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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
The Parish Offices are closed to the public until further notice. Our staff will continue to support you via telephone and email.

WEEKEND MASS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE
Saturday • 4:00 PM and Sunday • 11:00 AM
Click on St Mary Church LIVEVIEW from home page of website

Sunday • 8:30 AM
Click on St John Church LIVEVIEW from home page of website

WEEKDAY MASS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE
Monday - Friday • 9:00 AM
Click on St Mary Church LIVEVIEW from home page of website

DAILY DEVOTIONS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE
Refer to Page 2

“OPEN CHURCH” HOURS
Both churches are closed until further notice as we take steps to fully disinfect both properties

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Parking Lot Confessions • 4:00 - 6:00 pm • weather permitting
Mondays at St. John • Wednesdays at St. Mary

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

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” — John 20:29
### Livestream Schedule

**St. John**

**Sunday, April 19**
- Sunday Liturgy • 8:30 am
- Daytime Prayer • 12 pm
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

**Monday, April 20**
- Daytime Prayer • 12 pm
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

**Tuesday, April 21**
- Daytime Prayer • 12 pm
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

**Wednesday, April 22**
- Holy Hour • 3:00 pm

**Thursday, April 23**
- Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

**Friday, April 24**
- Holy Hour • 3:00 pm

**Saturday, April 25**
- Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

**Sunday, April 26**
- Weekend Liturgy • 8:30 am
- Daytime Prayer • 12 pm
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

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**St. Mary**

**Sunday, April 19**
- Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
- Sunday Liturgy • 11:00 am
- Rosary • 7:00 pm

**Monday, April 20**
- Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
- Daily Mass • 9:00 am
- Rosary • 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, April 21**
- Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
- Daily Mass • 9:00 am
- Rosary • 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, April 22**
- Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
- Daily Mass • 9:00 am
- Rosary • 7:00 pm

**Thursday, April 23**
- Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
- Daily Mass • 9:00 am
- Rosary • 7:00 pm

**Friday, April 24**
- Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
- Daily Mass • 9:00 am
- Rosary • 7:00 pm

**Saturday, April 25**
- Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
- Weekend Liturgy • 4:00 pm
- Rosary • 7:00 pm

**Sunday, April 26**
- Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
- Sunday Liturgy • 11:00 am
- Rosary • 7:00 pm

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The spiritual health of our parish families remain our top priority, but we cannot ignore our responsibility for your physical health and well-being as well. We are closing both St. John and St. Mary churches so that we can fully disinfect both properties. Once this process has been completed, we will re-visit the option of reopening the churches. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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**Parking Lot Confessions**

4:00 - 6:00 pm • *weather permitting*
- Mondays at St. John • Wednesdays at St. Mary
**Vacation Bible Fun 2020**

**August 3rd - 7th**

**FUNSTERS:** Calling ALL children Pre-K (age 4) through 5th grade (entering 6th in the fall) to climb aboard for Mountains of Fun at Rocky Railway, where they will discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life’s ups and downs.

**YOUTH:** Looking for dynamic and power-driven youth from grade 6 (entering 7th in the fall) through age 17 to help our FUNSTERS have the VBF experience of a lifetime. Join the fun and faith-filled staff of 2020!

**ADULTS:** You are an essential part of our program! Without you, we cannot facilitate this powerful and dynamic experience for our children! Trust us: it’s a rewarding experience for you all well.

*Register TODAY by clicking on the VBF image on our homepage*

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**St. Mary Scholarship: KATHIE NISCO $600 AWARD**

This scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior of St. Mary Parish who has demonstrated and achieved a high level of involvement in community service during his/her high school years. The recipient must also have exhibited outstanding commitment to living the message of the Gospel in the parish and community as a young disciple. This witness will have been made evident through the individual’s response to service and leadership. Please visit [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/st-mary-kathie-nisco-scholarship](http://www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/st-mary-kathie-nisco-scholarship).

The Knights of Columbus, Bishop Ruocco Council is offering a single **$400 scholarship** to one high-school senior, graduating student of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative that will be attending an accredited school or institution of higher education (2 or 4-year college or trade school) in the fall of 2020.

For additional information and the application, visit [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/koc-scholarship](http://www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/koc-scholarship).

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**Next Sunday**

**April 27**

**Consecration of the Family to the Divine Mercy**

During these uncertain times we rest assured that in the end Our Lady will triumph! We as individuals know to consecrate ourselves to Her Immaculate Heart, but it is necessary for us to consecrate our families to The Divine Mercy to allow great graces to flow to them.

"The final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about marriage and the family. Don’t be afraid because anyone who works for the sanctity of marriage and the family will always be fought and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue. However, Our Lady has already crushed its head."

- Sister Lucia of Fatima to Cardinal Carlo Caffara (Archbishop of Bologna)
### 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.

Since the Suspension of Masses:
- Weekend of March 22nd/23rd: received $6,390 (shortfall of -$10,750)
- Weekend of March 28th/29th: received $11,969 (shortfall of -$5,171)
- Weekend of April 4th/5th: received $11,144 (shortfall of -$5,996)

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<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
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<td>$1,244</td>
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### St. John 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.

Since the Suspension of Masses:
- Weekend of March 22nd/23rd: received $6,096 (shortfall of -$4,944)
- Weekend of March 28th/29th: received $8,207 (shortfall of -$2,833)
- Weekend of April 4th/5th: received $8,272 (shortfall of -$2,768)

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<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
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### ST. JOHN

- Visit our website at [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org](http://www.chelmsfordcatholic.org) and click on the WeShare logo located in the right-hand sidebar on the homepage.
- Or scan the above QR code with your Android or IPhone. Open your camera app. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder and you will see a notification with a link. Click on the notification to open the link. You will be taken to the St. John’s WeShare site on your phone.
- Choose your Giving Opportunity, i.e Weekly Offertory
- Set up your payment options, withdrawal dates, etc.
- If you prefer, there is an option to make a one-time donation.

### ST. MARY

- Visit our website at [www.chelmsfordcatholic.org](http://www.chelmsfordcatholic.org) and click on the Online Giving logo located in the right-hand sidebar on the homepage.
- Or scan the above QR code with your Android or IPhone. Open your camera app. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder and you will see a notification with a link. Click on the notification to open the link. You will be taken to the St. Mary Online Giving site on your phone.
- Click on ‘Set up New Account’
- Set up your payment options, withdrawal dates, etc.
- If you prefer, there is a “Quick Give” option to make a one-time donation.
In order to ease the financial burden that the local parishes are experiencing due to the pandemic, the Archdiocese generously donated all monies from the Easter Collection—traditionally earmarked for the Clergy Benefit Trust—to benefit them; meaning us.

Based on the collection numbers from Easter weekend, you will see that for the first time since the suspension of Masses, we are reporting an overage in both parishes. We thank you!

For those of you who earmarked your donation specifically for the Clergy Benefit, please be assured that it was sent to them.

We are in the hopes that we are able to continue this upward momentum in our weekend collection, and since our first weekend of suspended Masses (March 14/15) we have, as mentioned above, experienced an overage this past Easter weekend. This tells us what we already knew, and that you are to be commended for your commitment to your parish.

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In addition to the usual ways that we are receiving donations, the Archdiocese has implemented a program called **90 Days Now—For Your Parish**. This initiative was spear-headed by a lay-person concerned with the potential financial downfall of parishes due to the Mass suspension. It offers a simple and easy way to make a daily financial commitment—in addition to your weekly offertory commitment—to your parish over the next 90 days, with the assurance that your contribution will remain IN your parish; no portion or percentage will be kept by the Archdiocese.

Contributions will be immediately credited and direct-deposited into the parish bank account. The link to this site can be found on the home page of our website, and will be distributed in an upcoming Flocknote email (if you don't currently receive Flocknotes, please see below).

Thank you for the crucial part you are playing in providing for the financial health of our collaborative community in meeting our financial obligations, such as payroll and daily operating expenses.

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**BE IN “THE KNOW” WITH Flocknote**

Well, the flow of information has slowed down for the time being, but the content of the information couldn’t be less important. We still question when things will return to ‘normal,’ so until then, we will continue in our current modus operandi…. daily Flocknotes to keep you abreast of all things… both large and small.

Our goal is to be by your side; to keep you up-to-date and connected during this difficult time when we are asked to go against our God-given nature of communing WITH each other, and to instead, embrace social distancing FROM each other. We are able to do this efficiently and effectively through a communications/email tool called Flocknote! Whether it be office closures, livestream and open church schedules; reminders about our popular Parking Lot Confessions, many—we are being told—are feeling less alone and isolated.

If you are not receiving these notifications, send an email to christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org with your first name, last name, which parish you are registered to, and your email. We’ll get you set up immediately so you are in “THE KNOW”. God Bless and Be Well!

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**John is the only evangelist to record the episode of Thomas’ initial doubt in Jesus resurrection, John 20: 25-29**

What role does doubt have in your spiritual journey?
**Faith Formation Coordinators**

Heather Hannaway  
Director of Faith Formation  
hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Courtney Callanan  
Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation  
callanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Elaine Kindler  
etkindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Lynn Anne LaDuke  
lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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**First Holy Communions**

Due to the extension of the stay-at-home advisory for Massachusetts to May 4th, the following changes have been made:

**UPDATE**

**ALL scheduled First Communion Interviews and Masses for BOTH parishes have been cancelled.** Although no new dates have yet been determined, they will be celebrated during regularly scheduled Masses once the suspension is lifted.

As this is an unprecedented situation for all of us, we thank you for your patience and forbearance in the decisions we have had to make in this time of uncertainty. Please be assured that we are monitoring reports closely and will keep you informed as new information becomes available to us.

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**St. Mary Confirmation**

We just received word from the Bishop’s Office that in all likelihood, all spring Confirmation celebrations in the Archdiocese of Boston will be postponed until further notice. At this time, no date has been rescheduled, and when it is, please know that the date is determined at the discretion of the Bishop, based on his availability. We will share any and all information with you as soon as we receive it.

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**ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION INTRODUCES**

Due to the extension of the stay-at-home advisory for Massachusetts to May 4th, the following changes have been made:

Although both parish families operate under one single Family Faith Formation Program, the registration process has been unique to each parish. After many conversations, a decision has been made to move St. John to a much easier registration process that ‘speaks’ directly to our parish database. With the great number of children that we are educating, this cuts down on having to manually copy information from one system to another, freeing up staff so that they can better and more efficiently serve you and your family. Soon you will receive a Flocknote invite from Lynn Anne LaDuke outlining the first step of this transition—creating your My Own Church account—so that when registration time arrives, you are well on your way down ‘easy street,’ getting your child(ren) on board for the upcoming year!

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**Registration for the 2020/2021 Family Faith Formation year opens on May 4th!**

Stay tuned!

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**Have you ever experienced awe?**

Awe is commonly defined as a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder. A moment of awe has the ability to lift us up out of ourselves and immerse us into something that causes us to wonder about ourselves, the meaning of life, and truth. Awe is an experience of connection that links us to something that is beyond the normal happenings of life. For us who believe that the resurrected Christ is present in all of life and the totality of the universe, being touched by awe can lead us to exclaim, “My Lord and my God!” Pondering the vastness of God’s presence also brings us to a profound sense of God’s mercy, which is the showering of His unconditional love on each of His daughters and sons. When we internalize this mystery, we may find ourselves standing in awe once again and feeling an intense sense of peace.
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.
There were two incidents when I was in the Holy Land that truly fascinated me. One occurred the day we were in the Judean Wilderness, heading to the spot where we would celebrate Mass. Obviously, in that moment, I was dressed in my clerics, and two people stopped me and Fr. David to ask if we were Catholic priests. We, of course, said, “yes.” They were so excited to see us! They were Catholics from South Carolina who had gone on pilgrimage with a Protestant group. They made it clear that the experience was not quite what they had been hoping for. Their group looked at things a little differently than we would as Catholics, and they had not been able to go to Mass during their trip.

The second incident occurred at the Dead Sea. I was waiting in the parking lot for members of our group to come, from changing after floating in the water. I was directing them to our tour bus and, while I was standing there, a gentleman came up to me and asked if I was a Catholic priest. I again said, “yes.” He then asked if he could take a selfie with me. I have to admit that I was a little taken aback by the request, but I agreed. He said I was the first priest he had seen there. (I didn’t understand that because I saw lots of priests all over the place.) It was clearly important to him to be seen with a priest.

I have to admit that both of these encounters got me thinking. The thirst that the first two people had for connecting with the Church in their journey through the Holy Land was a little heartbreaking. It was clear that they felt something was truly missing during their time there. Obviously, I am not a celebrity and so the idea of a perfect stranger wanting a picture with me was somewhat foreign. And yet, it was clear that it was not so much about me, but rather, what I represent. He wanted to make some connection to the Church as he traveled throughout the Holy Land.

As we each make our journey through life it is easy to take things for granted. It is much like what we are going through during this difficult time: because of something so small, because of something we cannot see, because of something beyond our control. And, because it is something that can affect us in catastrophic ways, we have not been able to gather as a community, as a family of faith. And it is in that moment of loss that we can most powerfully recognize our need. In our time of social isolation, we have come to recognize that what we always thought would be there, suddenly is not. It did not matter when we came to church because we could come whenever we wanted. And, then suddenly, we could not! We are learning a lesson. Too often we look to what we have and see all that is wrong with it. We long for times long ago that were different, or better. We consider what we have and find fault with how others are handling their responsibilities, and we think about how we could do so much better. We create our own barriers and those barriers can bring about a sense of isolation in our lives. We begin to cut ourselves off because we are waiting for perfection—as we see perfection. And then we lose the connection that we so desperately need.

We truly need each other. The Church is not about the buildings, but rather, it is about what the buildings allow us to do. It is a place of gathering. It is a place of bonding. It is a place of encounter and experience. It is a place where we can come to understand our place in the world. The Church is about what we seek to make of ourselves. Or, to put it in a better way, what Christ is trying to make of us.

It is so easy to lose the connection that helps us get our bearings. It is so easy to allow the barriers to become our truth. It is so easy to see only faults and brokenness, until the time comes when it is no longer there as we truly need it to be.

We can look at our present situation only in the negative, or we can see it truly as an opportunity. It is an opportunity to recognize the great gift we are to each other. It is an opportunity to recognize how Christ is using each and every one of us in another’s life. It is an opportunity to move beyond how we think things should be, to work together to build what it is that Christ wants.

We will never be the ‘perfect community’. We will never be a people without faults and brokenness. But what we can be is a place that welcomes each other with our faults and in our brokenness. We can be that place where people encounter Christ—He who invites all to his table, not because they are perfect, but because they need his strength and healing.

Let us take this opportunity to become a community that is truly united, as we recognize what was truly missing in our lives!

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,
On Fire?

At the beginning of Lent, Matthew Kelley gave us a challenge: “You’ve got forty days – who will you become?” At the retreat where I heard this, I’d been given a paper heart. I wrote Matthew’s challenge on it and, by the end of the retreat, I wrote: “On fire with love of Christ!”

Here we are, one week after Easter Sunday – Divine Mercy Sunday, as established by Saint Pope John Paul II. We have celebrated this holiest of seasons in a way that none of us could have guessed when we started our Lenten journey.

So, am I on fire with love of Christ? Yes, I believe I am, but not a huge roaring bonfire. More like a slow burning ember on which our priests place aromatic incense. Red hot, but without flames.

This transformation has come, in part, because I’ve not been able to celebrate Mass and pray in the presence of my brothers and sisters in Christ – in physical community. I’ve not been able to rely on someone else’s enthusiasm in worship to generate spiritual energy in me. I’ve had to rely 100% on the Holy Spirit who, of course, did not disappoint.

Prayers said by myself became more intense, almost as though I was hearing the words for the first time. The prayer for a Spiritual Communion has been particularly powerful. I should always rely 100% on the Holy Spirit!

When we are able to worship and pray together again, it will be joyous. But, I will also treasure more deeply those times when I pray in solitude.

I don’t know how God has blessed you during I pray that each of us will continue to see the mercy and goodness of our God every day.

We are all looking for a large return on all of our investments. Banks are not helpful in that regard because they do not offer much interest on deposits and CDs. If you don’t know much about stocks and bonds, it could be a scary road ahead.

Jesus came to invest in you and He expects ‘a high yield’ in the fruit you bear. John the Evangelist wrote: “Jesus said, ‘I am the vine, and my Father is the Gardener. He lops off every branch that doesn’t produce. And He prunes those branches that bear fruit for even larger crops…for branches can’t produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me.’” (John 15:1)

Jesus said that “without me you can do nothing.” Saint Augustine wrote that “God created you without you, but will not save you without you.” If you partner with Christ you will bear fruit.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Benignity (kindness), Goodness, Longanimity (forbearance), Mildness, Faith and Modesty.

But, what does Jesus see? Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (Chelmsford?) for their lack of faith. Jesus has compassion for they are like sheep without a Shepherd. Jesus rejoices over one sinner who repents.

Loving Christ, or being a good investment for Christ, is shown by whether we exclude and judge others we deem unworthy of our love, or whether we embrace those others by our love.

Meditate on these words so that you might be a really good investment for the Lord.
### Some Holy Week/Easter Trivia

**Answers will be sent via Flocknote on Tuesday.**

1. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem (on Palm Sunday), what did He say would cry out if His disciples didn’t?
   - a. the stones
   - b. the angels
   - c. the earth
   - d. the animals

2. What was the man carrying whom Peter and John followed to prepare the upper room for Passover?
   - a. a bushel of wheat
   - b. a young lamb
   - c. a pitcher of water
   - d. a loaf of bread

3. What did Jesus give to Judas as a sign that he was to betray Him?
   - a. a glass of wine
   - b. bread
   - c. jar of honey
   - d. bag of coins

4. Which of these did NOT happen at the Lord’s Supper?
   a. the disciples sang a hymn
   b. Jesus washed the disciples feet
   c. Judas left to betray Jesus
   d. Jesus wept bitterly

5. What was the sign that Jesus gave Peter in stating that he would deny Him?
   - a. the sun would rise
   - b. a rooster would crow twice
   - c. darkness would cover the land

6. Where was Jesus when He was arrested?
   - a. the temple
   - b. a garden
   - c. the upper room
   - d. a courtyard

7. At Jesus’ arrest, who cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant?
   - a. John
   - b. James
   - c. Peter
   - d. Bible doesn’t say

8. Who was the chief priest who had Jesus arrested?
   - a. Caiaphas
   - b. Ananias
   - c. Pontius Pilate
   - d. Zechariah

9. Which of these people did NOT question Jesus after He was arrested?
   - a. Caiaphas
   - b. Pontius Pilate
   - c. Herod
   - d. Caesar

10. On what charge did the Jewish court sentence Jesus to death?
    - a. Murder
    - b. Blasphemy
    - c. False witness
    - d. Theft

11. Who was told to carry Jesus’ cross for Him?
    - a. Joseph of Arimathea
    - b. John
    - c. Simon the Cyrenian
    - d. Peter

12. Where was Jesus crucified?
    - a. Mount of Olives
    - b. Golgotha
    - c. Jerusalem
    - d. The Hinnom Valley

13. Which of these things did NOT happen when Jesus died?
    - a. the veil of the temple was torn in two
    - b. an earthquake
    - c. many saints were raised from the dead
    - d. the moon turned blood red

14. What were the soldiers told to say regarding the missing body of Jesus?
    - a. His mother moved Him to a different tomb
    - b. His disciples stole the body at night
    - c. He really wasn’t dead… just unconscious

15. Who owned the tomb where Jesus was buried?
    - a. Joseph of Arimathea
    - b. Simon the Cyrenian
    - c. Nicodemus
    - d. Mary Magdalene

16. To whom did Jesus first appear after His resurrection?
    - a. Mary Magdalene
    - b. His mother Mary
    - c. Peter
    - d. Matthew
Catherine M. Tucke of Chelmsford, & Centerville, MA, and North Fort Myers, FL

Catherine M. Tucke of Chelmsford, MA, Centerville, MA, and North Ft. Myers, FL, passed away on Saturday, March 7th, 2020, at the age of 88. She was married to the late Gerald C. Tucke. Catherine is survived by four children and spouses Sheila Tucke and Philip Pears of Westford, Deborah and John Dupuis of Nashua, NH, Gerald and Susan Tucke of Tyngsboro, and Matthew and Patricia Tucke of Westwood, MA, eight grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. She is also survived by her brother, John A. Mallon and his wife Cherie of Summerville, SC, as well as their 3 children. She is predeceased by her parents.

Catherine was born in Lowell, on May 5, 1931 the daughter of the late Harold J. and Emma Fitzgerald Mallon. She graduated from St. Patrick High School with the class of 1948, and was in the first class of women from Boston College, School of Nursing, 1952.

Catherine retired from the Lowell District Court as a probation officer after 22 years.

She travelled all over the world with her husband. Enjoyed summers on Cape Cod and winters in North Fort Myers, Florida.

She loved to share happy times with her family at the beach on Cape Cod. Catherine enjoyed socializing with her friends from the court house over the years and those in Florida. She had a kind, generous spirit and was loved by all who met her. The family would like to thank the VNA Hospice staff of Cape Cod. We were very grateful for the wonderful care of the 4 women who were with her everyday: Linda Parent, Dawn Fiandaca, Deb Parris and Lynn Murphy for their kindness and care of Catherine.

Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to attend her visiting hours Tuesday, March 10th from 11am to 12:30pm at the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST., CHELMSFORD, a funeral Mass followed at 1pm at St. John the Evangelist Church in Chelmsford. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Chelmsford. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.