Just as our Blessed Mother Mary and the Evangelist, called John, came together at the foot of the cross to serve Christ crucified, so also do the parish families bearing their names come together to serve God by serving each other and all who make up the body of The Risen Lord.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
115 MIDDLESEX STREET
NORTH CHELMSFORD

ST. MARY
25 NORTH ROAD
CHELMSFORD

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY • 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY • 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
FRIDAY • 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SUNDAY • 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday • 4:00 PM
Sunday • 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM
& 5:00 PM

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE
Monday - Friday • 9:00 AM
Saturday 9:00 am Mass alternates between parishes. Refer to calendars.

RECONCILIATION
Saturday • 3:00 - 3:45 PM
or by appointment

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
First Friday of th Month
Beginning Friday, 9:30 AM
Concluding Saturday, 9:00 AM
in the OPC Chapel

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Thursday • 3:00 - 9:00 PM
Friday • 7:30 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday • 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
in the Parish Center Chapel

MASSES ARE AVAILABLE VIA LIVE STREAM
Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
LIVEVIEW resides on the right-hand sidebar of the home page

PRAYER LINE
To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, call the parish office and ask for ext 223.

May 5, 2019
Third Sunday of Easter

Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” - John 21: 19b
at St. Mary’s

SUNDAY, MAY 5
Faith Formation Events • See Faith Formation Page 6
Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church
6 pm Music Ministry Team Rehearsal • 5:00 pm • Church
Collaborative PPC Meeting • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • PC CR 1

MONDAY, MAY 6
Boy Scout Troop 77 Comm Mtg • 7:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Conf Room 2
Bible Study: Prophets • 10:00 am - 12 noon • PC Conf Room 1
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto (in church, if raining)

TUESDAY, MAY 7
Bible Study: The Early Church • 7:00 pm • Parish Hall
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto (in church, if raining)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
ACTS Mission Women’s Team • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • PC Conf Room 1
Music Ministry Extra Rehearsal • 6:30 pm • Music Room
SVdP Meeting • 7:00 - 9:00 pm • PC MR 5 & 6
Boy Scout Troop 77 Meeting • 7:00 - 9:00 pm • Parish Hall
11 am Music Ministry Team Rehearsal • 7:00 pm • Church
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto (in church, if raining)

THURSDAY, MAY 9
Rosary Makers • 10:30 am - 12:00 pm • PC Conf Room 2
Rosary • 12:00 - 1:00 pm • PC Chapel
Adoration • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel
RCIA • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • PC Conf Room 2
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto (in church, if raining)

FRIDAY, MAY 10
Adoration • 7:00 am - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel
Knitting and Crocheting • 3:00 pm • PC MR 2
First Communion Rehearsals • 5:00 - 6:00 pm • Church
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto (in church, if raining)

SATURDAY, MAY 11
Adoration • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm • PC Chapel
Reconciliation • 11:00 am - 12:00 noon • Church
Music Rehearsals • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Music Room
Collaborative Bell Choir Rehearsal • 2:30 pm • Choir Loft
String Ensemble/Ministry Rehearsals • 3:00 - 4:00 pm • Church
Anointing of the Sick, following 4 pm Mass • Church

SUNDAY, MAY 12
Faith Formation Events • See Faith Formation Page 6
Grace Notes Rehearsal • 8:10 - 8:45 am • Church
6 pm Music Ministry Team Rehearsal • 5:00 pm • Church
High School Youth Ministry • 7:00 - 9:00 pm • Parish Hall

Evening Rosary at St. Mary Grotto
Join us in the praying of the Rosary every weekday evening at 7 pm throughout the month of May at our Marian Grotto. If you do not know how to pray the Rosary, we will have people leading and pamphlets to assist you. We will also provide rosaries, if you need one. In case of inclement weather, the Rosary will be prayed in the church.

2ND ANNUAL HAIL MARY CHALLENGE
ON OUR WAY!

Our Collaborative is again challenged to collectively pray 1,000,000 Rosaries in Six Months! (April 28 - Oct 31)

Record, on paper, every Hail Mary that you pray, and turn in your count into the container that will be located in the vestibule of each church (for your convenience, we have tally slips available for you to fill out if you happen to have prayed in church, and do not have immediate access to pen and paper). These containers will be emptied every Sunday, tabulated and the count published weekly in the bulletin.

You need NOT be in church to pray. If you are unable to physically attend church, you can send your count via email to psidari@ymail.com, or you can call the parish office and give your count to Christine at ext 214.

Last year we exceeded our goal and collectively prayed a total of 1,179,823 Hail Mary’s. Can we exceed that number this year?

The Bishop Ruocco Council of the Knights of Columbus apologizes for misleading the parishioners in the April 14th and 21st bulletin publications regarding the Financial and Estate Planning Summit. Only members of the Knights and their immediate families are eligible to purchase insurance and other related products through the Knights of Columbus.
**Crowning of Mary**

Both Parish Families take part in this special recognition of Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, and our Mother, in their respective parishes, NEXT Sunday, May 12th.

**ST. MARY CROWNING**
11:00 am Mass

**ST. JOHN CROWNING***
8:30 am Mass

*Children who recently received their First Holy Communion are encouraged to wear their First Communion attire for this occasion.

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**Vacation Bible Fun 2019**

**ROAR: Life is Wild**

**God is Good**

Register Today!

Click on the VBF ROAR button on our homepage!

**FUNSTERS**
Calling ALL children Pre-K (age 4) through 5th grade (entering 6th) to participate in an outstanding adventure to explore Jesus Christ—the light of the world.

**YOUTH**
Looking for dynamic and power-driven youth from grade 6 (entering 7th) through age 17 to help our FUNSTERS have the VBF experience of a lifetime! Join the FUN and faith-filled staff of 2019!

**ADULTS**
You are an ESSENTIAL part of our program! Without YOU we cannot facilitate this powerful and dynamic experience for our children! Trust us: it’s a beautiful and rewarding experience for you as well.

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**at St. John’s**

**SUNDAY, MAY 5**
Faith Formation Events • See Faith Formation Page 7
First Communion Preparation • 9:45 am • Mariotti
Coffee & Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Hall
VBF Planning Meeting • 6:00 - 8:30 pm • OPC

**MONDAY, MAY 6**
Families w/Addiction Support Group • 7:00 pm • Mary Gill
SVdP Meeting • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • OPC

**TUESDAY, MAY 7**
CHWC Meeting • 7:00 pm • Hall
Open Music Ministry Rehearsal • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Church

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**
Culture of Life Group Meeting • 7:00 - 8:00 pm • OPC

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**
Charismatic Prayer Group • 10:00 am • OPC
BINGO • 6:45 pm (doors open at 3:00 pm) • Hall
Charismatic Prayer Group • 7:00 pm • OPC

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**
African Community Rosary • 6:00 pm • OPC
Baptism Preparation • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Mariotti

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**
NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. Mary this week
Make-up Liturgical Ministers Meeting • 10:30 am - 12:00 noon • Church
Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**
Faith Formation Events • See Faith Formation Page 7
Children’s Liturgy of the Word • 8:30 am Mass • Hall
Coffee & Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Hall
African Liturgy Committee • 11:30 am - 1:00 pm • OPC
Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church
Q. Why do people go to hell if every sin is forgiveable?

A. This is a great question and to answer it begins with understanding five points: what is free will, what is sin, what is forgiveness, what is true love, and what is God’s judgment? Therefore, let us begin by understanding free will and why it is so important. Free will is the gracious gift God gave to us and is really at the center of what it means to be human. Free will is our ability to make choices on our own. God wants us to be able to make decisions about our own life without constraint. Free will makes us fully responsible and culpable for the choices we make and the consequences that arise from those choices.

In a Christian context there are only two kinds of choices: to act in accord with the will of God which is to choose to do good, or to act contrary to the will of God which is to choose to sin. There is never a third option. When we choose to do God’s will in our life, the consequences ultimately lead us into growing closer in our relationship with God. When we choose sin, the consequences will lead us into a life that separates us from God. The more we choose to sin, the further and further we get from God. Now, God can and will forgive our sins, but we have to accept the fact that we have sinned, reject that sin, and turn to God for forgiveness. God will always forgive us if we are truly sorry for what we have done, but will not do so if we are not sorry. So, why won’t God forgive us if we are not sorry?

It is not so much that God won’t forgive us. It is rather that, as a consequence of sin, our hearts become hardened against God and we refuse his forgiveness, mercy and love. In fact, we can get to the point where we will actively reject his love and forgiveness. God could force us to accept it, but He chooses not to do so because He loves us. True love accepts the choices that people make, but it does not mean you have to agree with those choices. God knows that whenever we choose sin, we are always harming ourselves. But He loves us so much He will not take away our free will. Ultimately, the only way God could ensure no one goes to hell is to take away our ability to choose, but if He did that, it would mean we are no longer human.

Therefore, when a person dies God’s judgment is very simple—He judges a person’s heart! His judgment is not based simply on a person’s actions. The person could have done the most horrendous things imaginable but if they are truly sorry, they could still go to heaven. At the same time, you could have a person whose actions seem innocuous at best and that person could still go to hell. God’s judgement is really about one thing: Does the person desire to accept the love God wants to offer to him or her? God loves us so much He will not take away our free will. Ultimately, the only way God could ensure no one goes to hell is to take away our ability to choose, but if He did that, it would mean we are no longer human.

Like last summer, offertory envelopes received in the collection will go to the designated parishes. For those who regularly give cash, there will be envelopes in the pews to ensure that the intended parish receives the funds. Please note that all cash given that is NOT in envelopes or NOT designated, will be evenly divided between the two parish communities.

We thank you for your understanding as we make this change so that all, including our priests, can benefit as fully as possible from a Sunday evening of worship.
of what’s happening in our Collaborative!

Fr. Tom... Our beloved Fr. Tom, after 8 years of serving the parish family of St. Mary’s—the past 3 ½ years serving BOTH parish families of our collaborative—has been given a new assignment by Cardinal Sean. Although we don’t yet know where that is, we do know that effective June 1st, he will no longer be gracing us with his presence. His scheduled farewell events are:

May 18th • St. Mary’s following 4:00 pm Mass
May 19th • St. John’s following 10:30 am Mass

Mark your calendars so as not to miss this opportunity to express your goodbyes, good wishes and gratefulness for his wisdom and presence among us over the past years.

... you will be sorely missed!

Healing Service
Saturday, May 18th at 6:30 pm
St. John Church
~ Hosted by the St. John’s African Community
~ Led by the Healing Ministry of the Charismatic Group of the Archdiocese of Boston
~ Fr. Patrick Alemayo will be present to hear confessions

St. John Continuing Education Scholarships...
At the close of our St. John the Evangelist 125th Anniversary Year celebrations, our committee identified and retained $600 of our profits to be shared with our St. John’s community in the form of two continuing education scholarships amounting to $300 each. These scholarships will be awarded to two graduating high school level students (one female and one male) who belong to/participate in the faith life of St. John’s Parish and are confirmed as continuing their educational endeavors in the fall of 2019. These one-time scholarships are in memory of all St. John’s Parish members over these past 125 years. If interested in applying, the application can be downloaded from the parish website. Scan your completed application and email to St.Johns125th@gmail.com. If you do not have access to a scanner, place your completed application into an envelope and place it into the basket labeled “125th Anniversary Scholarship,” which can be found in the church vestibule. The deadline to apply is May 24, 2019. Please email any questions to St.Johns125th@gmail.com.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion • Lectors
If you missed the training sessions that were held in January and February of this year, we are offering make-up sessions. Please attend one of the following that apply to you. You do NOT have to attend at the church in which you serve; attend that which best serves your schedule.

St. John • Sat, May 11 • 10:30 am - 12 pm • EMHCs only
St. Mary • Sat, June 1 • 10:30 am - 12 pm • Lectors only

St. Mary Scholarship Opportunities

KATHIE NISCO $500 AWARD
Funded by Kathie’s husband, Joseph, this award is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior of St. Mary Parish who has demonstrated and achieved a high level of involvement in community service during his/her high school years. The recipient must also have exhibited outstanding commitment to living the message of the Gospel in the parish and community as a young disciple. This witness will have been made evident through the individual’s response to service and leadership.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS $200 AWARD
Each year, the Knights of Columbus recognize a graduating high school senior who is an active member of the St. Mary Parish community and who has demonstrated and achieved an outstanding level of qualitative service to St. Mary’s during his/her high school years. The recipient must have exhibited outstanding commitment to living the message of the Gospel in the parish and community as a young disciple. This witness will have been made evident through the individual’s response to the call of service and leadership to St. Mary Parish. In addition the recipient’s level of involvement with specific areas of the Parish Life including, but not limited to, involvement or leadership in the Youth Ministry program, involvement as a volunteer in the Faith Formation program with younger peers.

Nomination forms for both awards can be found at the church entrances, parish office or on our website. COMPLETED forms are to be addressed to Heather Hannaway and are due to the Faith Formation office, no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, May 17. You may also drop your completed form into the drop box in the parish hall near the kitchen, the drop box outside the handicapped door or the drop box on the porch of our parish offices located at 115 Middlesex Street. Nominations received AFTER THE DEADLINE will NOT be considered.
ATTENTION St. Mary 11 am and 4 pm Mass GOERS

The St. Mary 4 pm Mass NEXT Saturday, May 11th and the 11 am Mass NEXT Sunday, May 12th, will be extended in length due to our welcoming a group of young children to the Table of the Lord, as they celebrate their First Eucharist. We do hope that you will decide to celebrate this joyous occasion with us.

First Communion Rehearsals at 5 pm

Friday, May 10th: For those children scheduled for the weekend of May 11th/12th
Friday, May 17th: For those children scheduled for the weekend of May 18th/19th

This weekend, the following group of children will be receiving the gift of the Eucharist for the first time. Please keep them and their families in prayer.

Paige Grace Callaghan • Deanna Rose DaSilva • Kathryn Nelly Duque-Leslie • Emily Elizabeth Ibrahim • Sara Maria Ibrahim • Vivienne Wai Kei Kam • Shane Paul Kleindienst • Savannah Lea Malio

Dates To Remember…

June 1: All registrations received by this date will be automatically entered into a drawing for $125 to be used towards registration fees. One entry per family.

June 30: Early Registration ends. Standard Fees will now apply.

2019/20 Faith Formation Registration!

Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/ Faith Formation/ then click on Registration under St. Mary Church. There you will find all the directions needed for an easy online registration! If you do not have access to a computer, paper registration is open TODAY, SUNDAY, May 5th. You can register your child(ren) in the St. Mary Parish Center from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, or you can obtain a form in the parish office during regular office hours.

Class Schedule

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 5TH

Grade 3-6 Family Day • 9:00 -11:00 am
  St Mary Parish Center

Live music, snacks, discussion and interactive activities will all be part of this family gathering.

Grade 8 • 2:15 - 3:45 pm • Parish Hall

Confirmation II • 4:00 - 5:45 pm • Parish Hall

If you are what you should be, you will set the world ablaze.

~ St. Catherine of Siena
ATTENTION ALL 18+ VOLUNTEERS!

The 2020 form is now available at both the parish office and on our website... www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/Parish Life/Protecting God’s Children. While you are visiting this page, please read up on Volunteer Requirements to see if you need to attend a Protecting God’s Children Workshop. Although you are able to print and complete this form ahead of time, PLEASE DO NOT SIGN AS YOUR SIGNATURE REQUIRES THE PRESENCE OF A PARISH STAFF MEMBER TO SERVE AS YOUR WITNESS. Also, do not forget your Photo ID… also a requirement to complete this form. THIS FORM IS REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY. Please stop by the parish office during regular office hours.

WEDNESDAY CLASS PARENTS….

Join Fr. Brian and Fran as they address any concerns you have regarding the discontinuance of the Wednesday afternoon Faith Formation classes, and assist you in exploring alternative options.

Wednesday, May 22nd • 6:30 pm in the hall

2020 CORI Packets ATTENTION ALL 18+ VOLUNTEERS!

The 2020 form is now available at both the parish office and on our website... www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/Parish Life/Protecting God’s Children. While you are visiting this page, please read up on Volunteer Requirements to see if you need to attend a Protecting God’s Children Workshop. Although you are able to print and complete this form ahead of time, PLEASE DO NOT SIGN AS YOUR SIGNATURE REQUIRES THE PRESENCE OF A PARISH STAFF MEMBER TO SERVE AS YOUR WITNESS. Also, do not forget your Photo ID… also a requirement to complete this form. THIS FORM IS REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY. Please stop by the parish office during regular office hours.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Please join the Collaborative Social Justice Committee at our next event to address human trafficking. Human trafficking, one of the most horrific injustices of our time, is something that’s happening in the cities, suburbs and rural areas of every New England state. The event will be a panel discussion where speakers will provide an update on sex and labor trafficking in our region and how we can take action. Panelists will include Mass State Police Captain Pi Downsborough, NH Human Trafficking Task Force member Wendy Brooks, and a sex trafficking survivor. Please join us to become part of the movement to stop human trafficking.

Tuesday, May 21st • 7:00 pm • St. Mary Church Parish Hall
Signs, Seals, Delivering God’s Love

Boards bearing this name now reside at both parishes. This is the third annual fundraising effort of this type to assist our Youth Ministry teens in meeting the costs associated with their attendance at Steubenville East and Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer. Steubenville East is an exciting and dynamic opportunity for the spiritual renewal of our teens and will take place at UMass Lowell, July 12-14. Another spiritual renewal opportunity for our youth is the annual mission trip under the leadership of Catholic Heart Work Camp, a Gospel-based campaign aimed at making a difference in the community of an economically disadvantaged area. This year’s trip runs from July 21-26 in New Jersey. By taking an envelope from the board, you pledge to give that particular amount of money to these efforts. Will we be able to clear the board again this year? Our youth thank you, in advance, for your faithful generosity and prayers.

House of Hope: Lowell, MA

6:00 - 8:00 PM • Thursdays: May 9th and 23rd

We are always looking for volunteer youth/parent teams to spend 2 hours on Thursday evenings playing with young children whose parent(s) are receiving Life Skills training. Orientation is required. Please contact Laura at lkzatta@gmail.com.

Steubenville East Meetings

7:00 - 8:30 PM • Sundays: June 2 and July 7 • St. Mary

Teens who are participating, as well as chaperones for this trip must attend this planning and review meeting. REMINDER that the trip is scheduled for July 12 - 14 at UMass Lowell.

Youth Mass and HS (Grades 9-12) Youth Group

6:00 - 9:00 PM • Sundays: May 5th, 12th; June 9th • St. Mary

After serving as liturgical and music ministers at Mass, join us downstairs for fellowship centered around a meal where we can get to know God and each other a little better.

Palm Sunday Annual Pancake Breakfast

Thank you to all who supported this annual event through your volunteering or your attendance! Your support raised $1,100 for our Collaborative Youth Ministry Program.
Clergy
Reverend Brian Mahoney, PASTOR
ext 215... fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Tom Corcoran, PAROCHIAL VICAR
ext 218... frcorcoran@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE
ext 221... frcolletti@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Rev. Mr. Francis X. Burke, PERMANENT DEACON
ext 224... deaconfran@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Business Office
Paul Firicano, COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS MANAGER
ext 220... pffiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Tina Sousa, FINANCE & FACILITY SUPPORT
ext 219... tsousa@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Faith Formation
Fran Anderson, DIRECTOR OF ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION
ext 212... fran@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Lynn Anne LaDuke, part-time SJE FAITH FORMATION ADMIN. ASST.
ext 240... lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Heather Hannaway, DIRECTOR OF ST. MARY FAITH FORMATION
ext 226... hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Elaine Kindler, SM FAITH FORMATION OFFICE MANAGER
ext 216... ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Courtney Callanan, YOUTH MINISTER & CONFIRMATION COOR
ext 227... ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Music Ministries
Jason Gaudette, DIRECTOR OF ST. JOHN MUSIC MINISTRIES
ext 234... jay@chelmsfordcatholic.org
John Anthony Volpe, DIRECTOR OF ST. MARY MUSIC MINISTRIES
ext 222... jvolpe@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Administrative Support
Rae Russo, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ext 236... rae@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Donna Gambon, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ext 248... dgambon@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Sue Beechin, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
sue@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Facilities
Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER
ext 213... dheider@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Bob Webb, part-time WEEKEND CUSTODIAN
ext 211... bob@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Stephen Webber, CUSTODIAN
ext 231... steve@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Bulletin, Website, Social Media
Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
ext 214... christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org

In order to promote communication and transparency throughout the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative, you are encouraged to forward any comments and concerns you may have directly to the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils.

Collaborative Parish Pastoral Council
Parish council matters can be sent to:
CollaborativePPC@chelmsfordcatholic.org
or 978-256-2374/ 978-251-8571, ext 145.

Current Council Members are ...

St. John Members
Angela McMaster (co-chair)
Mike Condor
Scott Davidson
Julie Seitter
Ellen St. George
Beth Jacavanco
Augustine Tweneh
Ray Wagner (secretary)

St. Mary Members
Peter Lando (co-chair)
Laura Conte
Rob Donnelly
Karen Drake
Jessica Hagg
Cliff Mann
Lori McDonald
Alma (Chicki) Rigazio
Paul Therrien

St. John Finance Council
Finance matters concerning St. John’s can be sent to:
SJFinanceCouncil@chelmsfordcatholic.org
or 978-251-8571, ext 146.

Current Council Members are …

John Bagni    Jeff Brown    Paul Brzezenski
Celeste Dunn  Jerry Wright

St. Mary Finance Council
Finance matters concerning St. Mary’s can be sent to:
SM.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org
or 978-256-2374 ext147.

Current Council Members are ...

Armand DiLando  Lauren Desforge  William Donohue
Gerard Jarasitis  Ted Powers

WANT SOMETHING TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN?
If you would like to submit a notice for the bulletin, please submit it no later than 12 NOON, TWO Fridays prior to the weekend in which you want it published. Submittals should be forwarded to christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org or via US Mail to the Parish Offices at 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863, ATTN Christine. We will do our very best to accommodate your request.
When I was preparing to enter kindergarten, they did an assessment of my various academic abilities: did I know my alphabet, how good was my reading comprehension, how well did I know my numbers, and how high could I count? It was the last one that caused everyone some confusion. I knew the numbers 2-13, and 38 and 56, but I did not know number 1 or any of the numbers between 13 and 38 or 38 and 56. It created quite a puzzle for my assessors, and for a few days they struggled to figure out the answer. Then... it dawned on someone—I am not sure who, or how it came about, but here it is the answer to the puzzle: I was the youngest child, and in 1968 there were no remote controls for TVs; so, whenever the channel needed to be changed, I was asked to change it. I was the remote control! The numbers on the TV dial for VHF were 2-13, and for UHF, we only had 38 and 56. To my five-year-old brain, those were the only numbers that existed. I, of course, came to understand that my limited knowledge of numbers needed to be challenged and corrected.

In our relationship with God and Jesus we can come up with some very limited ideas of who God is and who Jesus is. And, at times we truly need to be challenged in order to grow in our understanding and therefore deepen our faith and relationship with God. It can be something as simple as the Eucharist. Many people fall into the trap of seeing the Eucharist simply as a symbol. It represents, points to, or reminds them of Jesus. They lose the true, deeper sense that Jesus is truly giving himself to us in the Eucharist. What we receive is really and substantially the Body and Blood of Christ. It is no longer bread and it is no longer wine. What we receive is Christ himself—the same Jesus who walk this planet, died on the cross, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father. The only difference is in how He looks. It is a hard concept to understand and, I know, to believe and accept, but it is at the heart of our faith. It is at the heart of being Catholic.

I believe, ultimately, that the limitations we place on God derive out of our limited understanding of four things: God is truly the creator of all; God created all things and especially people, with a purpose; God has a real plan for humanity and each person in particular; and God has a deep and abiding love for all He has created, especially each person in a unique way. There is an important factor that also gets in the way of our growing in understanding of those four points. It is something called concupiscence which is a remnant of the Fall. When Adam and Eve rejected God’s will, they broke our relationship with God, others, ourselves and creation. And, at the same time they damaged the human condition so that we were left with an inherent attraction to sin. That desire for sin is called concupiscence. We can overcome that desire but only through the grace of God.

In his life Jesus showed us both the way to be open to God’s grace and how to grow in our relationship with Him. He gave us the means to encounter and embrace God’s grace in our lives. The most important lesson Jesus taught us is that to truly have a relationship with God we must seek to be wholly and completely obedient to his will. That is the ultimate lesson of his death and resurrection. If we are not willing to be humble and listen to God’s will, we cannot really receive his grace. And without God’s grace we cannot change. The only reason I learned about the rest of the numbers was because I realized that my thinking was wrong and I needed to change my way of thinking. The same must be true in our relationship with God.

The world wants to lead us in directions that are all about self-fulfillment, self-actualization, self-realization. That is the direction of our self-destruction. The way of Christ is the way of the cross. The way of Christ is the way of obedience. The way of Christ is the way of dying to self and rising to new life, in and with the Father. Christ tells us very clearly, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” He also was very clear about the only way to the Father, which is through Him. This is why the disciples proclaimed, “By no other name may one be saved.”

God wants us to grow in relationship with him and as I said we need to embrace those four points through his grace. Hence, Jesus left us with the means of both attaining the necessary grace and the required understanding—through the scriptures, prayer, and the Sacraments. Each of these gifts from God present a way of encountering both God and his grace. The scriptures teach us our faith and morals. We know that they are the very word of God and have been inspired by God. When it comes to faith—what we are to believe, and morals—how we are called to live out that faith, the scriptures cannot be wrong. Each time
Do not be afraid, I have called you each by name!

“Do not be afraid.” These are the angel’s words to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary as he greets them at the tomb of Christ. Did you catch what happened just prior to this greeting? “There was a great earthquake” as the angel descended, his appearance was “like lightening,” and “the guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.” And of course, the Lord is missing from the tomb. Do not be afraid? Those circumstances certainly seem to warrant fear.

“Do not be afraid.” These are also the Lord’s words to the women just moments later as he greets them along the road. Important enough words that Christ comes to speak them directly. Not empty words, but words rooted in a deep truth—rooted in the Truth. They proclaim the victory over sin and death that we have in Christ. He has risen. He has won. We need not be afraid.

At this Easter Vigil a young adult Catechumenate came forward to receive the sacraments of baptism, holy communion and confirmation. The depth of his emotion kneeling in the baptismal pool was clearly visible as Fr. Brian baptized him in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; he was physically shaking when he left the pool and had a look of trepidation throughout the evening. In the end, when he was welcomed into the Church, called by name and sealed with the Holy Spirit, he could no longer contain his emotion and openly wept—the fear had turned into joy. Joy for everyone of us who stood there to witness and welcome our brother who was lost and has now been found.

From David to Elijah, from Isaiah to Jeremiah, God continuously reminded his people not to fear. When Joseph considered canceling his engagement to Mary, an angel appeared to him, telling him not to be afraid. When Jesus charged the twelve disciples with their responsibility, He told them not to be afraid of those who would seek to harm them for proclaiming the truth. From the women gathering at the empty tomb to the disciples seeing the resurrected Jesus, the message was the same: do not be afraid.

In every instance, people faced legitimate fears. But each time God’s message remained consistent. It seems God understood that we would wrestle with fear. Sometimes our circumstances seem to warrant fear. It can well up within us in the face of uncertainty, illness, danger, or hurt. Like an earthquake, fear shakes us up and disorients us. But the Lord meets each one of us on the way and speaks truth. He says to us, “Do not be afraid.”

- What circumstances in your own life seem to stir up fear? Take some time this week to bring your concerns before the Lord.

Hear him speak to you, “Do not be afraid.” How can you receive these words this Easter season? Let the truth of Christ’s victory sink in. We need not be afraid.
Paul Firicano, Collaborative Business Manager
ext 220 or pfiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Fiscal Year 2019 runs from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

**St. Mary**

Due to a required early submittal to the printer, all figures for the weekend of April 27th/28th will be reported and updated in next weekend’s bulletin

| Holy Thursday: Our Lady, Star of the Sea | $1,521  
| Good Friday: Holy Land | $2,175 |

**St. John**

| Holy Thursday: Our Lady, Star of the Sea | $2,651  
| Good Friday: Holy Land | $1,137 |

On behalf of our priests, especially our senior priests who have been there for us for decades, we thank you for your generous support of last week’s special Easter Collection. Our priests in good standing have always answered our calls. Like us, they too are troubled by the current events taking place in the church, yet they are always there for us. Thank you for your prayers and support.

| Easter: Clergy Health & Retirement Trust | $22,469  

**FY 2019 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP**  
(as of April 14th, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offertory Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$693,000</td>
<td>$626,473</td>
<td>-$66,527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERTORY COMPARISON**  
(as of April 15, 2018 vs. as of April 14, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$16,570</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CLOSE THE FY2019 BUDGET DEFICIT**  
(as of April 21, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2019 Forecasted Budget Deficit</th>
<th>Donations Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$61,500</td>
<td>$81,728</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A reminder that a very generous St. John parishioner, who has asked to remain anonymous, has come forward and agreed to match, dollar for dollar, all cash/check donations given to the purpose of closing the St. John’s deficit between the time period that began March 16th through April 30, 2019. Cash donations must be placed in the specific St. John’s envelope (found at the end of the pews and church entrances). For donations made via check, please note SJ DEFICIT in the memo line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>as of April 21, 2019</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 2019 Goal | $61,495  
| Raised | $96,071  
| %age of Goal | 156% |

**Catholic Appeal**  
Living Our Faith. Together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>as of April 21, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2019 Goal | $44,096  
| Raised | $44,595  
| %age of Goal | 101% |

**St. John St. Vincent de Paul**  
On the weekend of May 18th/19th, St. John will be having a second collection in support of their St. Vincent de Paul chapter. This ministry provides services to the needy and suffering families within our local community who are experiencing temporary difficulty due to illness, unemployment, personal tragedy or other unexpected challenges. If you would like information about joining our group, or if you know of anyone who could benefit from our services, please contact the parish office. All information is kept confidential. We are grateful for your support of our ministry and the needy of our parish.
A Spiritual Bouquet is an enrollment given to the family for Masses to be celebrated in memory of, or in honor of a person. There are two types of Spiritual Bouquet offerings:

1. A Spiritual Bouquet from the Archdiocese of Boston is directed by The Society of Propagation of the Faith. The loved one—deceased or living—is enrolled as a member of the Society and for 10 years, a daily Mass is celebrated in the Vatican Basilica, Rome.

2. The Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative also offers their own Spiritual Bouquet. A deceased loved one can be enrolled into the Spiritual Society of either St. Mary Parish or St. John the Evangelist Parish. A Mass is celebrated for them once a month for ten years in that parish for all members of the Spiritual Society.

A Mass Card can be given to the family for a single scheduled or non-scheduled Mass, at either parish.

The parishes of Saint Mary and Saint John the Evangelist have established a Sanctuary Fund. If you wish to remember a loved one with a gift for the parish, we ask that you prayerfully consider the fund. Monetary gifts will be used to purchase sacred vessels, vestments, and other sacred furnishings, which will enhance the Sacred Liturgy and beautify the worship space. If you are interested in making a gift, please contact Fr. Brian Mahoney, pastor of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative, at fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org or the collaborative parish office.

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Mass in Honor of St. Peregrine
Patron Saint of Cancer Patients

Wednesday, May 29th at 6:30 PM
Immaculate Conception Church, Lowell

St. Peregrine, who lived in the 14th century, was a member of the Order of the Servants of Mary. He was afflicted with cancer of the leg and was miraculously cured the evening prior to an operation to amputate his leg. During this Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered to cancer patients and anyone who wishes to partake in the Sacrament of God’s healing. All are invited to come and pray with and for those afflicted with cancer.

At the Easter Vigil, we, as a community of faith, welcomed five individuals into the faith:

Lillian, Samuel and Brandan received Full Initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Kimberly "Joan of Arc" Carrol
Brendan "Andreas" Medeiros
and Shawn "Alphonsus" Nagle
from UMass Lowell

Lillian, Samuel and Brandan received Full Initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Kimberly and Shawn entered into Full Communion with the Church through Confirmation and Eucharist.
If you would like to request that a Mass be celebrated for a specific intention or person, please call the parish office. A donation of $10 per Mass intention is requested to be made at the time that you schedule your intention.

Mass Intentions

**St. John**

**SAT, MAY 4**  4:00 pm: Children Receiving First Communion  
**SUN, MAY 5**  8:30 am: Children Receiving First Communion  
10:30 am: Children Receiving First Communion  
5:00 pm: People of the Parish  
**TUE, MAY 7**  9:00 am: Ann Ogden: 19th Anniversary  
**FRI, MAY 10**  9:00 am: Thomas Fitzpatrick: 5th Anniversary  
**SAT, MAY 11**  4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish  
**SUN, MAY 12**  8:30 am: For all Mothers  
10:30 am: Martin J Steed: 30th Anniversary  
Grace M Steed: 26th Anniversary  
Mary Blanche Steed: 5th Anniversary

**St. Mary**

**SAT, MAY 4**  4:00 pm: Children Receiving First Communion  
**SUN, MAY 5**  7:00 am Louise and Raymond Fuller: Memorial  
11:00 am: For the People of the Parish  
**MON, MAY 6**  7:00 am: Members of the Collaborative  
Spiritual Society and Sanctuary Fund  
**WED, MAY 8**  7:00 am: LIVING INTENTION: 65th Wedding Anniversary  
George and Elizabeth Ripsom  
**THUR, MAY 9**  7:00 am: Theresa Furlong: 3rd Anniversary  
**SAT, MAY 11**  4:00 pm: Children Receiving First Communion  
**SUN, MAY 12**  9:00 am For the People of the Parish  
11:00 am: Children Receiving First Communion  
6:00 pm: Santa Fava and Joe Costa: Memorial

**FUNERALS recently celebrated**

Robert DiFazio: May 1st at St. Mary  
Raymond Gerard Lambert: May 2nd at St. John  
Janet M Lucente: May 2nd at St. Mary  
Thomas B Gilgun: May 4th at St. Mary

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**St. Mary Memorial Altar Flowers**

Parishioners are invited to donate a floral arrangement, to be displayed on the altar in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. If you would like to donate altar flowers, please call the parish office. The requested donation for an arrangement is $40, and includes an acknowledgement in the bulletin.

**ROSE FOR LIFE**

Someone special you’d like to honor?  
You can do that by having a rose signifying your intention placed in the church, as well as publishing your intention in the bulletin. To book a Rose for Life, contact the parish office. Be sure to let them know at which parish you would like the rose placed. The suggested offering for a rose is $5.00.

This week’s St. John Rose for Life is ...

**In appreciation of...**

**St. Patrick’s Dinner Committee**

**for a wonderful event!**

This week’s St. Mary Rose for Life is for...

Protection of the Unborn

Rose Donated by Mahoney’s Garden Center

**“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH” -PSALM 119:105**

**MONDAY, MAY 6**  
Acts 6: 8-15  
Psalm 119  
John 6: 22-29

**TUESDAY, MAY 7**  
Acts 7: 51- 8:1  
Psalm 31  
John 6: 30-35

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**  
Acts 8: 1-8  
Psalm 66  
John 6: 35-40

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**  
Acts 8: 26-40  
Psalm 66  
John 6: 44-51

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**  
Acts 9: 1-20  
Psalm 117  
John 6: 52-59

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**  
Acts 9: 31-42  
Psalm 116  
John 6: 60-69

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**  
Acts 3: 14, 43-52  
Psalm 100  
Revelation 7: 9, 14-17  
John 10: 27-30
Raymond G. Lambert of Tyngsboro, MA

Raymond Gerard Lambert, 87, of Tyngsboro died Friday, March 29, 2019 at Lowell General Hospital.

He was married to the late Ann Helen Lambert who died in 2012.

Born in Lowell, MA on October 9, 1931 the son of the late Thomas and Hattie Lambert. He attended Westford Public Schools.

Raymond retired from Raytheon of S. Lowell and Tewksbury in 1994. Previously worked at Guilmette's Quarry and Fletcher Quarry both of Westford.

He was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church of Chelmsford.

He was a member of Past Time Club of Lowell. He enjoyed bowling, ballroom dancing, singing, walking, and swimming in the ocean. He also enjoyed making beautiful birdhouses, one of a kind. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Raymond is survived by his son Paul Lambert of New Mexico; three daughters, Gail and her husband, Gary Hartwell of Litchfield, NH, Sandra Lotti of Chelmsford and Diane and her husband, Ronald Reagan of Acton; two sisters, Theresa Valcourt and Rita Borges both of Nashua, NH; seven grandchildren; nine great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was the father of the late Gary Lambert; father-in-law of the late Mark Lotti and brother of the late Albert, Arthur, Armand, William and Leo Lambert, the late Cecile St. Onge and the late Claire Mainville.

There were no visiting hours. A Funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 11 A.M. at St. John the Evangelist Church in N. Chelmsford. Burial in the Memorial Cemetery, Tyngsboro. ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.