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

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

- Saturday • 4:00 PM
- Sunday • 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM
- Saturday • 4:00 PM
- Sunday • 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM

**Weekday Mass Schedule**

- Monday - Friday • 9:00 AM
- Monday - Friday • 7:00 AM
- *Saturday 9:00 am Mass alternates between parishes. Refer to calendars.*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

- Saturday • 3:00 - 3:45 PM or by appointment
- Saturday • 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM or by appointment

**Eucharistic Adoration**

- First Friday of the Month • 9:30 - 11:30 am in OPC Chapel
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th Wednesday • 6:30 - 8:30 pm in OPC Chapel
- Thursday • 3:00 - 9:00 PM
- Friday • 7:30 AM - 9:00 PM
- Saturday • 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM in the Parish Center Chapel

**Masses are Available via Live Stream**

Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
LIVEVIEW resides on the right-hand sidebar of the home page

**Prayer Line**

To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, call the parish office and ask for ext 223.

-They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Matthew 2:11
**St. Mary Calendar**

- **Sunday, January 5**
  - Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
  - 11 am Choir Ministry Rehearsal • 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
  - Children’s Liturgy of the Word • 11 am Mass • PC Chapel
  - 6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church
  - Parish Council Meeting • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 1

- **Monday, January 6**
  - Matthew Bible Study • 10:00 am - 12 noon • PC Conf Room 1

- **Tuesday, January 7**
  - Epic Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Wednesday, January 8**
  - Deep Dive Adoration • 7:00 - 8:00 pm • St. John Church
  - Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Thursday, January 9**
  - Rosary • 12:00 - 1:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  - Adoration • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel

- **Friday, January 10**
  - Adoration • 7:00 am - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel
  - Knitting and Crocheting • 2:00 - 4:00 pm • Parish Hall

- **Saturday, January 11**
  - Daily Mass at 9:00 am
  - Adoration • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm • PC Chapel
  - Reconciliation • 11:00 am - 12 noon • Church
  - Music Ministry Rehearsals • 2:30 - 4:00 pm • Conf Room B
  - Anointing of the Sick, following 4 pm Mass • Church

- **Sunday, January 12**
  - Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
  - GraceNotes Rehearsal • 8:10 - 8:45 am • Church
  - 11 am Choir Ministry Rehearsal • 9:45 - 10:50 am • Choir Loft
  - Children’s Liturgy of the Word • 11 am Mass • PC Chapel
  - Table Ministry • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Kitchen
  - 6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church
  - YM High School Youth Group • 7:00 pm • Parish Hall

**BAPTISM**

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

**BAPTIZED AT ST. MARY’S**

- Kira Margaret Ball
- Connor Francis Callahan
- Paige Teresa Clark
- Aisley Grace Conley
- Isabella Cecilia Consalvi
- Kevin Joseph Consalvi
- Hadley Judith Dreher
- Gianna Furtado
- Briella Rose Groesser
- Allison Roberts

**BAPTIZED AT ST. JOHN’S**

Lucy Marie Dowling

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The clergy and staff would like to say **THANK you**

to all who sent Christmas wishes to us through cards, baked goods, chocolates and other goodies.

We are so truly blessed to be “family!”

The origin of the Rosary has a rich history that continues to bring peace to peoples lives.

The word rosary itself comes from the Latin word *rosarium*, which means “rose garden” or “garland of roses.”

When you pray the Rosary, it is like taking a peaceful walk through Mary’s rose garden...

a garden filled with beautiful, fragrant roses.

Join us for the recitation of this simple, yet most powerful and beautiful prayer!

**St. Mary Parish Center Chapel**

**Thursdays at 12 noon**

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“Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.”

Responsorial Psalm 72
The Pregnancy Care Center expresses their sincere appreciation for your generous support of the Baby Bottle Campaign this past fall.

“Thank you very much for showing your respect for life, through your wonderful donation of $9,160.45. Because of your support, we can come alongside women, children and families to build relationships and help meet needs both physically and spiritually. The funds you provided will help supply new moms and their families with material services (formula, diapers, cribs), education (unplanned pregnancy, infant care, healthy relationships), and the love and support of our client advocates. Thank you again!

St. John Tuesday Morning Coffee Group
Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month in the St. John Church Hall following the 9 am daily Mass.
Join us…

GOD, PIZZA AND BEER
Join us THIS WEDNESDAY, January 8th at 7:00 pm in the St. John OPC. If you have not joined us in the past, we invite you to take this opportunity to stop by for pizza, a cold brew, great fellowship and a conversation about next week’s Gospel. Hope to see you there!

CAUTION
COLD & FLU SEASON
As we enter the season of colds, flus and viruses, we encourage parishioners to exercise discretion in shaking hands at the Sign of Peace when they are either recovering from, have been exposed to, or are afraid that they may be coming down with an illness… if they have concerns about the strength of their own immune system in resisting disease. A friendly smile, wave and/or slight shake of the head is always an acceptable substitute in wintertime.

St. John Calendar

- **Sunday, January 5**
  Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 7
  Children’s Liturgy of the Word • 8:30 am Mass
  Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Mariotti

- **Monday, January 6**
  Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  Families with Addiction Support Group • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • NPC

- **Tuesday, January 7**
  Tuesday Morning Coffee, following 9 am Mass • Hall
  Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  Open Music Rehearsal • 6:30 pm • Church

- **Wednesday, January 8**
  Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  God, Pizza and Beer • 7:00 pm • OPC
  Culture of Life Group • 7:00 pm • Linehan
  Deep Dive Adoration • 7:00 - 8:00 pm • Church

- **Thursday, January 9**
  Charismatic Prayer Group • 10:00 am - 12 noon • OPC
  BINGO • 6:45 pm (doors open at 3:00 pm) • Hall

- **Friday, January 10**
  African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library
  Baptism Preparation • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Mariotti

- **Saturday, January 11**
  9:00 am Mass at St. Mary
  First Reconciliation Retreat • 9:30-10:45 am • Hall
  Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

- **Sunday, January 12**
  Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 7
  Children’s Liturgy of the Word • 8:30 am Mass
  Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Mariotti
  Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church

Turn page for more
Q: What is your favorite Holy Day of Obligation?
A. My favorite celebration would be Easter, but it is not a Holy Day of Obligation since it always falls on a Sunday. And Sunday has its own obligation to attend. But out of the six Holy Days of Obligation (January 1—Mary, Mother of God; Ascension Thursday; August 15—Assumption of Mary; November 1—All Saints Day; December 8—Immaculate Conception; December 25—Christmas), it would be Christmas. And, it is not about getting the gifts, although as a kid I must admit that would have been my primary reason. To me, Christmas is a powerful reminder of how far God will go, to have a relationship with me. God chose to humble himself and united himself—in the person of Jesus—to the human race for all time. And He did it in order to prepare for the ultimate betrayal and act of love the world would know. God knew how we would act and chose to move forward in securing our salvation through Jesus. Christmas is about God giving us the greatest gift possible—the gift of himself. Hence, He teaches us by example exactly how we must live out our lives. We must humble ourselves so as to offer ourselves as gift to others.

Q. Why did the wise men bring such expensive gifts to Jesus?
A. They would not have known, as we do, that Jesus is truly 100% God and truly 100% human—two complete natures in his one person. But, through their understanding of prophecies, they recognized that this child was different and truly important. They saw in the signs they read, and, at same level, heard the voice of God telling them that Jesus was truly the King of Kings. As such, they wanted to present to Jesus a small token of their esteem for Him. It is also important to understand the meaning of the gifts given. They had a spiritual significance to them: gold as a symbol of kingship on Earth, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of deity, and myrrh (an embalming oil) as a symbol of death.

Q. What happened to the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus?
A. The scriptures do not tell us what happened to them, but I think we can make an educated guess. There are many estimates as to what these gifts would be worth today. The reality is that frankincense and myrrh, at the time of Christ, were extremely costly to make and worth more than gold. We do not know exactly how much they brought, but based on how far they traveled, we can probably gauge it to be a large quantity. Therefore, it is possible that the combined worth of the gifts (in our current money) would be around two to three million dollars. What did they do with that much wealth? I believe Mary and Joseph would have used it to serve the poor and needy—to help those who were struggling even more than they were. In other words, right from the start of Jesus’ time on this planet, what He had would have been used to help bring God’s message of mercy and love.
Simply Beautiful

Our worship space at both parishes was “simply beautiful” for our Christmas celebration. I don’t think we realize just how much of an impact our environment has on our worship experience. THANK YOU to Michelle Lando (and her St. Mary team) and Maureen Gearin (and her St. John team) for sharing the gifts of their time and talent with us so that we could more fully experience the birth and worship of the Christ Child.

Also, thank you to ALL music ministry teams for bringing the birth of the Christ Child to the upper heights of worship. They say “singing is praying twice.” I think we can all agree that our collaborative family prayed way more than that!

We may walk many roads when we search for God, and He leads us all the while. The men we honor today were not Jews. The Messiah wasn’t coming for them, not in the minds of Jesus’ contemporaries. These men were astrologers. They were adept at reading portents in the sky, a practice condemned in the Mosaic covenant. Still, to the best of their knowledge and awareness, they were seeking the truth. This truth led them to journey from their own homeland to honor a king they’d never met, one they couldn’t be sure truly existed. “We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” Who do you know who seeks God so tenaciously?

“Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,” the Gospel tells us. Who are the seekers in your life? Maybe it’s your cautiously curious co-worker, the neighbor who unexpectedly found peace on a yoga retreat, or your desperately angry child who has chosen, for now, to go their own way. Perhaps they’re not overtly headed for Jesus now, not yet. But they may well be seekers of truth in ways we didn’t expect. Our invitation is to listen, inquire, and give directions when appropriate.

The magi and modern-day seekers can inspire us as well. When is the last time you sought God’s truth so tenaciously? As believers, it can perhaps be easy to become desensitized to the Christmas season and to the miraculous reality we recently celebrated. Mass may have been lovely, but so was the succulent roast beef, the crisp smell of evergreen, and the warm glow of family. Consider asking yourself…

- God, do I know you as well as I should?
- Would I journey as far as the magi to meet You, if I could?
- Do I journey to meet You daily in prayer?
- What do those answer say about me, and about our relationship?

Perhaps we, like the magi, can once again be “overjoyed” at seeing the Light of the World.

Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative announces two upcoming ACTS® Retreats

The ACTS® Retreat is a three-day Catholic retreat that runs from Thursday evening and ends with Sunday morning Mass. It is based on the Gospels and teachings of the Church and provides retreatants with the opportunity to deepen their faith. The retreats are organized and facilitated by lay people in the collaborative. Please consider joining us for the weekend. Registration forms can be found at the entrances of both churches or can be downloaded from our website.

WWW.CHELMSFORDCATHOLIC.ORG: Click on Parish Life, then choose ACTS from the left hand side bar.
Upcoming Deep Dive Events

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

**The Linus Project**
Thursday, January 16 • 6:30 - 8:00 pm St. Mary Parish Hall
Project Linus distributes blankets to children who may need a little extra comfort in their lives. If you would like to help provide the comfort and security of a handmade blanket to a child facing severe illness, trauma, or other needs, please join us as we gather together to make blankets that will be distributed to hospitals, shelters, and agencies that serve infants to teens. All skill levels are welcome.

Both of these 'events' are also Confirmation Deep Dive opportunities for Confirmation I and II students.

* This is a required Deep Dive for grades 7 & 8. If you did not attend November 7th event, then you must attend this one.

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

January 5th Family Gathering Sessions in the Parish Hall

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January 12th Family Gathering Sessions in the Parish Hall

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www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
Deep Dive Calendars can be found on our website Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars and Schedules
All Deep Dive details can be found on our website Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Deep Dives (choose deep dive)
Full Class Schedule can be found on our website Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation/Calendars and Schedules
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January 12th Family Gathering Sessions
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Follow us on Instagram

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org

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Full Class schedules 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.

Catholic Heart Workcamp 2020 Theme: I AM
July 21-26, 2020 in North Haledon, New Jersey

I AM. These words can be found in the Bible hundreds of times. They refer to God, who is the Great I AM. Through all space and time, God continues to declare “I AM who I AM.” God is not dead; He is not only the God of long ago. He is the God who will always live forever and ever, who is alive today and beckons us into relationship by reassuring us, “I AM who I AM.” He is the God we meet in the Eucharist, in prayer, and in our service to His kingdom. We are pulled in an overwhelming number of directions when trying to discover our identity. We seek belonging and purpose in so many places. Still, the fullness of our worth can only be found in one place. Our truest identity is being children of the Great I AM. This summer, CHWC invites you to ask yourself the question: “Who am I?” Join us as we discover the answer to this question by encountering the great I AM through love, service, and connection to His people.

Deadline to sign up: February 1, 2020/ $500 ($100 non-refundable deposit due at registration)
Online Sign-ups available on our website. Choose Youth Ministry under the Faith Formation tab.
Click on Catholic Heart Work Camp from the left hand sidebar.

Steubenville East 2020 Theme: RESTORED
July 10-12, 2020 in Kingston, Rhode Island

“Restore us, O God; Let thy face shine, that we may be saved.” -Psalm 80:3

Can you remember a time when you weren’t anxious about something? The chaos of our lives can overwhelm us and make it difficult to see anything other than confusion and brokenness. And somewhere along the way, we’ve forgotten who we are—and, more importantly, who God is. We have a good, loving Father in heaven who created us to share in His glory, to see everything and everyone with His eyes. His greatest desire is to raise us up out of our fear and anxiety and restore us to the hope and abundant life that only He can give. This summer, over 50,000 Catholic teens across North America will attend one of 25 Steubenville Youth Conferences to encounter the God who calls us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. Will you be one of those teens? Lift your eyes to the glory of God. Be restored.

Deadline to sign up: March 1, 2020/ $275 per person
Online Sign-ups available on our website. Choose Youth Ministry under the Faith Formation tab.
Click on Steubenville East, from the left hand sidebar.
In order to promote communication and transparency throughout the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative, you are encouraged to forward any comments and concerns you may have directly to the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils.

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

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

St. Mary Members
Peter Lando (co-chair)
Laurie Conte
Rob Donnelly
Karen Drake
Jessica Hägg
Cathy Latina
Lori McDonald
Steve McMillan
Alma (Chicki) Rigazio
Paul Therrien

ST. JOHN FINANCE COUNCIL
Finance matters concerning St. John’s can be sent to: SJ.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org or 978-251-8571, ext 146
Current Council Members are …

John Bagni
Paul Brzezenski
Jeff Brown
Celeste Dunn
Grace Ann Steed

ST. MARY FINANCE COUNCIL
Finance matters concerning St. Mary’s can be sent to: SM.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org or 978-256-2374 ext 147
Current Council Members are …

Armand DiLando
Lauren Desforge
Jack Parsons
Ted Powers
Paul Therrien

If you would like to submit a notice for the bulletin, please submit it no later than 12 NOON, TWO Fridays prior to the weekend in which you would like to have it published. Submittals should be emailed to christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org or via US Mail to the Parish Offices at 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863, ATTN Christine. We will do our very best to accommodate your request.
Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. I love this celebration as we contemplate the coming of the wise men with their gifts. I wonder what it must have been like for them as they traveled through desert and over mountains, forded rivers and so many other obstacles to reach their destiny. The only real guidance they had was a brilliant shining star. And yet they came to understand—though we are not told how—that this star foretold the coming of the new King of Israel. And, I often wonder what made them so curious about this newborn king. Why did they care about the king of an obscure, downtrodden kingdom—a kingdom that had not shown power or splendor for about 800 years? What drew them to follow this star?

I believe what drew them was the grace of God. And clearly they were open to cooperate with that grace by their willingness to follow the star. The interesting thing was that the star took them first to Jerusalem, where they sought guidance in finding the newborn king. I am always amazed at the choices that the religious elders made. They knew where the great event was going to occur and what the significance of this birth would be for the people—at least they thought they did. And yet when they heard the wise men, not one of them followed along. I believe the reason was fear: they were afraid of upsetting Herod. In one sense, I cannot blame them. Herod was a ruthless ruler who even had one of his own children brutally murdered. He was also extremely paranoid and did not trust his own people. It would have taken a lot of courage for the religious leaders to follow the wise men to the newborn king. And yet this king was to be the hope of all of Israel, the beginning of a new era of life with God.

After the wise men got the directions, the star continued to show the way forward, bringing them exactly where they needed to be. The importance of finding Christ is shown in the gifts they offered Him. Those gifts represented, in a sense, a king’s ransom. I wonder what they thought as they entered a hovel to discover this newborn king, born in a stable and not in some elaborate palace. I am certain I would have at least scratched my head in wonderment.

The story we are confronted with today reminds us that God does not usually manifest or reveal himself in extraordinary ways. Jesus was God’s last statement—in a sense his final word. All that God needed to teach us would come from Christ, and must be interpreted through the lens of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Christ came for one reason—to save us from our sinfulness. God revealed himself through Christ in order for us to recognize how much love He has for us. But, as Jesus’ birth attests, God did not use what the world would see as the extraordinary, to make himself understood. Rather, He used a child born in an insignificant city, in a backwater part of the Roman Empire, to begin a revolution.

The revolution He began was to grow not with the power of an army or the wealth of an empire. Rather, Christ gathered to himself fisherman, tax collectors, day laborers, and the like. He would send them out into the world to preach his word. These people were not the crème de la crème of society, but they heard his message of hope and wonder. They experienced Christ showing his divine power, and little by little they began to understand who this Christ really was. The journey they took was very much like that of the Magi. It was a journey of discovering and uncovering the meaning of Christ. They were brought to a new place of understanding: Christ is not just someone; Christ is not just a king. Christ is the King of Israel, the LORD God himself who came through the incarnation to be united as one in Christ. They discovered something that the Magi could not yet fully comprehend. And they gave a different gift. The gift they offered was the gift of self.

We are now being brought to that same place. We are reminded of the great gift being offered to us by our God. The question we need to ask ourselves is: who are we in this story. Are we the Magi, following a road of discovery that we do not fully understand? Or are we the religious leaders, too afraid of the world to strike out on a journey of discovery? Or... are we the disciples who over time came to unfold the mystery of Christ (not in its fullness, which is impossible)? Or... are we perhaps some combination of the three? Are we seeking God in order for Him to reveal himself to us? Are we willing to be God’s agent, to bring his revelation to others?

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask me directly, or send your questions to me at fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org.

Please keep me in your prayers.

In Christ,

[Signature]
Jesus is Born

Did you ever stop to think how the miracle of Christ would differ if it happened today? What differences can you imagine? I often let my mind drift during the Christmas season, contemplating Jesus’ arrival in Bethlehem as if it were actually happening today.

It might go something like this:

Mary knew that Jesus was on his way when she felt the baby kick inside her stomach. It was a kick so great that even Joseph took notice. Mary told him that this was going to be God’s son and that he would be coming soon. Joseph was puzzled, but so excited to become a dad that he trusted Mary implicitly. However, Mary’s friends and Joseph’s family were busy “unfriending” Mary from their Facebook pages. Her “Friends” dropped from 300 to 200 in only a few minutes. Mary was fearful but knew that this was God’s will.

Mary and Joseph knew they needed to rush to the hospital. They “googled” the directions to Massachusetts General Hospital, but alas, the gas tank was almost empty and Joseph’s iPhone battery was down to 10%. Fear set in. It was below 32 degrees outside. How would they ever make it to the hospital in time?

Between contractions, Mary thought fast and called an Uber to take them to the nearest Air B&B. But, there was no vacancy at the Air B&B because Christina Aguilera was performing at TD Bank Garden. All the Boston parking lots were full, and police were directing traffic out of the area. Joseph asked the policewoman where they could find shelter and she directed them to Rosie’s Place, a nearby homeless shelter.

Mary and Joseph were greatly relieved to enter Rosie’s Place, cold and afraid. Another homeless couple saw the desperation in their eyes. Just in the knick of time, they gave up their cot in the corner and ushered Mary over to lie down next to the fireplace in the soup kitchen. When... what to their wondering eyes should appear, but baby Jesus! They wrapped him in donated fleece blankets sporting the Patriots logo, and Jesus let out a loud cry. At that moment, three St. Nicks had just “clocked out” of work at the Copley Square Mall and heard the cries of Jesus.

Instead of heading home, the three St. Nicks checked Instagram, only to discover that a mysterious child had been born at Rosie’s Place. The Citgo sign flashed brightly where Jesus lay and the three St. Nicks knew just where to go. They darted into Target to choose gifts fit for a king: jewels, chocolate and a myrrh-scented Yankee candle. When they arrived at Rosie’s Place, the power had gone out and Mary, Joseph and all the homeless people cheered at the sight of the candlelight on the baby Jesus’ face. There was one small miracle left. Joseph’s iPhone had just enough battery left to send out a good tidings Tweet, telling the world that Jesus was born!

#blessed #theking #bringpampers #thegiftoflove

From Our Director of St. Mary Music Ministries

John Anthony Volpe

From Our Senior Priest in Residence

Fr. Colletti

You know that you are Christ in the world today. People are watching you to see if your religious beliefs influence your actions, values and speech. Did becoming a Catholic do you any good? People are watching you. These are friends, neighbors and especially people in your family.

When you thought I wasn’t looking—a poem.

- When you thought I wasn’t watching, I saw you hang up my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

- When you thought I wasn’t looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

- When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

- When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

- When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn’t feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

- When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it’s all right to cry.

- When you thought I wasn’t looking, I looked at you and wanted to say, “Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn’t looking.”

How will you be Christ for someone today?
Due to an early submittal to the printer due to the holiday season, the Christmas collection and figures for the weekend of December 28th/29th will be posted in January 11th/12th bulletin.

### WEEKLY OFFERTORY

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#### FY 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP

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#### 2019 Tax Letters

Tax Letters for parishioners who contributed $250 or more in 2019 will be mailed out by the end of January. If you are NOT in this category, but would like to receive a tax letter, please contact Paul Firicano. You can leave a voice mail or write an email leaving the following information: your name, address, envelope number (if you have one) and to which church you make your offertory donations.

### TO HELP YOU PLAN FOR 2020

**Schedule of 2020 Second (Archdiocesan) and Fundraising Collections**

**JANUARY**
- 26th, Archdiocesan Collection for Church in Latin America

**FEBRUARY**
- 23rd, Archdiocesan Collection for The Church Around the World
- 26th, Ash Wednesday Collection in support of our parishes

**MARCH**
- 1st, Catholic Charities Collection
- 15th, Annual Catholic Appeal Commitment Weekend

**APRIL**
- 10th, Good Friday Collection to support The Holy Land Shrines
- 12th, Easter Sunday Collection: Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

**MAY**
- 17th, St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection at both parishes
- 31st, Archdiocesan Collection for our Seminarians

**JUNE**
- 21st, Archdiocesan Collection for Promoting the Gospel

**SEPTEMBER**
- 20th, Archdiocesan Collection for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

**OCTOBER**
- 11th, Archdiocesan Collection for The Holy Father & Missionary Efforts
- 18th, Archdiocesan Collection for World Mission Sunday

**NOVEMBER**
- 22nd, Archdiocesan Collection for the Retired Religious Sisters

**DECEMBER**
- 25th, Christmas Collection: Clergy Health and Retirement Trust
Blessing the Threshold or “Chalking the Door”

You are invited to adopt this custom in your family. The family gathers to ask God’s blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home’s entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 20. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words Christus mansionem benedicat, “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross and 2020 is the year.

Blessing the Chalk...

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:
R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:
R. From this time forth for evermore.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name, that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones... Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar... may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in, or visit, our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing the Home...

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 20 while saying...

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God’s Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch.

May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace,

O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen

“Chalking the door” is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God’s blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the symbols written, sink into the depths of our heart, and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, Christus mansionem benedicat,

“May Christ bless the house”
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 when you schedule your intention.

St. John

SAT, JAN 4  4:00 pm: Maurice Pontbriant: 7th Anniversary
Sun, JAN 5  8:30 am: For the People of the Parish
10:30 am: J. Edward Clancy: 7th Anniversary
Fri, JAN 10  9:00 am: Charles Parlee: 2nd Anniversary
Sat, JAN 11  4:00 pm: Richard DeFreitas: Memorial
Sun, JAN 12  8:30 am: Lisa Brienzi: Memorial
10:30 am: For the People of the Parish

St. Mary

SAT, JAN 4  4:00 pm: William Watt: 2nd Anniversary
Sun, JAN 5  9:00 am: For the People of the Parish
11:00 am: Kathie Nisco: 41st Anniversary
Mon, JAN 6  7:00 am: Collaborative Members of the Spiritual Society and Sanctuary Fund
Tue, JAN 7  7:00 am: Wilfred L. Lamontagne: 7th Anniversary
Wed, JAN 8  7:00 am: Ann Leahy: 12th Anniversary
Thu, JAN 9  7:00 am: Newton R. Akashian: 21st Anniversary
Sat, JAN 11  4:00 pm: Arthur St. Amand: 27th Anniversary
Sun, JAN 12  7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial
11:00 am: Rita and Joseph Barry: Memorial
6:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

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.

FUNERALS RECENTLY CELEBRATED

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

Patricia Dinnigan  December 30 at St. John
Ann Marie Hurley  December 30 at St. John
Armand Laliberte  December 30 at St. Mary
John F. Sheehy  December 30 at St. Mary
Edward L. Traywick  December 31 at St. Mary

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

MONDAY, JAN 6
1John 3:22-4:6
Psalm 2
Matt 4: 12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY, JAN 7
1John 4: 7-10
Psalm 72
Mark 6: 34-44

WEDNESDAY, JAN 8
1John 4: 11-18
Psalm 72
Mark 6: 45-52

THURSDAY, JAN 9
1John 4:19-5:4
Psalm 72
Luke 4: 14-22

FRIDAY, JAN 10
1John 5: 5-13
Psalm 147
Luke 5: 12-16

SATURDAY, JAN 11
1John 5: 14-21
Psalm 149
John 3: 22-30

SUNDAY, JAN 12
Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29
Acts 10: 34-38
Matthew 3: 13-17

This week’s St. John Rose for Life:
In Memory Of Brian Muscato

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

Roses Provided by Mahoney’s Garden Center