Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday • 4:00 PM
Sunday • 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

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

Weekday Mass Schedule
Monday - Friday • 7:00 AM

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

Reconciliation
Saturday • 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration
First Friday of the Month •
Monday - Wednesday •
9:30 - 11:30 am
in the OPC Chapel

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

Masses are Available via Live Stream
Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
LIVElI VIEW 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.

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

October 20, 2019
Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.”

-Luke 18:5
**St. Mary Calendar**

**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

**Monday, October 21**
- Matthew Bible Study • 10 am - 12 pm • PC Conf Room 1
- Seminarian Presentation (pg 3) • 7 - 8 pm • Church (or LiveView)
- Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto

**Tuesday, October 22**
- EPIC Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall
- Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto

**Wednesday, October 23**
- Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall
- Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto

**Thursday, October 24**
- 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 25**
- Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
- Knitting and Crocheting • 3:00 - 5:00 pm • Parish Hall
- Rosary • 7:00 pm • Grotto

**Saturday, October 26**
- 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 27**
- Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
- Grace Notes Rehearsal • 8:10 - 8:45 am • Church
- 11 am Mass Choir • 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
- 6 pm Music Ministry • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church

“**Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!”** - Responsorial Psalm 121

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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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**Evening Rosary at St. Mary Grotto**

St. Mary’s is blessed with the 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 7pm 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.*

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“**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
Support Group for Grieving Parents and Adult Siblings
10:30 am - 12:00 noon
St. John Old Parish Center

When your child or sibling dies, everything changes in your family, your life and your dreams. They are not only missing from your today, but from your future. Know that you are not alone in your grief and loneliness. All are welcome to a safe place to share your sacred story, find comfort, hope and encouragement as you continue a new path in life.

2nd ANNUAL Hail Mary Challenge

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

11 days left and we are close to reaching our goal! What a beautiful way to honor our Blessed Mother Mary in the month of the Rosary!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending October 13</th>
<th>44,171</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total To Date</td>
<td>905,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%age of Goal</td>
<td>90.58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St. John Calendar

• 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

• Monday, October 21 •
Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
ACTS Core Meeting • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Linehan
Families with Addiction Support Group • 7 - 8:30 pm • NPC
Seminarian Presentation • 7 - 8 pm • SM Church (or LiveView)

• Tuesday, October 22 •
Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
Open Music Ministry Rehearsal • 7:00 pm • Church

• Wednesday, October 23 •
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

• Thursday, October 24 •
African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library

• Friday, October 25 •
NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. Mary this week
Grief Support Group • 10:30 am - 12:00 pm • OPC
Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

• Sunday, October 27 •
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
Q. Why do we have a final judgment when everyone hears all of our sins? What about if we’re already in Heaven?

A. Whether or not we are in Heaven is actually not important to this question. We must recognize that there are two judgments we will face. The first is called the ‘particular judgment’ and that takes place immediately at our death. We come face-to-face with God and He reads our hearts and determines our openness to His love. Our actions will play a part in this moment, but they are not in themselves the determining factor. Ultimately, whether we end up in heaven or hell is decided by us and not by God. In His judgment, God simply reflects on where it is we have decided to go: does one’s heart truly seek the Lord, or is one’s heart closed to the Lord? If we are completely closed to Him, we go to hell. If we are completely open to Him, we go to Heaven. If we truly desire God’s love and are moving in the direction of being open, then we will go to purgatory.

The Final Judgment is really about God revealing His triumphant love and mercy. Yes, our sins are revealed but, quite frankly, in that moment you will not really care. In that moment God shows forth all the ways that humanity has rejected and spurned His love and mercy—particularly and most powerfully in the Cross; He will also show the depth of His love, mercy, and compassion. As the power of His love shines through the Cross of Christ, it will also show in the end that the only reason anyone ends up in hell is by their own choice. As all is revealed, it becomes clear that those in heaven are not all that different from those in hell. The only thing that separates us is the individual’s choice to reject the love that God has given us in the Cross. And in that rejection, the person refuses to accept the mercy and compassion that God desires to bestow upon them. God desires salvation for all, but not all will accept that salvation. At the Final Judgement what is truly revealed is not our sinfulness—that we must take for granted—but rather, the depth of God’s love for His creation.

Did you know?

that Dracula was Catholic?

• Prince Țepeș led the fight against the Ottoman Empire.
• He became known as ‘Vlad the Impaler,” because as the Ottomans sent an advanced scout to start the battle, the bulk of the forces came up, and Vlad Tepes and his forces killed them all. He took all of them and put them on eight-foot-tall stakes.
• When the rest of the Ottomans came, they saw 5,000 dead bodies impaled on stakes and they retreated.
• He’s a national hero in Romania because he saved their country.
• The reason Vlad the Impaler became known as Dracula is because he was in what was called the Order of the Dracul, or the Dragon. This was a religious order, kind of like the Knights Templar. They vowed to fight the invading Ottoman Empire.
• “Vlad’s” father was the first one of his lineage to be a member of the Order of the Dragon. Since he was the diminutive, he was ‘Dracula.’ So that’s where the word Dracula comes from- a Christian religious order that required its initiates to defend the Cross and fight the enemies of Christianity!

But you are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own, so that you may announce the praises” of Him who called you out of darkness, into His wonderful light.

COMMISSIONING OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS

At all Masses (at both churches) on the following dates, the celebrant will commission all of our Liturgical Ministers according to the below schedule. We do hope you will be able to attend Mass on the weekend that applies to you so that the congregation can give special witness to the gift you are to our parish families!

October 27th & 28th: EMHCs and Sacristans
November 2nd & 3rd: Lectors and Cantors
November 9th & 10th: Altar Servers (all ages)
November 16th & 17th: Ushers/Sextons and Choir Members
of what’s happening in our Collaborative!

The St. Mary Music Ministry cordially invites you to Chelmsford’s first MESSIAH SING

We are very excited to offer this opportunity to all who have a passion and love for music.

The UMASS Lowell Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Richter, will be joining us!

Saturday, December 7, 2019
7pm at St. Mary Church

You won’t want to miss this event

Pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross
Sunday, November 10... 10 am - 2:30 pm... transportation provided

Join us for this awesome opportunity to see one of Boston’s most beautiful churches: the seat of the Archdiocese and the largest Roman Catholic church in New England. Dedicated in 1875, the Cathedral was designed by noted church architect, Patrick Keely, and is a gorgeous example of the Gothic Revival style. It recently underwent its first major restoration since its building. This two-year process was completed and the cathedral re-opened this past Holy Week. We will participate in 11:00 am Mass, enjoy a tour, and share lunch together. Transportation to the Cathedral will be provided via bus. RSVP is REQUIRED!

www.signupgenius.com/go/409044fadae22abfe3-cathedral

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
5:00 - 7:00 pm... ST. MARY PARISH HALL

Come and enjoy all the deliciousness and fellowship of a Thanksgiving Dinner. Tickets are $10 per person, or $12 per person at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office beginning November 4th, or following all Masses on the weekend of November 2nd/3rd. All proceeds from this event will benefit our Youth Ministry program.

Remembering OUR LOVED ONES

**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.
ST. MARY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Upcoming

Deep Dive Events

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

Eucharistic Adoration **
Thursday, November 7 • 7-8 pm St. Mary Church
This evening of Adoration will begin with an introduction to Adoration, followed by a period of prayer that will be accompanied by music and silence.

* This is also a Confirmation Deep Dive opportunity for Confirmation I and II students.
** This is a required Deep Dive for grades 7 & 8. If you can’t attend this date, you must attend January 8.

Completion of a reflection sheet is REQUIRED for ALL deep dives. Downloadable or online reflection can be found on our website as part of the specific deep dive page.

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)
Full Class schedules can be found on our website Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars and Schedules

October 20th Class/FGS* Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1 FGS, Group C</th>
<th>Grade 2 FGS, Group D</th>
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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>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3 FGS: Group C</th>
<th>Grade 3 FGS, Group D</th>
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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>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 4 FGS, Group C</th>
<th>Grade 4 FGS, Group D</th>
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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>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 5 FGS, Group C</th>
<th>Grade 5, Group D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 6 FGS, Group C</th>
<th>Grade 6 FGS, Group D</th>
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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>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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CONFIRMATION I: 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall
Parent Gathering at 4:15 pm

* FAMILY GATHERING SESSION
Parents attend with their children

October 27th Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1 CLASS</th>
<th>Grade 2 CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Hall</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 3-6 CLASS GROUPS A &amp; C</th>
<th>Grades 3-6 CLASS GROUPS B &amp; D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am Parish Center</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade 7 & 8 CLASS: 4:15 - 5:45 pm Parish Hall
• ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS •

Upcoming Deep Dive Events

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

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www.chelmsfordcatholic.org

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

October 20th Class/FGS* Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1 FGS, Group B</th>
<th>Grade 2 FGS, Group B</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3 FGS, Group B</th>
<th>Grade 4 FGS, Group B</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 5 FGS, Group B</th>
<th>Grade 6 FGS, Group B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

October 27th Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1-2 Class</th>
<th>Grades 7-8 Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPC or OPC</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 3-6 Class... Groups A &amp; B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am in NPC or OPC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALL FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES
IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Follow us on Instagram

Upcoming Deep Dives can also be found on Instagram.

FOLLOW US TODAY!
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.

THE MEANING OF VIRTUE AND HOW YOU LIVE AND EMBODY THE VIRTUE OF CHARITY

2019 Youth Essay Contest sponsored by Knights of Columbus

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 following subject: Discuss the Meaning of Virtue and how you live and Embody the Virtue of Charity.

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

Trees, Us and the Message
An article by Parishioner Peggy Hassett

In the early days of my retirement, I was reacquainted with the beauty of autumn and all that season offers. While working, I often began my days very early, missing nature’s palette of colors—truly difficult to duplicate—and returning home late or after dark following a meeting or attending classes. But, now, the beauty offered to all New Englanders is mine to admire, to enjoy always with a sense of awe. The same variety of trees that offer us shade throughout the summer months, begin to show another aspect of God’s beautiful creation, with its ability to speak to us showing us that God uses all means available to remind us of His nearness.

Almost daily, I walk for about an hour, not only for my physical and mental health, but also for my spiritual health as I connect with the earth and the One who created it all. Walking allows me the simple pleasure of slowing down in so many ways, offering me uncomplicated moments in which to simply breathe and enjoy the sacrament of the moment, while offering my gratitude to the Creator, who gives all of this to me.

As I stride without any instrument of measure, briskly moving through my neighborhood of tree-lined streets, I truly enjoy the quiet, solitude and peacefulness of alone-time—well, almost alone-time. I am convinced that my walks are never truly alone but companioned by the Spirit of the Divine, who awakens me to a sprinkling of that Presence with each step. It is in this time I notice the tall, healthy trees that reveal the change of beautiful colors, I notice trees that do not appear as healthy but reveal some hope-filled color, and then I notice trees that are curved, bent by the effects of nature’s harsh treatment; yet they offer what they can to show they are partaking in this colorful exhibit. One of my discoveries in these moments is how much in common we have with the trees in my walking space; like us, none are perfect. Very few—if any of us—appear perfect and yet we, as a collection of bent timber, have the ability, and are invited to offer a degree of heaven-sent beauty, hope, and encouragement to those walking near us. We, like the mini forest I see on my walks, have days when we do stand tall, days when we appear to stand tall with hidden concerns, and days when we feel all twisted with worry, or totally bent of sadness and grief; but our individual beauty is always present. May we, like the trees around us, do our best to be an instrument through which God’s Presence and message of hope and trust are revealed to those walking near you and me.

Let everything that has breath praise God!
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.
On Columbus Day, we went on our yearly hiking trip as a collaborative. We hiked up Mt. Chocorua and the views were simply stunning. The top of the mountain is above the tree line and you have a complete and unobstructed 360-degree view. The trees have started changing their colors and so the woods below were vibrant with color. On the way up as we were looking at the vista below, Courtney said to me, “How could people not believe in God when they look at this?” I had no really good answer since I have the same question. When we got to the top it was somewhat windy and so we decided not to celebrate Mass there, but I had noticed a spot below that was a little more sheltered and had a tremendous view.

As we started down the mountain, I went ahead of the group to set everything up for Mass so it would be ready when the rest of the group arrived. The space we had chosen had a perfect place to set up for Mass, and so I got everything out and ready and then put on the Mass vestments. Shortly after donning my vestments the first members of the group arrived and sat down and waited for the rest of the group. It was at that moment that a gentleman climbed up behind me and, showing his surprise, then turned and said to the people he was climbing with, “Hey, there’s a priest up here!” You could tell he did not know what to make of the situation and was completely caught off guard. It sort of reminded me of the old puzzles where you had to find whatever it was that did not belong in the picture.

We all have had those “Aha situations!” We get baffled by what is happening because something seems completely out of place. And we are not entirely sure how to respond. When climbing a mountain, we do not anticipate seeing a priest celebrating Mass. As human beings we tend to get flummoxed when we are placed in these types of circumstances, and we are at a loss as to how we should react. The gentleman in our story, as he finally walked by, asked if we were celebrating a wedding. Considering the number of kids there, it seemed an odd question, but I replied, “No, we are simply celebrating Mass.” He clearly was trying to create some context in which this situation would make sense to him. Again, that is a very human response. Most people need to have things fit into some logical pattern in order to process what’s taking place around them.

In our relationship with God we can, many times, find ourselves surprised by how God is acting in our life. He acts in a way that does not fit into the narrative we have created for ourselves. But, we simply need to look to the Incarnation itself, Jesus being conceived by Holy Spirit in the womb of the Ever Virgin Mary—Jesus who has two natures in the one person. He has a nature that is 100% divine as the second person of the Blessed Trinity and a nature that is fully human, like us in all things but sin. The people of the time were not anticipating that God would unite Himself with us in this way. Yet, in hindsight we can see this truth revealed in the Old Testament, but the people were caught off guard and did not know how to respond. The idea that God loved us so deeply that He would condescend to become one with us seemed preposterous.

It is also one of the reasons we have difficulties noticing how God is acting in our lives. But God is always acting in our lives, and it is about our being willing to recognize what He is doing. It is about our being willing to look at the world around us and acknowledge that his power is at work. It is as Saint Paul tells us through his letter to the Romans, “Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what He has made. As a result, they have no excuse; for although they knew God, they did not accord Him glory as God, or give Him thanks.” In other words, God can be seen through his creation, but the problem is that we choose not to recognize Him. Why is that?

It is very simple: when we recognize that God is working in our lives, we need to accept the fact that He has a plan for us. We have to recognize that He truly cares for us. We have to recognize that He expects a response from us. And usually what God is calling us to do is out of our comfort zone. It does not fit into our pattern of life as we see it. It is easier then to ignore God, rather than to have to respond and change our ways.

The reality is that throughout all of salvation history people have constantly found reasons to ignore and reject God and his presence in their life; this has been the normal response of human beings to God. And it is not simply the people who have no faith, but even his faithful followers rejected Him. Look simply to the Apostles’ response to Jesus during his passion; they abandoned Him. The wonderful thing is that God never abandons us; rather, He will keep popping up in ways that are truly surprising. He is simply waiting for us to respond to 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,
I am a fan of luminous rosaries and Madonna Statues. I have been trying to find, for a few years now, a nicely detailed luminous Madonna statue. Growing up, my family had some quirky faith practices that involved glow-in-the-dark rosaries and Madonna statues, and I’ve never lost my childhood affinity for both.

Hunting and fishing to put food on the table at my grandparents’ house was something we did with great regularity. We would be out hunting or fishing often until almost sunset. Being the youngest of the crew it was my job to run ahead and prepare our little “chapel,” for everyone to come back and pray together before we went inside. My granddad called me his little light bearer. When he sent me on my way, I was so proud to have been chosen for the task and took my responsibilities very seriously.

I loved the little “chapel” my granddad made for us. It was outside under the back stairs of the back porch. It was just a lean-to shed but we always referred to it as our chapel. It had a dirt floor that I regularly swept, a rough shelf with a small step stool underneath, a bare light bulb hanging from the ceiling, and a giant glow-in-the-dark rosary hanging on a simple hook on the wall. There was also a holy water font on the wall and the most beautiful luminous Madonna statue, that sat on the shelf on a starched white cloth with a scalloped lace border that my grandma had made.

As soon as my granddad sent me on my way, I would rush to get back home to our chapel as fast as I could. I would pull out the stool, climb up on my tippy toes and pull the silver chain to turn the light bulb on, and then I would carefully pick up the Madonna statue and hold her over my head to the light bulb. I would try to hold her there until my sisters and my granddad arrived. Usually at that point my arm was shaking, and I could feel a good burn from my shoulder down my arm—that’s when I knew I had a good glow going. I would put the Madonna statue back on the shelf, turn off the light bulb, and then we would all take our places in the dark holding the giant luminous rosary.

I remember the way my sisters smelled of the mountains and the woods, how big my granddad seemed when he kneeled with us, and how toasty warm we were, all gathered closely together in our chapel with our heads bent, slowly praying the rosary. No matter how tired or cold we were, we never would have dreamed of going inside without first stopping in the chapel to pray and thank Jesus and Mary.

It was a ritual I loved for as long as it lasted. I was surrounded by people I loved and who loved me, in a chapel I was so proud of and loved to play in, talking to Jesus and Mary from the bottom of our hearts, with Mary watching over us. I knew she loved every odd thing about me because my mom and the sisters told me she did, and I loved her back with my whole heart—still do.

When I think back to my granddad praying with us in our little makeshift chapel, I am so thankful for those simple times of sharing our prayers, knowing Mary and Jesus were right there with us. It was all very basic and a bit rough, but it carved in my heart a deep love for Mary, Jesus, the holy rosary and, of course, of all things “luminous”. During some of the hardest moments of my life, that feeling of security, of love, and of blessedness would come back to me when I prayed the rosary.

When I compare my “light bearer” duties to our faith, I think being a Christian is a little like holding the Madonna up to the light bulb; if our faith doesn’t bring us some discomfort, we’re not doing it right. We must give it all we’ve got to get our glow going and be the light bearers we were created and called to be.
This week’s second collection supports Catholic World Missions. 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.

For more information, visit www.propfaithboston.org.

**St. Mary**

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

| Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses | $17,140 | of the actual, $2,455 is from electronic giving |
| Actual Received | $12,857 |
| Variance | -$4,283 |

Holy Fathers and Missionary Efforts | $2,960

**FY 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP**

| Offertory Budget | Actual | Variance |
| $257,100 | $223,266 | -$33,834 |

**St. John**

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

| Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses | $11,040 | of the actual, $1,647 is from electronic giving |
| Actual Received | $9,917 |
| Variance | -$1,123 |

Holy Fathers and Missionary Efforts | $2,433

**FY 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP**

| Offertory Budget | Actual | Variance |
| $165,600 | $142,086 | -$23,514 |

**HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU YET?** 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 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.

**Online Giving Programs:** visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org.

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

**Sunday, November 3rd**

7 am - 7 pm at St. Mary

The Marian Prayer Program presents the 18th Marian image sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Each KOC jurisdiction receives several Marian images, which serve as centerpieces for prayer services. This year, the prayer service is intended to raise awareness of the plight of Christians persecuted for their faith and to stand in prayerful solidarity with them.

**Silver Rose Program with Rosary**

Wednesday, November 6th

Following the 7 am Mass at St. Mary and 9 am Mass at St. John

Our Lady of Guadalupe Silver Rose has been a KOC tradition for 58 years. This year, it makes a stop here at our collaborative parishes. After viewing the Silver Rose, there will be a brief description of what the silver Rose represents, followed by the recitation of The Rosary.
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 schedule 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>St. John</th>
<th>St. Mary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
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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

**SUN, OCT 20**
10:30 am: For the People of the Parish
12:30 pm: In Thanksgiving for escaping plane crash

**SAT, OCT 26**
4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

**SUN, OCT 27**
10:30 am: Donald R. Donohue: Memorial
12:30 pm: Souls of Udoka Okoronkwo and Ifeoma Anene: Memorial

St. Mary

**SAT, OCT 19**
4:00 pm: David Gorham: 19th Anniversary

**SUN, OCT 20**
9:00 am: Dianne DiLando: 9th Anniversary
11:00 am: For the People of the Parish
6:00 pm: Dominick More, William A. Littlefield, and Marie E. Littlefield, Inge R. Littlefield

**MON, OCT 21**
7:00 am: Gerald P. Cole, Sr: Memorial

**TUE, OCT 22**
7:00 am: Gail Salwa: Memorial

**WED, OCT 23**
7:00 am: Michael Ralph Vatalaro, Jr: Memorial

**THU, OCT 24**
7:00 am: LIVING INTENTION
For the 40 days for Life Initiative

**FRI, OCT 25**
7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial

**SAT, OCT 26**
4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

**SUN, OCT 27**
9:00 am: Christopher and Nora Gambon and Michael Mokrzycki: Memorial
11:00 am: Russell S. Knower: 13th Anniversary
6:00 pm: Michael Hand: Memorial

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 Leonard Comeau

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:

Mary Barrett Turner
Blessings on your Birthday

Rose Provided by Mahoney’s Garden Center

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Joseph Bomal, 98, of N. Chelmsford died early Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at his home surrounded by his family after a long illness.

He was married to the late Jacqueline E. (Farrow) Bomal who died March 27, 1994.

Born in Chelmsford, MA on June 20, 1921 the son of the late Walter and Delia (Hubbage) Bomal, and graduated from Chelmsford High School with the class of 1939.

During WW II, he served in the U.S. Coast Guard as a Seaman First Class. He worked as a Shipper-Receiver for Prince Macaroni in Lowell before retiring in 1986. He previously had been employed with Southwell Combing Co. in N. Chelmsford and after retirement worked part time at the Sears Dept. Store in Nashua, NH.

He was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church in N. Chelmsford. He was a past member of the A.W. Vinal Post #313 in N. Chelmsford, Stoney Brook Fish & Game Bowling League and the Tyngsboro Men’s Bowling League. For seventeen years he played baseball for the Varney AA from 1940-1957.

He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Pamela-Jo and David Bruce of N. Chelmsford and Wendy-Jo and David Hovey of Middleton, MA; his son and daughter-in-law, Joseph W. and Theresa (Gillis) Bomal of Billerica; five grandchildren, Lisa (Bruce) Given and Jeffrey Bruce, Kristin (Bomal) Bourque and Kimberly (Bomal) Dorant, and Peter Hovey; six great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He was the brother of the late Charles Bomal of Westford, John Bomal of N. Chelmsford, Stephen Bomal of Lowell, Frances Gagne of CA, and Stella Poznick of Lowell.

His visiting hours were Friday, Sept. 20th from 9am to 10:30 am at the Dolan Funeral Home, 106 Middlesex St., Chelmsford with a Funeral Mass at 11:00 AM at St. John the Evangelist Church, Chelmsford. Burial in Fairview Cemetery, Chelmsford. Donations in his name may be made to Merrimack Valley Hospice, 360 Merrimack St. Building #9 Lawrence, MA 01843. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.