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

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE
Monday - Friday • 9:00 AM
Monday - Friday • 7:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday • 3:00 - 3:45 PM
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

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.

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

January 26, 2020
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.
- Matthew 4:19
St. Mary Confirmation

May 17, 2020
3:00 or 6:00 pm

Confirmation Mass assignments are determined by a lottery, so we have created an online form in order for you to indicate your preferred Mass time.

This form can be found on our website...

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/mass-preference-form-sm

The deadline to submit this form is January 26th.

Hannaford Helps

Reusable Bag Program

This program makes it easy for shoppers to support their community and environment by buying durable, reusable shopping bags. A portion of each purchase goes to a local non-profit organizations in need.

St. Mary Table Ministry will receive a $1 donation for every $2.50 “Fight Hunger” bag sold during the month of February at the Hannaford Store located at 301 Pleasant Street in Dracut.

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, contact phassett99@gmail.com.

St. Mary Calendar

- **Sunday, January 26**
  - Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
  - Grace Notes 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
  - 6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church

- **Monday, January 27**
  - Matthew Bible Study • 10:00 am - 12 noon • PC Conf Room 1

- **Tuesday, January 28**
  - Epic Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Wednesday, January 29**
  - BS Troop 77 Meeting • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Thursday, January 30**
  - Rosary • 12:00 - 1:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  - Adoration • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel

- **Friday, January 31**
  - Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel
  - Knitting and Crocheting • 2:00 - 4:00 pm • Parish Hall
  - Baptismal Preparation • 7:00 pm • PC Meeting Room 5

- **Saturday, February 1**
  - Mass at St. John • 9:00 am
  - Catholic Men’s Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • PC MR 2
  - Table Ministry • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm • Kitchen
  - Adoration • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm • PC Chapel
  - First Reconciliation • 10:00 - 11:00 am • Church
  - 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, February 2**
  - 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
  - Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church
  - 6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church

“The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

Responsorial Psalm 27
We are in need of facilitators for the 8:30 am Sunday Mass. Because you are part of a bigger team, you will serve approximately 4-5 times a year. For more information, or to sign up, contact the parish office.

New Mass Schedule effective the weekend of June 6th/7th, 2020

St. Mary Mass Schedule
- Saturday 4:00 pm
- Sunday 7:00 am, 11:00 am

St. John Mass Schedule
- Saturday 4:00 pm
- Sunday 9:30 am, 6:00 pm

The two 4:00 pm Masses will remain for as long as we have 2 full-time priests officially assigned to the Collaborative. As soon as that status changes, and we are reduced to only 1 full-time, assigned priest, the St. Mary 4:00 pm Mass will be changed to 5:30 pm*. Of course, there will plenty of notice given to our parish families.

* This change in Saturday Vigil Mass time may also occur when one of our priests is on vacation and we are unable to get coverage. Again, plenty of notice will be given to our parish families.

St. John Calendar

- **Sunday, January 26**
  - 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
  - African Liturgy • 12:30 pm • Church

- **Monday, January 27**
  - Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  - Chelmsford Quilters Guild • 6:00 - 9:00 pm • Hall
  - Families with Addiction Support Group • 7:00 pm • NPC

- **Tuesday, January 28**
  - Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  - Open Music Rehearsal • 6:30 pm • Church

- **Wednesday, January 29**
  - Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  - Adoration • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • Church

- **Thursday, January 30**
  - Charismatic Prayer Group • 10:00 am - 12 noon • OPC
  - BINGO • 6:45 pm (doors open at 3:00 pm) • Hall

- **Friday, January 31**
  - African Community Rosary • 6:30 pm • Library

- **Saturday, February 1**
  - Mass at 9:00 am
  - First Reconciliation • 2:00 - 3:00 pm • Church
  - Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

- **Sunday, February 2**
  - 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

**Lent is Fast Approaching!**

Soup and Stations begins February 28th

If you are interested in participating in this devotion at St. John’s…

We are looking for donations of meatless soups that will feed ten people. If you are able to assist us in this way, sign-up sheets are available at the church entrance, beginning the weekend of February 1st/2nd.
Questions from our Faith Formation Students:

When did you start wanting to be a priest and what inspired you to want to be a priest?

I started thinking about being a priest when I was ten years old. I was an altar server at Mass and as I knelt next to the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer, I thought to myself, “It would be neat to do what the priest is doing.” The idea of being a priest from that point on never really left me. In time I came to realize that it was not a question of whether or not I would be a priest, but rather, when it would happen. I think the biggest inspiration along this line was my Mom. Her level of faith has always amazed me, and she was always extremely supportive (at times, a little too supportive) of my becoming a priest. But the biggest draw to me in my calling really was the Eucharist itself. The idea of celebrating Mass was just a powerful incentive.

How old was Jesus when he died?

Jesus was 33 years old. We arrive at this date based on information we garner from the scriptures.

Are all swearing against God?

No, they are not. There are swears which are vulgar and can cause people to be offended by them. The sin involved is not in the words themselves, but in how they affect the people around us. Hence, using swear words themselves is not an issue. However, using the Lord’s name in vain is always a sin; it does not matter the context, nor is it important whether or not it offends others. The reason for it being so serious and always wrong is because it treats God with contempt. It shows a lack of humility and a lack of reverence towards God. The name of God is holy and should always be treated with respect. To use the Lord’s name simply because we are upset or surprised makes his name something common and base, and there is nothing about God that is common or base.

Would everyone knowing the ten commandments help the environment? If so, how?

I believe that if we truly pay attention to the ten commandments, it could help the environment. It is not so much about any particular commandment, but what underlies the commandments. We are called to follow them because they are God’s gift to us. And, as such, they remind us that God is the one in charge and He sets the rules we are called to live by. If we recognize the truth that all of creation comes from God and that God determines how each thing is intended to be used, we are then bound to make use of things only in the way He intends. We must look at the world as not being about things we get to own, but rather, how we must be stewards of what God has given to us. We have a responsibility to care for those things in order to pass them on to those who follow us. The world is not intended to be exploited for our personal gain, but to be used wisely according to God’s plan.
Based on a directive from the Office of Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Boston, effective immediately, the Distribution of the Precious Blood will be suspended until further notice.

January 10, 2020
Memorandum regarding Flu Season Suspension of the Distribution of the Precious Blood
Given recent reports from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC, the Office of Divine Worship is recommending that all parishes, shrines and chapels within the Archdiocese refrain from distributing the Precious Blood to the faithful until further notice. We are actively monitoring Influenza/Influenza-like Illness (ILI) activity in our region and have found it to merit serious attention at this time.

St. John’s Beautification Offering
This offering funds the beautification of our Altar. Your voluntary donation can be accompanied by the request that it be “In Memory/Appreciation Of,” or “For the Intentions Of” someone.

Mr. and Mrs. William Chase • Lorraine B. Corcoran
Barbara Cosgrove • Roland Duffany
Eileen Francoeur • Elizabeth T. Harrington
Michael F. Harrington • Jane Jarvis
James O’Day • Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Palermo, Sr.
Mary Lou Roberts • Al and Betty Sherman

Join us in congratulating Fr. Colletti on the 58th Anniversary of his Priesthood
February 2, 1962—February 2, 2020

Father Colletti grew up in East Braintree, the son of Arnold and Nellie (Storm) Colletti. He came from a family of five children; three brothers and a sister. He prepared for the priesthood at St. Philip Neri School for Delayed Vocations and St. John’s Seminary.

ORDINATION
February 2, 1962
St. Catherine, Norwood
Most Rev. Jeremiah F. Minihan

FIRST MASS CELEBRATIONS
• Cardinal Cushing Chapel
  with Cardinal Cushing
• Sacred Heart, Weymouth
• Sacred Heart, Middleborough

ASSIGNMENTS
• St. Theresa, Billerica: 1962-1968
• Our Lady of Fatima, Sudbury: 1968-1972
• St. Brigid and Sacred Heart, Lexington: 1972-1976
Director of Religious Education for both parishes
• St. Brigid Lexington: 1976-1985
• Immaculate Conception, Malden: Pastor: 1985-1994
• Sacred Heart, Lexington: Pastor: 1994-2006

Fr. Colletti was granted senior priest/retirement status on June 1, 2015. At that time he was given senior priest-in-residence status here, with us, at the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative… and what a blessing he has been to all of us!

Your dedicated service over the past 58 years has been a source of comfort, inspiration, and strength for the people of God.

With prayers of gratitude and joy for all your faithful work!

Thank you, Fr. Colletti, for your many years of devoted and caring ministry!
ST. MARY FAITH FORMATION  
• SCHEDULE and EVENTS •

Upcoming Deep Dive Events

Mardi Gras (RSVP IS REQUIRED)
Wednesday, February 19th • 6:30 - 8:00 pm
St. Mary Parish Hall

This event is held one week prior to Lent. Come join us for some festivities before this somber season begins. Many cultures have a day (or a whole season) focusing on fun and food in the days and weeks leading up to Lent. This year, we will be taking advantage of February school break to celebrate. We hope that you and your family will join us and make our celebration complete! To RSVP (required), please visit the website...
www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/mardi-gras

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.

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

January 25th Event Schedule

FIRST RECONCILIATION
10:00 am - 11:00 am in the Church

CATECHISTS RETREAT
9:00 am - 12:30 pm in St. John Parish Hall

January 26th Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 1 CLASS</th>
<th>GRADE 2 CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADES 3 - 6 CLASS</th>
<th>GRADES 3 - 6 CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GROUPS A &amp; C</td>
<td>GROUPS B &amp; D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Center</td>
<td>Parish Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 7 &amp; 8 CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:15 - 5:45 pm in Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

February 1st Event Schedule

FIRST RECONCILIATION
10:00 am - 11:00 am in the Church

February 2nd Family Gathering Sessions in the Parish Hall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 1 FGS, GROUP A</th>
<th>GRADE 2 FGS: GROUP B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 3 FGS: GROUP A</th>
<th>GRADE 3 FGS: GROUP B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP A</th>
<th>GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP A</th>
<th>GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP A</th>
<th>GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONFIRMATION II: 4:15 - 5:45 pm
ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Upcoming
Deep Dive Events

Mardi Gras (RSVP IS REQUIRED)
Wednesday, February 19 • 6:30 - 8:00 pm
St. Mary Parish Hall

This event is held one week prior to Lent. Come join us for some festivities before this somber season begins. Many cultures have a day (or a whole season) focusing on fun and food in the days and weeks leading up to Lent. This year, we will be taking advantage of February school break to celebrate. We hope that you and your family will join us and make our celebration complete! To RSVP (required), please visit the website...

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/mardi-gras

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.

DON'T FORGET

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

follow us on Instagram

instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic
"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 19-24, 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: 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 ($50 non-refundable deposit due at registration)**

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

**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 …

<p>| |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Bagni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Brzezenski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celeste Dunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Ann Steed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 …

<p>| |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armand DiLando</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Parsons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Desforge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ted Powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Therrien</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
A primary issue of our faith arises every January when we remember the Roe v Wade decision made by the US Supreme Court in 1973. For many in our congregation, I know this is a sensitive subject, but it is one that needs to be addressed. The teaching of the Church is clear: all life is sacred from the moment of conception. The reason for this belief is centered in the fact that all life comes about as a creative act of God and is endowed by God with dignity. God gives to each person particular gifts intended to further his plan for salvation. We believe, therefore, that our unique relationship with God begins in the moment He speaks our name. God has to make a specific choice for life to begin, and He does so with the intention of creating a particular and unique individual. Our creation is not simply a whim by God, but rather, God has a specific purpose for what He is doing. God speaks us into being and establishes a personal relationship with us. We simply need to look at the lives of Moses, David, Mary, John the Baptist, and others in the Bible to appreciate this truth.

Moreover, human life needs to be seen in light of the Incarnation. I believe that too often we do not contemplate enough the profound meaning of what the Church calls the hypostatic union: the fact that Jesus is fully and completely 100% human and fully and completely 100% God. In the one person of Jesus resides two complete natures; one is the second person of the Trinity and the other is a human being. We believe that in the moment Christ was conceived, or as we say in the Creed ‘made incarnate by the Holy Spirit’, this union was formed. This wondrously profound act by God of uniting himself to us in the person of Christ speaks to how He views human life. The inherent dignity and sacredness of human life from the moment of conception is made apparent at the Annunciation. The angel Gabriel announces to the Blessed Mother that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her and she would conceive the Son of the Most High.

The destruction of human life, without grave cause, from the moment of conception until natural death is a rejection of the sacred dignity God has endowed it with, both by his particular creative act and the Incarnation. Hence, to destroy human life is one of the gravest acts in which a person can engage. To abide by the idea that human life can simply be destroyed by human choice is to say that the human will is of greater value than the divine will. It is also a rejection of the inherent meaning of the Incarnation and, therefore, a form of rejecting Christ himself. Therefore, as Catholics we must do all we can to ensure that nothing abridges the sacred dignity of all persons. This teaching is not simply about abortion. Rather, it calls us to use our gifts and talents to uphold the dignity of each person, and work to ensure that all people can live a life that allows them to enjoy God’s gifts to humanity.

It is important to realize that our responsibility does not end once a person is born; being pro-life is not simply being anti-abortion. Being pro-life calls us to work for a more just world that makes proper use of all the goods God has bestowed on us. We must recognize that when inequalities exist in the world, we are all negatively affected. Not only are the poor made to suffer, but those who have more are truly endangering their immortal souls by not sharing God’s bounty. The goods that God bestows on us are not simply for our own need. When a person makes use of more than they truly need, they are essentially stealing from the poor.

Many people have asked me why God allows people to die of famine and other such issues. The truth is that there is no reason for anyone in our world to starve to death. There exists enough food to feed every man, woman and child on this planet. We simply choose not to do so. We have a government policy that pays people not to grow food, or to grow food for fuel. It is a way to keep food prices higher, or to give farmers another way of making money. Think about what that means. As a society we are making these kinds of decisions all the time, and they impact the lives of people around the world. I am not saying this is a good or bad policy; these are very complicated questions and I do realize that. But what we need to understand is that the choices we make can endanger the lives of others—that the policies we choose should not only be based on “what is best for me”, but also on how they will impact others. Our society is a flawed system, but that does not mean it is a bad system. Rather, it means we need to ensure that we make up for the built-in flaws of the system. We need to Christianize it to ensure that our policies uphold the basic dignity and respect due to all people. If we are not willing to do that, then we are not truly pro-life: we are not upholding the basic dignity and sacredness of life. We must remember that we are our brother’s keeper and we have a responsibility to care for all the people of the world.

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]
One of Aretha Franklin's most successful recordings was "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" — you’re singing it in your mind right now, right? “Find out what it means to me.”

January is Respect Life Month because it marks the month that the Supreme Court of the United States, on January 22, 1973, invalidated 50 state laws and made abortion legal — on demand — throughout the United States in the decisions of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton.

In October 1973 a group of 30 pro-life leaders gathered in Nellie Gray’s home in Washington, D.C. to discuss how to commemorate the one-year anniversary of Roe v. Wade. In January 1974 the first March for Life walked on Washington, to lobby Congressional leadership to find a legislative solution to the Supreme Court’s decision. Soon after, realizing Congressional protection of the unborn was not on the horizon, Nellie Gray decided to hold a March for Life every year until Roe v. Wade was overturned.

This year, just as in every year since 1974, there was a March for Life in Washington, D.C. And throughout the month there have been other walks for life in other parts of the country, a testament to the truth that human life is sacred — we are made in the image of God.

Those founding pro-life leaders spoke of a slippery slope, where legalized abortion would lead to other desecrations of human life – infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia, using aborted babies for research or body parts. Sadly, their fears have become a reality. Human life is not respected as sacred. Human life is not even considered as valuable as some animals and vegetation by many in our culture.

Here’s the challenge: what does R-E-S-P-E-C-T for the sanctity of human life mean to you and me? Do we speak up in our Facebook postings, at town meetings, in letters to the editor, etc., to encourage respect for human life? Do we elect people who believe in the sanctity of human life at every level of government? Do we affirm confidently that pregnancy is not a disease? Do we speak up for the value of persons with downs syndrome or physical handicaps? Do we demonstrate and encourage compassion for the elderly, showing their lives have value regardless of their capacity to be active or think clearly? Do we say that treating depression with assisted suicide is simply wrong? Do we make sure that euthanasia doesn’t become the norm for keeping medical costs down? Do we serve in ministries who offer support and healing? Do we pray?

I may not be able to do all of these things, but I can do something to show respect for the sanctity of human life. We each can. Let’s help each other do something.

---

By now you have already broken or forgotten your New Year’s Resolution. Achieving a healthy work-life balance eventually comes down to personal responsibility and discipline. Here are a few things you might consider when you renew your resolutions:

- **Begin each day with a centering phrase.** I have found that saying a centering phrase over and over first thing in the morning helps me begin the day with balance. The phrase can even be a song. I wake each day with a song.

- **Pray daily.** When frustrated with balance (your job, your children) prayer calms, refocuses, and provides the spiritual strength we need to find balance in the day ahead. We are at our best when we invite God’s Spirit into each activity of our lives.

- **Care for your body.** Eat a healthy breakfast. Eat healthfully throughout the day. Daily exercise is critical for my well-being. According to my fit-bit I am not getting enough exercise.

- **Simplify your life.** Jesus and his disciples lived simply (Mark 6:6-9). Figure out what is most important in your life. Hold on to it and let the rest go. At my age I am starting to give things away for I have too much stuff, like pictures, books, clothes.

- **Come to terms with your relationship with money.** We can easily get caught up in the culture of consumption to the point where we feel we must work as much as possible in order to afford the lifestyle we think we want. How many times have I gone into the house of someone who has recently died to find two or three, and even four of the same things and some of these still in the original box.

- **Designate a quiet space in your home for rest.** We all need to find a sanctuary for peace and quiet, to be alone with our thoughts. In some homes this might mean the bathroom.

- **Commit to spending regular time with family and friends.** The perspective and support we gain from relationships can make such a difference when we are stressed, overwhelmed, and trying to balance work and life. I have lunch once a month with classmates and dinner twice a week with close friends and family.

- **Take a break each evening before bed.** Sleep is important in our attempt to balance our life. I make a list of the things I need and want to do the next day, and then I can forget about it until the next day, without everything piling up on me before I go to bed. I enjoy Pope John the XXIII who said, when he retired for the night: “Lord, I have done enough for today. It’s your church. I’m going to bed.”
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.

Men’s Retreat Weekend: February 13-16, 2020
Contact Drew at andrewjubinville@verizon.net

Women’s Retreat Weekend: April 23-26, 2020
Contact Beth at bjacavanco@comcast.net

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: choose ACTS from the left hand side bar.

For more pictures and to learn more about the evening, visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org and click on the Project Linus logo on the home page!

Upcoming Workshop Offering
Saturday, February 15th
9 am - 12 pm • St. John Parish Hall
Registration required...

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.

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/protecting-gods-children
Thud week’s second collection will support the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in financially poorer dioceses in Latin American and the Caribbean. CLA funds catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. Thank you for your generosity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Mary</th>
<th>St. John</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEKLY OFFERTORY</strong></td>
<td><strong>WEEKLY OFFERTORY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$17,140</td>
<td>$11,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actual Received</strong></td>
<td><strong>Actual Received</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$13,514</td>
<td>$7,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Variance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Variance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-$3,626</td>
<td>-$3,101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FY 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP</strong></th>
<th><strong>FY 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offertory Goal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Offertory Goal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$497,060</td>
<td>$320,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actual</strong></td>
<td><strong>Actual</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$448,742</td>
<td>$290,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Variance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Variance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-$48,318</td>
<td>-$29,793</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St. John the Evangelist announces the official start of our 6th Grand Annual Campaign

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” -2Corinthians 9:7

Hopefully you have received a letter from Fr. Brian asking for your support of this annual campaign appeal. The success of this campaign is crucial to the vitality of our parish, as it provides the necessary funds that will be used to complete several projects: chimney repairs, heating system and sound system in the parish hall. We thank you for your ongoing and faithful support of our weekly offertory and in advance, for your generous financial support of this campaign. Please know that NO gift is ever too small or unnoticed to help us to reach our goal of $50,000!

If you haven’t yet received the official campaign letter and pledge card, please find one at the church entrances. Additionally, and for your convenience, you may make your donation online by clicking on the link that is available on the home page of our website.

**Thank you for your faithful generosity.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grand Annual Goal</th>
<th>Raised</th>
<th>%age of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$20,210</td>
<td>40.42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you feel overly oppressed or burdened by life’s demands or feel unsettled and anxious about where you find yourself? Many walk through life carrying very heavy sacks on their shoulders and are weighed down by them. Moments of joy and light are far and few between, with darkness and disappointment being more the norm. God desires that we live in light and experience joy. Christ has revealed this to us. Often, we give the world and things we have created too much power over us. We lose our sense of playfulness and freedom and allow other people and things to define and influence us. We are asked to reclaim ourselves today and realize that we are being asked to spread the Gospel of joy. Are we able and willing to do this?
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 25** 4:00 pm: The Moran Family
- **SUN, JAN 26** 8:30 am: The People of the Parish
  10:30 am: Timothy P. Lizotte: 1st Anniversary
  5:00 pm: Mary Lillian Lavers: 13th Anniversary
- **MON, JAN 27** 9:00 am: Daniel O’Neill: Month’s Mind
- **SAT, FEB 1** 4:00 pm: Barbara H. Cole: LIVING INTENTION
- **SUN, FEB 2** 8:30 am: All Scouts
  10:30 am: The People of the Parish

**St. Mary**

- **SAT, JAN 25** 4:00 pm: Mary Eileen Hood: 6 Month Anniversary
- **SUN, JAN 26** 9:00 am: For the People of the Parish
  11:00 am: Dolores Dobbins: 2nd Anniversary
  6:00 pm: Robert James Sullivan and James Sullivan: Memorial
- **TUE, JAN 28** 7:00 am: Edward J. Douszkiewicz, IV: 15th Anniversary
- **THUR, JAN 30** 7:00 am: Franklin Boyd: Memorial
- **FRI, JAN 31** 7:00 am: Robin Mullen: Memorial
- **SAT, FEB 1** 4:00 pm: Raymond Anstiss, Sr.: Memorial
- **SUN, FEB 2** 7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial
  9:00 am: For All Scouts
  11:00 am: For the People of the Parish
  6:00 pm: Martin Conley: 2nd Anniversary

---

**FUNERALS RECENTLY CELEBRATED**

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

- Michael Pucci
  January 22 at St. Mary
- Judith Chandonnet
  January 24 at St. Mary

---

**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. This week’s Alter Flowers are

*In Memory of Mary Eileen Hood from her friends*

If you would like to donate altar flowers, please call the parish office.

*A Floral Moment by Juju Buds*

---

**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.

---

**“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH”**

- Psalm 119:105

- **TUESDAY, JAN 28**
  2Samuel 6: 12-15, 17-19
  Psalm 24
  Mark 3: 31-35

- **WEDNESDAY, JAN 29**
  2Samuel 7: 4-17
  Psalm 89
  Mark 4: 1-20

- **THURSDAY, JAN 30**
  2Samuel 7: 18-19, 24-29
  Psalm 132
  Mark 4: 21-25

- **SATURDAY, FEB 1**
  2Samuel 7: 1-7, 10-17
  Psalm 51
  Mark 4: 35-41

- **SUNDAY, FEB 2**
  Malachi 3: 1-4
  Psalm 24
  Hebrews 2: 14-18
  Luke 2: 22-40

---

**DOLAN FUNERAL HOME**

James F. Dolan • James F. Dolan II
Active Supporters & Parishioners of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

978-251-4041
www.dolanfuneralhome.com
106 Middlesex St. Chelmsford MA 01823

---

**BLAKE CHELMSFORD**

Serving Chelmsford, North Chelmsford, Westford and Surrounding Communities Since 1923
(978) 256-5251
www.chelmsfordfuneralhome.com
Mary Caires was the definition of sweet. Through the end of her days, Mary made life sweeter with a kind word. Mary also had a sweet tooth to match her sweet demeanor. She took her tea with extra sugar and smiled before she sipped. “A vida é amarga,” she’d tease. “Hey, life can be bitter enough.”

Mary’s story started in Portugal. She was born to José and Maria Rosa de Ornelas Flor. As their oldest daughter, Mary cared for 11 siblings. In 1947, she married her other half, Cesar Caires. Then Mary and Cesar immigrated from Madeira to the United States. Together they started a family of their own, and they helped relatives who sought a better life here. They sponsored and hosted them as they too became U.S. citizens. Mary lived much of her life in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. She called the home she made “meu cantinho,” her little corner of the world. Everything in it was handmade, homegrown or homemade. She embroidered, sewed dresses, gardened flowers and prepared freshly picked vegetables. Down the street, she did more cooking in the Byam and McFarlan School cafeterias.

As a devout Catholic, Mary was never without her rosary beads. She walked to mass at Saint Mary Church and attended Saint Anthony Church where she belonged to the Blessed Virgin Sodality. This woman of faith showed compassion to everyone from strangers to dear friends. Many knew Mary as a confidante and a witty storyteller. Mary is survived by her son, Joseph Caires, and his wife, Deborah Sarnie; granddaughters, Breanna Caires and Ashlee Sarnie; sister, Justina De Quintal, and her husband, Agostinho De Quintal; sisters-in-law, Isabel Caires and Maria José Caires; and brother-in-law, Jorge Caires, and his wife, Adelina Caires. Mary’s family includes her special nieces, nephews and cousins as well.

Family and friends were invited to celebrate the light Mary shined on their lives on Friday, December 6, 2019 with visiting hours from 3 to 7p.m. at DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 Middlesex St., Chelmsford. On Saturday, December 7, 2019 Mary’s celebration started at 10a.m. at DOLAN FUNERAL HOME followed by a Funeral Mass at 11a.m. at St. Mary Church, 25 North Road, Chelmsford. Mary was buried at Pine Ridge Cemetery in Chelmsford.

Mary’s loved ones routinely wrote, called, visited and wished her well. She appreciated their thoughtfulness over the years and especially since the time when she was diagnosed with colon cancer. Mary’s nephew, Patrick, was taken by the same cancer before she was. Memorials made in Mary’s name can be donated to a scholarship fund for Patrick’s daughter. Checks should be made out to Hayden Caires and mailed to her In Care of Edward Jones at 6 Alpine Lane, Chelmsford, MA, 01824. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.