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.

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**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

**Eucharistic Adoration**
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

**Masses are Available via Live Stream**
Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org  
LIVEVIEW resides on the right-hand sidebar of the home page

**Parish Office Hours**
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY • 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY • 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
FRIDAY • 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
SUNDAY • 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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**March 8, 2020**
Second Sunday in Lent

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: Listen to Him.”  
-Matt 17:5

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**Prayer Line**
To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, call the parish office and ask for ext 223.
**St. Mary Calendar**

- **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

- **Monday, March 9**

  Matthew Bible Study • 10:00 am - 12 noon • PC Conf Room 1  
  Reconciliation • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • St. John Church  
  Boy Scout Troop 77 Committee Mtg • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 2

- **Tuesday, March 10**

  Lenten Scripture and Song • 7:00 pm • St John Church  
  Epic Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Parish Hall

- **Wednesday, March 11**

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

- **Thursday, March 12**

  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  
  Passion Relics Display and Veneration • 7:00 pm • Church

- **Friday, March 13**

  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 14**

  9:00 am Daily Mass  
  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  
  St. Patrick’s Dinner • 5:00 pm • St. John Hall

- **Sunday, March 15**

  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  
  CHWC Pre-Trip Meeting • 12:00 - 2:00 pm • St. John Hall  
  6 pm Music Ministry Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church

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**Holy Land Pilgrimage Travelers**

As you know, Fr. Brian is leading a group of 27 individuals—18 of whom are parishioners and/or staff members—through the Holy Land. As pictures are sent into the parish offices, we are posting them online. Please check out our website to follow along on their journey...

www.chelmsfordcatholic.org

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**Vacation Bible Fun 2020**

**August 3 - 7**

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

Registration opens March 20

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**Relic Veneration... 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

THIS THURSDAY, March 12th at St. Mary

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. 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

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**Holy Week 2020**

**Music Ministry Rehearsals**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Wednesday Evenings**

March 11, 25; April 1  
6:30 - 8:30 pm at St. John Church
Saint Patrick’s Day Dinner and Shamrock Raffle

NEXT Saturday, March 14th at St. John’s:
Appetizers at 5:00 pm
Dinner at 5:30 pm
$20 per person
Join us for traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage, live entertainment, door prize, and photo booth selfies! BYO beer and wine!

Tickets on sale after Masses THIS WEEKEND, March 7th/8th. Additionally, they can be purchased in the Parish Offices or online at https://saintjohnchelmsford.weshareonline.org.

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY as the deadline to purchase tickets is THIS MONDAY, March 9th.

Faith Community Nursing

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 March 17th

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, and it is only because of the generosity of our community that we are able to offer this 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.

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 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

- **Monday, March 9**
  - Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  - Reconciliation • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Church
  - Families with Addiction Support Group • 7:00 pm • NPC

- **Tuesday, March 10**
  - Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  - Lenten Scripture and Song • 7:00 pm • Church

- **Wednesday, March 11**
  - Adoration • 9:30 - 11:30 am • OPC Chapel
  - Charismatic Prayer Group • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Church
  - Triduum Music Rehearsal • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • Church

- **Thursday, March 12**
  - Charismatic Prayer Group • 10:00 am - 12 noon • OPC
  - BINGO • 6:45 pm (doors open at 3:00 pm) • Hall
  - Passion Relics Display and Veneration 7:00 pm St Mary Church

- **Friday, March 13**
  - Soup (6 pm) and Stations (7 pm) • Parish Hall and Church

- **Saturday, March 14**
  - 9:00 am Mass at St. Mary
  - Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church
  - St. Patrick’s Dinner • 5:00 pm • Hall

- **Sunday, March 15**
  - 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 • Hall
  - CHWC Pre-Trip Meeting • 12:00 - 2:00 pm • Hall

St. John’s Easter Sunday Egg Hunt

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, and it is only because of the generosity of our community that we are able to offer this 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.

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.
Next weekend, we will be kicking off the 2020 Catholic Appeal. The Catholic Appeal is the annual fund that supports more than 51 central ministries that enrich parish life, Catholic schools and the lives of those who turn to the Church for assistance. Your support of this appeal provides nearly half the funding for these efforts, and every gift makes a difference. Please find more information about this life-changing work in this week’s bulletin insert or visit our website www.chelmsfordcatholic.org and click on the Catholic Appeal Logo.

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**St. Mary Offertory Summary FY 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weekend of Feb 29th/Mar 1st</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Mar 1st</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
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<td>$543,911</td>
<td>$15,540</td>
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<td>Shortfall/ Overage</td>
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<td>-$55,989</td>
<td>-$1,600</td>
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**Ash Wednesday: February 26th**

$3,284

**Catholic Charities: Feb 29th/Mar 1st**

$3,765

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**St. John Offertory Summary FY 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weekend of Feb 29th/Mar 1st</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Mar 1st</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
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<td>Shortfall/ Overage</td>
<td>-$1,457</td>
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**Ash Wednesday: February 26th**

$2,539

**Catholic Charities: Feb 29th/Mar 1st**

$3,009

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**St. John 6th Grand Annual Appeal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Raised</th>
<th>%age of Goal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As of March 1</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$34,190</td>
<td>68.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Lenten Almsgiving 2020**

**Supporting our Sister Parish**

Over the Christmas season, parishioner Rosaline Willie-Bonglo travelled to our sister parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Sierra Leone to distribute the goods that you generously donated. Below is the thank you from Fr. Sylvester Moijueh.

“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 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.”

Almsgiving bags can be found 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.
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**
Scott Davidson (co-chair)
Ray Wagner
Mike Condor
Katrina Horan
Beth Jacavanco
Drew Jubinville
Angela McMaster
Ellen St. George
Delaney Schiefen (youth)
Augustine Tweneh

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

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

John Bagni
Paul Brzezenski
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
Jack Parsons
Paul Rigazio
Paul Therrien

If you would like to submit a notice for the bulletin, please submit it no later than 12 NOON, TWO Fridays prior to the weekend in which you would like to have it published. Submittals should be emailed to christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org or via US Mail to the Parish Offices at 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA, 01863, ATTN Christine. We will do our very best to accommodate your request.
The Common Preface IV states: “For, although you have no need of our praise, yet our thanksgiving is itself your gift since our praises add nothing to your greatness, but profit us for salvation.” This preface is a reminder that all of Christian life, especially our liturgical life, is founded upon God’s initiative. The community is gathered as the Body of Christ in worship, first and foremost, because God draws us together through the Spirit who dwells within each of us by our baptism. The primary purpose, then, of the liturgical celebration is that this worship of God should lead to our sanctification and salvation.

The Introductory Rites begin the Mass and invite us to enter into the liturgy as one people. The Church teaches us that the purpose of this section of the Mass is “that the faithful coming together take on the form of a community and prepare themselves to listen to God’s word and to celebrate the Eucharist properly.” The elements of the Introductory Rites are intended to foster a sense of unity among the assembly, as a community that is being drawn together by the Spirit. Within this community, assembled by that Spirit, our attention is drawn to the presence of the Lord among those who are gathered in his name. This presence of Christ challenges us as a community and as individuals to reflect on how we have—or have not—lived out our faith in Christ during the past week. This leads us to both implore the Lord’s mercy, and glorify and praise him. As the community prepares to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, some aspect of the mystery of the Lord’s work in salvation is brought forth in our prayer; in a sense it describes the character of the celebration.

Another important aspect of the Introductory Rites is its attention to the Trinitarian nature of the celebration, seen particularly in the sign of the cross, the Gloria, and the Collect. As we come to celebrate and participate in the Paschal Mystery (Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension), we are drawn more deeply into sharing in the life of the Trinity. For, in the liturgy, we come to worship the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit. By our participation, then, we recognize the ultimate purpose of our lives, which is to come to that day that we pray for in Eucharist Prayer III “…when Christ will raise our mortal bodies and make them like his own in glory…. There [the kingdom of God] we hope to share in your glory when every tear will be wiped away. On that day we shall see you, our God, as you are. We shall become like you and praise you forever through Christ our Lord.”

The Introductory Rites contain: the entrance chant, apostolic greeting, penitential act, Kyrie, Gloria (when appropriate to the season), and Collect. Each action in the Introductory Rites is directed, in a sense, to help us quiet down in order to recognize Christ who is both in us and with us through the other members of the community. And each action helps us to slowly close out the distractions of the world and focus on the God who loves us and desires us to know his love and mercy. Over the next few weeks we will explore each action, to learn a little of its history and how it helps us to be more open to the presence of God in us and with us.
The Lenten Season Is Here...

**Lenten Scripture and Song**

Tuesday Evenings  | March 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  | March 16, 30
St. John  | March 9, 23; April 6

Wednesday Evenings at both Parishes
March 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8

---

**Soup and Stations**

Fridays of Lent
at both Parishes

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*

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**Lenten Retreat**

Fr. Marcos Enrique
Monday, March 16 - Wednesday, March 18
7:00 - 8:30 pm at St. Mary

Understanding the three enemies of the human soul and the weapons we need to fight them.

---

**Holy Week and Easter Sunday**

**Holy Thursday: April 9**
Morning Prayer  | 9:00 am at St. Mary
Mass of the Lords Supper*  | 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  | 9:00 am at St. Mary
Teen Stations of the Cross  | 3:00 pm at St Mary
Passion of Our Lord *  | 7:00 pm at St. John

*This service includes distribution of the Eucharist and Veneration of the Cross.

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

**Easter Sunday: April 12**
St. Mary Masses  | 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 am
St. John Masses  | 8:30* and 10:30 am

*Easter Egg Hunt after 8:30 am Mass

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**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.

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**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.
ST. MARY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE and EVENTS

Upcoming Deep Dive Events

Soup and Stations
Fridays of Lent: Mar 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 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 8th Family Gathering Sessions in the Parish Hall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 1 FGS, GROUP C</th>
<th>GRADE 3 FGS: GROUP C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 2 FGS, GROUP D</th>
<th>GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP C</th>
<th>GRADE 5, GROUP D</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP C</th>
<th>GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFIRMATION I</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:15 - 5:45 pm</td>
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March 15th Class Schedule

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

| GRADES 3 - 6 CLASS GROUPS A & C |
| 9:00 - 10:30 am Parish Center |

| GRADES 3 - 6 CLASS GROUPS B & D |
| 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Center |

| GRADE 7 & 8 CLASS |
| 4:15 - 5:45 pm in Parish Hall |

March 28th Event Schedule

<table>
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<th>FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am - 11:00 am in the Hall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Because the “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 from the Fletcher Street side.
ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

March 8th Family Gathering Sessions
In the Parish Hall

- **GRADE 1 FGS, GROUP B**
  9:45 - 11:15 am

- **GRADE 2 FGS, GROUP B**
  9:45 - 11:15 am

- **GRADE 3 FGS, GROUP B**
  9:45 - 11:15 am

- **GRADE 4 FGS, GROUP B**
  9:45 - 11:15 am

- **GRADE 5 FGS, GROUP B**
  9:45 - 11:15 am

- **GRADE 6 FGS, GROUP B**
  9:45 - 11:15 am

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

March 15th Class Schedule

- **GRADE K-3 CLASS**
  9:45 - 11:15 am
  New Parish Center

- **GRADES 4-6 CLASS**
  9:45 - 11:15 am
  Old Parish Center

- **GRADES 7-8 CLASS**
  9:45 - 11:15 am in Parish Hall

March 21st Event Schedule

**FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT**
9:30 - 11:00 am in the Hall

Follow us on Instagram

instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic

Upcoming Deep Dives can be found on our Instagram page!

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**Upcoming Deep Dive Events**

**Soup and Stations**
Fridays of Lent: Mar 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 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.

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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.
As I was about to start writing this column (on a different topic), my cat Sally started crying insistently in the other room. I tried really hard to ignore her, but... well, she kept it up and simply got louder. She wanted me to come and give her some attention. I finally gave up and went into my bedroom. Sally was sitting on the bed crying until I sat down and started to pat her. She immediately quieted down and started purring. I spent the next five minutes patting her and she eventually laid down and was quite content.

It’s like what I shared with you a few years ago about my trip to Disney World in October of 1989. On the monorail heading over to Mass at the Polynesian Hotel, a voice popped into my head telling me to return to confession. It had been about eight years since my last confession. An argument ensued in my head with this voice, and it would not leave me alone. So, as I was waiting for Mass to begin, I agreed to speak to the priest and ask him to hear my confession after Mass. If the priest agreed, then I would do it; otherwise, it would not happen. The little voice agreed with my arrangement. After Mass, of course, the priest heard my confession. It was a wonderful experience, and that night I accepted the Lord’s call to enter the seminary. There is little doubt in my mind that returning to confession was a big part in my saying ‘yes’ to the Lord. It made me understand that now was the time the Lord wanted me to act. The following September I entered the seminary.

God really calls all of us to this great gift but many of us resist the offer of grace and transformation. I know I did for eight years. Many people ask, “Why do I need to go to confession?” They are seeking to understand the importance of this sacrament in their lives. This question is not one that is easily answered. Formulating a proper response begins, though, with the truth proclaimed in the first letter of John. “If we say, ‘We are free of the guilt of sin,’ we deceive ourselves; the truth is not to be found in us. But if we acknowledge our sins, He who is just can be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrong. If we say ‘We have never sinned,’ we make Him a liar and his word finds no place in us.” (1 Jn. 1:8-10)

Thus, only when one can recognize his or her personal sinfulness and the need to be reconciled, can he or she fully appreciate the importance of the sacrament in their life. Therefore, we are a people who need to be reconciled with God. Where does this reconciliation come from? It only comes from Christ. As John’s letter continues: “My little one, I am writing this to keep you from sin. But if anyone should sin, we have in the presence of the Father, Jesus Christ—an intercessor, who is just. He is an offering for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world.” (1 Jn. 2:1-2)

As Christ began his ministry, He proclaimed, “Reform your lives, the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Mt. 4:17) This call for reformation was not new. The prophets had continually called the people to reform their lives and return to living out the covenant. John the Baptist, preparing for the coming of Christ, reinforced the need for reformation in his baptism of repentance. What was different for Christ was his claim to personally forgive sins. It is in Christ, and in Christ alone, that we find the power to heal the wounds inflicted by sin. If reconciling sinners is to be considered such an important part of Christ’s mission, it would not have ended as He ascended into heaven; rather, He continued that work through his Church. This ministry of reconciliation in which the Church is united with Christ is intended to reconcile all people with God, with themselves, with each other, and with the whole of creation.

It must first be noted that this role of the Church in the sacrament of penance is subservient to the reality that it is God alone who forgives our sins. The Church’s role is to help facilitate this forgiveness by leading the sinner to recognize and repent of the sin he or she has committed. This role, though secondary to God, is still of utmost importance, for sin ultimately has a social dimension to it. There is, in a Christian context, no such thing as a truly private sin: all sin by its very nature affects the community. Therefore, it is appropriate for the community to have an important role in reconciling the person both with God and the community.

The sacrament is centered on restoring and renewing our life of baptism. In this sacrament we come to experience the unconditional love and mercy that God has for us. The sin does not matter, the number of times we have done something, or how often we may have to return to the sacrament. Our God is simply waiting for us to return in order to restore us to his life of grace. Our God only wants what is best for us. Our God only desires to lead us to a life of salvation. We do not always make the right choices since we have the propensity to sin (called concupiscence). And God in his mercy has given us, through Christ, this great gift of the sacrament of penance/reconciliation. He will never stop loving us and will give us whatever means we need to return to living our lives in accord with his will. He will always be calling us to make use of this sacrament (sometimes in an annoying fashion). The only question we really need to answer is: Will we take advantage of God’s great gift to us?

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]
“As long as I kept silent, my bones wasted away; I groaned all day. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength withered as in dry summer heat. Then I declared my sin to you; my guilt I did not hide. I said, ‘I confess my faults to the Lord,’ and you took away the guilt of my sin.”

-Psalm 32:3-5

Psalm 32 is the second of what are considered the penitential Psalms. It’s a confession, an abdication and a thanksgiving all in one. We are called to all three during the holy season of Lent, where we look to Jesus to transform us so we are able to better rejoice in Easter’s good news.

I am an advocate for the sanctity of human life. Those of you who know me well know how far I had strayed from the truth of this sanctity. In my twenties I swallowed all of the lies—hook, line and sinker—and chose to abort my first child. Thankfully, God didn’t abandon me; I eventually confessed this heinous sin and, thanks to God’s outrageous mercy, am reconciled to him.

As long as I kept silent, my bones wasted away ...

However, it wasn’t just my daughter’s life I ended; as bad as that was, I tragically ended the lives of any children she may have had, and how ever many children my grandchildren may have had, and so on for generations. It is a knowledge that weighs heavily on my soul. I grieve that our American culture easily accepts the fact that there are 61 million children (that we know of) whose lives were ended before they were born. Generations and millions of lives sacrificed to the altars of fear, coercion, sexual abuse, convenience, fame, etc.

As long as I kept silent, my bones wasted away ...

The greatest percentage of lost lives is from minority populations. Where is the social justice in keeping silent in the face of this racial discrimination? Abortion is sex trafficking and sexual predators’ best friend. Where is the social justice in keeping silent in the discrimination of children with Down Syndrome? Or, in workplace discrimination against simply being pregnant? Even worse, we have federal and state politicians vigorously advocating that a child who, by God’s grace, survives an abortion be left to die and receive no medical assistance to continue living. How can we, as Catholics, be silent?

As long as I kept silent, my bones wasted away ...

If a human being doesn’t have a right to life, nothing else matters. Let’s pray for each other that our good God gives each of us the strength and opportunities we need to be a vocal advocate for the sanctity of human life.
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 us 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 EXTENDED TO MARCH 8, 2020
**BAPTISM**

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

**BAPTIZED AT ST. JOHN**

Sophia Harmony Martins
Joseph Bruno St. Pierre

**BAPTIZED AT ST. MARY**

Wyatt Wolfe Gleason
Blaise Leo Linstad

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**Introducing the Men of the February 2020 ACTS Retreat!**

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**Our Collaborative is in need of more Protecting God’s Children Workshop Facilitators**

Protecting God’s Children Facilitator Training
Saturday, May 16  10:00 am—3:00 pm
The Archdiocese Pastoral Center . 66 Brooks Drive . Braintree

**FREE TRAINING and LUNCH PROVIDED**

To register and/or for more information, contact Michelle Gee at (617) 741-5994 or mgee@rcab.org.

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**SAINT JOHN’S SEMINARY**

Boston, Massachusetts

**Master of Arts in Ministry • Master of Theological Studies**
Education and Formation of Laity, Religious and Deacons or Service to Christ in the Church and in the World

**Informational Open House for Prospective Students**
Thursday, March 26… The Archdiocese Pastoral Center . 66 Brooks Drive . Braintree

- 7:00 pm… Evening Prayer at the Chapel: Rev. Ed Riley presiding
- 7:30 pm… Welcome by Paul Metilly, Ph.D., Academic Dean
- 8:00 pm… Informational Presentation by Aldona Lingertat, Ph.D., Director
- 8:00 pm… Alumni Panel
- 8:30 pm… Questions and Answers

**PLEASE RSVP…**

Ellem Oesterle, MAM/MTS Administrative Assistant, Ellen.Oesterle@sjs.edu
Or… Dr. Aldona Lingertat, MAM/MTS Director, Aldona.Lingertat@sjs.edu
Or… Call (617) 779-4104

Visit www.sjs.edu for more information
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, 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
5:00 pm: Claude D’Souza: Month’s Mind

TUE, MAR 9 9:00 am: Sean Francis Lyons: 6th Anniversary

WED, MAR 11 9:00 am: Cheryl Ripsom Massey: 1st Anniversary

SAT, MAR 14 4:00 pm: Jim Lorrey and all those who miss him

SUN, MAR 15 8:30 am: James Clancy: 1st Anniversary
10:30 am: For the People of the Parish
12:30 pm: Agnes Arman, Olivia and Samuel
5:00 pm: George Lagasse: 6 Month Anniversary

St. Mary

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

TUE, MAR 10 7:00 am: John Joseph Myers: 60th Anniversary

WED, MAR 11 7:00 am: 40 Days of Life Initiative

THUR, MAR 12 7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial

FRI, MAR 13 7:00 am: Charlotte A. Akashian: 8th Anniversary

SAT, MAR 14 4:00 pm: James Mahoney: Memorial

SUN, MAR 15 9:00 am: Gerald Arndorfer: 5th Anniversary
11:00 am: For the People of the Parish
6:00 pm: Daniel Daley: 1st Anniversary

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 Andrews • George O’Brien

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

Monday, Mar 9
Deuteronomy 9: 4-10
Psalm 79
Luke 6: 36-38

Tuesday, Mar 10
Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20
Psalm 50
Matthew 23: 1-12

Wednesday, Mar 11
Jeremiah 18: 1-12
Psalm 31
Matthew 20: 17-28

Thursday, Mar 12
Jeremiah 17: 5-10
Psalm 1
Luke 16: 19-31

Friday, Mar 13
Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13
17-28
Psalm 105
Matt 21: 33-43, 45-46

Saturday, Mar 14
Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20
Psalm 103

Sunday, Mar 15
Exodus 17: 3-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8
John 4: 5-42

FUNERALS RECENTLY CELEBRATED

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

Sean Patrick Nagle: March 7th at St. John

The last of nine children of the late Bryan and Catherine (Pyne) Hehir, she graduated from Chelmsford High School as Valedictorian of the Class of 1936. She earned a BA in Latin from Regis College in 1941 and a Master’s in Education from Fitchburg State College.

Mildred retired from the Chelmsford School system after 50 years of service. She taught French for twenty years, served as Student Counsel Advisor, Guidance Counselor and was a former Cheerleader Coach.

She was a member of the Chelmsford Sr. Citizens Club and past member of the Town’s Democratic Committee. She loved sports, politics and reading.

She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church and member of the Blessed Sodality.

She is survived by a nephew, Rev. J. Bryan Hehir; a niece Anne Marie Hehir-Gillis of N. Andover; a niece in-law, Bonnie Fuller-Hehir of Chelmsford, MA; many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her siblings, Joseph, Thomas, William, Edmund, Catherine, Mary, Emily, Anne Hehir and her nephew Tim Hehir.

Her visiting hours were Thurs. Jan 16th from 3 to 7 p.m. Funeral was Friday, Jan. 17th at 10 am from the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 106 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD, with a funeral Mass at 11 am at St. John’s Church, N. Chelmsford, MA. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery, Lowell. Memorials may be made in her name to the charity of one’s choice. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com. ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.