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.

When He reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received Him with joy. -Luke 19: 5-6

November 3, 2019: Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY • 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY • 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
FRIDAY • 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SUNDAY • 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

St. John the Evangelist
115 Middlesex Street
North Chelmsford

St. Mary
25 North Road
Chelmsford

**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
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.
Treats Only Please!

Our Faith Formation Program is looking to collect Halloween candy, whether it be leftovers from your treat bag, or a new purchase in the after-season clearance sales. The candy will be used to make treat bags for various shelters and for positive reinforcement for the children in the program. All candy can be left in the marked containers in the parish hall of either church.

Annual Harvest Dinner
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 THIS WEEKEND, November 2nd/3rd. All proceeds from this event will benefit our Youth Ministry program.

Pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross
Sunday, November 10... 9:45 am - 2:30 pm...

The response has been overwhelming! This trip is filled to capacity!

If you would still like to attend Mass and the Tour, you are more than welcome to carpool amongst yourselves and follow the bus or meet us there. Mass will be celebrated at 11 am. EVERYONE IS TO BRING THEIR OWN BAGGED LUNCH!

2nd Annual Hail Mary Challenge
1,000,000 Hail Mary’s in Six Months (ending Oct 31)

With still 4 days remaining, we have REACHED OUR GOAL!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending 10/27</th>
<th>69,736</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total To Date</td>
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St. John Calendar

- **Sunday, November 3**
  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

- **Monday, November 4**
  Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  Mass of Remembrance • 7:00 pm • Church
  Families with Addiction Support Group • 7 - 8:30 pm • NPC
  SVdP Meeting • 7:00 - 9:00 pm • OPC
  ← Seminarian Presentation • 7 - 8 pm • SM Church (or LiveView)

- **Tuesday, November 5**
  Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  Tuesday Morning Coffee, following 9:00 am Mass • Hall
  Evening Prayer Service • 7:00 pm • Church

- **Wednesday, November 6**
  Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  KOC Silver Rose Display and Rosary • following 9 am Mass
  Culture of Life Group Mtg 7:00 - 8:00 pm Linehan
  God Pizza and Beer 7:00 - 9:00 pm OPC

- **Thursday, November 7**
  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
  FF Deep Dive Event • See Page 6

- **Friday, November 8**
  African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library
  Baptism Prep • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Mariotti
  FF Deep Dive Event • See Page 6

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

- **Sunday, November 10**
  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 • Linehan
  Faith Community Nursing Mtg, following 10:30 am Mass • OPC Library
  Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church
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

The Collaborative Social Justice Committee is beginning an education series on immigration. Exodus tells the story of the Chosen People, Israel, who were victims of bitter slavery in Egypt. For forty years they lived as wanderers with no homeland of their own. Their experience of living as homeless aliens was so painful and frightening that God ordered his people for all time to have special care for the alien: “You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)

Engelie Blomerus will briefly share with us the struggles and joys that she and her family experienced as immigrants from South Africa, and how her experiences led her to helping others who also face this life-changing transition. She will talk about her work with her church in assisting immigrants to our local area.

We will then hear from Zainab, a Kurdish refugee from Syria, who will share quite a different story... one of leaving her homeland amidst war and destruction. We will learn about how she and Engelie crossed paths and shared stories in the “Conversation Room,” a ministry focused on helping local immigrants build community and relationships. We will learn how maybe we, too, can begin similar work in our own collaborative community.

Following both presentations, there will be time for a question and answer session, and refreshments will be served. We hope to see you at what promises to be another educational and eye-opening speaker event.

Proposed New Mass Schedule:

All feedback from the letter that has been posted in bulletin over past month MUST BE submitted NO LATER THAN THIS SUNDAY, November 4th. The online feedback form—Link can be found on the home page of our website... Click here for an important message from Fr. Brian regarding the proposed new Mass schedule”—is also available until midnight of the same date.

These various questions were taken from my visits to our faith formation classes.

Q. How old is God?

A. God does not have an age because God was never born. We believe that God, and God alone, is eternal and that He does not exist in time or space. Rather, God through his love and mercy created both time and space and all that exists, and through that same love God sustains all creation. We also believe that when we hopefully come into the presence of God, we will enter into eternity and time will also cease to exist for us.

Q. What did God do before creation?

A. We believe as Christians that God is Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Before God chose to create, He simply remained in relationship with himself, for God is a community that exists in love. The very essence of God is love and the reality of love is that it must be shared. God therefore expressed the love that is his very nature, by each person of the Trinity loving the other and giving of his entire self to the other. And it is this very love that would express itself in the act of creation.

What language does God think in?

God really does not think in the same way that we do, and hence, He does not think in a language. However, He expresses himself to us in a language because that is the only way we can understand Him. In reaching out to us, God uses human means of communication in order for us to be able to grasp what He is trying to convey to us. But ultimately the divine “language” really is the language of love. It is the language of sacrifice. It is the language of humility. It is the language of complete self-giving. We become aware of how God thinks through his very actions.

Are you more like Cain or Abel?

I thought this was a very interesting question, and it had to do with what they were covering in class. I responded that it depended on how old I was. When I was younger I was probably more like Cain: my brothers and I got into a lot of fights growing up. It seemed like a natural and normal occurrence. But as we have gotten older, I would say I have moved more towards Abel with my brothers. However, from time to time Cain still wants to come out.
of what’s happening in our Collaborative!

St. Mary
Music Ministry

cordially invites you to
Chelmsford’s first

MESSIAH SING

Saturday, December 7
7 pm at St. Mary Church

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

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!

This Weekend: November 2nd & 3rd: Lectors and Altar Servers
November 9th & 10th: Ushers/Sextons and Greeters
November 16th & 17th: Music Ministry Members
November 23rd & 24th: EMHCs and Sacristans

“COURAGE...is what it takes to stand up and speak; it is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

Join Fr. Brian on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

March 1—10, 2020

Pilgrims have been traveling to the Holy Land for hundreds of years, and as part of your pilgrimage, we include many of the rich traditions that have evolved over time. Each day of your pilgrimage will allow for time to renew and affirm your faith, to pray and reflect. The Scriptures will come alive as you visit our Lord’s homeland, while being inspired by the natural beauty of the landscape and rich historical heritage. It is an encounter that has changed the lives of many pilgrims. It is an act of faith and prayer.

Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org for a link to all the tour information including the daily itinerary, reservation application, inclusions and cost.

Additionally, brochures can be found in the St. Mary church entrance and parish center, the St. John new parish center, and the parish offices.

Remembering OUR LOVED ONES

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

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.

Cathedral Pilgrimage
Sunday, November 10 • 9:45 am - 2:30 pm
Due to the overwhelming response, this event is filled to capacity. For those of you who are already signed up, please pack a bagged lunch and meet us in the church parking lot by 9:30 am!

Harvest Dinner
Saturday, November 16 • various shifts
There are various shifts available for volunteers to serve in a variety of ways (set up, kitchen, servers, selling tickets, clean up). To learn more and to sign up, please visit our website. Click on Youth Ministry then Harvest Dinner, where you will find a direct link to do so. NOTE: This is an optional Confirmation Deep Dive.

* 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 sheets can be found on website as part of the specific deep dive page.

November 3rd Class/FGS* Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Grade 1 FGS, Group A</th>
<th>Grade 2 FGS: Group B</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
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<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<th>Grade 2 FGS: Group A</th>
<th>Grade 3 FGS: Group B</th>
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<th>Grade 4 FGS, Group B</th>
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CONFIRMATION II: 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall

* FAMILY GATHERING SESSION
Parents attend with their children

November 10th Class Schedule

DUE TO VETERAN’S DAY HOLIDAY
There will be no classes or events today!

Full Class and Deep Dive Schedules can be found on our website
www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars and Schedules
ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Upcoming Deep Dive Events

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.

Cathedral Pilgrimage
Sunday, November 10 • 9:45 am - 2:30 pm
Due to the overwhelming response, this event is filled to capacity. For those of you who are already signed up, please pack a bagged lunch and meet us in the church parking lot by 9:30 am!

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Saturday, November 16 • various shifts
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November 3rd Class/FGS* Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>FGS, Group A</th>
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<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CONFIRMATION II
11:30 am - 1:00 pm in Parish Hall
* FAMILY GATHERING SESSION
Parents attend with their children

November 10th Class Schedule

DUE TO VETERAN’S DAY HOLIDAY
There will be no classes or events today!

ALL FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Follow us on Instagram

Upcoming Deep Dives can be found on our Instagram page!

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

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. Please contact Laura Zatta at lkzatta@gmail.com. The scheduled dates thus far are…

November 7th, 21st • December 5th

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

NOTE: This is an optional Confirmation Deep Dive.

You are a child of God. You are wonderfully made, dearly loved, and precious in His sight.

-Psalm 139

BAPTISM We joyfully welcome the following children into our Collaborative Family. May the Lord continue to bless these children and their parents, and fill their homes with the light of faith.

BAPTIZED AT ST. MARY
Maeve Katherine Hathaway
Marciana Rose Moretto
Lyla Brynn Muldoon
Abel Jeffrey Walsh
Jessica Ann Cassidy

BAPTIZED AT ST. JOHN
Serenity Grace Roldan
Riley Shannon Kelliher
Avery Ali Martone

St. John’s Beautification Offering
This offering funds the beautification of our Altar. Your voluntary donation can be accompanied by the request that it be “In Memory/Appreciation Of”, or “For the Intentions Of” someone.

Peter Grimes • Norah Mahoney • Brian J. Muscato • George O’Brien •
In order to promote communication and transparency throughout the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative, you are encouraged to forward any comments and concerns you may have directly to the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils.

COLLABORATIVE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish council matters can be sent to:
CollaborativePPC@chelmsfordcatholic.org
or 978-256-2374/ 978-251-8571, ext 145
Current Council Members are …

St. John Members
Angela McMaster (co-chair)  Peter Lando (co-chair)
Mike Condor
Scott Davidson
Katrina Horan
Beth Jacavanco
Drew Jubinville
Ellen St. George
Augustine Tweneh
Ray Wagner (secretary)

St. Mary Members
Laura Conte
Rob Donnelly
Karen Drake
Jessica Hägg
Kathy Latina
Lori McDonald
Steve McMillan
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
Paul Brzezenski
Celeste Dunn
Grace Ann Steed

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.
Over the last few weeks I have read and listened to many parishioners’ insights and concerns about the proposed changes to the Mass schedule. In any Church community this is a difficult moment, as it brings about disruption in a place where people want stability. It is clear to me that people have created real connections in the community where they have attended Mass over many years. Hence, change can bring to the fore many different feelings, all of which are reasonable.

It is understandable that people want things to remain the same, or at least remain the same for them. It is also understandable that people can get a little parochial, that is, a little narrow in their perceptions of what is needed. The reality is that we must be proactive in our planning. It is getting increasingly difficult to get help in covering our current Mass schedule, and as time goes on, it will only get more difficult. The number of priests who can help is diminishing as they are being pulled in many different directions by the number of parishes needing help. We must look to create a schedule, sooner rather than later, that can work for two priests, but also one that, on any given weekend, a single priest can handle on his own. It would be irresponsible of me, as your pastor, not to prepare our community for this real need. And this need is not something that is coming sometime in the future; it is a real issue that we are facing here and now.

It is also necessary in any evaluation to recognize that the disruptions are not simply issues of convenience. The reality is that the concerns people have are many times rooted in very understandable difficulties that any change can bring about. But it is also a reality that people tend to focus on, and give top priority to, what the disruptions will mean to them or the people they care about. Might we try asking ourselves… “Will I make it all about me and my perceived needs, or will I look to the greater good?” And in our particular situation: “Will I look only to what is good for my community, or will I recognize that I am part of the Church and am called to look to the needs of both communities?”

We are in a time of transition in our Church, and what that will ultimately entail I do not know. What I do know is that what we are now facing as a Church is nothing new in the life of the Church: She has always encountered and weathered storms throughout the centuries. To me, there is little doubt that the same will be true during our time of tribulation. What is clear is the reason the Church has always made it past her difficulties: the faith and determination of the people of God and the enduring power of the Holy Spirit.

As I have read all the comments and listened directly to concerns, what I find to be truly heartening is the level of understanding most of you have. A very few have commented in ways that were, quite frankly, harsh and somewhat lacking in Christian sensibility, but most of those struggling with the change are doing so with a real sense of Christian love and concern. Yes, some may decide to walk away. It is easy to do when things get difficult—when they do not go our way. The real test of faith is not found in acting as Christ when it is easy. Rather, the real test is when we are called to act against our own perceived needs and desires, in order to act for the good of others. It is clear to me what the depth of commitment is of the people of our two communities for their parish families and our collaborative. Working together, we will weather this storm. We will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be his instrument of love and support in this time of tribulation. We have something very special in how these two communities are working together, and there should be little doubt that we have created, and will continue to create, a place where Christ is found. Our ultimate purpose is to be that instrument of Christ in the lives of others. We must be willing to do so no matter what the situation or circumstance is. We must do so no matter if it is convenient or inconvenient. The ultimate reality is not about when or where we go to Mass, but that we go to Mass. It is about the reality that we are truly blessed by how available Mass is to us, which is not true for much of the world, and even in many parts of our country. It is about recognizing the ultimate purpose of the Mass, which is for the building up of a community of faith that seeks to follow Christ and to be Christ for others.

Whatever may be determined over the next few months, I have one simple request: first and foremost, please seek to be Christ for others.

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,

[Signature]
Falling Back to Go Forward

The way I’ve remembered to turn my clocks back an hour at the end of Daylight Savings Time has always been “time to fall back.” Now, of course, our computers, phones and other devices take care of these time changes automatically, but I still have a few clocks at home that need manual changing.

We’ll soon be in the holy season of Advent – only four short weeks away – which invites us to “fall back” from some of our usual activities, to get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Unlike our electronic devices, we don’t automatically slow down or change gears. It takes a deliberate effort.

I often find this hard to do because the days only seem to get busier leading up to Thanksgiving, preparing Christmas cards and gifts to give or get in the mail, and scheduling a few more get-togethers than usual. It’s easy for the customs and habits of the season to crowd out why I do all these things in the first place.

At my home parish, our priest is also a Benedictine monk. He introduced a wonderful weekly “fall back” time throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons: Sunday sung evening prayer. Every Sunday at 6:00 pm those of us who can, gather to unhurriedly pray in song and word, to sit quietly, and to reflect on God’s many blessings to us.

The Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative has been blessed to have Sung Evening Prayer at Saint John’s on the first Tuesday of every month since July. The last one for this year is on Tuesday, November 5th, at 7:00 pm. If you’ve never been, why not set aside the time?

It’s a great way to recharge batteries for the week ahead, and a wonderful way to slow down enough to get ready to go forward with the Holy Spirit.

We’re not in Advent yet, but it might be worth spending a few minutes now, thinking about how this year’s Advent could be more of a “fall back” season for you than in previous years. Let’s pray for each other that we’ll find a way to do this.

The first reading today is from the Book of Wisdom (11:22-12.2) “For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made. How could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved had it not been called forth by you?”

One of the major issues politicians will need to address is what to do about climate change. Some people will say it is not a problem, just a change in cyclical season such as we experience in summer and winter. Others will tell us if we keep on treating the planet as we do, we will end life on the planet within twenty years.

Matthew Fox in Creation Spirituality wrote, “Christians and other believers must learn anew the sacredness of creation. Without this, the ‘first article of faith,’ we are lost. Our children will be adrift and without a future. Creation is, in many respects, what our species makes of it here on earth. How foolish of divinity to give us such divine and demonic powers. What are we doing with it?...Sometimes we sin by omission—by not realizing or admitting sins against the biosphere (rightly called ecocide) or against earth species (biocide) or against the soil (geocide). Yet these are truly mortal sins, for they will prove to be deadly for generations yet to come.”

“How can it be that such a drama can be jeopardized as it is today? Only because our species with its religions, education, moralities, governments, economics, has lost the sense of creation. When that happens, nothing is holy, nothing seems worth the struggle for justice that is necessary to preserve it.”

Rachel Carson wrote: “A child’s world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood.” A teacher recently told me she felt that children today lose their mystic child before third grade.

For the last 50 years I have gone home on my days off, a home that has 65 acres of woods behind the house. How I love the woods with its smell, its wind, its peace and the voice of God. I am transported to Eden and I am in the garden walking with God.

Thomas Merton wrote in When the trees say nothing, “What a miserable bundle of foolish idiots we are! We kill everything around us even when we think we love and respect nature and life. This sudden power to deal death to all around us simply by the way we live, and in total innocence and ignorance, is by far the most disturbing symptom of our time. I hope we can learn.”

To enter into the sacredness of creation, read Daniel 3:57-88 Let all creation praise the Lord, and Psalm 104.
Annual Thanksgiving Collection
supporting the Lowell Transitional Living Center
November 16th/17th at BOTH PARISHES
“Let us be thankful that we are able to give”

It’s that time of year again! On the weekend of November 16th/17th we will be holding—at both St. John’s and St. Mary’s—the annual collection in support of the Lowell Transitional Living Center in Lowell. As we embark on this collection, we will look at some aspects of this facility that does important work in our community.

Although one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the United States continues to struggle with homelessness. In fact, there has never been a time when we have not had homeless people. The Lowell Transitional Living Center serves over 900 homeless adults and includes a range of services from shelter, three daily meals, a safe environment, individual assessments and referrals and clinics which provide medical care.

Did you know that not every person who is homeless is an alcoholic or substance abuser? The cold hard facts are that a person living from week-to-week on a paycheck, who loses that paycheck, cannot possibly afford the mortgage and can lose his/her house?

As we conduct this collection, it is important for us to remember that small acts of kindness done with great love can change people’s lives. Your donation, no matter how large or small, can make a real difference in someone’s life. And remember, be thankful that you’re able to give!

Cartons will be provided at all St. John’s entrances and at St. Mary’s main entrance. Items we are in need of are listed to the right.
BOWLING & PIZZA EVENT
for Children with Special Needs
Sponsored by Knights of Columbus

Sunday, November 17th
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Collins Bowladrome, 325 Boston Road, Billerica

This program is free to children with special needs and their families. It will start at 1:00 pm with duck-pin bowling and will close with pizza and soft drinks for all. Families interested in attending are asked to register by contacting Ken at (978) 692-6866 or kgdesigned@gmail.com on or before November 15th.

Silver Rose Program with Rosary
Wednesday, November 6th

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

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

IS HALLOWEEN A PAGAN HOLIDAY OR A CATHOLIC ONE?

The short answer: nowadays, a little bit of both. But it wasn't always that way. Halloween and All Saints' Day are closely connected. In the 800s, the Catholic Church began celebrating All Saints' Day. It was originally called All Hallow’s Day or Hallowmas. The celebration began early on All Hallow’s Eve. But if Halloween is really about the saints in all their victorious glory, where do we get haunted houses, costumes, and pranks?

All Saints’ Day became associated with the other deceased rather quickly. November 2nd is All Souls Day, where we pray for the souls in purgatory. Throughout the European world, especially with the Celtic and Germanic peoples, the dead were honored in the autumn months. The Celtic pagan celebration of Samhain had its own folk rituals and occurred around the same time as these Catholic feast days.

Within the last few hundred years, this included dressing in disguise and going door to door, asking for food in exchange for a rhyme or poem. Some people masqueraded as “dark” spirits and pulled pranks on others. Today’s celebration of Halloween tends to take on these later practices, rather than the original meaning of celebrating the saints. But remember … this feast was Catholic first!
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, NOV 2** 4:00 pm: Barbara A. Regan: 14th Anniversary
**SUN, NOV 3** 8:30 am: For the People of the Parish
10:30 am: Pietro De Vita and Attilio Cesario: Memorial
**SAT, NOV 9** 4:00 pm: Ernest A. Beechin: Memorial
**SUN, NOV 10** 8:30 am: Jack Doucette: 5th Anniversary
10:30 am: For the People of the Parish

St. Mary

**SAT, NOV 2** 4:00 pm: Ann Marie Rawnsley: 4th Anniversary
**SUN, NOV 3** 9:00 am: For the People of the Parish
11:00 am: Paul Hastings: Memorial
06:00 pm: Judith Frost: Memorial
**MON, NOV 4** 7:00 am: Collaborative Members of the Spiritual Society and Sanctuary Fund
**TUE, NOV 5** 7:00 am: Margaret Kijanka: Memorial
**WED, NOV 6** 7:00 am: LIVING INTENTION
For the 40 days for Life Initiative
**THU, NOV 7** 7:00 am: Mary Pauline Kelley: Memorial
**FRI, NOV 8** 7:00 am: The John, Ryan and Deirdre Loftus Family
**SAT, NOV 9** 4:00 pm: Ahern and McNulty Families
**SUN, NOV 10** 7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial
11:00 am: For the People of the Parish
06:00 pm: Donald and Madeline Carano: 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.

Margaret E. Kijanka

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: In Honor of... Fern Sevigny

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

Rose Provided by Mahoney’s Garden Center

**FUNERALS recently celebrated**

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

Thomas Regan: October 24th at St. John
Deb Camacho: October 28th at St. Mary
Ardella Goguen: October 29th at St. Mary
Mary Morash: October 31st at St. Mary

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

**Your Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet and a Light Unto My Path**
- Psalm 119:105

**MONDAY, NOV 4**
Romans 11: 29-36
Psalm 69
Luke 14: 12-14

**TUESDAY, NOV 5**
Romans 12: 5-16
Psalm 131
Luke 14: 15-24

**WEDNESDAY, NOV 6**
Romans 13: 8-10
Psalm 112
Luke 14: 25-33

**THURSDAY, NOV 7**
Romans 14: 7-12
Psalm 27
Luke 15: 1-10

**FRIDAY, NOV 8**
Romans 15: 14-21
Psalm 98
Luke 16: 1-8

**SATURDAY, NOV 9**
Ezra 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12
Psalm 46
1 Corinthians 3: 9-11, 16-17
John 2: 13-22

**SUNDAY, NOV 10**
2 Macc 7: 1-2, 9-14
Psalm 17
2 Thess 2: 16-3:5

Mary Morash: October 31st at St. Mary

S. 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.
Thomas Raphael Pucci of Chelmsford, age 86, died peacefully on Wednesday October 2, 2019 at Lowell General Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Tom was a loving husband, father and grandfather with strong family values. Family came first. Family was his top priority. Tom and Rita instilled strong family values in their children; which will carry them through this difficult time, and will continue to be passed down to future generations.

Tom was the husband of Rita (Stebbins) Pucci with whom he celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on August 17, 2019.

Born in Northfield, NH on July 6, 1933, he was the son of the late Sebastian and Anna (Murphy) Pucci. He graduated from Tilton Northfield High School with the class of 1952, and the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor in Science in Math. He attended MIT at Lincoln Labs. He retired as a Civilian Systems Engineer at Hanscom Air Force Base.

He was a communicant of St. Mary Church in Chelmsford. Thomas coached Chelmsford Youth Sports. He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed fishing, running and basketball.

He is survived by his wife, Rita Pucci of Chelmsford; three sons, Michael and his wife Terri (Pond) Pucci of Ashby, Stephen and his wife Elizabeth (Montesi) Pucci of Reading, David and his wife Melissa (Petrillo) Pucci of Reading; four daughters, Laurie and her husband Steven Morency of Townsend, Linda and her husband Louis English of Farmington, NH, Debra Pucci of Pepperell and Diane and her husband John Murphy of Pepperell, he was also the loving grandfather of Eric Morency, Shannon Morency, Stephanie (Murphy) and her husband Christopher Godfrey, John Murphy, Michael Pucci and his fiancée Kelsey Liles, Sara (Pucci) and her husband Michael Paradis, Dariya Robinson, Thomas Pucci, Dominic Pucci, Andrew Pucci and Anthony Pucci. He is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Kyleigh Godfrey, Christopher Godfrey, Jr., Michael Pucci and Daniel Pucci. He was the brother-in-law of Raymond and Cecile (Aube) Stebbins of Avon Park, FL Maurice and Lee (Roby) Stebbins of Bethlehem, NH, Charles Stebbins of Huntsville, AL and as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was the father of the late Thomas Pucci Jr, the brother of the late Alfred, Richard and Ellen Pucci.