

# St. Mary's Parish

## Mass Schedule:

Monday through Friday  
9:00 AM

Saturday Vigils  
5:00 PM  
7:30 PM

Sunday  
7:30 AM  
9:30 AM Family Mass  
(C.L.O.W. Sept. – May)  
11:30 AM Sung Mass

Holy Days: Announced

## Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays 9:30 - 10:30 AM,  
Thursdays in Lent 7 - 8 PM

## Our Mission:

*“To know Christ and to make Him known.”*

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

Email Address: [St.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:St.marys1870@gmail.com)

Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427

Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

Dear Visitors: Welcome! We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this day. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and if you are interested in becoming a member of the parish then please register through our website or by calling the rectory. Please also be aware that for generations it has been the custom at St. Mary's to kneel together for a silent Hail Mary at the end of Mass. Please join in!

**Confession:** Saturdays  
Noon to 12:45 PM,  
Thursdays in Lent 7 - 8 PM

**Anointing of the Sick:** Any time by appointment. Please call as soon as you are aware of a serious illness or upcoming surgery.

**Baptism:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. To register for Baptism Preparation call 429-4427.

**Marriage:** Please call at least 6 months in advance of your desired wedding date. Congratulations!

**PARISH STAFF:**

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor  
 The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance  
 Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon  
 Deacon Ronald A. Dowding, Permanent Deacon  
 Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon  
 Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7  
 Ms. Abigail Kelley-Lanser, Organist, Director of Music  
 Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary  
 Mrs. Jennifer Burgett, Religious Education Secretary  
 Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager  
 Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan  
 Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities  
 R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:**

The Church Around the World. This collection supports the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe, the Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your donations will help fund spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs.

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:**

Catholic Charities, serving the poor.

**LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:**

Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,244.00
WeShare:	\$ 2,973.77
Offertory Envelopes:	\$ 6,353.00
<u>Total Offertory:</u>	<u>\$ 12,570.77</u>
Weekly Need	\$ 15,000.00

**Shortfall \$ 2,429.23**

Thank you for making up any missed weekly parish support. The fiscal health of your parish depends on it. Kindly consider switching to WeShare or Automatic Giving. See: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.



**BLESSING OF MARRIED**

**COUPLES:** February is World Marriage Month, and at all Masses next weekend, February 24 and 25, a special blessing will be offered to all married persons present. As is our custom at St. Mary's, the couple at each Mass present together and married the longest will be presented with roses. In honoring

these couples, we honor all our married couples, and allow all at the Masses to witness married love that with God's help has flourished and endured.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 17</b>
5:00	Theresa Feloney
7:30	John Collins, 19 <sup>th</sup> Anv.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 18</b>
7:30	Isaac DeGuzman
9:30	People of St. Mary's
11:30	Donald Parnell
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 19</b>
9:00	Our Nation
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 20</b>
9:00	Rev. Gregory Mercurio
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 21</b>
9:00	Williard Prescott Hawley IV
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 22</b>
9:00	Frank and Caterina Godino
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 23</b>
9:00	Major Vincent P. Mullen (Living)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 24</b>
9:00	For Freedom from Domination by Worldly Things
5:00	Regina Duval
7:30	Joan Quigley and Cecelia Mason
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 25</b>
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Leslie Ann Higgins
11:30	John Cocchiarella



**FASTING:** Catholics over eighteen and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, liquids, including milk and juices are allowed.

**ABSTINENCE:** Catholics over fourteen years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. On abstinence days, meat may not be used at all. Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended. Commendable, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the concept of "mortification."



**Loving God,  
during this sacred season of Lent,  
bring me closer to You.**

**Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence  
and solitude, so that I may re-discover  
the grace of a prayer filled life.**

**Help me to fast from those things that threaten  
the well-being of body and soul,  
and remind me of the grace of simplicity.**

**Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need  
and, in so doing, rediscover  
the grace of gratitude and generosity.**

**May this season be a grace-filled time  
to rekindle my love and faith in You. Amen.**





## *Meet Him On the Road ~ Saturday, February 24*

Join us for a Lenten Retreat Hour from 10:30 - 11:30 AM in St. Mary's Church. Deacon John Barry will Expose the Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration. During this time of prayer, he will offer the reflection, "Lent - The Road To Hope!" We live in a world where attachment to material things, status, work and even

loved ones can dominate our attention and confine our spiritual life. The things we have become attached to, if they are not of God, can enslave us and lead us away from the Lord and His plan for our holiness. Some of our unnatural attachments may arise from suppressed emotional wounds or from misconceptions about our true identity and our purpose in life. Our retreat will focus on reclaiming who we are and recognizing some potentially unhealthy attachments. By shifting our thinking, and our habits of excess during the Lenten season, we can open pathways for God's grace to help us in our journey toward freedom and a holier and more meaningful life.

## *Meet Him In Adoration And A Good Confession ~*

In addition to the usual Saturday Noon to 12:45 PM Confession time, during Lent St. Mary's Thursday night Eucharistic Holy Hours will also have the opportunity for Confession, from 7 - 8 PM in the church. Each Lenten Holy Hour includes an intention for which we ask you kindly to pray during your time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament:

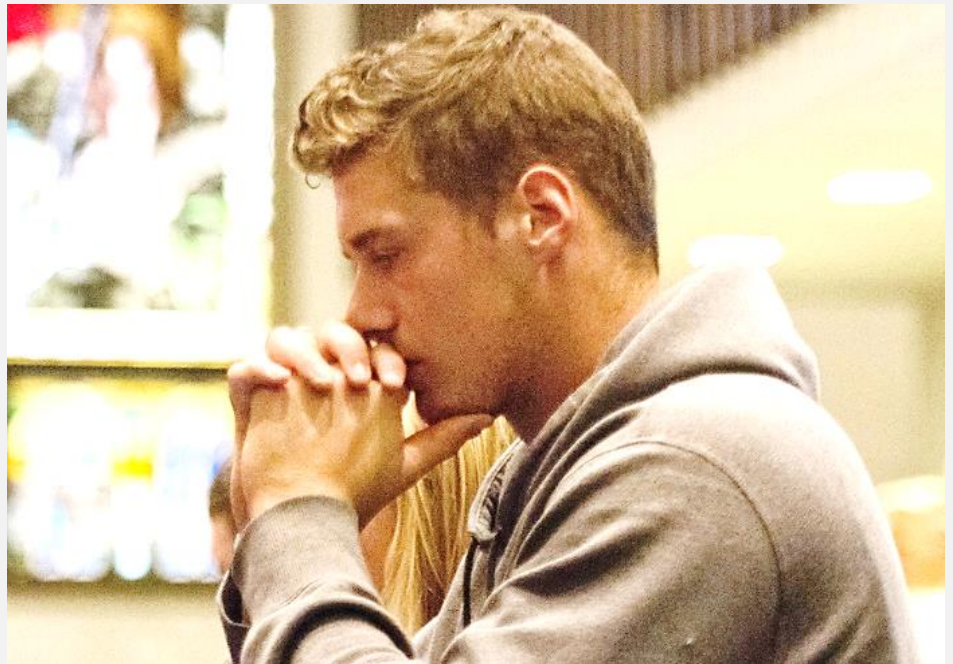
February 22: Please pray for Peace in Palestine and Israel.

February 29: Please pray for Peace in Ukraine.

March 7: Please pray for Peace and Unity in our Nation.

March 14: Please pray for Reverence for all Human Life.

March 21: Please pray for Freedom from Addictions.



*"Our Lord himself I saw in the venerable Sacrament of Confession. I felt as if my chains fell, as those of St. Peter, at the touch of the divine messenger."*

– St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



## *Meet Him Around The Table, Friday Lenten Suppers ~*

Join us for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's family!

**Fridays at 6 PM: February 16, 23; March 1** (*beginning at 5:30 PM as the St. Paul Boys Choir performs at 7 PM*), **8, 15 and 22,**

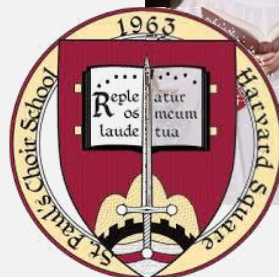
Our Lenten Suppers will take place in Fr. Haley Hall and will include a range of food options while observing Friday's abstinence from meat - as well as child friendly food.

Families with young children are encouraged to come and not feel burdened about bringing a meal, please let your St. Mary's community lift you up. This also applies to any individual / couple / family feeling burdened where bringing a meal would prevent you from attending. We are all in different seasons of life, let your St. Mary's family be a safe landing spot for you this Lent!

If you'd like to help, please email Natalie Pomarico at [st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com](mailto:st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com). You will be added to the Lenten Supper Volunteer Group. A weekly 'Sign Up Genius' goes out via email to the volunteer base and individuals sign up for available food/drink slots. Volunteer participation varies week to week, some volunteer once during the six weeks, some commit to every week and others dip in and out of helping. Thank you!

## *Meet Him With The St. Paul's Boy Choir ~*

Friday, March 1, 7 - 8 PM in St. Mary's Church. Bless your Lent with an evening of rapturous music by the internationally acclaimed Boys Choir of St. Paul's Choir School in Cambridge. Directed by Richard Webster, the Choir will perform selected works from the classical repertoire, including pieces by Dering, Bach, Vivaldi, Rheinberger, and Lallouette.



The Concert is free and open to all.

For more information about St. Paul's Choir School, please visit [www.saintpaulschoirschool.us](http://www.saintpaulschoirschool.us).

\* The Lenten Friday Soup Supper will start early this night, at 5:30 PM, so that you can attend both.



## *Meet Him For Forty Hours ~*

*Sunday, March 10 - Tuesday, March 12*

**40 Hours Devotion:** In celebrating this devotion, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar at St. Mary's for forty continuous hours. The church will be open throughout and people may stop in at any time to visit with the Lord in prayer. The Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Additionally, three special dimensions surround this devotion:

- the protection from evil and temptation;
- reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory;
- and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities.



### **Sunday, March 10**

11:30 AM Opening Mass  
6:00 PM Evening Prayer  
8:00 PM Scripture Reflection

### **Monday, March 11**

9:00 AM Morning Mass (Hall)  
Noon Holy Rosary  
6:00 PM Evening Prayer  
8:00 PM Scripture Reflection

### **Tuesday, March 12**

9:00 AM Closing Mass with  
Benediction

Anyone and everyone is welcome at any time without signing up. But we need a minimum of two people committed to each specific hour the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed for Adoration. Please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-40hours2>.

## *Meet Him With the Saints ~ Sunday, March 17*

The Holy Relics of more than one hundred saints will be Exposed for Veneration at St. Mary's on Sunday, March 17, from 6 - 8 PM in the church. They include relics of St Francis of Assisi, St. Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower), and St. Anthony of Padua. Also, some of the rarest relics of the Passion will be present.

The Exposition will begin with a presentation and teaching about relics that is aimed at answering most questions the guests come with. Spiritual points are made about praying, intercession, and healing. Emphasis is on the Gospel message of healing to bring people to encounter Jesus.

There is no cost, but a free will offering basket will be available to support the Relic Ministry. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be available during the Relic Exposition for anyone facing serious illness - mental or physical.



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:** As we enter the church today, we see the lush greenery of Ordinary Time replaced with bare branches and hard stones. This transformation of our worship space marks the start of our Lenten journey – a sojourn into the wilderness. For forty days we will forsake comfort and luxury in favor of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Of these three Lenten practices, perhaps fasting is the most underutilized. Our Catholic faith instructs only that we fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. These days, however, represent a bare minimum. Persons in good health are encouraged to fast more often during Lent – perhaps one day each week (traditionally on Fridays).

Physically, such fasting allows the body to purify itself of toxins and to divert energy normally used for digestion to other needs. Spiritually, such fasting represents a self-emptying; a lessening of the hold this world has on us as we seek first the things that are of God. It also fosters a self-discipline that can be valuable in almost every other area of life. If a sinful habit has taken hold of us, for instance, to the point that we very much feel in the grip of something beyond our control, fasting can be part of finding our freedom again. Remember the occasion when the disciples came to Jesus bewildered that they had been unable to cure a possessed boy? “Why could we not cast him out?” they asked Jesus. And Jesus answered, “This kind can be driven out in no way except by prayer and fasting.” (Mark 9:29)

Freedom from all that imprisons or dominates is the Intention for the special 9 AM Mass next Saturday, Feb. 24, preceding the 10:30 AM Retreat on the same theme that morning. God bless you. *Fr. Mark*

**WINGS WINTER SEASON (Women in God's Spirit):** Our WINGS 2024 Winter Bible Study in person and via Zoom continues this week, Wednesday, February 21, at 10 AM. Our speaker will be St. Mary's parishioner Yvonne Racine. Yvonne studied scripture at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and now teaches theology at Ursuline. This week's chapter 4, “Praying for Success”, focuses on Nehemiah 1:1 to 2:18. Please join us even if you don't have access to the study book. Babysitting is available. Email [stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com) to register or call Diane @508-259-7795 or Jen @617-852-9632.

**ST. MARY'S MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:** Please join us this Tuesday, February 20 from 10:30 AM – 12 noon in Fr. Haley Hall. We will pray together, read reflections according to the liturgical season, and share prayer intentions. Children of all ages are welcome.

**THE ROSE FOR LIFE:** Is sponsored this week by Joan Cocchiarella in memory of John Cocchiarella.

## ARE YOUR FINANCIAL DECISIONS ALIGNED WITH YOUR FAITH?

All St. Mary's parishioners are invited to a special, no-obligation information session sponsored by St. Mary's Knights of Columbus in Father Haley Hall at 7:00 PM on March 11. Light refreshments will be served and no reservations are needed. K of C Financial Agent Matt DiCalogero will give an overview of all the financial products offered by the Knights of Columbus and answer your questions. The Knights offer life insurance, long-term care and disability insurance, annuities, and retirement investment funds. Underlying investments in all of these products align with Catholic teaching. With 42 consecutive years of superior ratings from A.M. Best, Knights of Columbus insurance products are strong, high performers that respect Catholic values. Many commercial financial providers invest in companies and policies that are contrary to Catholic teaching. Are your retirement investments and insurance coverages aligned with your Catholic faith?



## WORCESTER CATHOLIC MEN'S

### CONFERENCE: “YOU SHALL KNOW THE LORD!”

Save the date for this inspiring day of faith and spiritual enrichment. Full details at:

<https://catholicmenworc.com/>.

## MSYG COMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, February 20:** HC Cathedral, Quincy Market, and Blue Man Group Trip.

**Friday, March 1:** Host the St. Paul's Boy Choir for a pre-concert dinner.

**Sunday, March 3:** Monthly Meeting, 6:30 – 8 PM.

## TGIF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**Next Sunday, February 25:** TGIF Monthly Meeting, 7 – 8:45 PM.

**Saturday, March 9:** Homeless Lunch Making, Shelter Tour, and Mall Scavenger Hunt.

**Young Men's Bible Study:** TGIF Youth Leader Ryan Kramer will be offering a Bible Study for young men (aged 14-18) who desire to grow closer to God and learn more about the faith. The Bible Study will be focused on who God is and why He is essential for our lives. The study will focus on an examination of Catholic teachings in the scriptures as well as how we can pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ. If interested, please email [st.marystgif1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marystgif1870@gmail.com). A time will be set up once we have a participant's list and consult with all interested teens.

**CLOW - CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**, today, Sunday, February 24, the children will be dismissed from the main assembly and led to the lower church hall to hear what Jesus has to tell them in the Gospel. **Please note: Very young children must be accompanied by their parents** and able to sit and engage in the lesson. Older children are welcome to assist the adult leaders.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS WEEK**

DAY	GRADE	GRADE
Sun., Feb. 18	NO CLASSES	February Vacation
Sun., Feb. 25	GR-K at 9:15 AM	GR-2 at 8:10 AM
	GR-2 at 10:45 AM	GR-3 at 7:55 AM
	GR-3 at 10:45 AM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-7 at 5:00 PM	
Mon., Feb. 26	*GR-5 at 4:00 PM	
Tues., Feb. 27	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-6 at 4:00 PM
	GR-6 at 5:00 PM	GR-10 at 7:00 PM
Wed., Feb. 28	GR-2 at 4:15 PM	GR-7 at 6:00 PM
	GR-8 at 6:00 PM	
Thur., Feb. 29	GR-5 at 4:00 PM	GR-10 at 7:00 PM

**GRADE 3 SAFETY SESSION:** This session is scheduled for Sunday, February 25 at 7:55 AM and 10:45 AM. Presenter is Mrs. Crespi. View the program at: [www.VIRTUSonline.org](http://www.VIRTUSonline.org). Enter the **User Name: Parent\_Boston** and then the **Password is: EGCBoston1**. When you are in the landing page click on the **education tab** at the top. You can view the Lesson plans for Grades K - 12. *Please view this program before the Safety classes.*

**\*GRADE 5 CLASS ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS:** All Grade 5 students, including Homeschooled students are to attend the Monday, February 26 session in the church at 4:00 PM with Deacon John Barry. The students will learn how men are called by God to serve the Church as priests, what kind of education and formation in the seminary is necessary before ordination. Students will also learn about the Diaconate and how an ordained deacon serves the Church. Then the students will view a film in Fr. Haley Hall on the priesthood. Pickup will be at 5:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

**GRADE 6 SAFETY SESSION:** Our presenter is Catherine Mitchell. A Safety session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 at 4:00 and 5:00 PM. Students will learn what God's gifts are for their personal safety such as their instincts, senses, intuition, fear, trusted adults, healthy relationships, and keeping in control of their surroundings.

**CONFIRMATION I AND II:** Grade 10 Classes meet on Tuesday, February 27 and Thursday, February 29 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Students are to check into Fr. Haley Hall for their classes.

**GRADE 9 AND 10 VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED:** Our Grade 2 Family Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, from 12:30 to 4:30 PM. We will need several teens to assist the children with crafts, a play, and many other activities. Our First Communion Masses are on Saturday, June 8 and June 15 at 10:30 AM and we would love to have four teens at each Mass to assist with many tasks. If you are interested in helping and need service hours please contact Fran at 508-429-6076 or at [st.marysdre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysdre1870@gmail.com).

**CORI RENEWAL ALERT:** All active and new volunteers (18+ years) must have a completed **2024 CORI** form on file in our office to serve in a ministry. Volunteer renewals may submit a copy of your driver's license, along with signed/completed CORI form and email directly to [st.marysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com) for processing. New volunteers must have information verified in person by any staff member.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES**

**(CRF):** During Lent this year we are inviting all families in the



Religious Education Program to join with other ministries within St. Mary's Parish community of faith to take part in a very worthy cause to help all families in the Holy Land directly affected by the war. The CEO of CRF has reported first hand of the tragedies of the war and the efforts to get water, food and medical supplies into the area. Students will be bringing home the CRF Rice bowl boxes and inside is a calendar with ideas and reflections for a Faith filled Lent. Please turn in the Rice Bowls with your gifts at the end of Lent to the Religious Education office. *Thank you.*

**R.E. CLASS SNOW CANCELLATION:**

When Holliston public schools are closed due to inclement weather, religious education classes will not be held. Class cancellations will be aired on Channel 5 and Channel 7 during the weekday and on Channel 4 on Saturday and Sunday only. Families will also receive notice by email.