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.

Jesus said in reply, “Ten were cleansed, were they not? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?”

-Luke 17:17-18
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

Monday, October 14
Parish Offices are closed due to Columbus Day
Matthew Bible Study • 10 am - 12 pm • PC Conf Room 1
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto

Tuesday, October 15
EPIC Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto

Wednesday, October 16
Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto

Thursday, October 17
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
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto

Friday, October 18
Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
Knitting and Crocheting • 3:00 - 5:00 pm • Parish Hall
Rosary FF Deep Dive Event • 7:00 pm • Church and Hall
Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto

Saturday, October 19
Catholic Men’s Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • PC Conf Room 2
NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. John this week
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 20
Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
11 am Mass Choir • 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
6 pm Music Ministry • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church
HS Youth Group • 7:00 pm • Parish Hall

Week Ending October 6
48,955

Grand Total To Date
888,697

%age of Goal
88.86%

“The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power!” - Responsorial Psalm 98
**St. John Calendar**

**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

**Monday, October 14**
- Parish Offices are closed due to Columbus Day
- Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel

**Tuesday, October 15**
- Coffee Group, following 9:00 am Mass • Hall
- Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
- FCN Blood Pressure Clinic • 9:45 - 10:45 am • Hall
- Wine, Women and Word • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Mariotti
- Open Music Ministry Rehearsal • 7:00 pm • Church

**Wednesday, October 16**
- Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel

**Thursday, October 17**
- 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 18**
- African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library

**Saturday, October 19**
- Contemplative Prayer Group • 9:30 am • Linehan
- Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church
- Annual Ham Dinner • 5:00 - 7:30 pm • Hall

**Sunday, October 20**
- 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
- African Liturgy • 12:30 pm • Church

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**Annual Ham Dinner**

NEXT Saturday, October 19th at 5 pm
St. John’s Church Hall

$15 adult ticket
Ham Dinner w/ Beverage & Dessert
$5 child ticket
Hot Dog, Chips, Beverage & Dessert

Tickets are available for purchase following all St. John Masses THIS WEEKEND, at parish offices or online by clicking WeShare on the home page of our website.

**DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:**
October 14

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Join us on Tuesday, October 15th
6:30 - 8:30 pm • St. John’s NPC Mariotti Room

**WINE, WOMEN & WORD**

Our reflection will be...
Difficult Moments in the Life of Ruth:
Ruth’s Search for a New Home

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**St. John St. Vincent de Paul**

Weekend of October 19th/20th

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

Thank you to all who donate to the SVdP Society through the poor box located at the back of the church and through the envelope system (envelopes can be found at both church entrances). All money donated helps those in need who live in our parish boundaries.

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Turn page for more
Baby Bottles to support the Pregnancy Care Center of the Merrimack Valley and Southern NH

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Baby Bottle Drive during Respect Life Month. If you forgot your bottle at home, please return it as soon as possible as they are being picked up within the next couple weeks. Your donations will be used to help save lives physically, spiritually and emotionally—one life at a time. It’s not too late to make your donation! The PCC is also looking for volunteers to fill openings in their new Lowell facility. To receive more information, please call (978) 373-5700.

Amirah’s Walk in Her Shoes
A 5k Walk Fundraiser to Raise Awareness of Human Trafficking
Saturday, October 26

We will meet in front of St. Mary’s at 10 am and walk a portion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail covering 5K. During the walk, we will learn the stories of trafficking survivors. Amirah provides safe housing and aftercare recovery to victims of sex trafficking.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Craig at cbonaceto@gmail.com to register. The registration cost is $27.

Evening Rosary at St. Mary Grotto

St. Mary’s is blessed with the patronage of Mother Mary and a beautiful Marian Grotto. During the month of October—the Month of the Rosary—we will be praying the Rosary every weekday evening at 7 pm at our Marian Grotto. If you do not know how to pray the Rosary, no worries; we will have people leading and pamphlets to assist you. We will also provide rosaries, if you need one. Because the Rosary is a family prayer, we encourage young families to come and bring their children, and for all parishioners to pray the Rosary for our families and seek the blessings of Mother Mary on both them and our parish.

In case of inclement weather, the Rosary will be prayed in the church.

Q. I have been criticized for having Masses offered for my family and others. The person said, “You should know those people are already in Heaven.”

A. The reality is that we cannot know that they are already in Heaven. The problem is that, in our culture, we have the presumption that we will automatically get to Heaven. There is nothing in the teaching of the Church that says we should have such a presumption. Heaven is a free gift offered to us from, and through, Christ. Christ alone earns Heaven for us. Any “merits” we may “deserve” are based only on what Christ has done for us. We share in Christ’s saving actions, his death and resurrection, only by cooperating with the grace we are offered through Christ. The grace we receive is intended to conform us to be more and more like Christ. And if we are honest with ourselves, this is not always how we act, and that is where the rubber meets the road.

The problem is that most people look at the person they love and can only recognize the good things they see in them. But God does not judge us solely on our actions. More important is that God looks into our hearts, and no human being can fully know another human being’s heart. The judgement of the heart is left to God, and to God alone. This is the reason why we can only judge the action and not the person. We can say someone has done something right or wrong. We cannot judge the merit of what they have done because we can never fully understand what led them to act in the way they did—for good or ill.

Every decision we make, for good or bad, creates ripples in our lives and in the lives of others. It is what we call the temporal effects of sin. God, of course, will always forgive our sins but that does not take away all the consequences of them. One of the consequences of these ripples, or temporal effects, is that it hardens our hearts a little towards fully embracing God’s love. We could think of it as scar tissue on the heart because we have been wounded by sin. Now God could simply reject us from heaven based on this scar tissue, but He chooses not to do so. But, He also recognizes that this scar tissue will prevent us from fully embracing his love, and so He created another option called purgatory.

Saying a person is in purgatory is not saying something derogatory about the person. Rather, it is acknowledging that they truly love God and desire to be with Him in heaven. The issue is simply that they are not quite ready yet. Hence, God created this moment called purgatory to give us the time we need to be fully healed. And that is why we pray for our beloved dead. Our prayers, done out of love, support the person(s) in their time of healing. We become united with God’s loving concern for those who are in purgatory, and thus we help them through our prayers. We come to cooperate with God’s concern for his people. And the reality is that there is no greater prayer on earth than the Mass itself. When we have a Mass offered for the dead person, we are uniting them to the saving moment of Christ on the cross and in the empty tomb. I can think of no better way of trying to bring true healing into the life of another.
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.

Join Fr. Brian on a Pilgrimage to
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 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.

St. John the Evangelist
Mass of Remembrance
Monday, November 4th at 7:00 pm
This Mass, where we remember and pray for all our deceased loved ones, will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. If you would like the name of a deceased loved one included in the evening’s program, please cut out/complete this form, place in an envelope marked “Christine Trznadel”, and drop it into the offertory basket, or to the Parish Office, NO LATER THAN October 27.

PERSON(S) TO BE REMEMBERED (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

REQUESTED BY:

______________________________________________________________

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (FOR CLARIFICATION PURPOSES)

______________________________________________________________

Contact Christine at ext 214 with any questions.

St. Mary
Mass of Remembrance
Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 pm
This Mass, where we remember and pray for all our deceased loved ones, will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. If you would like the name of a deceased loved one included in the evening’s program, please cut out/complete this form, place in an envelope marked “Christine Trznadel”, and drop it into the offertory basket, or to the Parish Office, NO LATER THAN November 3rd.

PERSON(S) TO BE REMEMBERED (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

REQUESTED BY:

______________________________________________________________

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (FOR CLARIFICATION PURPOSES)

______________________________________________________________

Contact Christine at ext 214 with any questions.
Welcome to the Collaborative Family

Heather Hannaway
Director of Faith Formation
hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Courtney Callanan
Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation & Youth Minister
callanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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Upcoming Deep Dive Events

Pray the Rosary
Friday, October 18th • 7 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!

Saints on Parade *
Friday, November 1 • 6 pm
St. John Parish Hall

RSVP Required via website
Click on Faith Formation/ Deep Dives/ Saints on Parade

Every year, on November 1st, we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. Join us after Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation for some saint-themed fun. Mass will begin at 6 pm. Families are then invited downstairs to the Hall where there will be food, games, and a chance to learn more about great holy men and women. Everyone is encouraged to come in a saint-themed costume for our Saint Parade. Prizes will be awarded for the best saint costumes. Young and old are welcome to participate!

* This is a Confirmation Deep Dive opportunity for Confirmation I and II Students. Contact Courtney!

October 13th Class/Event Schedule

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

October 20th Class/FGS* Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1 FGS, Group C</th>
<th>Grade 2 FGS, Group D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<th>Grade 3 FGS: Group C</th>
<th>Grade 3 FGS, Group D</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 4 FGS, Group C</th>
<th>Grade 4 FGS, Group D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<thead>
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<th>Grade 5 FGS, Group C</th>
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<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

* FAMILY GATHERING SESSION
Parents attend with their children

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

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
Deep Dive Calendars can be found on our website
Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Deep Dives (choose deep dive)
ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

October 13 Class/Event Schedule

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

October 20th Class/FGS* Schedule

CONFIRMATION I:
11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hall
Parent Gathering at 11:30 pm

GRADE 1 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am Parish Hall

GRADE 2 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am Parish Hall

GRADE 3 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am Parish Hall

GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am Parish Hall

GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am Parish Hall

GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION I: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hall
Parent Gathering at 11:30 pm

* Family Gathering Session
Parents attend with their children

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

Upcoming
Deep Dive Events

Pray the Rosary
Friday, October 18th • 7 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!

Saints on Parade *
Friday, November 1 • 6 pm
St. John Parish Hall
RSVP Required via website
Click on Faith Formation/Deep Dives/Saints on Parade

Every year, on November 1st, we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. Join us after Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation for some saint-themed fun. Mass will begin at 6 pm. Families are then invited downstairs to the Hall where there will be food, games, and a chance to learn more about great holy men and women. Everyone is encouraged to come in a saint-themed costume for our Saint Parade. Prizes will be awarded for the best saint costumes. Young and old are welcome to participate!

* This is a Confirmation Deep Dive opportunity for Confirmation I and II Students. Contact Courtney!

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
Deep Dive Calendars can be found on our website
Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars and Schedules

All Deep Dive details can be found on our website
Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Deep Dives (choose deep dive)
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.

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.
CLERGY
Reverend Brian Mahoney, PASTOR
ext 215… fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Corey Bassett-Tirrell, PAROCHIAL VICAR
ext 239… fr.corey@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST in RESIDENCE
ext 221… frcolletti@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Andrew John Rondeili, SEMINARIAN
ext 228… andrewjohn@chelmsfordcatholic.org

BUSINESS OFFICE
Paul Firicano, COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS MANAGER
ext 220… pfiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Tina Sousa, FINANCE & FACILITY SUPPORT
ext 219… tsousa@chelmsfordcatholic.org

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
Heather Hannaway, DIRECTOR of FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
ext 226… hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Courtney Callanan, ASST DIR of FAITH FORMATION/ YOUTH MINISTER
ext 227… ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Alana Buckley, part-time FAITH FORMATION SPECIALIST
ext 212, alana@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Lynn Anne LaDuke, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR
ext 240... lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Elaine Kindler, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR
ext 216... ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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

ADMINISTRATIVE
Rae Russo, SCHEDULING COORDINATOR
ext 325… rae@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Donna Gambon, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ext 248… dgambon@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Sue Beechin, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ext 236... sue@chelmsfordcatholic.org

FACILITIES
Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER
ext 213… dheider@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Stephen Webber, CUSTODIAN
ext 231… steve@chelmsfordcatholic.org

BULLETIN, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA
Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
ext 214… christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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

COLLABORATIVE PARISH 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 St. Mary Members
Angela McMaster (co-chair) Peter Lando (co-chair)
Mike Condor Laura Conte
Scott Davidson Rob Donnelly
Beth Jacavanco Karen Drake
Ellen St. George Jessica Hägg
Julie Seitter Cliff Mann
Augustine Tweneh Lori McDonald
Ray Wagner (secretary) 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
Gerard Jarasitis Ted Powers
Paul Therrien

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.
honestly, the bigger problem I had was simply had to keep ringing un/g415l it went to voice mail. Sides, and so it was impossible to get to my phone. It that the alb I was wearing did not have any slits in the necessary to have the ringer on, such as when I so, my phone stays on vibrate mode unless it is absolutely musical rings or other types of noise that people use. And pre/g415y annoying to me. I am also not really a fan of mode, partly because the sound of a ringing phone tends to my cellphone on vibrate unless it is absolutely happened during the celebration concerning my dorms. I was happy to oblige, but something problematic occurred while going to school at Catholic University of America in Washington DC, I was once asked to celebrate Mass in one of the dorms. I was happy to oblige, but something problematic happened during the celebration concerning my cellphone. I almost always have my cellphone on vibrate mode— the way it almost always is—and of course, we all know what happens when one assumes.

Assumptions are something each and every one of us does in our lives. We make big assumptions and small assumptions all the time. And usually we do so based on the information we have, or how situations or circumstances generally play out. We know what the expected results or decisions should look like. The problem is that when we make our decisions based on assumptions, things can go very wrong.

We see this in the context of relationships all the time. When I am working with couples preparing for marriage and we talk about good communication, one of the things I warn them against is making assumptions. I am very clear on this point. I usually say something along the lines of, “Once you start assuming, you have stopped communicating.” And this can happen in many different ways. One person assumes the other should know what they are thinking or feeling. And they generally get upset when the other does not respond in accord with their assumption. The reality is that no matter how long people have been together no one will ever be 100% perceptive about the other. The reality is that we all look at the world through a variety of different lenses at the same time. As such, it is not always possible to predict which lenses we are looking through at any particular moment.

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Well, this particular day as I began to pray the Eucharistic Prayer, my phone started not to vibrate, but to ring, and the volume was all the way up. It was impossible in that small room for people not to hear it. The problem was that the alb I was wearing did not have any slits in the sides, and so it was impossible to get to my phone. It simply had to keep ringing until it went to voice mail. Normally a situation like this might be embarrassing, but honestly, the bigger problem I had was not laughing. It was simply so awkward a situation that it was more amusing than embarrassing. I had assumed the phone was set on vibrate mode—the way it almost always is—and of course, we all know what happens when one assumes.

Assumptions are something each and every one of us does in our lives. We make big assumptions and small assumptions all the time. And usually we do so based on the information we have, or how situations or circumstances generally play out. We know what the expected results or decisions should look like. The problem is that when we make our decisions based on assumptions, things can go very wrong.

We see this in the context of relationships all the time. When I am working with couples preparing for marriage and we talk about good communication, one of the things I warn them against is making assumptions. I am very clear on this point. I usually say something along the lines of, “Once you start assuming, you have stopped communicating.” And this can happen in many different ways. One person assumes the other should know what they are thinking or feeling. And they generally get upset when the other does not respond in accord with their assumption. The reality is that no matter how long people have been together no one will ever be 100% perceptive about the other. The reality is that we all look at the world through a variety of different lenses at the same time. As such, it is not always possible to predict which lenses we are looking through at any particular moment.

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Bach or Boo? It’s That Time Of Year Again

Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer, organist, harpsichordist, violist, and violinist born in Eisenach, Germany on March 21, 1685. Much of his busy life was spent as a family man, a father to thirteen children. He was a church cantor and Director of Music for many churches in Germany. He was considered to be the main composer of Baroque music, specializing in sacred and secular works.

The Baroque period of the Roman Catholic Church began in Rome, Italy. It dominated Church music liturgy from 1600 to 1760. The word Baroque is derived from the Portuguese word “barroco,” meaning “misshapen pearl.” A misshapen pearl with all of its discoloration, indentations, and ornate appearance symbolized the music of the period that was filled with drama and tension.

Unfortunately, Bach and his music disappeared after his death on July 28, 1750. Disappeared? Let me explain. Bach was buried in an unmarked grave, unnoticed and undiscovered until 1894, nearly 150 years after his death! As for Bach’s compositions, well.... they went unnoticed until the latter half of the 19th century!

Johann Sebastian Bach’s world-renowned, organ works have been gracing concert halls, chapels, churches and cathedrals for over 300 years. While I am a huge fan of Bach’s compositions, there is one out of his 1,000 compositions, in particular, that resonates in my mind, especially around this spooky time of year, Bach’s Toccata and Fugue in D minor! Although it wasn’t until the 1980s that the Toccata and Fugue in D minor was repurposed, setting the stage to countless ghostly sound tracks. It now can also be heard in pop media, such as Walt Disney’s movie, Fantasia, video games, and rock music. This is quite comical being that Bach originally wrote this piece to be used as a sacred work for the Mass.

Through some further investigation, I also found that Toccata comes from the Italian word “toccare”, which when translated means, “to touch.” It is considered to be a virtuoso piece of music meant for fast moving fingers that can pluck multiple instruments. Personally speaking, I know this to be true being that this Toccata is one I practice for fun, and it frequently leaves my fingers in knots!

Many of you may still be asking, “What is this piece John rambles on about every year?” Well folks, question no longer! Members of our Accompanist Team will be playing the Toccata and Fugue in D minor at all the Masses this weekend, from our 3 Manuel Allen Organ in the Choir Loft, or on our Baby Grand Yamaha Piano in the Sanctuary. The Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative is welcome to come, listen and let this sacred piece touch the spooky side of your faithful hearts.

FROM OUR ST. MARY MUSIC MINISTER

John Anthony Volpe

FROM OUR SENIOR PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Fr. Arnold Colletti

Some time ago Boston hosted the International Catholic Stewardship Conference, in the first week of October, with 1,200 people in attendance. Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze said, “In the Church there are no spectators. It is not as in the case of soccer where 22 people are playing but two million are spectators who watch, enjoy, comment and sometimes yell and occasionally throw bottles. In the Church everyone is called to be players. It is indeed a great honor and a serious responsibility for us, as Christians, to be called by the Lord to be stewards, His stewards.”

Every September each pastor wants to tell his people about the call to serve in the Church, and beyond the parish boundaries, by sharing time, talent and treasure. Every pastor wants more—more disciples, more volunteers, and more money. Every September we go hunting for people to take part in the parish’s ministries. Did you come forward, or did you let others serve you and the parish?

When I think of the difficulties in overcoming parishioner response, I have to think of the obstacles confronting the call of “ministry for all.” We live in difficult times as we go through reconfiguration but, even without that, there are two obstacles that present the greatest challenge. 1) People really do not know how many people are required to grow a parish. 2) They operate with a vision of ministry that is too limited. For some, they view ministry as best done by professionals. For others, it means limiting ministry to that which is done within the confines of the Church.

Kathryn Palen, in her work A Ministry of All, writes: “Overcoming these obstacles of all calls for a cultural shift in our congregations. At least three things can help us make that shift: do theology, practice spirituality and tell stories.”

Good preaching and reading can offer avenues for people to enter into theological inquiry. I feel the best avenue for this is small faith groups. People gathered in homes to discuss such questions as: Where is God present for me in my life? What do I really believe? Where is my life leading me?

If spirituality is the lived experience of our faith, then the way I express my faith is not the same as the way you express your faith. I can, however, discover that my practiced faith can be enriched by entering into opportunities which expand my expressions of faith. It also provides us with traveling companions for our spiritual journey.

Storytelling is also important for us. Stories provide us with a context for how we live and interpret our lives. Our Jewish brothers and sisters understand the importance of this aspect of storytelling. They tell stories around their religious observances as a powerful way of explaining what they are doing and why. Read Abraham Heschel’s book, The Earth is the Lord’s, the Inner World of the Jew in Eastern Europe, to learn how important storytelling is in the development of a spiritual life.

How will we ever get to “a ministry of all” unless each of us begins to see that God has given each of us certain gifts for the building up of the Kingdom of God, in this place and in this time.
Next week’s second collection supports Catholic World Missions. By baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church and share their faith as missionaries. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelization programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope’s name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—a Pontifical Mission Society. Please visit www.propfaithboston.org for more information.

### St. Mary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKLY OFFERTORY</th>
<th>Weekend of October 5th/6th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</td>
<td>$17,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
<td>$17,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>$371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the actual, $4,985 is from electronic giving

### St. John

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKLY OFFERTORY</th>
<th>Weekend of Oct 5th/6th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</td>
<td>$11,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
<td>9,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>-$1,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the actual, $1,969 is from electronic giving

### FY 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Mary</th>
<th>St. John</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Budget</td>
<td>$239,960</td>
<td>$154,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>$210,409</td>
<td>$132,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>-$29,551</td>
<td>-$22,391</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STILL IN SEARCH OF FC MEMBERS!

After adding some new members, we remain in search of one volunteer to serve on the St. Mary Finance Council. We are looking for an individual with professional experience in fields such as—but not limited to—Finance, Accounting, Real Estate, or Financial Planning. If you are a member of St. Mary Parish and possess any of these skills, please contact Paul Friciano at the parish offices or by email: pfriciano@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!

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.

“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
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. John</th>
<th>St. Mary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which Mass do you currently attend?

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

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>
</tr>
</thead>
</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.

If you would like to honor 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.

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.

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Joan Leslie Drew of N. Chelmsford

Joan Leslie Drew, 75, of North Chelmsford, MA died Saturday, September 7, 2019 at her home.

She was married to James E. Drew with whom she celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on September 5, 2019.

Born in Lowell, she was the daughter of the late John and Leona (Sanford) Alexa.

She graduated from Lowell High School with the class of 1962.

She previously worked at the Ferry Road Animal Hospital in Nashua, NH.

She was a former member of the Tyngsboro Evangelical Congregational Church in Tyngsboro, MA.

She was a member of the Dunstable 4-H Club and enjoyed horse-back riding, summer with her family at York Beach, Maine and traveling.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her children, David Drew of Pelham, NH, Todd Drew and his wife Kelli of Dracut, MA, Ross Drew and his wife Mary of Tyngsboro, MA, and Jeffrey Drew of N. Chelmsford, MA, a brother, Bruce and his wife Barbara Alexa of North Carolina, 12 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late John J. Alexa, Stanley Alexa, Nancy Whitt, Debra Alexa and Carlie Alexa.

Her visiting hours were Wednesday, Sept. 11th from 3 to 7 P.M. Funeral was Thursday, Sept. 12th at 10:00AM at the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD. Burial in Fairview Cemetery, Chelmsford. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.