

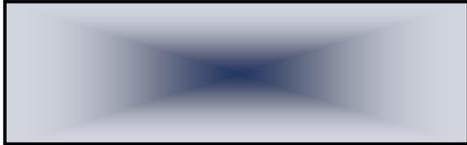
**ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

Summer Newsletter 2021

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**Congratulations
St. Mary's
Class of 2021!**



**Graduate
Photos and
Plans Inside.**



2021 BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Each Spring, St. Mary's awards this scholarship to a graduating senior "in recognition of exceptional service," to our Parish Family. At the May 23 Mass for Graduates, this year's Blessed Mother Scholarship was presented to ... Michaela DeToma!

A graduate of Holliston High School, Michaela was a member of St. Mary's Children's Choir for four years and the Youth Choir for seven years. She is also a regular cantor at St. Mary's 9:30 AM Sunday Mass.

Michaela was a member of our Youth Group for three years, and also taught Religious Education for three years.

She will be attending the Commonwealth Honors College at UMass Amherst to study Computer Science with a minor in Spanish.

May God be with Michaela and all our graduating seniors. May He guide their steps to the path that will make them the greatest blessing to others, growing in knowledge, faith, and love of the Lord. Amen.

Photo Left: Michaela DeToma at the Mass for Graduates.

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

Summer, 2021 ~ Volume 46, Number 7

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

Rectory: 508-429-4427
Religious Education Center: 508-429-6076
Music Program: 508-429-6076

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

10th Annual Mass for Graduates 2021 Class Speaker Ryan Stanwood Holliston High School

Good Morning everyone. My name is Ryan Stanwood, and I would like to start off by congratulating the Class of 2021 on completing this important chapter in our lives. We have gathered today from many different schools in celebration of our class, as well as all of our accomplishments throughout this faithful journey.

I would like to thank all of the CCD teachers, Jake Thiringer, Fran Crespi, the coordinators, our parents, and all who have encouraged us to grow in faith along the way. Without all of your time and dedication, we would not have the strong Catholic bond we have today.

I would like to especially thank Father Mark for guiding us to where we are now. I know I can speak for everyone when I say you continue to inspire each and every one of us with everything you do. From Paintball and Whitewater Rafting Youth Group Trips to the Closing Prayer that fills us with the feeling of comfort, you have been there for us, and we are thankful.

As we enter into this new chapter, who knows how it will end up? Each person has a new beginning, new destinations, new goals. There's a lot to which we will soon be saying goodbye. However, the love we have experienced from Saint Mary's will never be forgotten. And while it will now change, our bond to our Catholic Church Family will last. Hopefully it will get even stronger.

Continued on Next Page



An important point in my faith journey was a couple of years ago, when I began working here at St. Mary's. I really just started here because I needed money and it was only a few minutes away from home. But over the years working here, I've realized that this job is nothing but a gift.

Working at St. Mary's helped me grow in my faith way more than I ever thought possible. It made me become more involved in the church community and appreciate all that goes on here. It helped me meet new people, and it brought me closer to God.

When it comes to faith, the experience that stands out to me the most was the Saint Mary's Mission Trip to Florida a couple of summers ago. I had never been on a mission trip, or anything like one for that matter. I didn't know what to expect.

The first day we got there, my team was given the task of helping an elderly lady clean her apartment because she would have a hard time doing it herself. At first I thought to myself – "I came all the way down here to Florida just to clean this woman's apartment?" I wanted to do something bigger, like other teams were doing.

But when we met the lady, we were immediately showered with hugs and gratitude. It didn't take too long to clean her apartment. And when we were done, we could see how happy this made her. It was a small effort for us – but it meant the world to her.

In today's Mass Reading from Corinthians, we will hear Saint Paul say that, *"there are different forms of service, but the same Lord; there are different workings, but the same God, who produces all of them in everyone."*

As we go forth now from high school, we may at times find ourselves doing something different from what we had planned. It might be huge and impact many lives. It may be small and simple and bring a smile to the face of one elderly lady, or other person in need.

There *are* different forms of work and service. But if we do them with faith and with love – then they will be worthwhile. They will be pleasing to God. As Mother Theresa always used to say, *"We can do no great things, only small things with great love."*

Classmates, it's hard to call us graduates while it feels as if time flew. Growing up with you all these past years has had a big impact on my life and my faith. It is a part of the journey I will never forget.

I couldn't have asked for a better group of kids to share my faith in this church and community. As we now take our own steps in a new direction, I wish you all a hopeful path. Remember that you have a new Catholic faith community waiting to welcome you wherever you go this fall. And remember that you can always come home to St. Mary's.

Thank you.

**Photo: St. Mary's EPIC Mission Trip to Gainesville, FL, July 14 - 20, 2019.
Next Summer's 2022 High School Mission Trip is to Mississippi!**





St. Mary's 10th Annual Mass for Graduates

Each year, St. Mary's sets aside one of her regular Sunday Masses to honor and pray for our parishioners graduating from High School. This year's Mass for the Class of 2021 took place at 11:30 AM on Sunday, May 23 – the Feast of Pentecost. You may watch the Mass here: <https://rb.gy/y9pdpi>. The Pandemic prevented the whole Class of 2021 from worshipping in person, but they were well represented by their classmates who were present.

Shown above from left to right: Audrey Abucewicz, (Ursuline Academy), offered the Old Testament Reading; Joe Harrahy, (Medway High), offered the New Testament Reading; and Anna Sheehan, (Montrose Academy), led the Prayers of the Faithful. The Responsorial Psalm and Mass Parts were led by cantor Michaela DeToma, (Holliston High School), who was also this year's Blessed Mother Scholarship Winner (see Newsletter Cover). And of course the 2021 Class Speaker was Ryan Stanwood, (Holliston High), see previous pages. As always, it was beautiful to see students from different towns and schools all united by their shared parish and Catholic faith.

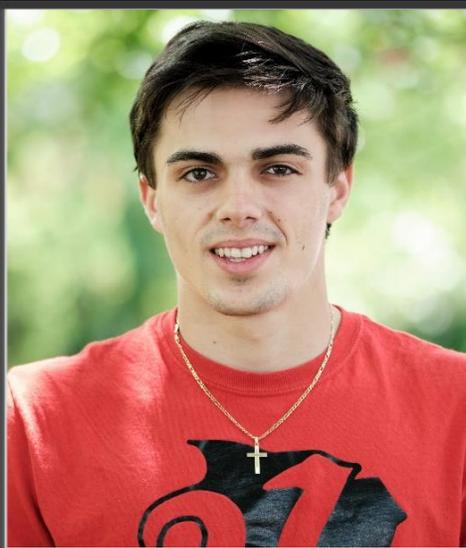
Fr. Mark reminded the Graduates that God will be with them wherever they now go. He spoke of God's watchful care and encouraged the young people to seek His guidance and help in their new situations. The graduates were reminded that God will be there for them in their new Catholic Communities, whether at a college Newman Center, a military base chapel, or a nearby parish. He also reminded them that they will bring Christ with them as His witnesses. From the homily:

In our Pentecost Gospel today, Jesus said: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Dear Graduates, you are being sent forth now as Christ's ambassadors to the world. You have been Baptized into Christ and received His Sacred Body and Blood in Holy Communion. The Holy Spirit that came first upon the disciples on this very Feast of Pentecost, you also have received in Confirmation. The Holy Spirit is burning within you, empowering you with His Sevenfold Gifts. So that when people meet you - they will be meeting Christ. When people see the way you live, and love, and pray, and give, and forgive – they will see what it means to be Catholic. They will catch a glimpse of the beautiful face of Jesus.

Although the Pandemic made the traditional group photo impossible this year, we are happy to provide individual photos of St. Mary's Graduates of the Class of 2021, and their plans for the fall, on the following pages. (Many thanks to George Martell for the great photos). We are so very proud of these fine young men and women, and we ask God to bring to completion the good work He has begun in them. Congratulations St. Mary's Class of 2021!



Natalie Frey
Miami University of Ohio



Louis Denison
Nichols College



Caitlin Damigella
University of New Hampshire



Aaron Harrah
Florida Institute of Technology



Joe Harrah
University of Maine



Reagan Boice
Fairfield University



Max Penn
Framingham State



Mary Kate Ward
University of Connecticut



Joe Lombardi
Saint Anselm College



Audrey Abucewicz
Saint Anselm College



Kevin Balewicz
Virginia Tech



Peyton Brooks
Sacred Heart University



Sophia Paulsen
MassBay Community College



Jack Croke
Santa Clara University



Anna Curran
Stonehill College



Jack Garvey
Xavier University



Norah Fay
Suffolk University



Ryan Stanwood
Westfield State University



Michaela DeToma
UMass Amherst



Colin Daly
Plymouth State



Jenna Shutt
St. Joseph's College



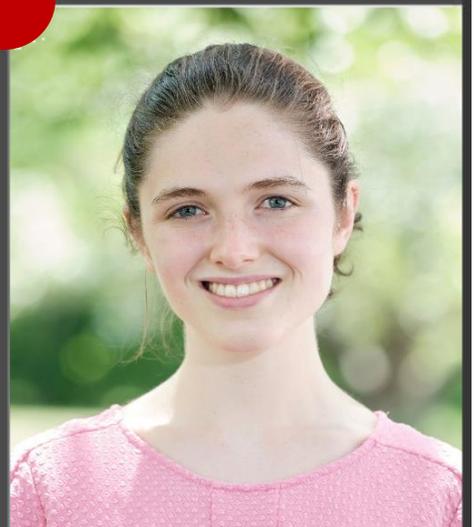
Theodore "Teddy" Ratcliffe
Virginia Tech



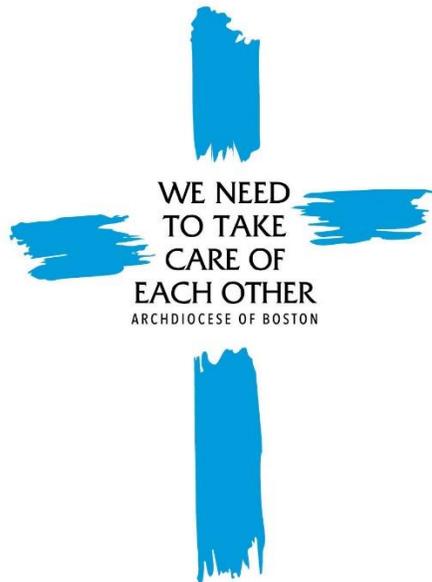
Allison Robbins
Endicott College



Christian Schneelock
Endicott College



Anna Sheehan
Catholic University



June 8, 2021

Brothers and Sisters,

“Without the Lord’s day, we cannot live!” His Holiness, Pope Benedict, in his homily at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen in Vienna on September 9, 2007, quoted the Abitinian Martyrs, who during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian were arrested for celebrating Sunday Mass. The martyrs responded to the magistrate: “*Sine dominico non possumus!*” – without the Lord’s day, we cannot live! The Pope went on to say: “For these Christians, the Sunday Eucharist was not a commandment, but an inner necessity. Without him who sustains our lives, life itself is empty. To do without or to betray this focus would deprive life of its very foundation, would take away its inner dignity and beauty.”

Aware that the opportunity to participate in Sunday Mass is increasingly available and increasingly safe for our Catholic people, we are joining dioceses in the Boston Province (Boston, Fall River, Springfield, Manchester, and Portland) in lifting the dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligation, effective the weekend of June 19 and 20, 2021.

We are mindful of the Lord’s statement: “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Mt 18:20). While we certainly can pray alone, there is both strength and blessedness in communal prayer.

We do also note that attendance at Mass is our way of following the Third Commandment of the Decalogue: “Remember the sabbath day – keep it holy. For six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them;

but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.” (Ex. 20:8,11)

We call to mind the many times we see Jesus observing the sabbath by going to the synagogue and teaching there (Mt 13:54, Mk 1:21-28, Lk 4:16-30, Jn 6:22-59). It is a desire of every Christian to conform his or her life to the life of Jesus, and Jesus went to the synagogue on the sabbath.

Most significantly, receiving the Eucharist is the center of every Catholic life. The Lord commands us to take and eat, and to do it in memory of Him. (Mt 26:26-30, Mk 14:22-26, Lk 22:14-20, 1 Cor 11:23-26, CCC 1324). The Eucharist is food for our difficult journey through life, filling us with joy and strengthening us to embrace our suffering. It transforms us from the inside out and creates a unity among us that is a strong witness to the whole world.

Therefore, it is with great confidence and trust in the Lord that we reinstate this Sunday Mass obligation. It has been a long, difficult year. People have experienced great pain and suffering throughout this pandemic. Loss of life has been immense. People continue to recover from the long-term effects of the coronavirus.

The heroes among us — our nurses, doctors, first responders and all medical professionals — were a source of enormous comfort. Priests brought the Sacrament of the Sick to COVID patients. Now we are able to join together, remembering the lives changed and the sacrifices made. Let us gather together again in joy, as one people united around the Eucharist.

In this year of Saint Joseph, who was always a faithful observer of the sabbath, we chose Father’s Day as an appropriate day to encourage all of our people, and especially our families, to return to the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.

This obligation does not apply to those who are ill; those who have been recently exposed to COVID or any other communicable illness; those who are confined to their homes or to hospitals or other facilities due to illness, infirmity, frailty, or age; and those who are not yet able to be vaccinated, due to age or any health consideration. Parishioners should consult their local pastor if they have questions about the obligation.

To all of those who have not been able to be with us during this last year, we look forward to welcoming you back to the celebration of the Mass.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley, OFM Cap
Archbishop of Boston



Cardinal O'Malley Celebrates Mass at St. Mary's, Holliston, to Commemorate her 150th Anniversary.

On Sunday, May 16, 2021, the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Cardinal Sean O'Malley celebrated Sunday Mass for the first time at our parish. The occasion was to mark St. Mary's 150th Anniversary in 2020. Two previous visits were cancelled due to the pandemic. This Sunday in Our Lady's Month of May dawned sunny and bright, with all 150 seats allowed by the pandemic restrictions filled. St. Mary's Knights of Columbus provided an honor guard, and several St. Mary's Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre also vested for the Mass. Concelebrants included our Pastor, Fr. Mark Coiro and Fr. Rocco Puopolo, Superior of the Fatima Shrine Xaverian Fathers; while Deacons Marty Breinlinger, John Barry, and Ron Dowding all ministered. You may watch the Mass here:

<https://www.facebook.com/432644050105694/videos/762879184596554>.

The Cardinal was welcomed by Mrs. Diane Collins. These are her remarks:

Good Morning. My name is Diane Collins, Vice Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. And it is my pleasure and honor, on behalf of the Council, clergy and parishioners of St. Mary's, to welcome you, Cardinal Sean, to this 150th Anniversary Mass. Your Eminence, in 1870 our first pastor, Fr. Quinlan, wrote of his dream "that someday, there would be in Holliston a simple church, with beautiful stained glass windows, and an organ second to none." I hope you agree that his dream has been realized. Of course, a parish is not just its buildings - but its people. At St. Mary's we are blessed to have a pastor and deacons who love and shepherd us. We have a vibrant faith family, where people of all ages graciously donate their time, talent and treasure.

And while we are a parish at the far western edge of the Archdiocese, we feel that we are at the very heart of the Catholic Church. Twenty years ago, Women in God's Spirit (WINGS) had its Boston start right here at St. Mary's - spreading from Holliston to parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Our Knights of Columbus Council, established in 2007, has achieved national recognition and awards, including being named a GOLD STAR Council - the K of C's highest honor.

St. Mary's, Holliston is known for its music program, and our music directors have gone on from here to positions of leadership at St. Paul's Choir School in Cambridge, Jennifer Lester - St. John's Seminary, Chalon Murray - and of course we gave you Leo Abbot, who served in your own Cathedral of the Holy Cross for thirty-three years.

We are happy to report that as of last week, St. Mary's has now achieved her Catholic Appeal Goal for the 15th straight year in a row - another sign of our connection to the wider Archdiocese, and the value we place on the good works of the Catholic Church.

Finally, your own presence here today, Cardinal Sean, reminds us that we do not stand alone, but as part of a wider Catholic Church community. A Body that is truly UNIVERSAL. We welcome you warmly to our parish, as we thank God for 150 years of graces received. And we ask your prayers that God will continue blessing us on our way to the next 150 years. Thank you.





At the end of the Anniversary Mass, Fr. Mark offered these words of thanks:

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to today’s Mass, and to our 150th Parish Anniversary Celebrations overall. I thank Cardinal O’Malley for leading us in worship today, a visit organized by Fr. Bob Kickham, his secretary. I thank Deacons Marty, John, and Ron for their ministry.

Deacon Marty is part of the very first class of Permanent Deacons here in the Archdiocese ordained forty-five years ago, while Deacon Ron is from the very newest Class. Deacon John is right in between holding us all together. I thank Fr. Rocco, the Superior of the Xaverian Fathers, whose Order has been a blessing on our parish for over 30 years.

I congratulate our Music Director, Mr., Kevin Lyczak on his program today – definitely keeping up the long tradition of musical excellence here at St. Mary’s; as well as the choir section leaders present in quartet; and all the choir members who contributed virtually to the Communion piece. If anyone had told me that we would play recorded music at St. Mary’s when the Archbishop visited, I would have told them they were crazy! But it was important that our choirs be part of our 150th Anniversary celebration – even if remotely.

I thank for their ministry today our lectors, Ron Turcotte and Ingrid Roth; our Altar Servers, Liam Savage and Anthony Bonnarigo; our Sacristan Najat Whalen; plus Linda Truitt and her flower squad. As always, I thank our wonderful Parish Secretary Mary Beth Harris. It is the secretaries that actually keep the Church going.

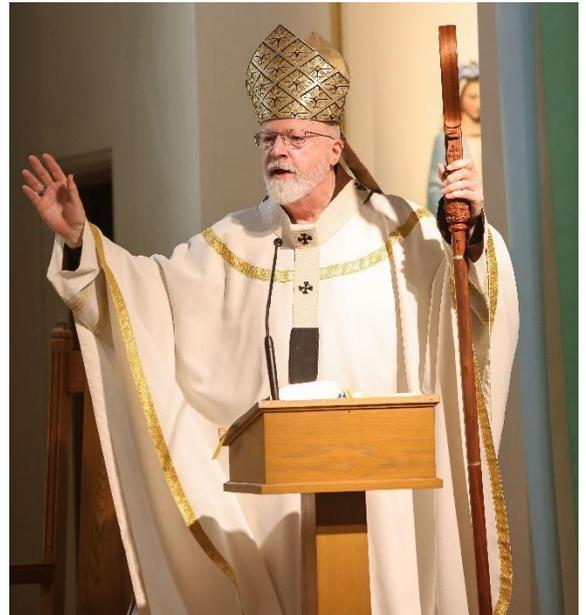
I thank the Anniversary Committee, comprised of Karen Magrini, Jenn Schiller, Lisa DuFault, Kathy MacKenna, and of course Betty Febo – who is putting the finishing touches on her new History of St. Mary’s Book. Your



Eminence, we will send you a copy when it is done! I would also like to thank Virginia Calapa, who produced a beautiful and informative series of parish history videos, and who was such a blessing to St. Mary's in helping the Religious Education program go virtual when the pandemic struck just a few months into our 2020 Anniversary Year.

As you all know, as part of our Anniversary celebrations we adopted a "Sister Parish" - Our Lady's Beit Sahour, the Shepherd's Fields outside Bethlehem. We have developed a relationship of mutual prayer, material support, and cultural exchange with Our Lady's that has connected St. Mary's in a very special way to a far distant part of the Catholic Church. It is a relationship that enriches us by its diversity and has given us a very special concern for the plight of the Christians in the Holy Land.

We have no less than nine St. Mary's parishioners awaiting Investiture by the Cardinal this Fall as new Members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, strengthening even more our commitment to the cause of Christianity in the Land of Christ. And we are holding our brothers and sisters there up in a special way now, as terrible violence again touches the homeland of Our Lord. As our parish moves into its next 150 years, let our great work and most fervent prayer be for the Easter gift of peace. Amen.







Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * Summer, 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!

ST. MARY'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 14: While we do not have weekly Troop meetings during the summer, Troop 14 ended the Scout year with a mix of new and traditional activities in May and June and have remained active throughout summer.



TREE TOP ADVENTURES & CAMPOUT AT THE NE BASE CAMP ON BLUE HILLS RESERVATION: On Saturday, May 22, 27 Scouts and leaders took on the challenge of the high ropes obstacle course at Tree Top Adventures in Canton, MA. The course includes 27 zip-lines and 10 Trails. The Scouts progressed through the various trails, reaching platforms in the trees by traversing rolling logs, bridges, ladders, tight ropes and zip-line obstacles. They were able to challenge themselves on four levels of difficulty, some even taking on the Black Diamond Expert Trail high up in the trees. The Troop camped for the night at the nearby NE Base Camp on the Blue Hills Reservation. After breakfast and a prayer service, they hiked four miles, reaching the 35 foot stone Observation Tower on top of Great Blue Hill with its 270° view of Boston, Boston Harbor and the surrounding towns. (Photo Above).

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: Over 50 Scouts and Leaders from the three Scout Troops in town (including 21 from Troop 14), marched in the Holliston Memorial Day Parade on May 31 to remember and honor our fallen service men and women who fought for our freedoms in this great country of ours. (Photo Below Left).



BIKE TRIP & CAMPOUT AT CAMP GREENOUGH:

This year's annual Spring Bicycle Trip was on Cape Cod on June 12 and 13. The 14 Scouts and 4 leaders biked a total of 26 miles from Nickerson State Park to Wellfleet where they took a break and ate lunch on the ocean beach before returning. Later that afternoon the Troop set up camp at Camp Greenough in Yarmouth Port, enjoyed dinner and a campfire, then spent the night either in tents or hammocks.

SUMMER CAMP: Eighteen Scouts and four leaders are attending Camp Squanto in Plymouth, MA in July. With camp being cancelled last year due to COVID, the Scouts are excited to spend the week outdoors working on advancement and merit badges, swimming, boating, theme night, campfires and Dutch Oven desserts at our camp site. Will the Troop win the INSPECTION UNIT award this year for the best looking and cleanest site? Or carry on the long Troop 14 tradition and First Place in the APACHE RELAY on Wednesday night? Find out in the September St. Mary's Newsletter.

SUMMER 2021 HIGH ADVENTURE - BACKPACKING THE WHITE MOUNTAIN

PRESIDENTIAL RANGE: Troop 14 has a long tradition of planning, training and conducting challenging High Adventure trips for the older, more experienced Scouts each summer. In August, ten Scouts and leaders will spend four days backpacking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire along the southern Presidential Range. They will be hiking 8 to 11 miles a day, at times above the tree-line, climbing / descending up to 3000 feet vertical elevation daily, summiting seven (maybe more) 4000'+ mountains and staying at the AMC High Huts along the trail. In preparation, two separate training day-hikes will be scheduled for late June and July summiting some additional 4000'ers in the Whites. Check out the High Adventure photos in the September St. Mary's Newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Summer Camp at Camp Squanto.
- Summer 2021 High Adventure – Backpacking the White Mountain Presidential Range.

2021 Royal School of Church Music Promotion Ceremony

On June 6, at the 9:30 AM Mass, four members of St. Mary's Children's Choirs received their RSCM ribbons and medals. This year we were immensely proud to present the following young people with awards:

Red Ribbon: Andrew McWilliams

Light Blue Ribbon: Caroline Coughlin, Will O'Brien and Noah Payne

During Holy Communion, the audio of a Virtual Choir Project recorded by the Youth Choir was played: Panis Angelicus by César Franck. This text, written by St. Thomas Aquinas, speaks of the "Bread of Angels" and was especially appropriate for the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Congratulations also to those who successfully completed the first year of training toward their Red Ribbon, passing the extensive written theory exam. These choristers are Autumn Smith, Anni Stevens, Paget O'Brien and Amelia MacEvoy.

PANIS ANGELICUS LYRICS

Panis angelicus
Fit panis hominum
Dat panis coelicus
Figuris terminum
O res mirabilis
Manducat dominum
Pauper, pauper
Servus et humilis

May the Bread of Angels
Become bread for mankind;
The Bread of Heaven puts
All foreshadowings to an end;
Oh, thing miraculous!
The body of the Lord will nourish
the poor, the poor,
the servile, and the humble.

INTERESTED IN OUR ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM?

Find out more by contacting Saint Mary's Music Director Kevin Lyczak at musicatstmarysholliston@gmail.com. Remember, when you sing you pray twice!





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 Summer, 2021

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Brodo

NEXT MONTHLY ROSARIES:

Wednesday, July 21
and Wednesday, August 18
in the church at 7:00 PM.
All Parishioners are invited.
K. of C. Meetings are now in
person again.



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT SUCCESS: The Council thanks all participants in the first electronics recycling event held on May 8. We raised over \$3,000 and donated 50% to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and 50% to the MetroWest Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund. Photos Below.



COUNCIL #14224 13th ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: The Council is NOW selling raffle tickets through individual members. The first prize is \$1,000. The drawing will take place on October 9 on HCAT. All proceeds benefit the Holliston Pantry Shelf, Holliston Senior Center, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans Charities and other charitable donations. The Council has donated over \$240,000 since the raffle began. Please ask a Knight for your lucky ticket, or email Al Scaramella at ajscaramella@comcast.net. A book of five tickets is \$20, one ticket is \$5. Public sales will be held during the summer as local merchants allow us to sell tickets within COVID-19 restrictions.

ST. MARYS MULCH PROJECT: On a sunny May 15 Saturday morning, twenty Council Knights spruced up the church for the Cardinal's visit by donating and spreading 12 yards of mulch around the church grounds. Photo Right.

NEW FOURTH DEGREE KNIGHT: The Council congratulates Sir Knight Joseph Mongelli on receiving his fourth degree in May.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2021: All practicing Catholic men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website <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. A special is offered for new e-members - annual dues are waived until June 30, 2021 by using the coupon code MCGIVNEY2020 when signing up online for membership.



*Give yourself the gift of Friendship
Rooted in Faith – Come to WINGS!*

Save the Date, WINGS Fall Season
Wednesday, October 6, 2021
9:45 to 11:15 AM



What is WINGS?

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) is a ministry of **encouragement and enrichment for women of all ages** who seek to deepen their faith and grow in their relationship with God and one another. A typical meeting lasts approximately 1.5 hours and includes time for prayer, an inspiring speaker presentation, a relevant topic of the Catholic faith and small group sharing with women of all ages.

Is Weekly Attendance Mandatory?

No. Each season lasts approximately 4 to 5 weeks. Come as often as you can, no pressure at all. The ministry is here to nourish your soul and we hope you can attend often but understand that life is busy.

Why Attend WINGS?

“As a woman in today's world, as a wife and mother of children ages 19, 12 and 10, life can sometimes seem overwhelming. For this reason, it is so important to me to **grow in faith** beyond the Sunday Mass. **Wings is such a beautiful ministry that nurtures my weary spirit.** The speakers each season breathe life into me. After each gathering **there is always a takeaway that spiritually nourishes me.** The women of Wings are a **beautiful mix of younger women and older women who walk side by side in faith.** There is such importance of multigenerational women fellowship. We need each other to model lives of grace and holiness, to speak truth and understanding. **I encourage all you exhausted, stressed, busy women to carve out the time to feed your soul by attending a Wings meeting!**” Lisa Dufault, St. Mary's Parishioner/WINGS member

What Does it Cost to Attend WINGS?

In order to attract reputable, inspiring speakers from local universities and beyond, WINGS suggested dues are \$20 per season (3 seasons) or \$50 for the year. All are welcome to attend, regardless of ability to pay. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to discuss your confidential financial needs.

Is Childcare Available?

YES. We encourage women with young children to attend WINGS. Since this ministry was started in 2000 at St. Mary's, WINGS has always welcomed women of all ages. In order to plan for the appropriate number of caregivers, please email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to share your plans to attend WINGS and provide the ages of your children.

To sign up or get more information
email: stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com,
or call Jennifer Schiller at 617-852-9632
or Diane Collins 508-259-7795.

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES SUMMER 2021

got faith?



“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES: *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life* by Henri Nouwen, Donald McNeill and Douglas Morrison is this month’s recommended book...and highly recommended it is. In this book, first published in 1982 and revised and re-released in 2006, the authors tell us that true compassion requires a radical conversion and a willingness to suffer with another person; it is not the human response that we think, or hope, it to be. In the book’s introduction, we find a story of an interview the authors had with the late Vice President and Senator, Hubert Humphrey. Humphrey told them that compassion (in politics) was like the “eraser tip” of the “competition” pencil, small, and only called upon when things get out of hand (p. 6). Now that’s telling it like it is! The book is then divided into three sections: the Compassionate God, the Compassionate Life and the Compassionate Way. The authors never stray far from the fact that we need God in our quest to live a truly compassionate life and, at the end of the final chapter, they write that compassionate action “is the free, joyful, and, above all, grateful manifestation of an encounter [with Jesus] that has taken place” (p. 127). This book is available in our parish library and from online booksellers.

SUNDAY READINGS: We are solidly in the season of Ordinary Time this summer, with our celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15 being added to the Sunday line up. During Ordinary Time, we hear a continuous reading of one particular synoptic gospel, this year’s gospel being that of Mark. However, because Mark’s gospel is so short, we also have four weeks of gospel readings from John’s gospel, Chapter 6 (July 25 and August 1, 8 and 22); these gospel readings are “interrupted” by the reading from Luke’s gospel on August 15. John 6 is often referred to as Jesus’ “Bread of Life Discourse”. Professor Scott Hahn writes about the Sunday readings from this gospel chapter; you can find the first of his reflections at <http://bit.ly/HahnBreadofLife>; click on the arrow at the end of the reflection to go on to the next week’s reflection. During a number of these summer weeks (July 11 to August 8 and August 22) we also hear a continuous proclamation of Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. You can read a short introduction to the Letter to the Ephesians at <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/ephesians/0>. As always, you can go to <https://liturgy.slu.edu/> to prepare for the Sunday readings.

“JUST” WONDERING: In the May 28, 2021 issue of *The Pilot*, the newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese, it was reported that Pope Francis is asking all Catholics to step up their commitment to saving creation. Families, parishes, institutions and all people of good will are called to action, called to contribute to the seven goals of *Laudato Si’*, the pope’s 2015 encyclical on care for our common home. You will find more information about this call to action at <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>. Pledge to respond to this call!

SAINTS: Here are the names of some of this summer’s celebrated saints and the dates of their feasts. St. Thomas, the Apostle (July 3), St. Elizabeth of Portugal (July 4), St. Robert Bellarmine (July 15), St. Bridget of Sweden (July 23), St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross (August 9), and St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe (August 14). Take some time to learn a bit more about these saints at <http://bit.ly/MyCatholicLifeSaints>.

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST: Cardinal Seán has extended the Archdiocesan **Year of the Eucharist** to June 2022. See the various resources offered by the Archdiocese at <http://bit.ly/BostonYOE>. Interestingly, this summer’s gospel readings from John, Chapter 6 (Jesus’ “Bread of Life Discourse”) give us an opportunity to reflect on Jesus’ gift of himself to us, as he states: “I am the bread of life” and “whoever eats this bread will live forever” (John 6: 48, 51). Pope Benedict, in his apostolic exhortation, *Sacramentum Caritas*, tells us that this mystery of the Eucharist “contains an innate power making it the principle of new life within us and the form of our Christian existence” (70). Food for thought!

---Leo Racine