PARISH OFFICE HOURS
The Parish Offices remain closed until further notice. Our phones will be answered during the following hours:
- Mondays and Wednesdays • 9 AM - 12 NOON
- Tuesdays and Thursdays • 2 PM - 5 PM
No phone hours on Fridays. Leave messages on general voice mail.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)
- St. Mary • Saturday at 4 PM/ Sunday at 7 AM and 11 AM
- St. John • Saturday at 4 PM/ Sunday at 9:30 AM and 6 PM
All Masses can be livestreamed

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE (RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED)
- Monday - Friday • 7 AM at St. Mary/ 9 AM at St. John
All Masses can be livestreamed

DAILY DEVOTIONS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE
- Monday - Friday at 3 PM • Chaplet at St. John
- Monday - Friday at 7 PM • Rosary at St. Mary

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Parking Lot Confessions • 4:30 - 5:30 PM • weather permitting
- Mondays at St. John • Wednesdays at St. Mary

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
- Fridays • 4:30 - 5:30 PM • St. John Parking Lot

PRAYER LINE
To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, call the parish office and ask for ext. 223. After hours, press 4.

“Whoever gives only a cup of water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple — amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”
- Matthew 10:42
Sunday, June 28
*Weekend Liturgy • 7:00 am • St. Mary
*Weekend Liturgy • 9:30 am • St. John
*Weekend Liturgy • 11:00 am • St. Mary
*Weekend Liturgy • 6:00 pm • St. John

Monday, June 29
Daily Mass • 7:00 am • St. Mary
Daily Mass • 9:00 am • St. John
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm
Parking Lot Confessions • 4:30 - 5:30 pm
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 30
Daily Mass • 7:00 am • St. Mary
Daily Mass • 9:00 am • St. John
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7:00 pm

Wednesday, July 1
Daily Mass • 7:00 am • St. Mary
Daily Mass • 9:00 am • St. John
LIVEVIEW Chaplet and Holy Hour • 3:00 pm
Parking Lot Confessions • 4:30 - 5:30 pm
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7:00 pm

Thursday, July 2
Daily Mass • 7:00 am • St. Mary
Daily Mass • 9:00 am • St. John
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3:00 pm
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7:00 pm

Friday, July 3
Daily Mass • 7:00 am • St. Mary
Daily Mass • 9:00 am • St. John
LIVEVIEW Chaplet and Holy Hour • 3:00 pm
Drive-In Eucharistic Adoration • 4:30 - 5:30 pm
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 3
*Weekend Liturgy • 4:00 pm Mass • St. Mary
*Weekend Liturgy • 4:00 pm Mass • St. John

Sunday, July 5
*Weekend Liturgy • 7:00 am • St. Mary
*Weekend Liturgy • 9:30 am • St. John
*Weekend Liturgy • 11:00 am • St. Mary
*Weekend Liturgy • 6:00 pm • St. John

Congratulation's!

Delany is the daughter of St. John parishioners Deirdre and Steve Schiefen. In the fall of this year, Delaney will be attending the University of Connecticut where she will be enrolled in a 5-year accelerated Masters Program in Music Education. She has hope of someday being a Music Therapist.

Join the Knights in congratulating her and wishing her well in all her future endeavors.

Mass on a Mountain

August 1st, 2020 Depart St. Mary's at 7:30 AM

The youth (and adults) of both St. John’s and St. Mary’s are invited to join us for a hike up Mt. Sandwich in New Hampshire.

In addition to the beautiful views that any mountain hike offers, Fr. Brian will celebrate Mass at the peak.

RSVP by emailing Courtney at ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org
Deadline to RSVP is July 27th

Drivers and Chaperones are needed for this trip!!!

Let Courtney know if you can help in this way.

3rd Annual Hail Mary Challenge

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

Due to the guidelines set forth by Governor Baker, and supported by the Archdiocese, there will be NO COLLECTION CONTAINERS for your weekly Hail Mary counts.

Please email your Hail Mary counts to psidari@ymail.com, or call them into him at (978) 729-1677; or you can drop them off into the black drop box located at the entrance of the parish offices, as many of you do with your donations.

| Week of 6/7/2020 | 10,681 |
| Week of 6/14/2020 | 15,112 |
| Week of 6/21/2020 | 20,220 |

Total To Date... 46,013 Hail Mary’s
As we continue to practice social-distancing, is there a ‘thought’ or reflection that you would like to share with us? If so, please email it to christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org. In the subject line, please reference BULLETIN ARTICLE, and within the body of the email, 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.

St. John Parishioner, Diane Colgan, submitted the following to be shared after being prompted by the Holy Spirit and encouraged by Fr. Brian. Thank you, Diane for sharing this heartfelt and beautifully written article.

HOPE IN GRIEF  As we struggle through this unprecedented time of pandemic, I pray for all those that have to bury loved ones. It is difficult to suffer loss; but even more so now, when family, friends and community can’t gather to support and give hugs. My son, Nick, died tragically in an accident at the age of 10 ½ on July 3, 1996. Having lived in Westford only five years, my out-of-state family was amazed at the outpouring of love we received from our faith, baseball and hockey communities. Grief is a difficult journey. While faith gives us the courage to go forward it does not take away the pain. I have felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit to share how God, in His mercy, consoled me in my time of grief. At times, Nick would awake at 3 am and not be able to get back to sleep. He would wake me by tapping me on my arm three times. I would get up and get him settled back down and then return to bed. At 3 am on the morning of his 11th birthday, I felt the three taps on my arm. I instinctively said, "What's wrong, Nicky?" The response I heard interiorly was, "I just wanted to let you know that I was thinking of you today." I felt consumed in love. I said naturally, "Thanks Nicky; I love you," and went back to sleep. Each year I would have a Mass celebrated in his memory on the anniversary of his death (or should I say, new life) and on his birthday of December 15th. I told myself that I would do it until he turned 21 since he would then be an adult. However, as his 21st birthday approached, it was difficult for me because I didn't want him to think that I didn't love him anymore. Then one night I had a dream that Jack (my husband, also now deceased), my best friend, Alice, and her husband were at what seemed to be a college campus. I spotted Nick off in a field and when we approached him, Nick and I hugged. It felt so good and I held him tight. Then he said, "It's ok Mom; it's time to let go now." Nick will turn 35 this year and I wonder what he would look like as a man. But it also made me come to a new realization of just how young Jesus was when He started his ministry and died on the cross for me.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”
- John 3:16

CONGRATULATIONS This year's Kathie Nisco Scholarship has been awarded to Christopher Barrett.

Christopher is a wonderful young man and anyone who knows him would describe him as being kind, respectful, and faithful. Christopher is incredibly active in the Chelmsford community and can often be seen lending a hand in a variety of ways. He routinely helps out his senior neighbors; whether they need leaves raked, snow shoveled, or simply someone to visit with them, Chris is happy to help! As a Boy Scout in Troop 77 he has volunteered for many summers at Camp Paul, helping to pass the value and values of scouting to young Cub Scouts. He also organizes a yearly fundraiser with his family for the Epilepsy Foundation and works to promote education about the disease in schools. In addition to all that he does in the community, Chris has also served in many ways at St. Mary’s. He takes his faith seriously and does all he can to support his church community. Any time an extra pair of hands is needed for a project at church, Chris will gladly lend his. He has volunteered for many summers at Vacation Bible Fun, helping kids learn about the love of God through fun activities. This past year, Chris also stepped up to fill a great need—teaching 4th grade in faith formation. Whatever he is doing, Chris always has a fun and friendly attitude. Next year Chris will be attending Whitfield State and is certainly going to be missed in Chelmsford, and especially at St. Mary’s. Congratulations, Chris!
Please remember that your generous and consistent giving is needed and greatly appreciated as the offertory.

**St. Mary Weekly Offertory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weekend of June 20th/21st</th>
<th>Year-To-Date June 21st</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
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<td>Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses</td>
<td>$17,140</td>
<td>$857,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
<td>$16,434</td>
<td>$769,506</td>
<td>$15,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortfall/ Overage</td>
<td>-$706</td>
<td>-$87,494</td>
<td>-$1,750</td>
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**St. John Weekly Offertory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weekend of June 20th/21st</th>
<th>Year-To-Date June 21st</th>
<th>Year-To-Date Average/Week</th>
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</thead>
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<td>$11,040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Received</td>
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<td>$495,811</td>
<td>$9,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortfall/ Overage</td>
<td>-$2,837</td>
<td>-$56,189</td>
<td>-$1,124</td>
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**St. John 2020 Grand Annual Campaign**

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<th></th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Donated as of 6/21</th>
<th>%age of goal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,640</td>
<td>101.28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**St. Mary Online Giving**

- Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org and click on the Online Giving in the right-hand sidebar on the homepage.
- 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.

**St. John WeShare**

- Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org
- Click on the WeShare logo in the right-hand sidebar on the homepage.
- Choose your Giving Opportunity (Weekly Offertory)
- Set up your payment options, withdrawal dates, etc.
- If you prefer, there is an option to make a one-time donation.

Every Sunday, a Flocknote will go out to all our subscribers entitled..

**WHEN CAN I MAKE MY WEEKEND MASS RESERVATION?**

- Online reservations are open from 9 am Monday morning to 3 pm Thursday for the upcoming weekend
- Phone-in reservations, ONLY available to those who do NOT have computer access, can be made:
  - Mondays and Wednesdays 9 am - 12 pm; Tuesdays 2 pm - 5 pm and Thursdays 2 pm - 3 pm.

Those who do not currently receive Flocknotes can find all needed information on what is required for Mass attendance by visiting www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/re-opening-of-our-churches; OR YOU CAN SIGN UP TO RECEIVE FLOCKNOTES! Email christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org and enter ‘Flocknote’ on subject line. Within the body of the email, please let me know at which parish you are registered. The email from which you sent your request will be added as a member and you will now be ‘in the know!’

**WHAT IS THE CURRENT MASS SCHEDULE?**

- **Daily:** Monday - Friday • St. Mary at 7 am • St. John at 9 am
- **Weekend:** Saturday • 4 pm at both St. Mary and St. John
  - Sunday • St. Mary at 7 am and 11 am • St. John at 9:30 am and 6 pm

*ALL MASSES CAN BE LIVESTREAMED ACCORDING TO THIS SCHEDULE*
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

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

Current Council Members are ...

John Bagni  
Paul Brzezenski  
Jeff Brown  
Celeste Dunn  
Grace Ann Steed

**St. Mary Finance Council**

Finance matters concerning St. Mary’s can be sent to:  
SM.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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 do so no later than 12 NOON, TWO Fridays prior to the weekend in which you would 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 best to accommodate your request.
Visit www.chelmsfordcatholic.org/faith-formation-registration. From the left hand side bar, 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 or have any questions, contact:

**St. John's Registration: Lynn Anne LaDuke**  
lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org  
(978) 251-8571, ext 240

**St. Mary Registration: Elaine Kindler**  
ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org  
(978) 256-2374, ext 216

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**STANDARD FEES BEGIN JULY 1st.**

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**THANK YOU!** The Priests and Faith Formation staff of the collaborative offer our profound appreciation to the following incredible volunteers who served so humbly and with great dedication and enthusiasm in our collaborative Faith Formation ministry this past year. Thank you for your service, sacrifice and witness!

### St. Mary Catechists/Table Facilitators

Joe, Paula and Amelia Audet • Lisa and Chris Barrett • Matt Bean • Edith Becktol • Ann Bezis • Patty Brogdon  
Laura Brown • Jim and Mark Buliszak • Eva Byrne • Marty Cannata • Diane Colucci • Karen and Ally Dealy  
Faye DeMoura • Steve DePascale • Tom DeSimone • Karen Drake • Emma Dunlea • Mike Enwright  
Kristen Ervin • Tracy Esperanza • Teri Farrell • Ruthanne Fitton • Maria Franklin • Latha Giduthuri  
Teresa Giordano • Kevin Hamilton • Sheila Harrington • Cathy Haubner • Christine Ingallina • Victoria Kam  
Melissa Keyo • Luci Killam • Joe, Heidi and Erin Kunze • Jennifer Kydd • Linda LaFauci • Michelle Lando  
Michele LaPlaca • Joan LaRochelle • Alexis Levin • Chris and Lisa Lovett • Denise and Tricia Lucacio  
Maureen Lucey • Leigh-Anne Malio • Michele Manzelli • Jen Marcia • Marybeth Marcotte • Kirk Marshall  
Paula and Grace Mattsen • Joseph and Faith McCarthy • Julie McDougall • Monica McKenna • Steve McMillan  
Victoria McNally • Alicia Mills • Pam Oakes • Denise O’Donnell • Alyssa Pappert • Melanie Priestly  
Marybeth Quigley • Carolyn Quinn • Holly Redding Cooper • Zach and Suzie Reynolds • Jude Rieger  
Meghan Roberge • Andrew John Rondelli • Mike Sexton • Paul Sidari • Tina Sousa • Elizabeth Speidel  
Christine St. Onge • Amy Sullivan • Kellie Sullivan • Maria Sullivan • Mary Jo Sullivan • Linda Tanini  
Kathy and Sarah Tubridy • John Underhill • Michelle Vichot • Erik and Amy Waisin

### St. John Catechists/Table Facilitators

Lisa Adamiak • Gary Clark • Theresa Clawson • MaryEllen Colameta • Scott Davidson • Otie Doldt-Harpin  
Mara Drew • Tara Dufresne • Cecile, Mary, Michael Foley • Emily Goglia • Emma Keohan  
Angela & Mary McMaster • Micheline Molongoski • Emily Moran • Alisha and Trisha Peeriz • Joseph Ricciardi  
Andrew John Rondelli • Margaret Ruggiero • Camilo Santana • David Sleeper • John Spooner • Karen Storey  
Richard Tessier

### St. Mary Office Volunteers

Faye DeMoura • Myrtle Garside • Latha Giduthuri • Julie Harrington • Sheila Harrington • Joan LaRochelle  
Brenda Lizine • Donna MacDonald • Moira McCusker • Jeanne Mieszczenski • Denise O’Donnell  
Robin, Katie and Becca Vooys • Kristi Walsh
Dear First Communion Families,

Below, please find ALL pertinent information—by parish in which your child is registered—you need to know as we move forward in the re-scheduling of First Communion Masses that were not able to take place this past spring. Please know that we are aware that these are not the ideal circumstances under which we would like to proceed, but unfortunately, the pandemic has necessitated some big changes for this year. We appreciate your patience and understanding with the guidelines that we need to follow to allow these celebrations to happen.

**St. John First Communions**

- First Communion Masses will be celebrated on the following Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm: July 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19, 26.
- You will need to sign up for the Mass in which you would like to attend. **Sign-ups close THIS Friday, July 3rd.** To sign up, visit… signupgenius.com/go/409044fadae22abfe3-stjohn.
- Up to 4 communicants can sign up for each Mass. Sign-ups will be filled on a first-come, first served basis.
- A maximum of 10 people per family are allowed. Please be sure to list EVERY person who will be attending in your family. Those not signed up will not be permitted to enter the church.
- Only family members who reside in the same household will be able to sit next to one another.
- Additional family members will be seated by ushers.
- Masses will be livestreamed so others wishing to witness this milestone may do so.
- Safety protocols, including but not necessarily limited to, social distancing, wearing of masks, will be in place for attendance at these Masses.

**St. Mary First Communions**

- First Communion Masses will be celebrated on the following Monday and Friday evenings at 5:30 pm: July 20, 24, 27, 31; August 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31; September 11, 14, 18.
- You will need to sign up for the Mass in which you would like to attend. **Sign-ups close THIS Friday, July 3rd.** To sign up, visit… signupgenius.com/go/409044fadae22abfe3-first.
- Up to 5 communicants can sign up for each Mass. Sign-ups will be filled on a first-come, first served basis.
- A maximum of 10 people per family are allowed. Please be sure to list EVERY person who will be attending in your family. Those not signed up will not be permitted to enter the church.
- Only family members who reside in the same household will be able to sit next to one another.
- Additional family members will be seated by ushers.
- Masses will be livestreamed so others wishing to witness this milestone may do so.
- Safety protocols, including but not necessarily limited to, social distancing, wearing of masks, will be in place for attendance at these Masses.

Thank you for your cooperation with all these necessary procedures that will allow us to celebrate First Communications. We look forward to celebration this joyous occasion with all of you. Please let us know if you have any questions. God Bless!
The other day I was singing and jumped on my lap. He first stood on me and kneaded my stomach. When he finally got comfortable, he curled up, laid down and started purring profusely. He was getting patted and was clearly very happy with the situation. And then, all of sudden, he saw some birds fly by the window and immediately got off my lap and started paying attention to them. He was so distracted by the birds that he completely forgot about how happy and content he was just a moment ago. After he could no longer see the birds, Harry simply left the chapel, forgetting about why he was there in the first place. And, the worst part—he was clearly happier before he got distracted by the momentary amusement.

If we are honest with ourselves, what happened to Harry is something that happens to all of us far too often and far too easily, especially when it comes to our relationship with others and with God. Just as an example, how often do we watch people—when they are with others—pay more attention to their cell phones than the people around them? Or, see someone who is talking to one person but gets disconnected from that person when someone “better” enters the room? Or, how often are we in a situation when all we can do is think about what is coming next?

Our ability to remain focused can be a real issue. It is now said that for a person to really hear what is being said, he or she needs to hear it at least seven times in seven different ways. I can attest to this: many times when I have announced something at the end of Mass, people have come up to me and asked about what was just announced since they had not yet heard about it. The ability to focus on what is occurring right before us truly can be one of the greatest challenges we face as human beings. And with the advance of technology this seems to be getting even more difficult.

But the reality is that the ability, or better put, the desire to remain focused is ultimately about the choices we make. We do not have to be as easily distracted as we are. Learning to become more focused is really about learning to simply stay in the moment and allow that to be what is most important in your life. The truth is that when we cannot stay focused on the moment, our lives tend to swirl somewhat out of control. When our lives become about the next passing distraction, we have difficulty encountering a true sense of joy or contentment. We become more focused on anticipating what is going to happen next than what we are actually called to be engaged in at that moment.

And I think this is one of the reasons we can have such a difficult time hearing the voice of the Lord in our lives. The simple truth is that to recognize God’s presence and to hear his voice means one must pay attention to what is happening in the moment. Think of Moses’ first encounter with the Lord. He saw a burning bush and noticed it was unusual because it was burning but not on fire. And that caused him to go and check it out. Samuel, hearing the voice of the Lord several times, tried to determine what it meant and spoke those powerful words, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” Elijah, on the mountaintop, trying to hear the voice of the Lord, had to ignore the powerful wind, the earthquake, and so forth, in order to recognize the voice of the Lord in the small tiny whisper.

Andrew, when he decided to follow Jesus, had to pay attention to what John the Baptist was telling him. Mary, who chose to stop all she was doing when Jesus came to supper, sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to Him while her sister Martha complained. The blind man, who sat on the side of the road, cried out to Jesus while others tried to get him to quiet down; he yelled all the louder, staying focused on Christ.

There is common element to all of these experiences. Each and every one of them simply stayed in the moment. They opened up to all that was happening around them. And, by not allowing the distractions to get in the way of what really mattered, they had a profound encounter the Lord. Moses could have ignored the extraordinary event, but instead, he investigated what it might mean and found his vocation. Samuel was confused by his encounter with the Lord, but through perseverance he came to begin his conversation with God. Elijah knew God was trying to speak to him, and so when he simply ignored the noise, he discovered the true voice of God in his midst. The blind man could simply have listened to the crowd and never been healed, but, in a sense, through his faith he saw what they could not. He remained focused on the only One who could heal him. Mary could have simply followed the lead of Martha; instead, she recognized what true hospitality was about and she remained focused on Christ. Andrew wanted to find the Messiah and, by responding to John’s prompting, he found Jesus—the One he was looking for.

When we stay focused on how God is acting in our life, we can discover so much more about ourselves and what our lives should be about. It is easy to get distracted by what is going on around us—to be distracted by the momentary fancy. But our distractions generally lead to nothing of value.

Let us strive to ignore the distractions and seek to stay focused on what truly matters—Jesus 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.
FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
HEATHER HANNAWAY

Working from home and trying to balance work and family duties while being present to what I need to be present to, with a “godly” disposition, has proven to be a bit challenging. This period of pandemic has had many challenging moments. I’m used to supervising multiple people, juggling numerous schedules, adapting to change and challenges as they come. Adding in the realities and duties of family life, it is easy to merge everything into a never-ending “To Do” list moment and full tilt, 24/7 mindset.

Today while I was tending to my granddaughter, responding to email, and talking on the phone, the reality of “losing the moment” was made clear to me. As I was preoccupied listening to a parent on the phone, she decided it would be an opportune time to take a quick ride down the driveway barefoot on her scooter—it did not end well. I continued my phone conversation while trying to administer basic first aid—it did not end well.

I thought I was cleaning her cuts with antiseptic spray, but quickly realized I had inadvertently grabbed alcohol spray in error. In my defense, both containers are green and white but the results of using each are entirely different, as evidenced by her tears. Everything stopped as I held and comforted her, said a dozen or so Hail Mary’s, and thought of the possibility of retiring early to a cloister.

I am committing myself to working very, very hard at staying in the moment. It is the key to everything: peace, trust, joy, faith, and hope. It means keeping our eyes on what God is asking of us in each task as it comes, each person as they appear, each prayer as it is formed in our hearts, and leaving the rest to Him. It is the express manifestation of His Will for each instant. Can we stay there, with Him, and not be pulled in every direction. God lives in an eternal now.

In the Hail Mary we pray “now and at the hour of our death.” Those are precisely the moments in our life when we meet God. Think about that when the word pandemic takes your mind to a million places and none of them is in the here and now. What is God asking of you right now? Do that one thing. Do it well. Be faithful to it.

Here’s to staying sane and healthy and striving for holiness in the challenging moments. May the God of Peace keep you with Him in every grace-filled moment.

FROM OUR SUMMER SEMINARIAN  
KHANH LE

St. Mary, Our Mother, Our Patron

The Blessed Virgin Mary, from the early days of the Church to the present, is a beautiful, beloved, and essential figure in Christian life. Her feast days are as varied as the cultures of the world, many of which have special traditions, customs, and habits of piety towards our Blessed Mother. In the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative parishes, Our Lady has a special significance as the Patroness of the People of God, along with the Apostle Saint John the Beloved.

The concept of patronage refers to a caring, intimate relationship in which one person or group looks out for another. As regards a patron saint, this saint is a heavenly intercessor for a person, a parish, or a country. In other words, patron saints are special protectors in Heaven. Saint Mary bestows a special protection upon those who dedicate themselves to her as their patroness. This is because she is the Mother of God who always intercedes for us. As Saint Augustine states, “Blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily repay you with praise and thanks for having rescued a fallen world by your generous consent! Receive our gratitude, and by your prayers obtain the pardon of our sins. Take our prayers into the Sanctuary of Heaven and enable them to make our peace with God.”

Since I have been at the Parishes of Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Mary, every time when I pray in front of the statue of Our Lady at St. Mary’s Grotto, or pray the Most Holy Rosary inside the church in the evening, I usually meditate on what Our Lady has done for Vietnamese Catholics during times of persecution. In 1798, in the midst of Catholic persecution, a number of Vietnamese Catholics found refuge in a jungle that hardy foresters would hesitate to penetrate, named Lavang. Here they stayed hidden, suffering privations, dangers, and illnesses, in order to practice their religion. One of the few comforts they had was reciting the Rosary every day at dusk. On one of these days, they were first frightened and then enchanted to behold a Woman and Child standing nearby in a mysterious glow of light, the Virgin Mother and Her Child. All listened, entranced while Mary told them softly that she was fully aware of their hardships and of their chronic sickness because of contaminated water. She told them to gather certain leaves that grew nearby and to make a strong tea with them; this would keep them healthy. Solemnly she added, “From this day on, prayers said on this spot will be heard—and answered.” Since then, Holy Mary has become the supernatural patroness for Vietnamese Catholics.

I believe that Our Lady of Lavang has interceded for Vietnamese Catholics and she also intercedes for the parishioners of the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative. If we come to Blessed Mary and pray with her to God, she will intercede for us because she is our patron saint.
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, Jun 27** 4:00 pm: Grace M. Steed, Martin J. Steed, Sr., and Mary Blanche Steed: Memorial

**Sun, Jun 28** 9:30 am: Alice C. Roark: 17th Anniversary
6:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

**Fri, Jul 3** 9:00 am: Rose Mary Amirault: Memorial

**Sat, Jul 4** 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

**Sun, Jul 5** 9:30 am: Peggy Lorrey and those who miss her Memorial Mass
6:00 pm: Mary Lillian Lavers: Memorial

**St. Mary**

**Sat, Jun 27** 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

**Sun, Jun 28** 7:00 am: Russell & Barbara Greenwood: Memorial
11:00 am: Barbara Therriault: 13th Anniversary

**Wed, Jul 1** 7:00 am: John and Virginia Hughes: Memorial

**Sat, Jul 4** 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

**Sun, Jul 5** 7:00 am: Marguerite Farley: Memorial
11:00 am: Harold & Marion Anderson and Richard Anderson: Memorial

**ROSE FOR LIFE**

Someone special you’d like to honor? You can do that by having a rose signifying your intention placed in the church, as well as having your intention published in the bulletin. To book a Rose for Life, contact the parish office. Be sure to let them know at which parish you would like the rose placed.

**“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH”**

_Psalm 119:105_

**Monday, Jun 29**

Acts 12: 1-11
Psalm 34
2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16: 13-19

**Tuesday, Jun 30**

Amos 3: 1-8; 4: 11-12
Psalm 5
Matthew 8: 23-27

**Wednesday, Jun 31**

Amos 5: 14-15; 21-24
Psalm 50
Matthew 8: 28-34

**Thursday, Jul 1**

Amos 7: 10-17
Psalm 19
Matthew 9: 1-8

**Friday, Jul 2**

Ephesians 2: 19-22
Psalm 117
John 20: 24-29

**Saturday, Jul 3**

Amos 9: 11-15
Psalm 85
Matthew 9: 14-17

**Sunday, Jul 4**

Zechariah 9: 9-10
Psalm 145
Romans 8: 9, 11-13
Matthew 11: 25-30

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**Funerals Recently Celebrated**

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

Margaret Gervais June 30th at St. John

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Pray For Our Priests