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.
St. Mary Calendar

- **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

- **Monday, November 25**
  - Matthew Bible Study • 10 am - 12 pm • PC Conf Room 1
  - Seminarian Presentation • 7 - 8 pm • Church (or LiveView)

- **Tuesday, November 26**
  - EPIC Bible Study • CANCELLED

- **Thursday, November 28**
  - Parish Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
  - 7 am Mass is replaced with an 8 am Mass today
  - Rosary Makers • CANCELLED. Happy Thanksgiving!
  - Rosary • CANCELLED. Happy Thanksgiving
  - Adoration • Suspended for Thanksgiving Holiday

- **Friday, November 29**
  - Parish Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
  - Adoration • Suspended for Thanksgiving Holiday
  - Knitting and Crocheting • 3:00 - 5:00 pm • Parish Hall
  - Baptism Preparation • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 1

- **Saturday, November 30**
  - NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. John this week
  - Adoration • Suspended for Thanksgiving Holiday
  - Reconciliation • 11:00 am - 12:00 noon • Church
  - Music Ministry Recital • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • 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, December 1**
  - 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
  - Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church
  - 6 pm Music Ministry • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church
  - Collaborative PPC Meeting • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 1

CALLING NEW ALTAR SERVERS

ALL youth in grade 3 and up, who have received their First Communion, are invited to become Altar Servers in the parish in which they worship.

The below dates are all at St. John’s, but open to future altar servers of both parishes. Sessions last about one hour. It is mandatory that you attend 3 training sessions.

- **Mondays at 4:00 pm**
  - November 25th; December 2nd, 9th
- **Tuesdays at 4:00 pm**
  - November 26th; December 3rd, 10th
- **Saturdays at 11:00 am**
  - November 30th; December 7th, 21st

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.

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!
Support Group for Grieving Parents and Adult Siblings
Saturday, November 30
10:30 am - 12:00 noon
St. John Old Parish Center

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

Thanksgiving Day Mass
Thursday, November 28th
St. John at 9:00 am
St. Mary at 8:00 am (NO 7:00 am Mass)

Please bring the bread and wine that will be shared at your meal for a special blessing.

All are Invited to a Recital to Benefit St. Mary Music Ministries
This concert will feature works from Schubert to Bernstein, German to French and performed by John Anthony Volpe and Margie Sidari.

Saturday, November 30
1:00 pm at St. Mary Church

St. John Calendar

- **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

- **Monday, November 25**
  - Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  - Chelmsford Quilters Guild • 6:00 - 8:00 pm • NPC
  - Families with Addiction Support Group • 7:00 pm • NPC
  - Seminarian Presentation • 7 - 8 pm • SM Church (or LiveView)

- **Tuesday, November 26**
  - Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel
  - Open Music Rehearsal • 6:30 pm • Church

- **Wednesday, November 27**
  - Adoration, following 9:00 am Mass • OPC Chapel

- **Thursday, November 28**
  - Parish Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
  - Charismatic Prayer Group • CANCELLED
  - BINGO • CANCELLED
  - Charismatic Prayer Group • CANCELLED

- **Friday, November 29**
  - Parish Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
  - African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library

- **Saturday, November 30**
  - Grief Support Group • 10:30 am - 12:00 pm • OPC
  - Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

- **Sunday, December 1**
  - Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 7
  - NO Children’s Liturgy of the Word this week
  - Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Mariotti Prayer Shawl Ministry, following 8:30 am Mass • Linehan

In honor of the holiday, the parish offices will close at 12:00 NOON on Wednesday, November 27th and remain closed on both Thursday the 28th and Friday the 29th.

Thank you for your loving, kind, and helpful presence. You make a huge difference in the lives of others. We thank you for your love and generosity.

Fr. Brian, Fr. Corey, Fr. Colletti and the entire Collaborative Staff wish you and your family a Happy and Joyful Thanksgiving!
Q. Why is Mass the best prayer we can offer?

A. There are many ways and many reasons we could give to answer this question, but I think if we understand what is happening as we pray the Eucharistic Prayer, we can truly appreciate the reason for saying this. The word “Eucharist” comes from the Greek word meaning “to give thanks.”

The Eucharistic Prayer, then, is a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving, corresponding to Christ’s blessing of the bread and wine. In this prayer, which is the high point of the entire Mass, we celebrate and are invited to experience in faith the very mystery of salvation. We are united to Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension and the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. What we pray for is not simply the transformation of bread and wine into the very body and blood of Christ. When we enter into this prayer we are united in heart, mind, and voice with the heavenly host, crying out to the Father, “Holy! Holy! Holy!” As our prayer ascends to the Father, He hears the voice of His beloved one, Jesus Christ, and responds. We ask the Father to pour forth the Holy Spirit (epiclesis) so that our human gifts of bread and wine become Christ’s body and blood. Christ’s own words are solemnly spoken: “This is my body … this is my blood.” And our God responds by pouring out the Holy Spirit upon our gifts.

We are now not only in the presence of God, but also in the very heart of the eternal God. For the Church, this prayer opens us to eternity and, therefore, unites us to Christ’s very act of salvation—his self-offering on the cross. We remember (anamnesis), as Christ commanded us, but in a way that brings the death and resurrection of Christ, and its fruits, into our here-and-now. In making this prayer we are uniting ourselves to the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Christ, his one offering to the Father and, with Christ, we empty ourselves of all that is not of God. This is possible because we now pray not only that the gifts of bread and wine be transformed, but that we, too, will be transformed into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit (epiclesis). Therefore, this prayer not only seeks to make Christ present in the Eucharistic elements, but also to make Christ present in the world through us. As we conclude this prayer we are being prepared to receive Christ’s gift of self.

As we celebrate the Mass then, we are called to recognize that we are coming into the very presence of God—we enter into eternity itself. We come to experience the reality of our salvation through our remembrance of Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension; we come to participate in Christ’s very act of salvation. In this experience we recognize what our lives are truly about and Who our true foundation is. Christian life is really about one thing: being saved in Christ, and that is what the Mass helps us to experience. Thus, in the Mass we offer praise and thanksgiving to God for this tremendous gift that He gives to us through Christ.

What better prayer could we offer to God than this?
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.

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. 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.

We’ve All Been Called

Jesus is the way to our Salvation, and we are all called to play a part in bringing that salvation to others. What does that mean?

Just as Joseph felt unworthy—after all he was just a simple carpenter—of the call to foster the child of God and raise him as his own, so we too feel the same. How can I, in my simple role as parent, child, student, teacher, printing press operator, cashier, bus driver, construction worker, florist, etc, etc, foster the child Jesus and bring him forth to the world?

This talk, presented by Fr. Brian, will introduce Joseph as our role model and show us what it means to trust in the promises of faith and help us to believe in the abilities given to us to do so, as long as we are open to the call of the Lord.

To Bring the Light of Christ into the World

Tuesday, December 3rd... 7:00 pm at St. Mary Church

This presentation will also be available via LIVE VIEW

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.

*This is also a Deep Dive event for our Faith Formation students.*
### 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 website as part of the specific deep dive page.

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### November 24th Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1 Class</th>
<th>Grade 2 Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 3-6 Class Groups A &amp; C</th>
<th>Grades 3-6 Class Groups B &amp; D</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Center</td>
<td>Parish Center</td>
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<tr>
<th>Grade 7 &amp; 8 Class</th>
<th>4:15 - 5:45 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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### December 1st Class/FGS* Schedule

**Due to Thanksgiving Holiday**  
There will be no classes or events today!

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### December 8th Class/FGS* Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1 FGS: Group A</th>
<th>Grade 2 FGS: Group B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<th>Grade 3 FGS: Group A</th>
<th>Grade 3 FGS: Group B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<th>Grade 4 FGS, Group A</th>
<th>Grade 4 FGS, Group B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<th>Grade 5 FGS, Group A</th>
<th>Grade 5 FGS, Group B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<td>Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<th>Grade 6 FGS, Group A</th>
<th>Grade 6 FGS, Group B</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
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**Confirmation II**: 4:15 - 5:45 pm  
Hall

*Family Gathering Session*  
Parents attend with their children

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### Deep Dive Calendars

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 Schedule can be found on our website  
Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars and Schedules

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### Contact Information

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Elaine Kindler  
Faith Formation Coordinator  
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• 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.

* 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 website as part of the specific deep dive page.

November 24th Class Schedule

GRADES 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

December 1st Class/FGS* Schedule

DUE TO THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
There will be no classes or events today!

December 8th Class/FGS* Schedule

GRADE K FGS, GROUP A
9:45 - 11:15 am
Parish Hall

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

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

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

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

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

CONFIRMATION II
11:30 am - 1:00 pm in Parish Hall

* FAMILY GATHERING SESSION
Parents attend with their children

ALL FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES
IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Follow us on Instagram

instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic

Upcoming Deep Dives can be found on our Instagram page!

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
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 by 7:30 pm.

RSVP by THIS Wednesday, December 18th if you wish to serve Friday, December 27th

Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. -1Timothy 4:12

HOUSE OF HOPE: LOWELL

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 final scheduled dates for 2019 is...
December 5th

The Season of Advent
begins next Sunday, December 1st

“We’ve All Been Called”
Tuesday, December 3rd
7:00 pm at St. Mary Church

Lessons and Carols
7:00 pm at St. John Church
followed by fellowship
December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

Advent Confession Schedule
In addition to regular Saturday schedule

St. John Church
Monday Evenings… 7 - 8 pm
December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

St. Mary Church
Wednesday Evenings… 7 - 8 pm
December 4th, 11th, 18th

The Parish Offices
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!

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

Available for purchase according to the following schedule:

The Parish Offices
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!
When I was three years old, my family moved to a three-bedroom apartment in Watertown right on Route 20. It was a two-family home and we lived on the bottom floor. My parents, of course, had their own bedroom, my three brothers shared one room, and my sister and I shared the other. The only problem was my refusal to sleep in a girl’s room. In my mind I was a boy and so I should be in with my brothers. My parents, of course, just looked at the space and divided us up in the most pragmatic way, but that really meant nothing to me. Each night my Mom would put me in my bed, and each night I would go over to my brothers’ room, climb into bed with my brother Kevin, and go to sleep. No matter how my parents tried to explain to me that I should be in my own bed, I was determined to be in my brothers’ room. And I give my brother Kevin a lot of credit: he let me sleep in his bed even if meant he was not very comfortable since he only had a twin bed. When I went into the room, he simply lifted up the cover so I could climb into the bed more easily. He never really complained or told me to go back to my own bed. He simply understood my need to be in the boys’ room, and I think he realized I would have slept on the floor if need be, and he did not want that.

In some ways my brother Kevin better understood what I needed more than my parents. They were simply looking at what made the most sense given the situation. They looked at my age, the size of the rooms, and placed us in the most sensible way. But, as a three-year old that really did not matter to me: I wanted to be with my brothers. Kevin actually always went out of his way to make me feel comfortable and welcomed. He really was a pretty good big brother because he was watching out for me and put my needs before his own. He could have easily told me, sorry, no room in my bed—it’s too small. Instead, each night he simply moved over and made room for me.

As Christians we are called to a real sense of hospitality. And true hospitality is about recognizing the needs of others rather than imposing our idea of what they need. It is like the story of Martha and Mary. “As they continued on their journey [Jesus] entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed Him. She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet, listening to Him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to Him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.” The Lord said to her in reply, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.’”

Martha already knew what Jesus wanted and so she went ahead to get everything ready for Him. Mary, on the other hand, stopped what she was doing, gave her full attention to Christ, and truly listened to what He had to say. Mary wanted to understand what Jesus needed by actually listening to Him. Martha assumed she already knew what was best for Jesus and, therefore, knew what was needed.

The problem that arises when we make assumptions is that it stifles our ability to really understand the other person’s true needs. We might not be able to recognize what their true struggles are. We might not be able to attend to what it is that he or she actually desires, because we are too busy getting everything just right—as we see it. Our hospitality becomes more of a demand on them to adjust to our perceptions, than trying to determine the person’s actual needs. We need to take a lesson from Mary when we are trying to really interact with others. It means to simply stop, give our full attention to them, and really listen. It means putting down the cell phones and tablets. It means shutting off the TV and computer. It means the next things on our “To Do” list are not being thought about. When we do this, we are really trying to communicate with the person before us, and thereby treating them with true respect and dignity.

And the same is true with God. How often do we rush through our prayers simply to get to the next thing? We have prayed and so we can check it off. The reality is that we usually give God little room to respond, and then we complain that He doesn’t hear our prayers because He never responds. Ask yourself, when was the last time, in prayer, that you really stopped, gave God your full attention, and then listened? When was the last time you really gave hospitality to God? When was the last time you gave God the priority in your conversation with Him? When was the last time you really tried to have a dialogue with the Lord? When was the last time you gave Him space in your heart? When was the last time you really made room for Him? We usually come up with the excuse that God will understand that I am just so busy. Are we so busy that we cannot be truly hospitable to God? Does that make sense? Then... how can we ever truly understand how we are supposed to live our lives if we do not understand God’s expectations of us?

Mary understood what Jesus needed for the simple reason that she stopped, gave her full attention to Him, and truly listened. She made room for Jesus in her life. My brother Kevin understood what I needed and so he made room for me in his bed. Let each of us take the time to find out what God really needs from us, and to make room for Him in our lives.

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,
Come To the Table of Plenty:
St. Mary Outreach Music Ministry

The St. Mary Music Ministries wish to inform the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative of a new endeavor we have embarked upon. St. Mary Music Ministries now offers an outreach music ministry bringing the joy of music to the Chelmsford Community. We are very grateful and excited to have our very first assignment presented to us by one of our long-time parishioners, Mary Moriarty.

I must say it feels strange for me to be addressing Mrs. Moriarty as Mary, as she requested, for Mary and I go way back. I had Mrs. Moriarty, oh wait… Mary, as a study skills teacher at McCarthy Middle School. So I can tell you from my many years of knowing Mary, she is nothing short of amazing in her services to others and the Chelmsford Community. Some may call her a saint, for I can attest to her patience, but that's a story for another bulletin article.

Mary has been a key member of Chelmsford’s Table of Plenty, whose mission is to provide nutritious meals to those in need and to help alleviate isolation. The organization began nine years ago and served their first meal to seven guests in May of 2010. As it stands, the team now serves over seventy guests at each meal and sends out ten to twenty meals weekly to families in need, and places like My Father’s House. The Table of Plenty houses 200 volunteers serving on nine teams who serve once every other month, and are always looking for volunteers.

In knowing a bit more information on Chelmsford’s Table of Plenty, you must be asking, “How does St. Mary Music Ministries fit into all of this?” Well, on Tuesday evenings a member from our ministry teams heads over to the senior center to provide music at each meal. I myself and Margie Sidari look forward to spending a Tuesday evening at the senior center with such a warm community of people. While the commitment of playing on their Kimball Grand Piano is only monthly, the rewards are great for all. It is my goal for the newly formed St. Mary Outreach Music Ministry, that we establish 2 sets of 4 teams of dedicated musicians of all types to bring the joy of music to the people of the Table of Plenty Community on Tuesday evenings from 5 to 6 pm. Outreach promotes evangelization, which as Catholics and sheep of Christ’s flock, is our mission.

That being said, why not prayerfully consider joining our new St. Mary Outreach Music Ministry? It only takes one person to bring joy and happiness to so many through song, and that one person could be you!

Please contact me, John Anthony Volpe at (978) 729-4226 or jvolpe@chelmsfordcatholic.org for more information on how you can help!

“Come to the feast of heaven and earth!
Come to the Table of Plenty! God will provide for all that we need, here at the Table of Plenty.” -Dan Schutte

From our Director of St. Mary Music Ministries
John Anthony Volpe

When Christ preached the coming of the Kingdom of God, many people thought it was going to be an earthly kingdom. Perhaps the people hoped to see Christ emerge as a national and political leader. Was the restoration of the kingdom of the anointed kings, Saul, David and Solomon about to happen? The Hebrew ancestors experienced living under a king from the years 1020 to 585 B.C.—five centuries all told.

Did Simon, the Zealot, join ranks with Christ because the Zealot Party wanted to see the overthrow of the Roman occupation? Did Judas betray Jesus because he wanted Jesus to get on with it…he was taking too long to bring about the earthly kingdom?

When Pilot asked Jesus if he was a king, Jesus answered that he indeed was a king but his kingdom was not from here. It was a spiritual kingdom in which people lived in harmony with one another and with God, his Father. The word harmony in Hebrew is shalom or peace.

In the Our Father we pray ‘thy kingdom come, thy will be done,’ and in the Creed, ‘and his kingdom will have no end.’ Christ has made us to be a part of his kingdom where he ‘lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever’ (Rev.1:6).

You entered the kingdom when you were baptized. You were anointed to be priest, prophet and king. As a priest your chief task is to worship God, as a prophet you are to be a student of the Master and tell others what you have learned; and as a king you have obligations not to rule over others, but to be servants of others.

Saint Augustin in the fourth century wrote that the Church has people that the kingdom does not have and the kingdom has people that do not belong to the Church. How can we tell who belongs to the kingdom? You will know them by their love. Read Matthew’s Gospel Chapter 25, verses 31-46.

From Our Senior Priest in Residence
Fr. Arnold Colletti
This 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**

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

Weekend of Nov 16th/17th

| Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses | $17,140 |
| Actual Received | $11,262 |
| Variance | $-5,878 |

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

| Offertory Budget | $342,800 |
| Actual | $296,905 |
| Variance | $-45,895 |

**St. John**

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

Weekend of Nov 16th/17th

| Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses | $11,040 |
| Actual Received | $11,109 |
| Variance | $69 |

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

| Offertory Budget | $220,800 |
| Actual | $192,059 |
| Variance | $-28,741 |

**Online Giving Programs**: visit [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org](http://www.chelmsfordcatholic.org).

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

**Upcoming Workshop Offering**

Saturday, December 7th

9 am - 12 pm • St. John Parish Hall

Registration required...

From the home page of our website, click on Protecting God’s Children under the Parish Life tab

All employees and volunteers, aged 18 years and older, who work with children, youth, or the elderly in the Archdiocese of Boston are required to participate in the Virtus, Protecting God’s Children program. This *one-time* workshop aims to educate parish adults in recognizing the signs and symptoms that indicate a child is being abused or exploited in some way, offer protective practices with a specific plan to prevent child sexual abuse, and instruct on reporting incidents of abuse.

**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.weadorehim.com](http://www.stmary.weadorehim.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
St. Mary Parish (#139) Operating Budget Report
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020: First Quarter ending September 30, 2019

FORECASTED FACTS

REVENUE:
Our weekly Offertory goal over a 51-week period is $17,140/week. Through the three months ending September 30, 2019, our Offertory is averaging $14,945/week. If we continue to receive this amount each week, we will end the fiscal year with a significant shortfall in the Offertory, and a forecasted overall deficit of over $106,000. The Forecasted Total includes the first quarter actuals and the remaining three quarters. Please remember that the Offertory is our main source of funds for paying our daily operating expenses, and your generous and consistent financial support throughout the year is needed and greatly appreciated.

EXPENSE:
Compensation and benefits are below budget mostly due to temporary vacancies in two part-time staff positions and savings in benefits such as 401k employer contributions, health insurance and other related benefits ($14,900). We work very hard to keep expenses down, as they are carefully monitored, and some, such as utilities and heat, are below budget for the 1st quarter due to more efficient systems and processes in our buildings. We will continue to review and analyze better ways to use the financial resources entrusted to us by the parishioners. Thank you for your continued prayers and support to our parish.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Brian Mahoney, Pastor and Paul Firicano, Collaborative Business Manager
Parish Finance Council Members: Armand Dilando, Ted Powers, Lauren Desforge, Paul Therrien, Jack Parsons

Your financial support by way of the Offertory in the budget is crucial in helping us maintain and build our programs and ministries here at St. Mary’s. Online Giving is a great option to donate to the parish. It has been extremely helpful to us in our budget planning. Online Giving is a web-based program in which parishioners can control their donations/payments on their own using a secure link from our website. It meets the highest banking-level security standards set forth by the Payment Card Industry (PCI) to help ensure safe and confidential transactions. This option has become a great way for many of our parishioners to donate, especially those who cannot make it to Mass or may go away during the winter or summer months. To date, there are 480 families participating in Online Giving and their donations guarantees over $16,500 per month in Offertory to the parish budget. To sign up for online giving, see below...

1. Please visit our collaborative website www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
2. Click on the Online Giving link (logo shown above) in the right-hand side bar of the home page.
3. Click on Create New Account to register and set up your payment options, withdrawal dates, etc.
   If you prefer, there is a Quick Give option to make a one-time payment.

There are also FAQ’s on the Online Giving homepage that will answer many of your questions. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Paul Firicano or Tina Sousa at the parish office (978) 256-2374.
INCOME FACTS:
Our weekly Offertory goal over a 51-week period is $11,040/week. Through the three months ending September 30, 2019, our Offertory is averaging $9,400/week. If we continue to receive this amount each week, we will end the fiscal year with a significant shortfall in the Offertory, and a forecasted overall deficit of over $78,000. Please remember that the Offertory is our main source of funds for paying our daily operating expenses, and your generous and consistent financial support throughout the year is needed and greatly appreciated.

EXPENSE FACTS:
Compensation and benefits are below budget due mostly to temporary vacancies in 2 part-time staff positions and savings in benefits such as 401k employer contributions, health insurance and other related benefits. We work very hard to keep expenses down, and the forecast projects that our expenses will be slightly below budget. However, unlike many businesses, we do not budget for an expense contingency to provide a cushion for expenses. We will continue to review, analyze and implement more efficient systems and processes in our buildings and grounds and find better ways to use the financial resources entrusted to us by the parishioners. Thank you for your continued prayers and support to our parish.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Brian Mahoney, Pastor and Paul Firicano, Collaborative Business Manager
Parish Finance Council Members: Jeff Brown, John Bagni, Celeste Dunn, Paul Brzezenski, Grace Ann Steed

Your financial support by way of the Offertory in the budget is crucial in helping us maintain and build our programs and ministries here at St. John’s. WeShare is a great option to donate to the parish. It has been extremely helpful to us in our budget planning. WeShare is a web-based online giving program in which parishioners can control their donations/payments on their own using a secure link from our website. It meets the highest banking-level security standards set forth by the Payment Card Industry (PCI) to help ensure safe and confidential transactions. This option has become a great way for many of our parishioners to donate, especially those who cannot make it to Mass or may go away during the winter or summer months. To date, participation in WeShare guarantees over $8,500 per month in Offertory to the parish budget. To sign up for online giving, refer to the steps below...

1. Please visit our collaborative website www.chelmsfordcatholic.org.
2. Click on the WeShare Giving link (logo shown above) in the right-hand side bar of the home page.
3. Choose your giving opportunity and set up your payment options, withdrawal date, etc. for recurring donations. There is also an option to make a one-time donation/payment.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Paul Firicano or Tina Sousa at the parish office (978) 251-8571.
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 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  
**Mon, Nov 25** 9:00 am: Alice and Wilfred LeBlanc: Memorial  
**Tue, Nov 26** 9:00 am: Josephine and Marceline Gallant: Memorial  
**Wed, Nov 27** 9:00 am: Frances Myers: 1st Anniversary  
**Thur, Nov 28** 9:00 am: For the People of the Parish  
**Sat, Nov 29** 4:00 pm: Mary Louise Murray: 13th Anniversary  
**Sun, Dec 1** 8:30 am: Gerald P. Cole, Jr.: Memorial  
10:30 am: For the People of the Parish

**St. Mary**

**SAT, NOV 23** 4:00 pm: Deceased Members of Knights of Columbus, Bishop Ruocco Council  
**Sun, Nov 24** 7:00 am: Louise and Raymond Fuller: 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  
**Fri, Nov 29** 7:00 am: Robert H Garrity: 23rd Anniversary  
**Sat, Nov 30** 4:00 pm: David Kent: Memorial  
**Sun, Dec 1** 9:00 am: Fran and Jim Durkin: Memorial  
11:00 am: For the People of the Parish  
6:00 pm: Ruth and John O’Regan: Memorial

**FUNERALS recently celebrated**

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

**Richard Hanson:** November 18 at St. John  
**Louis Oliver:** November 21 at St. John

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

**St. 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. This week’s Altar Flower is In Memory of... Louis G Robillard

**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 Nathaly Dickerson

This week’s St. Mary Rose for Life:  
Happy Birthday Wishes for Lance McElaney

Roses Provided by Mahoney’s Garden Center

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

**Monday, Nov 25**  
Daniel 1: 1-6, 8-20  
Daniel 3 (psalm)  
Luke 21: 1-4

**Tuesday, Nov 26**  
Daniel 2: 31-45  
Daniel 3 (psalm)  
Luke 21: 5-11

**Wednesday, Nov 27**  
Daniel 5: 1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28  
Daniel 3 (psalm)  

**Thursday, Nov 28**  
Daniel 6: 12-28  
Daniel 3 (psalm)  

**Friday, Nov 29**  
Daniel 7: 2-14  
Daniel 3 (psalm)  
Luke 21: 29-33

**Saturday, Nov 30**  
Romans 10: 9-18  
Psalms 19  
Matthew 4: 18-22

**Sunday, Dec 1**  
Isaiah 2: 1-5  
Psalms 122  
Romans 13: 11-14  
Matthew 24: 37-44
Larry Joseph Johnson of North Chelmsford

Larry Joseph Johnson, 62, of North Chelmsford, MA passed away Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at Lowell General Hospital.

Born in Winchester, MA he was the son of the late Warren and Frances (Rae) Johnson. Mr. Johnson attended Billerica High School prior to starting a 38 year career at Bain Pest Control of Lowell, from where he retired in 2017.

He was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church in North Chelmsford, MA.

Larry enjoyed camping, hunting, vacations in Florida and being outdoors.

Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife of 39 years, Barbara (LaBelle) Drew of N. Chelmsford, four children, Carl Johnson of N. Chelmsford, MA, Barry Drew of Dracut, MA, Larry and his wife Wendy Johnson of Tyngsboro, MA and Linda Cushing of Billerica, MA, eight siblings, Robert and his wife Susan Johnson of Plymouth, MA, Ronald and his wife Kathy of Dracut, MA, Diane Johnson of York, ME, Gary and his wife Annette Johnson of Westford, MA, Gail Johnson-Bolton of Laurel MD, Linda and her husband Robert Robarge of Nashua, NH, Kevin and his wife Rena Johnson of Chelmsford and Karen and her husband Michael DaCampo of Woburn, MA, a sister and brother/in-law Doris and her husband Daniel Tibbetts and Cpl. William Tibbetts, USMC, of Dracut, MA, Ayla Johnson and Avery Johnson of Tyngsboro, MA and Alysha Cushing and Marissa Cushing of Billerica, MA, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours were Sunday, Oct. 20th from 1 to 5 P.M. Funeral was Monday, Oct. 21st at 8:00AM from the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD, with a funeral Mass at 9:00AM at St. John the Evangelist Church in Chelmsford. Burial in Fairview Cemetery, N. Chelmsford. Memorials may be made in his name to the American Lung Association. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.