Just as our Blessed Mother Mary and the Evangelist, called John, came together at the foot of the Cross to serve Christ crucified, so also do the parish families bearing their names come together to serve God by serving each other and all who make up the Body of The Risen Lord.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY • 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY • 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
FRIDAY • 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SUNDAY • 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
St. Mary Calendar

• Sunday, November 10 •
  NO FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEKEND
  Family Faith Formation Events • refer to page 6
  Grace Notes Rehearsal • 8:10 - 8:45 am • Church
  11 am Mass Choir Rehearsal • 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
  Table Ministry • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Kitchen

• Monday, November 11 •
  PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED
  Matthew Bible Study • 10 am - 12 pm • PC Conf Room 1
  Seminarian Presentation • 7 - 8 pm • Church (or LiveView)

• Tuesday, November 12 •
  EPIC Bible Study • CANCELLED
  Annual Mass of Remembrance • 7:00 pm • Church

• Wednesday, November 13 •
  Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

• Thursday, November 14 •
  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
  Social Justice Speaker Event • 7:00 pm • Parish Hall (page 4)

• Friday, November 15 •
  Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  Knitting and Crocheting • 3:00 - 5:00 pm • Parish Hall

• Saturday, November 16 •
  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
  Harvest Dinner, following 4 pm Mass • Parish Hall

• Sunday, November 17 •
  Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
  Children’s Liturgy fo the Word • 11 am Mass • PC Chapel
  11 am Mass Choir Rehearsal • 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
  6 pm Music Ministry • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church
  High School Youth Group, following 6 pm Mass • Parish Hall

Annual Harvest Dinner
NEXT 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/$25 per family ($12 per person/$30 per family at the door). Tickets can be purchased at the parish offices.

All proceeds from this event will benefit our Youth Ministry program.

The St. Mary Table Ministry
135 served in October
195 in November

St. Mary Music Ministry
cordially invites you to Chelmsford’s first
MESSIAH SING
Saturday, December 7
7pm at St. Mary Church

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

- **Sunday, November 10**
  NO FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEKEND
  Family 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 • Lord Ryan
  Faith Community Nursing Mtg, following 10:30 am Mass • OPC Library
  Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church

- **Monday, November 11**
  Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  Families with Addiction Support Group • CANCELLED
  Seminarian Presentation • 7 - 8 pm • SM Church (or LiveView)

- **Tuesday, November 12**
  Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  Open Music Rehearsal • 6:30 pm • Church

- **Wednesday, November 13**
  Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel

- **Thursday, November 14**
  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, November 15**
  African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library

- **Saturday, November 16**
  Contemplative Prayer Group • 9:30-11:00 am • Linehan
  Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

- **Sunday, November 17**
  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. What happens to us when we die in a state of grace? What do we see after we pass away? Do we see our whole family again after we die? Do we see our loved ones?

A. If we die in a state of grace, we are heading to heaven. We may need to take a stop in purgatory on the way, depending on how the temporal effects of sin have affected us. But the reality is that a person in the state of grace is in right relationship with God. Therefore, through the action of Christ on the cross the person is granted the privilege of being with God for all eternity. It is not so much about who we will see, but how we will see them. “‘What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him,’ this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “this perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity—this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed—is called ‘heaven.’ Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.” (1024).

We will be united with those we love in a way we cannot even comprehend at this moment, for we will be in perfect union with God. We will be united as one in Christ, and see and be seen as God sees. It will be like nothing we have ever experienced.

Q. Why is religion so complicated?

A. I honestly do not believe that it is. We have a tendency of making it so, but our faith really is about relationship. It is about how we are called into relationship with God, others, creation and self. The reality is that there are rules to any relationship, and those rules help us both to define what the relationship means and how it is intended to be lived out. What people see as complications really are just the difficulties we have in any real relationship.

Our faith is really founded on a few simple principles, but how we live out those principles are where things can get complicated. The basic reason is that most of us are pretty selfish and want things the way we want them. Hence, we need help in disentangling what our simple desires are and what God is calling us to do. We are also pretty good at rationalizing why our way of thinking is the right way of thinking. Therefore, again, we need help in seeking to find the truth.

Our faith and all we have been given, like the Scriptures and the Seven Sacraments, are simply ways to help us stay on track and grow in our relationship with God. Religion could be much simpler if we were willing to always follow God’s will perfectly, but we are not.
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 9th & 10th: Ushers/Sextons & Greeters
November 16th & 17th: Music Ministry Members
November 23rd & 24th: EMHCs and Sacristans

Do you Knit or Crochet?

Every year, mittens, hats, and scarves are made by our generous volunteers, and given to, local agencies served by the St. Mary “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!

Collections of these items will be on the Weekend of November 23rd/24th

Boxes into which you can place your donations will be located at the entrances of St. Mary Church. Please label your items with the size, and include your name if you would like to receive an acknowledgement. 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!

Mass of the Roses
St. Mary 4 pm Mass ~ November 23, 2019

In honor deceased brothers of the Bishop Ruocco Council, all are invited to attend the Mass of the Roses, followed by a gathering in the parish hall. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, contact Jim Lovas at jimlovas@outlook.com.

Annual Thanksgiving Collection
Supporting the Lowell Transitional Living Center
November 16th/17th at BOTH PARISHES

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 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 below:

TOILETRIES
• Disposable Razors • Tissues • Chapstick
• Feminine Products • Toothpaste/Toothbrushes

CLOTHING
• Underwear • Thermal Underwear
• Jeans & Sweatpants • Sweatshirts
• Winter Coats • Work & Snow Boots
Upcoming
Deep Dive Events

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.

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 10th Class Schedule

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

November 17th Class/FGS* Schedule

GRADE 1 FGS, GROUP C
9:00 - 10:30 am
Parish Hall
GRADE 2 FGS, GROUP D
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Parish Hall
GRADE 3 FGS: GROUP C
9:00 - 10:30 am
Parish Hall
GRADE 3 FGS, GROUP D
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Parish Hall
GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP C
9:00 - 10:30 am
Parish Hall
GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP D
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Parish Hall
GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP C
9:00 - 10:30 am
Parish Hall
GRADE 5, GROUP D
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Parish Hall
GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP C
9:00 - 10:30 am
Parish Hall
GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP D
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION I: 4:15 - 5:45 pm Hall

* FAMILY GATHERING SESSION
Parents attend with their children

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

DONT FORGET Deep Dive Reflection

For those of you who attending the Saints on Parade Deep Dive, please be sure to complete the Reflection Sheet. Both downloadable and online forms can be found at...

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/saints-on-parade
ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Upcoming Deep Dive Events

Cathedral Pilgrimage
Sunday, November 10 • 9:45 am - 2:30 pm
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November 17th Class/FGS* Schedule

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CONFIRMATION I: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hall

* FAMILY GATHERING SESSION
Parents attend with their children

DON'T FORGET Deep Dive Reflection
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www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/saints-on-parade

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
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ALL FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES
IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Follow us on Instagram

All Faith Formation families in the Collaborative

Upcoming Deep Dives can be found on our Instagram page!
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.

Sunday, November 17th: High School Youth Group
Join us for Mass at 6 pm, followed by food, fellowship and faithful conversation in the parish hall.

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.

RSVP by Wednesday, November 20th to serve Friday, November 29th
• December 27, 2019: register by 18th
• January 24, 2020: register by 15th
• February 28, 2020: register by 19th

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RSVP by Wednesday, November 20th to serve Friday, November 29th
• December 27, 2019: register by 18th
• January 24, 2020: register by 15th
• February 28, 2020: register by 19th

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

BOWLING & PIZZA EVENT for Children with Special Needs
Sponsored by Knights of Columbus

NEXT Sunday, November 17th
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Collins Bowladrome, 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 THIS THURSDAY, November 15th.

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

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.

$15 Advent Wreath Kits (includes candles)
$5 Advent Candle Sets

...will be for purchase beginning SUNDAY, November 17th...

The Parish Offices (115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford)
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday from 9:30am - 5:00 pm
Friday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

St. Mary Parish Hall
during Sunday class times

St. Mary Parish Center
Sundays from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Proceeds will benefit our Faith Formation Program.
Thank you for your support!
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 ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. John Members</th>
<th>St. Mary Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angela McMaster (co-chair)</td>
<td>Peter Lando (co-chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Condor</td>
<td>Laura Conte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Davidson</td>
<td>Rob Donnelly</td>
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<td>Katrina Horan</td>
<td>Karen Drake</td>
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<td>Beth Jacavanco</td>
<td>Jessica Hägg</td>
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<td>Drew Jubinville</td>
<td>Cathy Latina</td>
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<td>Ellen St. George</td>
<td>Lori McDonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Augustine Tweneh</td>
<td>Steve McMillan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Wagner (secretary)</td>
<td>Alma (Chicki) Rigazio</td>
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<td>Paul Therrien</td>
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**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 |
| 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.
Last weekend, of course, was the end of Daylight Savings Time and we got that one extra hour of sleep. Well, that’s only true if you don’t have cats! Harry and Sally do not understand the concept of daylight savings, and really do not care. It was not important to them that the clock said 4 am when they knew it was 5 am and time to be fed. They were on the bed crying for me to get up and feed them. They can be quite persistent, loud, and determined. I did not feed them until 5 and they were not happy with me, but I had to be firm in order to get them on the correct schedule. The world may believe one thing about what time it is, but Harry and Sally follow a different clock and they are quite sure their version is the correct one. They have a particular pattern, or rhythm of life, and they are determined to follow it no matter what the world might think.

As Christians, we also need to recognize that we are called to a different rhythm of life than the world would have us follow. How the world looks at life and the role and place of individuals and society is very different from the Christian perspective. How we understand issues such as equality, freedom, choice, and the very essence of what makes a person human are simply not compatible with the world’s view. Christians have always been called to be somewhat counter-cultural. We are called to seek our answers not from society, history, or current norms. Unlike the world, we do not believe that an individual can be self-defined by, or through, their own desires, preferences, preconceptions of right and wrong, or their own sense of identity. The question of who I am, and how I am called to engage in the world, is at the heart of how we are called to understand ourselves as human beings. And, it means wrestling with the issues of our time in a very different way than the world would.

And I am not simply talking about the big topics where our faith differs from the world’s view, such as: sexuality, pro-life issues, dignity and sanctity of all human life, gender issues and the like. The true rhythm of Christian life is discovered first in the small things. The big issues are important, but they can only be truly addressed when one comes to terms with the more basic issues of life, and how we are called to live them out.

From the very beginning Christians have struggled to maintain the truth. We simply need to look to our primary symbol of faith—THE CROSS! Jesus was not crucified because He taught some soundbites: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you; Love your neighbor as you love yourself, and so forth. Many times we can get caught up in soundbite Christianity which is really a hollow faith. As long as you are “nice” or “good” and follow the ten commandments you are all set, but this has nothing to do with what Christ taught. Christ taught not the easy road, but the narrow and rocky road. He said the gate is narrow and few will pass through it. Christ came to challenge people out of their life of complacency, to accept the true challenge of following Him.

Christians have accepted that challenge for 2,000 years. The first followers of Christ faced persecution, exile, beatings, and death because they simply refused to conform to the world’s rhythm of life. The Romans could not understand the Christians; all they asked was that they burn some incense and offer small sacrifices to the gods. Everyone else but the Jews did this. It was not asking too much. The Romans had no issues with them worshipping their own God, but they needed to be part of society and could not be different on this issue. But Christians recognized a fundamental truth that the worship of pagan gods was devoid of any real meaning. It was an affront to the one true God. So, a rejection of the “world’s truth” was necessary to remain in relationship with God.

The rhythm of Christian life is really based on some simple principles that are counter to the world. The first and most important is that all that is created comes about by the will of God, and by his will alone. The second is that all that exists was created with a distinct purpose, and it is our responsibility to understand God’s purpose, and to make use of what He has created only in accord with how He has ordered things. Third, God has a plan for creation, humanity, and individuals all centered on one truth—salvation. God has predestined all for salvation in Christ, but not all will accept that salvation. Instead, many will choose to listen to the Siren call of the world rather than the truth of God.

Yes, things in our life have become disordered and do not exist in full accord with God’s plan. This disorder has arisen from human choice and the rejection of God’s plan. It began with the Fall of Adam and Eve—humanity’s initial rejection of God’s will—and has continued throughout human history, either as a consequence of the Fall or individual choices.

The question then for us is: what will we choose to do? Will we accept the truth of following Christ? Will we reject the world and accept only Christ? What does that mean? It means seeking to understand God’s plan and truth. It means recognizing that truth is not just an idea: it is a relationship with Christ. It means recognizing that the truth is objective and unchangeable. It means we must be a people of prayer and scriptures. Our truth comes only through God’s revelation of his plan, and we must seek to live every day making each choice based on that truth.

Our clock simply follows a different rhythm than the world’s! 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,
When I was a CapCorps Volunteer with the Capuchin Franciscans at Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries, one of the main things my community did was conduct Confirmation retreats. Each retreat we did concluded with Mass celebrated by our beloved chaplain, Fr. Fred. Since he used the same homily for every Confirmation retreat, by the end of the year all of us CapCorps Volunteers could have easily given it ourselves. It has now been over five years since I last heard that homily, and until recently it probably has been a few years since I have even thought of it. However, in the past couple of months it keeps resurfacing for me...

In the olden days, those who chose to travel by stagecoach had three levels of tickets available to them: first class, second class, and third class. Now, unlike trains of those days (or planes of ours) these different classes did not mean that passengers were traveling in separate compartments with varying levels of luxury. No, instead these classes of tickets came into play if the stagecoach came to a particularly steep hill or became stuck in the mud as they bounced along miles and miles of dirt roads. Those holders of first class tickets “rode all the way,” meaning that if the stagecoach was having difficulty navigating a hill or mud pit, they could remain comfortably inside. In these situations, travelers with second class tickets would have to disembark from the stagecoach and walk alongside it, in order to relieve the horses of some weight, until the hill had been climbed or the mud passed. Finally, those who had third class tickets, not only had to get out of the stagecoach when faced with hills or mud, but also had to help push the stagecoach along. “Be third class Christians,” Fr. Fred would urge the young people preparing for their Confirmation. In fact, he would tell them that being a third class Christian is really the only way to be a Christian. This is true for two reasons. First because, as Christians, we are called to serve those around us, even when this might involve some inconvenience or discomfort on our part. Second because, as Christians, we are called to work towards not only our own salvation but also the salvation of others.

As memories of this homily keep coming to mind, I find myself with a whole new appreciation for the simple but powerful message it contains: “Be third class Christians." Do not be unwilling to get in the mud to help out another person in their time of need. Do not be unwilling to get out and push to help another soul on their journey towards Heaven. “Be third class Christians.”

Veterans Day is a well-known American holiday that honors all of those who have served the country in war or peace — dead or alive — although it’s largely intended to thank living veterans for their sacrifices. World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, the fighting ended about seven months before that when the Allies and Germany put into effect an armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, was largely considered the end of “the war to end all wars” and dubbed Armistice Day. In 1926, Congress officially recognized it as the end of the war, and in 1938, it became an official holiday, primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I.

But then World War II and the Korean War happened, so on June 1, 1954, at the urging of veterans service organizations, Congress amended the commemoration yet again by changing the word “armistice” to “veterans” so the day would honor American veterans of all wars.

For a while, the commemoration date of Veterans Day was also changed. Due to the confusion it caused, Congress signed the Uniform Holiday Bill in 1968 to ensure that a few federal holidays — Veterans Day included — would be celebrated on a Monday. Officials hoped it would spur travel and other family activities over a long weekend, which would stimulate the economy. For some inexplicable reason, the bill set Veterans Day commemorations for the fourth Monday of every October.

On October 25, 1971, the first Veterans Day under this new bill was held. We’re not sure why it took three years to implement, but not surprisingly, there was a lot of confusion about the date change, and many states were unhappy, choosing to continue to recognize the day as they previously had — in November.

Within a few years, it became pretty apparent that most United States citizens wanted to celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, since it was a matter of historic and patriotic significance. So on September 20, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed another law—Public Law 94-97—which returned the annual observance to its original date starting in 1978.
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

Abortion destroys the smallest and most helpless members of the human family.

We, as Catholics (Christians), are called by God to protect His precious gift of life.

PRO-LIFE BALLOT INITIATIVE

Did you know that your tax dollars are being used to pay for abortions in Massachusetts?

Fortunately, there is something each of us can do to stop this.

Next weekend, November 16th/17th, volunteers from the Massachusetts Alliance to Stop Taxpayer Funded Abortions will be collecting signatures on a petition to amend the state constitution so that taxpayer subsidized abortions are no longer a constitutional entitlement in Massachusetts. Please stop and sign this petition to help save the lives of unborn babies.

To learn more visit www.stoptaxpayerabortion.org

Online Giving Programs: visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org. Links to both programs can be found on the right-hand side of home page.
On Friday, November 1st, the Faith Formation Program held the first of many “Saints on Parade” events! Children and parents alike showed up in costume, and participated, side-by-side, in many activities. We closed the evening with the Parade of Saints, followed by the Litany of Saints, beautifully performed by our very own Jason Gaudette on keyboard, and Tryphena Reidy on vocals. Enjoy these pictures, which will also be posted on the website—along with the videos of both the parade and Litany—within the week! Thanks for a wonderful evening!
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 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
Mon, Nov 11 9:00 am: Fern Sevigny: Memorial
Sat, Nov 16 8:30 am: Eileen Lorrey Muldoon: Memorial
10:30 am: Joseph Surette: 4th Anniversary

St. Mary

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
6:00 pm: Donald and Madeline Carano: Memorial
Tue, Nov 12 7:00 am: Frank and Evelyn Soracco: Memorial
Wed, Nov 13 7:00 am: Michelle Cullen and Marie LeBon: Memorial
Thu, Nov 14 7:00 am: John J Broderick: Memorial
Fri, Nov 15 7:00 am: Colin Richards: Memorial Mass
Sat, Nov 16 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
Sun, Nov 17 7:00 am: Joseph Pekorny: 2nd Anniversary
9:00 am: Gene Belle, Irene Belle and Eileen Hanlon: Memorial
11:00 am: Ralph and Catherine Maffeo: Memorial
6:00 pm: Vincent M Polo: 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.

St. Mary Memorial Altar Flowers

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 Memory of... Richard DeFreitas
You are missed by family and wife, Pat

This week’s St. Mary Rose for Life:
Margaret Kijanka

“Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”
—Psalm 119:105

FUNERALS recently celebrated

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

Gerald W. Hussey: November 2nd at St. John

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

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“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH”
—Psalm 119:105

MONDAY, NOV 11
Wisdom 1: 1-7
Psalm 139
Luke 17: 1-6

TUESDAY, NOV 12
Wisdom 2:23 - 3:9
Psalm 34
Luke 17: 7-10

THURSDAY, NOV 14
Wisdom 7:22 - 8:1
Psalm 119
Luke 17: 20-25

SATURDAY, NOV 16
Wisdom 18: 14-16; 19: 6-9
Psalm 105
Luke 18: 1-8

SUNDAY, NOV 17
Malachi 3: 19-20
Psalm 98
2Thes 3: 7-12
Luke 21: 5-19

WEDNESDAY, NOV 13
Wisdom 6: 1-11
Psalm 82
Like 17: 11-19

FRIDAY, NOV 15
Wisdom 13: 1-9
Psalm 19
Luke 17: 26-37

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Marjorie Joan Kemp of Lowell

Marjorie Joan Kemp, 72, of Lowell, MA, passed away Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at her home.

Born in Lowell, she was the daughter of the late James and Claire (Bousquet) Lamb. She graduated from Westford Academy with the class of 1964.

She previously worked at Fletcher Quarry in Westford, MA, as an executive secretary.

Marjorie was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church.

She spent her life surrounded by dogs and cats; she also very much enjoyed bingo and continued to place importance on her faith.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Kemp and her significant other, Russell Edmondson of Derry, NH, siblings, Thomas and his wife Nancy Lamb of Hooksett, NH, Carol and her husband Larry Mills of North Chelmsford and Kathleen Narankievicius of Dracut, MA, as well as several nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late Claire Marchand, Patricia Ferreira and Phyllis Hurley.

Her visiting hours were Mon. Oct. 7th from 3 to 7 P.M. Funeral was Tues., Oct. 8th at 10:00 am from the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD, MA, with a funeral Mass at 11:00AM at St. John the Evangelist Church. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery, Lowell. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her name to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St. Framingham, Ma 01701. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME
978-256-4040.