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.

**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

**St. John the Evangelist**

115 Middlesex Street

North Chelmsford

**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 the Month •

Monday - Wednesday •

9:30 - 11:30 am

in the OPC Chapel

**St. Mary**

25 North Road

Chelmsford

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday • 4:00 PM

Sunday • 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM

**Weekday Mass Schedule**

Monday - Friday • 7:00 AM

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

**Reconciliation**

Saturday • 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

or by appointment

**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.

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Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org

LIVEVIEW resides on the right-hand sidebar of the home page

September 29, 2019

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?

-Luke 16:11
**St. Mary Calendar**

- **Sunday, September 29**
  Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
  Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive after morning Masses

- **Monday, September 30**
  Matthew Bible Study • 10 am - 12 pm • PC Conf Room 1
  Fr. Brian Presentation • 7:00 pm • Church

- **Tuesday, October 1**
  EPIC Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Wednesday, October 2**
  Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Thursday, October 3**
  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, October 4**
  Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  Knitting and Crocheting • 3:00 - 5:00 pm • Parish Hall
  Blessing of the Animals • 6:00 pm • St. John Great Lawn
  Baptism Preparation • 7:00 pm • PC MR 5

- **Saturday, October 5**
  NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. John this week
  Catholic Men’s Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • PC MR 2
  Table Ministry • 9:00 am - 1:30 pm • Kitchen
  PGC Workshop • 9:00 am - 1:00 pm • PC Conf Room 1
  Adoration • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm • PC Chapel
  Reconciliation • 11:00 am - 12:00 noon • Church
  6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • Conf Room B
  Brass Ensemble Ministry Rehearsal • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • Conf Room B
  String Ensemble Ministry Rehearsal • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • Conf Room B
  Anointing of the Sick, following 4 pm Mass • Church

- **Sunday, October 6**
  Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
  11 am Mass Choir Rehearsal• 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
  Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church
  6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church
  Collaborative PPC Meeting • 7:00pm • PC Conf Room 1

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**If you knit or crochet, we could really use your help!**

Every year, mittens, hats, and scarves are made by, and given to, local agencies served by the “Spirit of Christmas” program for distribution to those in need. Here’s how you can help…

We are in need of donations of these items, made with acrylic yarn, in sizes from toddler to adult. There are no meetings to attend and you decide which items to craft, what size, and how many!

Items will be collected in late November so they can be sorted in time for inclusion with the Spirit of Christmas gifts.

For more information, contact Cathy Latina at (978) 256-0721.

Thank you for sharing the love and knowledge of your craft with those in need!

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**St. Mary Table Ministry**

Please consider a donation of canned ham, canned corn, canned green beans, regular drip coffee or juice mix. Donations may be left at the kitchen door in the hall NEXT SATURDAY, October 5th before or after the 4:00 pm Mass.

Donations of non-perishable items are gladly accepted on the first Saturday of EVERY month.

Thank you for your generosity!

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**Without love...**

deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing.

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux
The Lord’s call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a “cage” or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch.”

-His Holiness, Pope Francis
Q. Where do priests go after they retire?
A. The first thing we need to recognize is that even though priests retire, they never stop being a priest. Once a priest is ordained, he remains a priest forever. Nothing that the priest or the Church does can ever change this reality. In the Archdiocese of Boston, a priest is expected to remain in active ministry until the age of 75, unless there are health issues or other extenuating circumstances. Once the priest reaches the age of 75, he must offer his letter of retirement to the Archbishop. He and the Archbishop can decide together whether or not he will remain in active ministry. If they both agree, then each year they will revisit the same questions as to what will happen. Once it is decided that the priest will retire, what he does is completely up to him. He may choose to live in a parish and help out in that parish. He could live in his own home and help out in one or more parishes. He could move to another state and, with the permission of the Bishop, help out there in whatever way they decide is beneficial. Or, he could honestly choose to do nothing.

Q. Is there an emergency priest called to the hospital?
A. Hospital coverage in the Archdiocese of Boston happens in several ways. Some of the larger hospitals, like those in Boston and even our Lowell General, have a priest on duty. He works for, and is paid directly by, the hospital, but that is not the norm. Most hospitals usually have a lay chaplain—not always Catholic—who helps to meet the spiritual needs of all the patients in the hospital. The chaplain will usually work with the parishes in the area, to help ensure that communion is brought to Catholics on some regular basis. They all set up a rotation for parish priests who are assigned to cover the hospital. At Lowell General, even though a priest is on duty there, it is not possible for him to be there 24/7. Therefore, particular parishes are assigned for emergency coverage for the times the priest cannot be there. We generally have hospital duty about five times a month. If an emergency occurs on our duty days and someone needs a priest, we would be called regardless of the parish the person is from. However, if a parishioner wants a priest from the parish, we would obviously do our best to get there. If it is not possible for us to get to the hospital for a parishioner, there will always be the priest assigned for that day. In this way, Catholics can be assured of getting the sacramental, spiritual support they need.

**2nd ANNUAL Hail Mary Challenge**

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

Six weeks left! If we pray collectively pray at least 38,095 per week for the next six weeks, we will make our goal for the second year in a row. What a beautiful way to honor our Blessed Mother Mary in the month of the Rosary!

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.”

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<tr>
<th>Week Ending September 22</th>
<th>41,031</th>
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<td>Grand Total To Date</td>
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of what’s happening in our Collaborative!

Our Pets are a Blessing to us!
Let us share in the celebration of St. Francis of Assisi Blessing of the Animals
Friday, October 4th 6:00 pm on St John Great Lawn
Please bring any and all pets.. Dogs (on leash), cats (in carrier), hamsters and birds (in cage), fish (in bowl), snakes, lizards and turtles (in terrarium)... did we miss any?

Attendance at this event will fulfill a Deep Dive Requirement. Please visit our website...

ATTENTION Faith Formation Families
Family Faith Formation/ Deep Dives/ Blessing of the Animals...
Here you can complete the online reflection sheet or download a hard copy to complete and turn in (oh, but online is sooooo easy!)

Boston Pops Orchestra
Lowell Memorial Auditorium
Sunday, December 22nd 2:30 pm

Join the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and Conductor Keith Lockhart for their sparkling and beloved Holiday Pops concert. Capturing the magic of the Christmas season and the winter charms of New England, the Boston Pops will perform their signature Sleigh Ride, as well as other Holiday classics, and new arrangements of seasonal favorites. They are joined by the Metropolitan Chorale, and Santa Claus himself will make a guest appearance during the concert’s finale followed by the traditional Boston Pops Holiday Sing-a-long to bring this special performance to a close.

We have 40 tickets available on a First Come/ First Served basis. $75 per ticket (Parquet D, Rows A-D). Get yours TODAY by contacting Lynne Shattuck at (978) 590-7863.

YOUR HELP: NOT ONLY NEEDED, BUT SO VERY APPRECIATED
With the busy faith formation season upon us, we ask all those who require the use of any of our facilities—at either parish—to officially reserve your needed space. If, while you are using your space, you make any changes to the room set-up, we ask that you return it to the same set-up as it was when you entered. There are many times when rooms have been arranged according to particular specifications for a future reservation. Because we are currently short-staffed in our facilities department, we greatly appreciate your assistance with this. To schedule your facility reservation, contact Rae at ext 325 or rae@chelmsfordcatholic.org. Again, thank you!

Weeding the Garden
Clearing the Path to a Relationship with God, self and others! a presentation by Fr. Brian
2 remaining Monday evenings...
September 30 ~ October 7
7:00 - 8:30 pm at St. Mary Church

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS
Fiscal Year 2020 CORI PACKETS
All volunteers are required to complete an annual CORI form.
For your convenience, Rae will be available after all Masses in the St. Mary Parish Hall NEXT weekend, October 5th/6th.

Please note that you can print the forms ahead of time, BUT PLEASE DO NOT SIGN AT THAT TIME. Your signature requires the presence of a parish staff member to serve as your witness.

54 Day Rosary Novena
... which began on Wednesday, August 15th, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, concludes on Monday, October 7th, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

On Sunday, October 6th, we will join in both body and spirit with numerous Rosary communities throughout the United States. We will meet in the St. Mary parking lot at 2:45 pm, from where we will process with the Blessed Mother statue to the gazebo just outside the new parish center. Upon arrival at the gazebo, we will pray the Rosary, sing Marian songs—accompanied by guitar—then lay flowers at the feet of Our Mother (please bring your own flowers).

We are looking for volunteers to lead the Rosary recitation. If you can help, please contact Paul Sidari at (978) 729-1677.

For more information, visit www.rosarycoasttocoast.com.
**ST. MARY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS**

### First Class Schedule

**Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6**
- **GROUP A**
  - First Class: October 6th
  - 9:00 - 10:30 am Hall

**Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**
- **GROUP B**
  - First Class: October 6th
  - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Hall

**Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6**
- **GROUP C**
  - First Class: October 20th
  - 9:00 - 10:30 am Hall

**Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**
- **GROUP D**
  - First Class: October 20th
  - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Hall

**Grade 7**
- First Class: September 29th
  - 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall

**Grade 8**
- First Class: September 29th
  - 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall

**Confirmation I**
- First Class: October 20th
  - 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall

**Confirmation II**
- First Class: October 6th
  - 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall

### September 29th Class/Event Schedule

- **Grade 7 & 8**: 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall

### Deep Dive Event

**Blessing of the Animals**
- **THIS Friday, October 4th**
  - 6:00 pm… St. John Great Lawn

If you decide to attend this event, you will need to complete a follow-up reflection, which can be completed online. Family Faith Formation/Deep Dives/Blessing of the Animals. It is here where you can complete the online reflection sheet or download a hard copy to complete and turn in (online is sooooo easy!) A Deep Dive calendar with requirements can be found at www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars & Schedules.

### October 6th Class/Event Schedule

- **Family Gathering Session**
  - Group A: 9:00 - 11:00 am in Hall
  - Group B: 11 am - 12:30 pm in Hall

- **Confirmation II**
  - 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall
  - Parent Gathering at 5:15 pm

### Parent Gatherings Continue...

- **Confirmation II**
  - October 6th
  - 5:15 pm in Parish Hall

- **Confirmation I**
  - October 20th
  - 4:15 pm in Parish Hall

**Grade 1, 2:** September 29th… 10:00 am in Parish Hall

### We are still in need of the following...
- washable primary-color broad-line markers
- washable thin-line markers
- colored pencils
- scotch tape
- sanitary wipes

**Thank you for your generosity!**

Did you now that Adam and Eve were tempted by the devil in the form of a serpent? As one of our third graders remarked, “It’s always a risk to trust the devil.” You can help young soul learn to resist the devil by being a catechists in
Faith Formation Program

Alana Buckley
Faith Formation Specialist
alana@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Lynn Anne LaDuke
Faith Formation Coordinator
lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Elaine Kindler
Faith Formation Coordinator
ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

First Class Schedule
Full Class schedules can be found on our website
www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars and Schedules

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Parent Gatherings Continue...

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<td>October 20th</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am in Parish Hall</td>
<td>12:30 pm in Parish Hall</td>
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Protecting God’s Children Workshop
Saturday, October 5th • 9:00 am—12:30 pm
St. Mary Parish Center, Conf Room 1
Register online today by visiting our website
www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
Faith Formation/Protecting God’s Children/Virtus Link

Deep Dive Event
Blessing of the Animals… THIS Friday, October 4th… 6 pm on St. John Great Lawn
If you decide to attend this event, you will need to complete a follow-up reflection, which can be completed online. Family Faith Formation/ Deep Dives/ Blessing of the Animals. It is here where you can complete the online reflection sheet or download a hard copy to complete and turn in (online is sooooo easy!) A Deep Dive calendar with requirements can be found on our website…
www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/ Faith Formation/ Family Faith Formation/Calendars & Schedules.

St. John Confirmation Retreat & Rehearsal
for Candidates and Sponsors
NEXT Saturday, October 5… 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

St. John Confirmation Mass
NEXT Sunday, October 6th… 5:00 pm
40 youth will be sealed in the Holy Spirit by Bishop Robert Francis Hennessey in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Join us in praying for continued growth in their faith.

Congratulations to...
Abigail, Aidan, Alexis, Alisha, Benjamin, Braeden, Charles, Christian, Christopher, David, Emilia, Emily, Emma, Evan C., Evan D., Gabriela, Harrison, Jacqueline, James, Jamyl, Jared, Javian, Jenna, Jessica, Katherine, Kathleen, Kenneth, Laura, Leia, Lindsey, Madison, Maya, Molly L., Molly M., Nicholas, Peter, Slade, Taigen, Tyler and Zachary

September 29th Class/Event Schedule

| GRADE 7 & 8: 9:45 - 11:15 am |

October 6th Class/Event Schedule

| FAMILY GATHERING SESSION GROUP A: 9:45 - 11:15 |
| CONFIRMATION II: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hall Parent Gathering at 12:30 pm |
Youth Ministry

"You, dear young people, are not the future but the now of God."
~Pope Francis, World Youth Day Homily, Panama

The Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative’s Youth Ministry program seeks to ensure that the young people of the Collaborative feel known, valued, and loved by God and by their parish community. By providing opportunities for youth to encounter Christ in their lives and connecting them with mature Christian mentors, youth ministry strives to equip and empower our young people to be lifelong disciple of Jesus.

MASS ON A MOUNTAIN

The youth of both St. John’s and St. Mary’s are invited to join us on Columbus Day—Monday, October 14th—for a hike up Mt. Chocorua!

This moderate hike will offer beautiful views, and more importantly, the opportunity to pray as a community. The ‘high point’ of our hike will be Mass celebrated by Fr. Brian at the peak. We will depart from St. Mary’s parking lot at 7:30 am. If you would like to join us, email Courtney by October 7th.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS!

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 5th ~ 9:00 am - 12:30 pm … Sign-up is REQUIRED

REGISTER TODAY…. visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org. Click on Faith Formation/ Protecting God’s Children

Scroll down to ‘To Register for a Workshop’

This workshop educates you in recognizing potential abuse and/or abusers. Please know that ALL volunteers who have access to our youth are REQUIRED to be certified in this curriculum. If you are not sure whether or not you have been certified, contact the parish office.

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.
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 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.
When giving my presentation last week, I told this story about my Mom. While I was growing up, Mom did not need her glasses all the time as she got older. So, she had a tendency of putting them on the top of her head and then forgetting they were there. Every so often she would forget where she put them and then needed help finding them. She would call to us to help her search for her glasses. We would come into the room and see them on her head but, of course, we would not tell her. We would send her into another room to look for them while we searched the rest of the house. Generally we would be laughing but not too loudly, because we did not want her to know that we knew where they were. In time she would find them either because we couldn’t hold back the laughter, or she would simply touch the top of her head or look in a mirror. Honestly, why my Mom did not kill us at times baffles me.

This raises the question of why we so easily miss what is right in front of us. Let us be honest: what happened to Mom happens to all of us in certain ways. Just think of the guy (and let’s be honest: this is a typical guy thing), who goes to look in the fridge for something and complains that it is not there. Then, of course, someone else comes along (let’s be honest again: it’s usually a woman), moves things around a bit, and voila! it is right there. Or, even worse, the guy opens the fridge, complains that it’s not there, and of course it’s literally right in front of him.

How do we so easily become blinded to what should be easy to see? We might recognize this as a trait that we have in life, in general. I have had people tell me that they could not find something on their computer, but when I go to help, there it is facing us nose-to-nose on the screen. What causes this sense of “blindness?” I believe it is simply about perceived expectations.

We all have built-in expectations of where things should be, how things should work, what should happen in particular situations, and why things should be the way they should be. The problem is that when things do not fit into our fixed parameters, we cannot see what is right in front of us. And the problem is never oneself! It is always ‘the other’—whatever that other might be. Most of us do not like to be challenged, and so when we are hit with circumstances that challenge our comfort zone, we feel out of sorts.

What is true about life in general is also very true in our relationship with God. Most of us have preconceived notions of who God is. We have determined how God should act. We have determined what God’s expectations for us should be. We have decided how our relationship with God should work. We have decided what God’s responses should be to our reasonable expectations about life. And everything then should fit neatly into our appropriate view of things. Anything that does not—that is preventing us from achieving our set priorities for life—is an issue with the other.

The problem is that God tends to act in unexpected ways. We simply need to look to the Incarnation itself. The people had many expectations about who the Messiah would be, how He would come and what He would do. The problem is that Jesus did not meet any of those expectations. First problem: God united himself with humanity itself. In Jesus, we have one person who is both wholly and completely 100% God and wholly and completely 100% human. Second problem: He was born to an extremely poor family with no worldly connections at all. Third problem: He had no worldly powers that would alleviate Israel’s suffering and free them from the Roman yoke.

Instead, Jesus came and fulfilled all the prophecies predicted about Him, but again, what was right in front of them—foretold in the scriptures—they could not see. It did not meet their expectations of what God should do—how He should act. Christ did proclaim freedom, but it was about true freedom that frees us from sin. It is a freedom that is not determined by exterior forces. It is a freedom centered in our relationship with God. Christ came to create God’s kingdom on Earth, but it was not a worldly kingdom. The Kingdom of God is found only through a real relationship with Christ. Christ came to show what true unconditional love is. It is found in the cross. The love we are called to live is not centered in how we feel, but in how we live and act towards others. It is about dying to oneself and putting the other first. It is about kenosis, or self-emptying. It is about emptying oneself of all that is not truly about God. The Messiah they received was not the Messiah they wanted, but it was the Messiah they needed.

At times, we all struggle to see God in our lives, but the reality is that God is always right there. He is always with us. The simple reason we do not see Him is that He does not meet our expectations. We simply need to be willing to move/remove a few things from our lives and we will find Him.

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,
The keynote speaker, for the Women’s Session at a Catholic youth conference several years ago, spoke to the gathered teenage girls about lies. She told them that the thing about lies is that if one hears a lie enough times, it can start to seem true. Something we know to be false can be easy to ignore the first time we hear it. When it is repeated to us again and again, we may start to question what we believe; pile on even more repetitions and we may even begin to believe that lie. The speaker then went on to tell the girls that on average they hear 40 lies a day about themselves. They hear these lies from all different sources: from people in their lives, from TV and movies, from social media, from advertising, etc. These lies take a variety of forms, but for the most part boil down to one thing... you are not enough. You are not skinny enough; you are not pretty enough; you are not smart enough; you are not talented enough; you are not loved enough. On and on and on... you are not enough. 40 times a day. 280 times a week. 1,200 times a month. 14,600 times a year. You. Are. Not. Enough. Heard that many times, such a lie becomes really hard to resist. The speaker went on to talk to the young ladies about how grounding our identity in Christ can help them to combat and overcome this barrage of lies they are facing in their lives.

I was thinking about this talk the other day and reflecting on how it is a message that really applies to everyone. Sure, the particular form of the lies society is telling us about ourselves may be different; the ways a young father feels inadequate won’t be the same as the ways a teenage girl does. Still, a relentless sense that you are not enough is present for both, and both may have begun to believe this lie. Therefore, I think it is important to constantly remind ourselves of the truth. You are enough and more than enough.

You are Known ~ Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you... plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.”

You are Valued ~ Luke 12: 6-7

“Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.”

You are Loved ~ John 16:9

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.”

You have a God ~ Isaiah 41:10

“You have a God- “Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

FROM OUR ASST DIRECTOR OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTER...

COURTNEY CALLANAN

FROM OUR SENIOR PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Fr. Arnold Colletti

I was attracted to an article in HuffPost entitled Behold the Millennial Nuns by Eve Fairbanks. More and more young women are called to the religious life after 50 years of decline. Eve writes, “These people intrigued me because they didn’t quite fit. The presumption, I had always thought, was that in the U.S each progressive generation wants to exercise more choice over what they eat, over how they live, over who they love, over their dreams, over their truths. The young aren’t interested in tradition or moral constraints.”

In a 2017 Georgetown University study, 13 percent of women from age 18 to 35 reported that they had considered becoming a Catholic sister. That is more than 900,000 women responding in that manner. The average age for taking the final step into religious life a decade ago was 40. Today it is 24.

Millennials and Generation Z kids report much higher levels of social anxiety, pessimism and depression than previous generations.

Satye Doyle Byock, an Oregon-based psychotherapist, has said, “We’re raised in a quantitative culture with quantitative goals.” She works with young people who believe society has given them all of the tools and the technology and the science to construct an ideal life. But they still feel like failures. Declaring everything achievable tends to dig a well of grief in people because it implies that any problem we encounter is a result of our miscalculation.

Young people today have too many choices. The women who are seeking to become a nun want choices to be made for them. They want discipline and purpose. Organized religion in America is still reaching members. But it appears that young people who do seek religion are drawn to a strict-er, more old-fashioned form of it. Pollsters have observed that young people in America seem more open than their parents or grandparents were to authoritarianism.

Thomas Merton, in New Seeds of Contemplation, wrote: “We do not go into the desert to escape people but to learn how to find them; we do not leave them in order to have nothing more to do with them, but to find out the way to do them the most good. But this is only a secondary end. The one end that includes all others is the love of God.”

You can read the lengthy article at...

huffpost.com/millennial-nuns/
LESS THAN ONE WEEK AWAY TO MEET OUR ELEVATOR GOAL!

We are 5 days away from the October 4th expiration date of the $55,000 quote assigned to this important project. Of the $27,500 that we need to raise—some very generous families have joined together to donate the other $27,500—we have raised $17,333 getting us within 37% of our goal. Asking for financial assistance is far from our favorite thing to do, but as we have previously stated, the need for an elevator is crucial to our community. If we are not able to raise these funds, we may have to put this project on hold. As we thank those who have donated thus far, we again ask those who have not yet had the chance, to help us to meet this goal. If, after prayerful consideration, you decide to donate towards this cause, please contact Paul Firican. All checks should 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 St. Mary Online Giving link where you can choose the fund, New Elevator (LIFT).

Both St. Mary and St. John parishes are still looking for volunteers to serve on their Finance Councils 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 Firican at the parish offices or by email: pfirican@chelmsfordcatholic.org. 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.

St. Mary

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

| Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses | $17,140 |
| Actual Received | $14,419 |
| Variance | -$2,721 |

OF THE ACTUAL, $2,375 IS FROM ELECTRONIC GIVING

St. John

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

| Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses | $11,040 |
| Actual Received | $7,988 |
| Variance | -$3,052 |

OF THE ACTUAL, $2,445 IS FROM ELECTRONIC GIVING

FY 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP

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STILL IN SEARCH OF FC MEMBERS!

- Crack sealing and line taping has been completed.
- Some much needed and necessary work has been completed at the rectory: plumbing repairs in two bathrooms, painting in 2 of the suites, and installation of a suspended ceiling in the chapel due to the damage done to it from plumbing issues above it. Other items that are underway are the removal of the deteriorating carpets on the first floor that are being replaced with new flooring, and painting of a few rooms.

- Office plumbing issues are now resolved, and all bathrooms are in full use.
- A new suspended ceiling has been installed in the dining room.
- The deteriorated retaining wall has been removed due to repair and maintenance costs, as well as safety issues that arise during the winter season. Snow and ice were unable to melt properly in the nearby walkway, resulting in icy conditions for parishioners. Work also continues on the walkway near the elevator entrance.
- After the generosity of a parishioner who assisted our parish in cleaning up the overgrowth and dead trees/shrubs in the back lawn area of the church, some additional landscaping continues. We have leveled and graded some areas for safety and to make the property look presentable.
- The rear driveway has been expanded so our clergy can safely access the church sacristy.
Yee Ha!
The Western Frontier Ministry Fair was a GRAND SUCCESS!

Between both parishes, over 160 individuals signed up for ministries! Thank you to EVERYONE who made this such a great day! Enjoy these pictures, and visit the website for the complete album!

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/Parish Events/Ministry Fair
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 28** 4:00 pm: Parker, Annamarie & Gary Thomas and Simone Dion: Memorial

**SUN, SEP 29** 8:30 am: Lost Siblings Support Group
10:30 am: For the People of the Parish
12:30 pm: Paapa Boadi: Memorial
5:00 pm: Sean Caron, Germaine Caron, and Gregory Saunders: Memorial

**TUE, OCT 1** 9:00 am: Johanna O’Neill: Memorial

**SAT, OCT 5** 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

**SUN, OCT 6** 8:30 am: J. Edward Clancy: Memorial
10:30 am: Brian J. Muscato: Memorial
Charlene Muscato and Family: Living
5:00 pm: For the Confirmandi

**St. Mary**

**SAT, SEP 28** 4:00 pm: Coleen Cody: Memorial

**SUN, SEP 29** 9:00 am: Cheryl Ducharme: 6 Month Mind
11:00 am: For the People of the Parish

**MON, SEP 30** 7:00 am: Michael Sarno: 9th Anniversary

**WED, OCT 2** 7:00 am: Leo Sorel: 15th Anniversary

**THU, OCT 3** 7:00 am: Francis Gilroy: Memorial

**FRI, OCT 4** 7:00 am: Thomas O’Bram: Memorial

**SAT, OCT 5** 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

**SUN, OCT 6** 9:00 am: Barbara Esperanza and JoAnn Andrzejewski: Memorial
11:00 am: Melissa Boyd: 7th Anniversary

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**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.

**In Memory of Joe & Agnes Corbin**

A Floral Moment by Juju Buds

**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:

**Happy 42nd Birthday, Joseph!**

Love, Fern, Marie and Family

This week’s St. Mary Rose for Life:

**Birthday Blessings for Betty McLelaney**

Roses Provided by Mahoney’s Garden Center

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**Funerals recently celebrated**

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

Joseph Bomal: September 20th at St. John
Rita M. MacDonald: September 26th at St. Mary
Lois E. McCarthy: September 27th at St. Mary

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

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**Scripture Readings**

**Nehemiah 8: 1-7, 12**

**Psalm 19**

**Luke 10: 1-12**

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**“Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”** - Psalm 119:105

**Monday, Sep 30**

Zechariah 8: 1-8
Psalm 102
Luke 9: 46-50

**Tuesday, Oct 1**

Zechariah 8: 20-23
Psalm 87
Luke 9: 51-56

**Wednesday, Oct 2**

Nehemiah 2: 1-8
Psalm 137
Matt 18: 1-5, 10

**Thursday, Oct 3**

Nehemiah 8: 1-7, 12
Psalm 19
Luke 10: 1-12

**Friday, Oct 4**

Baruch 1: 15-22
Psalm 79
Luke 10: 13-16

**Saturday, Oct 5**

Baruch 4: 5-12, 27-29
Psalm 69

**Sunday, Oct 6**

Hebrew 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4
Psalm 95
2Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14
Luke 17: 5-10
Margaret F. (Knox) Gobin of Lowell formerly of N. Chelmsford

Margaret F. (Knox) Gobin, 95, of Lowell, MA formerly of N. Chelmsford died Saturday, August 31, 2019 at Wingate of Belvidere Nursing Home in Lowell.

She was married to the late Raymond A. Gobin, who died on January 3, 2003.

Born in Chelmsford, she was the daughter of the late John D. and Helen T. Knox. She graduated from Chelmsford High School with the class of 1943.

Margaret was a devoted homemaker to her family. She helped raise her great granddaughter, Sarah who she adored and loved.

She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church in N. Chelmsford, MA.

Margaret was an Auxiliary member of the A.W. Vinal American Legion Post 313 in N. Chelmsford.

She is survived by a son, David and his wife, Stephanie Gobin of Manchester, MD; a daughter, Elizabeth “Betty” R. and her husband, George Bruno Jr.; four grandchildren, Michelle A. Bergeron, Scott J. and his wife, Janice Vaughan, Stephen and his wife, Amanda Gobin and Craig Gobin; four great grandchildren, Sarah E. Bergeron, Russell Vaughan, Brennah Vaughan and Dallas Vaughan and her former grandson-in-law, Roger Bergeron as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the Late John D. Knox Jr. of N. Chelmsford, and the late Helen E. Homen of Lowell.

Her visiting hours were Thurs., Sept. 5th from 4 to 7 P.M. Funeral Fri., Sept. 6th at 10am from the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD, with a Liturgy of the Word Service at 11am at St. John the Evangelist Church in N. Chelmsford. Burial in the Fairview Cemetery, Chelmsford. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.