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.

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. John the Evangelist</th>
<th>St. Mary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115 Middlesex Street</td>
<td>25 North Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Chelmsford</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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  
Last 3 Wednesdays of month • 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.

**Parish Office Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday</th>
<th>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
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<td>Wednesday • 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Wednesday • 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday • 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Friday • 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday • 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Sunday • 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
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**February 9, 2020**

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.*

-Matt 5:14
St. Mary Calendar

- **Sunday, February 9**
  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 Chape
  Table Ministry • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Kitchen
  6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church
  High School Youth Group, following 6 pm Mass • Parish Hall

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

- **Tuesday, February 11**
  Epic Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Wednesday, February 12**
  BS Troop 77 Meeting • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall
  SVdP Quarterly Meeting • 7:00 pm • PC MR 5

- **Thursday, February 13**
  Rosary Makers • 10:30 am - 12 noon • PC Conf Room 2
  Rosary • 12:00 - 1:00 pm • PC Adoration Chapel
  Adoration • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel

- **Friday, February 14**
  Adoration • 7:30 am - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel
  Knitting and Crocheting • 2:00 - 4:00 pm • Parish Hall

- **Saturday, February 15**
  Catholic Men’s Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • PC Conf Room 2
  9:00 am Mass at St. John
  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, February 16**
  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

**The just man is a light in the darkness to the upright.” Responsorial Psalm 112**

St. Mary Church
Wedding BANNNS I
Sarah Snow and John Bergstrom

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.

Faith Community Blood Pressure Clinic

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 February 18th

ONE-DAY RETREAT FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
9:00 am - 6:30 pm
St John Old Parish Center

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.

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.

Hannaford 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.
Upcoming PGC Workshop

NEXT Saturday, February 15th
9 am - 12 pm • St. John Parish Hall
Registration Required!

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/protecting-gods-children

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.

St. John St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly Pantry Collection
Next Weekend: February 15/16

The St. John St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is always in need of food and toiletry items in order to help our neighbors in need. Especially appreciated is cereal, canned fruit, tomato sauce, pasta, rice, pancake mix/syrup, soup, laundry detergent, and toiletry items. PLEASE be sure food items are not expired.

If you are able to help, please bring your donation(s) to the church entrance or food pantry. Although we designate one weekend per month for our collection, donations are ALWAYS welcome! The food pantry can be found downstairs under the stairway to the right of the stage.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you can do so by using one of the envelopes that can be found at the entrances and dropping it into the offertory, or into the SVdP drop box in the entrance of the church.

As always, we thank you for your kind and faithful generosity; for helping us help others!
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.

For the next several weeks I would like to put aside my Q&A column. Instead, I would like to focus on exploring the meaning of the Mass. The importance of the Mass in our lives cannot be overstated, and yet how much do we really know about it? For many of us, the Mass is something we have attended throughout our lives, but we might ask ourselves what it is that we actually do here. Yes, we listen to the scriptures proclaimed and we receive the Eucharist. But, do we fully appreciate all that is really happening?

The first place to start is not with the Mass itself, but what happens before we even show up. We need to ask ourselves a simple question—why am I even here? Or, to put it another way—why do I need to go to Mass? What is compelling me to attend? Most people would answer according to different lines of thinking. Some would speak about what the Mass does for them. Others may say that they have simply gone since they were children, as their parents taught them to. Then, there are those who recognize that not attending Mass should be understood as a mortal sin based on the command of Christ—“Do this in memory of me.” And yet for others, it could be that they are searching for meaning in their life. It would be easy to come up with so many other reasons why people attend Mass. Suffice it to say, there are many different motivations that draw people into the celebration of Mass.

Why a person should want to attend Mass comes down to something very simple: God invites you! And God would only call you to do something that is truly for your good. The invitation to Mass is part of God’s overall desire to be in a relationship with you. God’s desire for us began when He called us into creation by speaking our name. Ever since that moment He has wanted a deeper relationship with us, and He understands that one of the places to build a relationship is at a meal.

When I was a child, we were always at dinner at 6 pm—no matter what! As we ate our meal it was not simply about the food we shared, but it was equally about sharing the events of our day. It was an important facet of how we grew as a family: we prayed together, we broke bread, and we shared what was important in our lives.

When we look to his ministry, we can easily discern that Jesus liked to eat. There are many instances of Christ coming to table with his disciples and those who wanted to know Him better. Meals at the time of Christ were very important events. They were not about going through a drive-through and scoffing down some food.

When people sat down for a meal, it was intended to take time. You gathered around the table to grow in true intimacy, by sharing yourself with those with whom you ate. It was about breaking open the story of your life. It was about becoming companions on the journey of life. Therefore, those with whom you shared a meal spoke a great deal about who you were. It is one of the reasons that the Pharisees and others complained so much—that Christ ate with sinners, prostitutes, and tax collectors. Jesus ate with outcasts, the dregs of society. It raised questions about who Jesus thought He was. But Jesus made it clear that He did not come to call the righteous, but sinners. As we gather around the table of the Lord, we should think about those with whom Jesus ate and be reminded that we are not a Church of saints, but rather, sinners striving to become saints through the grace of God. It is a time for us to bond and become a family in Christ.

And so, this is why we gather. We are called by God to pray together, break bread, and come to know each other by sharing ourselves in this moment.
**SAVE THE DATE**

**SAINT PATRICK’S DAY DINNER and SHAMROCK RAFFLE**

Saturday, March 14th at St. John’s
Appetizers at 5:00 pm/ Dinner at 5:30 pm
Tickets are $20 per person
Tickets will be go on February 29th!
Join us for the traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage, Irish soda bread, hot and dessert... and live entertainment, door prize, and photo booth selfies! BYO beer and wine!

St. John’s is in need of a volunteer to coordinate this well-loved and much-enjoyed weekly community gathering!

As coordinator, you would be responsible for making coffee/tea, purchasing milk/cream/juice, and set up in time for the post-8:30 am Sunday Mass crowd! You are also welcome to recruit any and all helpers you would need! If you are interested, contact the parish offices TODAY and ask to speak with Sue Beechin! Thanks for considering helping us keep this long-lived tradition intact!

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**Collaborative Service Project Success**

In December, 200 Collaborative First and Second Graders made and distributed "Blessing Bags" which were packed with basic need items such as shampoo, shaving cream, soap, chap stick, socks, gloves, and deodorant. Additionally, they added some special treats such as candies, gift cards, faith-filled items and workbooks. All bags were donated to The Salvation Army which has gratefully thanked the generosity and willingness of our young ones to actively participate in the support of their in need community members.

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**Although you cannot go to the Holy Land, your prayer intentions can!**

At the front of each church, you will find a book into which you can write the intentions that you would like Fr. Brian to carry with him to the Holy Land.

At each Mass he celebrates, including one at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, these intentions will be offered up.

This book will be available until Sunday, February 23rd

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**St. John Soup and Stations**

We continue to ask for donations of meatless soups that will feed ten people. If you are able to assist us in this way, sign-up sheets can be found at the church entrance!
Upcoming Deep Dive Events

Mardi Gras (RSVP IS REQUIRED)
NEXT 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

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 26th
Mass Schedule is as follows:
St. Mary at 7 am | 4 pm | 7 pm
St. John at 9 am | 12 pm (Liturgy of the Word) | 6 pm

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent; a season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that prepares us for the celebration of Easter. A season in which we focus on repentance—on turning away from our sins and towards Christ. During this liturgy, ashes are marked on our foreheads in the form of a cross as a sign of this repentance.

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.
Faith Formation Program

Alana Buckley
Faith Formation Specialist
alana@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Lynn Anne LaDuke
Faith Formation Coordinator
lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Elaine Kindler
Faith Formation Coordinator
ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Upcoming Deep Dive Events

**Mardi Gras** (RSVP IS REQUIRED)
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St. Mary Parish Hall

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February 8th Event Schedule

**First Reconciliation**
2:00 - 3:00 pm • Church

February 9th Family Gathering Sessions
In the Parish Hall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1 FGS, Group B</th>
<th>Grade 2 FGS, Group B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3 FGS, Group B</th>
<th>Grade 4 FGS, Group B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 5 FGS, Group B</th>
<th>Grade 6 FGS, Group B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 am</td>
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</table>

**Confirmation I:** 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

February 16 Class Schedule

No Classes due to Presidents Day holiday.

February 16 Class Schedule

February 22nd Confirmation Retreat

1:00 - 9:00 pm in St. John Parish Hall

follow us on **Instagram**

instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic
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

“I am”
July 19-24, 2020
North Haledon, NJ

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.

$500 per person
$100 non-refundable deposit due at registration
Online Sign-ups available...
https://chelmsfordcatholic.org/catholic-heart-work-camp

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.”

Can you remember a time when you weren’t anxious about something? The chaos of our lives can overwhelm 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.

$275 per person
$50 non-refundable deposit due at registration
Online Sign-ups available...
https://chelmsfordcatholic.org/steubenville-east

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR THESE EVENTS IS MARCH 1, 2020
CLERGY

Reverend Brian Mahoney, PASTOR
ext 215… fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Corey Bassett-Tirrell, PAROCHIAL VICAR
ext 239… fr.corey@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE
ext 221… frcoletti@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Andrew John Rondelli, SEMINARIAN
ext 228… andrewjohn@chelmsfordcatholic.org

B USINESS OFFICE
Paul Firicano, COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS MANAGER
ext 220… pfiricano@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Tina Sousa, FINANCE & FACILITY SUPPORT
ext 219… tsousa@chelmsfordcatholic.org

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
Heather Hannaway, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
ext 226… hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Courtney Callanan, ASST DIR OF FAITH FORMATION/ YOUTH MINISTER
ext 227… ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Alana Buckley, part-time FAITH FORMATION SPECIALIST
ext 212, alanc@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Lynn Anne LaDuke, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR
ext 240… lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Elaine Kindler, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR
ext 216… ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

MUSIC
John Anthony Volpe, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
ext 222… jvolpe@chelmsfordcatholic.org

ADMINISTRATIVE
Rae Russo, SCHEDULING COORDINATOR
ext 325… rae@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Donna Gambon, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ext 248… dgambon@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Sue Beechin, part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ext 236… sue@chelmsfordcatholic.org

FACILITIES
Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER
ext 213… dheider@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Stephen Webber, CUSTODIAN
ext 231… steve@chelmsfordcatholic.org

BULLETIN, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA
Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
ext 214… christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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

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

St. John Members  St. Mary Members
Angela McMaster (co-chair)  Peter Lando (co-chair)
Mike Condor  Laura Conte
Scott Davidson  Rob Donnelly
Katrina Horan  Karen Drake
Beth Jacavanco  Jessica Hägg
Drew Jubinville  Cathy Latina
Ellen St. George  Lori McDonald
Augustine Tweneh  Steve McMillan
Ray Wagner (secretary)  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  Jeff Brown
  Paul Brzezenski  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.
In my first parish, Saint John in Wellesley, I had a communion call for Dorothy—an amazing lady! When I began visiting her, she was in her late 80’s and had been homebound for a few years. While attending a wedding reception when Dorothy was in her mid-70’s, she had a terrible accident. She was standing at the top of the grand stairway in a hotel and she passed out and fell backwards over the banister. She landed on the stairs, breaking several bones and severely damaging her back. For the rest of her life Dorothy would be in constant pain. And the strongest pain medication she could take was Tylenol; everything else made her nauseous.

When I first met Dorothy, I never guessed the severe pain she was in. She always was dressed impeccably, had a smile on her face, and spoke about the wonderful things in her life. She also had a large house which she cleaned herself. She would still get down on her hands and knees to wash the floors. She would not allow anyone else to do the cleaning because they could not meet her meticulous standards. And I never entered her home without it looking immaculate. Everything was always in its place and well maintained.

The amazing thing about Dorothy was that I do not remember ever hearing her complain about her situation. Her biggest concern was her estranged daughter: it had been some years since she heard from her. But the rest of her life was focused on the good things God had given her. It would have been easy for Dorothy to wallow in self-pity, considering her physical issues, but instead she focused on God’s graciousness in her life. Her faith really was the bedrock of how she lived her life.

At times it is very easy for any one of us to get focused on the challenges and issues of our lives. That focus causes us to lose sight of what God is doing in our lives, and our life becomes about what we do not have. It becomes centered in all the things that have gone wrong. We become more concerned about what is missing in our life than what we have.

The problem with suffering is that it can become the reference point for our entire life. It is not an issue of how big or small the suffering may be. Each of us is impacted by suffering in our own unique way. Our life can become consumed by the events, circumstances, trauma, abuse, and the like, that we encounter. The question is—how will we choose to address what has naturally become a focal point in our life? It is easy to stay focused on our real struggles. But we must ask ourselves—when we do this, what does it accomplish? When our life becomes consumed by the issues that are real but, at the same time, not the sum total of who we are as a person—what do we do?

I think Dorothy is a wonderful example for us. Her life was not defined by her limitations. Her life was not defined by her pain. Her life was not defined by the knowledge that nothing could really alleviate or even lessen her pain or struggle. Instead, she focused on what could give her a sense of purpose. She focused on what could give her hope. She focused on what could help her face each morning and give her a reason to get out of bed, and discover what each new day could teach her about life and her faith. She resolutely faced each day without fear and without a sense of wallowing: each day presented another opportunity to experience life anew.

Ultimately what we must recognize is that suffering is real, but it need not define who we are as a person. The love of God is greater than any negative experience we may have, and as Saint John Paul II wrote, “Those who share in Christ’s suffering have before their eyes the Paschal Mystery of the cross and resurrection in which Christ descends, in the first phase, to the ultimate limits of human weakness and impotence: indeed He dies nailed to the cross. But if, at the same time, in this weakness there is accomplished his lifting up, confirmed by the power of the resurrection, then this means that the weaknesses of all human sufferings are capable of being infused with the same power of God manifested in Christ’s cross.” (Salvific Doloris Art. 23)

For Dorothy, what essentially defined her attitude and approach to life was her faith in Christ and all that He accomplished for us. It was her faith that defined how she came to terms with all that she experienced. The question we need to ask ourselves as we face the difficulties and uncertainties of life is—what will we focus on in our life that will define us? Will it be the experience of suffering and pain? Or… will it be our faith in Christ?

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,
What can I give up for Lent?

With Ash Wednesday and, thus, the season of Lent fast approaching, the most common question Catholics ask themselves is “what can I give up for Lent?” I know that each year when I mention Lent in front of my kids, the first thing they ask is, “does that mean I have to give something up and eat pizza every Friday?” And my usual response is “yes”. But to be fair, I suspect a whole lot of Catholics, adults included, fail to see Lent any differently than kids do. So maybe we should step back and really ask ourselves, “what is Lent?”

During these 40 days, it should be a time of prayer, fasting, almsgiving and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection, and perhaps a good time to start doing something to better yourself and the world around you. Lenten fasting doesn’t just have to consist of fasting and abstinence from the things we love: it can consist of adding things during this season that will make our lives more meaningful. I know someone who once decided that they would stop eating in-between meals and after dinner, and the money they saved on snacks and dessert they would donate to the local food pantry. How about trying to replace 15 minutes of TV time or cell phone use with 15 minutes of devotion/prayer time, or saying something nice daily to a spouse, a child or even a neighbor.

Each year, on Palm Sunday, we used to just go to church and get our palms, and place them in a room in the house where they might go unnoticed until the next year. But a former co-worker once told me of a tradition where her family did an activity together, making crosses out of the palms. We tried it, and now it’s a tradition that our family enjoys together!

Whatever you may decide to do, make it count and put it in perspective. It may not be easy, but think of what Jesus went through for us and then compare it to what you are sacrificing. Suddenly, whatever you gave up doesn’t seem as difficult. Peace to all.

My dear friends,

The week of January 20th, I had the inspiring occasion to attend the March for Life in Washington DC with my confreres from Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary. What an occasion! It was truly an inspiration to see so many young people and families standing for something so critical in creating a better world.

The 47th annual march was attended by over 600,000 people this year. The remarkable witness of so many people standing for life truly gave one hope that we are continuing the journey of creating a consistent ethic of life in this country. The Catholic perspective on life is simple: Life is guarded at all stages, from conception until natural death. And it is not limited to saving the born but also to improving the life of every child after birth. But here in Massachusetts we are at perilous crossroads for women and families. As I had mentioned in my sermon a few weeks ago, there is a bill circulating its way through the state legislature that is considering the most radical liberalization of abortion laws.

I pose this question to you if you are for abortion: how could one support this bill which would legally allow a reduction in the standard of care for women and young girls? Case in point: Under this legislation, a late term abortion, which now can only be legally performed in hospitals in an operating room, would only have to be done in a doctor’s office, which may or may not have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. So, this invasive surgical procedure would be done in a doctor’s office, without any pre-surgery imaging and, potentially, without the consent of a parent or guardian should the mother be a minor. Where is the standard of care in this legislation?

Thomas Jefferson once said, “The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government.” We should ask ourselves the question, my dear brothers and sisters, is the object of good government the care of women, young girls and the pre-born? I encourage everyone to contact your state legislators and make your voices heard, and to pray to the good God who creates and sustains all life that this horrific legislation does not go forward.

Dr. Seuss in his book “Horton Hears a Who” wrote: “A person’s a person, no matter how small.” My hope and prayer is that these words resonate in the unconverted hearts of those responsible for this legislation. And that we as church always, always, stand on the side of life.

God bless you all!
World Marriage Day

Today, Sunday, February 9th, is World Marriage Day, World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

Our World Marriage Day Symbol speaks readily of the role and values we proclaim. Husband and wife are symbolically seen as two candle-like figures, reminding us that married love calls us to help enlighten the world. The couple is joined by a heart, focusing on love as the power that fosters unity within the couple and generates the capacity to be life-giving and inspire others to fruitfulness and unity.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS - Marriage Encounter Weekends are a special time for a married couple away from all distractions: work, kids, bills, and other pressures and concerns. When was the last time you had a weekend like that? It takes place at a local hotel or facility where presentations are given in the conference room and couples reside at the hotel/facility for the entire weekend. A series of presentations are made by the Presenting Team, consisting of 3 married couples and 1 priest. Each presentation builds on the last as we examine ourselves, our behaviors and attitudes, our relationship with our spouse and God. Communication tools are taught on the weekend helping couples connect in healthy, constructive ways on areas that can deepen their intimacy and connectedness. Marriage Encounter Weekends have been given in the US since 1967. Decades of research, planning and tried and true wisdom have gone into the content of the Weekend and how it unfolds for couples and religious. We ask all participants to attend ALL talks and participate intently using the tools with their Spouse in order to maximize their experience.

All sharing between spouses is PRIVATE, and this is NOT a weekend to solve problems! This Weekend will help couples in good marriages communicate even better.

If you have any questions about the Marriage Encounter weekend, visit our website at ...
https://chelmsfordcatholic.org/marriage-encounter or contact St. John Parishioners Jerry and Julie Wright at Jerryjuliewright@gmail.com

THE KNIGHTS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

After all Masses at both Parishes
February 22nd/23rd

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy changing world.

Whether you become an individual member, or a member of our council, you will find that KOC membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today, visit www.KofC.org/joinus and enter council #9275.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE

Saturday, April 4. 10 am - 12 noon
Long Lake Beach . 18 Town Road . Littleton

The Knights of Columbus Council 9275 is participating in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. If you would like to join our team or would like to donate on behalf of our team, please visit...

http://specialolympicsma.donordrive.com/team/5515

Please help us to reach our goal of being in the top 3 teams! Thank you for your support!

Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

is sponsoring an upcoming Women’s ACTS® Retreat at St. Thecla Retreat Center, Billerica . April 23-26

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 www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/acts.

Questions? Contact Beth at (978) 551-3048 or womensACTSretreat2020@gmail.com

February 10th is the Feast Day of St. Scholastica, traditionally depicted in art with the crozier of an abbess, a dove—symbolic of her own pure soul—and a book—symbolic of her spiritual studies. She is the twin sister of St. Benedict, both whom established religious communities that were within a few miles from each other. According to the Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great, the brother and sister spent their last day together in prayer and conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day. To learn more visit our website!
St. Mary

WEEKLY OFFERTORY
Weekend of February 1st/2nd

| Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses | $17,140 |
| Actual Received | $15,516 |
| Variance | -$1,624 |

Offertory Goal
$531,340

Actual
$480,413

Variance
-50,927

St. John

WEEKLY OFFERTORY
Weekend of February 1st/2nd

| Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses | $11,040 |
| Actual Received | $9,500 |
| Variance | -$1,540 |

Offertory Goal
$342,240

Actual
$310,407

Variance
-31,833

St. John Evangelist’s 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

We are eternally grateful for your ongoing and faithful support of this campaign. Your generosity has helped us to REACH 43.82% OF OUR GOAL! Please know that NO gift is ever too small or unnoticed. If you have misplaced the official campaign letter and pledge card you can find them at the church entrances. Additionally, you may make your donation online by visiting https://saintjohnchelmsford.weshareonline.org. Again, THANK YOU for helping us get closer to our goal with every passing week.

Thank you for your faithful generosity.

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Online Giving Programs: visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org.

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

St. Mary LIFT Update

We have a tentative timeline for the new LIFT project at St. Mary’s!

This entire project is estimated to take 9-10 weeks, but with the usual and expected construction delays, that may change. During this time, there will be no access in and out of the exterior hall handicap door and interior hall kitchen door. We will update you as we progress along....

IMPORTANT! This construction WILL effect the dismissal of Sunday evening Faith Formation Students!

Because the normally used “Handicapped Use” door will be out of service, students will be dismissed from the rear door of the parish hall. For safety purposes, the gate will be closed in order to keep traffic from driving through.

For those picking up a student prior to the 6 pm Mass, please enter the rear lot from the Fletcher Street side. For those attending the 6 pm Mass, please enter from the North Street side if you require the use of a handicapped parking space. For all other parking (rear and parish center lot), please enter from the Fletcher Street side. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our students safe!
If you would like to request that a Mass be celebrated for a specific intention or person, please call the parish office. A donation of $10 per Mass intention is requested to be made at the time you schedule your intention.

**St. John**

- **SAT, FEB 8** 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
- **SUN, FEB 9** 8:30 am: Nathaly Dickerson: Memorial 10:30 am: Angela O’Keeffe: Memorial 5:00 pm: Edward Comeau: 14th Anniversary
- **TUES, FEB 11** 9:00 am: Rose Mary Amirault: Memorial
- **THUR, FEB 13** 9:00 am: Rita Allegretti: Memorial
- **FRI, FEB 14** 9:00 am: Robert L. Cole: 14th Anniversary
- **SAT, FEB 15** 4:00 pm: Maurice Pontbriant, Sr.: Memorial
- **SUN, FEB 16** 8:30 am: For the People of the Parish 10:30 am: For the Special Intentions of those men who attended the ACTS Retreat

**St. Mary**

- **SAT, FEB 8** 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
- **SUN, FEB 9** 9:00 am: Frances & John Shaughnessy: Memorial 11:00 am: Frank & Edna Lezotte: Memorial
- **MON, FEB 10** 7:00 am: John Francis McElaney: 36th Anniversary
- **WED, FEB 12** 7:00 am: Helen McClellan: Memorial
- **SAT, FEB 15** 4:00 pm: Lynda Hague: 1st Anniversary
- **SUN, FEB 16** 9:00 am: People of the Parish 11:00 am: Fr. Kenneth Loftus, S.J.: Memorial 6:00 pm: Sebastian Poondikulam: Anniversary

**FUNERALS RECENTLY CELEBRATED**

- Claude Vincent D’Souza February 1 at St. Mary
- M. Denise Dunn February 2 at St. John
- James B. Goek February 6 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.

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.

This week’s St. John Rose for Life: **Madeleine Theresa Wiscarva**

This week’s St. Mary Rose for Life: **Madeleine Theresa Wiscarva**

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

- Psalm 119:105

**MONDAY, FEB 10**

- 1Kings 8: 1-7, 9-13 Psalm 132 Mark 6: 53-56

**TUESDAY, FEB 11**

- 1Kings 8: 22-23, 27-30 Psalm 84 Mark 7: 1-13

**WEDNESDAY, FEB 12**

- 1Kings 10: 1-10 Psalm 37 Mark 7: 14-23

**THURSDAY, FEB 13**

- 1Kings 11: 4-13 Psalm: 106 Mark 7: 24-30

**FRIDAY, FEB 14**

- 1Kings 11: 29-32; 12:19 Psalm 81 Mark 7: 31-37

**SATURDAY, FEB 15**

- 1Kings 12: 26-32; 13: 33-34 Psalm 106 Mark 8: 1-10

**SUNDAY, FEB 16**

- Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119 1Corinth 2: 6-10 Matthew 5: 17-37

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