

ST. MARY'S PARISH
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HOLLISTON, MA 01746

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2026 BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED! This \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior "in recognition of exceptional service to the St. Mary's Holliston Parish Family." St. Mary's is blessed by many teens who enrich our common parish life. And in giving this scholarship to one of them, it is the intention of St. Mary's to honor all of their contributions. This year's Scholarship Committee consisted of three women and three men - all of whom said how difficult they found it to choose between such a worthy and impressive group of candidates.

The young man who in the end received the most votes, has been an Altar Server for nine years, four of those as a Senior Altar Server. He has been a member of St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 for 8 years, serving in a number of Troop leadership positions during that time. He is an Eagle Scout, and the recipient of both the Ad Altare Dei Award, and the Pope Pius XII Award. His Eagle Scout project was the creation of a beautiful Educational Garden for the children of our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program.

He has been a Vacation Bible School leader here at St. Mary's for 2 years, a TGIF High School Youth Group Member for four years, and is a two-year Mississippi Mission Trip participant. He has also served as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. He has distinguished himself in all his ministry by his maturity, his prayerfulness, his kindness, and his generosity of spirit. He has won the trust and respect of all of us here at St. Mary's, and we know that great things lie ahead for him.

It is therefore our great pleasure to present this year's BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP to ... Luke Burgett! Luke will be studying at Tufts University as a Biology Major on a pre-Med track. May God bring to completion the good work He has begun in him!

(From the May 17 Presentation Speech at the 14th Annual Mass for Graduates.)

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

Summer, 2026 ~ Volume 52, Number 5



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

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Mission: "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known!"

14th 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 2026 took place at 11:30 AM on Sunday, May 17 - the 7th Sunday of Easter. A photo of our participating parish graduates with the names of the colleges they plan to attend is provided on page 2, the next page.

Graduates from several different high schools took on ministry roles at the celebration. These included graduating Senior Altar Servers Anthony Bonarrigo, Brian Bernier, Jack Baribeau, Hanna Kaufman, Madeleine Pierce, Luke Burgett, Luke Roberto, and Michael Butler (shown below from left to right). Each of them received a \$500 Senior Altar Server Scholarship.

This year's Class Speaker was Alex Robie (Holliston High School, photo left), who reflected on his own faith journey and called on his fellow graduates to embrace service in Christ. He said in part:

"My first mission trip set the tone for my life. Seeing the impact of serving others has profoundly had an effect on my faith life. This summer will be my fourth mission trip, and that speaks volumes about how much these experiences have changed me. I stopped praying because I had to and started praying because I wanted to. It stopped being a chore and started to become a regular connection with God. ... As we graduate, I want to leave you with Matthew 7:7: 'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.' Don't stop searching for God. Hold onto your faith, protect it, and reflect it to everyone you meet in this next chapter of your lives."

A joyful reception followed in Fr. Haley Hall, (Photos on page 3).





Top Row: Aidan McEntegart ~ Stonehill College; Brian Bernier ~ Penn State University; Anthony Bonarrigo ~ UMass Amherst & Air National Guard; Luke Burgett ~ Tufts University; Luke Roberto ~ Texas A&M University; Michael Butler ~ Catholic University of America; Jack Baribeau ~ Villanova University

Middle Row: Colin Radcliffe ~ READS: Continuing Education; Melanie Denault ~ Merrimack College; Claire Radcliffe ~ Loyola University Chicago; Laurianny Dos Santos ~ Northeastern University; Kaitlyn Clark ~ Loyola University Maryland; Avery Ash ~ Sacred Heart University; Amelia MacEvoy ~ Boston College; Hanna Kaufman ~ Boston College; Madeleine Pierce ~ Northeastern University; Lyla Feldman ~ Fordham University; Abigail Laingen ~ Fairfield University; Claire Fitzgerald ~ Providence College; Amelia Laingen ~ Fairfield University; Bridget Malvey ~ Providence College; Julia Galipeau ~ Penn State University; Sara Schellings ~ University of South Carolina

Bottom Row: Chris Payne ~ Dean College; Brendon Skelly ~ Bridgewater State University; Alex Robie ~ Providence College; Cameron Reffel ~ Worcester Polytechnic Institute





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

On Sunday, June 7, our parish was filled with an extra measure of joy as we celebrated the beautiful Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. It was a day of profound grace, for it was on this sacred feast that our latest group of First Communicants approached the altar to receive the Eucharist for the second time. (The first time was the day before). Watching these young children walk forward with such sincere anticipation and receive our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament was a powerful reminder of the gift we can take for granted. Their innocence and enthusiasm invite us all to look again at the altar with fresh eyes and renewed hearts.

The Eucharist is not merely a ritual; it is the very heart of our Catholic faith, the source and summit of our entire life in Christ. In this Sacrament, we are not just remembering an event, but truly encountering the living presence of Jesus who gives Himself to us as spiritual nourishment for our earthly journey. As St. Augustine so beautifully reminded us, *"Believe what you see, see what you believe, and be what you receive."* When we consume the Bread of Life, we are transformed, drawn deeper into the life of the Trinity, and united more closely with one another as the Body of Christ.

With permission, I share here part of an email I received awhile back from one of our own parishioners, "Sarah", who returned to the Eucharist after years of feeling aimless.

"For a long time, I lived as though I had to carry the weight of the world entirely on my own shoulders. It wasn't until I finally walked back into the sanctuary and received the Eucharist that I realized I hadn't been carrying that weight, I had been isolating myself from the only Strength that could sustain me. Returning to the altar didn't magically solve every problem, but it gave me a stillness in my soul and a clarity I hadn't felt in a decade; I finally felt anchored in the love of God again."

If you have found yourself drifting away from the celebration of Sunday Mass or have felt disconnected from the Eucharist, I extend a warm and heartfelt invitation to you: come home to the table. The spiritual blessings that flow from a life centered on the Eucharist are immeasurable, offering us a peace that surpasses understanding, strength in times of trial, and the grace to persevere in love. Let us all use this season as an opportunity to begin anew, allowing the Eucharist to become once again the steady, life-giving rhythm of our weeks. May our parish remain a vibrant, Eucharistic community where all are fed, all are strengthened, and all are called to share the love of Jesus with the world.

God bless you.



Click [HERE](#)
to register
for Fall 2026
**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION.**

Registration deadline
is Monday, August 17.



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
REGISTRATION FOR 2026-
2027: AS OF JULY 1,
REGISTRATIONS ARE
OPEN AND ONLINE.**

Register NOW online by going
to our website at

<https://stmarysholliston.com/>.

The process is simple with our
online payment using a credit
card or bank transfer with
WeShare. Payments in cash or
check must be made in the
Religious Education Office.
Refer to the class schedule that
has been mailed to all the
families and is also available

online, and choose the day and time for your children's classes. Religious Education begins the first week in October. **Registration deadline is Monday, August 17.** Please do not delay. Contact our Religious Education Secretary, Jennifer with any questions at religiousedsec@stmarysholliston.org.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) ASSISTANTS: Since two CGS Sessions will meet every Sunday for 75 minutes, we are seeking people interested in being trained as CGS Assistants. Assistants do not teach but observe the children in session while the Catechist Leader presents Sacred Scripture and the Practical Life Activities the children will be actively engaged with. If you are interested, please contact the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076 or email the DRE at religiouseddre@stmarysholliston.org. CGS Assistant training will be available on a Friday afternoon to be determined. High School students entering Grades 9 and 10 are encouraged to be trained as CGS Assistants.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU! CATECHISTS, GROUP LEADERS, AND MONITORS FOR 2026-2027: Have you ever considered offering your time to teach a class? Please pray as to how you can help St. Mary's Parish Religious Education Program become a joyful experience for our young children and teens. Our program depends on volunteers to help families live out their faith actively. There will be training sessions offered in September for all grade level teachers and monitors. Join us and bring the Good News of Christ to our children and youth by tithing your time and talents to serve Christ and His family. Volunteer online at: <https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=02818a0e-bf59-410b-8971-96c66fb9e27c>.



VIRTUE'S VOICE

We saw a beautiful reflection of community, harmony, and divine love at our May 29 "Virtue's Voice: Reflections on Faith and Freedom" Concert. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Holliston Council for the Arts, and St. Mary's Music Ministry, under the stellar direction of Abigail Kelley-Lanser, for organizing such an extraordinary, uplifting event. Thank you to HCAT for making it accessible to all.

The music and reflections beautifully marked the upcoming 250th Anniversary of our nation, truly celebrating the virtues that uphold the dignity of all human life. Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and contributed to making the evening such a wonderful success. It was an inspiring reminder of how art and faith can unite us, bringing one out of many, and unity out of diversity. God bless America! Enjoy the whole concert here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfLubID5D6g>.



A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Fifty years ago, on May 22, 1976, Martin Breinlinger was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate. His was the first Class of Permanent Deacons to be ordained in the Archdiocese of Boston after that ministry was restored by Vatican II. Marty's training took place at St. John's Seminary. After ordination, he received a certificate in Pastoral Ministry from Emmanuel College. He has served at St. Mary's in Holliston since ordination. He and his wife, Mary Alice, were also involved in Family Life Ministry for the Archdiocese for many years. Here at St. Mary's Parish, Deacon Marty has been involved in the RCIA program, Ministry to the Divorced and Separated, Adult Faith Formation, and Religious Education. Currently he is directing our Ministry to the Homebound. Marty has served and preached countless Masses, Baptized generations of babies, married, buried, and been a friend and counselor to all. Beyond St. Mary's, Deacon Marty has blessed Holliston as a Soccer Coach, Cub Scout and Boy Scout Leader, Pantry Shelf Volunteer, and Election Volunteer. He and Mary Alice raised their three beautiful children here, Amy, Jim, and Eric Breinlinger. We thank God and Marty for the gift his ministry has been to all of us. Well done, good and faithful servant! Photos from Deacon Marty's Golden Anniversary Mass and Reception follow.





PRESENTATION BY JOE MCGIVNEY: On June 18, in Fr. Haley Hall, Joe McGivney gave an incredible talk about his journey from chronic alcoholism to sobriety, which was only made possible through the love and support of his wife, Nicole, and the intercession of Blessed

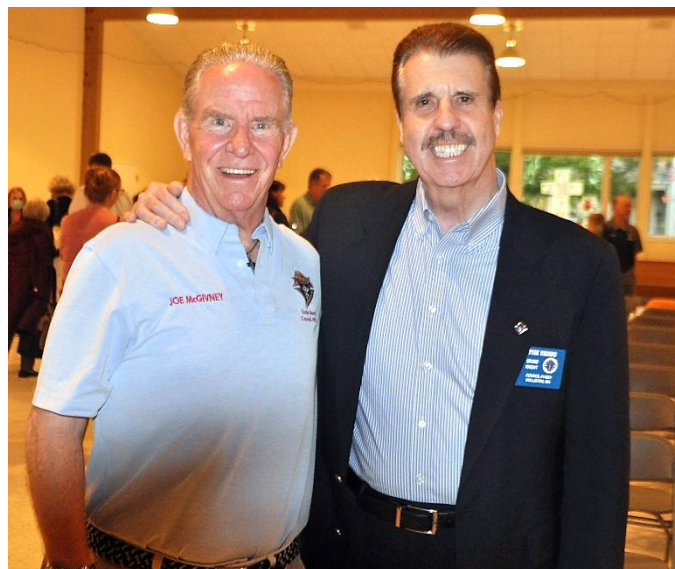
Fr. Michael J. McGivney. Joe McGivney is a relative of Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus and his talk was co-sponsored by St. Mary's K of C Council No. 14224 and Needham Council No. 1611.



An audience of approximately sixty were present to hear Joe describe how he began drinking alcohol at age 12, which seemed to fill a void in his life, but which was actually leading to the development of irreversible structural brain damage. After decades of alcohol misuse, Joe collapsed at his home on December 30, 2020, unable to stand and in a state of confusion. He was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with Korsakoff Syndrome. Korsakoff Syndrome is a devastating neurological memory disorder caused by the body's inability to properly absorb vitamin B-1 due to chronic alcohol consumption.

Joe McGivney was institutionalized and spent weeks in a volatile psychotic state, constantly in restraints and sedated. He had no understanding of where he was or what was happening. He could not even recognize his own wife. His wife was told that the damage to Joe's brain was permanent and that he would need 24/7 care for the rest of his life. Then one day, he woke up and was completely healed.

Medical science could not explain Joe's sudden recovery; however, it all started to make sense sometime later when he was speaking with his aunt



about his recent decision to join the Knights of Columbus. It was then that his aunt disclosed that during his institutionalization, she had prayed for the intercession of Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney for Joe's healing.

Joe McGivney advocates on behalf of Guest House which is a Catholic healing ministry dedicated to serving addicted and struggling clergy, religious, and seminarians. If anyone is interested in making a contribution to Guest House, more information can be found at: <https://guesthouse.org/give/>.

WELCOME NEWLY BAPTIZED!

Olivia Louise Catullo	Maverick Michael Bozyczko
Hugh Walter Stanton	Finn Charles Coughlin
Norah Kathryn Bruno	Theodore Bruno Trachy
Sadie Lynne Robshaw	Olivia Louise Eagan
Casey Harper Atkinson	Colin Joseph Maratinho
Benjamin Forte Murray	Charles Cooper Boucher
Elisabeth Kate Keller	Renee Catherine Krenselewski
George Elliot Lechner	Sophie Eleanor Dahlstedt
Grace Evangeline Feldman	
Emilia Jane Palazzo	





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun! msyg@stmarysholliston.org Fall Kick Off is 10/4!

PAINTBALL BATTLE! On Tuesday, April 21, MSYG Teens spent the day outdoors playing paintball at P & L in Bridgewater. It was a cool, beautiful day, and the group enjoyed the teambuilding, tactics, and fun as they ran, hid, triumphed, or fell. Fr. Mark began the day with a prayer for safety and for peace in the world. If only all guns shot paint!



NURSING HOME BINGO! On Friday, May 1, a group of fifteen MSYG 8th Graders led a BINGO event at Timothy Daniel's Nursing Home. As always, the residents' favorite part was meeting and getting to know the teens, as well as sharing their own stories. We had great prizes for our friends, but the real treasure was friendship!





St. Mary's High School Youth Group

Teens Gather In Faith

Contact: Lisa Dufault tgif@stmarysholliston.org

JOIN US THIS
SUMMER!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP! Thank you to all who came to our TGIF Family Potluck. It was so wonderful to see Fr. Haley Hall so full! Congrats to our TGIF SENIORS!



Did you know there is Daily Mass every weekday at St. Mary's at 9:00 AM?

I encourage you to go this summer!

Save these Summer 2026 Dates!

- Saturday, July 25 - Mission Trip Mass Blessing and Commissioning at 5:00 PM. Gather in Fr. Haley Hall after for final Mission Trip information.
- Sunday, July 26 ~ Saturday, August 1 - MISSISSIPPI MISSION TRIP.
- Sunday, August 2 - Mission Trip Welcome Home Mass at 11:30 AM and Social in Fr. Haley Hall.
- Thursday, August 13 - Mission Trip Video Watch Party 6:30 - 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.



On the following Wednesdays, I would love to gather for daily Mass and have light refreshments after for those interested.

Wednesday, July 1
Wednesday, July 8
Wednesday, July 15
Wednesday, August 5
Wednesday, August 12

SUMMER EVENTS

We hope to gather for a few events over the summer. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send an email to the TGIF email address!





Meetings: Monday Nights 7 - 8:30 PM

Contact: Mike Hebert, Scoutmaster
603 - 520 - 9045

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 Hall.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 14 had a busy Spring which included our first ever campout at West Point Military Academy, Service Projects, a Tree Top Campout, and much more. Here are some highlights!

HOLLISTON SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SERVICE PROJECT: On April 18, Troop 14 Scouts helped our friends at the Holliston Sportsmen's Association clean up their property for their annual Spring Trout Fishing Derby. This annual service project is a way to say thank you to the Association for letting us host our Annual Fall Turkey Roast on the Association's grounds.



TREE TOP ADVENTURES AND NEW ENGLAND BASE CAMP CAMPOUT:

On the weekend of May 16 and 17, Scouts visited Tree Top Adventures in Canton, MA. While there, Scouts enjoyed a fun adventure in the trees climbing high ropes and the obstacle course, while zip lining through the forest. The day of climbing was followed by an overnight campout just down the road at the New England Base Camp in Milton, MA.



WEST POINT CAMPOREE: Our Scouts travelled to West Point, New York on the weekend of April 10 - April 12 to attend the West Point Camporee. This annual invitational camping event is sponsored by the United States Military Academy and attending Troops must be sponsored by an academy Cadet who leads the Troop through the weekend activities. Troop 14 has been trying to attend for years and finally made it in 2026! They experienced leadership and teamwork challenges led by Cadets which included: physical endurance events, military fieldcraft demonstrations, knot-tying and practical problem-solving exercises, first aid and casualty-evacuation scenarios, equipment familiarization (including demonstrations of military gear), campfire, and large-group Scout activities. At one station, Scouts first learned knots and then used those knots in a simulated casualty-evacuation exercise while Cadets ran a mock tactical scenario. The overall emphasis was on leadership, teamwork, outdoor skills, military-style problem solving, and interaction with West Point Cadets. Troop 14 acquitted itself well and even received a West Point Cadet uniform pin - only given when a Troop impresses a Cadet with their exceptional Scouting spirit, effort, and performance. You can see the pin proudly on display in the Troop 14 case off St. Mary's Lower Church Hall.





WEST POINT CAMPOREE PHOTOS:

