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.

June 2 through September 8, there will be only one Sunday evening Mass to serve the collaborative... 6 pm at St. John’s.

Saturday 9:00 am Mass alternates between parishes. Refer to calendars.

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.
St. Mary Calendar

- **Sunday, September 8**
  - Ministry Fair • 9:00 am - 1:00 pm • Parish Hall
  - Table Ministry • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Kitchen
  - PPC Meeting • 7:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Conf Room 1

- **Monday, September 9**
  - Troop 77 Committee Meeting • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 2

- **Wednesday, September 11**
  - Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall
  - SVdP Meeting • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • PC MR 5

- **Thursday, September 12**
  - Rosary Makers • 10:30 am • PC Conf Room 2
  - Rosary • 12:00 - 1:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  - Adoration • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel

- **Friday, September 13**
  - Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  - Knitting and Crocheting • 3:00 - 5:00 pm • PC MR 2

- **Saturday, September 14**
  - Adoration • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm • PC Chapel
  - Reconciliation • 11:00 am - 12:00 noon • Church
  - Anointing of the Sick, following 4 pm Mass • Church

- **Sunday, September 15**
  - Parish Offices are closed, and 11 am Mass is cancelled
  - Outdoor Mass and BBQ • 10:30 am • St. John Great Lawn

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**St. Mary Church**

**Wedding BANNS I**
Sarah Buckley and Jason Stuart

**IMPORTANT TO NOTE**
Due to the Outdoor Mass and BBQ next Sunday, September 15th...
- The Parish Offices will be closed
- The St. Mary 11 am Mass will be cancelled
- The St. John 5 pm Mass will be cancelled
- The St. Mary 6 pm Mass returns

Also worth noting...
- St. John 5 pm Mass returns Sunday, 9/22!

**Fall Bible Study at St. Mary’s**
Registration and $45 fee due no later than tomorrow, Monday, September 9th

A 20-week study of Church History
Oct 1, 2019 - Mar 30, 2020 (w/holiday break)
Tuesday Evenings… 7:00 - 8:30 pm

The history of our Faith is a fascinating story of adventure, rebellion, tragedy, and triumph. We will learn about the major people, places, and events that comprise the captivating story of Christianity, and will come to an understanding of Church history that enables us to have a greater sense of meaning and identity as Catholics.

Hard-copy registration forms can be found on the bulletin boards located at St. Mary Church entrances, the St. John New Parish Center and the Parish Offices... or you can register online at www.chelmsfordcatholic.org.
Click on Faith Formation, then Bible Studies.

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**After-Hours Answering and Voice Mail Services Remain Out of Service**
Since Sunday, July 28th, our Night Attendant and Voice Mail systems have been out of service. When the office is not staffed, callers receive no answer when any of our office numbers are called. Because we are in the process of updating our phone system, we are not in a financial position to incur the exorbitant cost of equipment replacement, but please be assured that we are exploring options so that we may be able to continue serving you to the best of our ability. We are grateful for your patience throughout this process, and apologize for any and all inconveniences. Please note that email is the best alternative to reaching us outside of regular business hours. All staff emails can be found on page 9, or a link to each of us can be found on the home page of the website within the article bearing the same title as this one.

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**St. John the Evangelist African Catholic Community**

**ANNUAL Harvest**

**OF ABIDING LOVE AND UNITY**
Sunday, September 22, 2019
12:30 pm at St. John Church
St. John
St. Vincent de Paul

Weekend of September 14th/15th Food Collection

The St. John St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is in special need of the following specific food items:

- peanut butter & jelly
- spaghetti sauce
- macaroni and cheese
- apple sauce/canned fruit
- crackers
- hamburger helper
- canned tuna and chicken
- rice
- pasta

As always, we thank you for your kind and faithful generosity. The food pantry collection occurs on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

NOTE: Please watch for expiration dates.

Welcome back, Ladies of the Chelmsford Collaborative and beyond!

WINE, WOMEN & WORD

Join us on Tuesday, September 17th
6:30 - 8:30 pm
St. John’s NPC Mariotti Room
BRING A FRIEND, OR TWO!

2nd ANNUAL Hail Mary Challenge

1,000,000 Hail Mary’s in Six Months (ending Oct 31)

Turn your weekly count into the containers that are located in:

~ St. Mary and St. John vestibules
~ St. John NPC Bulletin Board
~ St. Mary Parish Center Entrance

The September Petition

“For parishioners and their families to grow together in their faith and to strengthen their bonds and relationships with each other through Jesus Christ, His Blessed Mother, and the Holy Catholic Church.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending September 1</th>
<th>50,407</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total To Date</td>
<td>627,370</td>
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<tr>
<td>%age of Goal</td>
<td>62.73%</td>
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St. John Calendar

- **Sunday, September 8**
  Children’s Liturgy of the Word, during 8:30 am Mass
  Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Hall
  Ministry Fair • 9:00 am - 1:00 pm • Parish Hall
  Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church

- **Monday, September 9**
  Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  Families w/Addiction Support Group • 7:00 pm • Mary Gill

- **Tuesday, September 10**
  Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  Open Music Ministry Rehearsal • 6:30 pm • Church

- **Wednesday, September 11**
  Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  Outdoor Mass Music Rehearsal • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Church

- **Thursday, September 12**
  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, September 13**
  Nocturnal Adoration • Fri, 9:30 am - Sat, 9:00 am • OPC Chapel
  African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library

- **Saturday, September 14**
  NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. Mary this week
  Retreat for Grieving Parents • 9:00 am - 7:00 pm • OPC
  CORI Collection • following 4 pm Mass • Mariotti Room
  Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

- **Sunday, September 15**
  Parish Offices are closed and 5 pm Mass is cancelled
  CORI Collection, following all Masses • Mariotti Room
  Children’s Liturgy of the Word, during 8:30 am Mass
  Outdoor Mass and BBQ • 10:30 am • Great Lawn
  Coffee and Donuts • Cancelled

Turn page for more
Questions from our 7th and 8th graders….

Q. Do priests go to confession?

A. Yes, priests like everyone else do need to go to confession. Priests are sinners and are as much if not at times more in need of the grace and mercy of God. And a priest like everyone else needs to go to another priest for confession and cannot give himself absolution. Priests have many of the same struggles and difficulties of following the Lord as any other human being. Unfortunately, ordination does not make a priest any holier or closer to God than any other person. It simply sets them apart for service to God, the Church and the whole people of God as they are needed. Like everyone else it is a priest being open to the gift of confession that helps them grow in a life of holiness. It is about being humble enough to see our need for Christ's healing love and mercy.

Q. Will the priest judge me after I confess my sins?

A. The priest should never judge anyone period. That is not the job or responsibility of the priest. Judgement of any human being belongs to God and to God alone. Also, based on what was answer in the first question, the priest is never in a position to judge another person. The reality is since the priest is a sinner just like the person confessing; they are really in the same boat. The reason you confess your sins to a priest is he there to be the embodiment of Christ (it is something called in persona Christi). And if Christ will not judge you for your sin if you are truly sorry, then the priest really is not in a place to do it either. The whole purpose of the sacrament is that by your acknowledging your sin and showing your sorrow through confession that you will encounter God's love for you. There really is no room in the sacrament for a person to be judged.

Q. How does the priest hold everything in? Is it hard?

A. Going off something that was said in the answer to the last question it is about the priest recognizing that the person is really confessing to Jesus through him. Therefore, the conversation that is happening is really between Jesus and the person and they are simple acting as intermediaries. It is not the place of the priest to hold on to what is essentially a private conversation that God uses him to help facilitate. In my own time as a priest I have probably heard thousands of confessions. And quite honestly it would be tough to hold on to everything I have been told through the years. But I can say there are times I have remembered something but then it was only for a time. If I recognized that a person was truly hurting from what they confessed and after confessing was not able to let it go completely, I have tried to pray for them. It is act of charity because my heart usually is breaking for the person caught in their pain and suffering. It is not really about holding on to what they said though as much as to pray that they can find the peace that God wants for them.
Join Fr. Brian on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
March 1—10, 2020
Pilgrims have been traveling to the Holy Land for hundreds of years, and as part of your pilgrimage, we include many of the rich traditions that have evolved over time.

Each day of your pilgrimage will allow for time to renew and affirm your faith, to pray and reflect. The Scriptures will come alive as you visit our Lord’s homeland, while being inspired by the natural beauty of the landscape and rich historical heritage. It is an encounter that has changed the lives of many pilgrims. It is an act of faith and prayer.

Visit our website... www.chelmsfordcatholic.org for a link to all the tour information including the daily itinerary, reservation application, inclusions and cost. Additionally, brochures can be found in the St. Mary church entrance and parish center, the St. John new parish center, and the parish offices.

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS!
2020 CORI PACKETS!
As you know, volunteers are required to complete the CORI form annually. For your convenience, staff will be available after Masses on/at the following dates/locations:
- September 7th/8th • at both Ministry Fair locations
- September 14th/15th • in the St. John Mariotti Room
- September 21nd/22nd • in the St. Mary Parish Hall

Note that you can print the forms ahead of time by visiting www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/protecting-gods-children, but please do not sign upon downloading, as your signature requires the presence of a parish staff member to serve as your witness.

Additionally, you are always welcome to stop by the parish offices during regular business hours, where a staff member is always available to act as your witness and collect these forms from you.

- 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 noon

Both the RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) and Adult Confirmation Programs will be offered in October. Details are forthcoming....
**Welcome to the Collaborative Family**

Heather Hannaway  
Director of Faith Formation  
hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Courtney Callanan  
Assistant Director of Faith Formation  
callanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1</th>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **St. Mary Class Start Dates •**  
**and Parent Gatherings**  
**Group A First Class**  
Oct 6 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group B First Class**  
Oct 6 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**Group C First Class**  
Oct 20 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group D First Class**  
Oct 20 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**PARENT GATHERING**  
September 29th  
10:00 am in Parish Hall  |  
**Group A First Class**  
Oct 6 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group B First Class**  
Oct 6 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**Group C First Class**  
Oct 20 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group D First Class**  
Oct 20 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**PARENT GATHERING**  
September 22nd  
12:00 pm in Parish Hall  |  
**Group A First Class**  
Oct 6 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group B First Class**  
Oct 6 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**Group C First Class**  
Oct 20 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group D First Class**  
Oct 20 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**PARENT GATHERING**  
September 22nd  
12:00 pm in Parish Hall  |  
**Group A First Class**  
Oct 6 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group B First Class**  
Oct 6 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**Group C First Class**  
Oct 20 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group D First Class**  
Oct 20 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**PARENT GATHERING**  
September 22nd  
12:00 pm in Parish Hall  |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade 5</th>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Group A First Class**  
Oct 6 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group B First Class**  
Oct 6 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**Group C First Class**  
Oct 20 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group D First Class**  
Oct 20 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**PARENT GATHERING**  
September 22nd  
12:00 pm in Parish Hall  |  
**Group A First Class**  
Oct 6 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group B First Class**  
Oct 6 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**Group C First Class**  
Oct 20 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group D First Class**  
Oct 20 • 11 am - 12:30 pm  
**PARENT GATHERING**  
September 22nd  
12:00 pm in Parish Hall  |  
**Group A First Class**  
Oct 6 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group B First Class**  
October 6th  
4:15 - 5:45 pm  
**Group C First Class**  
October 6th  
4:15 - 5:45 pm  
**Group D First Class**  
October 6th  
5:15 pm in Parish Hall  
**PARENT GATHERING**  
October 20th  
4:15 pm in Parish Hall  |  
**Group A First Class**  
Oct 6 • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Group B First Class**  
October 6th  
4:15 - 5:45 pm  
**Group C First Class**  
October 6th  
4:15 - 5:45 pm  
**Group D First Class**  
October 6th  
5:15 pm in Parish Hall  
**PARENT GATHERING**  
October 20th  
4:15 pm in Parish Hall  |

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**Registration Continues**

Visit:  
www.chelmsfordcatholic.org  
select faith formation  
select the church in which you are registering  
select registration  
Easy-to-follow directions and guidelines are provided to make your registration quick and easy!  
Please do not let finances hinder your child’s faith formation. Both parishes offer financial assistance.

**Faith Formation Class Schedule, Deep Dive**  
Offerings and Calendar will soon be available on our website. Stay Tuned!
Faith Formation Program

Lynn Anne LaDuke
Faith Formation Coordinator
lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Elaine Kindler
Faith Formation Coordinator
ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Alana Buckley
Faith Formation Associate
alana@chelmsfordcatholic.org

• St. John Class Start Dates and Parent Gatherings •

**Kindergarten**
- Sunday, as per schedule
- Parish Hall
- Group A First Class
  - Oct 6: 9:45 - 11:15 am
- Group B First Class
  - Oct 20: 9:45 - 11:15 am

**Parent Gathering**
- September 22nd
- 9:30 am in Parish Hall

**Grade 1**
- Sunday, as per schedule
- Parish Hall
- Group A First Class
  - Oct 6: 9:45 - 11:15 am
- Group B First Class
  - Oct 20: 9:45 - 11:15 am

**Parent Gathering**
- September 22nd
- 9:30 am in Parish Hall

**Grade 2**
- Sunday, as per schedule
- Parish Hall
- Group A First Class
  - Oct 6: 9:45 - 11:15 am
- Group B First Class
  - Oct 20: 9:45 - 11:15 am

**Parent Gathering**
- September 22nd
- 9:30 am in Parish Hall

**Grade 3**
- Sunday, as per schedule
- Parish Hall
- Group A First Class
  - Oct 6: 9:45 - 11:15 am
- Group B First Class
  - Oct 20: 9:45 - 11:15 am

**Parent Gathering**
- September 22nd
- 10:30 am in Parish Hall

**Grade 4**
- Sunday, as per schedule
- Parish Hall
- Group A First Class
  - Oct 6: 9:45 - 11:15 am
- Group B First Class
  - Oct 20: 9:45 - 11:15 am

**Parent Gathering**
- September 22nd
- 10:30 am in Parish Hall

**Grade 5**
- Sunday, as per schedule
- Parish Hall
- Group A First Class
  - Oct 6: 9:45 - 11:15 am
- Group B First Class
  - Oct 20: 9:45 - 11:15 am

**Parent Gathering**
- September 22nd
- 10:30 am in Parish Hall

**Grade 6**
- Sunday, as per schedule
- Parish Hall
- Group A First Class
  - Oct 6: 9:45 - 11:15 am
- Group B First Class
  - Oct 20: 9:45 - 11:15 am

**Parent Gathering**
- September 22nd
- 10:30 am in Parish Hall

**Grade 7 & 8**
- Sunday as per schedule
- Parish Hall
- Group A First Class
  - Oct 6: 9:45 - 11:15 am
- Group B First Class
  - Oct 20: 9:45 - 11:15 am

**Parent Gathering**
- September 22nd
- 11:30 am in Parish Hall

**Confirmation I**
- Sunday: 1x a month
- Parish Hall
- First Class
  - October 20th
  - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Parent Gathering**
- October 20th
- 11:30 am in Parish Hall

**Confirmation II**
- Sunday: 1x a month
- Parish Hall
- First Class
  - October 6th
  - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Parent Gathering**
- October 6th
- 12:30 pm in Parish Hall

Registration Continues

Visit: www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
select faith formation
select the church in which you are registering
select registration

Easy-to-follow directions and guidelines are provided to make your registration quick and easy!

Please do not let finances hinder your child’s faith formation. Both parishes offer financial assistance.

Faith Formation Class Schedule, Deep Dive Offerings and Calendar will soon be available on our website. Stay Tuned!
Thank you to all who made VBF2019 possible!

It is not possible that such success can happen without the help we received from the planning team, adult leaders, and youth leaders. Thank you to our behind-the-scene helpers, our collaborative staff, and all parents and guardians for your love and support. The Funsters had a great time and we look forward to VBF2020.

~ Dawn and Christine, VBF Directors
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 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
- Beth Jacavanco
- Ellen St. George
- Julie Seitter
- Augustine Tweneh
- Ray Wagner (secretary)

**St. Mary Members**

- Peter Lando (co-chair)
- Laura Conte
- Rob Donnelly
- Karen Drake
- Jessica Hägg
- Cliff Mann
- Lori McDonald
- Alma (Chicki) Rigazio
- Paul Therrien

**ST. JOHN FINANCE COUNCIL**

Finance matters concerning St. John’s can be sent to: SJ.FC@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 ext 147.

Current Council Members are...

- Armand DiLando
- Lauren Desforge
- William Donohue
- Gerard Jarasitis
- Ted Powers

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 would like to have it be published. Submittals should be emailed 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.
My first assignment in the Air Force was at Lowry Air Force Base in 1991. This particular base had a large hospital, and three prisons for minimum, medium and maximum security. It was also where the airmen went right after basic training for training in their particular fields. The base offered a tremendous opportunity to be engaged in many different forms of ministry. Over the two months that I was stationed there, I was encouraged to be involved in all possible aspects of base life. The various opportunities for serving the people really helped in many ways to challenge and stretch me in my own identity, and gave me a better appreciation of what I could expect in my calling as a priest.

One of the main activities I was involved in was a bible study class for the prisoners in the medium security prison. Each week when I joined them, we discussed the gospel of the week and then had a general discussion about its meaning in each person’s life. The bible study class went on each week for some two months. On my last day, at the end of class, one of the prisoners asked me a question, “Why did you do this for us?” The gist of the question was why would I give my time to a bunch of prisoners. My response was simply, “The only difference between you and me is that society doesn’t care about the sins I’ve committed.”

I am not trying to imply that all sins are the same, but rather, that each and every one of us is a sinner and, therefore, in the same boat. How often I hear people tell me, “I’m basically a good person.” And yet Christ refused to be called good. He left that adjective to God alone. And so, it is interesting that what Christ would not allow himself to be called, we are all too ready to claim for our own. The point I am trying to make is that each and every one of us is a sinner, and because of our sins we are personally responsible for placing Christ on the cross. We too easily put what happened to Christ in the past as the responsibility of those who physically crucified Christ. The truth and the reality is that if we do not see ourselves as sinners, we cannot recognize our real need for Christ. Christ came for one reason—and one reason only—to save us from our sins. And, only when we are ready to accept the fact that we are sinners can we truly accept our need for Christ.

Jesus did not come to make the world a better place in the way that many people expected. He did not come to make the lives of Christians free from pain or suffering. Jesus never promised us a perfect life if we became his followers. In fact, Jesus made it clear that being his followers would most likely make things more difficult for us, at least in the way the world perceives it. The real challenge in following Christ is the willingness to be open, honest and critical about how we need to change. What is it in our life that takes our focus off Christ? What is it that becomes more important to us than God? What is it that makes it become more about me than Jesus?

Each and every one of us has the need to grow and change. No person alive today has come to embody fully the person God created him or her to be. Each of us struggles with being the presence of Christ in the world. Each of us struggles with truly being the image and likeness of God in the unique way we are called. And part of the problem is the ‘Siren Song’ of the world, which tells us that life is about how we can make ourselves happy; we must reject anything that challenges our perception of who we think we are. In the way of the world there is no objective truth—no real objective right and wrong. You are who you think you are—who you think you should be. This kind of thinking leaves no room for who God determines you really are.

It is only when we recognize that God is in charge, that He has created the world and all that is in it, and that He created each and every human life with a unique and distinct way of showing forth his glory and majesty. The major responsibility we all have is not to become who we want to be, but who God has created us to be. But the problem we run into is ourselves: it is our propensity to sin.

Only when we acknowledge this truth is there any hope for change. Mother Theresa went to confession every week. Pope John Paul II went every two weeks. Not because they were the worst sinners, but because they recognized that even sinning in small ways prevented them from truly hearing the Lord and growing into the person they were called to be. They used the sacrament as it is intended—to move closer to Christ.

Let us not try to look to how good we are and be satisfied, but rather, let us open our eyes through the grace of God to see ourselves as God does. Let us seek to become the person God created us to be. The first step is to accept the truth that we are sinners, and then claim Christ for our own.

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask me directly, or send your questions to me at fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org. Please keep me in your prayers.

In Christ,
Every Catholic knows there is a vocations crisis. We see how few laborers there are in the vineyard and we thirst for the guidance and fatherhood of those missing shepherds. We also know too well the crisis of corruption which causes an even more painful and powerful destruction in the heart of the Church. Whether the crisis of the priesthood is the absence of the collar or the desecration of the collar, the solution is the same, but we have lost sight of it.

We have become lazy in our speech, in our efforts, and in our prayers. Our fervor is reserved for parish drama and passionately arguing our point of view of the faith, but we seem to have lost our passion for the heart of vocation. We have forgotten what it means—forgotten why we should care. And the upcoming generations have been formed by our failure. They have seen that our passion and love for the things of faith never surpass the fire we manage to breathe for youth sports... or politics... or technology. Consequently, we have also lost sight of the solution to the crisis.

We think it’s about 1) Numbers, 2) Worldly appeal of the Gospel message, 3) Praying harder, 4) Pizza at youth group, and/or 5) Married priests. And we’re wrong. Completely and devastatingly wrong.

One of the consequences of our collective forgetfulness is that the discerning man or woman is left to wander. They have not forgotten what vocation really means—they simply have never been taught. They have also not been taught the fundamental importance of healthy human formation. In other words, we get good priests by raising good men, but we are neglecting the foundation of what it means to be a good man or a good person—what it means to seek holiness.

The truth is that there is only ONE primary vocation for all of humanity. And that is the call to HOLINESS. There isn’t a soul alive that is not called first and foremost to this vocation. It is the particular vocation the each of us also have which is in crisis. This is the one we fret over and focus on. People generally mean the priesthood when they say, “Pray for vocations,” but there are other particular vocations: Consecrated Religious Life and Holy Marriage. If these are in crisis (and they all are), it is only because there is a crisis of holiness.

“Pray for vocations!” we say. But we are forgetting, or maybe we were just never taught that vocation begins in the heart of Christ. The closer a person draws to the Sacred Heart, the closer he or she draws to the very purpose of their life: Holiness—and then to the particular work for which they have been made. We should recklessly pursue sanctity. Then when someone asks our children, “What are you going to do with your life?” their heart and mind will have been formed to listen and follow the will of God in determining their vocation in this world. When they think God is calling them they will answer—SERVIAM! (I will serve) —the very words St. Michael cried out in battle and the very words Lucifer refused to utter. We must prepare our children in mind, body, and soul for the long battle ahead because we are all created and called to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world, and in some particular way. Regardless of our vocation, whether we are male or female, young or old, we are all to cry out with one voice: SERVIAM! (I will serve)

That courage does not come from just the act of saying the words of a prayer, but in calling the very presence of God into our daily lives, uniting our will and our actions to His divine will, and allowing EVERYTHING to be transformed by grace and the love of Christ.

The obstacles are many and the enemies of God pursue the righteous. Our children must be prepared to be warriors from the very beginning. In our Faith Formation programs, we are trying to shift the tide and bring the heart of the Church back into the heart of the home. It’s going to take all of us working together to make this paradigm shift. If you cannot join us in the actual labor, then please join us in prayer. This is a battle we cannot afford to lose. Where will you serve?

From Our Director of Family Faith Formation
HEATHER HANNAWAY

"From Our Senior Priest in Residence
FR. COLLETTI"

Father Thomas Keating in his book Invitation To Love, writes of the Four Consents we need to give to that life we have received.

1. I consent to the gift of my being: my basic goodness and wholeness. Each human birth is precious and worthy of gratitude. This is the developmental stage from conception to puberty. Because of the circumstances of our life, the imperfections of our caregivers, we usually experience some hesitancy to this consent. “What is wrong with me that people should treat me as they do? Am I responsible for their happiness? At some point in our lives we need to heal the negative aspects of this period.

2. I consent to the full development of my being: activation of my creative and libidinal energies, and I place them under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is the developmental stage from puberty and midlife. Sexual awakening can rush on to the level of consciousness at this stage, raging hormones flowing. Looking back at 11, how did I experience this? Did I have support and healthy attitudes from my caregivers, from my religion? How did we integrate and make sense of this time in our lives. Most of us experience fear, shame, guilt, anxiety and hesitance about our giftedness of sexual and creative energy. The Spirit invites us to take another look and heal the wounds.

3. I consent to my own mortality, my limited time in this body: my human limitations, my imperfections; impermanence. This is the developmental stage of midlife. We are surrounded by a youth culture and we are a bunch of doers, but something is amiss. What are we doing and what is our motivation? Energy can diminish as we get older; can I accept this or do I keep pushing myself? What are my fears, anxieties, hesitancies? Can I grow older gracefully?

4. I consent to being transformed. This is the developmental stage from midlife to death. This stage of development permeates the other 3 levels. Responding to the Spirit’s invitation to the experience of transformation from the inside out. It is not about perfection, it’s about willingness to let go of the false-self system daily. Growing in trust that we are being given a more skillful way is what this is all about. Growing in fidelity to this process of healing prayer, surrendering and giving the Spirit space to heal us, and letting our consciousness be restructured. (Book—The Spirituality of Imperfection by Kurtz and Ketcharn)
Today more than ever, the need to provide for the physical and mental well-being of our priests is vitally important. The responsibilities, pressures, and challenges facing today’s priests in the Archdiocese of Boston are dramatically different than they were even a decade ago. Many priests are being asked to fulfill roles beyond their sacramental duties at multiple parishes, and an increasing number of priests are reaching senior status with medical costs on the rise. The goal of the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust is to continue providing care at the current level of benefits, now and in the future. This is made possible only through the generosity of people like you who care for your priests and want to ensure that they remain healthy and safe, just as we would want for any of our own family members.

- Ten years ago, 28% of our diocesan priests were senior priests. Today, 37% are senior priests, and there are fewer priests available to fulfill those positions in active ministry.
- It costs $9.5 million in expenses annually to care for our senior priests, and $4 million to care for our active priests.
- In FY2016, medical care costs for active priests increased by $300,000.

Envelopes will be made available and collected next weekend, September 15th/16th. To donate online, visit our website and click on the link on the right-hand side of the home page. To donate $25, text PRIEST25 to 20222.

### UPDATE ON St. Mary’s New Elevator (LIFT)

As noted previously, this project carries a total cost of $55,000. Although it is not our desire to ask for further financial support, we have been given the following opportunity. If we, as a parish family, are able to raise $27,500, a few very generous parish families have committed to matching that amount, resulting in total funds raised.

**TO DATE, YOUR GENEROSITY HAS RAISED $13,558 TOWARDS THE GOAL OF $27,500**

If you are able to donate towards this cause, please contact Paul Firicano. All checks can be made payable to St. Mary Parish, with “new elevator (LIFT)” listed in the memo section. If you choose to donate via Online Giving, please visit our website, www.chelmsfordcatholic.org, and click on the Online Giving link where you can choose the fund, New Elevator (LIFT). Thank you in advance for your continuing support! We are truly blessed!

### Looking for Volunteers to Serve on our Finance Councils

Both St. Mary and St. John parishes are looking for volunteers to serve on their Finance Councils. If selected, the council term is one year with possible annual reappointments for up to five years. Each committee meets quarterly during the year, with special meetings held if needed.

In order to best serve the Council and the Parish, we are looking for individuals with professional experience in fields such as, but not limited to, Finance, Accounting, Real Estate, or Financial Planning. If you possess any of these skills and are interested, please contact Paul Firicano at the parish offices or by email: pfiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org.

### St. Mary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKLY OFFERTORY</th>
<th>Weekend of Aug 31/Sept 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</td>
<td>$17,140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
<td>$12,160</td>
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<td>Variance</td>
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- Of the actual, $3,630 is from electronic giving.

### St. John

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKLY OFFERTORY</th>
<th>Weekend of Aug 31/Sept 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</td>
<td>$11,040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
<td>$10,525</td>
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<td>Variance</td>
<td>-$515</td>
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</table>

- Of the actual, $550 is from electronic giving.

### Online Giving Programs

Links to both programs can be found on the right-hand side of home page.

Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org.
Each year, the Knights of Columbus Award honors a high school senior who has exhibited outstanding commitment to living the message of the Gospel in the parish and community, and lived as a young disciple of Jesus Christ through service and leadership.

This year, join us in congratulating Nathan Houde, the recipient of this year’s award. Nathan received his award during the August 25th, 6:00 pm Mass celebrated by Fr. Joe Keville. Nathan, a 2019 graduate of Lowell Catholic, will enter his freshman year at Southern New Hampshire University this month.

During the presentation, our Knights praised Nathan for his dedication to our Catholic faith, his service to our St. John’s Community, and his positive example for others as part of our Parish Youth Group Program throughout his school years.

Congratulations, Nathan!

WHERE DO ALL THOSE BLANKET/SHAWLS COME FROM?

Have you ever seen the ladies who gather in a corner of the church hall after the St. John 8:30 am Mass—one Sunday a month—to knit, crochet and kibitz away the morning while the kids eat donuts across the hall? Well, these are members of the collaborative Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Each of these ladies is blessed with the talent to turn colorful balls of yarn—skeins as they call them—into bright, beautiful and warm ‘shoulder blankets.’ These works of art and gifts of loving hands are then blessed by one of our priests, and then offered in our parish lobbies for anyone who may be suffering—or knows someone who is suffering—and finds themselves with an occasional chill. This Ministry was formed about 8 years ago when these skilled and caring parishioners learned that recovering cancer patients often experience the sudden onset of chills. A shawl around the shoulders can bring comfort and warmth to someone in such need. And so... a ‘ministry’ was born.

Since those early days, hundreds of Prayer Shawls have been fashioned by these ladies, with tender care and with the knowledge that when finished, their shawl will be offered to some unknown man, woman or child who needs a loving hug of warmth.

Recently, these ladies relaxed at the Jacavanco home to enjoy a well deserved afternoon of lunch and conversation, while they traded latest techniques and listened to a “yarn” or two.

Saint John Chrysostom
Saint of the Day for September 13
Patron Saint of Orators, Preachers, Speakers

visit https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-john-chrysostom/
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.

St. John

SAT, SEP 7  4:00 pm: Jean Lorrey and Nancy Blanco: Memorial
SUN, SEP 8  8:30 am: Hugh L. Smith: Memorial
10:30 am: For the People of the Parish
WED, SEP 11  9:00 am: Paul Cole: 4th Anniversary
FRI, SEP 13  9:00 am: Maura Dolan: Memorial
SAT, SEP 14  4:00 pm: Maura Dolan: Memorial
SUN, SEP 15  8:30 am: Mark Gervais: Memorial
10:30 am: For the Collaborative Family

St. Mary

SUN, SEP 8  7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial
9:00 am: David Hickey: 4th Anniversary
11:00 am: For the People of the Parish
MON, SEP 9  7:00 am: Irene Crudale: Memorial
TUE, SEP 10  7:00 am: Mrs. Patti McPherson: Living Intention
THU, SEP 12  7:00 am: Albert and Concorde Sorel: Memorial
SAT, SEP 14  4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
SUN, SEP 15  7:00 am: Frances Foley
9:00 am: Paul Cerqua: 10th Anniversary
6:00 pm: Carmen Jiminez: Memorial

Funerals recently celebrated

“There is an appointed time for everything” - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Matthew T Mulkern: September 4th at St. Mary
George A Lagasse: September 5th at St. John
Robert E Anderson: September 5th at St. John
Mary H Urban: September 6th at St. John
Margaret F Gobin: September 6th at St. John

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

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. The requested donation for an arrangement is $40, and includes an acknowledgement in the bulletin. If you would like to donate altar flowers, please call the parish office.

Happy 80th Birthday to Jim Comeau
Love from Katie and your nieces & nephews

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 having your intention published 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:

Birthday Remembrance: Martha Burns Vereker

This week’s St. Mary Rose for Life:

Deceased Members of the Richard E. McCarthy Family

Monday, Sep 9
Colossians 1:24-2:3
Psalm 62
Luke 6: 6-11

Tuesday, Sep 10
Colossians 2: 6-15
Psalm 145
Luke 6: 12-19

Wednesday, Sep 11
Colossians 3: 1-11
Psalm 145
Luke 6: 20-26

Thursday, Sep 12
Colossians 3: 12-17
Psalm 150

Friday, Sep 13
1 Timothy 1: 1-2, 12-14
Psalm 16

Saturday, Sep 14
Numbers 21: 4-9
Psalm 78
Philippians 2: 6-11
John 3: 13-17

Sunday, Sep 15
Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14
Psalm 51
1 Timothy 1: 12-17
Luke 15: 1-32
**Therese (Masse) Place of Chelmsford**

Therese (Masse) Place, 93, of Chelmsford died Monday morning, August 5, 2019 at Sunny Acres Nursing Home in Chelmsford.

She was married to the late Joseph C. Place, who died on August 20, 2005.

Born in Chelmsford, she was the daughter of the late Rosario and Lottie Masse. She graduated from St. Louis Academy of Lowell with the class of 1945.

Therese retired from Sears of Nashua, NH. She had previously worked as a secretary for Hines Electric of Lowell.

She was a communicant of Notre Dame de Lourdes Church of Lowell.

Therese was a proud lifelong resident of Chelmsford. She enjoyed gardening and stamp collecting. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her son, Marc and his wife, Robin Place of Chelmsford; a daughter, Celeste and her husband, Donald Pacht of Chelmsford; a daughter-in-law, Kathleen Pappas of Kennebunkport, ME; five grandchildren, Lauren and her husband, Steve Dinsmore, Nicole and her husband, Anthony Fama, Victoria Place, Sarah Pacht and Emily Pacht; two great grandchildren, Lucas and Alaina Fama, three nieces and a nephew.

Her Visiting hours were Thurs., August 8th from 3 to 7 P.M. Funeral was Fri., August 9th at 9am from the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD, with a funeral Mass at 10am at Holy Family Parish, Lowell. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Chelmsford. Memorials may be made in her name to the Sunny Acres Patient Activity Fund, 254 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824. Online guest book is available at www.dolansfuneralhome.com ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.