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

Weekend Mass LIVESTREAM Schedule
Saturday • 4:00 PM and Sunday • 11:00 AM
Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
Click on St Mary Church LIVEVIEW

Weekday Mass LIVESTREAM Schedule
Monday - Friday • 9:00 AM
Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
Click on St Mary Church LIVEVIEW

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Parking Lot Confessions every Wednesday (see page 7)
4:00 - 6:00 pm • St. Mary Parking Lot

Eucharistic Adoration
Scheduled Adoration and Exposition is suspended, however, Jesus is always present in the tabernacle. If you are healthy and would like to visit He who loves us most, the door is open!

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

Facebook: facebook.com/ChelmsfordCath
Twitter: twitter.com/ChelmsfordCath
Instagram: instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday • 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday • 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
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Facebook: facebook.com/ChelmsfordCath
Twitter: twitter.com/ChelmsfordCath
Instagram: instagram.com/chelmsfordcatholic
“The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.” Responsorial Psalm 23

HOPEFULLY ALL WILL BE WELL IN TIME FOR...

The Fifth Annual...
Pastor’s Pasta Supper
complete with Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage

Saturday, May 2nd
Following 4 pm Mass
St. Mary Church Hall

Join us for this FREE event!

Seeing is much more than just a function of our eyes. We can look at something with clear vision but not really see it. Often what we think we see is colored by our presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and needs. We judge things by appearance, but God looks into the heart. God’s sight has a much wider range and far greater depth. Receiving things or people just based on appearance can lead us to erroneous and hurtful judgments. We think we are seeing clearly, but we are not. Allowing God to restore our sight so that we can truly see is a worthy goal for our Lenten journey. Look within and look without. What do you see? Allow God to complete the picture for you. Ask Him to give you the insight to look into someone’s heart. Don’t draw hasty conclusions or presume you know the truth. Be open and humble enough so that you can receive the sight that only God can give.

St. Mary Calendar

- All Parish Events, Meetings and Gatherings are Suspended until April 13
- All Masses and Religious Services are Suspended until Further Notice

But social distancing doesn’t need to mean spiritual isolation! We will be livestreaming the following Masses and Devotions.

DAILY MASS
Monday - Friday • 9:00 am

WEEKEND LITURGY
Saturday • 4:00 pm
Sunday • 11:00 am

CHAPLET of DIVINE MERCY
Every Day • 3:00 pm

ROSARY
Saturday - Thursday • 7:00 pm

STATIONS of THE CROSS
Friday • 7:00 pm

All Masses and Devotions will be livestreamed from St. Mary, as this will allow our priests to ‘stay home’ and minimize their contact with the public as we have, in the name of health safety, all been asked to do. The St. Mary livestream link can be found in the right-hand sidebar of the homepage of our website... www.chelmsfordcatholic.org.

In keeping with the ban of gatherings of 25 people or more, the church will NOT be allowed to be populated during any of our Masses or Devotions; the doors will be locked and no one will be permitted to enter the church during this time.

If you would like to spend time in church at any other time, both churches will be unlocked according to the schedule that can be found on the facing page.

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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The churches will be open for quiet prayer time according to the following schedule:

**St. John Church**

**SUNDAY - SATURDAY**

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The only doors that will be unlocked are the front entrance to the New Parish Center and the Elevator entrance.

**St. Mary Church**

St. Mary hours are specific due to the celebration of the Masses and Devotions, at which times the church cannot be populated.

**SUNDAY**

9:00 - 10:30 am/ 12 - 2:30 pm/ 3:30 - 5 pm

**MONDAY**

9:45 am - 2:30 pm/ 3:30 - 5 pm

**TUESDAY**

9:45 am - 2:30 pm/ 3:30 - 5 pm

**WEDNESDAY**

9:45 am - 2:30 pm/ 3:30 - 5 pm

**THURSDAY**

9:45 am - 2:30 pm/ 3:30 - 5 pm

**FRIDAY**

9:45 am - 2:30 pm/ 3:30 - 5 pm

**SATURDAY**

9:45 am - 2:30 pm

The only door that will be unlocked is the left-hand side door (New Parish Center side) closest to rear parking lot.

---

**St. John Calendar**

- All Parish Events, Meetings and Gatherings are Suspended until April 13 •

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If you would like to spend time in church at any other time, both churches will be unlocked according to the schedule that can be found to the left.

**The Annunciation of the Lord . Wednesday, March 25th**

“Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God”

---

Why is everything at St. Mary’s?

In addition to the fact that the St. John LIVESTREAM has been experiencing technical difficulties, the decision was also based on the highly suggested practice of social distancing, allowing our priests to 'stay home' and minimize their contact with the public. When the St. John LIVESTREAM link is repaired, and if suspension of Mass continues much longer, we will revisit the current LIVESTREAM schedule. Stay tuned!
### St. Mary Offertory Summary FY 2020

The offertory is our main source of funds for paying our daily operating expenses. Please remember that your generous and consistent giving is needed and greatly appreciated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses</th>
<th>Weekend of March 7th/8th</th>
<th>Year-To-Date March 8th</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
<td>$17,140</td>
<td>$617,040</td>
<td>$17,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortfall/ Overage</td>
<td>-$1,393</td>
<td>-$57,382</td>
<td>-$1,594</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses</th>
<th>Weekend of March 14th/15th</th>
<th>Year-To-Date March 15th</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
<td>$7,787</td>
<td>$567,445</td>
<td>$15,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortfall/ Overage</td>
<td>-$9,353**</td>
<td>-$66,735</td>
<td>-$1,804</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### St. John Offertory Summary FY 2020

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<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
<td>$11,040</td>
<td>$397,440</td>
<td>$11,040</td>
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<td>Shortfall/ Overage</td>
<td>$294</td>
<td>-$34,503</td>
<td>-$958</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses</th>
<th>Weekend of March 14th/15th</th>
<th>Year-To-Date March 15th</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
<td>$4,741</td>
<td>$367,678</td>
<td>$9,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortfall/ Overage</td>
<td>-$6,299**</td>
<td>-$40,802</td>
<td>-$1,103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As we continue to serve our parishioners within the parameters allowed during these difficult times, we ask that you continue your financial support, or even consider increasing it if you are able—especially in light of our inability to gather at weekend Masses.

If the weekly offertory shortfall continues, both St. Mary and St. John will close fiscal year 2020 with significant deficits—**as evident by the reporting of March 15th weekend—the first weekend of suspended Masses.** In order to keep you informed, we will be putting financial updates each week in the bulletin, on our website, and in Flocknote messages to our parishioners.

Thank you for your prayers and your support.
**A PLEA TO OUR PARISH FAMILIES...**

Last weekend, a Flocknote was sent requesting that, although we are not able to gather together for weekend Masses, your continued financial support is greatly needed and very much appreciated. As you can imagine, our inability to physically gather as the Body of Christ and pass the basket—due to the ban—will have a huge impact on our weekly offertory.

As a result of that Flocknote email, many answered the call (Thank you!), but as you can see from the offertory results (facing page), we remain at your mercy. To both reiterate the message, and deliver it for the first time to those who may not have received the Flocknote...

In order to meet the continuing needs of our parish families, we are asking that you consider making use of online giving, or mailing your donation/envelope to the parish offices; or dropping your donation/envelope into the secure drop boxes—emptied daily by our staff—located at the front door of the parish offices; or at the handicap entrance at St. Mary Church. All of these methods ensure the continuing financial health of our collaborative community in meeting our financial obligations, such as payroll and daily operating expenses.

The parish offices remained staffed at this time, and are here to serve you as best we can...

- We will LIVESTREAM Mass from St. Mary every Saturday at 4 pm and Sunday at 11 am until the ban is lifted. In order to keep in line with the ban, the church CANNOT be populated, and so the doors will be locked. Please refer to the schedule found on both pages 2 and 3.

- We will LIVESTREAM The Rosary, The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Station of the Cross according to the schedule found on both pages 2 and 3.

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered every Wednesday from 4:00 - 6:00 pm (weather permitting). Why weather permitting? Visit page 7 for the details. We are so very blessed to have priests who are able to think outside the box and be present to their parish families!

- Although Masses are suspended, funerals will still be celebrated, but attendance should be limited to immediate family.

- If you are a family who is scheduled for an upcoming baptism, please contact Sue Beechin at sue@chelmsfordcatholic.org or ext 236, for information on how we will move forward with your celebration.

- Request for prayers can be left on our prayer line: (978) 256-2374/251-8571, ext 223. We have a dedicated team of prayer warriors ready to go to battle for you!

- Questions can be always be submitted via email. Our general email (churches@chelmsfordcatholic.org) is being monitored every day from 7 am to 10 pm. Go ahead... ask us!
As you can well imagine, the many closures, illnesses and panic are all impacting both our food and piggy banks. The many services we offer our communities are in a more crucial state than ever. The outbreak is making it difficult for food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens across the country; it is no different here in our own local community. Pair that with school closures and job disruptions, and you have a recipe of supply far from reaching demand.

Both of our parishes have a SVdP Chapter that directly serves its local community, and both are in need of help. If you can assist them in helping our neighbors in need, please consider the following:

- Financial contributions can be mailed or dropped off to the parish offices. Checks can be written to SVdP. Please note in the MEMO line if the donation is for St. Mary or St. John.

- St. John SVdP food pantry is in desperate need of donations of soups, pasta, boxed foods and canned goods. Toilet paper and hand sanitizer—if any can be found or spared—is also most welcome during this time of public health crisis. Donations can be dropped off between the hours of 10 am - 5 pm. Please enter through the elevator entrance, take elevator down to the hall, and leave your donation along the wall to your right before you would take a left to enter the hall.

thank you! for your continued and compassionate support of our work.
Lent is the time of year when we are called to prepare our hearts and purify our souls so that we are ready to receive Our Lord in His glorious coming at Easter.

Because our priests recognize the great importance of, and immeasurable graces received from, this beautiful Sacrament, they will be offering this sacrament in a most unusual way.

**Introducing... Parking Lot Confessions!**

Every Wednesday ... 4:00 - 6:00 pm...

Weather Permitting...

Until the ban is lifted, Confessions will be heard by one of our priests in the St. Mary Parking Lot. There will be signage that will direct traffic, as each car approaches the ‘confessional.’ As we are still required to abide by social distancing, we ask that you remain IN YOUR CAR. Our priests will be close enough hear your confession, yet remain at a safe distance to avoid the spread of illness. And other cars will be kept at a distance so that your confession will be heard by only the priest. If there are multiple people in the car, arrangements will be made.

This may become a very popular practice among many parishes, as we fall on the heels of Fr. Scott Holmer of St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church in Bowie, MD. To read the article, visit…

Youth Ministry

"You, dear young people, are not the future but the now of God."
~Pope Francis, World Youth Day Homily, Panama

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

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.

Signed, Sealed, Delivering God’s Love

As you are already aware, with the suspension of all Masses and Parish Activity, this fundraiser will need to be adjusted. As soon as we come up with an alternate plan, we will let you know. As always, if you would like to make a donation to either of the summer trip—Catholic Heart Workcamp and/or Steubenville East—you can drop off to the parish offices or to the black dropboxes located at the front entrance of the parish offices and at the handicapped door in the rear of St. Mary’s.

Farewell Mass & Reception
In honor of Jason Gaudette
Saturday, February 29th
4:00 PM Mass

Best wishes, Jason

In honor of Jason Gaudette

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

**COLLABORATIVE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

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

**ST. JOHN FINANCE COUNCIL**

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

| 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 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.
land. When we left on March 10th, our tour guide told us what was going to happen to the local population. This time of year is the high period for people visiting the Holy Land. When we left on March 10th, our tour guide told us that our hotel which holds about 500 people would be empty by Thursday. At this time of year, it would be completely full for weeks to come. He also told me that all the pilgrimages that had been planned through his company had been cancelled.

What we are experiencing is truly a worldwide phenomenon, and how we come to terms with it, as a society and a community of faith, are truly important. On a local level it is important that we remain committed to supporting each other. And the most powerful way we can do that is through prayer. As such we will continue to celebrate daily Mass (Monday-Friday) at 9 AM on our live stream. We will celebrate weekend liturgy at 4 PM on Saturdays and 11 AM on Sundays. We also will pray together at 3 PM each day the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and at 7 PM we will pray the Rosary, except on Fridays when we will pray the Stations of the Cross (again, shown via our live stream). It is important that we gather whenever we can as a community of faith. And, we can work together by joining in prayer and trusting in the presence of our loving God in our time of need.

It is easy to get overwhelmed in times like this, or not to take what is happening seriously enough. However, as people of faith, we are called to trust in the Lord, realize the reality of what we are confronting, and recognize that God is greater than anything we encounter. If we stay focused on the Rock, our firm foundation, we eventually will be fine with all we are enduring. Christ is the true physician who will bring us healing and consolation. We are not alone in this moment because our God will never forsake or abandon us in our time of need.

Our biggest challenge is not to create panic, but rather, to make decisions that will help people navigate this very serious issue. And, we are not helped by some of the overreaction that is occurring, or by those who underplay this situation by not taking it seriously enough. How many times I have already heard people blaming the media for creating a false narrative. It is a "liberal" conspiracy! I have also heard people say that the Church has been playing into the hands of the devil (by acting prudently in the face of a very serious threat to life??). Fr. Corey told me that he spoke with a priest in Padua, Italy who, over the last week, did six funerals for people who died from the virus. This virus is not a conspiracy and not a hoax. Italy is living the nightmare of not getting ahead of it.

It is true that most likely a majority of the population will not be seriously threatened by this virus. However, a sizable part of our population is extremely vulnerable to the effects of this highly communicable illness. And, the reality is that many may already be sick and not know it because they are asymptomatic: the illness may still be in its incubation period in them, or the virus affects them more along the lines of the common cold. As such, they can easily pass this illness on to those who may have devastating effects.

On March 5th while on pilgrimage, we got the news that the West Bank was closed down to visitors because the coronavirus had been detected in Bethlehem. We were supposed to celebrate Mass the next day at the Church of the Nativity. It was not to be. We never made it to Bethlehem—to protect ourselves and others. The Israel government was doing what it could to prevent, or at least slow down, the progression of the spread of the virus. As we continued on the pilgrimage it was clear what was going to happen to the local population. This time of year is the high period for people visiting the Holy Land. When we left on March 10th, our tour guide told us
We’re drowning! ...be proactive, take precautions, adjust your lifestyles, change your routines, be prepared, don’t hoard, stay away, don’t gather in large groups, protect your seniors, self-quarantine and, wash your hands! Yikes!! 

Our current global situation is daunting to say the least. I had to cancel my trip to meet my twin grandsons, for the third time! What do we do about it? Beyond following the practical advice we’re given, there really is nothing we can do, right? Well, for me, this presents countless opportunities. The first thing—we’re all doing this already—is pray. Pray for full recovery of those who are sick. Pray for patience and compassion. Pray for common sense in handling our restrictions. Every one of us is experiencing small or radical changes. So, in our house, we will use up, as much as we can, all the forgotten canned foods in the pantry. I’m going to bake bread, because I have flour. I hope to finish craft projects that were started who knows how long ago. Maybe I can re-arrange the furniture in the bedroom. I’ll sort through the mail I usually ignore. We might all take this time, since we are urged to stay at home as much as possible, to get a home project done. Check on your neighbors. Maybe a person in the neighborhood is willing to be the shopper for everyone. We should bother to “look out” for one another. We know that there will be an end to the pandemic. Even though this illness will affect the population of the entire globe, at some point normal routines will resume. And, there will be new social etiquettes to learn, based on the effects of the spread of the virus. Let’s just do what we are advised in a reasonable way. When this is past, we will share the stories of the amusing, hilarious, outrageous and horrifying things we witnessed as well as the stories of what we did to get through. I pray for good health or speedy recovery for all of us.

As announced by Cardinal Sean has announced, Holy Thursday will begin the “Year of the Eucharist” here in the Archdiocese of Boston. A recent Pew Study found that many Catholics view the Eucharist as a mere symbol. Some Catholics even believe the Church actually teaches it is only a symbol, not the body and blood of Jesus Christ, bringing to mind Flannery O’Connor’s famous rejoinder on the matter. At a literary gathering back in the 1940s, author Mary McCarthy said she always thought of the Eucharist as a symbol and “it was a pretty good one.” O’Connor replied, “If it’s only a symbol, to hell with it.” She made her point. If the Eucharist isn’t really the body and blood of Christ, then why bother going to Mass? Why bother being Catholic?

This coming Eucharistic Year is to bolster the faith of those who already believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and to encourage those who struggle with this belief. Over the course of the next year and a half, the Cardinal invites all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Boston to learn more about the Eucharist and to spend more time before the Eucharistic Lord, asking Him to reveal Himself to you.

To that end, here at the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative, we will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession on Saturday, June 13—the Feast of The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Corpus Christi)—through the center of Historic Chelmsford Center. It will commence at the Saturday 4 pm Mass at St. Mary Parish, after which we will bring Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament into our community. It will conclude with Benediction at the Mary Grotto and followed by a festive outdoor reception on the green between the Church and the Parish Center (weather permitting). We chose the location of Saint Mary’s for this collaborative event so we could process to the center of town. Through this Year of the Eucharist, we will be holding events in both parishes of our Collaborative.

In his letter announcing the Eucharistic year, Cardinal Sean writes:

“At the Last Supper, Christ gave us the priesthood so He could be present everywhere in the world, not just in Jerusalem, in every time and age. Through the Eucharist, we have direct contact with the Lord at the celebration of Mass and in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. When we visit our churches at times other than the celebration of the Mass, we can see the red glow of the sanctuary lamp and know that Jesus is there for us. He is always waiting silently and lovingly, ready to receive and console us.”

Everyone is encouraged from both parishes to take part in this event. Together let us bring Christ into our community and thereby out into the world. May this be an encounter for not just our collaborative but for everyone. And may our anthem and prayer always be “O Come, let us adore Him!” May God bless you all.
St. John Soup and Stations
Pray As You Go is a daily prayer session, based on Ignatian Spirituality, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but while travelling to and from work, study, etc. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one session for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer. Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection.

The iBreviary is your portable breviary. You can use it to pray with the full texts of the Liturgy of the Hours in just five languages. Simply launch the application and all the texts of the day will appear before you.

Laudette is the most comprehensive Catholic App. Daily Mass readings, interactive rosary, multiple stations of the cross, New American bible, to name a few!

Reimagining the Examen offers a unique prayer experience that’s tailored to your needs and mood. Each Examen—based on St. Ignatius’s 500-year-old prayer—guides you through a stimulating reflection on your day, helping you invite God into your nitty-gritty. Choose an Examen that matches your current state of being, or pray that day’s scheduled reflection.

Catholic Daily Reflections shares the beauty and splendor of the Catholic faith. The goal of this app is to present our glorious faith in a practical and personal way, while remaining true to the teachings of our Church. It’s perfect for those who are interested in growing deeper in their faith, for new converts, for those seeking more in life, or for those asking some of life’s most difficult questions.

iPieta contains Catholic documents, teachings, writings, prayers, and liturgical calendars.

The Divine Mercy app offers the complete Divine Mercy message and devotion in easy to navigate format.

FORMED With Formed, you can access thousands of Catholic video-based study programs, movies, documentaries, audio talks/books to facilitate your spiritual journey as you try to more fully understand, live and share your Catholic Faith. This app is available via subscription only. Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.formed.org/click on ‘register now’/create account. Then download the app on your smart phone and you will automatically be linked.

Catholic Trivia (GooglePlay only): How much do you know about your Catholic Faith and Catholic culture? Test your knowledge of the Catholic Church in the areas of: Art and Literature, Bible History, Liturgy and Customs, Saints and Personalities, Theology.

Prepare to Experience the New Testament Like Never Before! The Truth and Life Dramatized Audio Bible™ New Testament is a celebrity-voiced “radio drama” of the entire RSV-CE New Testament. More than 70 actors help bring the scriptures to life in this 22-hour audio production, complete with movie-quality sound effects and an original music score.

Relevant Radio brings you “Talk Radio for Catholic Life”. Through this personal and intimate forum, hope is rekindled, marriages are saved, souls draw closer to Christ and His Church, and the Truth sets many free.

MAGNIFICAT puts at your fingertips a treasury of beautiful prayers. Each day offers the official texts of Mass, prayers for morning and evening, and meditations drawn from the best writings of both Church Fathers and more recent spiritual masters, with inspiring profiles of saints.
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

The sign of the cross came into the Mass most likely during the Middle Ages; there is no clear documentary evidence of it being in the celebration prior to that time. Its appearance most likely began as part of the priest's private devotional prayers prior to the Mass. In time, these devotions became incorporated into the celebration, and were officially inserted into the Mass in 1570 with the promulgation of the Missal of Pius V. As part of the prayers at the foot of the altar, which occurred after he came into the sanctuary and reverenced the altar, the priest made the sign of the cross. This was not done by the assembly, but privately by the priest.

As part of the reform of the Mass after the Second Vatican Council, the sign of the cross became an action of the whole assembly after the entrance hymn and the reverencing of the altar. (It is important to realize that this action is not the start of the celebration. The Mass begins with the first note of the entrance hymn.) At this moment in the celebration, the making of the sign of the cross acts as a reminder to us, of: our baptism, the cross which is the central event of Christian life, and the cross as a moment in which the Trinity is revealed. It calls us to embody the mystery in which we are now participating.

In all of this, then, the sign of cross makes clear to us that the action of this celebration is part of our baptismal calling. We can participate only because we are baptized, and because we are baptized we must participate. Baptism entered us directly into the central event of Christian life and calls us forth to live out that life. Participation in the Eucharist gives us the grace to live out our Christian life—to fully embody the salvation Christ won for us through his death and resurrection.

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

The apostolic greeting “The Lord be with you” has ancient roots from Old Testament times, being used by Boaz in the Book of Ruth. Its Christian roots are tied to Paul’s letters, as he greeted the people with this salutation, or others that are now being used. There is clear evidence that by the fourth century, and probably earlier, the presider greeted the people in this way. Most likely his salutation was “The Lord be with you”, but by the fourth century the greeting “Peace be with you” was also being used. This later greeting quickly came to be reserved for use by the bishops, as it is today.

The apostolic greeting is intended to get the attention of the people by announcing the presence of the Lord to the assembled community. Since the Introductory Rites are concerned with forming the community, it is appropriate that the faithful be made aware of the Lord’s presence, since it is the Holy Spirit who gathers the community and forms them into the body of Christ. In a sense, the greeting is a continuation of the sign of the cross in reminding the people of the presence of Christ in the midst of the assembly. This reminder further prepares the faithful to recognize the voice of the Lord in the Word about to be proclaimed.

The response “And also with you”, or the more direct translation of the Latin “And with your spirit”, speaks to the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit in the presider. All four greetings used at this moment are taken from scripture, and all have the same intention of reminding us of Christ’s presence. They further remind us that it is ultimately Christ who is the true presider of the celebration. It is Christ who is the head of the Church—his body—and it is in the celebration of the liturgy that the mystery of Christ and the true nature of the Church are revealed. We are reminded at the very beginning of the Mass that we, the people of God—formed by the Spirit in baptism—are united with Christ who is present with and in his people.
The scheduling of all Mass intentions is suspended as long as Masses are suspended. If you have a scheduled intention at this time of suspension, you will be contacted soon.

Prayer in Time of Pandemic

O God,
whose only Begotten Son
bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation,
hear the prayers of your Church
for our sick brothers and sisters
and deliver us from this time of trial.

Open our ears and our hearts
to the voice of Your Son:

Be not afraid,
for I am with you always.

Bless all doctors and nurses,
researchers and public servants;
give us the wisdom to do what is right
and the faith to endure this hour,
that we might gather once again
to praise Your name in the heart of Your Church,
delivered from all distress and
confident in Your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

New *Permanent* 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.

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

Monday, Mar 23
Isaiah 65: 17-21
Psalm 30
John 4: 43-54

Tuesday, Mar 24
Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12
Psalm 46
John 5: 1-16

Wednesday, Mar 25
Isaiah 7: 10-14; 8:10
Psalm 40
Hebrews 10: 4-10
Luke 1: 26-38

Thursday, Mar 26
Exodus 32: 7-14
Psalm 106
John 5: 31-47

Friday, Mar 27
Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22
Psalm 34
John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, Mar 28
Jeremiah 11: 18-20
Psalm 7
John 7: 40-53

Sunday, Mar 29
Ezekiel 37: 12-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8: 8-11
John 11: 1-45

FUNERALS

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

JOSEPHINE MORSE: MARCH 18TH AT ST. MARY