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

**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.

**Luke 17:10**

When you have done all you have been commanded, say, “We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.”
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 • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 1

Monday, October 7
Matthew Bible Study • 10 am - 12 pm • PC Conf Room 1
Rosary Coast to Coast Gathering • 6:00 pm • Grotto
Fr. Brian Presentation • 7:00 pm • Church
Boy Scout Troop 77 Committee Mtg • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 2

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

Wednesday, October 9
Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

Thursday, October 10
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 11
Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
Knitting and Crocheting • 3:00 - 5:00 pm • Parish Hall

Saturday, October 12
Adoration • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm • PC Chapel
Reconciliation • 11:00 am - 12:00 noon • Church
Collaborative Bell Ministry • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • Conf Room B
4 pm Music Ministry • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Conf Room B
Anointing of the Sick, following 4 pm Mass • Church

Sunday, October 13
Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
Grace Notes • 8:10 - 8:45 am • Church
11 am Mass Choir • 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
Table Ministry • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Kitchen
6 pm Music Ministry • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts!
- Responsorial Psalm 95

St. Mary Calendar

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 • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 1

Monday, October 7
Matthew Bible Study • 10 am - 12 pm • PC Conf Room 1
Rosary Coast to Coast Gathering • 6:00 pm • Grotto
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Sunday, October 13
Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
Grace Notes • 8:10 - 8:45 am • Church
11 am Mass Choir • 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
Table Ministry • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Kitchen
6 pm Music Ministry • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church

St. Mary Church
Wedding BANNS II
Catherine DaSilva and Allen Gage
!! ATTENTION !!
St. Mary 11 am MASS GOERS
Please be aware that the duration of the 11:00 am Mass next Sunday, October 13th will be slightly extended due to our welcoming of a new child into the family through the Sacrament of Baptism.

We do hope you will decide to celebrate this joyous occasion with us.

54 ROSARY DAY NOVENA
Virgin Mary, concludes on Monday, October 7th, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

THIS 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.

... 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.
**IN HONOR OF COLUMBUS DAY, THE PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 14TH.**

**St. John Church**

**Wedding BANNs II**

Amy Lindenfelzer and Tim Torigian

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**St. John Calendar**

- **Sunday, October 6**
  - Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 7
  - NO Children’s Liturgy of the Word Today

- **Monday, October 7**
  - Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  - Families with Addiction Support Group • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • NPC
  - Fr. Brian Presentation • 7:00 pm • St. Mary Church

- **Tuesday, October 8**
  - Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  - Open Music Ministry Rehearsal • 7:00 pm • Church

- **Wednesday, October 9**
  - Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel

- **Thursday, October 10**
  - 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, October 11**
  - African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library
  - Baptism Preparation • 7:00 pm • Mariotti

- **Saturday, October 12**
  - NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. Mary this week
  - Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

- **Sunday, October 13**
  - Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 7
  - Children’s Liturgy of the Word, during 8:30 am Mass
  - Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Mariotti
  - Prayer Shawl Ministry, following 8:30 am Mass • Limehan
  - Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church

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**Annual Ham Dinner**

- **Saturday, October 19th at 5 pm**
  - St. John’s Church Hall
  - $15 per adult
  - Ham Dinner w/ beverage & dessert
  - $5 per child (12 and under)
  - Hot dog, chips, beverage, & dessert

**Tickets are available for purchase following all St. John Masses THIS WEEKEND October 5th/6th and NEXT WEEKEND, October 11th/12th, or by visiting the parish offices. To purchase online, visit St. John’s WeShare on the home page of our website.**

**DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:** October 14

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Following all Masses at BOTH parishes on the weekend of **November 9th/10th**, the Knights of Columbus will be selling Christmas Cards, Car Magnets, and Advent Calendars to promote Christ and the Holy Family as the central figures during the Christmas season. Proceeds support KofC programs, such as: Wreaths Across America, Bible Schools, Church Service Awards, Culture of Life, and the Youth Free Throw Contest. Pamphlets are available in the vestibules at both parishes.

Pre-orders can be placed by contacting David at (978) 692-4873 or dlbreen@comcast.net.

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**Turn page for more**
Q. What does it mean to you to be a priest?

A. I must admit that this was a very thought-provoking question for me. And as I pondered how to answer it, there were some very different perspectives that came to mind. It was, in some ways, like looking through a prism and seeing sort of how the light refracts to various colors. Being a priest for me is not simply a job. It is not simply a way of life. It defines who I am as a person. Every aspect of my life is, in some way, colored by my vocation, and that vocation helps me understand myself and my relationships with others. The reality is that my very soul is transformed through ordination to the priesthood, and no matter what happens I will always be a priest.

First and foremost, I am called to serve the people of God. My whole life now is about helping the people of God get to heaven. I have a direct responsibility to help the people to come to know Christ, and to have a real and deep, loving relationship with Him. Everything I do must be done in a way that can open people to experience Jesus in their lives, for only by knowing Christ can we truly know God. As such, it is one of the primary reasons that priests are given the awesome responsibility of leading, or presiding at, the sacraments.

Celebrating the sacraments is one of the most important aspects of my life as a priest. It is an incredible honor and privilege to lead the people through these awe-inspiring rites. Simply put, there is no better way to grow in our relationship with Christ than through these incredible gifts He has given us. Christ instituted each sacrament as a means for us to share directly in his life, and to experience our salvation through our participation in the Paschal Mystery (his death, resurrection and ascension). In Baptism, as Saint Paul tells us, we died with Christ and rose to new life with Him. Baptism recreates us more fully into the image of Christ. We are united with Christ and become adopted daughters and sons of the Father. In the Eucharist, Christ gives himself to us through our sharing in his very Body and Blood. His very life courses through our entire body and renews us in living out our baptism. In Reconciliation (Penance/Confession), when we wander away from Christ, when we harm or break our relationship with God, He gently calls us back and heals our woundedness. When we receive the anointing of the sick, Christ unites us with his own suffering, to help us recognize that we are not alone in our suffering. He is one with us in our need and comes to help us carry our burden.

I am called to be Christ’s instrument in these moments. Christ is the true minister of the sacraments: I simply share in his actions and become the embodiment of Christ, acting directly in the life of his people. Or, as it is called theologically, I am in persona Christi. Christ works and acts through me in order to help his people know his love, his mercy, his unbounded blessings in our lives.
January 20, 2020

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS
Fiscal Year 2020 CORI PACKETS
For your convenience, Rae will be available after all Masses at St. Mary THIS 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. DON’T FORGET TO BRING YOUR PHOTO ID! ALL volunteers are required to complete an annual CORI form.

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 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!

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# ST. MARY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

## First Class Schedule
Full Class schedules can be found on our website [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org](http://www.chelmsfordcatholic.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>October 20th</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>Group D</td>
<td>October 20th</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

## October 6th Class/Event Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>October 20th</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>October 20th</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>October 20th</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>October 20th</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

## Parent Gatherings Continue...

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

## Upcoming Deep Dive Event

**Pray the Rosary**
Friday, October 18th
7:00 pm... St. Mary Parish Hall

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary. Come as a family to learn about and pray this beautiful Marian devotion. Any and all are welcome to join us. Never prayed the Rosary before? Perfect! We would love to walk you through just how one prays the Rosary. Pray the Rosary on a daily basis? Perfect! Come share your love of the Rosary with others. Somewhere in between these two? Perfect! Gathering as a community to pray the Rosary is always a beautiful opportunity. We look forward to sharing it with everyone! A Deep Dive calendar with requirements can be found at [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/ Faith Formation/ Family Faith Formation/Calendars & Schedules](http://www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/ Faith Formation/ Family Faith Formation/Calendars & Schedules).

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

## October 13th Class/Event Schedule

**Due to Columbus Day Holiday**
There will be no classes or events today!

## Did you attend the Blessing of the Animals?

If so, make sure you complete the reflection sheet which can be found on our website: [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org](http://www.chelmsfordcatholic.org)... click on Faith Formation, Family Faith Formation, Deep Dives then click on Blessing of the Animals. The online form can be found by scrolling down to bottom of page. MAKE SURE YOU HIT SUBMIT!
ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

**First Class Schedule**
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>GROUP A</th>
<th>Group B</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
<td>October 20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Confirmation I**
First Class: October 20th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hall

**Confirmation II**
First Class: October 20th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hall

**October 6th Class/Event Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Gathering Session Group A</th>
<th>9:45 - 11:15 am</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Confirmation II</strong></td>
<td>11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Gathering at 12:30 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade K, Group A</th>
<th>Grade 1, Group A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2, Group A</th>
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<tr>
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**Parent Gatherings Continue...**

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**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 disciples of Jesus.

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**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 HAVEN'T SIGNED UP YET… DEADLINE IS THIS MONDAY, OCTOBER 7th. EMAIL COURTNEY TODAY!

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**Knights of Columbus Sponsor Annual Youth Essay Contest**

All Grade 8-12 students in public, private and parochial schools who are part of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative are invited to write a 500-750 word essay on the theme of *Discuss the Meaning of Virtue and how you Live and Embody the Virtue of Charity*

Biblically, virtue is understood as the conformity of life and conduct with the principles of morality, while charity signifies the reciprocal love between God and man, one that is manifest in unselfish love and eloquently shown in the life, teachings, and death of Jesus Christ. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt 22:37-39). In your essay, consider the meaning of virtue and think about ways in which you exemplify the virtue of Charity to glorify and reflect the nature of God. This could be at home with your families or in your communities, as you enrich the welfare of others.

Essays will be judged in November, and first place winners at each grade level will receive a monetary award, and their essays will be submitted to the K of C State Council for judging and awards from the State Council. Essay submittals, along with the entry form, MUST BE postmarked by November 3, 2019 (no electronic submittal) and mailed to the following address:

Bishop Ruocco Council . PO Box 65 . Chelmsford, MA 01824

Information and Entry Forms can be found on our website. Click on Parish life, then Knights of Columbus, then Youth Essay Contest.

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**Cor Unum Meal Center**

Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence serves breakfast and dinner 7 days a week to those in need. The center is committed to the truth that no man, woman or child should ever go hungry and should be treated with dignity.

On the fourth Friday (beginning in November), we look for 5-7 youth and 1 adult who are willing and able to volunteer and represent our collaborative. Please sign up 10 days PRIOR to your requested date by contacting Barbara at dwsmiths@comcast.net or (978) 649-6745. We meet in St. John’s parking lot at 3:15 pm and arrive back to the same location by 7:30 pm.

November 29th, 2019: register by 20th
December 27th, 2019: register by 18th
January 24th, 2020: register by 15th
February 28th, 2020: register by 19th
March 27th, 2020: register by 18th

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**The House of Hope in Lowell is dedicated to homeless families in Massachusetts, helping them to gain stable housing. They are recognized as a leader in the state of Massachusetts relative to their shelter programming, rate of permanent placements in the community, and their housing partnerships. We are looking for volunteer youth/parent teams to spend 2 hours on Thursday evenings (6-8 pm) playing with young children whose parent(s) are receiving Life Skills training. Orientation is required, and will be conducted at St. John’s. Please contact Laura Zatta at lkzatta@gmail.com.

The scheduled dates thus far are…
October 3rd, 17th ● November 7th, 21st ● December 5th, 19th
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 I was in the eighth grade at Saint Michael Grammar School, I took the entrance exam for our parish high school, Hudson Catholic. It was a regular standardized test with an answer sheet that had circles to fill in. While taking the math portion of the test, at some point I realized that a whole column of answers had been skipped. In other words, the answers that should have been in the second column were in the third column, and so on. I worked desperately to correct the problem, but ended up not finishing the math section of the test, and not all the answers were placed in the correct column. Needless to say, I essentially bombed this part of the exam. But it was not really an issue as far as getting into the school: if you went to the grammar school you automatically got into the high school. The test determined which of the three math levels you would be placed in. Based on how poor my results were, they were going to place me in the bottom level.

My mom and Sister Winifred, my seventh/eighth-grade math teacher, argued with the school. They explained that I simply had a bad day, and that math was a strength for me. They both argued that the honors level was a better fit. The school agreed to make a change, but would only bump me up to the middle level math class. By the end of the first quarter of freshman math, my teacher, Mr. Helen, realized I did not belong in his class and should be moved up to honors. He talked to my mom and the school about it. His argument was not only how well I was handling the material, but also that I was the only one from his class on the Math Team.

My Mom left the decision up to me. Mr. Helen, on the other hand, got on my case almost every day. He made it clear that he believed it best for me to move up. By the end of the second semester, I made the decision to change classes. The only problem for me was that I was behind in the materials that had been covered, and so I ended up with a C in the third quarter. But, by the end of the fourth quarter I had caught up with the rest of the class and remained in Honors Math for the rest of high school.

It is amazing how something as simple as skipping a column in a test can affect one’s life. Sometimes, in our lives, it’s the most innocuous things that can throw us off the path we should be on. And, it is not always easy to get back to where we should be. I was fortunate that there were two people fighting for my best interest, and a teacher who saw my abilities pretty quickly. They were all pushing for me to get to where I should be. But, at the same time, it was imperative for me to cooperate and take hold of the opportunity that was placed before me. It would have been just as easy for me to say that I wanted to stay put. It would not have been in my best interest, nor would it have created the proper challenge for me to learn and grow. But, in certain ways, being pushed off the path also taught me some valuable lessons for life. The first and most important lesson is that life does not always go as planned. Secondly, life is what you make of it, based on the opportunities you are given and what you do with those opportunities. And lastly, getting back on the right path can come with struggles, and you need to accept and adjust to those struggles.

When we seek to follow Christ, it is not always an easy path. Many obstacles can be put in our way and some of them, like mine, can be self-manufactured or self-inflicted. Sometimes they can be accidental, but other times they can come from our own deliberate choices. The question is, what will we do about it? How will we choose to address these obstacles? First and foremost, we must recognize one truth, as I did: we always have someone in our corner fighting for us and trying to encourage us. And for all of us, that someone is GOD!

No matter how we go astray, God is there for us. He will never forsake us! He will never abandon us! He will never forget us! His love is unconditional and everlasting. God will always give us what we need to get back on the right path. He gives us important “tools” for doing so. The first, of course, is prayer. The second is the scriptures, which is his game plan for life. The third is the sacraments, which give us the strength and courage to address any issue in our life.

Prayer opens us to God’s presence. It reminds us of our dependence on Him—that He will give us what we need. It helps to create a grateful heart that leads to a truly generous spirit. Prayer leads us into a relationship where we do not simply love God, but we fall in love with God.

The scriptures help us to see how God walked with his people since the beginning of creation. The issue is never that God was not there, but that the people refused to see Him. God reveals his very nature through the scriptures, seeking to give us sufficient knowledge to have a true and lasting relationship with Him. Through that relationship, He helps us discover who we truly are. If God is not in our life, we cannot know who we were created to be. We were made in the image and likeness of God, and God alone knows the purpose for every life He created.

The sacraments, each in its own way, form and transform us, to live a life centered in and through Christ. The Eucharist is food that spiritually nourishes us on the journey. Reconciliation gets us back on the path when we go astray.

Ultimately, we need to see that there is truly only one path for us. It is the path to Salvation! Let us work together to stay on that path.

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,
I had to memorize this in High School by typing it over and over in business class. Such powerful words. Where would we be today if our forebears did not stand up, bravely, to the social and economic injustices they were forced to live with? How would our lives be different if we had proceeded under the rule of a British government?

We all cherish our American freedoms. “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” has, since the colonial times, been our foundation to life in these United States. Are we, as a society, still embracing the freedoms fought for by our earlier citizens? Do we really understand what it is to be free? We, as a society, put restrictions on each other whether consciously or unconsciously, and try to limit one another to accepted behaviors, desiring that all people live within standard, acceptable, understandable ways. How much more do we need to learn about our fellow human beings before we “allow” our fellow man to live as they wish? As they have a right to? As they deserve? I witness, time and time again, the judgements of individuals about people they do not know. Some make serious and very unfair judgements of others based on something they have heard. These same individuals, almost universally, will not make any attempt to get to know more about a person or group believing, completely, that they already know everything they need to know. Some of us make unkind judgements based on a brief negative interaction with others. Putting them into their “box” of “bad”, or “cranky” or “not user friendly.” I must admit that I am plagued with these thoughts. I witness negativity and unkindness so much that I am always thinking “can I be nicer?” “Do I treat people with fairness and dignity?” I want to get to know someone better the minute that I hear something else say something negative about them to find out for myself if I share the opinion of the person who was negative. In all honesty, I have never been treated with prejudice, no one has been outright rude to me or tried to take advantage of me because of who I am. (If I’m wrong, I don’t know it.) I don’t understand it when I see it happen. I am very blessed in the people I’ve met in my many encounters during my life and I treasure each person, especially for their differences. I find my fellow man so interesting and I delight in learning about cultures different from mine. How wonderful is life when we can share our experiences with one another and learn from each other. After all, we’re never too old to learn new things until we’re dead! In my efforts to pursue my happiness, I resolve to try to remember that each and every person, all of us the same Human Being, are trying to live their happiest life. We share so many qualities and we all would do well to remember that.

What’s up with the cassock Father?

So, it’s no surprise anymore that I prefer wearing a cassock as opposed to black clerical shirts and a suit. I do wear them on occasion and have more black suits than I will ever need (a holdover from my days as an undertaker). There are times when it is more practical to wear the clerical suit, and I do so on those occasions; but as clothes help make the man, I feel accessible and identifiable when in the cassock. To me the cassock is both distinctive and eminently priestly. No one else wears anything like it, save students at graduation or the occasional judge.

Thus, the cassock speaks to the ancient and set-apart quality of the priest. A priest’s attire should stand out rather than blend in. He is different—yes, “odd”—and represents something not only ancient, but also new, as to be eternal. People often thank me for wearing the cassock, but I have never had anyone thank me for wearing my suit. This tells me that the cassock means something special to God’s people.

1 It’s cooler. It surprises many people when I tell them that my cassock is cooler than the usual clerical business suit. In the summer, a modest pair of loose-fitting shorts with a comfortable elastic waist, a cotton t-shirt, and socks are sufficient. Believe it or not, it is very cool in the summer. The cassock I wear is a light, breathable material, and is delightfully cool compared to the suit.

2 It’s loose-fitting. I have never been a fan of the rather tight-fitting clothes that are in style today. The cassock, when worn without the fascia (a wide, belt-like sash), hangs loosely on the body. The cassock hides a multitude of sins, unlike snug trousers or a belt, which constantly remind me of what I consider an unfortunate accessory. It surprises many people when I tell them that I prefer wearing a cassock as opposed to black clerical shirts and a suit. I do wear them on occasion and have more black suits than I will ever need (a holdover from my days as an undertaker). There are times when it is more practical to wear the clerical suit, and I do so on those occasions; but as clothes help make the man, I feel accessible and identifiable when in the cassock. To me the cassock is both distinctive and eminently priestly. No one else wears anything like it, save students at graduation or the occasional judge.

3 You can throw it on and go. It doesn’t take much time to don the cassock. You just throw the cassock over your head, putting your arms through the wide arm holes, and then gravity does the rest. It’s simple, light, and quick. If I want to relax in my room for a bit, it’s just as quick to whip it off; the buttons pull open easily and I just step out of it. Simple!

In the main, though, I love the cassock. It’s practical, comfortable, defining, and a good memorare for both priest and faithful. In the end, “suit yourself,” but I have come to love its ease and roominess, as well as the simplicity of owning fewer clothes!
Next week’s second collection will support the Holy Father’s “Peter’s Pence” collection that provides funds for emergency and disaster relief. This collection will also provide support to The Catholic University of America (CUA) that educates priests and lay people for ministry and for the Inner City parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston. Your generosity will assist the Holy Father as well as the various missionary efforts at home and abroad.

For information on any of these collections, please visit (1) www.usccb.org/ppc, (2) www.cua.edu, (3) www.BostonCatholic.org

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

St. Mary

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<tr>
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<th>Weekend of Sept 28th/29th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</td>
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<td>Variance</td>
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<td>Hurricane Dorian</td>
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St. John

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<tr>
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<th>Weekend of Sept 28th/29th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>$-954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurricane Dorian</td>
<td>$2,830</td>
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FY 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Budget</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$222,820</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Budget</td>
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<td>Variance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$143,520</td>
<td>$122,179</td>
<td>$-21,341</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STILL IN SEARCH OF FC MEMBERS!

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 Firicano at the parish offices or by email: pfiricano@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.

THANK YOU!

Update on Elevator….

We are blessed with such generous parishioners. You have come through again in our need. With your dedicated and loyal support, we have reached our financial goal towards the new elevator/Lift. We will update you with more information as soon as possible.

Online Giving Programs: visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org.
Links to both programs can be found on the right-hand side of home page.
Proposed New Mass Schedule: A Letter from Fr. Brian

I recognize that one of the most difficult issues that arises in the life of any parish is when a change needs to be made to the Mass schedule. It is clear to me that people are not trying to be petty or difficult when they get upset, angry or complain about the change. For most of us, the particular Mass we attend is not determined solely by convenience. Most of us have a certain rhythm of life—how and when we like to do things. This routine is a natural part of our human existence. It helps us to create a context for how we enter into the day. What is also true is as we attend a certain Mass over time, a real sense of community is created with those with whom we celebrate. Each Mass is really a community within the greater community of our parish. Our practice of attending weekend Mass is an important part of how we set our day and our week. As Catholics, we do not take lightly our responsibility and duty to properly worship God. The reception of the Eucharist is the most important action we take each week, as it gives us the grace and strength to live our faith as Christ calls us to. Therefore, a proposal to change the Mass schedule is never taken lightly. It is a painful process and transition, but unfortunately, one that we are facing. As such, it is important to make such change in a proactive, rather than reactive, way.

This is the third time in three years that the subject of the weekend Mass times has been brought to your attention. After reading through what people have said in the previous two surveys, we are presenting (hopefully) the last proposal. It is important to realize that no matter what is proposed, not everyone will be happy. Having said that, I would ask that as you look at the proposed schedule, you do so with eyes that see more than what is good for you, but what is good for both communities as we try to meet the needs of everyone. We must rely on Christian charity for this to succeed.

The scheduled is based on some simple principles:

- That the Mass schedule be equitable
- Both parishes will have a Saturday afternoon/ evening option
- Sunday Mass schedule offers options ranging from early morning to evening, equally split between parishes
- That there be sufficient times between the Masses for the priest to get from one Church to another
- That the schedule of Masses, if necessary, can be met by one priest.
- This may arise if a priest is sick, on vacation, or needed at another parish, and we are called upon to help

The proposed schedule will be:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. John</th>
<th>St. Mary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
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Which Mass do you currently attend?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>church</th>
<th>day</th>
<th>time</th>
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Under the proposed new Mass schedule, which Mass would you most likely attend?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>church</th>
<th>day</th>
<th>time</th>
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</table>

What issues, if any, do you foresee with any of the Masses in regards to other parish activity conflicts?

_____________________________________________________

Is there a different Mass time you would recommend?* church: day: time:

If yes, what is your reasoning for this day/time?

_____________________________________________________

All feedback MUST BE SUBMITTED via this form NO LATER THAN November 3rd in order to be considered. Drop in the offertory basket, drop off to parish offices, or mail. Final Schedule will be announced in January. The implementation date of the new schedule will be announced in the February-March timeframe.
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, 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  
**MON, Oct 7** 9:00 am: Collaborative Members of the Spiritual Society and Sanctuary Fund  
**SAT, Oct 12** 4:00 pm: Presentacion Novales: 1st Anniversary  
**SUN, Oct 13** 8:30 am: For the people of the Parish  
10:30 am: George W. O’Brien: 9th Anniversary

**St. Mary**

**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  
**MON, Oct 7** 7:00 am: Joanne O’Neill: 6th Anniversary  
**TUE, Oct 8** 7:00 am: Christine Moran  
**WED, Oct 9** 7:00 am: LIVING INTENTION  
   For the 40-Day Initiative  
**THU, Oct 10** 7:00 am: William T and Mary Ellen Hogan: Memorial  
**FRI, Oct 11** 7:00 am: John Metraw: 3rd Anniversary  
**SAT, Oct 12** 4:00 pm: Walter E. Rowe: 17th Anniversary  
**SUN, Oct 13** 7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial  
9:00 am: For the People of the Parish  
6:00 pm: David Dillon and Donna Luebbers: Memorial

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**FUNERALS recently celebrated**

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

Angelo Muzzi: September 30th at St. John

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

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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 William T. & Mary Ellen Hogan  
From the Hogan and Mazzola Families

A Floral Moment by Juju Buds

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**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:  
**Margaret and Thomas Hall**  
**Blessings on your Anniversary**

This week’s St. Mary Rose for Life:  
**For the Protection of the Unborn**

Roses Provided by Mahoney’s Garden Center

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**“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH”**

-Psalm 119:105

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**MONDAY, OCT 7**

Jonah 1:1-2:2, 11  
Jonah 2 (psalm)  
Luke 10: 25-37

**TUESDAY, OCT 8**

Jonah 3: 1-10  
Psalm 130  
Luke 10: 38-42

**WEDNESDAY, OCT 9**

Jonah 4: 1-11  
Psalm 86  
Luke 11: 1-4

**THURSDAY, OCT 10**

Malachi 3: 13-20  
Psalm 1  
Luke 11: 5-13

**FRIDAY, OCT 11**

Joel 1: 3-15; 2: 1-2  
Psalm 9  
Luke 11: 15-26

**SATURDAY, OCT 12**

Joel 4: 12-21  
Psalm 97  

**SUNDAY, OCT 13**

2Kings 5: 14-17  
Psalm 98  
2Timothy 2: 8-13  
Luke 17: 11-19
Mary H. (Patenaude) Urban of Dunstable

Mrs. Mary H. (Patenaude) Urban, 92, of Dunstable, died early Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was married to the late James J. Urban who died March 29, 2001.

Born in Chelmsford, on July 28, 1927, a daughter of the late Joseph A. and Mildred (Roberts) Patenaude.

She attended Lowell High School, and was a graduate of Lowell Vocational School for Hairdressing with the class of 1945. In her early years, Mary was employed with McKeon Hairdressing Shop in Lowell. She then went to work with the Shawcross Frozen Foods in Westford, United Wood Heel in Lowell and Raytheon Corporation in S. Lowell. Mary was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church of North Chelmsford.

She is survived by three daughters, Susan Stevens and her companion, David Pierce and Diane Dumont all of Dunstable and Linda Urban and her spouse, Kelly Donohue of Portsmouth, NH; a brother, Joseph and his wife, Elaine Patenaude of Naples, FL, two sisters-in-law, Ruth (Bernier) Patenaude of Bellevue, FL, and Gloria (Gleason) Patenaude of West Chelmsford, three grandchildren, Michael and his wife Amie Stevens, Daniel and his wife, Shannon Stevens, and Tiffany Dumont and two great grandchildren, Hannah and Sophie. Mary is also survived by her former son-in-law, Kevin L. Dumont as well as many nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Warren and Robert Patenaude, Theresa Smith, Aldea Bourrassa, and Virginia Jensen of Lowell. Mary was the grandmother of the late Kevin J. Dumont.

Her relatives and friends were respectfully invited to attend her calling hours on Thurs., Sept. 5th from 4:00PM to 8:00PM at the Dolan Funeral Home, 106 Middlesex St. Chelmsford. Her funeral was Fri., Sept. 6th beginning at the funeral home at 8:00AM with a Funeral Mass to follow at St. John the Evangelist Church at 9:00AM. Burial in Central Cemetery, Dunstable. Memorials may be made in her name to Merrimack Valley Hospice, 360 Merrimack St. Lawrence, Ma 01843. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.