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

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

EUCHARISTICADORATION
First Friday of the Month •
Monday - Wednesday • 9:30 - 11:30 AM IN OPC CHAPEL
Wednesday Evenings • 6:30 - 8:30 PM IN OPC CHAPEL

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 AM

March 1, 2020
First Sunday in Lent

Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to Him, "All of these I shall give to you if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

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.

facebook.com/ChelmsfordCath twitter.com/ChelmsfordCath instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic
St. Mary Calendar

- **Sunday, March 1**
  Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 6
  11am 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
  Parish Council Meeting • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 1

- **Monday, March 2**
  Matthew Bible Study • 10:00 am - 12 noon • PC Conf Room 1
  Reconciliation • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Church
  Lenten Scripture and Song • 7:00 pm • St John Church

- **Tuesday, March 3**
  Epic Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Wednesday, March 4**
  Reconciliation • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Church
  Triduum Music Rehearsal • 6:30 - 8:30pm • St. John Church
  Boy Scout Troop 77 Meeting • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Thursday, March 5**
  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
  Social Justice Meeting • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • PC Room 1
  Passion Relics Display • 7:00 pm • Church

- **Friday, March 6**
  Adoration • 7:30 am - 6:30 pm • PC Chapel
  Knitting and Crocheting • 2:00 - 4:00 pm • Parish Hall
  Soup (6 pm) and Stations (7 pm) • Parish Hall and Church

- **Saturday, March 7**
  Catholic Men’s Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • PC MR 2
  9:00 am daily Mass at St. John
  Table Ministry • 9:00 am - 12 noon • Parish Hall Kitchen
  Adoration • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm • PC Chapel
  Reconciliation • 11:00 am - 12 noon • Church
  Bell Ringers Workshop • 12:30 - 2:30 pm • Choir Loft
  Music Ministry Rehearsals • 2:30 - 4:00 pm • Conf Room B
  Anointing of the Sick, following 4 pm Mass • Church

- **Sunday, March 8**
  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
  Table Ministry • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Parish Hall Kitchen
  6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church

Holy Land Pilgrimage Travelers

Today, Sunday, March 1st, through March 10th, 27 individuals—18 of whom are parishioners and/or staff members—will be travelling alongside Fr. Brian to The Holy Land. As he is taking our intentions with him, may we keep him and all those pilgrimaging with him in our prayers as well.

Holy Week 2020

Music Ministry Rehearsals

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Wednesday Evenings**
March 4, 11, 25; April 1
6:30 - 8:30 pm at St. John Church

Relic Veneration...

**7:00 - 9:00 pm**
March 5th and 12th at St. Mary Church

You are invited to come and venerate rare relics related to the Passion of Our Lord and of various Saints. An introduction to the relics will be followed by reflections on the ten Passion Relics that will be available on either evening. Documented Relics that will be available for Veneration are...

- Veil of Mary
- The Pillar of His Scourging
- Purple Robe
- St. Francis of Assisi
- Crown of Thorns
- Piece of the Sponge
- Wooden Title
- Holy Shroud
- St. Peregrine
- Clothing Worn by Jesus

Most Holy Wood of the Holy Cross

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.
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
$20 per person

Tickets on sale after
all Masses THIS WEEKEND,
February 29th/March 1st
and NEXT Weekend, March 7th/8th.

Additionally, they can be purchased
in the Parish Offices or online at
https://saintjohnchelmsford.weshareonline.org

Deadline to purchase tickets is March 9th.

Join us for the traditional Corned Beef
and Cabbage, Irish soda bread, hot/cold
beverages and dessert… and live
entertainment, door prize, and photo
booth selfies! BYO beer and wine!

St. John’s Easter Sunday Egg Hunt
Needs Donations!

Please help us to
continue our 16+ year
tradition of the annual Easter Egg Hunt! Every
year, following the 8:30 am Easter Sunday Mass,
our children enjoy the excitement of this Easter
activity. It is because of the generosity of our
community that we are able to offer his event.
Having said that, we are in need of nut-free,
individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs.
Donation boxes can be found in the lobby
of the St. John New Parish Center.

Vacation Bible Fun 2020
Climb aboard for mountains of
fun at Rocky Railway, where
kids discover that trusting
Jesus pulls them through life’s
ups and downs.

August 3-7 • Registration opens March 20

Easter Decorating
We are looking for a few volunteers to help with
the rewarding task of decorating St. John’s church
space for our Easter celebrations! If interested,
call the parish offices and ask for Christine.

St. John Calendar

- Sunday, March 1 -
Faith Formation Events • Refer to Page 7
Children’s Liturgy of the Word • 8:30 am Mass
Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Mariotti

- Monday, March 2 -
Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
Reconciliation • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • St. Mary Church
SVdP Meeting • 7:09:00 pm • OPC
Families with Addiction Support Group • 7:00 pm • NPC

- Tuesday, March 3 -
Tuesday Coffee Group, following 9 am Mass • Hall
Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
Lenten Scripture and Song • 7:00 pm • Church

- Wednesday, March 4 -
Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
Adoration • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • OPC Chapel
Reconciliation • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Church
Triduum Music Rehearsal • 6:30 - 8:30pm • Church
God, Pizza and Beer • 7:00 pm • OPC
Culture of Life Meeting • 7:00 pm • Linehan & Chevalier

- Thursday, March 5 -
Charismatic Prayer Group • 10:00 am - 12 noon • OPC
BINGO • 6:45 pm (doors open at 3:00 pm) • Hall
Charismatic Prayer Group • 7:00 - 8:00 pm • OPC

- Friday, March 6 -
Nocturnal Adoration • Fri, 9:30 am - Sat, 9:00 am • OPC Chapel
All Night Eucharistic Adoration • 9:00 pm - 5:00 am • Church
Soup (6 pm) and Stations (7 pm) • Parish Hall and Church
Baptismal Preparation • 7:00 pm • Mariotti

- Saturday, March 7 -
Daily Mass at 9:00 am
Hospitality Meeting • 9:30 - 11:00 am • Linehan
Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

- Sunday, March 8 -
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
VBF Leader Meeting • 6:00 - 8:00 pm • OPC

St. John’s Easter Sunday Egg Hunt
Needs Donations!

Please help us to
continue our 16+ year
tradition of the annual Easter Egg Hunt! Every
year, following the 8:30 am Easter Sunday Mass,
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August 3-7 • Registration opens March 20

Easter Decorating
We are looking for a few volunteers to help with
the rewarding task of decorating St. John’s church
space for our Easter celebrations! If interested,
call the parish offices and ask for Christine.
The celebration of the Mass is broken up into four different sections: the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Concluding Rite. The four parts of the Mass are intended to work together, to open us to the presence of Christ in our midst, unite us together with Him, and lead us to give true praise and thanksgiving to God the Father. The reality of what our lives are about is so easy to forget. Simply put, God made us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next. In order to do this, we must worship God by faith, hope, and charity; that is, we must believe in Him, hope in Him, and love Him with all our heart. The whole structure of the celebration of the Mass is intended to lead us into a true worship of God. And how we worship God in the Mass is how we are called to worship Him in our lives. Our worship is intended to lead us to where we do not simply come to love God, but to fall in love with God, who has first fallen in love with us.

The Mass opens us to recognize the presence of God among us through the presence of the people He has gathered. It is God who has summoned us, as His people, to both witness His love for us and give witness to that love to others. As we acknowledge his presence, in that moment we open ourselves to hear his voice. For our God comes not simply to gather us together to worship Him, but in order to speak with us. God wants to have a conversation with us, and in this celebration that is exactly what He does. He speaks his very words to us, and through his people we hear the voice of the living God. As we recognize God’s voice in our heart and in our soul, we become open to actually experience his “physical” presence in the Eucharist. As we will explore later, Christ is present in the Eucharist not in a symbolic way, but in a real way. His real presence is given to us so that we can share directly in his life and be connected to Him both spiritually and physically. As we receive the Eucharist, Christ comes to unite himself with us in mind, body, and soul. The whole of Christ is consumed by us so that as we receive his presence, we become his presence. Then, we are prepared to go out into the world, to bring the true presence of Christ to others through the life we live.

We come to recognize that our participation in, and reception of, the Eucharist is fundamentally grounded in our relationship with Christ. It is about uniting ourselves to the saving actions of Christ and making that union the very foundation of every choice we make. The Eucharist ultimately becomes the context for living our lives fully as disciples of Christ. Therefore, the Eucharist is not simply what we do on Sunday; it is the very expression of our relationship with God and his saving actions in our lives. It is intended to define the relationship that leads to our salvation: it allows us to experience the salvation that Christ won for us through our direct participation in his actions. God’s love leads us to union with Him through our participation in the saving actions of Christ, and thus deepens our conversion to Christ so that He truly becomes all things for us.
Lenten Season Is Here...

Lenten Scripture and Song

Tuesday Evenings  l March 3, 10, 24
7:00 pm at St. John Church
This is the previously titled Taizé Prayer Deep Dive
Join us for 30 minutes of solitude and peace as we keep with the penitential spirit of this season.

Fr. Brian Presentations

The Four Ways of Love
Wednesday Evenings: March 25, April 1
7:00 pm at St. John
The season of Lent calls us to love better, and by better understanding the four ways of love—Storge (empathy), Philios (friend), Eros (romantic) and Agape (unconditional 'God' love) — Fr. Brian will walk us through these, one by one, in the hopes that we are better able to give — and receive — love from family, friend, neighbor, and God.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

6:30 - 8:00 pm
Monday Evenings St. Mary  l March 2, 16, 30
St. John  l March 9, 23; April 6
Wednesday Evenings at both Parishes
March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8

Soup and Stations

Soup at 6:00 pm/ Stations at 7:00 pm
March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3
This is also a Deep Dive Event for families.
Refer to pages 7 & 8 for details

Lenten Retreat

Fr. Marcos Enrique
Monday, March 16 - Wednesday, March 18
7:00 - 8:30 pm at St. John
.... details to follow

Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Holy Thursday: April 9
Morning Prayer  l 9:00 am at St. Mary
Mass of the Lords Supper*  l 7:00 pm at St. John
* Mass will be followed by solemn reservation and Adoration until 12 midnight. All are welcome to ‘stay awake’ with our Lord for as little or as along as you can.

Good Friday: April 10
Morning Prayer  l 9:00 am at St. Mary
Teen Stations of the Cross  l 3:00 pm at St Mary
Passion of Our Lord *  l 7:00 pm at St. John
*This service includes distribution of the Eucharist and Veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday: April 11
Morning Prayer  l 9:00 am at St. John
The Great Easter Vigil  l 8:30 pm at St. Mary

Easter Sunday: April 12
St. Mary Masses  l 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 am
St. John Masses  l 8:30* and 10:30 am
*Easter Egg Hunt after 8:30 am Mass

Tenebrae

Wednesday, April 8
7:00 pm at St. John Church
The word ‘tenebrae’ is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story. A somber, but truly beautiful, experience.

Formed.org

is here to assist us on our Lenten journey. Visit our website…
chelmsfordcatholic.org/formed.
You will find the link to the PICK OF THE WEEK on the left. If you do not currently have a FORMED account, this page will assist you with that process as well.

Due to construction of the St. Mary’s LIFT, the Annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast will be cancelled this year.
See you next year.
Welcome to the Collaborative Family

Heather Hannaway
Director of Faith Formation
hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Courtney Callanan
Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation & Youth Minister
ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Upcoming Deep Dive Events

Soup and Stations
Fridays of Lent: Feb 28; Mar 6, 13, 20, 27; Apr 3
5 pm Service* | 6 pm Soup | 7 pm Stations
Attendance at Stations is a Deep Dive Event for all families.
* Service is a Confirmation Only Deep Dive Event and is available only at St. Mary. RSVP (sign-up) is REQUIRED. To do so, visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/soup-stations

Lenten Scripture and Song
previously titled Taizé Music and Prayer
Tuesday Evenings: March 3, 10, 24
7:00 - 8:00 pm at St. John Church
Join us for 30 minutes of solitude and peace as we keep with the spirit of the Lenten Season.

Family Reconciliation
Monday Evenings: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
March 23 at St. John Church; March 30 at St. Mary Church
At its heart, Family Reconciliation is simply a night where families are invited to experience God’s mercy. There will be guides available for adults, teens, and youth who may need a refresher on how to make a good confession, as well as people on hand to answer any questions. Lenten activities will be provided for youth who are waiting to go Confession themselves, or are waiting for other family members to go. Child care will be offered so that parents are able to take advantage of the sacrament without worrying about their little one.

Completion of a reflection sheet is REQUIRED for ALL Deep Dives. Downloadable or online reflections can be found on our website as part of the specific Deep Dive page.

March 1st Family Gathering Sessions in the Parish Hall

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Confirmation II: 4:15 - 5:45 pm

March 8th Family Gathering Sessions in the Parish Hall

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Because the normally used “Handicap Use” door will be out of service—due to construction of the new LIFT—students will be dismissed from the rear door of the parish hall. For safety purposes, the gate that separates the front parking lot from the rear lot 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.
**ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS**

### Upcoming Deep Dive Events

**Soup and Stations**
Fridays of Lent: Feb 28; Mar 6, 13, 20, 27; Apr 3
5 pm Service* | 6 pm Soup | 7 pm Stations
Attendance at Stations is Deep Dive Event for all families.
* Service is a Confirmation Only Deep Dive Event and is available only at St. Mary. RSVP (sign-up) is REQUIRED. To do so, please visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/soup-stations.

**Lenten Scripture and Song**
previously titled Taizé Music and Prayer
Tuesday Evenings: March 3, 10, 24
7:00 - 8:00 pm at St. John Church
Join us for 30 minutes of solitude and peace as we keep with the spirit of the Lenten Season.

**Family Reconciliation**
Monday Evenings: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
March 23 at St. John Church; March 30 at St. Mary Church
At its heart, Family Reconciliation is simply a night where families are invited to experience God’s mercy. There will be guides available for adults, teens, and youth who may need a refresher on how to make a good confession, as well as people on hand to answer any questions. Lenten activities will be provided for youth who are waiting to go Confession themselves, or are waiting for other family members to go. Child care will be offered so that parents are able to take advantage of the sacrament without worrying about their little one.

Completion of a reflection sheet is REQUIRED for ALL Deep Dives. Downloadable or online reflections can be found on our website as part of the specific Deep Dive page.
"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 us 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 EXTENDED TO MARCH 8, 2020
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>Scott Davidson (co-chair)</td>
<td>Peter Lando (co-chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Wagner</td>
<td>Laura Conte</td>
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<td>Mike Condor</td>
<td>Rob Donnelly</td>
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<td>Katrina Horan</td>
<td>Karen Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Jacavanco</td>
<td>Jessica Hägg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drew Jubinville</td>
<td>Matthew Kunze (youth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela McMaster</td>
<td>Cathy Latina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen St. George</td>
<td>Lori McDonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaney Schiefen (youth)</td>
<td>Steve McMillan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Augustine Tweneh</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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Bagni</th>
<th>Jeff Brown</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Brzezenski</td>
<td>Celeste Dunn</td>
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<td>Grace Ann Steed</td>
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**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Armand DiLando</th>
<th>Lauren Desforge</th>
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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.
When I was about twelve years old, my friends and I went into the woods down the street from my home. There was a river that ran through it, and down river there was an easy way to cross over. But we, of course, chose the more difficult way. There was a point in the river where you could jump from rock to rock and eventually get across. That was where we decided was the best place to cross the river. When it was my turn to make the trek and I was about half-way across, I jumped onto a rock and my feet slipped. As I fell, my glasses came flying off my head and into the river. I never saw them again.

The worst part was that I had just gotten those glasses that day because I broke my last pair. The last thing I wanted to do was go home and tell my parents what happened, but I knew it was necessary: my parents would figure out pretty quickly that something was wrong when they did not see the new glasses. We continued playing for a while in the woods and then I decided to go home and face the music. When I got home and told my parents what happened, they were not at all happy. But they also were not angry with me because they understood it was an accident. However, they made it clear that there was going to be a consequence for what happened. They were planning on buying me a new bike for my birthday, but they could not afford both the bike and another pair of glasses. They decided that the glasses were more important. I’m not sure I agreed with them at the time.

This was an important life lesson for me. The choices we make can have ramifications we cannot always anticipate. The choice was simple: what is the best way to cross the river? We had done it numerous times, and so I thought nothing about doing it again. And yet that choice would prevent me from getting something I truly wanted.

In our lives, we obviously face decisions and choices that can have many different consequences. We cannot always predict where each decision will lead us, nor can we always foresee the final results of our choices. Many times we fall into Monday morning quarterbacking: after the fact, we realize that our assessment of the situation was flawed and that a better way would have been to make a completely different decision. But, of course, we generally cannot undo the consequences of our decisions.

However, there is a way to ensure that the choices we make will bring about the consequences that are best for us. And that way is to follow the direction of Christ. Jesus’ entire life was based on understanding God’s plan for Him as Messiah. And He sought to understand God’s will through his faith and through the scriptures. But, most importantly, it was about deciding how He was called each day to live out the Father’s plan for his life.

He used prayer as a way to discern God’s will for Him. Jesus often took time to go off by himself in order to communicate with the Father. He particularly did this when it came time to make the biggest and most important decisions of his life. And, we are called to do the same. The reason many of our decisions go haywire or in directions that are painfully destructive is because we are making them without discerning God’s will.

One of my favorite lines from the psalms is, “Be still and know that I am God.” If we want to be able to hear the Lord, then we need to create space for God to speak to our hearts. If we want to be able to learn to hear God’s voice in our lives, then it is necessary to quiet down our own voice. We too often simply talk over the Lord. We must realize that many times God speaks to us as He spoke to Elijah on the top of the mountain. God did not speak through the loud events, but rather, in the small still whisper. We must remember that Abraham simply walked with the Lord when he had his conversations with God. In many of the stories that we read in the scriptures, it simply comes down to the lesson of Martha and Mary. Martha simply continued what she was doing when Jesus came in, while Mary actively stopped what she was doing, sat, and listened to the Lord. She chose to be attentive to the Lord in order to understand what He wanted, what He needed. We must make the words of Samuel truly our own, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

Prayer is not simply saying a few words, and then finishing up and moving on. Prayer is a conversation we have with God that is intended to help us grow in our relationship with Him. And the purpose of the conversation is both to learn about God and oneself. Again, God has a plan for you and wants to share that plan with you. He also knows the best way for you to live out that plan in your life. The only way we can come to know and understand God’s plan for us is to allow Him to show it to us. We need to allow God to chart our path, rather than ourselves.

May we use this Lent to grow not simply in prayer, but rather, in true dialogue with the Lord. May we use this Lent to come to discern God’s plan for us. May we use this Lent to make our lives conform to the life of 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,
“I am not losing a son, but gaining a daughter”

It’s such a cliché, but one that can leave my lips with an undeniable truth. Two weeks ago, my son married the love of his life. He and Ali met in college and fell in love, a story that many of you reading this can relate to. Once they committed to exclusivity, they were inseparable. A year later, Nate sat down on a couch and asked her parents for their daughter’s hand in marriage, and two days later, got down on one knee and asked Ali the same.

What inspires me most about this love story, which has only just begun, is its foundation of faith. They worship together, pray together—even if that means Face Timing when they are separated—and are open to the loving presence of God in their lives. As a mom, this gives me great comfort. For, as all of you who have been married for some time know, the honeymoon is short-lived, and the struggles and challenges slowly creep in. Even something small, like continually leaving dirty dishes on the counter when the dishwasher is a mere 16 inches away, or putting the toilet paper on the roll backwards AGAIN, or leaving dirty clothes all over the floor, can begin to fill in any cracks so that when our house tumbles, we can rebuild.

Watching Nate and Ali at their recent wedding was one of the most joyful things I have done in a long time. It took me out of the stresses of my world as I entered into their love story. The ceremony was beautiful as Ali gracefully walked down the aisle on her dad’s arm, as Nate looked on his soon-to-be wife in a dress he was seeing for the first time, and as Fr. Dave shared beautiful words about them, our God, and the sanctity of marriage. The reception was beautiful as they made their grand entrance as Lt. and Mrs. Nathaniel Trznadel, shared their first dance, and lovingly fed each other that traditional first piece of wedding cake. What made the day most beautiful was the love surrounding them. Love of a faithful God. Love of devoted parents, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles and cousins. Love of friends that were there when they celebrate each passing year of their marriage.

So, why do I share this story? Because on February 14, 2020, I was reminded of a love that is bigger than self, unselfish and true. I was reminded that love is a strong emotion, but even more so, that LOVE IS GOD, and that it is this love that can carry us over and above any challenges we may have in our relationships. As we begin our Lenten journey, may we look to our foundation and fill in any cracks so that when our house tumbles, we can stand firm on our foundation and build anew.

Did You know?

In March, I will begin my ninth month with you as Parochial Vicar of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative. The first nine months of priesthood were consumed with the many aspects and facets of these two large parishes that are in collaboration. We are, after all, the LARGEST collaborative in the Archdiocese of Boston. Based on the size, and sacramental and ministerial life of these two parishes in collaboration, we should have at least four priests. As we all know, those days are long gone. But fortunately, we have Father Brian for our pastor, who is a bundle of energy (and, I think, may have mastered the art of bilocation), myself as a new priest, and our beloved Father Colletti, our senior priest in residence. But, as we are all aware, assignments of priests can be fluid and can change unexpectedly, or before the term of assignment is over. With that said, I don’t think any of us are going anywhere anytime soon.

As we go into the fifth year of collaboration, I thought this would be a good time to share with you some of the data of our collaborative, both in terms of ministry and sacraments. For the calendar year of 2019, in terms of numbers the following sacraments were celebrated:

- 92 Baptisms
- 116 First Communions
- 130 Confirmations
- 11 Marriages
- 171 Funerals

Those are just the numbers, never mind the countless parishioners who make these sacraments possible by being a catechist or helping with other various forms of preparation. To make all of these events happen, we have over 50 active ministries in our collaborative. The Ministry of Hope—all 18 members—reach out to families who have experienced a death and help them plan the many funerals we have in our collaborative. The catechists of our Faith Formation team—totaling 120—serve 857 children in our program. Our staff of 16 and a countless number of volunteers provide support that makes for a large operation of outreach and ministry.

And, with all of this, there are still the nearly 30 members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Societies, the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who visit our homebound and nursing homes, prayer groups, and the Hospitality Committee at Saint John’s who do extraordinary work.

This is just to give you an idea of what is going on here in our parishes of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative. Even with all of this, we are still always in need of volunteers to make these ministries and sacraments available to as many people as possible. For more information on how you can become active, or in some cases more active, in our collaborative, please speak to any of our priests or simply call the parish office. God Bless you all!
St. Mary

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

- **Weekend of Feb 15th/16th**
  - Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses: $17,140
  - Actual Received: $14,200
  - Variance: $2,940
  - Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses: $3,070
  - Actual Received: $4,600
  - Variance: $1,530

- **Weekend of Feb 22nd/23rd**
  - Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses: $17,140
  - Actual Received: $14,732
  - Variance: $2,408

Church Around the World

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<th>Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$31,635</td>
<td>63.27%</td>
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**Offertory Goal**

- $582,760

**Actual**

- $525,884

**Variance**

- $56,876

Please know that NO gift is ever too small or unnoticed. Pledge cards can be found at the church entrances, or your donation can be made online at www.saintjohnchelmsford.weshareonline.org. Thank you for helping us get closer to our goal with every passing week.

St. John

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

- **Weekend of Feb 15th/16th**
  - Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses: $11,040
  - Actual Received: $10,736
  - Variance: $304
  - Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses: $3,070
  - Actual Received: $3,390
  - Variance: $304

- **Weekend of Feb 22nd/23rd**
  - Offertory Needed to Cover Budgeted Expenses: $11,040
  - Actual Received: $9,170
  - Variance: $1,870

Church Around the World

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<td>$375,360</td>
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**Offertory Goal**

- $375,360

**Actual**

- $342,020

**Variance**

- $33,340

St. John Evangelist’s 6th Grand Annual Campaign

As of February 23

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During Lent, we are conducting an Almsgiving collection to provide further support to our Sister Parish. Please take home an Almsgiving to collect your monetary contributions. You will find the bags at the entrances of both churches. All money collected will directly benefit this parish, which is so dedicated to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The bags can be returned on Palm Sunday.

Our connection to this parish will be told in upcoming bulletin articles during Lent.

Support our Sister Parish During Lent

Thank you to all those who donated goods last summer to support our Sister Parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea, in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Over the Christmas season, parishioner Rosaline Willie-Bonglo travelled to Sierra Leone to distribute the goods. She received this thank you letter from Fr. Sylvester Moijueh to share with the Collaborative:

“We are grateful for the items you donated to our clinic, vocational institute, and pre and primary schools. You have been of help over the years and we pray for God’s continuous blessings, provisions, and protection for all who made it possible. The items you sent helped the students in our schools and the patients in our clinics tremendously as many of them are extremely poor. They express their gratitude. We hope and pray that your support continues and the ties we have established continue to grow in leaps and bounds. May the Good Lord abundantly reward you.”

During Lent, we are conducting an Almsgiving collection to provide further support to our Sister Parish. Please take home an Almsgiving to collect your monetary contributions. You will find the bags at the entrances of both churches. All money collected will directly benefit this parish, which is so dedicated to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The bags can be returned on Palm Sunday.

Our connection to this parish will be told in upcoming bulletin articles during Lent.
Our weekly Offertory goal over a 51-week period is $11,040 per week. Through 6 months ending 12/31/19, our Offertory is averaging $9,956 per week. If we continue to receive that amount each week, we will end the fiscal year with a significant shortfall in the Offertory and a forecasted overall deficit of over $55,000. Please note that prior to 12/1/19, the Offertory averaged $9,771 per week. Since 12/1/19, the Offertory is averaging $10,525 per week. Please remember that the Offertory is our main source of funds for paying our daily operating expenses, & your generous and consistent financial support throughout the year is needed and greatly appreciated.

For more detail and information regarding the budget, please visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/stewardship

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

Our weekly Offertory goal over a 51-week period is $17,140 per week, and through 6 months ending 12/31/19, our Offertory is averaging $15,470 per week. Our budget includes our operating costs and the cost to service the debt on our Parish Center. While the Offertory collections are almost covering our general operating costs, they are not sufficient to also cover the debt payments for the Parish Center. Based on the current weekly collections, we are forecasting a budget deficit of over $86,000 by fiscal year end 6/30/20. Please note that prior to 12/1/19, the Offertory averaged $15,245 per week. Since 12/1/19, the Offertory is averaging $15,920 per week. Please remember that your generous and consistent financial support throughout the year is needed and greatly appreciated.

For more detail and information regarding the budget, please visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/stewardship

Respectfully submitted: Fr. Brian Mahoney, Pastor and Paul Firicano, Collaborative Business Manager
Parish Finance Council Members: Armand Dilando, Lauren Desforge, Ted Powers, Paul Therrien, Jack Parsons, Paul Rigazio
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 29  4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
SUN, MAR 1  8:30 am: Denise Dunn: Month’s Mind
             10:30 am: John Wright: 1st Anniversary
             5:00 pm: Adam Jacobs: Memorial
TUE, MAR 3  9:00 am: Rose Mary Amirault: Memorial
THU, MAR 5  9:00 am: Grace M. Steed, Martin J. Steed, Sr.,
                    and Mary Blanche Steed: Memorial
FRI, MAR 6  9:00 am: Charles and Gertrude Cavalier: Memorial
SAT, MAR 7  4:00 pm: Fern and Joseph Sevigny: Memorial
SUN, MAR 8  8:30 am: For the People of the Parish
             10:30 am: Robert Roy, Sr.: Memorial

St. Mary

SAT, FEB 29  4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
SUN, MAR 1  7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial
             9:00 am: Deacon Dennis Vandl: Memorial
             11:00 am: Mary Ann Zampell: Memorial
             6:00 pm: William Hoar: 10th Anniversary
MON, MAR 2  7:00 am: Collaborative Members of the
                   Spiritual Society and Sanctuary Fund
WED, MAR 4  7:00 am: LIVING INTENTION: Anne Hannaway
SAT, MAR 7  4:00 pm: Susan Goodman: 1st Anniversary
SUN, MAR 8  7:00 am: Louis Boyer: 1st Anniversary
             9:00 am: For the People of the Parish
             11:00 am: Madeline Maffeo: Memorial

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to give birth, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build up.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.    -Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Both the ROSE FOR LIFE
and ST. MARY MEMORIAL
ALTAR FLOWERS
have been suspended
throughout the Lenten Season

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.

Doreen Adrews • George O’Brien

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

MONDAY, MAR 2
Leviticus 19: 1-2,11-18
Psalm 19
Matthew 25: 31-46

TUESDAY, MAR 3
Isaiah 55: 10-11
Psalm 34
Matthew 6: 7-15

WEDNESDAY MAR 4
Jonah 3: 1-10
Psalm 51
Luke 11: 29-32

THURSDAY, MAR 5
Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25
Psalm 138
Matthew 7: 7-12

FRIDAY, MAR 6
Ezra 18: 21-28
Psalm 130
Matthew 5: 20-26

SATURDAY, MAR 7
Deuteronomy 26: 16-19
Psalm 119
Matthew 5: 43-48

SUNDAY, MAR 8
Genesis 12: 1-4
Psalm 33
2Timothy 1: 8-10
Matthew 17: 1-9
Armand Henri Laliberte, 84, of Chelmsford, MA died Wednesday evening, December 25, 2019 at the Atrium in Chelmsford after a long illness.

He was married to Margaret E. (Kelly) Laliberte with whom he celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on November 29, 2019.

Born in Seekonk, MA he was the son of the late Joseph and Alvina (Bouffard) Laliberte. He graduated from St. Rafael Academy of Rhode Island with the class of 1953 and furthered his education, attending the University of Rhode Island and earning his Bachelor in Science in Business Management from Northeastern University graduating Magna Cum Laude.

He proudly served with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

He retired from the FAA of Nashua, NH as an air traffic controller after 42 years. He was a member of the Chelmsford Elks, and was a communicant of St. Mary Church in Chelmsford.

He loved to winter in Naples FL, enjoying all that the warm weather had to offer, especially golfing and bowling. He also enjoyed playing cards.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his four children, Mark Laliberte of Gloucester, MA, Linda Harden and her companion, Joseph Leliivre of Dracut, MA, Suzanne Coppa of Chelmsford, and Kevin and his wife Colleen Laliberte of Chelmsford; a brother, Robert and his wife Frances Laliberte of North Attleboro, MA, four sisters, Virginia and her husband, Richard Silvestro of Pompano Beach, FL, Barbara and her husband Daniel Rufo of Natick, MA, Marguerite Walsh and her husband William Bailey of Sanford, FL; two sisters-in-law, Barbara Kelly of The Villages, FL, and Barbara Laliberte of Danielson, CT; two brothers-in-law, Clive Morris of CA, and Robert and his wife Juliet Kelly of Coventry, RI; four grandchildren, Matthew Harden and his wife, Hayden, Nicholas Coppa, Michael Coppa, Colin Laliberte, and Kiel and Bryce Callahan as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was the brother of the late Carolyn Morris and Thomas Laliberte, and the brother-in-law to the late John T. Kelly.

Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to attend his visitation on Monday, December 30, 2019 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM at the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST., CHELMSFORD. His funeral Mass followed at 1:00 PM at St. Mary Church, 25 North Rd., Chelmsford. Burial St. Joseph Cemetery, Chelmsford. Memorials may be made in his name to the Parkinson Assoc. of SW FL, 5926 Premier Way, Suite 114, Naples, FL 34109. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.