

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

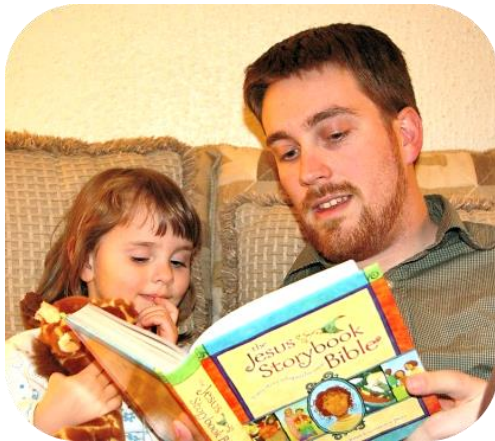
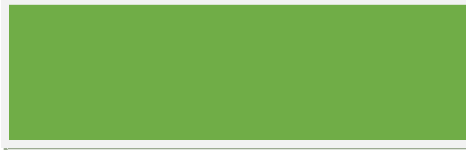
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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER, 2021

*"It is the sacred duty
 of every Catholic
 parent to provide
 their child with a
 strong education in
 the faith." Religious
 Education Classes
 start this month.*

Is your child registered?



**Teachers
 Needed**

Class code: A=Alt. weeks M=Monthly W=Weekly

GRADE	DAY AND TIME	TEACHERS	MONITORS
SUNDAY			
PRE-K.	9:15 to 10:30 AM	1 Adult /2 Teens	Filled
Kind.	9:15 to 10:30 AM	6 Adults /2 Teens	1
GR-1A	8:10 to 9:25 AM	3 Teams A	1
GR-2A	8:10 to 9:25 AM	2 Teams A	1
GR-2A	10:45 AM to Noon	2 Teams A	1
GR-3A	7:55 to 9:25 AM	3 Teachers A	Filled
GR-3A	10:45AM-12:15 PM	3 Teachers A	1
GR-4A	10:45AM-12:15 PM	3 Teachers A	1
GR-5A	10:45AM-12:15 PM	3 Teachers A	1
GR-6A	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers A	1
GR-7A	5:00 to 6:30 PM	3 Teachers A	1
MONDAY			
GR-3B	4:00 to 5:30 PM	4 Teachers A	Filled
GR-4B	4:00 to 5:30 PM	4 Teachers A	Filled
GR-5B	4:00 to 5:30 PM	3 Teachers A	Filled
GR-6B	4:00 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers A	Filled
GR-8B	6:00 to 7:30 PM	3 Teachers A	1

**Monitors and Teachers are needed
 for classes to begin in the fall.**

GRADE	DAY AND TIME	TEACHERS	MONITORS
TUESDAY			
GR-6C	4:30 to 5:30 PM	2 Teachers W	Filled
GR-9C	6:30 to 8:30 PM	5 Teachers A	Filled
GR-10C	6:30 to 8:30 PM	4 Teachers A	Filled
WEDNESDAY			
GR-2D	4:15 to 5:30 PM	2 Teams A	Filled
GR-5D	4:00 to 5:30 PM	3 Teachers A	1
GR-7D	6:00 to 7:30 PM	2 Teachers A	Filled
GR-8D	6:00 to 7:30 PM	4 Teachers A	1
THURSDAY			
GR-9E	6:30 to 8:30 PM	4 Teachers A	Filled
GR-10E	6:30 to 8:30 PM	3 Teachers A	Filled

**GRADES PRE-K, 1, 7, 8 AND 9 ARE IN NEED
 OF GRADE COORDINATORS:**

Grade Coordinators are essential to St. Mary's Religious Education Program. They assist the DRE in supporting the teachers and communicating with families. They also conduct two meetings during the year and are present at grade level events. Please contact Fran Crespi at st.marysdre1870@gmail.com for more information.

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

September, 2021 ~ Volume 47, Number 1



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

Rectory: 429-4427
Religious Education Center: 429-6076
Music Program: 429-6076

Religious Education Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com
Parish Email Address: st.marys1870@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

WELCOME THERESA!

This summer St. Mary's welcomed our new Youth Minister – Theresa M. Virzi. A native of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, Theresa graduated from the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, (Class of 2019). There she studied Psychology and was a member of SENT Ministries – Student Evangelization Networking Team.

Theresa has a strong background in evangelization, having coordinated Parish Confirmation Retreats, Mission Trips to Haiti and the Bronx, and other Youth Ministry activities.

Before joining St. Mary's Staff in August, Theresa was employed in Human Resources and Event Planning at her Alma Mater.

Theresa now lives in Massachusetts with her husband Andrew, a locally employed carpenter and fellow Franciscan University Graduate. They were married in 2020 at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Theresa is overseeing Faith Formation at St. Mary's for Grades Eight through Ten, as well as both the Middle School and E.P.I.C. High School Youth Ministry Programs. In her down time, Theresa enjoys music, dance, hiking, and family game nights.

We are delighted to welcome Theresa to our St. Mary's Ministry Team, and we know she will be a great blessing to our parish youth!



WELCOME NEW FAMILIES!

With joy, St. Mary's welcomes these twenty new families to our parish. May we be a blessing to each other as we walk our pilgrim way.

The Cruz Family – Hector, Carolina, Karina and Hector

The Reed Family – Brian, Kyle and William

The Fleischer Family – Marie

The Fogarasi del Rio Family – Kristof, Sofia, Maria Lourdes, Raquel and Mateo

The Byrnes Family – James, Amy and Michael

The Wilder Family – Matthew, Laura, Ryan and Dylan

The Sims Family – Nicole, Natasha and Gabriel

The Malvey Family – Brendan, Katherine, Maureen, Mia and Finnian

The Bonaldi Family – Bruno and Ana

The Doyle Family – Robert, JoEllen, Patrick, Owen and Mary

The Griffiths Family – David, Maria and Angelina

The Novick Family – Robert, Lauren, Charles and Sarah

The Haas Family – Jake and Kelly

The Curran Family – Jeanne

The Connor Family – Paul and Judith

The Leach Family – Matthew, Beth, Benjamin and Thomas

The Kubik Family – Jean

The Barrs Family – Chuck and Kathleen

The Miller Family – Evan, Brittany, Sloane and Lydia

The Brovelli Family – John and Patricia

St. Mary's Parish
150th 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 Crudit  Display and Dip, Cash Bar

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

- Choice of one of the following entr es
Orange Maple Breast of Chicken
Baked Haddock
Eggplant Parmigiana w/ Marinara Sauce



Saint Mary's Parish

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

September 2021

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

I thank you for the many ways you have stayed connected and faithful to our St. Mary's Parish Family during these unprecedented times. Many of you have been back at Mass since we reopened in May of 2020. More and more have been worshipping in person since vaccinations became available, and especially since the Cardinal's dispensation from the Sunday Mass Obligation was lifted on June 20. What a joy it has been to see so many dear faces again!

The livestreamed Mass has allowed those at high risk and with medical conditions to remain connected to their parish each week in prayer. And as you have seen in the bulletin, most of St. Mary's people have stood faithfully by their parish in stewardship, allowing our staff to be paid, buildings maintained, and ministries available.

If *"it is in the hard times that you find out who your real friends are,"* then many, many people have proven themselves to be true and faithful friends to St. Mary's.

That having been said, this experience of pandemic has unavoidably weakened our parish ties. So many of the worship, service, and social opportunities that used to strengthen our friendships and sense of community here were limited or even suspended by the pandemic.

Just as sheep who become less connected to their flock might wander and fall prey to wolves, poachers, or dangerous terrain, so our people are now in a certain degree of spiritual peril. It will take prayer and effort for each of us to renew our own parish family ties. And we all need to reach out to those who might stray or even fall away entirely because they are not as connected as once they were. I know St. Mary's can count on you in this important work.

Years back, I attended a retreat where the director gave a reflection on the seven deadly sins. He defined the sin of sloth as *"a disdain for the spiritual because of the physical effort involved."* As we try to recover from the pandemic, I suspect that sloth will be the real temptation for many. Having been away from "in person" worship for so long, some might just drift along without the Holy Mass and the spiritual nourishment it provides. What a loss it would be to no longer hear the Good News in a world filled with so much darkness. What a sorrow for the soul to no longer welcome Jesus in His Body and His Blood.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor

P.S. Many thanks to Linda and David Truitt, Michael and Kimberly Perkins, Abigail Winchenbach, Marjorie Graham, and Natalie Kent for planting and faithfully watering all the beautiful flowers adorning St. Mary's grounds this summer!

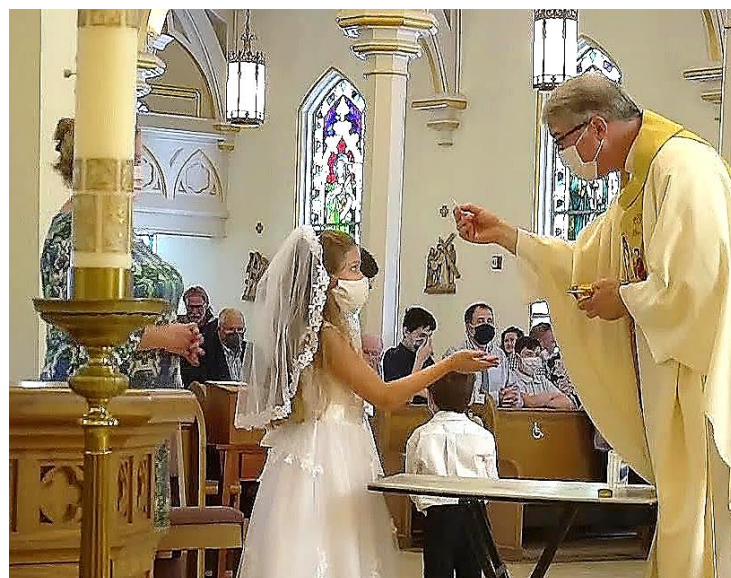


77 FIRST COMMUNIONS!

On two consecutive weekends this June, four classes totaling seventy seven students made their First Holy Communion at St. Mary's. Holy Communion is the second of the three Catholic sacraments of initiation, the others being Baptism and Confirmation. After years of watching their mothers and fathers receive Holy Communion, these young people were finally able to take their place at God's table. Having been received into the Eucharistic Fellowship, these boys and girls will now be fortified by God's grace each week as they receive Jesus' Body and Blood – the spiritual food by which He strengthens His love and presence in our lives.

Wearing the parish's Our Mother of Perpetual Help vestment, Father Mark compared the two hands of the child Jesus shown clutching Mary - to the two sacraments of Confession and Communion. "Keep Confession and Sunday Mass in your lives," said Father, "and you will always be held close to your mother the Church – you will always be close to God." Because the First Communions took place on Saturdays, the children made their Second Holy Communion the very next day on Sunday, where they were called forward, presented with certificates and applauded by the whole St. Mary's Parish Family. A sampling of our First Communicant Photos are on the next page. Welcome!

Isabella Lucia Acevedo
Camila Alborno
Austin Andrew Bachman
Benjamin Paul Baril
Caroline Patricia Bernier
David Robert Blackerby
Madison Beatrice Blackerby
Erin Kathleen Breen
Caitlin Lindberg Bresnahan
Liliana Marie Canto
Grace Antonia Caruso
Andrew Christopher Cataldo
Ellie Marie Clark
Adeline Cormier
Coleman Cormier
Julianne Isabelle Digiacomo
Clayton Paul Duffy
Charlotte Genevieve Ehret
Sean Gregory Ellis
George William Floeckher
Mia Gilberte Forchielli
Anne Marley Gallagher
Emmy Deborah Giallonardo
Bennett James Gilbreath
Alexandra Mae Gleason
Samuel Morris Haan
Megan Ellen Haley
Isla Grace Harding
Lindsay Meredith Haynes
Ryker Baron Heidelberg
Peter Martin Jakobsen
Cooper Joseph Jarboe
Anthony Patrick Oldford
Caitlin Judith Rotz
Keira Elise Saari
Hailey Alice Schroeder
Adeline Ann Taylor
Emma Louise Tobin
Chase Ryan Truax



Morgan Charles Bailey
Erik Mark Fauton
Leo James Foster
Emma Maureen Grady
Thomas-Felix Herald
Emily Rose Kiebish
Timothy Walter Klaus
Luke George Knup
Patrick Daniel Lane
Julia Gioioso Lozano
Hope Clara MacEvoy
Vivian Simone McCarter
Cassandra Rose McErlean
Alexandra Jane McLaren
Chloe McShane
Declan Michael McShane
Andrew James Menard
Cecilia Ann Mott
Jaegger-James Kiernan Nicholas
Shaughnaessey-Lynnea Gianna Nicholas
Thomas Frank Ogoreuc
Andrea da Luz Ondrasek
Cole Patrick Peterson
Jack Garvin Phipps
Christian Anthony Porciello
Nolan Daniel Rediger
Chloe Catherine Roche
Clifford Chad Roberts
Keira Harriet Roberts
Annabel Schroder
Joseph John Sgarano II
Benjamin Sharma
Maximillian Sharma
Owen Charles Shaw
Connor Richard Spilka
Molly Ryan Starr
Luke Jonthomas Torio
Maeve McKenna Wilde





St. Mary's Vacation Bible School was back on track this summer! At **Rocky Railway 2021**, children explored how the **Power of Jesus Pulls Us Through!** They spent the week of faith, friendship & fun learning how ...

- Jesus' power helps us when life is hard
- Jesus' power gives us hope
- Jesus' power helps us be bold
- Jesus' power gives us everlasting life
- Jesus' power helps us be good friends

Most importantly, they learned **TRUST JESUS!**

Children entering Kindergarten through 6th Grade participated as crew members, and older teens entering 7th through 12th Grades led as crew leaders or station leaders.



Each day opened and closed with prayer as well as high energy music, dancing, and skits. A daily Bible point was heard throughout the day as crews visited five different stations and learned all about Jesus' power. In *Chew Chew Snacks*, they enjoyed a creative snack along with prayer and lively conversation. In *Bible Adventures*, they traveled back in time to live out a Bible story. In *Locomotion Games*, everyone got outside and had a blast with our incredible Outdoor Game team. In *Kid Vid Cinema*, they watched a true story about how Jesus' power helped a child in their life. In *Imagination Station*, they used their creativity for Railway related crafts. All participated in a Service Project by making donations to the Holliston Pantry Shelf.

We can't say THANK YOU enough to all our volunteers! Special thanks to the Roberto, Dufault, Baribeau, Hayes, Bukow, Haynes, Meisner and Kuchman Families, as well as Najat Whalen, Owen Bulmer, and Jared Sangil!

Looking forward to VBS 2022, stay tuned for the theme announcement! If you're interested in helping with the planning process, email stmarysvbsholliston@gmail.com.







KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 September 2021

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Brodo

MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be
Wednesday, September 15
in the Church at 7:00 PM.
The Rosary is open to all
parishioners and current
COVID-19 policies are in
effect.



SILVER ROSE PRAYER SERVICE: On August 12, the Council honored Our Lady of Guadalupe and, as quoted by past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, "...we also confirm [our] dedication to the sanctity of human life." On display was one of eight circulating Silver Roses honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. The parish service was led by St. Mary's Deacons



John Barry and Ron Dowding. Deacon Dowding's sermon spoke of the tragedy of our nation's legalized abortion law. He offered that everyone is for life, but the secular false choices offered for legal abortions must be countered by eliminating fear. Fear can be reduced by eliminating any uncertainty during pregnancy for women facing childbirth alone or fearing an unknown future. Our prayerful support for pro-life clinics, secure housing, financial aid, and standing up in support of the sanctity of all life may bring a hopeful reversal of legalized abortions. Knights recited the Rosary followed by the Liturgy of the Word and Consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

COUNCIL OFFICER ELECTIONS: The Council held its annual election of officers in June. Grand Knight Albert Scaramella and Deputy Grand Knight Thomas Brodo will lead the Council in fiscal 2021/2022. The Council congratulates Al and Tom as well as our other elected officers.

COUNCIL #14224 13th ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: The Council is **NOW** selling raffle tickets through individual members. The Council will soon be selling tickets on the weekends at St. Mary's, Superette and local grocery stores. Dates are to be announced. The first prize is \$1000. 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. The Council has donated over \$240,000 since the raffle began. Please ask a Knight for your lucky ticket - a book of five tickets for \$20 or one ticket for \$5.

JUNK REMOVAL - COUNCIL TEAMING WITH "THE GREEN TEAM": The Council has teamed with this local junk removal firm to offer St. Mary's parishioners the opportunity to organize their homes by contacting "The Green Team" for junk removal. "The Green Team" has pledged a Coupon Program that will donate \$5 to the Council if the customer orders a ¼ truckload or more and presents the attached coupon. You may have as many loads as you like, just use a coupon each time you order. The program will run through the end of this year. "The Green Team" may be reached by calling (508) 361-0519 or via www.gogreenteamjunk.com. They reuse and donate materials to local charities and non-profit organizations that help build affordable housing. They aid in furnishing homes to low-income families. Items and materials that cannot be reused will be recycled and kept out of our landfills. *Your Green Team Coupon is provided on the next page of this Newsletter.*



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 <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html>. 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.

**The Green Team will donate \$5
of each pickup (1/4 truck minimum)
to St. Mary's of Holliston Knights
of Columbus Council 14224.**



Green Team
Junk Removal



Present this coupon when placing your order.

Valid through 12/31/21



JOIN OUR CHOIRS!

Do you like to sing? Do you have a child who likes to sing? Join one of our choirs! No music training is necessary! It's FREE and it's FUN!

Adult Choir: Open to youth and adults of all ages. The Adult Choir sings for the Sunday 11:30 AM Mass every week (rehearsal at 10:45 AM before Mass). Rehearsals are every Thursday from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the Lower Church.

Children's Choir: Open to children grades 4 - 7. The Children's Choir sings for the Sunday 9:30 AM Mass more or less every two weeks (rehearsal at 8:40 AM before Mass). Rehearsals are every Wednesday from 3:30 - 4:15 PM in the Lower Church.

Youth Choir: Open to children/youth 7th grade and higher. The Youth Choir sings for the Sunday 9:30 AM Mass more or less every two weeks (rehearsal at 8:40 AM before Mass). Additionally, the Youth Choir sings for a Sung Vespers service once a month. Rehearsals are every Wednesday from 4:00 - 5:15 PM in the Lower Church. When we sing Vespers, the rehearsal starts at 5:30 PM.

All Choirs: Our first rehearsals take place the week after Labor Day! The calendar for the entire 2021-2022 season can be accessed by scanning this QR code. Email Music Director Kevin Lyczak at musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com for more info!



ARE YOU UNBAPTIZED?

**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 during the Easter season.

There are separate sessions for children or youth. 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 and our whole parish are waiting to give you a warm welcome!

Please call (508) 429-4427 or email st.marys1870@gmail.com for more information.

Fall Season 2021

Uncovering Hidden Treasure, Understanding Catholic Social Teaching

October 6: *Charity and Justice: Understanding Catholic Social Teaching.* Catholic Social Teaching (CST) officially began in 1891 with Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. Our speaker will provide a general historical background of CST - it's evolution to it's recent past and future. Our speaker will also provide a comprehensive outline of the 7 key principles of CST; *Life and the Dignity of the Human Person, Solidarity, Care for God's Creation, Call to Family and Community and Participation, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Rights and Responsibilities Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers*. Finally, our speaker will help Catholics understand how a comprehensive understanding of CST can encourage us to form healthy consciences.



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**. Fr. Chris was ordained in 1998 after studying at St. John's and at the Gregorian University in Rome. He received a Doctorate in Philosophy from CUA in 2004 and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from BC School of Theology and Ministry in 2010. Our speaker 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. As demonstrated in a key Vatican II document, *Gaudium et Spes* (The Church in the Modern World), Vatican II, 1965 #30, "*It is imperative that no one, out of indifference to the course of events or because of inertia, would indulge in a merely individualistic morality. The best way to fulfill one's obligations of justice and love is to contribute to the common good according to one's means and the needs of others, and also to promote and help public and private organizations devoted to bettering the conditions of life.*"

October 20: *Created in His image (Gen 1:26-27): Life and Dignity of the Human Person.* 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, and 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.* 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 and encourage us to act in accord with Pope Francis' call to action.



November 3: *Care of God's Creation: The Urgency of Pope Francis' Laudato Si'.* Speaker: **Fran Ludwig**. Fran 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. "Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path." 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'.

November 10: *Go Forth in Love: Saints who lived Boldly.* Discover the men and women of our Church who have lived in accordance with the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching. These heroic figures have followed Christ's invitation to love one another as Christ has loved us. Our speaker will introduce us to four Catholic saints who have boldly lived this call of discipleship standing up against racism, intolerance, disease and more - St. Damien of Molokai, Saint Katherine Drexal and Saint Martin de Porres. "The examples of these saints make it clear that social justice is an integral part of our faith tradition." As we look ahead, these saints inspire us to get involved and make a difference.

All 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders!
You are invited to the ...



**St. Mary's Parish
Middle School Youth Group
2021 Kick Off Meeting!**

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

**Enjoy a Giant Ice Cream Sundae Bar, Games,
Prizes, Trip Sign Ups, Faith, Friendship & Fun.**



What to Bring:

**White Registration Form & \$5 Monthly Dues;
Plus Permission Forms & Payments for any October Trips.
Bring a Friend!**



Troop 14 Holliston

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

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.hollistonTroop14.com

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

Troop 14 will return to regular, in-person meetings after Labor Day. The Troop will be back in full swing again for the fall with weekly Monday Night Meetings from 7 - 8:30 PM in St. Mary's Lower Church Hall. Join us!

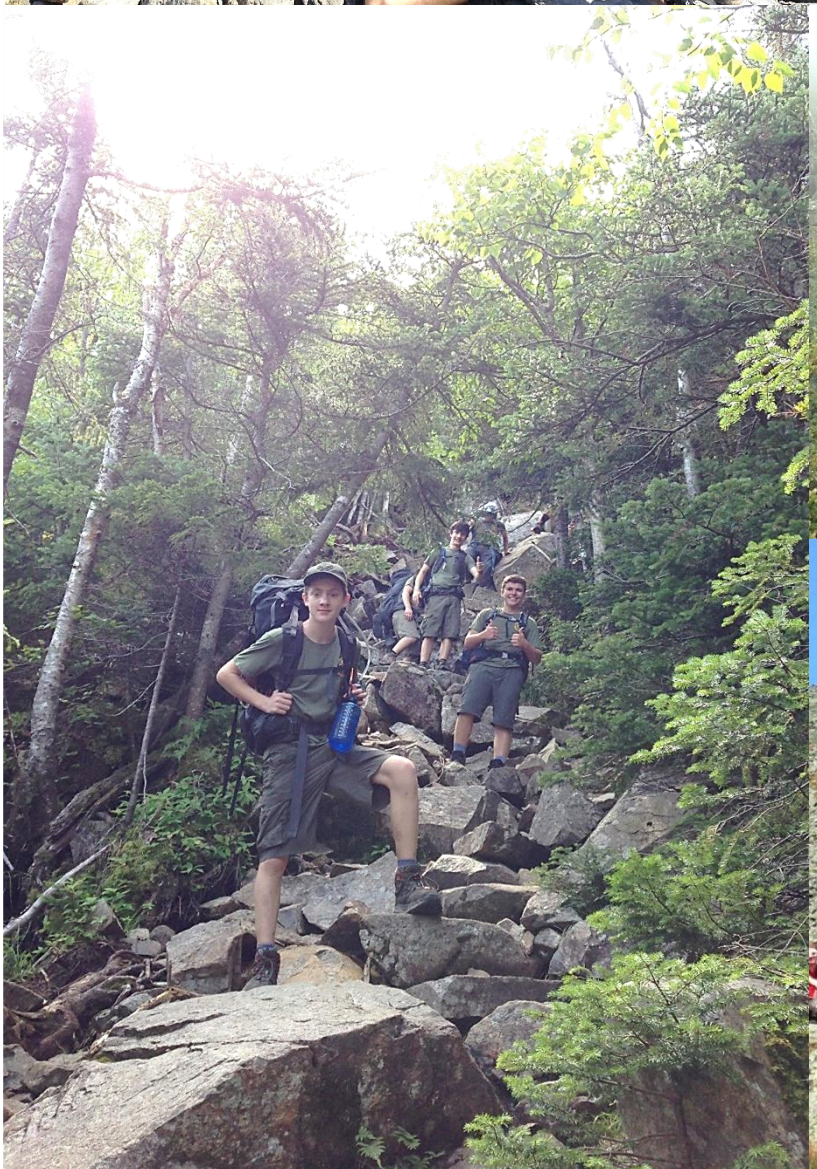
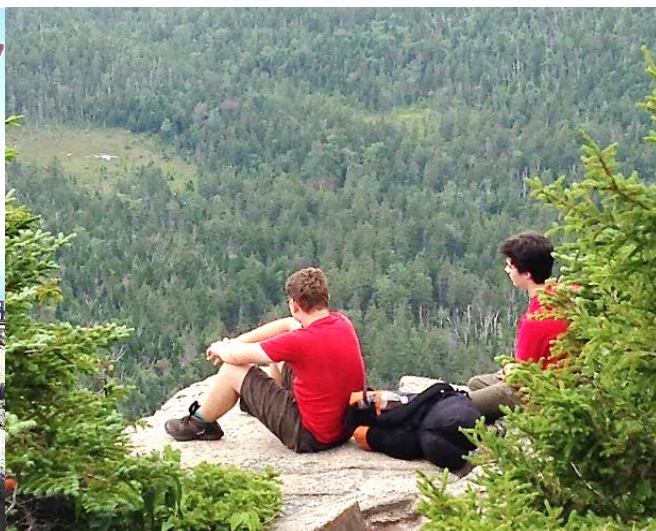
SUMMER CAMP: From July 11-17, eighteen Scouts and four leaders attended Camp Squanto adjacent to Myles Standish State Park in Plymouth MA. It was a great week for the Scouts, with three Scouts attending camp for the first time. The Scouts spent the week outdoors completing over 60 merit badges, swimming, boating, participating in theme night activities, campfires, and Dutch Oven desserts at our camp site at night. Troop 14 Scouts took 4th Place in the Camp wide Apache Relay on Wednesday night, following seconds behind the 3rd Place Troop.

At camp on Wednesday, six Troop 14 Scouts were elected by their fellow Scouts and nominated to join the Order of the Arrow (OA). A Tap Out Ceremony was held on Thursday night when those elected candidates were notified of their nominations. Troop 14 Scouts that were nominated included Danny and Jack Baribeau, Luke Roberto, Sohan Javali, Andrew McWilliams, and Aidan Carlson. The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. Its purpose is to recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.



SUMMER 2021 HIGH ADVENTURE - BACKPACKING THE WHITE MOUNTAIN PRESIDENTIAL RANGE:

After two training hikes in June and July, ten Troop 14 Scouts and leaders went on a five day high-adventure trip from August 10-14. They backpacked the southern Presidential Range which culminated at Mount Washington. The High Adventure Crew hiked a total of 40.4 miles, summiting ten 4000' and 5000' mountains, with a total elevation gain of 13,530' over the five days. The Crew hiked above the tree line at times, and experienced great 360-degree, 60-100 mile views across numerous mountains in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. After summiting Mount Washington at 6,288', the Scouts cooled down with a swim in one of the mountain lakes near the AMC Lakes of the Clouds hut at 5,012'.



THE POWER OF POSITIVITY

How thankfulness and hope can transform our culture

It's easy to get bogged down by all the negative impulses in our society today: Covid-19, international conflicts, global warming, natural disasters, etc. How do we overcome the gloom and cynicism that is so prevalent in our culture? The answer lies in turning our attention toward what is right with our world rather than what is wrong with it. For two months during the pandemic actor, John Krasinski offered a weekly video *Some Good News*, which featured feel-good stories with positive messages. Although the video fizzled out when he sold the rights to his broadcast in May of 2020, his eight short episodes attracted over 72 million viewers; demonstrating that the world is starved for the perspective of optimism.



A true embrace of our faith offers the world the only long-term solution to overcoming negativity. What is the *Good News* that our faith has to offer? The Gospel, of course! Jesus reminds us that

“It is not as the world gives that I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not let it be afraid.”

- John 14:27

while we live in this world we need not be consumed by it [see *Matthew 6:25-33 & 11:28-30, John 14:27 & 16:33, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10*]. Many great saints (i.e.: Francis of Assisi & Teresa of Calcutta) have shown us that by turning our attention away from our own plight and focusing our attention instead on where God's presence is evident around us and where His road is leading us, we can avoid being swept into the downward spiral of a fallen world.

The most joyful people in my life have always been the ones who attend Mass daily, and the ones who do things for others regularly, without expecting anything in return. They seem to realize that putting God and neighbor first helps to even the playing field. Saint Paul tells us that “the sufferings of this time are not comparable to the glory which is going to be revealed in us (in the world to come)” [*Romans 8:18*]. By putting our faith into this reality rather than in societal trends, and by doing all we can to prepare for the ultimate “retirement” (heaven), each of us may come to realize a sense of hope and optimism that the world is incapable of providing.

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

SEPTEMBER 2021

got faith?



SEASONAL READINGS: All of the Sunday second readings this month are from the Letter of James. On September 12, we hear the well-known lines calling us to action: “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?” Felix Just, SJ, on his Catholic Resources website, (<https://bit.ly/JustonJames>), provides a brief outline of the letter, writing that its purpose is to stress the ethics of Christian living. The US Bishops, on their website (<https://bit.ly/USCCBJames>), introduce the letter and note that it falls within the tradition of Jewish Wisdom literature and that its ethical norms, unlike those of Paul, are not primarily based on Christ. The Bible Project offers an engaging video summary of the letter at <https://bit.ly/BibleProjectJames>. While the video claims that the author of the letter is the half-brother of Jesus (this is not known to be true, as “brother” sometimes referred to kin in Jesus’ culture), the main themes of the letter are presented in an easily understandable manner. As always, you can prepare for the Sunday readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

PRAYERS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11: You will find prayers from several religious traditions to remember the events of September 11, 2001 at <https://bit.ly/XavierPatriotDay>. We pray for healing, justice and hope on the Twentieth Anniversary of this tragic day.

SEASON OF CREATION: Each year, the Catholic Church, in collaboration with many other Christian Churches, celebrates the Season of Creation from September 1 to October 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. This year’s theme is “A Home for All? Renewing the *Oikos* of God”. *Oikos* means the “household of God”, the “beloved community”. You can find more about this year’s theme, including a prayer for the Season, at <https://bit.ly/SOCHomeforAll>. Interestingly, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its most recent report on climate change on August 9, 2021. The nearly 4000-page report can be found in full at <https://bit.ly/IPCC2021report>; the beginning of the report includes a summary for policy makers which totals 41 pages. Finally, you will find a number of faith leaders’ reactions to the report, including those of Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago, at <https://bit.ly/NCRIPCC>.

GRANDPARENTS’ DAY: Celebrated this year on September 12, National Grandparents’ Day was established in the United States by President Jimmy Carter in 1978. You can read a short article about NGD at <https://bit.ly/AlmanacNGD>. Just this year, Pope Francis named the fourth Sunday in July, the Sunday closest to the feast day of Sts. Ann and Joachim (Jesus’ grandparents), as the World Day of Grandparents’ and the Elderly (<https://bit.ly/PapalProclamation>). You can read about this day of celebration, and its meaning to the pope, at <https://bit.ly/PopeFrancisandGrandparents>.

COVID PANDEMIC: The US Bishops have issued what they call *Resources for Prayer and Engagement during Coronavirus* at <https://catholiccurrent.org/covid19/>. This site is one of the “topic” pages on the USCCB online publication, *Catholic Current*. Other topics include child abuse prevention, human life and dignity, and combating racism.

EUCCHARIST: We continue to celebrate the Year of the Eucharist in the Archdiocese of Boston. During this past summer, we heard the *Bread of Life* Discourse, said to be St. John’s reflection on the Eucharist, on several Sundays. Fr. Mark, our pastor, provided a wonderful reflection on the Eucharist in his letter which was in the August 8 bulletin (<https://bit.ly/BulletinAug8>). He talked about a trip that he made to the Grand Canyon several years ago. One of his observations is that the Mass, the Eucharistic meal, “allows us to follow Christ not as isolated individuals, but as companions on the journey”.

—Leo Racine