

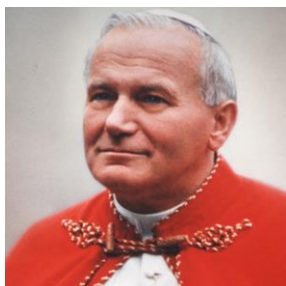


**ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

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**NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER, 2018**

- Welcome to our 14
New Families!
- Addiction Mass, Sept. 27
- Pastor's Message & K. of C.
- "Knowing Jesus", by Paula Watt
- Pine Street Inn Sign Ups
- WINGS Starts Sept. 26
- Pine Street Inn
- Boy Scout Troop 14
- Middle School Youth Group
- EPIC Texas Mission Trip
- Adult Faith Resources
- Cardinal O'Malley's Message
- Hopeful Words from
John Paul II *(below)*



**EXCERPT FROM THE HOMILY OF POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II,
CLOSING MASS OF WORLD YOUTH DAY, TORONTO, 2002.**

"Even a tiny flame lifts the heavy lid of night. How much more light will you make, all together, if you bond as one in the communion of the Church! *If you love Jesus, love the Church!* Do not be discouraged by the sins and failings of some of her members. The harm done by some priests and religious to the young and vulnerable *fills us all with a deep sense of sadness and shame.* But think of the vast majority of dedicated and generous priests and religious whose only wish is to serve and do good! There are many priests, seminarians and consecrated persons here today; be close to them and support them!

And if, in the depths of your hearts, you feel the same call to the priesthood or consecrated life, do not be afraid to follow Christ on the royal road of the Cross! At difficult moments in the Church's life, the pursuit of holiness becomes even more urgent. And *holiness is not a question of age*; it is a matter of *living in the Holy Spirit*, just as Kateri Tekakwitha did here in America and so many other young people have done.

You are young, and the Pope is old, 82 or 83 years of life is not the same as 22 or 23. But the Pope still fully identifies with your hopes and aspirations. Although I have lived through much darkness, under harsh totalitarian regimes, I have seen enough evidence to be unshakably convinced that no difficulty, no fear is so great that it can completely suffocate *the hope that springs eternal in the hearts of the young.* You are our hope, the young are our hope.

Do not let that hope die! Stake your lives on it! *We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures*; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son."

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

September, 2018 ~ Volume 44, Number 1

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

Rectory: 429-4427, 879-2322
Religious Education Center: 429-6076
Fax: 429-3324 ~ Music: 429-4427
Religious Education Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com
Parish Email Address: st.marys1870@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Mission ~ *"To Know Christ and to make Him Known."*

Parish Clergy

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

St. Mary's Welcomes 14 New Families

May we find Christ with them and in them, as together we strive to walk in His ways and love as He taught. Welcome!

The Jakobsen Family ~ James, Leslie, Peter, Audrey & Elyse
The Flynn Family ~ Rosalie
The Noel Family ~ Greg, Carolynne & Louis
The DelVecchio Family ~ Richard
The Hemming Family ~ Brian, Jennifer, Gage and Scarlett
The Alexander Family ~ Damon & Dawn
The Fogaren Family ~ David, Stephanie, Connor & Harper
The Galvin Family ~ Sean, Lindsay, James & Bryleigh
The Parsons Family ~ Daniel & Cristina
The Connors Family ~ Michael & Karen
The Wilverding Family ~ George
The Miles Family ~ Thomas, Roan, William & Lily
The Torpey Family ~ Michael & Debra
The Hutchinson Family ~ Neil, Melissa, Luke and Sophia



*"The Church is
the People of
God, united
as One Body
in Christ."*



From the Pastor's Desk

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

Thank you to all who prayed so faithfully for Melissa Bachman since she was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer last fall. Melissa completed her earthly journey on Tuesday, September 4, having received the sacraments of her faith and surrounded by the family she loved so well. Though Melissa's life was short in years it was great in love, as evidenced by the lines of visitors before her passing, and the large crowds who participated in her Funeral Mass September 8. Please pray for the repose of this beautiful child of God, and the consolation in faith of her family.



These last weeks of summer have been marred by the ugliness of revelations concerning past failures of Church leadership in dealing with perpetrators of crimes against minors. The details are sickening, and this apparently never-ending saga is spiritually exhausting. Like most Catholics, I was blessed to know only holy priests growing up, and when the sex abuse crisis broke back in 2002 it was truly shocking and dismaying. Lately I have felt like I am back in those days, during which one moment of light in so much darkness was World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto. I was present with over a million people, mostly teens, when John Paul II first publicly addressed this issue. His homily gave me hope and lifted some of the weight I had been feeling. I have therefore printed part of his words that day on the cover of this September Newsletter. I have also provided Cardinal O'Malley's recent letter to the faithful on Newsletter page thirteen.

The terrible evil of sex abuse must be rooted out entirely from God's Church. Our leaders must be held to account in this area. The Church must and will be a place where the innocence of our children is preserved, that they may experience the Gospel in all its beauty and truth. Please know that here at St. Mary's we follow the strictest of Child Protection protocols. We do this while also providing a rich Youth Ministry Program that is one of the largest and most vibrant in the Archdiocese. We have accomplished this together. And while we must be ever vigilant, we can take pride in what we have built here in Holliston. While we must face the bad unflinchingly, there is so much more good than bad in the Catholic Church. And you, the faithful people of St. Mary's, remind me of that every day.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

Knights of Columbus, Council #14224



COLUMBUS DAY TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE FOR 2018: Council Knights will offer Tootsie Rolls at all Masses the weekend of October 6 and 7. Free will donations are accepted. All donations go to the K of C State Council for aid to special needs children throughout the state.

2018 RAFFLE DONATIONS AT CELEBRATE HOLLISTON: Grand Knight Al Scaramella and Deputy Grand Knight Tom Anguish will present checks to the Holliston Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, and Holliston Senior Center at Celebrate Holliston during the festivities at Goodwill Park on September 22. The Council thanks all St. Mary's parishioners who purchased raffle tickets.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2018: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. You can now join on-line by going to the Supreme K of C website, kofc.org. On-line membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council.

MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be Wednesday, September 19. 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.

HEALING OUR AFFLICTION

The great plague of Europe in the mid-1300's caused over 20 million deaths in just 10 years¹. The epidemic was so widespread it dramatically changed European history and the history of the Church, and it is still talked about today, seven hundred years later. Modern advances in medicine have eliminated the plague from our society, but there is another epidemic, equally devastating, that is sweeping our world and claiming more lives by the minute. That epidemic is the disease of addiction. According to the Surgeon General's report in 2015, more than 27 million people are infected with this disease (in the form of illicit or misused drugs; over 66 million are abusing alcohol).² The disease of addiction claimed more lives in America in one year than the entire death toll of the Vietnam War.³

It's no secret that Holliston and the MetroWest Boston area have been hit hard by this epidemic. Families within our own parish and surrounding towns have been affected by this disease. And, as Gina Stucchi, director of the Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition says, "Substance abuse affects *all* of us... For each person struggling with Substance Use Disorder there are dozens of others affected: parents, children, friends, employers and neighbors."⁴

St. Mary's parish wants to help our community to cope with this epidemic and to assist in the task of healing.

We will have a Mass for families and friends of those affected by the disease of addiction on Thursday, September 27 at 7 PM in the Church. All are welcome.

Fr. Tom Hoar, President of the Recovery Residences at Enders Island, will preside and be available for questions, along with Tom Bennett, the coordinator for higher education recovery at Acadia Healthcare. Together, Fr. Tom and Tom Bennett are leaders in the Collegiate Recovery Program, which is designed to help those recovering from addiction to build a new identity through higher education.⁵ These programs, offered at dozens of colleges and universities across the nation, offer the chance for students in recovery from addiction to benefit from a higher education experience substance-free, while promoting academic excellence and preventing a return to use.⁶ Programs such as these provide a glimmer of hope for those recovering from addiction and their families. Please join us on the evening of September 27, and help our community begin to heal from our affliction.



¹ History.com <https://www.history.com/topics/black-death>

² Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health; Chapter 1/Preview. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK424860/>

³ (2017) Welch, Ashley. CBS News. October 17, 2017, 4:34 PM. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/opioids-drug-overdose-killed-more-americans-last-year-than-the-vietnam-war/>

⁴ www.hdaac.org/home.html

⁵ Buchannan, Sonia. Lifestyle. November 16, 2016. <http://recoverycampus.com/spreading-message-hope/>

⁶ Association of Recovery in Higher Education. <https://collegiaterecovery.org>

⁷ Image courtesy of Cadboro Bay United (<http://www.cadbayuc.org/if-you-need-a-helping-hand/>)



Do You Know Jesus Christ?

By Paula Watt

This past year I had the privilege of participating in the Catechetical Certificate Program at Saint John's Theological Institute. Before I provide you information about this excellent program I want to share with you how I arrived at the decision to enroll in the program.

I was born in the Azore Islands. My family moved to the United States when I was three. Raised in a Portuguese Catholic family I received all the sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. I attended mass weekly and considered myself a devout Catholic. I believed that I was fulfilling my role as a Catholic and didn't even give much thought to whether I really needed more in my life. Yes, I admit that there were nights where I would glance across the room and there on my dresser I would look at my Bible. In my heart, I felt that tug and knew that I needed to spend time with the Word of God. Yet, I still feared if I opened my Bible, how would my life change? What would God expect of me? After all life was pretty good, things

seemed to be falling into place as we had hoped. My husband had a good job and I was enjoying being a mom to my children. We were surrounded by a close loving family. One day I heard someone ask the question, "Do you know Jesus Christ?" "Do you know what it means to have a relationship with Jesus?" And to hear this I admit sounded foreign to me. I didn't understand what it meant to know Jesus or even have a relationship with Jesus.

Then in January of 2016 we received news of two family members who were in fatal situations. Our family was in crisis. Feeling so helpless I turned to God and prayer. I started praying the Rosary daily. Our family members were healed, and I knew in my heart that God had saved our family members. And so, my journey to know Jesus Christ began. The start of Lent was soon beginning, and I wanted to experience a more meaningful Lent. One morning my husband shared with me that he was listening to morning mass on EWTN radio, (Station of the Cross 1060 am) on the way to work and that I should try it. I did, and I also learned that there were some interesting shows that were deepening my knowledge of the Catholic faith. I couldn't believe how little I really knew about my faith. I guess you could say a spark within me was inflamed. I was very eager to learn more and more about my faith and began researching area programs.

I then learned about the Catechetical Program at St. John's Theological Institute and how it is designed for any lay person looking to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic Faith. I can't say enough about this life changing program. I found myself in a room with fifty individuals of various backgrounds: teachers, engineers, business professionals, doctors and I was pleasantly surprised. The program is designed for parents, parish volunteers, council members, catechists, teachers and for anyone who wants to learn more about their Catholic faith. The faculty at St. John's did an excellent job at presenting the material and engaging the participants. I looked forward each month to attending the program and was eager to hear about each topic. Sadly, the future success of this program is contingent on an increase in participants.

Every person in the depths of their hearts has that longing for happiness, to be loved and to grasp the age-old question, what is my purpose in life? We will never be fully satisfied in our earthly journey until we unite our hearts with Jesus Christ. I believe that first step must be to get to know our Creator. I thank God and the power of the Holy Spirit for working within my heart, my mind and the depths of my soul and giving me the grace to grow in my faith.

I'm now on my third year of teaching Religious Education at St. Mary's. I enjoyed volunteering at St. Mary's Vacation Bible Camp this summer. My journey to know and grow in my love for Jesus continues as well as helping those I meet also encounter Him. Jesus Christ revealed to us what we must do to gain salvation: to become active members of his Body, the Catholic Church and to live as he lived with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Now it's up to us to return our love to God.

**For More Information on the Catechetical Certificate Program
at the Theological Institute at St. John's Seminary
Contact: Denise Daley at certificate@sjs.edu or (617)779-3623
Classes run September through April and meet one Saturday per month
First Class is September 22, 2018**

what are women saying about WINGS?

"WINGS provides something rich, a real faith community"

"WINGS is an inspirational experience that ignites a passion for learning about the faith."

"WINGS has been life changing; I went from going through the motions to really learning more about my faith as an adult."

"WINGS has been both grounding and humbling. It provides a weekly opportunity to recenter my attention towards my spiritual life."

what is WINGS?

☺ WINGS is a rich faith formation opportunity for Catholic women of all ages

☺ WINGS provides an opportunity for women to deepen their faith, no matter where they are on their spiritual journey

☺ WINGS participants share the experience that, when we deepen our faith, we grow happier and more content in life



Beginning September 26, hear from local experts on great Catholic thinkers and writers in our new WINGS Speaker Program.

Our new format features a speaker presentation followed by large group Q&A with our guest.

Weekly meetings run from 9:45 AM to 11 AM each Wednesday, beginning September 26 in Fr. Haley Hall (behind the main church), through November 6, 2018.

No commitment necessary: drop in weekly as available.

Mothers are encouraged to attend with their children. Loving childcare will be provided.



SPEAKER PROGRAM - FALL 2018

Catholic Cliff Notes-

A Study of Great Catholic Thinkers and Writers

Speakers include...

Crista Mahoney, Catholic Chaplain, Babson College:
St. Ignatius of Loyola

Mary Jane Rice, Philosophy Teacher, Montrose School:
Dante Alighieri

Professor Kerry Cronin, Boston College:
St. Thomas Aquinas

Jennifer Schiller, WINGS Founder:
St. Joan of Arc

women in WINGS God's spirit

Fall 2018: Catholic Cliff Notes *A Study of Great Catholic Thinkers and Writers*

Closing Brunch on November 7



September 26 - Jennifer Schiller will speak on St. Joan of Arc. Jennifer graduated with a BBA in Finance from Loyola University in 1989 and worked in the investment-banking field until 1999. In the fall of 2000 she founded the WINGS ministry in the Archdiocese of Boston and has helped to share the group with many parishes. She brought WINGS to CatholicTV in 2007. She is co-founder of the Boston Catholic Women's Conference and served as women's team leader for five years. From 2008 to 2018, she served as the Director of Institutional Advancement at Montrose School in Medfield. She is a writer & blogger, choosejoy821.wordpress.com and lives in Holliston with her family.



October 3 - Crista Mahoney will speak on St. Ignatius of Loyola. Crista earned her Master of Divinity from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. She graduated with a BA in English from the College of the Holy Cross in 2002. She currently works as the Catholic Chaplain on a multi-faith team at Babson College in Wellesley, MA. Crista helped co-found the Jesuit Connection young adult group with the New England Province of Jesuits, and served on the Board for Sacred Threads in Newton, MA, a non-profit that offers women opportunities for spiritual nourishment, connection, and inspiration. She is currently in her second year of the Post-Masters Certificate in Spiritual Formation at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. She and her family live in Sherborn.



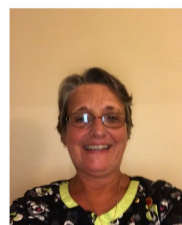
October 10 - Mary Jane Rice will speak on Dante Alighieri. Mary Jane Rice is an English and Philosophy teacher at Montrose School for the past 25 years. After pursuing her Masters of Teaching of English at BU where she took a course in Dante's "Inferno," she has been teaching this text to her high school students. In 2015 she was awarded an NEH grant to study Dante in Siena, Italy for 5 weeks and this intensified her love and appreciation for Dante. She believes that great literature is transformative and Dante's Divine Comedy is definitely one of those texts.



October 17 - Ron Dowding will speak on St. Augustine. Ron is a graduate of Northeastern University's College of Business Administration and holds post-graduate certificates from Harvard University and Northeastern in software engineering and professional writing. He currently works as a Software Program Manager for BluJay Solutions based in Holland, Michigan. He lives in Holliston with his wife, Jeanne. Ron has been involved in many ministries at St. Mary's including Knights of Columbus, RCIA, ARISE, and the Boy Scouts. Ron is in formation to the Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Boston.



October 24 - Professor Kerry Cronin will speak on St. Thomas Aquinas. Kerry Cronin, PhD, is the Associate Director of the Lonergan Institute at Boston College and the Faculty Fellow in BC's Center for Student Formation. For the past 22 years, she has taught in the Boston College interdisciplinary Perspectives Program, a Philosophy and Theology program in the "great-books" tradition. Additionally, she works extensively with undergraduates in retreat programs at BC and is a regular speaker on college campuses, addressing topics of student culture and formation.



October 31 - Mary Jo Kriz will speak on St. Monica. Mary Jo has a BS in nursing from the Mass College of Pharmacy and a Master's of Arts in Ministry from St. John's Seminary. She has worked in youth ministry and Religious Ed since 1998. Over the past 10 years she has worked for the Archdiocese of Boston and at St. John's Seminary. She is currently a volunteer at MCI Framingham where she meets with women for Spiritual Direction. She also works part time as the nurse in the Pregnancy Help Center in Brockton and as the D.R.E. for a small parish in Berlin MA. Mary Jo has been married for 39 years to Ron and they have two adult children and one grandchild.

PINE STREET INN ~ 2018 TO 2019 SEASON

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." MT 25 Once again it is time to prepare the schedule for our year at the Pine Street Inn. THANKS especially to everyone who gave so willingly and generously of their time, talents and treasure last year. We look forward to seeing you again. For those of you who are not familiar with this ministry, the following paragraphs will give you some idea of what St. Mary's has been doing for the past few years.

The Pine Street Inn is a not-for-profit organization committed to men, women and children in need of shelter, sustenance and the basic moral and material supports necessary to lead a dignified and stable life. It is the mission of the Inn, in all its programs, to be a community of respect and hope for each guest it serves; to be a resource through which neighbors and friends can help to meet the basic needs of others; and to serve as a national leader in the fight to end homelessness.



On the first Saturday of each month, the Adult Food Group at St. Mary's prepares a meal and takes it into Boston to serve in the women's dining hall. We have seen the program grow and develop and become an integral part of the ministry at St. Mary's. Those who are making the meal usually prepare it in the Parish Center kitchens. We also have many bakers who make delicious desserts for perfect endings to meals. It has become a way to meet new people and to spend some time with friends; planning menus, shopping, cooking and driving to Boston. Many stop for a bite to eat later, reflecting on individual thoughts and feelings. Most importantly, it is a way to help those who can't help themselves.

If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the form below indicating your preferences for cooking or baking. Please return the completed form as soon as possible to: Laura Koziol, 85 Alden Rd., Holliston, MA 01746 or email to Lmkoziol85@gmail.com. If you have any questions please call Laura Koziol at 508-429-7174.

COOK: This involves menu planning (recipes are available), cooking and serving. At least 1 driver and 2 servers are needed to deliver and serve the meal to Pine Street Inn. The total commitment is from about 12 noon to 7 PM on the Saturday (plus grocery shopping).

BAKE: This involves baking 3 dozen of whatever you choose and dropping them off at the Parish Center before noon.

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ **CELL PHONE:** _____

I am able to cook and/or bake:

Cook _____ (# of times) Bake _____ (# of times)

I am able to drive to Pine St. and serve if scheduled as a cook:

Yes _____

Please include me on the BACKUP list:

Cook _____ Bake _____

DATES: Indicate C for Cook and B for Bake and indicate date preference, 1st, 2nd, etc. Scheduling is done on a first come, first served basis. Please return form promptly.

____ Saturday, Nov. 3

____ Saturday, Mar. 2

____ Saturday, Sept. 7

____ Saturday, Dec. 1

____ Saturday, Apr. 6

____ Saturday, Oct. 5

____ Saturday, Jan. 5

____ Saturday, May 4

____ Saturday, Feb. 2

____ Saturday, June 1

Special Requests (preferred partners, dates, etc.):





Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America

St. Mary's Parish * September, 2018

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

Lower Church Hall

Contact: Charlie Paradie, Scoutmaster
617.697.8200

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.Troop14Holliston.com

SUMMER CAMP: From July 15 – 21, twenty-three Scouts attended week long Camp Squanto that borders Myles Standish State Park in Plymouth MA. It was a great week for the Troop with seven Scouts attending camp for the first time. Highlights of the week included: Troop awarded the PROGRAM AWARD; Troop won the INSPECTION UNIT award on Tuesday for the best looking and cleanest site; For the 6th year in a row, the Troop took 1st Place in the camp-wide APACHE RELAY on Wednesday night (Photo); the Troop remembered Walter Baker (past leader) at the Memorial Service on Thursday evening; and Scouts earned 59 merit badges over the course of the week.



AUGUST HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP: After nine months of training meetings and three intense backpacking weekends, 17 high school aged Scouts and Leaders of Troop 14 were finally ready for a two-week backpacking trip to Philmont Scout Ranch and the southern Rockies. Just 3 weeks before we were set to depart, we got word that Philmont was forced to close for the summer due to two wild fires that rapidly spread over 37,000 acres. We scrambled to put together another High Adventure trip. Leaving on July 29, we headed to Yellowstone National Park for 10-days, saw unique geysers and colorful hot springs; hiked 8,000'+ mountains and deep canyons; observed the amazing wildlife; witnessed majestic waterfalls; accomplished mountain horseback riding (Photo) & whitewater rafting down the Yellowstone River; and explored the many of the seldom seen, beautiful, scenic, backcountry features tucked away from the beaten path. One of the highlights was a spontaneous hike up a trail-less, snow covered, 11,100' mountain peak just beyond the Beartooth Pass Summit. (Photo)



TROOP 14 STARTED REGULAR MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS ON SEPTEMBER 10 AT ST. MARY'S: The Troop is back in full swing again for the fall with weekly Monday night meetings and monthly campouts. *If interested in joining Troop 14, come to any of our meetings on MONDAY nights, ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

September - Campout at Nobscot Scout Camp.

October - MassJam 2018 Camporee, Cape Cod Fairgrounds.

October 15 - Court of Honor.

DID YOU KNOW? There are only five countries in the world that do not have Scouting – China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, and Andorra.



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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



MSYG BROWNSTONE QUARRY ADVENTURE! Tuesday, July 31 found seventy-one 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, tug of war contests, 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 2018 KICK OFF MEETING: Sunday, September 30 from 6:30 – 8 PM in the Parish Center Hall. Open to any and all 6th, 7th and 8th 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, Pre-Sign Ups for the Celtics (Jan. 4), Sign Ups for our 8th Grade Only Haunted Hayride Trip and 6th & 7th Grade Haunted Mansion Trip, and most importantly - opportunities for prayer, service and growing in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. Bring a friend!



St. Mary's EPIC Mission Trip to Rockport, Texas

Hey Guys! Jake, St. Mary's Youth Minister here! Earlier this Summer I had the pleasure of serving with a group of 77 combined teens and chaperones from St. Mary's on a mission trip to Rockport, TX, right on the Gulf of Mexico to rebuild damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. The experience was amazing and made me even more grateful that I am a part of the St. Mary's community.

After a long travel day on Saturday, July 28, our mission trip group had time on Sunday to get to know each other and prepare for the week ahead. Being new to St. Mary's, this was a great time for me to get to know those on the mission and introduce them to who I am as well. That afternoon our teen leaders did a great job leading games, competitions, and songs, culminating in a large group line dance, as the whole group opened up and had fun together. It was beautiful to see so many people become a community in such a short time, able to be themselves without worrying what others thought about them. We then headed to the beach for a pizza party, relay races, and our night prayers.

After a great teambuilding day on Sunday, Monday we headed right off to work rebuilding the damage caused by the storm. Our group from St. Mary's was divided into 15 van groups, who in sets of 2 or 3 vans would work at different job sites throughout the Rockport Area. These jobs included painting houses, building fences, throwing out debris from the storm, demolition, and building wheelchair ramps, among others.

My three-van group super-team was tasked with rebuilding a Baptist Church that was destroyed in the storm. While they previously had a strong community of 300 regularly worshipping members, after the storm that number was reduced to 30 who have to worship in the fellowship hall. One member of the church named John, tasked as the unofficial leader, is working tirelessly trying to build a new worship space, praying that doing so will welcome more members to the church and help them grow in their faith, in the midst of the aftermath of Harvey. When we got there the interior was insulated and covered in plywood, but it was up to us to sheetrock it. The vast majority of us never sheet rocked before, so it was a huge learning experience. I was blown away by the work ethic of our entire group, working tirelessly to do the best job we possibly could, all with a spirit of joy and optimism.

The most impactful experience for me was getting to know John. After enduring Harvey and watching 90% of his church community leave, his faith and perseverance of trying to get the building together was inspirational. Every time I saw him, he had a huge smile on his face, and when talking he told me how much hope we brought him, that a group of teenagers from Massachusetts would take a week of their summers and travel all the way to Texas to rebuild. He told me that every single one of us brought God's love into the church and he could not thank us enough. I'm so grateful I was able to meet John and be inspired by his faith despite facing very tough circumstances.

After our hard days at our worksites, all the van groups would reconvene at our home base, First Baptist Church at Rockport, where we would shower and eat dinner prepared by their volunteers. Afterward we could gather as a large group and we would share where they saw Jesus during the day, which was really beautiful to see how God was working through us and those we served. We would then head into our night prayer which our teen leaders did an excellent job planning. We read scripture, heard reflections and testimonies from teens, chaperones, and myself, sang songs, did activities, and had time for personal prayer and journaling.

In addition to our evening prayers, we incorporated prayer in all parts of the day and attended daily Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church right down the road. Wednesday afternoon we had a rock ceremony in the church where we each had a rock representing things we were holding onto and had difficulty letting go of, such as ways others hurt us. During our several hours at the chapel, we had the chance to pray before the altar and leave our rock there, surrendering the things we are holding onto to God. We also had 5 priests available to hear confessions. It was a beautiful afternoon of prayer and healing, it did get very emotional but our teens did a great job praying with and comforting each other and I am so grateful we got to share that experience.

Overall, it was an unbelievable week full of prayer, healing, service, rebuilding, community, and sharing life together. I am beyond thankful to everybody who served on the mission trip, as well as the entire St. Mary's community for supporting the trip both financially and with your prayers. Our mission trip team and those we served made me feel unbelievably appreciated, welcomed, and valued, and I can't wait as we continue to serve others back at home, and continue to grow in community and in our faith. **Jake Thiringer**



St. Mary's EPIC Mission Trip
Rockport, TX
July 28 – August 24, 2018



2018 EPIC KICKOFF MEETING – Sunday, October 14 – FATHER HALEY HALL – 7:30 – 8:45 PM

Reflection on Mission Trip

by St. Mary's Teen, Kayla Coburn

Hello! My name is Kayla Coburn and I am a teen at St. Mary's who will begin attending Stonehill College this fall. This summer I had the opportunity to be part of a group of teens and chaperones from St. Mary's who served on a mission trip to Rockport, Texas rebuilding damage caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Over the course of the week I had so many incredible experiences, whether with my fellow teens and chaperones, the people we met while out at our worksites, and those we met around town. Everywhere we went, people were so grateful that we were there to help them, and were so humble it just warmed my heart that we were doing something to make a difference.

One interaction I had that stands out happened when my van group was at Lowes getting supplies when this couple came up to us. I was talking to the wife about her experience with what happened during the storm and she said the town of Rockport, Texas almost got wiped out by Harvey and that many people left because there was nothing left in some places. That got to me, all I could say or think was "wow". I couldn't imagine anything that devastating, the fact that it could happen was just awful to think about. I am so thankful I was able to spend a week helping to make things better.

The two worksites that I got the pleasure of being involved with were nothing short of life changing. At my first worksite we were supposed to be filling a dumpster with debris but when we got there the dumpster was already filled. As the couple we were working with was trying to get a new dumpster, we spent our time breaking down mattresses and cabinets and taking nails out of wood. Then the wife came out to let us know that after explaining the situation to the Dumpster Company, they said they would let the couple use a new dumpster free of charge! We were able to fill the new dumpster the next day. At my second worksite, we were painting a house for this lovely couple who were just so sweet and welcoming to us. The husband told me that during Hurricane Harvey they had to leave their house because there was so much water. On Friday when we were done, the wife said that she wanted to make a donation and said they could make a donation by praying for us on our safe return home. That just reinforced how welcoming and humble the people we served were, offering to help even though they had so little.

The relationships that you make with the teens and adults that you serve with are very special and something you can only experience when you are working and growing together in such a tight community. We were all there for each other, whether it was praying for someone in their family that isn't doing well, sharing meals, or just laughing around with them. That radical community is what I experienced with every single person from St. Mary's. I laughed, cried and prayed with everyone and the feeling you get inside is the feeling of LOVE.

I went on mission trips to Mississippi the last two summers and I had a great time on both trips. But there's something about the love and gratefulness that I felt in Texas that was like nothing I've ever experienced before. Our mission team helped me take courageous steps in my faith, as did all the people I met. They all helped me realize that

nothing is what it seems and that when you let someone help you, you can go far and grow as a person. I can honestly say that whatever college is going to throw at me, I'm going to be ready. I know that I have a God who loves me and so many people here in Holliston who have my back and always support me, and it's all because of this trip. Helping people both at our worksites and at camp changes your perspective on everything you see back home and allows you to really be open minded and broaden your horizons to better love everything and everyone.

Kayla Coburn



ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

SEPTEMBER, 2018

got faith?



SEASON OF CREATION: Many Christian churches, our own Roman Catholic Church included, celebrate what is now referred to as the Season of Creation. The Season begins with a World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1 and ends with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. This year, representatives of a number of Christian churches issued a joint statement about the Season of Creation. The statement reads, in part: "During the Season of Creation, we join together to rejoice in the good gift of creation and reflect on how we care for it...As the environmental crisis deepens, we Christians are urgently called to witness to our faith by taking bold action to preserve the gift we share." Go to <https://seasonofcreation.org/> for more information about the Season of Creation and to find the full text of the letter from our faith leaders.

SEASONS AND READINGS: The September gospel readings assist us in our journey through Ordinary Time, the time in the Church's year when we hear about Jesus' acts of healing and listen to his teaching. On September 9, we hear of Jesus' cure of a deaf man who was also not able to speak; after his encounter with Jesus, he is able to both hear and speak. The next week, on September 16, we listen to Jesus tell his disciples that he will be rejected by the leaders of their community, be killed and rise after three days; he also says that in order to come after him, they must deny themselves, pick up their crosses and follow him. On September 23, Jesus reminds his disciples that in order to be first, they must be servants of all. Jesus' message is for us, too, as is his healing touch. For reflections on the Sunday readings and questions to stimulate your thinking, go to https://emmausjourney.org/sundays_reading_nabre.php.

ONLINE FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES: The Boston College School of Theology and Ministry offers several Crossroads programs (online, non-credit courses) this Fall. Offerings include three book club programs as well as courses on a couple of Scripture topics and spirituality. You can read the entire schedule at <https://bostoncollege-stm.catalog.instructure.com/>. The University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation operates several cycles of online courses each year. Cycle Seven begins on October 21 for courses on topics like Bible Basics and Catholic Beliefs; you'll find the calendar at https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/#cycle_6_2018_English. Finally, the University of Notre Dame STEP program offers online classes throughout the year. You can find its schedule of classes at <https://mcqrath.nd.edu/online-courses/step/courses/>.

PARISH FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY: This Fall, Earl King will be leading a program called *Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism (Part One)*. *Fulfilled*, authored by Sonja Corbit, is a program of Ascension Press. The Press' website states that "*Fulfilled* is an apologetic approach to sharing the Catholic Faith using the Old Testament Tabernacle as a blueprint for God's plan. While it is designed as a faith sharing Scripture study, you will also gain an understanding of some of the most questioned Catholic teachings. *Fulfilled* will reignite your love of Scripture and help you to share and defend the Catholic Faith with the Word of God." The program begins on Monday, September 24 and will run on several consecutive Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Parish library; there will be a cost of \$15 for materials. Call Earl at 508-361-8655 for more information.

CREATION CARE TEAM: Check out our table at the Ministry Fair for adult and family activities recommended to enhance your celebration of the Season of Creation. You will find an opportunity to learn more about and make your voice heard on the climate change issue as well as a suggestion for spending some time in the outdoors and photo-documenting your experience of creation. Enjoy!

---Leo Racine

Statement of Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap
Archbishop of Boston
BostonCatholic.org

Thursday, August 16, 2018



"There are times when words fail us - when they do not capture the depth of overwhelming situations we sometimes face in life. For the Church in the United States this is one of those times.

The Pennsylvania Grand Jury's report and the first-hand expressions of horror and devastating pain experienced by survivors once again wrench our hearts with the unimaginable that tragically is all too real for those who carry this pain. Once again we hear each excruciating word they share. We remain shamed by these egregious failures to protect children and those who are vulnerable and affirm our commitment that these failures will never be repeated.

While many perpetrators have been held accountable in one way or another for their crimes, we have yet to establish clear and transparent systems of accountability and consequence for Church leadership whose failures have allowed these crimes to occur. The Church must embrace spiritual conversion and demand legal transparency and pastoral accountability for all who carry out its mission. This transformation is not easily achieved, but in all aspects it is imperative. The way we prepare priests, the way we exercise pastoral leadership and the way we cooperate with civil authorities; all these have to be consistently better than has been the case.

As I have stated previously, there are immediate actions that we can and must take. The clock is ticking for all of us in Church leadership, Catholics have lost patience with us and civil society has lost confidence in us. But I am not without hope and do not succumb to despondent acceptance that our failures cannot be corrected. As the Church we have the responsibility to help people not to lose hope, that was Jesus' message to all those he ministered to, especially in times of great trial. There is too much good in the Church and in our faith to lose hope. Often it is survivors who courageously teach us we cannot lose hope.

Although "zero tolerance" of sexual abuse has been declared and pursued and programs of advocacy and protection of children have been adopted in dioceses throughout country, the memory, the record, the burden carried by survivors and every other fact of sexual abuse stay with the Church. We can never become complacent, this is a life-long ongoing work that demands the highest levels of our constant awareness and attention.

The crisis we face is the product of clerical sins and clerical failures. As a Church, the conversion, transparency and accountability we need is only possible with the significant involvement and leadership of lay men and women in our Church, individuals who can bring their competence, experience and skills to the task we face. We need the help of the laity to address this scourge on our people and Church. If the Church proceeds with deep recognition of these realities the future can hold the opportunity to earn back trust, confidence and support from the community of Catholics and our society. We must proceed quickly and with purpose; there is no time to waste."

Archdiocese of Boston Office of Pastoral Support and Child Protection

To survivors in the Archdiocese of Boston who struggle to process their pain and whose wounds are opened especially wide with the reports from Pennsylvania, please know that Vivian Soper, Director of the Archdiocese's Office of Pastoral Support and Child Protection and her colleagues stand ready to provide assistance. We encourage you to contact Vivian at 617-746-5985. To the survivors and their loved ones, we must again apologize and ask forgiveness. While much has been accomplished in the protection of children with the participation of the laity, there remains much more to be done. We are committed to the fulfillment of this responsibility as a continuing priority for the work of the Church.