



ST. MARY'S PARISH
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Summer 2024 Newsletter
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**FEAST OF THE
ASSUMPTION OF MARY
A HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION**

**Vigil Mass, Wednesday,
August 14, at 6:30 PM.**

**Feast Day Masses,
Thursday, August 15,
at 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM.**



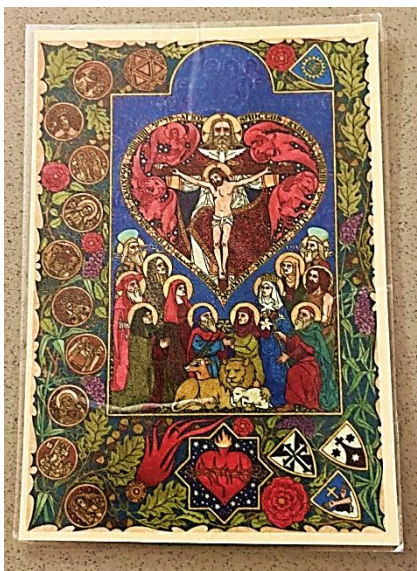
FAMILY BARBECUE: Many thanks to St. Mary's Knights of Columbus and their Ladies for all their hard work hosting our annual Parish Family BBQ on June 22! It was a tremendous evening with over 150 in attendance. A special thank you to Linda and Devin Scruton for the saddles and toy riding horses! The "Adlie & Mike Duo" were ill and could not perform as planned, but their substitutes did a grand job and the live music added to the festivities.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Earlier this summer, I spent time sorting through some of my personal storage boxes. I ended up donating almost a hundred books and throwing away such things as my old student loan payment coupons, my freshman year college biology notes, and many very old Christmas cards. (I did have a nice jaunt down memory lane while leafing through the last).

I also found tucked in my old papers, a laminated prayer card that I don't remember having seen before. The cover shows a scene of what seems to be the Kingdom of God, all the saints and angels are rejoicing before Him and at last the lion has lain down with the lamb in peace.



The real treasure was the prayer on the reverse side, which I have been offering first thing every day. To me the words speak of comfort and being enfolded by the grace of God. I am sharing the prayer text here below, in case someone else may likewise find it beautiful and a blessing to their spiritual journey.

In Christ's Peace,



O my Lord and Savior, support me every hour in the strong arms of Your sacraments, and by the fresh fragrance of Your consolations.

**Let the absolving words be said over me, and the holy oil sign and seal me, and Your own Body be my food, and Your Blood my sprinkling;
and let my sweet Mother, Mary, breathe on me,
and my Angel whisper peace to me,
and my glorious Saints *NN* smile upon me;**

that in them all, and through them all, I may receive the gift of perseverance, and forever and always live, in Your faith, in Your Church, in Your service, and most of all in Your love.

Amen.

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY INTO HEAVEN ~

A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

6:30 PM Vigil Mass

Thursday, August 15, 2024

9:00 AM Feast Day Mass

7:00 PM Feast Day Mass

The Assumption refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary being Assumed, body and soul, into heaven at the end of her earthly life. "Assumption" is different than "Ascension" because one is passive (i.e. one is Assumed) and the other is active (i.e. one Ascends). It is by the power of God that Mary was Assumed.

As evidenced by the writings of many early Church fathers, Christians have believed for more than a millennium that the Blessed Virgin was Assumed into heaven. According to St. John of Damascus, the Roman emperor Marcian requested the body of Mary, Mother of God at the Council of Chalcedon, in 451.

St. Juvenal, who was Bishop of Jerusalem wrote the emperor that *"Mary died in the presence of all the Apostles, but that her tomb, when opened upon the request of St. Thomas, was found empty; wherefrom the Apostles concluded that the body was taken up to heaven."*

This belief was held throughout the centuries, then in 1950, Pope Pius XII issued *Munificentissimus Deus*, which officially defined the Dogma of the Assumption. This means that the Church officially recognizes this belief as a true and necessary part of our Catholic beliefs about Mary.



For Catholics, all beliefs about Mary illuminate our most treasured beliefs about her Son. The Assumption illustrates to us the truth about Christ's promise of eternal life and the resurrection of the faithful.

St. Mary's Religious Education

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

**REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN
ONLINE NOW BEFORE THE
AUGUST 19 DEADLINE!**

Choose the classes that will meet your busy family schedule. Visit <https://stmarysholliston.com/>.

Once on the homepage **click the banner**. Please pay the tuition online at the same time of registration so that it can be processed and completed. Payments can be made online using WeShare with a credit card or an electronic fund transfer from your bank. Registration is incomplete until tuition is received.

CLASS SELECTIONS: Efforts have been made for several of the elementary grades to meet on the same day during the weekday to make it easier for families to plan their schedules. This is for Grades 3, 4 and 5 on specific weekdays and Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 on Wednesdays. It is essential that you register now to be able for your elementary school children to attend classes on the same day. Families can register more than one child on the online registration form. The class schedule and volunteer form are on St. Mary's website.



VOLUNTEER TEACHERS (CATECHISTS) AND MONITORS ARE VITAL TO OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM. THERE IS NO GREATER REWARD THAN TO BEAR WITNESS TO CHRIST.

Please prayerfully consider guiding our children and youth to have an encounter with Jesus. It is so important for the children to come to know Him, love Him, trust in Him and depend on Him during their life's journey

to heaven. Our Catholic faith requires action and to be witnesses of the Gospel truth. Each and every one of us is called to teach and proclaim the Good News to everyone. Help us make saints of the children and youth by informing them of the Catholic Faith and Traditions. Help us open their hearts and minds to be believers of the Truth so that transformation brings them closer to the heart of God. With families and teachers working together to inspire and share our Catholic faith, our young people will turn to God in prayer with confidence when in need for their spiritual and corporal needs. They will be thankful to God for His graces and blessings.

If you can teach a class, whether Pre-K helper, Kindergarten, Grade 1 through 6 or be involved with our youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Grades 7 – 10, then, **please register online on our website at <https://stmarysholliston.com/>** and click on the homepage banner. Click the volunteer box and complete your information. Note that all volunteers must have completed an updated CORI form and have taken a Protecting God's Children workshop. The joy and satisfaction of sharing your faith, time, gifts and talents with the children and youth is very rewarding and such a blessing to the parish community.



Photo by KEEM IBARRA on Unsplash

Stepping Up in Faith

By Deacon John Barry

How steps 2 & 3 of the 12-Step Program, and the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola can help us on our journey toward holiness.

In the June newsletter I illustrated how the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and the Twelve Step Program of Addiction Recovery are closely related. By practicing these steps, regardless of what attachments we may have, each of us can take more deliberate steps toward holiness in our journey of faith. As spiritual companions in iTHIRST, Diane and I accompany those who are suffering from unhealthy attachments. They can include everything from social media to relationships to substance use disorder, and their afflictions can impact whole communities. As we reviewed Step One in the last edition, let us understand better Steps Two and Three.

Step Two: Belief & Response

AA describes this step as “Coming to believe that a Power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity.” Coming to believe in a greater power than self is both a practice of humility and a method of liberation. Acknowledging our limitations releases us from the sole liability of solving problems on our own. Isolation is a trademark of compulsive behavior and a byproduct of pride. By believing in God and acknowledging His Authority we gain patience and perspective. But believing in God is not enough. We cannot accept God’s help unless we are mindful and willing to trust in Him; trusting that His unconditional love is directed toward us as individuals. We must acknowledge that there is a Father Who is central to our lives, and that we, His sons and daughters, are truly His beloved. Being loved so unconditionally should elicit a response; a desire to reach out in devotion to the source of that love.

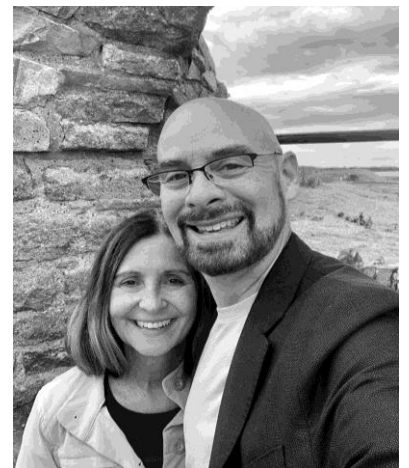
Step Three: Surrender

The adage “Letting go and letting God” is a common phrase among AA and Al-Anon participants. It means to “make a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.” This is the third step, and for many it is the hardest. It can be difficult to establish a relationship with an unseen deity, but it is likely that each of us has had some experience of a “God moment” in our lives. When we try to tap into these experiences and return to listening to the “language” God used with us in those moments, rather than talking at Him as we often might do in prayer, we can begin to narrow the gap. This is what Saint Paul described as “walk(ing) by faith and not by sight.” [2 Corinthians 5:7]. Perhaps a big reason this step can be challenging is because it requires a skill that our current society has lost the art of developing: the practice of silence and undistracted listening. But it is a skill worth developing; surrendering our time and distractions to God will release us from the biggest obstacle in modern Western society: ourselves.

Taking Steps Two and Three are critical steps for us in acknowledging that God is our source of sanity and peace, and that only by turning over our will to Him will we achieve happiness and eternal life. To quote author Johann Hari again, “the opposite of addiction isn’t sobriety – it’s connection.” By connecting ourselves to God and to each other, we are freeing ourselves from unnecessary attachments and taking positive steps on our journey toward holiness.

We will continue in upcoming newsletters to highlight the remaining steps, and how they connect with Ignatian Spirituality and our religious journey of discovery.

Reach Deacon John & Diane Barry at (508) 794-9128.
Learn more about iTHIRST at <https://ithirstinitiative.org>.





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

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

KENNEBEC RAFTING TRIP DAY ONE: Sunday, June 23, found twenty-seven of our MSYG teens plus their parent leaders heading out for adventure at the crack of dawn. A six-hour drive brought the group to the Pine Grove Lodge in Bingham, Maine for a picnic lunch. Then it was off to nearby Houston Brook Falls. Reached by a forest trail of about a half mile, these Falls are a beautiful experience of nature. Teens braved the cold water to fight their way under the surging main waterfall, then spent hours exploring the brook and smaller upper falls. Next it was off to the Crabapple Lodge in the Forks, Maine, where our group checked in to their overnight accommodations. Fr. Mark has been bringing groups there since 1996, and they had a special welcome sign out for him - as well as a video reel of some of his trips over the years. "That doesn't make me feel old at all!", Fr. Mark said. Volleyball and a large (heated) outdoor pool filled the time until dinner, which included a special "Rafting Cake", made by Roche Brothers in Millis. The night concluded with Mass in the Lodge, celebrated by Fr. Mark with teens reading and altar serving.

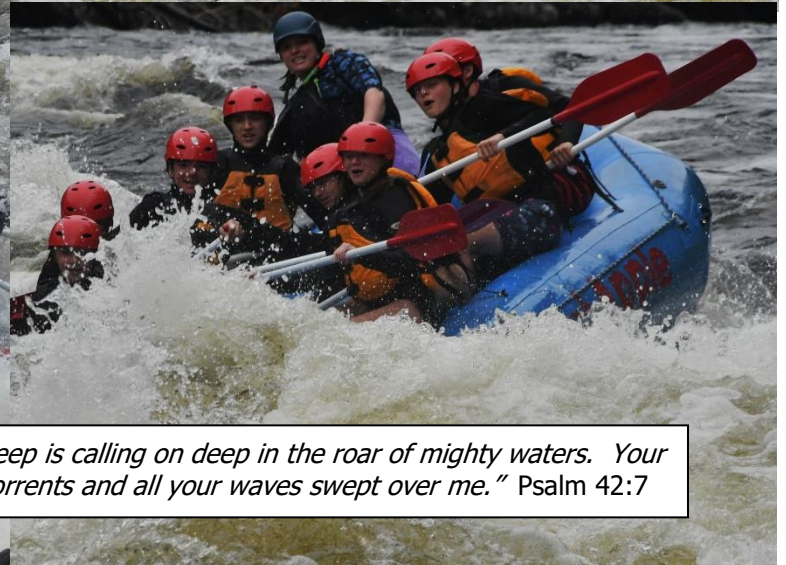




St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders – Fall Kick Off is Sunday, October 6!

KENNEBEC RAFTING TRIP DAY TWO: The adventure continued on Monday, June 24, with a full day of Class III – V Whitewater Rafting on the Mighty Kennebec. St. Mary's filled six rafts, each accompanied by a professional rafting guide. Their skill was needed as we faced such epic rapids as Whitewash, Magic Falls and Big Momma and the Three Sisters. The group pulled out at Magic Falls for a quick snack, then engaged in massive water bucket fights during the final, quieter stretch. A delicious barbecue at Crabapple concluded the river trip, then it was time for the long drive back to Holliston. Thank you to all the Middle School Youth Group teens for their excellent behavior, and to all the adult leaders for volunteering their time!



"Deep is calling on deep in the roar of mighty waters. Your torrents and all your waves swept over me." Psalm 42:7



St. Mary's High School Youth Group

Teens Gather In Faith ~ See you on September 22!

JUNE 23 - 24: They shared a bus with MSYG, but our TGIF Teens had their own rafts and rooming accommodations for the annual Mighty Kennebec Adventure! When they saw this truck, they knew they weren't in Kansas anymore ...





St. Mary's High School Youth Group

Teens Gather In Faith ~ See you on September 22!

JULY 7 - 13: After a year of planning, fundraising, and spiritual preparation, our eighty-three TGIF Mission Teens and Adults flew to Mississippi for a week of work among the needy. Each day started with Mass then a good breakfast – fortifying body and soul for the labor ahead. This included:

- building a 70 ft. handicap ramp,
- building owl enclosure for a Wildlife Rescue,
- staining ramps,
- picking up trash at local beaches,
- helping out at a daycare,
- landscaping,
- and building fences.

There will be lots more photos, information, and personal witness sharing in the next St. Mary's Newsletter. Also, Mission teens will be witnessing their experience at all St. Mary's Masses on September 14 and 15!

**Save the date now for the Fall TGIF Kick Off,
Sunday, September 22 from 7 - 8:45 PM
in Fr. Haley Hall. Open to all, Grades 9 - 12.**





Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * Summer, 2024

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

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508-579-4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

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

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

COURT OF HONOR/END OF YEAR

BARBEQUE: The end of year Court of Honor and Barbeque was celebrated on June 10 in Father Haley Hall. This event recognized the hard work the entire Troop put into merit badge completion, rank advancement, and the many adventures that occurred over the winter and spring months.

MINI GOLF: To celebrate a successful Scouting year, Troop 14 played a round of mini golf at Putts and More in Ashland on June 17, followed by ice cream. There were many great putts including a bunch of Holes in One.

SUMMER CAMP: Thirty-nine Scouts and eight Leaders attended a weeklong sleepover camp at Camp Squanto in Plymouth MA, from July 7 - July 13. Camp Squanto offers five weeks of BSA summer camp with some of our Scouts attending multiple weeks as Campers and Counselors. This annual tradition is a time to have fun working on Scouting skills and earning merit badges to advance in rank, to swim and boat, and to create friendships with other Scouts from across Massachusetts and as far away as Texas. Troop 14 Scouts were able to complete 76 merit badges, while working towards 41 partial merit badges, with one Scout completing the rigorous BSA life guarding class. Nine Scouts also completed the Flight to Eagle program which is focused on completing requirements needed to advance in rank.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD BIKE TRIP: Troop 14 Scouts continued their annual bike trip with camping at the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Camp Greenough in Yarmouth, MA on Cape Cod from June 7 - 9. On Saturday June 8, the Troop boarded the Ferry in Woods Hole with their bikes for a day of touring on Martha's Vineyard. From Oaks Bluff, the Troop split into 2 groups and completed a 25-mile and 50-mile trek across the island. It was a beautiful day that allowed a stop at the beach for lunch, and many great sites encountered along the ride. The troop regrouped in Vineyard Haven for the ferry ride back to Woods Hole.



SUMMER CAMP CONTINUED: The highlight of the week occurred on Thursday evening when Troop 14 won the Apache relay! This is a camp wide race where Troops compete across different activities like running, archery, canoeing, fire building, swimming, three-legged race, games, and whipped cream pie eating. The Troop has won this relay 14 of the last 15 years attending summer camp!



A NEW EAGLE SCOUT: On Saturday, June 29, Jack Scaramella's Eagle Court of Honor was celebrated in Father Haley Hall. The celebration was a culmination of years of work as Jack attained the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.



Jack learned and practiced important and varied skills through the merit badge program; served as a leader within Holliston Troop 76 for 5 years; and planned, developed and led a service project that benefited his community. For Jack's Eagle Scout service project, he promoted sustainable transportation by building a needed bike rack and signage for Holliston's Parks & Recreation Department at their Rail Trail access point.

But the Scouting experience goes far deeper than one big project. Jack also learned the transformative power of giving back to his community. Jack made it a priority to help with each one of his peers' Eagle Scout service projects. When it was time for his project, he was astounded by the true generosity of his community -whether it be fellow scouts, the Saint Mary's community, other Holliston organization leaders, business owners, and townspeople - who pulled together to assist Jack with each project milestone.



At Jack's Court of Honor celebration, Eagle Scout Louis Connoni served as the Master of Ceremonies. Father Mark led the invocation and opening and closing prayers, and Jack was presented honors from the State of Massachusetts by Representative James Arena-DeRosa and from Saint Mary's Knights of Columbus by Grand Knight Al Scaramella. Saint Mary's parishioner Virginia Calapa captured the wonderful day through her gift of photography shown here.

Knights of Columbus

St. Mary's Council #14224 Summer, 2024

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



COUNCIL #14224 SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: This year, in line with inflation, we doubled the first prize to \$2000! The Raffle drawing was held on June 21 in conjunction with our Swing for Charity Golf Tournament. First Prize winner: Ellie Stackpole. Second Prize winner: Cindy Pratt. Third prize winner: Colleen Rainsford. Fourth Prize winner: MetroWest Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund. Fifth Prize winner: Tim Perry. Charity Raffle proceeds go to benefit local food pantries, The MetroWest Veterans Emergency Relief Fund, Autism research, and other local charities. Our Council has donated over \$350,000 to these charities. Thanks to our winners, and for all who bought tickets hoping for first prize - wait till next year!

COUNCIL #14224 THIRD ANNUAL "SWING FOR CHARITY" GOLF TOURNAMENT: It was a fine day for golf at Pinecrest Country Club. We had 92 golfers participate and 25 sponsors. Proceeds from the tournament went to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and the MetroWest Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund. Golf was followed with lunch, raffles and tournament prizes. Special thanks to local sponsors who contributed to the success of the tournament. Chairman was Knight Anthony Polise. Join us next year!



COUNCIL #14224 AWARDED MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY AWARD: Our Council was highly praised at the Massachusetts K of C State Convention held in May. Thanks to the long-time leadership of Grand Knight Al Scaramella, Raffle Chairman Tom Anguish, "Swing for Charity" Chairman Tony Polise, the State Council awarded our Council the "Community Award for Outstanding Charity Work." The State Community Award recognizes the Council that

serves the needs of the community by providing needed aid, service on projects that benefit others and/or events that bring people together. State Program Director Mike Kerrigan presented the honors plaque to our Grand Knight at the June Council Meeting. (photo above)

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2024: For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join online by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org/joinus. Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men.

SUMMER VACATION - No August Council Meeting.

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



Celebrate with WINGS!

The upcoming 2024-2025 season marks WINGS 25th Anniversary and we'd love for you to join us! Stayed tuned to the bulletin, St. Mary's website, and the WINGS Facebook page for our fall schedule and program details. We plan on having at least one special event in addition to our regular program!



Faith In Action


Luke Roberto chose to build beautiful benches outside St. Mary's for his Eagle Scout project. The WINGS bench commemorates our 25th anniversary with a plaque of Luke 7:50:


"And he said to the woman, your faith has saved you; go in peace".


About WINGS

WINGS is a ministry of encouragement and faith enrichment for women anywhere on their spiritual journey. Each week an inspiring speaker will help us to enrich our prayer life and expand our knowledge of our faith. Free babysitting is provided! To join, email us or drop in to a meeting anytime. If you'd like to become a member, suggested dues are \$20/season or \$50/year, but all are welcome to attend anytime regardless of payment.

Contact us

 stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com

 scan for website

 facebook.com/wingsholliston

