

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

*October Newsletter 2023*

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## **LOUIS CONNONI ACHIEVES EAGLE SCOUT RANK!**

St. Mary's Parishioner and Senior Altar Server, Louis Connoni, celebrated his Eagle Court of Honor in Fr. Haley Hall on September 16. Louis' Eagle project involved designing and constructing two 4'x4' changing stalls at Stoddard Park. This provided an additional place for guests to change both during summer camp, and daily use of the park. Louis identified this as a need after swimming with a friend at Pleasure Point where there were no facilities to change. He worked with Holliston Parks and Recreation, and they identified Stoddard Park as the location with highest daily use. He raised money for the project through a bake sale, a car wash, and from generous contributions from family and friends. The project totaled 178 hours of labor, with twenty-six Troop 76 Scouts and adult volunteers pitching in. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank. Congratulations Louis! And may God bring to completion the good work He has begun in you. Amen.





# St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

October, 2023 ~ Volume 49, Number 7



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

Rectory: 429-4427

Religious Education Center: 429-6076

Music Program: 429-6076

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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!"

## St. Mary's Religious Education Is In Full Swing!

September saw the children of St. Mary's Parish gathering again to learn the rich history and teachings of their Catholic faith. A few classes posed for pictures on Sunday, September 17 (photos below and on the next page). Thank you to every parent and teacher volunteer who is part of the beautiful work of bringing children to know and love the Lord. In the words of Saint Rose,

*"Faith is the great treasure we bequeath to our children. It is a sword that pierces falsehood, a shield that guards the soul, a light that shines in a dark and confusing world to show the way safely home to heaven. There is no greater gift a parent gives to their child, than faith."*







# St. Mary's Religious Education

*"The Lord Jesus invites men and women, in a special way, to follow Him, as teacher and formers of disciples" (GDC 231). Please consider our Teacher and Monitor needs below:*

**SOME CLASSES HAVE BEGUN AND WE HAVE A NUMBER OF REGISTERED CHILDREN WITHOUT TEACHERS, ESPECIALLY OUR GRADE 2 CHILDREN WHO ARE PREPARING FOR THEIR FIRST CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION**

**Classes meet on alternate weeks except Pre-K**

GRADES	DAY AND TIME	TEACHERS	MONITORS
<b>SUNDAY</b>			
Pre-K	9:15 to 10:30 AM	2 Teens	Need one
GR-2A	10:45 AM to Noon	2 Teachers	Need one
GR-3A	7:55 AM & 10:45 AM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-4A	10:45AM-12:15 PM	2 Teachers	Need one
GR-5A	10:45AM-12:15 PM	2 Teachers	Need one
GR-6A	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1 Teacher	Need one
GR-7A	5:00 to 6:30 PM	1 Teacher	Filled
<b>MONDAY</b>			
GR-8B	6:00 to 7:30 PM	2 Teachers	Need one
<b>TUESDAY</b>			
GR-3C	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-4C	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-5C	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-6B	4:00 to 5:30 PM	1 Teacher	Filled

**Monitors are required for classes to begin in the fall.**

GRADES	DAY AND TIME	TEACHERS	MONITORS
GR-9C	7:00 to 8:30 PM	Filled	Need one
GR-10C	7:00 to 8:30 PM	Filled	Need one
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
GR-2D	4:15 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-3D	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-7D	6:00 to 7:30 PM	2 Teachers	Filled
GR-8D	6:00 to 7:30 PM	2 Teachers	Need one
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
GR-4E	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Need one
GR-5E	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers	Need one
GR-9E	6:30 to 8:30 PM	Filled	Need one
GR-10E	6:30 to 8:30 PM	Filled	Need one

**Please Teach!** The children of St. Mary's are counting on YOU.



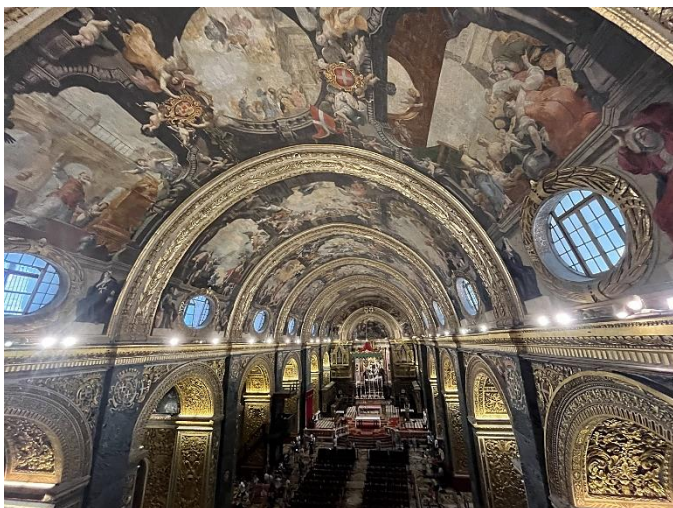


## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

This summer I was able to enjoy a trip to the island nation of Malta. The Crusader and World War II history there was fascinating, the cities were beautiful, and the people were very friendly and welcoming. We even had the chance to visit a 5,000-year-old underground temple complex.

Tiny Malta is home to over 300 churches, and of these the Basilica of St. John the Baptist in Valletta was the most impressive we saw. Fortress-like on the outside, the interior is an explosion of baroque decoration and art. (I took the photo below from the choir loft). There is even a massive painting by Caravaggio of the Beheading of John the Baptist.



As spectacular as it was, the Basilica was noisy, hot, and crowded with tourists packed almost shoulder to shoulder. With one exception. About halfway through, there was a Blessed Sacrament Chapel set aside strictly for prayer – no talking and no photos allowed. When I went in and the door closed behind me, I was struck by the sudden, welcome quiet. As I knelt down to pray, there was an oscillating fan blowing cool air right over me. It was like an oasis in the desert, or the eye in the middle of a hurricane.

I found myself thinking that what I was feeling was exactly why the Sunday Mass is such a precious gift. It is that quiet, still place in the center of a week of whirling activity and busy distraction. It is refreshment for the parched soul, and respite for the weary traveler. It is peace.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

## WELCOME ABBEY!



This fall St. Mary's welcomed our new Director of Music, Abigail Kelley – Lanser.

Abbey grew up in the next door town of Hopkinton, MA.

She traveled halfway across the country to Northfield, MN to earn a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance with an Emphasis in Church Music from St. Olaf College. There she gained leadership experience both in the choral setting and at the organ bench.

Now back home in Hopkinton as a St. Olaf "Ole" alum, Abbey is excited to share her love of musical worship with St. Mary's. Outside of music and composition, her passions include poetry writing, language learning, and philosophical-theological discourse. Most of all, Abbey hopes to give joy and bold encouragement through her musical ministry. Reach Abbey at: [musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com](mailto:musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com).

The Music Ministry at St. Mary's Parish involves the work of people of many ages and the music of varied traditions. All our music, though, shares the same purpose – to give glory to God, and to help our people experience Him through the power and beauty of sacred song.

St. Mary's is blessed to have a wonderfully active music program. Our Adult Choir sings for the 11:30 AM Mass every Sunday and enriches the liturgy by singing a variety of anthems, from Gregorian chant to spirituals, in three or four parts, aided by the help of professional section leaders. This Choir rehearses on Thursday Evenings and is open to those thirteen years of age and older.

After a long pandemic break, St. Mary's Children and Youth Choirs are being renewed this Fall. Once ready, they will resume singing at the 9:30 AM Mass every two weeks, providing a wonderful experience for children and youth wanting to learn how to sing and grow in their faith. These choirs rehearse on Wednesday afternoons.

**Whether you are an experienced musician, or totally new to music, there is a place for you in St. Mary's Music Ministry!**

**If you might be interested in our Adult or Children's Choirs, contact Abbey Kelley – Lanser at [musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com](mailto:musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com).**

**You may also just come by and check out an Adult Choir Practice, 7 PM Thursday Evenings in the Lower Church Hall. Welcome!**





*Welcome to  
St. Mary's!*

**St. Mary's rejoices to welcome these twenty new families to our parish family. Together may we grow in love of God and neighbor!**

The Lucchetti Family - Marco, Kristen, Madeline and Logan

The Wood Family - Gordon, Lisa, Francisco and William

The Ristuccia Family - Anthony and Stephanie

The Dennison Family - Gregory and Mary

The Hickey Family - Paul and Kathleen

The Jones Family - Reid, Amanda and Elizabeth

The DiPasquale Family - David, Farah, Emma and Andrew

The McMahon Family - Martin and Tamera

The Guay Family - Constance

The Rahmeier Family - Jacob, Lauren and Everett

The Afienko Family - Robert and Erin

The McKernan Family - Ryan, Alexandra, Paul and Jayden

The McPhail Family - Kevin, Andrea and Ryan

The Hauver Family - Corey, Kathleen, Declan and Felicity

The Feeney Family - Jaime, Magdalena, Francisca, Margarita and Santiago

The DeSalvo Family - John, Gorette, Kennedy and Audrey

The Cooley Family - Joe, Kristine and Nora

The Kannon Family - Jordan, AnnMarie, Sawyer and Peyton

The Bishop Family - Bennett, Cynthia, Soren, Anya and Brianna

The Thompson Family - Derek, Ashlee, Madison and Tyler







## BABYSHOWER FOR THE UNBORN

**October 14 & 15 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).



## 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 22 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).



## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

**Sunday, October 22 at 1:30 PM.** Parishioners are invited to bring their pets to the Lower Church 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.

*"If you wish to know the true character of a person, observe the way they treat the animals." - St. Francis*



## 2023 WINGS Fall Program "Prayer ~ A Conversation with God."

**October 11, 2023 - What is Prayer? Speaker TBD.** Abbot John Chapman said, 'Pray as you can, not as you cannot.' Prayer is simply a two-way relationship with the God who loves us. God wants to hear from us each day. Prayer can be done through the traditional prayers of the Church: Prayer of Blessing and Adoration, Prayer of Petition, Prayer of Intercession, Praying with Our Mother and the Saints, Prayer of Thanksgiving, and the Mass. Prayer can also be done in various other ways – including journaling, walking in nature, through poetry, and more. Our speakers will remind us that prayer is about relationship. It is a conversation with God; not just talking at God but listening for his voice in our lives and hearts.

**October 18, 2023 - Teach me to Pray. Speaker TBD.** "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." (Luke 11:1) The disciples of Jesus, including women like Mary Magdalene who had ministered to him from her means (Luke 8:2-3), asked Him to teach them how to pray. Have you ever wondered about the significance of that request? Perhaps it was because they saw that prayer was where His strength came from. Our speaker will help us to unpack the significance of this scripture verse. He/she will provide historical background on the evolution of prayer in the Catholic Church.



**October 25, 2023 - Bringing Our Whole Selves to Prayer with St. Ignatius of Loyola. Speaker: Crista Mahoney, Ignatian Spiritual Director.** In the sixteenth century, Saint Ignatius of Loyola journeyed to Manresa, Spain to commit himself more fully to God. After a profound mystical encounter, Ignatius wrote about the experience which would become The Spiritual Exercises. In time, The Exercises became a roadmap for others to encounter God in a deeply personal and intimate way by bringing their whole selves into prayer. Ignatius also encouraged all people to do the Daily Examen, a spiritual practice of prayerful reflection on the events of the day to pay attention to God's presence in our lives

and discern his direction for us. The speaker will help us understand how Ignatian prayer invites us to pay attention holistically in prayer: to use our bodies, our imaginations, our minds, and our feelings to draw closer to Christ in our daily lives.

**November 1, 2023 - Praying in New Ways: Finding the prayer that works for you. Speaker: Sister Maureen Casey SND, Spiritual Director and Retreat Director, Duxbury MA.** Using ancient techniques like Lectio Divina ("divine reading" in Latin) and Visio Divina ("sacred seeing" in Latin) we will learn a meditative way of reading the Bible and hearing God's voice in our lives. Online tools such as Hallow, Ascension and other apps can also open new channels for prayerful conversation with God. The goal of praying in new ways is to let go of our own agenda and open ourselves up to what He is saying to us.



**November 8, 2023 - In the Darkest Times, Pray. Speaker: Olivia Hastie, Harvard Divinity School student.** "And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. (Matthew 8:23-26) When life is difficult, it's easy to turn away from God. Jesus' calmness amid the storm reassures us that in our desperate moments God is close. Our speaker will provide helpful context on

the power of prayer during difficult life moments using examples from Church teaching and scripture. Very often, our faith grows deeper when we unite our suffering with the Lord's.





**November 15, 2023 - Praying in Silence. Speaker:**  
**Dr. Matthew Vale, Professor of Theology BC STM and St. Mary's Parishioner.** *"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."* (Matthew 6:6) Do we allow God to speak to us in the silence of our lives? Sometimes the pace and noise of our busy days prevents us from hearing the Divine voice. Our speaker will provide us with a teaching on opportunities to pray and listen in silence including



Centering Prayer, making a Holy Hour, repetition of the Jesus Prayer and more. These forms of prayer lead us closer to Christ and deepen our relationship with Him.

**To join in WINGS, email [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com) or come to our first meeting on October 11 at 9:45 AM in Fr. Haley Hall or Zoom!**

# Knights of Columbus



**St. Mary's Council #14224 October, 2023**

*"In Service to One, In Service to All."*

**SILVER ROSE PRAYER SERVICE ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7:** Our Council conducted the Silver Rose Prayer Service. The McSweeney Assembly Honor Guard processed the Silver Rose into the church and placed it on the altar. Deacon Ron Dowding, Deputy Grand Knight Tom Brodo, and Sir Knight Mike Kerrigan presided. The Silver Rose honors our Lady of Guadalupe and the sanctity of human life.

**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE DRAWING ON OCTOBER 15:** The Raffle Drawing will be in Father Haley Hall after the Road Rally. Council Knights still have raffle tickets to sell for your lucky chance to win the \$1,000 first prize while benefiting needy local charities. One ticket costs \$5 and a book of five tickets costs \$20. Ticket sales end on September 30. Send a check to: Tom Anguish at 542 Winter Street 01746. The Council's annual raffle has now donated over \$280,000 to disabled veteran's charities, local food pantries, the Holliston Senior Center, Autism research, and other very worthy non-profit organizations. Thanks for your past support and we pray you will participate this year.

**OCTOBER 15 SECOND ANNUAL ROAD RALLY:** Join us for our Second Annual Road Rally on October 15. It will be held before the Charity Raffle Drawing in Father Haley Hall. This year's theme is Veterans Memorial Rally. Teams (two or more people per car) will follow directions to find some of the twenty memorial sites honoring deceased veterans of WWI, WWII, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan around Holliston. The fee is only \$20 per car, the net proceeds donated to the Holliston American Legion. Registration at St. Mary's parking lot begins at 12:30 PM with cars lining up to leave on their adventure at intervals beginning at 1:00 PM. Different routes mean you won't be following the car in front of you, and you should arrive back at St. Mary's in one hour. Then we will gather in Father Haley Hall for refreshments, prizes to the Rally top team winners, and witness the winning tickets to be drawn for our Fifteenth Annual Charity Raffle. Perhaps you may be a Rally winner or a Raffle winner or BOTH!



**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2023:** 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 <https://kofc.org/joinus>. Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men.

**MONTHLY ROSARY:** The next Rosary will be Wednesday, October 18 in the church at 7:00 PM. Any and all persons are welcome to attend.





# St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders for Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun.



**MSYG BROWNSTONE QUARRY ADVENTURE!** Thursday, July 20, found St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group Members enjoying Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park in Portland, Connecticut. The day was sunny and hot – perfect for swimming, rock climbing, cliff diving, zip lining, wakeboarding, and screaming down the huge water slides. The tallest zip line started atop an eighty-five-foot quarry cliff, while others required climbing a rock wall to access. The swimming area was dotted with giant inflatable icebergs, spaceships, and other objects for climbing and sliding. Check out the photos above (or in color on the web)!

**MSYG FALL 2023 KICK OFF MEETING:** Sunday, October 1 from 6:30 – 8 PM in the Parish Center Hall. Open to any and all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders. There will be Youth Group Registrations for the new school year, a Giant Slideshow of all this summer's MSYG trips, an Ice Cream Sundae Bar, Sign Ups for our October 13 Haunted Mansion Trip, and most importantly - opportunities for prayer, service and growing in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. Full details will be mailed out soon. Bring a friend!





# St. Mary's High School Youth Group

## Teens Gather In Faith!

**SUMMER MISSION TRIP**, by Mia Corrou

This past summer I had the amazing opportunity to spend a week on a mission trip with our St. Mary's High School Youth Group. We travelled to Wauchula, Florida to serve those in the community, while making life lasting memories and bonds. Wauchula was hit hard by the Florida hurricanes and the river through the town, the Peace River, overflowed and flooded houses and streets. Going into this trip, I was unsure what to expect of the week ahead of me. I did not know who was going to be in my van group, what kind of volunteering I'd be asked to do, or the dynamic of staying with people I did not know well. It turned out to be an unforgettable week with life-lasting friendships and amazing experiences.

At 4 AM the first morning, we stood in the basement of St. Mary's nervous about what was ahead. We were assigned the van groups we would be spending the week working with as a team. It was a great opportunity to bond with those you did not usually talk to and get to know others on a personal level. We drove everywhere with our vans, did karaoke in the car, played games, and worked with our vans throughout the week.

My van group walked into the house we would be practically remodeling on the first day with no idea of how to do anything. The house had been full of two feet of water and had to be completely gutted. Thankfully, we had Dan Larche. With his talent, skill, and knowledge, we were able to complete flooring in the house, put new insulation and dry wall in the ceilings and walls, and construct a ramp for the homeowner's 90-year-old father. It took around fifteen people to complete all of this in the single week we had.

It was crazy and so eye opening how these people were homeless for months. But even with the homeowner's three jobs, she still made time to bring us cookies and treats at our worksite. Her eyes would fill with tears as she stepped in the door every day to see us working and restoring her house. Every day, she had a different shirt on. Sometimes with a Bible verse, sometimes just reading "God is good."

The homeowners acceptance of help and love helped me see a better side of strangers. Seeing the life these people were living made me really reflect on my own life, and how I can show how thankful I am by helping those in need. I can't wait for next year's mission trip with St. Mary's! - Michelle Corrou



"Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others."

**PHILIPPIANS 2:4**





# St. Mary's High School Youth Group

## Teens Gather In Faith!

**WELCOME SEAN JACOBS!** This fall, Sean Jacobs joined St. Mary's as Confirmation Coordinator and High School Youth Minister. Sean grew up in Foxboro, MA. Here, he spent his time between his faith formation at St. Mary's Foxboro and earning his Eagle Scout down the street. Now, he lives with his wife Daniela in Mansfield, MA, where they enjoy exploring local hiking trails and cooking together.



Professionally, Sean has spent the last several years working in Catholic education as a volunteer, paraprofessional, and High School theology teacher. Sean first studied philosophy and religious studies at Emmanuel College, then earned graduate degrees in both theological studies and education at Boston University. Now, he is excited to take on new roles and responsibilities here at Saint Mary's Parish Holliston. Combining his love for theology and education, Sean hopes to help students grow both intellectually and spiritually, teaching to the whole person. Taking to heart the message of Saint Anselm, Sean's teaching seeks to embody the spirit of "*faith seeking understanding*." Reach Sean at: [st.marysyouthministry1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysyouthministry1870@gmail.com).

## **TGIF KICK OFF: Sunday, October 15 from 7 - 8:30 PM.**

### **Open to all High School Students, Grades 9-12.**



**DELICIOUS PIZZA!**

**FUN GAMES, PRAYER, GROWTH IN FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP!**

**A VIDEO & TEEN WITNESS ABOUT OUR 2023 SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO FLORIDA!**

**PRE-SIGN UPS FOR OUR 2024 SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO MISSISSIPPI!**

**SIGN UPS FOR OUR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, HAUNTED HAYRIDE AND SCREAM PARK TRIP.**

**WHAT TO BRING: White Registration Form & \$5 Monthly Dues; Plus Permission Form & Payment for the October 20 Haunted Trip if going. Bring a Friend!**







## Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America  
St. Mary's Parish \* October, 2023

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster  
508-579-4357

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

If interested in joining Troop 14, contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for boys in sixth grade or above.

The Troop meets weekly during the school year, Mondays from 7 - 8:30 PM in the Lower Church.

The Troop spent the first three days backpacking the High Peaks of the Adirondacks in the rain, but that didn't dampen their spirits. They summited five 4,000 footers in total and encountered many challenging routes.

**HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP:** Scouts that have earned the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Class are eligible to attend the annual High Adventure Trip that involves special training and skills to participate. From August 6 – 12, Troop 14 hiked and canoed in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State. Nine Scouts and three Leaders participated in this High Adventure Trip.





They began the second part of their adventure canoeing from the Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation. On Wednesday morning, Scouts set off paddling to Ampersand Mountain where they hiked seven miles total and experienced 360-degree views of the Adirondacks from the top. Thursday consisted of a paddle across the windy narrows of Upper Saranac Lake to Follansbee Clear Pond, where they set up camp on an island and witnessed a meteor shower in the dark, clear skies. The following day, Scouts paddled fifteen miles where they were rewarded with water skiing and tubing before finishing their adventure.



#### **ORDER OF THE ARROW:**

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's National Camping Honor Society. It recognizes Scouts who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Each year, through unit elections, Scouts are nominated for membership into the Order.

Scouts then participate in the

first of three levels of membership with a weekend induction ceremony. Troop 14 has a total of fourteen Scouts active in OA, with five recently elected at Camp Squanto during July summer camp. Congratulations to Scott Baribeau, Luke Burgett, Jeffrey Hebert, Colin Hodgdon, and Bhumin Karunakar!





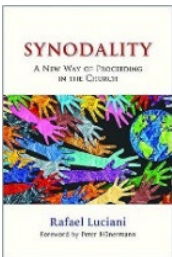
**A SELECTION OF NEW BOOKS IN THE PARISH LIBRARY!** All books are on the "New Book Shelf" by the windows. Check them out! [betty.febo@gmail.com](mailto:betty.febo@gmail.com)



**The Art of Getting Over Yourself: And Why You'll Be Happier When You Do.** 248.4 Leo  
In a world where everybody has something to say about the "key" to happiness, John Leonetti reminds us again about the foundational key to the Christian life – less of me and more of you.

**The Miracle Collectors and The Miracle Chase.** 231.7 Hil

Co-authors Katie Mahan and Joan Hill entertain us with their captivating and enthralling stories of the miracles that have graced their lives. They remind us that we too have miracles available to us if we only look and see. Katie Mahan was a WINGS speaker in Spring 2023.

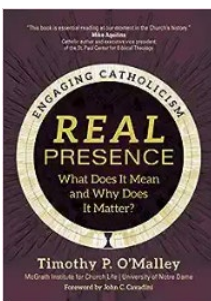
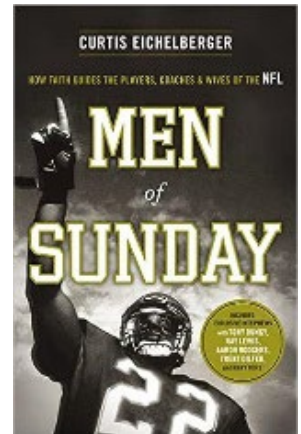


**Synodality: A New Way of Proceeding in the Church.** 262.02 Luc

You may have participated at the parish level in the 2021-2024 Church Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis' 3-year process of listening, dialoguing, and journeying together. This short book explains exactly what this process of "synodality" is.

**Men of Sunday: How Faith Guides the Players, Coaches & Wives of the NFL.** 277.3 Eic

This book reveals how a close relationship with God guides football's stars and allows them to face issues such as drug abuse, family crises, injuries, and temptation resulting from fame and fortune.

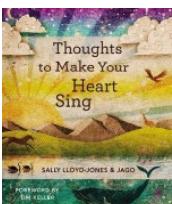


**Real Presence: What Does It Mean and Why Does It Matter?** 234.163 Oma

What does it mean to consume the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass? Is the Eucharist just a symbol? University of Notre Dame theologian Timothy O'Malley clears up the confusion by explaining the biblical origins and long tradition of the Church's doctrine of the Real Presence.

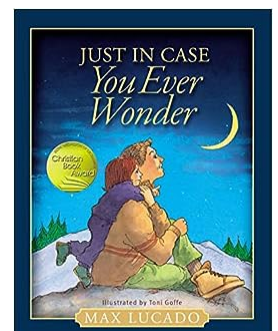
**Just In Case You Ever Wonder.** jF Luc

This charming children's book reaffirms God's love for the uniqueness of each of us and the importance of a loving and nurturing family.



**Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing.** 821 Lio

Designed for children but perfect for all ages! 101 simple yet profound truths from the Bible. Use for family devotions, bedtime, or just story time.





# Cross Walk

*With Babchia and Saints Peter and Paul*  
by Cathy Stenquist

Her name was Alexandra Zguta (Za-Goota), but I knew her as “Baboocya,” (Babchia), the Ukrainian name for grandmother. I was fortunate to meet her on several occasions during my time caring for her grandsons, Alec and Marc, who attended my licensed home daycare back in the late 90’s.



*Babchia*

She was born in the Ukraine, and a longtime Ludlow resident where she was a devout communicant and member of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church. Well into her 80’s, she frequently

volunteered in making pierogi and at parish dinners. Babchia loved to bake delicious torte cakes and pastries, (I can vouch for the exquisitely made cookies she made at Christmas - I may have had 2 or 3 or more on occasion ;). Food was definitely one of her love languages. She delighted in passing on the customs of her Ukrainian culture to her daughter, my dear friend, Irene. One Easter, I received a “Pysanka”- a hand decorated egg, created with written-wax and utilizing traditional folk motifs and designs.



*An example of a Pysanka*

An amazing and generous gift!

This summer, on August 8, Babchia, age 93, with her family at her side, passed lovingly into the arms of God. When I heard the news, I knew my husband Scott and I would attend her service. We

had been very blessed to have a dear friendship with Alec and Marc’s parents, Irene and Larry for 28 years since their sons left my care. Not many daycare providers can say that!

Stopping by Irene’s to drop off some dessert, I found her busy making one of Babchia’s favorites, a mandarin orange torte with lady fingers - exquisite, just like I imagined her mother’s would have been.



*Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ludlow, MA*

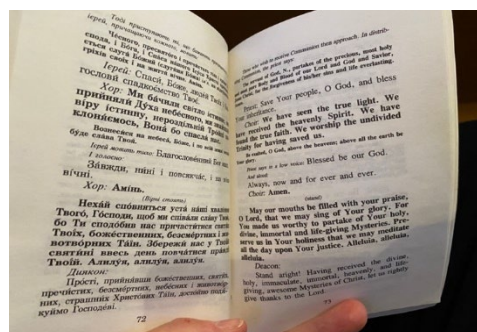
The drive out to Ludlow went smoothly, arriving a bit early to the church, we had time to take it all in. Upon entering, I was immediately fascinated by the stunning artwork and gold shimmering from all the walls. The rich blue ceiling over the altar was breath taking. In the center was an image of Christ laying his hands on St. Peter’s shoulders.

***“And I say also unto thee,  
Thou art Peter,  
and upon this rock I will build my church;  
and the gates of hell  
shall not prevail against it”***

*(Matt. 16:18)*

There was an ornate fence, of sorts, separating us from the altar. The gates opened when it was time for the Preparation of the Gifts. Blessings and prayers echoed for some time, as incense curled up

to the heavens after each clink of the bronze cup hitting the chain that held it. I reached into the back of the pew and began flipping through the black missalette. On the left were all the prayers in



Ukrainian and on the right, translations in English. During the Mass, I peeked over

a shoulder to see where they were and was able to say the prayers in English while most of the congregation prayed in their native tongue. The prayers were beautiful, filled with praise after praise of gratitude to God.

Then something happened that was so beautiful it made me cry. Parishioners began to sing the prayers acapella in amazing harmony with each other. There was a deep holiness in the many male voices. With no organ, their praise reverberated like a chant through the nave. All I could think of, was how comforting this music must be each Sunday to the many parishioners who have loved ones in the Ukraine they are praying for.



*A Ukrainian Book of Gospels*

There was enough familiarity to my own Catholic Mass at St. Mary's to make me feel at home, and many new experiences of their Eastern European (Byzantine) Catholic traditions during the 1 ½ hour Mass. As a lector, I found it fascinating that the first reading was done from the front pew instead of the ambo. The book of Holy Scriptures was encased in ornate gold. After the Priest read the

Gospel, it was offered to each person serving the Mass for a kiss of respect and honor. There was extended silent, reverent space between each part of the Mass which allowed every prayer, note or word to really sink in. For the consecration, instead of wafers, they used small chunks of bread and added them to the wine. At Communion, there were no Eucharistic Ministers, just the pastor who held the precious body and blood in his gold chalice. He dipped a small gold spoon in the chalice, lifting out one piece at a time and putting it directly in the tongue of each person.

At the grave site, were beautiful prayers of commendation, much like we do. A very special moment for me was when Alec – now a doctor (L)



and Marc – now an architect, (R) caught my eye and walked forward to greet me. We were all a bit choked up. It was one of those hugs that you pull back a

little and the person instead draws you closer not wanting the hug to end. What fine young men they had become. My heart was full.



I hope this summer you were able to visit a Catholic church on your vacation. What rich and beautiful traditions we share. I am certainly richer for it. RIP Babchia.

L-R: Alec and Marc.

Walking in His Name, Cathy Stenquist