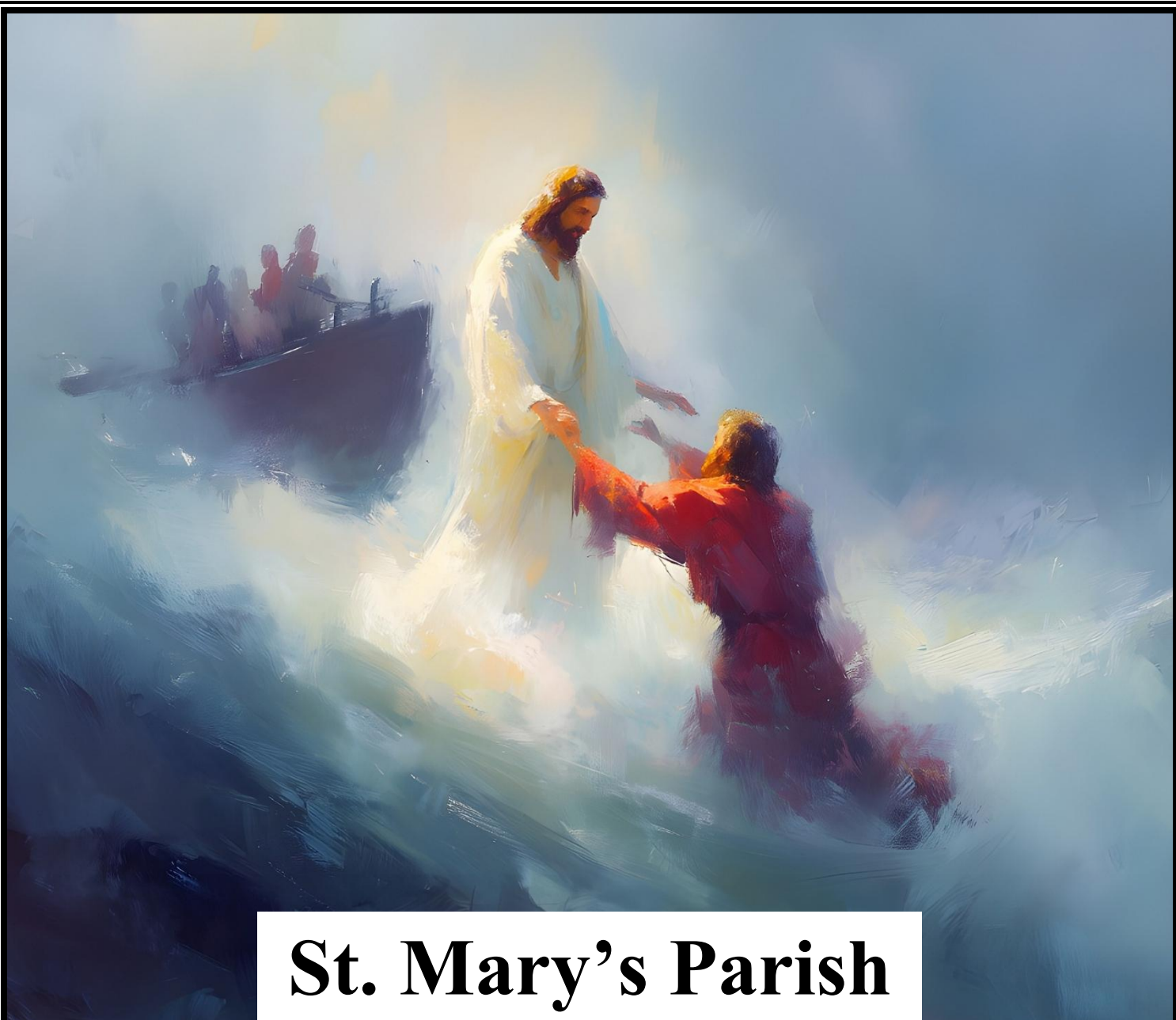




St. Mary's Parish

Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known."

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 Choir Mass

Holy Days: Announced

Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays from 9:30 -
10:30 AM and as announced.

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com
parish@stmarysholliston.org
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 from Noon to 12:45 PM, or by appointment.

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 2nd & 4th 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!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Consider St. Peter for a moment. He represents the very best of us, and the most fragile parts of us as well. At the invitation of Jesus, Peter does something extraordinary. Looking beyond the howling wind, he steps over the edge of the boat and actually walks on water toward the Lord! His first response is one of pure faith and radical trust.

Yet human nature quickly reasserts itself. Scripture tells us that when Peter noticed the strength of the wind, *"he was afraid, and beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'"* Fear has a way of narrowing our vision. The moment Peter took his eyes off Christ and fixed them on the storm, the waves seemed greater than the Saviour. Fear weakened his faith and he began to sink.

How often do we find ourselves in that very same position? Life brings its own fierce gales - serious illness, financial burdens, family struggles, disappointments, loneliness, or spiritual emptiness. The waves rise around us, anxiety takes hold, and we feel ourselves slipping beneath the surface.

It is precisely then that we are invited to pray one of the shortest and most powerful prayers ever uttered: *"Lord, save me!"* Peter did not offer a long or eloquent prayer. He simply cried out to the One Who alone could save him. And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him.

"Lord, save me!" is a prayer of profound humility. It strips away pride, self-reliance, and the illusion that we are in control. It is an act of complete surrender to Divine Mercy; an acknowledgment that apart from Christ we cannot save ourselves.

The Church has always seen herself in Peter. Like him, every disciple is called to leave the security of the boat and trust Christ, even when the way ahead seems impossible.

Yet we also know what it is like to lose sight of the Lord. We become distracted by suffering, temptation, anxiety, or the countless storms of daily life. Our faith wavers, and we begin to sink beneath the weight of fear.

Peter's prayer reminds us that God does not wait for perfect faith before coming to our aid. He responds to humble trust, even when that trust is weak and trembling. His grace reaches us not because we are strong, but because He is infinitely merciful.

This Gospel also points us toward the sacraments, especially Confession and the Holy Eucharist. Whenever we recognize that we are sinking beneath the weight of sin or discouragement, the Lord invites us to cry out once again: *"Lord, save me!"* In the Sacrament of Confession, Christ reaches out His hand to lift us from the waters of sin and restore us to communion with Him.

In the Holy Eucharist, He strengthens us to continue our journey of faith, fixing our eyes once more on His abiding Presence rather than on the storms that surround us.

Peter's cry of *"Lord, save me!"* can become our own prayer. Whether in moments of great trial or in the ordinary struggles of everyday life, these simple words express complete dependence upon Christ. They remind us that holiness is not found in never falling, but in always turning back to the Savior whose hand is never too short to reach us.

The same Lord who rescued Peter continues to rescue His Church and each of her members. He never abandons those who call upon Him. No wave is greater than His love, no darkness deeper than His mercy, and no storm stronger than His saving power.

To help anchor our hearts whenever fear threatens to overwhelm our trust, we can turn to the timeless wisdom of St. Teresa of Avila:

"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. All things pass; God does not change. Patience achieves everything. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

As we gather around the Eucharistic Table this Sunday, let us place before the Lord our fears, our doubts, and the burdens we carry. May we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, confident that He will never fail us. And whenever the storms of life threaten to pull us under, may we have the faith and humility to pray those simple words of the heart: *"Lord, save me!"*

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

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
 Mrs. Lisa Dufault, High School Youth Minister
 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



AUTOMATIC DOOR OPENER: After many delays, we are delighted to announce that our parking lot elevator entrance now has an automatic door. We pray this will be a blessing for our handicapped parishioners, and we thank all who gave to last fall's Grand Annual Collection which funded this project.

HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF: Food items needed at the Pantry: white vinegar (16 oz), juice boxes (apple, orange, fruit punch), canned regular coffee (11 oz), canned decaf coffee (11 oz), Chips Ahoy Cookies, Oreo Cookies, Ritz and/or saltine crackers (13.7 oz box), canned corn (16 oz), canned black beans (16 oz), canned red kidney beans (16 oz) and liquid dish soap. Donations may be dropped off in the tan bin by the main parking lot doors right here at St. Mary's, or to the bins outside 73 Charles Street.

THE ROSE FOR LIFE: The Rose this week is sponsored by the Mongelli Family in memory of Fran Mongelli. Please join them in prayer for an unborn child. Call Mary Beth at 508-429-4427 to become part of this beautiful affirmation of life.

This Week



**APOLOGETICS FOR CATHOLIC TEENS -
DINNER AND CONVERSATION:**

This Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: August 13, 14, & 15, at 6:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

Catholic teens often encounter skepticism or criticism of their faith on social media, at school, and from peers. In recent years more and more St. Mary's teens have experienced this.

Sometimes they feel they don't understand a teaching well enough to respond or just can't find the right words "on the spot." These gatherings will offer dinner, then an hour of listening and conversation.

They are designed to move Catholic Teens from a "defensive" posture to a "confident" one.

What is Apologetics? From the Greek "apologia" - a "reasoned defense." It is not "apologizing" for being Catholic; it is explaining the "why." As we read in 1 Peter 3:15, *"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence."*

The Goal: We don't argue to "win"; we explain to "invite." Apologetics is about explaining, with logic and love, why we believe what we believe.

On August 13, 14, and 15 we will enjoy a light meal then talk, listen, and grow in our ability to answer when we are questioned or challenged about our faith.



Open to all High School or College age Teens.
 Different topics will be discussed each night.

Use this link or the QR Code to SignUp:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-64826129-defenders>

FOR THOSE WE LOVE

Saturday	August 8
5:00	Walter Budra, 10 th Anv.
7:30	Michele Scotto
Sunday	August 9
7:30	Marcia Seymour, 16 th Anv.
9:30	People of St. Mary's
11:30	Adrienne Beattie, 5 th Anv.
Monday	August 10
9:00	Joseph Palladino
Tuesday	August 11
9:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday	August 12
9:00	Gabriel Parmese, 11 th Anv.
Thursday	August 13
9:00	Helena Richardi, 16 th Anv.
Friday	August 14
9:00	Santa Patti, 41 st Anv.
Saturday	August 15
5:00	Gabriel Parmese, 11 th Anv.
7:30	Susan Pratt
Sunday	August 16
7:30	People of St. Mary's
9:30	Richard Chase, 33 rd Anv.
11:30	Teresita De Guzman, 14 th Anv.

Merciful Father, we lift to You the souls for whom these Holy Masses are offered, entrusting them to the embrace of Your love. May the light of Christ lead them from every shadow into the everlasting joy of Your presence. Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, welcome them into the peace of Your heavenly kingdom. Comfort those who mourn them with the hope that love endures beyond death and life is changed, not ended. Amen.

FOR OUR PARISH

LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH OFFERTORY:

Automatic Giving:	\$ 4,749.00
WeShare:	\$ 4,999.84
Envelopes:	\$ 8,319.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 18,067.84

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/>.

FOR OUR YOUTH



ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR FALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OPENED ON JULY 1.

We have made both registration and payment of tuition wholly electronic. Just click the photo above or use the QR Code to get started.

The full class schedule was mailed out and may also be viewed by clicking [HERE](#). As always, class day choices are first come, first served.



Class registration closes on Monday, August 17, 2026 - please do not delay.

If you have any difficulties or questions, please contact Jennifer at 508-429-6076 or at religionsedsec@stmarysholliston.org. God bless you!

"The soul grows by learning."
- St. Augustine

FOR OUR YOUTH

19th ANNUAL ALTAR SERVER APPRECIATION TRIP TO SIX FLAGS NEW ENGLAND! This year's trip is Monday, August 17. Departure is at 8:15 AM, return is 7 PM. Return your form, etc., to the Rectory at 8 Church St. no later than **TODAY, Sunday, August 9**. Thank you, Altar Servers, for your faithful and reverent ministry!



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Our Summer of Faith and Adventure continues with this awesome trip:

Friday, August 21 - Grade 6 Deerfield River Rafting!



And **SAVE THE DATE** for the Giant Fall MSYG Kick Off! **Sunday, October 4 from 6:30 - 8 PM!** Open to ALL 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade teens. Welcome!

FOR OUR YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!



Mission Trip Teens and Adult Chaperones, we hope you will join us for the Mission Trip Video Viewing Party this Tuesday, August 11 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall. Sign Up to bring a snack to share by filling out the Google Doc here <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nY5LEQHwGOxsPVjSoGmAziIIOCpRNI-x3Elc8tUiXmak/edit?usp=sharing>.

Check out our Instagram to see photos and videos from the Mission Trip. Just scan the QR Code to be brought to our TGIF Instagram page.



We are looking forward to our last TGIF Daily Mass and Donuts on Wednesday, August 12 at 9:00 AM. An email will be sent on Tuesday, August 11 with a link to RSVP and to place your donut order.



Be on the lookout for 2026 Mission Trip Photos on our TGIF bulletin board! The board is located by the double glass doors to the parking lot from the Parish Center.



REGISTER ONLINE NOW FOR OUR 2026-2027 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: Go to <https://stmarysholliston.com/>.

Check our class offerings, days, and times. Register and pay by locking in placement and your choice of classes now. **NOTE:** The August 17 deadline is approaching fast. Help our Religious Education Office with planning and recruiting the number of catechists we need to have a successful year by registering now.



PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS AND VOLUNTEER TO TEACH! As baptized Catholics we are called to bring the Good News to the world. We are also called to be witnesses to share our gifts

of faith with our families and neighbors. Our youth and children need to be formed spiritually and morally to be able to know and understand the goodness of God's love for them. When the Truth of God's Word penetrates their soul and conscience, faith and reason make sense in God's ordered world. Although we have free will, our thoughts, words, and actions help form our character which attracts others to want to be part of the Kingdom of God on earth. Be a witness for Christ and sign up to teach a class starting in the Fall. Training will be available in September. Just register **Online**. See the table in the upper right for scheduled days and times for classes. Please complete the **Volunteer Application and the Teacher/Monitor Session Selection at:**

<https://stmarysholliston.com/religious-education/religious-education-volunteer-registration/>.

WE MISS YOU! If your child has missed time in Religious Education, we encourage you to register them right away using our online form at stmarysholliston.com. Please contact us at 508-429-6076 or religiouseddre@stmarysholliston.org if your child needs to be prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism or First Communion. It is never too late to prepare your child for a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and we will love to see them in our program.

MISSION OF THE FAMILY: Fr. Jon Leonetti in his book "Mission of the Family" describes the Church as being very clear on the meaning and purpose of family life, *mission*. The mission of bringing the good news of the Gospel to everyone we meet and being the presence of Christ and His Church to those whose lives we touch. Thus, our families are centers of evangelization, sources of God's grace, and signs of mercy and compassion.

TEACHERS AND MONITORS WILL BE NEEDED FOR GRADE LEVELS 1 - 8: Prayerfully consider teaching or becoming a Monitor.

GRADE	SUNDAY CLASSES	WEEKDAY CLASSES
	Alternate Sundays	Alternate Weekdays
CGS*	Sun., 8:00 to 9:15 AM OR 10:45 AM to 12 Noon	
GR-1	Sun., 8:10 to 9:25 AM	
GR-2	Sun., 8:10 to 9:25 AM OR 10:45 AM to 12 Noon	Wed., 4:15 to 5:30 PM
GR-3	Sun., 7:55 to 9:25 AM OR 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	Wed., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-4	Sun., 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	Tue., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-5	Sun., 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM	Tue., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-6	Sun., 4:00 to 5:30 PM	Tue., 4:00 to 5:30 PM
GR-7	Grades 7 and 8 meet on the same alternate weeks.	Tue. OR Wed., 7:00 to 8:30 PM
GR-8		Mon. OR Thur., 7:00 to 8:30 PM

(CGS) VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT TRAINING:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a unique Montessori Program that uses a child-centered approach to Christian formation. CGS is not the standard classroom model where a teacher instructs the children in catechesis, but a **"WAY"** and method to emphasize the religious potential of children while fostering their encounter with God. Sacred Scripture, Liturgy, prayer, and practical life activities are presented where the child can contemplate and build a relationship with Jesus.



CGS Assistants do not teach, they observe the children's activities, behaviors, and responses and are available if a child needs help. Three adults and three high school students in grades 9 - 12 will be needed and willing to be trained. As with all volunteers, CGS Assistants over the age of eighteen (18) years are required to complete a CORI form and Protecting God's Children Training. You will be required to meet with the DRE personally if you are a new volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact 508-429-6076 or religiouseddre@stmarysholliston.org. You can also register online by completing the **Volunteer Application and the Teacher/Monitor Session Selection at:** <https://stmarysholliston.com/religious-education/religious-education-volunteer-registration/>.

CGS Sunday classes run from 8:00 to 9:15 AM and 10:45 AM to Noon starting Sunday, October 18, 2026. Consider taking this powerful journey observing how the children's hearts, and yours, will be transformed and fall in love with God.