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. John the Evangelist**
115 Middlesex Street
North Chelmsford

**St. Mary**
25 North Road
Chelmsford

### Weekend Mass Schedule
- Saturday: 4:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, & 5:00 PM
- 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:
  Monday - Wednesday: 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](http://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.

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**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

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**After Jesus was baptized,**
He came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him.

- Matthew 3:16
**St. Mary Calendar**

- **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

- **Monday, January 13**
  - Matthew Bible Study • 10:00 am - 12 noon • PC Conf Room 1
  - Troop 77 Committee Meeting • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 2

- **Tuesday, January 14**
  - Epic Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Thursday, January 16**
  - Rosary • 12:00 - 1:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  - Adoration • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel
  - Deep Dive Event (RSVP) • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Parish Hall

- **Friday, January 17**
  - Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel
  - Knitting and Crocheting • 2:00 - 4:00 pm • Parish Hall

- **Saturday, January 18**
  - 9:00 am Mass at St. John
  - Catholic Men’s Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • PC Conf Room 2
  - First Reconciliation Retreat • 9:30 - 10:45 am • Parish Hall
  - 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 19**
  - 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

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**The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, January 20th**

**Contemplative Prayer Group…**

meets the 3rd Saturday of every month for scripture reading and open discussion.

For further information, contact Ray at lovethemystery@comcast.net.

Join us…

Next Saturday, January 18th
9:30 - 11:00 am
St. John’s NPC: Lord and Ryan Room

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**CAUTION**

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.

The origin of the Rosary has a rich history that continues to bring peace to people’s 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!

_S. Mary Parish Center Chapel
Thursdays at 12 noon_
St. Mary Church
4:00 pm Thursday, January 23rd
Please join us for this important, prayerful event to end abortions and all violations to the dignity of the human person. This Holy Hour will be held in conjunction with the March for Life, the largest pro-life event in the world, to take place in Washington, DC on January 24th. This peaceful demonstration is a witness to the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time: legalized abortion on demand.

Sponsored by St. John’s Culture of Life Group and St. Mary’s Family Life Council in conjunction with Boston Deacons for Life and the Pro-Life Office of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Novena for Life
January 21 - January 29, 2020
The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church, and in particular, of the Knights of Columbus. Knights remain firmly committed to defending the right to life of every human being—from the moment of conception to natural death. To commemorate and bolster this important cause, councils are promoting a novena—nine days of sustained prayer—to build up a culture of life in our parishes, homes and wider community.

On the weekend of January 18th/19th, there will be Knights members at every Mass at both parishes to hand out prayer cards, and at the entrances of both churches you can find handouts for the novena. Additionally, these handouts can be viewed and downloaded from our website. These handouts will include the daily intercession, reflection and acts of reparation.

https://chelmsfordcatholic.org/novena-for-life

Sponsored by the Bishop Ruocco Council Knights of Columbus

St. John Calendar

- **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

- **Monday, January 13**
  Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  Families with Addiction Support Group • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • NPC

- **Tuesday, January 14**
  Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  Open Music Rehearsal • 6:30 pm • Church

- **Wednesday, January 15**
  Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  Adoration • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • Church

- **Thursday, January 16**
  Charismatic Prayer Group • 10:00 am - 12 noon • OPC
  BINGO • 6:45 pm (doors open at 3:00 pm) • Hall

- **Friday, January 17**
  African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library

- **Saturday, January 18**
  Daily Mass at 9:00 am
  First Reconciliation Retreat • 9:30 - 10:45 am • SM Hall
  Hospitality Meeting • 9:30 - 11:00 am • Hall
  Contemplative Prayer Group • 9:30 - 11:00 am • Linehan
  Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

- **Sunday, January 19**
  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
  Prayer Shawl Ministry, following 8:30 am Mass • Mariotti
  African Liturgy • 12:30 pm • Church

Turn page for more
For those of you who did not attend Mass at St. John’s last weekend, we are sad to announce that the Director of St. John Music Ministries, Jason Gaudette, will be leaving us and beginning a new chapter in his career at Immaculate Conception in Marlborough.

DIDN’T GET A CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE?
No worries....
Jason will return for a 10:30 am Mass in the near future, at which point we will plan a gathering where all will be able to say goodbye, and personally wish him Godspeed on his new endeavor.

Thank you Jason
for your dedicated and faithful service!

Questions from our Faith Formation Students:

What is your favorite book in the Bible?

This is a difficult question to answer since I am not sure there is one book that is singularly my favorite. Much of it depends on what is happening in my life and how I am trying to hear God speak to me. But, of the Gospels, my favorite is the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew challenges me in a couple of different ways. When praying through Matthew there seems to be a constant undercurrent of “Who do you say that I am?” from Jesus. Furthermore, it feels like Jesus is asking me, “Are you actively living out your faith?” This Gospel, in a powerful way, gets to the point that our lives can only be centered in Christ once we truly understand who He is. We also must realize that a faith not lived out each and every day is no real faith at all. Of the other New Testament writings (not Gospels), it would probably be the Letter to the Romans. This letter is powerful to me for many different reasons, but essentially because Paul emphasizes that our lives must be grounded in our baptism: it is in our baptism that we become united with Christ in his death and resurrection.

How do you know that God is speaking to you?

I hear God in many and varied ways. At times it is a voice not necessarily outside of myself, but rather, a small still whisper making itself known within me. It can be an off-handed remark that is totally unrelated to what I am wrestling with, but somehow I know it is the answer to my prayer. At other times I can be praying through scripture and I find the answer to what is most troubling me. Once in a while it’s the way my cats are behaving that helps me realize that God is trying to tell me something. Or, it could be the very words I am speaking to God in prayer that give me the understanding I need to make the right decision.

But how do I know that it’s God speaking? First, usually it is because I am being called to do something I do not want to do. And the answer is pretty clear that it is what I must do. So, it is a call to go against what I perceive to be in my best interest. At other times, as I look at my faith and understand how it must be lived out, I know that what I am being called to do is simply a reflection of that faith. There is a harmony in what I am hearing to what our faith teaches. It becomes clear for these reasons, and other similar ones, that God is calling me.

The Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative Faith Community Nursing Ministry offers a free monthly blood pressure clinic.

- When: 3rd Tuesday of every month
- Where: St. John Parish Hall
- Time: 9:45 - 11:00 am

Join us on January 21st!

ONE-DAY RETREAT FOR GRIEVING PARENTS
SATURDAY, APRIL 25
9:00 am - 6:30 pm

This retreat offers spiritual support for grieving parents who have experienced the death of a child, no matter the age or reason.

For more information, or to register, contactphassett99@gmail.com.
The St. Vincent de Paul Society has recently completed its annual financial report for the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. The members present a summarized report to parishioners as follows:

**DONATIONS:**
- Annual Collections/ Poor Boxes $13,508.00 45.0%
- Cummings Foundation Grant $10,000.00 33.3%
- District/Merchant Reimbursement $2,185.00 7.3%
- Individual Donations $4,315.00 14.4%
- $30,008.00 100.0%

**DISBURSEMENTS:**
- Rent $7,948.00 37.0%
- Fuel $572.00 2.7%
- Utilities $3,911.00 18.1%
- Automotive $812.00 3.8%
- Food $2,239.00 10.4%
- Home Goods/Appliances $3,792.00 17.6%
- Spirit Of Christmas $1,536.00 7.1%
- Other $704.00 3.3%
- $21,514.00 100.0%

The Society received 41 requests for assistance and helped 91 people this past year. We thank parishioners for their past generosity and request your continued financial support during the coming year by sending donations to the Parish Office. The Society members are grateful for parishioners’ prayers and spiritual support as Society members continue to serve members of the St. Mary Parish community in their times of need.

-Ray Gatti, President

**LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT VALENTINE’S DAY GIFT FOR HUBBY? LOOK NO FURTHER!**

Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

The local Bishop Ruocco council Knights of Columbus previously announced the winner of the 2019 Catholic Citizenship Essay contest. The theme was “Discuss the Meaning of Virtue and how you Live and Embody the Virtue of Charity.” Participants in grades 8 - 12 in the four parishes that our council serves were eligible to submit essay entries. Again we announce that the 12th grade winner is St. John youth Parishioner...

**JAMES TWENEH**

In addition to a monetary prize of $100, James’ essay has been submitted to the State Council for judging among participants throughout Massachusetts.

**Congratulations, James!**

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

**Project Linus (RSVP IS REQUIRED)**  
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. Come help us to make blankets headed to hospitals, shelters, and agencies that serve infants to teens. To date, Project Linus has contributed over 7 million blankets, and the Boston chapter alone accounts for nearly 70,000 of these! If you would like to help provide the comfort and security of a handmade blanket to a child facing severe illness, trauma, or other need, please join us! All skill levels are welcome. The link to RSVP can be found at www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/project-linus.  

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

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

## January 12th Family Gathering Sessions in the Parish Hall

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**Confirmation I**: 4:15 - 5:45 pm

## January 19th Class Schedule

**No Classes due to the Martin Luther King holiday.**

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### Faith Formation Scholarship Fund

Sincerest gratitude to those who have donated to this fund, and the same to those who are prayerfully considering doing so. Contributions by check should be made payable to:

- St. Mary Parish or St. John the Evangelist  
- FF Scholarship: SM (or) SJE noted on memo line

Contributions made by cash should be placed in an envelope and clearly marked as ‘SM FF Scholarship.’

Both check and cash contributions should be:

- placed in the weekly offertory;  
- left in a secure drop box located at either the church or Parish Offices; or  
- mailed directly to the parish offices ATTN: Faith Formation Scholarship Fund.
ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Upcoming Deep Dive Events

Project Linus (RSVP IS REQUIRED)
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. Come help us to make blankets headed to hospitals, shelters, and agencies that serve infants to teens. To date, Project Linus has contributed over 7 million blankets, and the Boston chapter alone accounts for nearly 70,000 of these! If you would like to help provide the comfort and security of a handmade blanket to a child facing severe illness, trauma, or other need, please join us! All skill levels are welcome. The link to RSVP can be found at www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/project-linus.

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

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January 12th Family Gathering Sessions
In the Parish Hall

GRADE 1 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am
GRADE 2 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am
GRADE 3 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am
GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am
GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am
GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP B
9:45 - 11:15 am
CONFIRMATION I: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

January 19th Class Schedule

No Classes due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

Faith Formation Scholarship Fund

Sincerest gratitude to those who have donated to this fund, and the same to those who are prayerfully considering doing so. Contributions by check should be made payable to:

- St. Mary Parish or St. John the Evangelist
- FF Scholarship: SJE (or) SM noted on memo line

Contributions made by cash should be placed in an envelope and clearly marked 'SJE FF Scholarship.'

Both check and cash contributions should be:

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- left in a secure drop box located at either the church or Parish Offices; or
- mailed directly to the parish offices ATTN: Faith Formation Scholarship Fund.

follow us on Instagram

instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic
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.

NEW Deadline to sign up: MARCH 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 …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. John Members</th>
<th>St. Mary Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angela McMaster</td>
<td>Peter Lando (co-chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Condor</td>
<td>Laura Conte</td>
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<td>Scott Davidson</td>
<td>Rob Donnelly</td>
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<td>Katrina Horan</td>
<td>Karen Drake</td>
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<td>Beth Jacavanco</td>
<td>Jessica Hägg</td>
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<td>Drew Jubinville</td>
<td>Cathy Latina</td>
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<td>Ellen St. George</td>
<td>Lori McDonald</td>
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<td>Augustine Tweneh</td>
<td>Steve McMillan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Wagner (secretary)</td>
<td>Alma (Chicki) Rigazio</td>
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<td>Paul Therrien</td>
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**ST. JOHN FINANCE COUNCIL**

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

| John Bagni     | Jeff Brown |
| Paul Brzezenski| Celeste Dunn |
| Paul Therrien  | 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 Parsons   | 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.
The day before Thanksgiving I went to confession and it was a great experience for me. The priest was Fr. Ray at Saint Margaret’s in Lowell. And, though his penance was simple, it turned out to be profound at the same time. He simply asked me, in light of what we would be celebrating the next day, “to look, to see what you have not been thankful for.” When I left I thought to myself, this is going to be difficult. Driving back to the parish, I was praying about it and examining my life to see what might be missing. I was thinking to myself that, really, I am pretty grateful to God for all the wonderful things in my life: family, friends, faith, vocation to the priesthood, and so on. I truly believed that there was nothing I was ungrateful for, and in that moment I made God laugh. He quickly showed me that I really was not grateful for my prayer life—one of the biggest gifts God has bestowed on me. I was truly awestruck as I recognized the truth of it.

I also recognized that there were other areas for which I did not have a sufficient sense of gratitude. And I better understood the truth of how easy it is for sin to hide in plain sight. Fr. Ray’s simple instruction, which at first seemed odd to me, helped me look at my relationship with God in a very different way. It helped me realize that there was a rather big hole in that relationship. It does not mean that I lacked gratitude, but that our gratitude to God really needs to be unlimited. It is so easy to see the little we do and think, well, that’s enough. But we have to recognize the truth of the cross. Jesus’ death on the cross was ultimately an act of gratitude. Jesus offered back to God the ultimate sense of gratitude—the greatest gift He could give—his very life! Christ’s very actions teach us that we must truly become a people of thanksgiving. And that is one of the reasons He gave us the great gift of the Eucharist.

‘Eucharist’ comes from the Greek word eucharistia, which means thanksgiving. That simple definition begins to touch upon the reality that the Eucharist is not simply about the presence of Christ: it speaks to an attitude we are called to have with regard to God’s saving mission in our lives. The very idea of thanksgiving, which this great sacrament calls forth from us, leads us away from self-centeredness to a desire to center our lives in communion with God. It seeks to drive from us desires rooted in sin and unthankfulness to a desire of true love for God. Therefore, the Eucharist is at the heart of God’s plan for our salvation.

As Catholics, we must definitively believe that the Eucharist is really, truly, and substantially the Body and Blood of Christ. The real presence of Christ is not something that is up for discussion. But, what does it mean for us—to accept this truth of faith? When we acknowledge this wondrous gift to us, we must realize that it is intended to call forth a response. What should our response be? It can be helpful in answering this question to understand what occurs in the transformation of bread and wine into the very Body and Blood of Christ. We must realize that even though the bread and wine appear unchanged, to the eyes of faith they have been transformed into something new through the consecration.

How does this happen? The Eucharist is not simply someone—it is Christ! It is also an action. We enact our thanksgiving through the celebration of Mass. We are invited by the Father to unite ourselves with Christ and to proclaim our thanksgiving for the wondrous deeds of God. The most important of those are creation, redemption, Incarnation, the Paschal Mystery, the whole Mystery of Christ, and God’s self-revelation. As we proclaim our thanksgiving by uniting ourselves with Christ and offering up bread and wine, our God responds. We have what might be considered an extremely, uneven exchange. We offer back to God his gifts of wheat and grapes—transformed by human hands into bread and wine—and God gives us the gift of his Son. As God responds to our thanksgiving, his actions require a response from us. As we receive his great gift—Jesus himself, we must become what we receive. We must become eucharist in the world. We must become a people who live our lives in thankful praise of God, or in other words, we must be the very presence of Christ.

What we see here is that the verb makes the noun possible, and the noun makes it possible for the verb to be a lived reality.

We live this reality by truly becoming a Eucharistic people. We must be a people open to thanksgiving, for it “is the power to transform desire and dissatisfaction, love and possession, into life, that fulfills everything in the world given to us by God, into knowledge of God and communion with Him.” (Alexander Schumann) It is about no longer taking the Eucharist for granted, but recognizing the great gift that He is. It is about being empowered through the Eucharist to move towards a life where we are ready—like Christ—to offer back to God our entire being in thankful praise.

Therefore, let us use this new year to grow in the Eucharist. Let us begin first by asking ourselves in a truly critical and honest way, “what things have I not been thankful/grateful for?” And let God’s love and mercy transform our ungratefulness into that Eucharistic heart that has only one true desire—communion with God.

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,
A Resolution for the New Year

We are a few weeks into A.D. 2020, that is, Anno Domini, the year of the Lord 2020. A number of us perhaps have made resolutions for the new year, such as monitoring our physical health by exercise or diet regimens. Such acts are laudable insofar as they arise not from vanity but from good intentions, to promote the health of the body. This purpose is commendable, for as Saint Paul tells us, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, Whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19).

In addition to these and other virtuous resolutions for 2020, I encourage you to consider instituting this practice to buttress your spiritual health: the pious practice of bowing at Holy Names. You might notice that our pastor, Father Brian, very deliberately bows his head briefly during various parts of the Mass. Have you ever caught the correlation between his bows and the words he prays? At the Names of Jesus and His Mother Mary, in fact, Father Brian very deliberately bows and the words he prays? At the Names of Jesus and the Mass. Have you ever caught the correlation between his bows and the words he prays? At the Names of Jesus and His Mother Mary, in fact, Father Brian very deliberately honors Jesus, the Son of God, and gives filial affection for Mary, who brought our Savior and Redeemer into the world and is the Mater Dei, the Mother of God.

The custom of bowing the head at the mention of the Name of Jesus is not something new. On the contrary, Pope Gregory X in 1274, almost a millennium ago, ratified this law at the Second Council of Lyons. Accordingly, the Council declared, “Those who assemble in church should extol with an act of special reverence that Name which is above every name, that which no other under Heaven has been given to people, in which believers must be saved, the Name, that is, of Jesus Christ, Who will save His people from their sins. Each should fulfill in himself that which is written for all, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow; whenever that glorious Name is recalled, especially during the sacred Mysteries of the Mass, everyone should bow the knees of his heart, which he can do even by a bow of his head.”

Having read the above statement from the Second Council of Lyons, you might recall Saint Paul’s admonition, “That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth” (Philippians 2:10), heralded by the Prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament: “For every knee shall be bowed to Me [God], and every tongue shall swear” (45:23). The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the current law in place for the Novus Ordo Missae, still calls for bowing at the Holy Names, including Jesus, Mary, the saint in whose honor Mass is celebrated, such as the feast day of Saint Patrick, and when the Three Divine Persons of the Trinity are named together, such as in the Glory Be Prayer.

Let us then do our best in this new year to follow what the Church asks of us, and, imitating our pastor, Father Brian, to bow in affectionate obedience towards the Triune God and especially Christ Jesus, whenever we hear or speak these Holy Names, and in devotion towards those who are specially consecrated to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saint of the day.
Sing a New Song

Happy New Year to everyone! It seems natural that the new year will prompt us to think of the future. After all, it’s when everyone starts making resolutions and filling in blank calendars. Making a resolution for the new year is fun and it brings excitement to the new year. It is good to stop to take an accounting of where we are and honestly admit to the areas in which we might need improvement.

Often, the discussion of this year’s resolutions brings up the memory of last year’s failed ones. The phenomena of making and failing New Year’s resolutions is interesting to me. Why do we often fail in our goals? Perhaps it is because they are largely undefined or unrealistic. Perhaps it is because we don’t take them seriously. There may be many reasons. The most significant I can think of is that nothing extraordinary happens between 11:59 p.m. on the evening of December 31 and 12 am on January 1. You are the same person you were just minutes before.

I received two messages on New Year’s Day that inspired me this year to work on maybe not being the same person this year. One was from a fellow staff member who sent this text: “My truth to remember in 2020 is that we are each a beloved child of God. I resolve to live as a daughter of the King… will you please help me?”. After reading that I thought, I really need to up my game. Later, I received a note from a man who will be ordained as a priest this year. The note simply said, “May the good Lord bless you and those you cherish with His most gracious joy, peace and blessings this year and all the days of your life. You have been a blessing to my life and for this I am truly grateful”.

Truth be told I barely know him, but we have shared the joy and blessing that is Adoration, and the hope that we might inspire a new generation to know Jesus is truly present with us in the Eucharist. That has united us in a very intimate and meaningful way.

As we start this new year, I want to daily focus on just one truth. That one truth is this...In Christ, we are a new creation. Striving everyday to be a disciple is different because being a Christian is different. Paul explains in 2 Corinthians that something extraordinary happens when a person is in Jesus Christ. Their old self is gone, and they are made new. You are no longer the man who is prone to bullying. You are no longer the woman who can’t help but gossip. That person no longer exists. That’s the blessing and gift we receive in regularly celebrating the sacraments and attending the Holy Mass. We get strength to change and be conformed to Christ. That is why being consistent in the practice of our faith and encouraging others to do the same matters.

Are you looking for something new to do this year? Something that will be a little bit of a challenge, that will take discipline, and that will benefit you? Sing to the Lord a new song. This is a fun imperative because the meaning is refreshed every time you think of it. If you praise the Lord one way, and you want to accomplish the goal again later, you must do it in a new way. It’s not mundane: you must use the creative gifts you’ve been given and maybe even look to how others around you are praising Him.

God’s glory is inexhaustible, and the Bible tells us we will spend eternity worshipping Him. So, there must be plenty of room for creativity when it comes to praising God. God empowers us in this creative work, as David reveals: newness, new life, new covenants, new songs come from God. Let us continually worship Him in new ways this new year and in doing so inspire one another to be renewed!

Ordinary Time

It is worth pausing for a moment to reflect and pray about the way the Church thinks about time, because it is so different from the way that the world thinks about it. There are times of the liturgical year, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, which are special and particular times of being with Christ.

But what about “Ordinary Time,” into which we have just entered? How are we to think about it? It not only fills the gap between the seasons, but it, too, is charged with meaning.

While God entered into our time through the incarnation of his son, and through the mystery of Jesus’ death, resurrection and outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we must be aware that the effects of these graces spill over into EVERY minute of EVERY hour of EVERY day. And as a result, our entire lives are filled with the presence of God, who draws us to Himself and transforms our lives.

Let us welcome and embrace Ordinary Time!

“The Lord’s call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a “cage” or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch.”
**St. Mary**

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</th>
<th>Actual Received</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$17,140</td>
<td>$18,865</td>
<td>$1,725</td>
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Solemnity of Mary (January 1) $2,989

Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses $17,140

Actual Received $16,481

Variance $-659

Christmas: Clergy Benefit Trust $25,124

Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses $17,140

Actual Received $16,481

Variance $-659

Weekend of December 28th/29th

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Offertory Goal</th>
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<th>Variance</th>
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<tr>
<td>$462,780</td>
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**St. John**

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

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<th>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</th>
<th>Actual Received</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>$11,040</td>
<td>$11,416</td>
<td>$376</td>
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Solemnity of Mary (January 1) $3,039

Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses $11,040

Actual Received $11,339

Variance $299

Weekend of December 28th/29th

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

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<th>Offertory Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>$298,080</td>
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**FINANCIAL Q AND A’S**

**Question:** Is the parish able to keep any of the donations received from the Christmas collections? **Answer:** No. This collection benefits our priests in good standing, especially our senior priests who have been helping others for decades; for example, Fr. Colletti. These funds allow us to care for the health and well-being of the priests in the Archdiocese of Boston. The funds from these special collections are managed by the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust, an independently managed trust with a majority lay board of trustees. The funds are used for the sole benefit of active and senior priests in good standing.

**Question:** What is the percentage (%) breakdown of how the weekly Offertory is donated to the parish? **Answer:** As we do with all donations and gifts to each of our parishes, the finances are kept separate.

- St. Mary’s: on average, the Offertory received is 53% by envelopes, 20% cash, 27% online giving
- St. John’s: on average, the Offertory received is 57% by envelopes, 23% cash, 20% online giving

The use of offertory envelopes and online giving is very helpful to our parishioners as it allows for continuous, consistent giving. It also helps us in our budget planning and cash flow projections. If you don’t use offertory envelopes and would like to start, please contact Paul Firicano or Tina Sousa at the parish office. Online Giving (St. Mary’s) and WeShare (St. John’s) is also a great option. Please visit our website and click on the respective online program link to learn more or to sign up today!

**Question:** What is the status of the parking lot light project at St. John’s? **Answer:** The 2 separate car accidents that knocked down 2 of the light poles also caused significant damage to the underground wiring. We have been working with various contractors to establish the proper planning and specifications needed to complete this project, therefore allowing the contractors to submit estimates that we can submit to the insurance companies for approval. We will continue to keep you updated.
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 11** 4:00 pm: Richard DeFreitas: Memorial
**SUN, JAN 12** 8:30 am: Lisa Brienz: Memorial
10:30 am: For the People of the Parish
**WED, JAN 15** 9:00 am: Paul Amiraute: 22nd Anniversary
**SAT, JAN 18** 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
**SUN, JAN 19** 8:30 am: LIVING INTENTIONS of Charlene Muscato and Family
10:30 am: John and Susan Malloy: Memorial

**St. Mary**

**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
**MON, JAN 13** 7:00 am: George McLaughlin: Memorial
**THUR, JAN 16** 7:00 am: Mary T and John J O’Rourke: Memorial
**FRI, JAN 17** 7:00 am: Ann D. DiBiase: 17th Anniversary
**SAT, JAN 18** 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
**SUN, JAN 19** 9:00 am: Lillian Stott: 19th Anniversary
11:00 am: Kathryn Lucier: 1st Anniversary

**FUNERALS RECENTLY CELEBRATED**

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

**Daniel O’Neill** January 2 at St. John
**Geraldine Nagle** January 3 at St. John
**Ann Marie Roy-Blanchet** January 3 at St. John
**James Armstrong** January 3 at St. Mary
**Robert McManamon** January 7 at St. Mary
**Rita Mary Holt** January 10 at St. John

**ROSE FOR LIFE**

Is there someone special or some special intention 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.

Roses Provided by Mahoney’s Garden Center

**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.

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

**Monday, Jan 13**
1Samuel 1: 1-8
Psalm 116
Mark 1: 14-20

**Tuesday, Jan 14**
1Samuel 1: 9-20
Psalm (1Sam 2)
Mark 1: 21-28

**Wednesday, Jan 15**
1Sam 3: 1-10, 19-20
Psalm 40
Mark 1: 29-39

**Thursday, Jan 16**
1Samuel 4: 1-11
Psalm 44
Mark 1: 40-45

**Friday, Jan 17**
1Sam 8: 4-7, 10-22
Psalm 89
Mark 2: 1-12

**Saturday, Jan 18**
1Sam 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10:1
Psalm 21
Mark 2: 13-17

**Sunday, Jan 19**
Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6
Psalm 40
1Corinth 1: 1-3
John 1: 29-34
Louis A. Oliver of Tyngsboro

Louis A. Oliver of Tyngsboro, 88, died Saturday, November 16, 2019 at Lowell General Hospital.

Born in Fitchburg, MA on May 21, 1931 he was the son of the late Pat and Lena (Lanzilotti) Oliver. He graduated from Chelmsford High School with the class of 1949, and attended Bentley College in Waltham.

Mr. Oliver Served with the USAF during the Korean War and previously worked as a salesman for several car dealerships prior to owning and operating Bradford Transmission in Bradford, MA.

He was a member of the American Legion, AW Vinal Post 313, and was a golden gloves contender and played semi-professional football in the late 1940’s and early 1950’s.

Louis is survived by his long-time companion of over 30 years, Janet Kattar of Tyngsboro, a sister, F. Patricia McGuirk of Chelmsford, a brother, Vincent Oliver and his wife Nancy of Albuquerque, NM, and a niece and two nephews, Michelle Johnson and her husband Scott of Chelmsford, Michael McGuirk of Waltham, and Victor Oliver of Seattle, WA.

Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to attend his visitation on Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 10:00 to 10:30 AM at the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD, MA. A Liturgy of the word was celebrated at 11:00 AM at St. John the Evangelist Church, Chelmsford. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.