St. Mary's 2<sup>nd</sup> pastor) in his 1917 ledger.

These early St. Mary's parishioners were also busy working to feed their families. In some cases, the women and children in the family also worked in the small boot and straw shops that were the mainstay of the Holliston economy during that time. Yet their faith was an important part of their lives. Prior to the formation of St. Mary's, people walked miles to Mass in Milford or Hopkinton; they petitioned to form their own parish in 1870. Some current parishioners can trace their ancestry to these hard-working and devoted early parishioners.

Through the years, parishioners largely built and staffed the Religious Education Program, designed accompanying service opportunities to put faith into action, organized adult faith sharing groups that helped foster both personal and community spiritual growth, and created opportunities for social togetherness. The creation of the Parish Newsletter in 1976 brought all these groups together by publicizing events that had previously only been known by word of mouth. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee in 1945 consisted of five committees with 154 contributing members. By contrast, our current 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee has seven members.

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We have inherited such a beautiful spiritual home in St. Mary's. But it is now up to us, the current St. Mary's community, to continue and improve upon the programs that make this the vibrant, faith-filled parish it is today. Our religious education program, our renowned music program, our bustling parish youth groups and the many other faith activities that make us proud to call St. Mary's home will not thrive unless we help them continue.

I don't mean to sound preachy, or to put anyone on a guilt trip (well maybe just a little!). The phrase "Many hands make light work" comes to mind. There are numerous ways to volunteer at St. Mary's, with varying time commitments involved. Helping collate the Parish Newsletter takes about two hours per month in the morning. Teaching religious education is a greater time commitment but hugely rewarding to both teacher and student. If you are not called to teach then perhaps you could volunteer as a safety monitor.

Groups such as WINGS and the Knights of Columbus provide opportunities for personal growth, reflection and service. Once we are back to the offertory collection during Mass, we will need usher volunteers. If a small group of mostly Irish immigrants can create and build a flourishing parish with their limited resources, then surely our current parish of over 2,000 families can help make it even more dynamic for future generations.

I know there are many demands on parishioners' time, especially those with children. But it is precisely those young families with children who are needed. Children need to see their parents placing equal value on contributing to their Church. They need to learn that growing in faith is at least as important as sports and other activities and if they don't learn it in their families, then where will they learn it? It won't be taught in the public schools and they certainly won't learn it from TV or social media. I challenge every parishioner to consider how you can contribute to the lively parish that is so beloved by parishioners and respected in the Boston Archdiocese.

## THE FALL 2021 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES STILL IN NEED OF TEACHERS AND MONITORS ~ PLEASE HELP!



**Grade 2:** One co-teacher on alternate Wednesdays from 4:15 - 5:30 PM.

**Grade 3:** One teacher on alternate Mondays from 4 - 5:30 PM.

**Grade 5:** One teacher on alternate Mondays from 4 - 5:30 PM.

**Grade 7:** Three teachers on alternate Sundays from 5 - 6:30 PM.

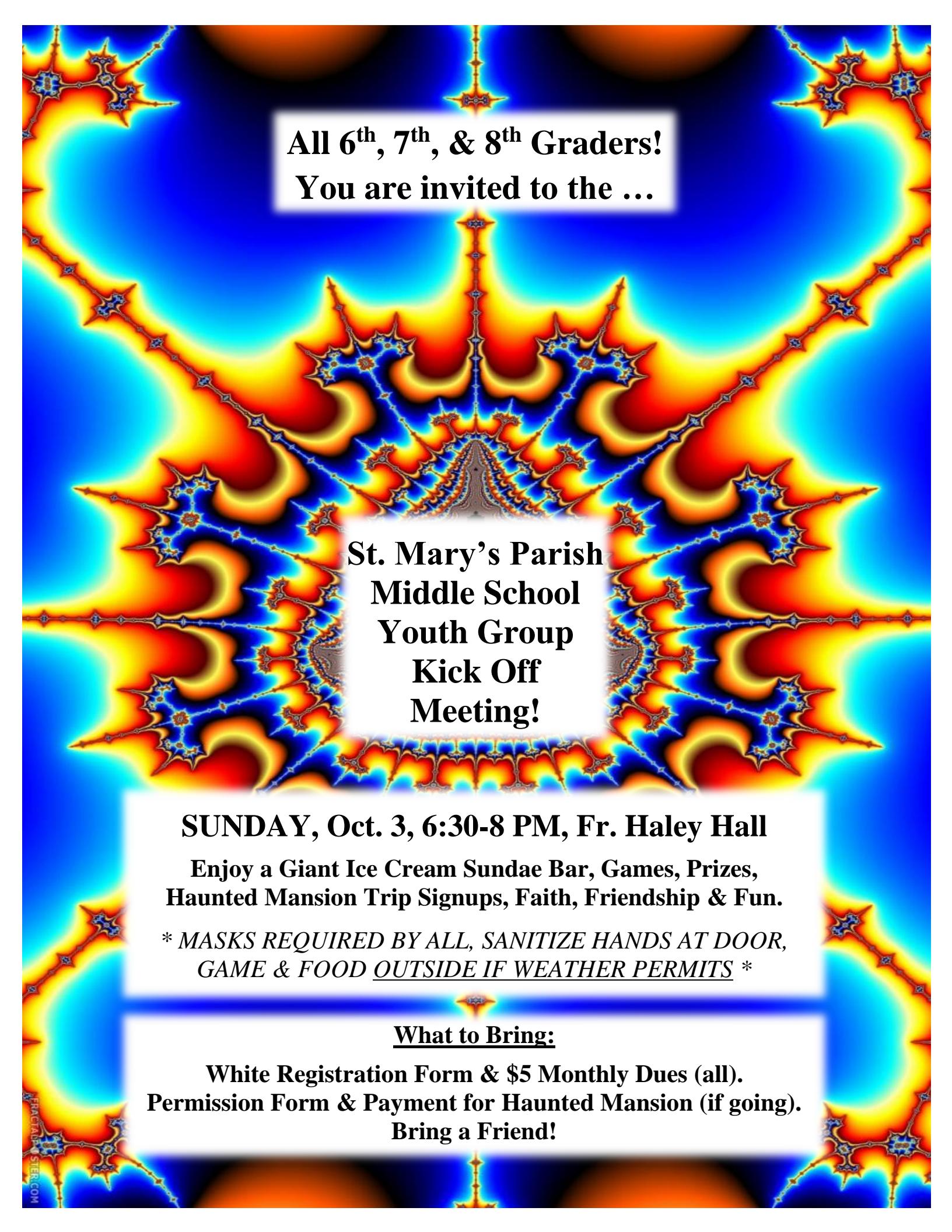
**Grade 8:** Three teachers on alternate Wednesdays from 6 - 7:30 PM.

**Grade 9:** Three teachers on alternate Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

**Grade 10:** Five teachers on alternate Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

We are in need of good people of faith to come forward and share their faith with the children and youth as volunteer teachers and monitors for our in-person classes.

Please contact us at 508-429-6076 or [st.marysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com) to volunteer. God bless you!



All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders!  
You are invited to the ...

St. Mary's Parish  
Middle School  
Youth Group  
Kick Off  
Meeting!

SUNDAY, Oct. 3, 6:30-8 PM, Fr. Haley Hall

Enjoy a Giant Ice Cream Sundae Bar, Games, Prizes,  
Haunted Mansion Trip Signups, Faith, Friendship & Fun.

\* *MASKS REQUIRED BY ALL, SANITIZE HANDS AT DOOR,  
GAME & FOOD OUTSIDE IF WEATHER PERMITS* \*

What to Bring:

White Registration Form & \$5 Monthly Dues (all).  
Permission Form & Payment for Haunted Mansion (if going).  
Bring a Friend!



**Looking to Grow in Faith?** Join Us on ZOOM. Email [stmaryswingsssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingsssecretary@gmail.com) to get the link. ALL are WELCOME! Call Jen Schiller 617-852-9632 or Di Collins 508-259-7795 w/questions.

## Fall Season 2021 *Uncovering Hidden Treasure,* Understanding Catholic Social Teaching



**October 6: *From the Head to the Heart: How Big is your God?*** Speaker: Sister Dorothea Masuret, CSJ. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) officially began in the Catholic Church in 1891 with Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. Sr. Dorothea will lead WINGS members in a morning of prayer to prepare our hearts for a rich season on Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Dorothea Masuret, CSJ, received a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry with a concentration in Spirituality from Boston College. For many years she served in the Office for Pastoral Ministries in the Archdiocese of Boston, providing opportunities for ongoing spiritual formation and pastoral outreach. During this time, she also served as a facilitator for Parish Pastoral Councils, Religious Communities and Parish Staffs assisting them in developing goals and actions that embraced Christ's Mission. Presently she is engaged in St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries offering Directed Retreats, Spiritual Direction and Days of Prayer.



**October 13: *Vatican II and Catholic Social Teaching: Understanding Gaudium et Spes Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.*** Speaker: Fr. Chris O'Connor. Our speaker will provide a historical background of CST, including the 7 key principles. He will shed light on the importance of Vatican II in light of CST. As Catholics, we have been called to be a missionary people as outlined in documents from Vatican II. **Fr. Chris O'Connor** has been a priest for 24 years. He is currently pastor of St. Michael Archangel Parish in Winthrop, chaplain to Logan Airport and Saturday chaplain to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. Fr. Chris holds degrees from both Catholic University in Philosophy and a theology degree from Boston College. He is a professor of theology and teaches at the MAM Program at St John Seminary and for the Permanent Diaconate Program in the Archdiocese of Boston. He is an adjunct professor for the permanent diaconate program in the diocese of Providence.

**October 20: *Created in His image (Gen 1:26–27): Life and Dignity of the Human Person.*** Speaker: TBD. The foundation of all CST principles is that human life is sacred, and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Our speaker will address various issues where the dignity of the human person is called into question; scientific issues, war/torture/genocide, abortion/euthanasia/death penalty, human trafficking, immigration, healthcare for the poor. Our speaker will help us to see where we are called to love and act in defense of those in harm's way.



**October 27: *Justice and Peace: Opening the Door to *Fratelli Tutti*.*** Speaker: Leo Racine. "Fraternity and social friendship are the ways Pope Francis indicates to build a better, more just and peaceful world, with the contribution of all: people and institutions. Francis offers a new vision of society in which human dignity and the human rights of all are respected. Our speaker will unpack the treasures within the Pontiff's third encyclical as they relate to CST. Leo and his wife, Yvonne, are parishioners of St. Mary's; they are proud new grandparents and love it! Leo completed graduate studies at Boston College in Theology and Ministry in 2020 and just began work as a pastoral associate at St. Mary's parish in Franklin.



**November 3: *Care of God's Creation: The Urgency of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*.*** Speaker: Fran Ludwig. Responsible stewardship of God's creation is the call of every Catholic. Our speaker will share Pope Francis' exciting new program that helps Catholics in parishes around the world to become more sustainable in the spirit of Laudato Si. Fran Ludwig founded the Faith and Environment Group at Sacred Heart and St. Brigid Parishes in Lexington and is on the Executive Board of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light and chairs the Boston Chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement.

**November 10: *Go Forth in Love.*** Speaker: Sister Dorothea Masuret CSJ. During the fall season, we have learned that social justice is an integral part of our Catholic faith tradition. As we look ahead, Sr. Dorothea will guide us in a prayerful meditation to help discern how to make a difference in our families and the world around us based on CST.



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 October 2021

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

## MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be on **Wednesday, October 20 in the Church at 7:00 PM.** The Rosary is open to all parishioners and Current COVID-19 policies are in effect. As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer."

**COUNCIL OFFICER INSTALLATIONS:** The Council will hold the installation of its officers for fiscal 2022 at the Council meeting to be held on October 20. Grand Knight Albert Scaramella and Deputy Grand Knight Thomas Brodo will lead the Council in fiscal 2022.

**COUNCIL SERVICE AT HOLLISTON SENIOR CENTER FAIR:** Knights helped the Senior Center conduct its annual Senior Center Charity Fair held on September 11 by helping unload, sort, set up and load cars.

**COUNCIL #14224 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE:** The first prize is \$1,000. The drawing will take place on October 9 on HCAT. All proceeds benefit the Holliston Pantry Shelf, Holliston Senior Center, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans Charities and other charitable donations.



### ANNUAL TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE:

The Council will conduct the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive the weekend of October 9/10 after St. Mary's Masses and at various downtown locations. All proceeds are given to the K of C State Council for donation to special need charities in Massachusetts.



**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2021:** 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 OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org/joinus. 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.



**SUNG VESPERS ~ Wednesday, October 6, 7 - 7:30 PM.** Solemn Sung Vespers, which is also known as Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours. This ancient prayer of the Church gives thanks to God before the end of the day through the singing of psalms, intercessions, and prayers. It will be sung by the St. Mary's Youth Choir and is free and open to all. Come experience peace and tranquility at day's end in the beauty of sung prayer!



## Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America  
St. Mary's Parish \* October, 2021

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster  
508.579.4357

Email: [Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com](mailto:Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.hollistonTroop14.com](http://www.hollistonTroop14.com)

If interested in joining Troop 14, contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for Boys 11-17 years old.

The Troop is back in full swing with weekly Monday Night Meetings from 7 - 8:30 PM in St. Mary's Lower Church Hall. Join us!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Hiking in the Whites Campout, October 9-10.
- Court of Honor on Monday, October 25.
- Turkey Roast Campout at the Sportsman Association November 5-7.
- Scouting for Food on Saturday, November 6 and 13.

**ST. MARY'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 14:** On September 13, after eighteen months of meeting remotely and outdoors, the Troop held its first indoor meeting of the Scouting year in St. Mary's Lower Church Hall. Over the past month, the Troop focused on reorganizing into four patrols; setting goals for training, advancement and Scout Spirit; and generally getting back to normal. Youth leadership elections were also held. Danny Baribeau was elected the Senior Patrol Leader and Rhodes Van De Wege Batt, Coby Magoon, Tanush Basavaraj and Jack Baribeau were all elected Patrol Leaders. For many of the Scouts and some of the leaders, this was the first in-person meeting as a Troop that they have experienced. (Two Photos Below).



**CAMPOUT (SEPTEMBER 17-19):** Twenty-four Scouts and leaders camped for the weekend at Nobscot Scout Reservation in Framingham. The Scouts completed a 2-hour service project installing erosion control methods and reestablishing a hiking trail, as well as competing on a mile long orienteering course through the woods at Nobscot. After a perfect fall day, while sitting around the campfire, the Scouts were surprised by an unexpected thunderstorm. They reacted quickly, found shelter in a couple nearby lean-tos and entertained themselves while waiting out the storm. (Four Photos Below).





**TROOP 14 EAGLE PROJECT COMPLETED IN AUGUST:** Over the summer, Eddie Bombardieri planned, scheduled, and executed his Eagle Project. Over several weeks, Eddie recruited Troop 14 Scouts and leaders to work on his project, which consisted of developing two picnic areas on the Holliston Rail Trail (one south of Arch Street and one near Lil' Folk Farm). The Project included building picnic tables for each location. Eddie has just a few more Eagle requirements to complete before submitting his Eagle Application and participating in an Eagle Board of Review. (Three Photos Below).





## LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

### **Say NO to Physician Assisted Suicide**

The Massachusetts State Legislature is considering passing into law two deeply troubling bills this session which would legalize Physician Assisted Suicide. The bills, House 2381 and Senate 1384, are identical in text and titled “*An Act relative to end of life options*”.

*“The Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts stand united in our strong opposition to Physician Assisted Suicide. It is an affront to life and a dangerous precedent for determining end of life issues. Physicians are trained to care for the ill, not to hasten death.”<sup>1</sup>*

Here are some facts to consider before you take action:

- 1) The bills would allow a physician to provide a deadly drug mixture to an individual diagnosed with less than 6 months to live that, when consumed, would cause death.  
**NOTE-** That diagnosis could be wrong. Countless individuals have outlived that 6 month diagnosis and enjoyed many more precious months and years with family and friends.
- 2) No Real Safeguards - A vulnerable individual (who could be depressed or fears being a “burden”) may be subject to undue influence by others to take the drug mixture, especially if there is a financial benefit as an incentive.
- 3) The primary focus of elected officials should be dedicated to legislation providing quality health care, mental health care and palliative care to the sick and dying – particularly in the underserved, poor and minority communities that suffer the most at the time of need.

### **How can your voice be heard?**

Call or email your legislators, let them know you are a Massachusetts voter, and say NO Physician Assisted Suicide! Log on to [www.macatholic.org](http://www.macatholic.org) and follow the links to find contact information for:

- Your individual State Senator and Representative via address and zip code link.
- Members of the legislative Joint Committee on Public Health who will be considering these bills.

**For individuals without internet access, please call the Massachusetts Catholic Conference at 617-746-5630 for legislative contact information.**



<sup>1</sup> Boston Pilot - Statement of the four Roman Catholic Bishops of Boston, Fall River, Springfield, and Worcester (December 8, 2017)

# ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

## OCTOBER 2021

# got faith?



**“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES:** This month’s recommendation is *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone*, by James Martin, SJ. This book is written for both the person new to prayer as well as the seasoned pray-er. Fr. Martin includes chapters about many types of prayer in this book, formal prayers, the examen, and *lectio divina*, to name a few. He often talks about prayer as a means of building and maintaining a friendship with God and also addresses the nuts and bolts of what happens during prayer. This book is an invaluable resource for all persons who wish to start or deepen their relationship with God. It is available through the Minuteman Library network as well as through online booksellers.

**SUNDAY READINGS:** The Sundays in October are all Sundays in Ordinary Time. The US Bishops, on their web page regarding Ordinary Time (<https://bit.ly/USCCBOrdinaryTime>) write: “Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation...” Taking a look at the Responsorial Psalms for this month, we can see both nourishment for and manifestation of this growth and maturation. Consider the refrains: “May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives” (October 3); “Fill us with your love, O God, and we will sing for joy” (October 10); “Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you” (October 17); “The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy” (October 24); and “I love, you, Lord my strength” (October 31). These refrains echo the sentiments of faith-filled people who are learning to trust their God and recognize all the good things their God has done for them. The Bible Project has a great video about the Psalms at <https://bit.ly/BookofPsalms>. As always, you can prepare for the Sunday readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

**“JUST” WONDERING:** The Season of Creation, the annual Christian celebration of our common home, will be ending on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. On that day, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development will be releasing its *Laudato Si’* Action Plans, one part of its overall environmental Platform which also includes practical guidance to carry out the action plans and resources to foster a community focused on ecological conversion and the development of a new, integral ecology. Go to <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/> for more information on the Vatican proposal. You can also watch an inspiring address by Pope Francis, find resources to help you discern your participation in this *Laudato Si’* journey and make a pledge to be part of the process. Need some inspiration? Here are the links to a couple of YouTube videos of songs about God’s creation, our common home. *Canticle of the Sun* (Marty Haugen): <https://bit.ly/HaugenCanticle> and *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (John Rutter): <https://bit.ly/AllThingsRutter>. Enjoy!

**SAINTS:** The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7. See the Saint of the Day feature on Franciscan Media (<https://bit.ly/FMOurladyoftherosary>) for more information on this feast day of Our Lady. There’s also a link on this page to a beautiful reflection on the connection that the rosary provided between a woman, the author of the reflection, and her mother. How to pray the rosary, along with all the prayers of the rosary, can be found on the website of the Rosary Center and Confraternity: <https://bit.ly/RosaryInstructions>.

**AMORIS LAETITIA YEAR:** Pope Francis has declared the fifteen months (March 2021 to June 2022) the *Amoris Laetitia* Year. *Amoris Laetitia* is the 2016 post-synodal exhortation written by Pope Francis; it is translated in English as *The Joy of Love* and it addresses love in the family. You will find an encouraging video and guide on the vocation of the family at <https://bit.ly/FamilyVocation>. This video and guide correspond to Chapter Three of *Amoris Laetitia*.

--Leo Racine