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 • 4:30 - 5:30 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.

May 10, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Easter

“In my father’s house, there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” — John 14:2
SCHEDULE OF events

St. Mary

Sunday, May 10
Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
Sunday Liturgy • 11:00 am
Rosary •  7:00 pm

Monday, May 11
Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
Daily Mass • 9:00 am
Rosary • 7:00 pm

Tuesday, May 12
Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
Daily Mass • 9:00 am
Rosary • 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 13
Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
Daily Mass • 9:00 am
Parking Lot Confessions • 4:30 - 5:30 pm
Rosary • 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 14
Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
Daily Mass • 9:00 am
Rosary • 7:00 pm

Friday, May 15
Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
Daily Mass • 9:00 am
Rosary • 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 16
Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
Weekend Liturgy • 4:00 pm
Rosary • 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 17
Morning Prayer • 7:00 am
Sunday Liturgy • 11:00 am
Rosary • 7:00 pm

St. John

Sunday, May 10
Weekend Liturgy • 8:30 am
Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

Monday, May 11
Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm
Parking Lot Confessions • 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Tuesday, May 12
Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

Wednesday, May 13
Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
Chaplet and Holy Hour • 3:00 pm

Thursday, May 14
Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

Friday, May 15
Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
Chaplet and Holy Hour • 3:00 pm
Drive-In Eucharistic Adoration • 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Saturday, May 16
Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

Sunday, May 17
Weekend Liturgy • 8:30 am
Daytime Prayer • 12:00 pm
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm

The parish offices, parish centers and churches remain closed until further notice.
The Recent ‘Drive-Thru Food Donation’ Event

has inspired a second event of this kind!

Thursday, May 14th
2-4 pm • St. John Parking Lot

It is important to follow the social distancing protocols as outlined below

St. John SVdP food pantry remains in need of soups, pasta, boxed foods and canned goods. Additionally, our young families can always use diapers. Toilet paper and hand sanitizer—if any can be found or spared—are also most welcome!

As some have previously asked... you can drop of check, cash or grocery gift card donations. If donating via a personal check, please make payable to St. John the Evangelist and clearly note SVdP in the Memo line. You can also mail your donation to:

St. John the Evangelist
ATTN: St. Vincent de Paul
115 Middlesex Street
North Chelmsford, MA 01863

In order to follow the social distancing protocols, we ask that you please respectfully follow the traffic directives. Once you arrive at the assigned parking location, please exit your vehicle and drop your donation to the assigned space, then re-enter your vehicle. Once you return to your vehicle, an SVdP member will retrieve your donation and distribute it according to client needs.

WINE, WOMEN & WORD

6:30 - 8:00 pm
next THURSDAY, May 14

All women of the Chelmsford Collaborative and beyond are welcome to join us for our monthly meeting.

Our reflection this month will be: Mary, My Greatest Consolation

To join the meeting, contact Peggy at phasett99@gmail.com BEFORE THIS Wednesday, May 13th.

3RD ANNUAL HAIL MARY CHALLENGE

Our Collaborative is again challenged to collectively pray 1,000,000 Rosaries in 6 Months!

Beginning June 1st
Ending November 30th

Over the last 2 years, we have exceed 100% of our goal! Over the last 2 years (actually 12 months), we have collectively prayed a total of 2,247,689 Hail Mary’s!

Details on how this year will be handled — if we are still called to social distancing protocols — will follow as we get closer to the end of May.

Happy Mother’s Day
from the Clergy and Staff of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Fr. Brian’s 25th Anniversary Celebration Postponed

Unfortunately, due to the social distancing protocols brought about by COVID-19, we will be postponing Fr. Brian’s 25th Anniversary celebration until September, barring, or course, any additional unforeseen circumstances. We would be grateful if you could help us spread the word! We will be in touch as September approaches.
Next Weekend, May 16th/17th, was originally earmarked for the Annual Collection in support of our local St. Vincent de Paul chapters. Due to suspension of Masses and social distancing protocols that are in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are rescheduling this collection for the weekend of June 13th/14th, when we will hopefully be gathering together again! If you already turned in your envelope for this collection, no worries. We will hold it and include it in the June offertory report. Thank you for your support.

### St. Mary Offertory Summary FY 2020

Since the Suspension of Masses:
- Weekend of March 14th/15th: received $7,787 (shortfall of $9,353)
- 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)
- Weekend of April 11th/12th: received $18,384 (overage of $1,244)
- Weekend of April 18th/19th: received $15,380 (shortfall of $1,760)
- Weekend of April 25th/26th: received $15,379 (shortfall of $1,761)

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<th>Weekend of May 2nd/3rd</th>
<th>Year-To-Date May 3rd</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
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### St. John Offertory Summary FY 2020

Since the Suspension of Masses:
- Weekend of March 14th/15th: received $4,741 (shortfall of $6,299)
- 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)
- Weekend of April 11th/12th: received $13,512 (overage of $2,472)
- Weekend of April 18th/19th: received $9,604 (shortfall of $1,436)
- Weekend of April 25th/26th: received $8,526 (shortfall of $2,514)

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<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
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<td>Shortfall/ Overage</td>
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Donations to the St. John Grand Annual are still trickling in. Thank you!

As of May 3rd, the total donations have increased to $48,590... up to 97.18% of our goal.
We continue to process new online giving account sign-ups! Since the announcement of the raffle, we have gained 10 new sign-ups... a win for you as well as for us. This gift basket—monetary value of $250—contains wine, wine glasses, coffee, teas, chocolates, and a $100 visa gift card!

The name attached to each new online giving account sign-up who sets up active giving to their parish—not quick-pay—will be entered into a raffle drawing for this basket. The chance to enter this raffle expires May 30th. Direction on how to sign up can be found below.

May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are out of each other’s sight.  Genesis 31-49

STILL... Still we wait... we wait for the green light to be able to leave our homes and enter back into normalcy, whatever that will mean over the next few months.

Still we continue... we gladly continue to do what we are able to serve you during this time of need for many, if not all of us.

Still we remain grateful... grateful for the ways in which you are serving us—your parish family—not only financially, but with YOUR gratefulness and YOUR prayers.

Still is the gentle whisper... the light gentle sound of God as spoken to Elijah in 1Kings 19: 11-13.

Then the LORD said [to Elijah]: Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will pass by. There was a strong and violent wind rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind; after the wind, an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake, fire—but the LORD was not in the fire; after the fire, a light silent sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

It is in this gentle whisper that grace can be found, where peace can be experienced, where faith can be re-ignited.

It is in this gentle whisper, that can be heard a little better as the world around us has quieted, that we have witnessed a strong, faithful and determined family of God, who even without pews, gives generously and receives graciously.

Let us continue to pray for and support each other in the ways that we can.
2020/21 Family Faith Formation Registration!

Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/Faith Formation/Family Faith Formation then click on Registration and choose the parish at which you are registering.

There you will find all the directions needed for an easy online registration!

If you do not have access to a computer, contact:

- St John’s registration: Lynn Ann LaDuke at lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org or ext 240
- St. Mary registration: Elaine Kindler at ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org or ext 216

...and a paper registration will be mailed to you.

Dates To Remember...

- June 1: All registrations received by this date will be automatically entered into a drawing for $125 to be used towards registration fees. One entry per family.
- June 30: Early Registration ends. Standard Fees will now apply.

ST. MARY KATHIE NISCO AWARD

Deadline to Apply... May 17th
www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/st-mary-kathie-nisco-scholarship

This $600 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.

KOC SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline to Apply... Postmarked May 25th if mailed or emailed by May 30th
www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/koc-scholarship

The KOC Bishop Ruocco Council is offering a $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. Additional information and the application can be found on our website.
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>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Jacavanco</td>
<td>Jessica Hägg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drew Jubinville</td>
<td>Matthew Kunze (youth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela McMaster</td>
<td>Cathy Latina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen St. George</td>
<td>Lori McDonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaney Schiefen (youth)</td>
<td>Steve McMillan</td>
</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.
I just got an email from a former parishioner. She let me know about some things that she found helpful during this time. One thing she said that surprised me was, “But one thing that surprised me was how much I miss the Eucharist. I will never take it for granted.” The interesting thing is how often I am hearing this from people these days. It, of course, goes along with the old saying, “Absence makes the heart grow stronger.” And also, “You don’t appreciate what you’ve got until it gone.”

For Catholics the Eucharist is not something we do or something we get. The Eucharist is a person—Jesus himself. As Catholics, we must definitively believe that the Eucharist is really, truly, and substantially the Body and Blood of Christ. We must realize that, even though to our senses the bread and wine appear unchanged, to the eyes of faith, the very substance—the true reality of the sacramental elements through the consecration—have been transformed into something new. Of course I could go on and on where the Eucharist is concerned. I could spend the rest of my life literally unpacking the meaning and reality of the Eucharist, but I do not believe that is what people are missing.

Of course we can have, and must have, a relationship with Christ where we encounter him every day. Christ is in our lives. Christ is a part of who we are through our baptism. We are temples of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, and through that indwelling Spirit we are united in a direct and concrete way with Christ. Christ is our Lord and Savior. Christ is our God. Our encounter with Him in our lives can be an overwhelming and powerful event. We simply need to look at the conversion story of Saint Paul. But, no matter what our encounters with Christ might be, they do not and cannot equate with the Jesus we encounter in the Eucharist. As Catholics we know that the only difference between Jesus in Eucharist and Jesus in the New Testament is appearance. He is the same Jesus who was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontus Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, rose again, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. It is the exact same Jesus. There is no encounter with Christ that can equal or surpass the Jesus we encounter when we celebrate Mass.

People are missing that encounter of receiving the Lord in the Eucharist. As Jesus told us in the Gospel of John, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.”

Jesus has promised to feed us, and we hunger for Christ. We hunger for his physical presence. We hunger for his presence that we feel within us when we receive his sacred Body and Blood. When we receive the Eucharist, we truly become one with Christ. We share in his very life. His very nature comes to dwell within us. We are missing that which gives us true life. It is a powerful reminder to us that life without Christ has a real emptiness to it. As we heard last week, Jesus told us, “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” It is this abundance of life that hearts desire and we cannot truly have it without Christ.

We are learning through this pandemic an important lesson and one that hopefully we will not forget. The Eucharist finds its deepest meaning in the connection it makes for us with Christ. Jesus wants to give himself wholly and completely to us so that we might have that abundance of life, but also, so that we can share what we have received with others. As Christians, I believe part of the loss of the Eucharist is our inability to share Christ as Christ desires us to share Him.

We are social beings in nature. We are intended to be in community and communion in the same way God is in community and communion. And our inability to be united as one with Christ through the Eucharist leaves a hole in our hearts; we cannot express fully our humanity in Christ. The Eucharist is the primary and fundamental way in which we Catholics both experience our humanity and learn how to live and express our humanity in and with Christ.

We are simply waiting for that time when once again we will know the life Christ desires to share abundantly with us. Until that time our hearts will simply grow stronger in love with Him, who is absent in our life in that powerful way.

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,
Priests pray the Breviary each day. It takes about an hour to pray four times a day. It is made up of Scripture readings, psalms, and writings from the saints or church documents. As I pray I see, in my mind’s eye, the figure of Jesus beside me. I am praying many of the prayers He would have prayed while He was on earth.

I recently read from Saint Augustine (d. 430) and he said: “God could give no greater gift to men than to make his Word, through whom He created all things, their head and to give them to Him as his members, so that the Word might be both Son of God and son of man, one God with the Father, and one man with all men. The result is that when we speak with God in prayer, we do not separate the Son from Him, and when the body of the Son prays, it does not separate its head from itself: it is the one Savior of his body, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who prays for us and in us, and is Himself the object of our prayers.

“Let us then recognize both our voice in His, and His voice in ours. When something is said, especially in prophecy, about the Lord Jesus Christ that seems to belong to a condition of lowness unworthy of God, we must not hesitate to ascribe this condition to the one who did not hesitate to unite Himself with us. Every creature is His servant, for it is through Him that every creature came to be.

“We pray to Him as God; He prays for us as a servant. In the first case He is the Creator, in the second a creature. Himself unchanged, He took to Himself our created nature in order to change it, and made us one man with Himself, head and body. We pray then to Him, through Him, in Him, and we speak along with Him and He along with us.”

When we pray, always know Jesus, our high priest, is beside us and within us, also offering prayers to the Father.
As you are social-distancing, is there a ‘thought’ or reflection that you would like to share with us? If so, email it to christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org

On the subject line, please reference BULLETIN ARTICLE in the subject line. Also please let me know if, in addition to publishing it in the bulletin, I have your permission to share it via Flocknote. If editing is required, I will send it to prior to publishing.

This brings me to the introduction of two parishioners who would each like to share with you a prayer that they feel to be a source of hope these days.

St. Mary parishioner, Bryan Lantagne, received the following prayer from his niece. It arrived to him in crumpled condition as it was always kept in the pocketbook of his late sister, Marguerite Farley. He hopes you find it comforting as he does, and as Marguerite obviously did...

**BE AT PEACE**

DO NOT look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms. Do not fear What may happen tomorrow; The same everlasting Father Who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering, or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

—St Francis de Sales

St. John parishioner Linda Cayer, came across this poem and asked that it be shared as she thought it appropriate for our current time.

**REACH OUT FOR HIM**

When your days are darkest, The whole world seems bleak and bare, Just reach out your hand And you will find Him there.

When you are  afraid and lonely, Need someone to really care, Just reach out your hand And you will find Him there.

When your thoughts run rampant, You think, "Can this be fair?" Just reach out your hand And you will find Him there.

Although your steps may falter, As you climb life’s winding stair, Just reach out your hand And you will find Him there.

And then when you travel on again, With many years to spare, Remember, that when you reach out, He is always there.

—Anna Lee Winters

**BE IN “THE KNOW” WITH**

Our goal has been, is, and always will be to be by your side; to keep you up-to-date and connected to your parish community. We are able to do this efficiently and effectively through a communications/email tool called Flocknote!

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

Rosanna Helen Alfano, 82, a longtime resident of Tewksbury, MA peacefully passed away surrounded by loving family on Monday, March 9, 2020 at Lowell General Hospital. She married her devoted husband, Arthur Alfano, in 1957 to whom she was married for 60 years before his death in 2017. Born in Lowell, she was the daughter of the late George and Rose Hurley. She attended Lowell High School and later enriched her life through adult education courses.

Rosanna’s main passion in life was her family. She enjoyed hosting dinners at her home, participating in adventures and celebrations with family, and simply getting together to chat. In addition to taking care of her family, she was also kind to animals whether it be taking in a days old kitten abandoned in the woods behind her home, or “grammysitting” family dogs and other pets. She will always be remembered for putting the needs of her family above her own.

Rosanna is survived by her daughter, Donna Graham and William Marshall of Nashua, NH; her son, Arthur Alfano of Tewkbury; a daughter in law, Belinda Alfano; her adored granddaughters, Sophia Alfano and Isabella Alfano; her sister, Jo and her husband Don Williamson of Tyngsboro; brothers in law, Richard Lanoue of Tyngsboro and Peter Berys of Chelmsford and sister in law, Mary Alfano of Holyoke. She also leaves behind many precious nieces, nephews, and their children.

Rosanna was the sister of the late Catherine “Dolly” Hurley and the late Frances “Chic” Lanoue; sister in law of the late Joan Berys and the late Joseph Alfano; aunt of the late Richard Lanoue Jr.

Family and friends gathered at the Dolan Funeral Home on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 10 AM, with the Funeral at 11 AM at St. John the Evangelist Church, 115 Middlesex St., Chelmsford, MA 01863. Burial in Tyngsboro Memorial Cemetery. If wishing to make a donation in her memory, please consider The Assistance Fund at tafcares.org, or an organization close to your heart. Online guest book is available at www.dolanfuneralhome.com

ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.