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

“You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.”

November 17, 2019: Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
St. Mary Calendar

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

- **Monday, November 18**
  - Matthew Bible Study • 10 am - 12 pm • PC Conf Room 1
  - Seminarian Presentation • 7 - 8 pm • Church (or LiveView)
  - Boy Scout Troop 77 Committee Meeting • 7 pm • PC MR 5

- **Tuesday, November 19**
  - EPIC Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Wednesday, November 20**
  - Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Thursday, November 21**
  - Rosary Makers • 10:30 am • PC Conf Room 2
  - Rosary • 12:00 - 1:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  - Adoration • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel

- **Friday, November 22**
  - Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  - Knitting and Crocheting • 3:00 - 5:00 pm • Parish Hall

- **Saturday, November 23**
  - 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, November 24**
  - 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
  - Children’s Liturgy of the Word • 11 am Mass • PC Chapel
  - 6 pm Music Ministry • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Word for Children covers the Sunday Gospels in an age-appropriate and interactive way. The purpose is to help our children grow in the faith of the Catholic Church and develop as full and active members of our parish community.

During the St. Mary 11am Sunday Masses, children of the parish are given the opportunity to be publicly sent forth to retreat to the Parish Center Chapel for an age-appropriate teaching on the Sunday Gospel. This is a wonderful opportunity for young children to learn about the Gospel through their Catholic faith.

**We Need Volunteers**

We are actively searching for more leaders. We need your help in bringing this program to our kids at the Sunday morning Masses. This program offers easy preparation for teachers, is action oriented and fun. Please contact Heather Hannaway for more information.

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!
Upcoming Town Hall Meetings
St. Mary on Sunday, December 8 at 3pm
St. John on Tuesday, December 10 at 7pm
Fr. Brian will be available to answer questions and hear concerns from our parishioners. These events are NOT parish specific, so attend the one that works best with your schedule. If you are unable to physically attend either, you can attend via LIVEVIEW. Links to each parish can be found in the right-hand column on the home page of our website.

WINE, WOMEN & WORD
All women of the Chelmsford Collaborative and beyond are welcome to join us for our monthly meeting. Our reflection will be:

“Change and Loss”
Challenges and possibilities faced by Naomi, Ruth and Orpah, along with the women of today.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
THIS Tuesday, November 19
6:30 - 8:00 pm
St. John’s New Parish Center: Mariotti Room
BRING A FRIEND, OR TWO!

Notice to EHMCs
Please do not place communion in a pyx when in communion line during Mass. If someone needs the Holy Eucharistic for a home or hospital visit, please arrange to do so either before or after Mass. Thank you.

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

St. John Calendar

• 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

• Monday, November 18 •
Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
ACTS Core Meeting • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • NPC
Families with Addiction Support Group • 7:00 pm • NPC
Seminarian Presentation • 7 - 8 pm • SM Church (or LiveView)

• Tuesday, November 19 •
Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
Coffee Group, following 9:00 am Mass • Hall
Blood Pressure Clinic, following 9:00 am Mass • Hall
Open Music Rehearsal • 6:30 pm • Church
Wine, Women, Word • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Mariotti

• Wednesday, November 20 •
Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel

• Thursday, November 21 •
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 22 •
African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library

• Saturday, November 23 •
NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. Mary this week
Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

• Sunday, November 24 •
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

Turn page for more
Q. If God knows everything, then He knows whether we’re going to end up in heaven or hell. Doesn’t that take away our free will since we can’t change what God already knows will happen?
A. I remember asking my Dad this same question as a kid. I put it in a slightly different way, but it still made the same point. If God is truly omniscient (knows everything), what does this mean to free will. This is the way my Dad explained it to me. He said that he knows all of his children as well as anyone and so he can pretty much determine in any given situation how we all would act. My Dad’s knowledge does not in any way make us act in a particular way. It is simply that he knows us so well and what motivates us that he can perceive what our choices will be. Now obviously my Dad was not always correct but probably 95% of the time he was. It was one of the reasons it was so hard for us to get away with anything. My Dad went on to say that the difference is God knows you better than you know yourself. Therefore, God is not determining anything you are doing. Rather, He simply understands why you make your choices and sees where your heart is going to lead you. You still make all your choices freely.

There is also a difference between God and us. God does not live in time as we do. For God, who is eternal, all things happen in the same moment. We live life in a linear fashion. We have a past, present, and future. God does not. For God, all things occur—in a sense—together. It has been described as ‘the eternal now’. God simply lives in what we call the present. Hence, for God, all that happens in your life happens in the same moment. All your choices are yours and God simply understands what those choices mean.

Q. Is it ok for me to go with my friend to his non-Catholic church?
A. Yes, it is. I have gone to many different Christian Churches and non-Christian places of worship in my life both as a layperson and as a priest. But this is very important: you are still required to attend Mass when you do this. The celebration of Mass is at the very heart of our faith and to miss Mass without a serious reason is considered a grave matter to the Church. The obligation of attending Sunday Mass comes from our baptism. It is both a duty and right that we join together each Sunday as a community of faith to worship the Lord. We may well be worshipping Christ in these other celebrations, but the connection to the Church that arises from the celebration of the Eucharist is essential to our faith. The celebration of the Eucharist is not only about our relationship with Christ, but also about how we are united in the Spirit as a people of faith.
St. John Annual Giving Tree Ministry

NEXT Saturday, November 23rd, the Giving Tree will be up and tags will be available for the taking, in support of those less fortunate than ourselves. Wrapped gifts are due back the weekend of December 14th/15th. Please do NOT drop off before or after this weekend, and please DO NOT leave your gifts under the tree. If you are unable to get your gifts to the church by the above referenced date, please contact Laura at (978) 251-0408 to make other arrangements.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR GIFTS ON TIME
SO THAT THEY CAN BE DELIVERED ON TIME.

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 is
NEXT Weekend: 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!

St. Mary Spirit of Christmas

The mission of this ministry is to collect and distribute new gifts to individuals and families who cannot afford, or do not have the means to purchase Christmas gifts. The following local charities will be the recipients of your generosity.

- **ALTERNATIVE HOUSE** offers shelter, support, options, counseling and advocacy for battered women and their children
- **CATHOLIC CHARITIES** is dedicated to improving the lives of the needy
- **HOUSE OF HOPE** provides advocacy and care for homeless individuals and families
- **SECRET SANTA OF ST. PATRICK SCHOOL AND CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS** helps children and families that are facing difficult times
- **MY FATHER’S HOUSE** provides shelter for teenage moms & their children
- **SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL** is dedicated to helping the needy in our community
- **TABLE OF PLENTY** provides a weekly meal to alleviate hunger and social isolation.

The Giving Trees will be set up at the entrances of the church from November 30th through December 8th.

1. Select a gift tag from the tree and purchase (for no more than $30) the requested item.
2. Wrap the item (only if requested) and securely attach the gift tag.
3. As you wrap, say a prayer for the person who will be receiving the gift.
4. Return wrapped gift[s] to the marked tables in the parish hall on December 7th or 8th.

**NOTE:** In order to avoid loss, all “Gift Card” gifts are to be placed in the GIFT CARD DROP BOX.

The charities will be picking up the gifts on the morning of the 9th, so PLEASE... return them on time!

If you would be willing to help collect the gifts after any of the Masses on drop-off day, please contact Diane at (617) 470-7797. If you are able to volunteer a few hours of your time on the morning of December 9th to help sort the gifts, we will be in the parish hall beginning at 9 am. If you have any questions, please contact Diane at (617) 470-7797 or Rae at (978) 505-4589.

Deepen Your Faith this Fall

Join our Seminarian for informal presentations on our Catholic Faith

This fall, our seminarian, Andrew John Rondelli, will offer one-hour sessions on the Roman Catechism. Sessions will be informal with faith-related questions most welcome. Attend one, all or some; as few or many as your schedule allows.

Monday evenings ~7–8 pm ~St. Mary Church

Nov ember 18; December 2, 9, 16
### Upcoming Deep Dive Events

**Lessons and Carols**  
Monday Evenings: December 2, 9, 16 and 23*  
7:00 pm at St. John Church

Lessons and Carols is a prayer service of Scripture and song. Originating in England in the late 19th century, Lessons and Carols was originally conducted on Christmas Eve and consisted of exactly nine Lessons. It has since been adapted and can be found being celebrated throughout Advent with a variable number of Lessons. Regardless of the number of Lessons or when in the season leading up to Christmas it is observed, a Lessons and Carols service will focus on the mystery of the Incarnation and its role in salvation history. As Christ came for all, each evening will represent and honor a different culture each of the four evenings. Readings and Songs will be read and sung in the native language of that particular evening.

* December 2: Spanish  
* December 9: French  
* December 16: African  
* December 23: English

*You only need to attend one to fulfill the Deep Dive obligation, but feel free to attend all!*

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

### November 17th 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 Parish Hall</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3 FGS, Group C</td>
<td>Grade 3 FGS, Group D</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am Parish Hall</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4 FGS, Group C</td>
<td>Grade 4 FGS, Group D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am Parish Hall</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5 FGS, Group C</td>
<td>Grade 5, Group D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am Parish Hall</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6 FGS, Group C</td>
<td>Grade 6 FGS, Group D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am Parish Hall</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

* *FAMILY GATHERING SESSION*  
Parents attend with their children

### November 24th Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1 Class</th>
<th>Grade 2 Class</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am Parish Hall</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 3-6 Class Groups A &amp; C</td>
<td>Grades 3-6 Class Groups B &amp; D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am Parish Center</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 7 &amp; 8 Class: 4:15 - 5:45 pm</strong> Parish Hall</td>
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**DON'T FORGET**

For those of you who attended any Deep Dive event, and have not yet completed the reflection, please do so at your earliest convenience. Both downloadable and online forms can be found on the website under Family Faith Formation/ Faith Formation. Click on Deep Dives in the left-hand sidebar then choose the specific deep dive that you attended.

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org  
Class and Deep Dive Calendars can be found on our website.

* Catholic Archdiocese of Boston*
ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Upcoming Deep Dive Events

Lessons and Carols
Monday Evenings: December 2, 9, 16 and 23*
7:00 pm at St. John Church

Lessons and Carols is a prayer service of Scripture and song. Originating in England in the late 19th century, Lessons and Carols was originally conducted on Christmas Eve and consisted of exactly nine Lessons. It has since been adapted and can be found being celebrated throughout Advent with a variable number of Lessons. Regardless of the number of Lessons or when in the season leading up to Christmas it is observed, a Lessons and Carols service will focus on the mystery of the Incarnation and its role in salvation history. As Christ came for all, each evening will represent and honor a different culture each of the four evenings. Readings and Songs will be read and sung in the native language of that particular evening.

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November 17th Class/FGS* Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* FAMILY GATHERING SESSION
Parents attend with their children

November 24th Class Schedule

GRADE K-3 CLASS
9:45 - 11:15 am
New Parish Center

GRADES 4-6 CLASS
9:45 - 11:15 am
Old Parish Center

GRADES 7-8 CLASS
9:45 - 11:15 am in Parish Hall

ALL FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES
IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Follow us on Instagram

https://instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic

Upcoming Deep Dives can be found on our Instagram page!

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

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 THIS Wednesday, November 20th if you wish to serve Friday, November 29th

Next scheduled date is December 27, 2019
Please register by December 18th.

The Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative’s Youth Ministry program seeks to ensure that the young people of the Collaborative feel known, valued, and loved by God and by their parish community. By providing opportunities for youth to encounter Christ in their lives and connecting them with mature Christian mentors, youth ministry strives to equip and empower our young people to be lifelong disciples of Jesus.

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RSVP by THIS Wednesday, November 20th if you wish to serve Friday, November 29th

Next scheduled date is December 27, 2019
Please register by December 18th.

You are Cordially invited...

Jesus invites us to dwell within His Presence so that you may to come to know the breadth and depth of His love, mercy and kindness that He shows to us. While it’s nice to read or study about the love and mercy of God, how radically different it is from experiencing His love and mercy. We invite you to carve out a few extra minutes each week to be still before God in both of our Adoration Chapels. Come with all your concerns, anxieties and worries; all your hopes and desires; all your fears and unmet dreams; all your sins and what burdens you.

St. Mary Parish Center Chapel: 33 North Road Chelmsford
we are specifically in need of Saturday 11-12 and 12-1 adorers

To commit to an hour or sign up as an adorer, visit
www.stmary.leadorehim.com or contact Heather at hhannahway@chelmsfordcatholic.org or (978) 256-2374

Thursdays... 3:00 - 9:00 pm / Fridays... 7:30 am - 9:00 pm / Saturdays... 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

St. John OPC Chapel: 115 Middlesex Street No Chelmsford
To sign up as an adorer, contact Joe at joseph.ricciardi@gmail.com

First Friday Nocturnal Adoration (Sep-Jun)
following Friday 9 am Mass; concludes 9 am Saturday morning

Monday - Wednesday following 9 am daily Mass
Reverend Brian Mahoney, PASTOR  
ext 215... fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Corey Bassett-Tirrell, PAROCHIAL VICAR  
ext 239... fr.corey@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE  
ext 221... frcolletti@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Andrew John Rondeili, SEMINARIAN  
ext 228... andrewjohn@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Paul Firicano, COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS MANAGER  
ext 220... pfiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Tina Sousa, FINANCE & FACILITY SUPPORT  
ext 219... tsousa@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Heather Hannaway, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION  
ext 226... hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Courtney Callanan, ASST DIR OF FAITH FORMATION/ YOUTH MINISTER  
ext 227... ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Alana Buckley, part-time FAITH FORMATION SPECIALIST  
ext 212, alana@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Lynn Anne LaDuke, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR  
ext 240... lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Elaine Kindler, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR  
ext 216... ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Jason Gaudette, DIRECTOR OF St. JOHN MUSIC MINISTRIES  
ext 234... jay@chelmsfordcatholic.org
John Anthony Volpe, DIRECTOR OF St. MARY MUSIC MINISTRIES  
ext 222... jvolpe@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Rae Russo, SCHEDULING COORDINATOR  
ext 325... rae@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Donna Gambon, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
ext 248... dgambon@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Sue Beechin, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
ext 236... sue@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER  
ext 213... dheider@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Stephen Webber, CUSTODIAN  
ext 231... steve@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR  
ext 214... christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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

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

<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 Condo</td>
<td>Laura Conte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Davidson</td>
<td>Rob Donnelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katrina Horan</td>
<td>Karen Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Jacavanco</td>
<td>Jessica Hägg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drew Jubinville</td>
<td>Cathy Latina</td>
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<tr>
<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 ...

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<tr>
<td>John Bagni</td>
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<td>Paul Brzezenski</td>
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<td>Grace Ann Steed</td>
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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 ...

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armand DiLando</td>
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<td>Jack Parsons</td>
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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.
From Our Pastor

The other day, on my day off, I went to confession at Saint Joseph’s Shrine in Lowell. I was dressed in sweats and sneakers. As I waited, I was sitting down next to a husband and wife who had come in before me. When I first sat down, the husband whispered to the wife to move her handbag that was between her and me. She promptly moved it. I found it pretty amusing and wondered if they would have had the same reaction if I came dressed in my clerics. I understand why he did it, but at the same time it is the classic ‘judging a book by its cover’.

The reality is that we all make judgements that are not based on any real facts, but simply on our observation of a particular situation. We look at the person(s) that we come into contact with and quickly determine who they are and how we should address them. Many times these assessments are not even a conscious action, but reflexive in many ways. The way we have been raised, interactions throughout our lives, the very circumstances we find ourselves in, or other issues throughout our personal history, can all impact that reflexive judgement. It is natural and in some ways necessary, but it can also easily degenerate into a sinful judgement.

Saint James wrote so long ago in his letter to the Church, “My brothers [and sisters], show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For if a man with gold rings on his fingers and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Sit here, please,” while you say to the poor one, “Stand there,” or “Sit at my feet,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs? Listen, my beloved brothers. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom that He promised to those who love Him?”

The reality is that our judgements can easily lead to sinful divisions. We hear an accent and wonder what their status is. We look at the color of their skin and wonder if they belong here. We look at their tattoos, or piercings, or such, and wonder what they might be up to. We look at how they are dressed and think that what they are wearing is not appropriate, and wonder what is wrong with them. We look at their reaction in a particular situation, and when it does not measure up to our notion of what should happen, we wonder how they can be so clueless.

We have no further information than what we perceive as pertinent information, and in that moment we have entered into sin. But, normally we do not leave it at that; many times, as Saint James pointed out, we choose to act on our instinct and compound one sin with another. Maybe we start talking about the person to another. Maybe we confront the person in a way that tells them we think something is wrong with them. We make it clear that they are not meeting our standards and they need to prove themselves to us.

It is through these judgements that we lose sight of our common humanity. Every single human being on this planet is in the exact same place. We are all sinners, we are all broken, and we all act in ways that contravene the will of God. Each person on this planet is also unconditionally loved by God. Each has been endowed with particular gifts and talents intended to help God’s plan of salvation be realized. The reality is that every issue or concern we use to create division is a human “creation” and does not come from God. God sees every single human being in the same way—as a person in need of the saving actions and love of Jesus Christ.

Whether or not a person is using their gifts, or living their lives to their full potential, cannot be a human judgement. We can judge an action as being right or wrong and, in fact, we must do so. We must help people realize that God has determined the truth and we must abide by that truth. But at the same time, we cannot judge the person for choosing to act contrary to God’s will. We do not know where their heart is and where their struggle is coming from.

A perfect example of this comes from the difference between King Saul and King David. King Saul was ordered by God to completely wipe out a city, but he chose not to for his own reasons. He felt he could give greater glory to God by following his own instincts as to what to do. King David clearly desired to live his life in accord with God’s will but he messed up a lot. He committed adultery and then had the husband murdered. In most human estimates the actions of Saul would be exemplary since he looked to act with mercy, while David’s actions seem to be horrendous and deserving of condemnation.

The problem is that God saw it very differently. Saul lost his kingdom over what he did. King David was promised that his throne would stand for ever. Why? Saul acted in arrogance. He, unlike Abraham, never consulted God about changing the plans. He decided he knew better than God and then never really repented of what he did. David, on the other hand, when confronted with his actions immediately repented. In fact, how God described David was: “Then He removed [Saul] and raised up David as their king; of him He repented. In fact, how God described David was: “Then He removed [Saul] and raised up David as their king; of him He testified, ‘I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.’” And David sought to do that but at times failed. God’s judgment is ultimately about the heart and not simply the actions. That is why we cannot judge a person, for we can never judge their heart. As the saying goes, “Love the sinner but hate the sin.”

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,
FROM OUR COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
CHRISTINE TRZNADEL

Some mornings I walk my dog in the neighborhood, and some days I run him in the back yard with the assistance of a tennis racquet and 3 tennis balls so he can release all his pent-up energy. This morning, my 2-year old Chihuaha-Dachshund mix and I decided to take to the street. Most mornings (to-date) I have not had to go outside with anything more than a sweater, and this morning was no different. I did, however, have the need of an umbrella as there was a slight rainfall. After about seven minutes of nose-to-ground and duties-performed, Ru began leading me home when suddenly, out of the blue, our leisurely walk turned into a near-run (such physical activity in 3-inch stiletto heels is not a pretty sight). The temperature fell, the wind rose and the snow-squall nearly blinded. Just like that, in the snap of a finger—like someone flipped a switch—the weather changed dramatically. As I shared this story a few times throughout the day, it got me to thinking. Our lives can change in the time it takes to snap a finger—like someone flipped a switch. And such changes are often dramatic and life-changing. As I pondered this, I was led to reflect on the following …

As I ran to my home, filled with the warmth from a pellet stove, in order to escape the cold discomfort I was experiencing, would it be my first impulse to run home to a God, who is filled with the warmth of pure love in order to escape the coldness of a hurt, a fear, an injustice? I would hope so. I hope that I would instinctively run to the arms of my Father, God; that I would sit at the feet of my Lord, Jesus, hope so. I hope that I would instinctively run to the arms of my Father, God; that I would sit at the feet of my Lord, Jesus, because throughout the past 24 years, those wiser than I have nurtured and gently led me into His presence; taking comfort in His never-ending and unfailing love.

When my husband was diagnosed with cancer back in early 2007, it was a shock, to say the least. My first instinct was to dial the phone in an attempt to throw off the coldness I found myself in—to fill my space with familiar voices and listening hearts. I called my very good priest friend, Fr. Leo; no answer. I called my favorite Aunt Michele; no answer on whom I have been journeying with since 1999; no answer on myself in—to fill my space with familiar voices and listening hearts. I called my very good priest friend, Fr. Leo; no answer. I called my favorite Aunt Michele; no answer. I called my dad; no answer. Where was everyone? Didn’t they realize that I needed them? That I needed someone to be strong for me? That I didn’t want to face this all alone? I then remember falling to my knees and burying my head into the seat of my favorite reading chair, and it was then and there that I realized that the only thing I needed to do was to run ‘home’ into the loving arms and familiar voice of He who loves and knows me best.

Throughout the two years of Ron’s treatment, I never asked God for his healing. Honestly, it didn’t even cross my mind, because I was comfortably resting in the promise that God wants what’s best for us. The only thing I did for those two years was thank and praise Him. And when there was no lingering sign of cancer following those two years, I thanked and praised. And when we celebrated five years of being cancer-free, I thanked and praised. I gave, and still give, thanks and praise on a daily basis to the God whose never-ending and unfailing love offers warmth when I run home and into His arms.

On Sunday, November 10, over 30 of our collaborative parishioners had the glorious occasion of making a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, our archdiocesan cathedral. Completed in 1875 by then Archbishop John Joseph Williams, at 364 feet long, 90 feet wide, and 120 feet high, with a seating capacity of 1,700, Holy Cross Cathedral is the largest church in New England. It is built of locally quarried Roxbury puddingstone and Quincy granite to designs of noted ecclesiastical architect Patrick C. Keely, an Irish immigrant himself. The advent of cast-iron construction permitted exceptionally slender nave columns supporting the largest wooden vault of its time. An un fashionably remote location—the former site of the town gallows—betrays Anglo-Saxon Protestant Boston’s ambivalence toward waves of "foreign" immigrants, for whom the new cathedral’s completion after nine years of construction was a signal achievement.

The pipe organ, built by the Boston firm E&GG Hook and Hastings Pipe Organ was the largest of its kind in 1875 when installed in the Cathedral, and remains one of the grandest organs of its type in the world. It is, for those who know, one of the most impressive instruments in existence.

It contains over 5,300 pipes!

Most recently, over the past three years, the cathedral has undergone a $30 million-dollar renovation. All but $1.5 million has been paid. The windows have been cleaned, the interior painted, art work and murals restored, marble floor, new altar, pulpit, and baptismal font created. In fact, the marble was mined from the same quarry in Italy that the original high altar came from. All was designed and chiseled to mimic the detail of the high altar itself. Also installed was a new fire suppression system, a new heating system and—praise the Lord!——AIR CONDITIONING!

This cathedral church is a treasure and the heart of our diocese. The efforts and treasure of many immigrant Catholics went into building this magnificent “Templo Dei”, temple of God. It is our mother church and the seat of the Archbishop. A place where local Catholics can turn to, to envision the beauty and grandeur of God, displayed in every corner of the building. When I hear the phrase, “This is none other than the house of God and the gate of Heaven”, I think of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. It perfectly magnifies that sentiment. Heart, mind, and imagination are drawn upwards to God in its beauty. You cannot but help to raise your eyes up and offer a prayer to the Father in heaven. Psalm 96 tells us, “Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” This is what you are drawn into when you cross its doors.

Due to the wonderful response we had in taking people down to Boston for this trip, we will host it again, maybe in the spring. If you didn’t have a chance to join us this time, we encourage you to consider joining us again once it’s announced. My thanks to Alaina Buckley from our Faith Formation team in helping pull this all together.
Next weekend, November 24th/25th, the Archdiocese will take up the Collection for Retired Sisters. Since 1988, the collection has provided needed financial support for religious communities who have served the Archdiocese of Boston as educators and health care and social service providers.

Please give generously in recognition of the Sisters’ years of dedicated service. For more information, please contact the Delegate for Religious at (617) 746-5637.

### St. Mary

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Weekly Offertory</th>
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All Saints Holy Day Collection: 2,731

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### St. John

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All Saints Holy Day Collection: 2,037

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### Online Giving Programs

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

### Pro-Life Ballot Initiative

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.

THIS weekend, 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.

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All are invited to attend Lessons and Carols this December at St. John. Come and spend some time with us throughout Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

As Christ came for all, each evening will represent and honor a different culture. Readings and Songs will be read and sung in the native language of that particular evening.

**December 2: Spanish • December 9: French • December 16: African • December 23: English**

Refreshments and fellowship will follow afterwards.
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 church and parish center entrances and parish offices.

Fr. Brian is holding an informational meeting on Sunday, December 8th at 1:00 pm in St. Mary Church. This meeting is for both those who have already registered and those who are looking for a little more information before making a final decision to do so.

-A Pilgrim’s Prayer by Thomas Merton

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself.
And the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore,
I will trust You always though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Amen.
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 16  4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
SUN, NOV 17  8:30 am: Eileen Lorrey Muldown: Memorial
                  10:30 am: Joseph Surette: 4th Anniversary
THU, NOV 21  9:00 am: Deceased Members of the
                   Cumming and Bolger Families: Memorial
SAT, NOV 23  4:00 pm: Doris Autino: 3rd Anniversary
SUN, NOV 24  8:30 am: For the People of the Parish
                  10:30 am: Brian Muscato and for the intentions of
                  Charlene Muscato and Family

St. Mary

SAT, NOV 16  4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
SUN, NOV 17  7:00 am: Josef Pokorny: 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
MON, NOV 18  7:00 am: Bruce M. Goodnow: Memorial
TUE, NOV 19  7:00 am: Jeanne and Robert Sullivan: Memorial
WED, NOV 20  7:00 am: Mildred Lamontagne
FRI, NOV 22  7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial
SAT, NOV 23  4:00 pm: Deceased Members of Knights of
                  Columbus, Bishop Ruocco Council
SUN, NOV 24  7:00 am: Louise and Raymond: Memorial
                  9:00 am: For the People of the Parish
                  11:00 am: Sydney L. Kerr: 4th Anniversary
                  6:00 pm: Louis Robillard: 1st Anniversary

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.

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:
Happy Birthday Wishes for Michael Fuss

This week’s St. Mary Rose for Life:
Happy Birthday Wishes for Darryl Howes

Roses Provided by Mahoney’s Garden Center

“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

John Bradley St. John: November 15 at St. Mary
Maureen E. Bell: November 15 at St. John
Gloria A. Tremblay: November 20 at St. Mary

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

Monday, Nov 18
1Macc 1: 10-15,
41-43,54-57,62-63
Psalm 119
Luke 18: 35-43

Tuesday, Nov 19
2Macc 6: 18-31
Psalm 3
Luke 19: 1-10

Wednesday, Nov 20
2Macc 7: 1, 20-31
Psalm 17
Luke 19: 11-28

Thursday, Nov 21
1Macc 2: 15-29
Psalm 50
Luke 19: 41-44

Friday, Nov 22
1Macc 4: 36-37, 52-59
1Chronicles 9 (psalm)
Luke 19: 45-48

Saturday, Nov 23
1Macc 6: 1-13
Psalm 9/19

Sunday, Nov 24
2Samuel 5: 1-3
Psalm 122
Colossians 1: 12-20
Joseph E. Nolet of Tyngsboro

Joseph Emery Nolet of Tyngsboro, 60, lost his five year battle with Alzheimer’s on Sunday October 13, 2019 surrounded by loved ones at the High Pointe Hospice House.

He was the beloved husband of Cheryl Nolet (Ahern) with whom he just celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary on October 3rd. He was born in Lowell, MA on June 14, 1959, and was the son of the late Edward and Ethel Nolet. He graduated from Chelmsford High School with the class of 1978. Joe was the proud owner of Nolet Brothers Landscaping of Tyngsboro, MA for over 30 years. He was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church in Chelmsford. He enjoyed golfing, bowling and was an avid fan of the Patriots, Red Sox, and NASCAR Racing.

More than anything, Joe loved spending time with family and friends, whether it was relaxing at his lake house in New Hampshire or on a beach in Aruba, he was always the life of the party.

Besides his wife, he leaves his daughter Meagan and her husband, Ryan Dolan as well as his two cherished grandchildren, Shea and Emma. He is also survived by his brother of the late David Nolet who passed away earlier this year.

He was the brother of the late David Nolet who passed away earlier this year.

Visiting hours were Wed., Oct. 23rd from 3-7PM Funeral was Thurs., Oct. 24th 10AM at the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST., CHELMSFORD, MA with a Mass at 11AM at St. John the Evangelist Church. Burial in Fairview Cemetery in Chelmsford. Memorials may be made in his name to the Alzheimer’s Association 309 Waverly Oaks Waltham, MA 02452. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.

Active Supporters & Parishioners of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Or visit us at www.dolanfuneralhome.com

Serving the Needs of the Families of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Life is a Celebration

Burial & Cremation
Pre-Need Funeral Planning
Catering Available
Private Kitchenette for Immediate Family
Personalized Options Available

Funeral Directors
Type 3 James F. Dolan & James F. Dolan II
Type 6 Mike Law, Matthew Crowley & Dennis Graham

Berny Nolet; 3 sisters; Sheila and her husband Ed Lisavich, Sharon and her husband Bob Campbell, Paula and her husband Steve Ellis. Joe always thought of the Ahern family as his own and had a loving relationship with each of them that began over 45 years ago when he first met Cheryl. In addition, he leaves his sister-in-law, Jean Fielding and spouse Patti White; 3 brothers-in-law, Dan and his wife Sarah Ahern, Brian and his wife Christine Ahern, Todd and his wife Heather Ahern; and many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his father-in-law, Philip Ahern and had a special love for his late mother-in-law Janet “Jammy”, who passed away in 2011. Joe will be greatly missed by family and friends alike. He had a truly unique way of connecting with anyone he met and had the most generous heart. He worked hard to provide such a wonderful life for his family and lived every day without regret.

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