Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Home to St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist Parish Families

Parish Offices located at 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts, 01863 (978) 251-8571 • (978) 256-2374 • fax (978) 293-0303 † churches@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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 ST. MARY WWW.SAINTJOHNCHELMSFORD.ORG 115 MIDDLESEX STREET NORTH CHELMSFORD

WWW.SAINT-MARY.ORG 25 NORTH ROAD **CHELMSFORD**

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday • 4:00 PM Sunday • 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday • 4:00 PM Sunday • 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday • 9:00 AM

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday • 7:00 AM

Saturday 9:00 am Mass alternates between parishes. Refer to calendars.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday • 3:00 - 3:45 PM or by appointment

RECONCILIATION

Saturday • 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM or by appointment

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday of the Month Beginning Friday, 9:30 AM Concluding Saturday, 9:00 AM in the OPC Chapel

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursday • 3:00 - 9:00 PM Friday • 7:30 AM - 9:00 PM Saturday • 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM in the Parish Center Chapel

Masses are Available via Live Stream

St. Mary... visit www.saint-mary.org and click on "Live View" link at the bottom of page.

St. John... visit www.saintjohnchelmsford.org click on LIVESTREAM in upper left of page.

PRAYER LINE

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

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



Simon said in reply,

"Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command, I will lower the nets."

When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish.

~Luke 5: 5-6

. at St. Mary's.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

Faith Formation Events • See Faith Formation Page 6
Grace Notes Rehearsal • 8:10 - 8:45 am • Church
Children's Liturgy of the Word • 11 am Mass
6 pm Music Ministry Team Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church
High School Youth Group, following 6 pm Mass • Hall

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

Bible Study • 10:00 am - 12 noon • PC Conf Room 1
Altar Server Training • 4:00 - 5:00 pm • St. John Church
Catechists Faith Formation Program Launch • 7 pm • St. John Hall
Boy Scout Troop 77 Committee • 7:00 pm • PC Conf Room 2

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Altar Server Training • 4:00 - 5:00 pm • St. John Church Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • Hall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

PPC & Finance Council Mtg • 7:00 pm • St. John Parish Hall Godspell Rehearsal • 7:00 pm • St. John Church Music Ministry Extra Rehearsal • 6:30 - 7:30 pm • Music Room Boy Scout Troop 77 • 7:00 pm • Hall SVdP Meeting • 7:00 - 9:00 pm • PC MR 5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Rosary Makers • 10:30 am - 12:00 pm • PC Conf Room 2 Rosary • 12:00 - 1:00 pm • PC Chapel Adoration • 3:00 - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel RCIA • 7:00 - 8:30 pm • PC Conf Room 2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

Adoration • 7:00 am - 9:00 pm • PC Chapel Knitting & Crocheting • 3:00 - 5:00 pm • PC MR 2 Godspell Rehearsal • 7:00 pm • St. John Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

NO 9:00 am Mass: Mass at St. John's this week
Catholic Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • PC Conf Room 1
Adoration • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm • PC Chapel
Reconciliation • 11:00 am - 12:00 noon • Church
Altar Server Training • 12:30 - 1:30 pm • St. John Church
Music Rehearsals • 1:00 - 4:00 pm • Music Room
Collaborative Bell Rehearsal • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • Loft
4 pm Music Ministry Team Rehearsal • 2:45 - 3:45 pm • Music Room
String Ensemble/Ministry Rehearsal • 3:00 - 4:00 pm • Church
Anointing of the Sick • following 4:00 pm Mass

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

Faith Formation Events • See Faith Formation Page 6
Godspell Rehearsal • 1:30 pm • Parish Hall
6 pm Music Ministry Team Rehearsal • 5:00 - 5:45 pm • Church



IN HONOR OF
PRESIDENT'S DAY,
THE PARISH OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 18TH.

New Faith Formation
Program Presentation
for Catechists and
Table Facilitators
of BOTH parishes!

Attention all Catechists & Table Facilitators! Please come learn about the **NEW!** Family Faith Formation program to be launched in the Fall of 2019 at **both parishes**. If you were unable to attend Saturday's presentation, please be sure to attend on...

Monday, February 11th: 7:00 – 8:00 pm St. John's Parish Hall

PPC and Finance Councils

Our Wednesday, February 13th meeting is a rollout of the new Collaborative Faith Formation Program. Please do your best to attend this meeting, as this is an opportunity for us to hear your valuable feedback. We will meet on...

Wednesday, February 13th at 7:00 pm St. John Parish Hall



Is there a hymn that you haven't heard in a while? Or maybe there is a specific hymn that has a special meaning for you that you would like to hear sung at Mass? If so, contact us with your requests!

St. Mary Music Ministry

John at (978) 729-4226 or jvolpe@chelmsordcatholic.org

St. John Music Ministry

Jason at (781) 354-1947 or jay@chelmsordcatholic.org

St. John Church Wedding BANNS I



Alexa Queenan & Matthew Silva



There are about 20 ordered and pre-paid 125th Anniversary DVDs still waiting to be claimed. If you have not yet picked yours up, please do so by the end of February. They will be available for pickup at the parish office during regular business hours.

Contemplative Prayer Group...

meets the 3rd Saturday of every month for scripture reading and open discussion. For further information, contact Ray at lovethemystery@comcast.net.

Next Saturday, February 16th 9:30 - 11:00 am St. John's New Parish Center Linehan Room



Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month in the St. John Church Hall following the 9:00 am daily Mass.

Join us THIS Tuesday, February 12th











SAINT PATRICK'S DAY DINNER AND SHAMROCK RAFFLE

Saturday, March 16th at St. John's Appetizers at 5:00 pm/Dinner at 5:30 pm Tickets are \$18 per person

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses at both churches on the weekends of March 2nd/3rd and March 9th/10th.

Join us for the traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage, Irish soda bread, hot/cold beverages and dessert... and live entertainment! BYO beer and wine!

. at St. John's.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

Faith Formation Events • See Faith Formation Page 7 Children's Liturgy of the Word • 8:30 am Mass Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Hall African Liturgy Committee Mtg • 11:30 am • OPC Group Baptism • 2:00 pm • Church VBF Planning Meeting • 6:00 - 8:00 pm • OPC

Monday, February 11th

Altar Server Training • 4:00 - 5:00 pm • Church Families w/Addiction Support Group • 7:00 pm • Mary Gill Catechists Faith Formation Program Launch • 7:00 pm • Hall

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Tuesday Morning Coffee Group, following 9 am Mass • Hall Altar Server Training • 4:00 - 5:00 pm • Church Open Music Ministry Rehearsal • 6:30 - 8:00 pm • Church

Wednesday, February 13th

PPC & Finance Council Mtg • 7:00 pm • Hall Godspell Rehearsal • 7:00 pm • Church

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10:00 am • OPC BINGO • 6:45 pm (doors open at 3:00 pm) • Hall Charismatic Prayer Group • 7:00 pm • OPC

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

Godspell Rehearsal • 7:00 pm • Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

Altar Server Training • 12:30 - 1:30 pm • Church Contemplative Group • 9:30 am • Linehan Reconciliation • 3:00 - 3:45 pm • Church

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

Faith Formation Events • See Faith Formation Page 7 Children's Liturgy of the Word • 8:30 am Mass Coffee and Donuts, following 8:30 am Mass • Hall Prayer Shawl Meeting, following 8:30 am Mass • Hall African Liturgy • 12:30 pm • Church Godspell Rehearsal • 1:30 pm • St. Mary Parish Hall

Turn page for wore

World Marriage Day

Today, February 10th, is World Marriage Day, World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

Our World Marriage Day Symbol speaks readily of the role and values we proclaim. Husband and wife are symbolically seen as two candle-like figures, reminding us that married love calls us to help enlighten the world. The



couple is joined by a heart, focusing on love as the power that fosters unity within the couple and generates the capacity to be life-giving and inspire others to fruitfulness and unity.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS - Marriage Encounter Weekends are a special time for a married couple away from all distractions: work, kids, bills, and other pressures and concerns. When was the last time you had a weekend like that? It takes place at a local hotel or facility where presentations are given in the conference room and couples reside at the hotel/facility for the entire weekend. A series of presentations are made by the Presenting Team, consisting of 3 married couples and 1 priest. Each presentation builds on the last as we examine ourselves, our behaviors and attitudes, our relationship with our spouse and God. Communication tools are taught on the weekend helping couples connect in healthy, constructive ways on areas that can deepen their intimacy and connectedness. Marriage Encounter Weekends have been given in the US since 1967. Decades of research, planning and tried and true wisdom have gone into the content of the Weekend and how it unfolds for couples and religious. We ask all participants to attend ALL talks and participate intently using the tools with their Spouse in order to maximize their experience.

All sharing between spouses is PRIVATE, and this is NOT a weekend to solve problems! This Weekend will help couples in good marriages communicate even better.

If you have any questions about the World Wide Marriage Encounter weekend, contact St. John's Parishioner Jerry Wright at (781) 249-3199.

welcome to more



Q. What are some suggestions we can do to help remove temporary punishment due to sin?

This question gets to the heart of the issue of indulgences. Indulgences, of course, do not bring about the forgiveness of sin: that is only possible for mortal sins through the sacrament of penance, and for venial sins through acts of charity, or contrition, as well as the sacrament of penance. What is an

indulgence? The Catechism says it is "a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven and which the faithful Christian, who is duly disposed, gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church, which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and all the saints."

In the past, there was the idea that gaining an indulgence would take away a certain amount of time in purgatory. Saint Pope Paul VI did away with that notion and simplified how indulgences should be considered. There are two types of indulgences: partial, which brings a sort of cleansing; and plenary, which remits all temporal punishment. To receive an indulgence these things are necessary: be in a state of grace; a complete and wholehearted detachment from all sin of any kind, even venial sin; making a valid sacramental confession; receiving Holy Communion in the state of grace; and praying for the intentions of the Pope (one could offer an Our Father and Hail Mary, or other prayer), and completing the work for an indulgence. You can only receive one plenary indulgence in a day, but multiple partial indulgences.

A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who: in the performance of their duties and in bearing the trials of life, raise their minds with humble confidence to God, adding, even if only mentally—some pious invocation; or in a spirit of faith and mercy, give of themselves or their goods to serve their brothers in need; or in a spirit of penance, voluntarily deprive themselves of what is licit and pleasing to them.

Some actions that one can do for a plenary indulgence are: adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for at least one half hour; devout reading of Sacred Scripture for at least one half hour; the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross; the recitation of the Marian Rosary in a church or public oratory, or in a family group, a religious community or pious association. This does not exhaust the list of actions for a plenary indulgence but does give us easy ways to accomplish them during an ordinary day.

When our new website is up and running, we will place on it *The Enchiridion of Indulgences*, which is the Vatican document that addresses indulgences. It can give more details about exactly what other opportunities there are for receiving a plenary indulgence.



Do you have any questions that you would like Fr. Brian to answer in his weekly "And The Answer Is" article? A couple weeks ago, Fr. Brian published an answer to a question that a young boy named Kyle had asked. So now we are wondering if there are any other children out there that would like a question answered... because your questions are worth answering. If so, ask mom, dad, or a grandparent to help you write it out (if you can't write it yourself). Then place it in an envelope with Fr. Brian's name on it and drop it into the offertory basket when you come to Mass. Then keep a lookout for the answer in an upcoming bulletin!

of what's happening in our Collaborative!

ALL NEW Altar Servers at BOTH parishes are expected to attend any 3 of the following training sessions. Training will be held in St. John's Church and will last for approximately an hour. **Monday Evenings**

February 11th at 4 pm February 25th at 4 pm

Tuesday Evenings

Saturday Afternoons

February 12th at 4 pm February 26th at 4 pm

February 16th at 12:30 pm March 2nd at 11 am

Godspell is coming to the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

St. John's Church Hall

One weekend



Three performances only!

Saturday, March 9th Matinee at 1:30 pm Evening Performance at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 10th Finalé Performance at 2:00 pm

Cast Rehearsal Dates

(check parish calendars for locations)

Sunday Afternoons ... 1:30 - 3:30 pm Wednesdays (dedicated music rehearsal)... 7:00 - 9:00 pm Fridays ... 7:00 - 9:00 pm

It is YOUR witness that will help us spread the love of Christ through HIS work here at the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative!

The Faces and Voices of our Website

As part of our new website, we would like to include some 20-35 second video clips of current parishioners witnessing to one of the following areas of your worship experience here at the Collaborative:

- What do I love most about my parish?
- How and why am I involved in my parish?

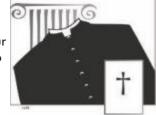
If interested in being a part of this project, and a part of our website, please contact Christine at christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org or (978) 251-8571, ext 214, to set up a time to get together and chat. Thank you.

The Knights Support local Seminarians

KOFC Last year our Council conducted a brief fundraiser after each weekend Mass to provide an annual stipend to Seminarians from our Community. This allowance is to ensure that our Seminarians have available cash for their personal use

throughout the year. With your generosity and additional KofC Council donations, we sent a total of \$3000 to Seminarians from our parish and local communities. Thank you for your generosity, every cent of which went directly to these young men.

Next weekend, our Knights will again be at the exits after each Mass. Please consider adding your assistance again this year to help these young men by donating whatever amount you can for this meaningful cause.



A Renewal to the Mass

On February 23rd and 24th the Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative will be joining forces to refresh our music liturgy with a new Mass Setting! Currently, the collaborative has been singing/playing the Mass of Glory by Bob Hurd and Ken Canedo from Oregon Catholic Press. This has been a great Mass for us with its jazzy sound and gospel swing. However, rest assured, our new Mass Setting will not leave you disappointed. In fact, during Advent 2018 the Kyrie was taken from the very Mass we will be switching to, the Mass of Renewal.

The Mass of Renewal from Oregon Catholic Press was written by Curtis Stephen for the new translation of the Roman Missal dating all the way back to 2011. Musically, this particular Mass setting is the perfect mix of traditional and contemporary rhythmically catchy harmonies for a large variety of ensembles.

We will be using the following parts of the Mass of Renewal:

- *Gloria
- *Kyrie Eleison
- *Lenten Gospel Acclamation
- *Holy
- *Memorial Acclamation—When We Eat This Bread
- *Amen
- *Lamb Of God

I am looking forward to working with the collaborative to learn the beautifully written Mass of Renewal!

> John Anthony Volpe Director of Music Ministries, St. Mary Parish One In Body, Heart and Mind -Christopher Walker



St. Mary Faith Formation Program

Heather Hannaway **Director of Faith Formation** hhannaway@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Courtney Callanan Coordinator of Grades 7-10 ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Faith Formation Office Manager ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

CLASS SCHEDULE

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10th

Grade 2 • 9:15 - 10:45 am • Parish Hall

Grade 3 • 9:15 - 10:45 am • Parish Center

Grade 5 • 11:00 am - 12:30 pm • Church

Grade 8 • 2:15 - 3:45 pm • Parish Hall

Confirmation II • 4:00 - 5:45 pm • Parish Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

Due to Winter Vacation, there will be no classes this week.

Classes will resume Sunday, February 24th.

Class Supplies Needed! !.. mid-year

inventory is running

When you're out shopping, please consider picking up some much needed fragrance-free tissues, washable basic color markers, black and/or dark blue dry erase markers, and black fine-point Sharpie permanent markers. All donations will be very gratefully received. Please leave your donations in the box on the pew under the Faith Formation bulletin board in the Parish Hall (across from the handicap bathroom). Thank you in advance!



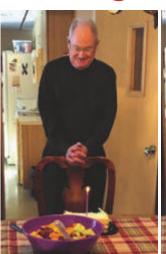
ARE YOU "IN THE KNOW?"

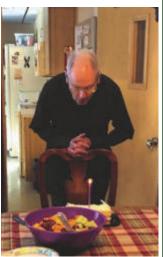
DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE "MISSING" SOMETHING?

If you have NOT been receiving St. Mary Faith Formation Flock notes, then chances are that you ARE missing something, SO please contact Elaine and sign up so you can be 'in the know.'



This past Monday, February 4th, the staff helped Fr. Tom celebrate his birthday, which included eating cake and fresh fruit! Happy Birthday Fr. Tom... and many, many, MANY more!





The St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society asked parishioners to consider making charitable donations to underwrite our work during the 2018 holiday season. The response to our appeal was very gratifying. During the month of December, our benefactors' donations (excluding contributions to the "poor boxes") totaled



\$4,874. We will use those funds to respond to the growing assistance requests within the parish community in 2019.

Our members extend a heartfelt thank you to our benefactors. Through your generosity, our work assisting our needy neighbors will continue. We ask that you keep our struggling neighbors in your prayers.

CAUTION

COLD & FLU SEASON

As we enter the season of colds, flus and viruses, we remind parishioners to exercise discretion in shaking hands at the Sign of Peace when they are either recovering from, have been exposed to, or are afraid that they may

be coming down with, an illness... if they have concerns about the strength of their own immune system in resisting disease. A friendly smile, wave and/or slight shake of the head is always an acceptable substitute in wintertime.

St. John Faith Formation Program

Fran Anderson
Director of Faith Formation
fran@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Courtney Callanan
Confirmation Coordinator
ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Lynn Anne LaDuke Administrative Assistant lynnanne@chelmsfordcatholic.org

FAITH FORMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

Grades K-6 • 9:45 - 11:00 am Grades 7-8 • 9:30 - 11:00 am Confirmation (Grade 10) • 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

THIS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

Grades 1-6 • 4:15 - 5:30 pm Grades 7-8 • 4:00 - 5:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

Due to Winter Vacation, there will be no classes this week.

Confirmation (Grade 9) will resume on Sunday, February 24th.

K-8 will resume on Wednesday, February 27

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FIRST COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 24th following 8:30 am Mass



This Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Brian as a Teaching Mass, and along with the breakfast that follows, is a **MANDATORY** event for ALL First Communion students and their parent(s).

For those of you who have not yet turned in your child's baptismal information, please plan on doing so at this breakfast. Those children who are still missing this information by this date will be unable to receive their First Communion.

We will be looking to each family to bring a continental breakfast food item in the near future. Stay tuned for further information.

St. Valentine was...

- (a) a priest in the Roman Empire who helped persecuted Christians during the reign of Claudius II, was thrown in jail and later beheaded on February 14.
- (b) a Catholic bishop of Terni who was beheaded, also during the reign of Claudius II.
- (c) someone who secretly married couples when marriage was forbidden, or suffered in Africa, or wrote letters to his jailer's daughter, and was probably beheaded.
- (d) all, some, or possibly none of the above.





If you guessed (d), give yourself a pat on the back, a 'hip-hip-hooray,' or, appropriately, a box of chocolates!

Although the mid-February holiday celebrating love and lovers remains wildly popular, the confusion over its origins led the Catholic Church, in 1969, to drop

Saint Valentine's Day from the Roman calendar of official, worldwide Catholic feasts. (Those highly sought-after days are reserved for saints with more clear historical record. After all, the saints are real individuals for us to imitate.) Some parishes, however, observe the feast of Saint Valentine.

Pope Gelasius I was, understandably, less than thrilled with this custom. So he changed the lottery to have both young men and women draw the names of saints whom they would then emulate for the year (a change that no doubt disappointed a few young men). Instead of Lupercus, the patron of the feast became Valentine. For Roman men, the day continued to be an occasion to seek the affections of women, and it became a tradition to give out handwritten messages of admiration that included Valentine's name.

There was also a conventional belief in Europe during the Middle Ages that birds chose their partners in the middle of February. Thus the day was dedicated to love, and people observed it by writing love letters and sending small gifts to their beloved. Legend has it that Charles, Duke of Orleans, sent the first real Valentine card to his wife in 1415, when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

source: www.franciscanmedia.com

Collaborative Youth Ministry Program

Courtney Callanan, Youth Minister • ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org • ext 227



"The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" is a common refrain in Scripture and prayer. It is a phrase that calls to mind great models of faith. Men who were intimate with God; men who were comfortable enough with God to From Our Youth Minister, Courtney challenge Him; men who were willing to follow God wherever He led; men

who stand as the forefathers of the nation of Israel, the first community of faith. I believe, with my whole being, in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Except, in truth, I don't. I don't believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob because I don't know Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I never sat on Abraham's knee as a child while he told me about God; I never pulled on Isaac's hand, trusting he would answers the questions I had about God; I never walked with Jacob discussing my relationship with God and how I could improve it. It would be far more accurate to say that I believe in the God of Kevin & Kathy; the God of Mrs. Geer & Mrs. Thomas; the God of Erica, Kate, and Sarah.

Kevin and Kathy, aka my parents, introduced me to God. They took me to church every Sunday, starting at so early an age that I do not have any memory of a Sunday without it. Instead, I have a memory of a beautiful, crocheted, purple toddler sweater that was special because I wore it to church to see God. They taught me to pray before meals and bed, making sure that I knew that prayer was how I enacted their more general lessons about "Please," "Thank you," and "I'm sorry" with God. They made sure God was a presence in our household, not just in our parish.

Mrs. Geer and Mrs. Thomas, aka my 4th & 5th grade and 6th grade catechists growing up, allowed me to wrestle with what I understood of God. They didn't laugh or brush off my concerns. They gave honest and earnest answers when I presented worries. They took me seriously, even when I asked questions such as, "What if we're wrong? What if the Egyptians were right? I'm just saying, I'm not going to have any of that stuff that you need for the Egyptian afterlife when I die."

Erica, Kate, and Sarah, aka the ladies in my college Scripture Study, worked with me as I learned to intentionally serve God. They established that it was a choice, that it was work, and that it, more often than not, would involve going against the grain of society. They were trying to serve God too, and shared their struggles and triumphs, even as they called me on and celebrated mine.

All of them—and far too many more to name or count—helped me to know God, to trust God, to love God. They made sure I was familiar with a God that was just and generous, and merciful and caring. They helped me to be in relationship with the God with whom they were in relationship. To be sure, the God they talked about was the very same God that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob bowed to, but I never would have been able to gain from those men what I gained from them.

Which brings me to two questions...

First, whose God do you believe in? Who are the people who first taught you about God and who are the people who helped your faith in Him mature?

Second, who believes in your God? Who knows, loves, and serves God because of you?

I find the second question is usually much easier to answer than the first. In our faith, we can be quick to give praise to the previous generation, but slower to take responsibility for the next. As a result, many of our young people don't follow God because they don't know (truly know) God, nor are they known by someone who does.

I'd like that to change. I'd like to give our young people examples of faith like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But more importantly, I'd like to give them influences in their lives like Kevin and Kathy, Mrs. Geer and Mrs. Thomas, and Erica, Kate, and Sarah. Would you like to be one of those people? Would you like to help our young people know (and know that they are known by) God? Are you willing and able to invest yourself and your time in helping them to do so? Jesus commanded His followers, aka us, to, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." And there is an entire nation, right here, who could become disciples, if you said, "Yes." I pray that you will.

In the upcoming months we will be looking for adults who would be willing to show and share with our young people what it means to be a disciple. If you are interested in learning more, please let me know.

I await your "yes"...

Clergy

Reverend Brian Mahoney, PASTOR ext 215... fr.brian@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Reverend Tom Corcoran, PAROCHIAL VICAR ext 218... frcorcoran@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE ext 221... frcolletti@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Rev. Mr. Francis X. Burke, PERMANENT DEACON ext 224... deaconfran@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Business Office

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Marlene Mendez, SCHEDULING COORDINATOR ext 249... marlene@chelmsfordcatholic.org

faith formation

Fran Anderson, DIRECTOR OF ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION ext 212... fran@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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Elaine Kindler, SM FAITH FORMATION OFFICE MANAGER ext 216... ekindler@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Courtney Callanan, YOUTH MINISTER & CONFIRMATION COOR ext 227... ccallanan@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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Sue Beechin, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT sue@chelmsfordcatholic.org

facilities

Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER ext 213... dheider@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Bob Webb, WEEKEND CUSTODIAN ext 211... bob@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Stephen Webber, CUSTODIAN ext 231... steve@chelmsfordcatholic.org

Bulletin, Website, Social Media

Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR ext 214... christine@chelmsfordcatholic.org

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 Pastoral Council

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

Current Council Members are ...

St. John Members

Angela McMaster (co-chair)

St. Mary Members

Cliff Mann (co-chair)

Mike Condor Laura Conte
Scott Davidson Rob Donnelly
Julie Seitter Karen Drake

Ellen St. George Peter Lando (co-chair)
Beth Jacavanco Lori McDonald
Augustine Tweneh Alma (Chicki) Rigazio

Ray Wagner (secretary) Paul Therrien

St. Mary Youth: Jessica Hagg, Matt Larson St. John Youth: Delaney Schiefen

St. John finance Council

Finance matters concerning St. John's can be sent to: SJFinanceCouncil@chelmsfordcatholic.org or 978-251-8571, ext 146.

Current Council Members are ...

John Bagni Jeff Brown Paul Brzezenski Celeste Dunn Jerry Wright

St. Mary finance Council

Finance matters concerning St. Mary's can be sent to: SM.FC@chelmsfordcatholic.org or 978-256-2374 ext147.

Current Council Members are ...

Armand DiLando Lauren Desforge William Donohue Gerard Jarasitis Ted Powers

WANT SOMETHING TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN?

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 want it published. Submittals should be forwarded 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.

and now... a word from Our Pastor

As I write this column, it's the day after the Super Bowl. Obviously it's hard not to be thinking about what I watched during the game, and listened to after the game. It was not the game I—or I think anyone who watched—was expecting. I figured it might be a low-scoring game but thought both teams would score somewhere in the 20's. Rather, what we saw was a tour-de-force of defense for both teams that—if you love football—was a beautiful thing to watch. I personally had hoped the Patriots would simply dominate and blow out the Rams but, of course, that did not happen. However, I really enjoyed watching the game play out because I love good defensive football.

What was interesting about the game, and what was discussed after, is where the Patriots are. When they began the season, it was not clear that they would make it back to the Super Bowl, or even to the playoffs. The Patriots talk about the season as quarters, and usually seem to get better each quarter, but this year that was not readily apparent. However, something happened towards the end of the season and then again into the playoffs. The team would change their tactics depending on the team they were playing; it was the ultimate in situational football. They seemed like a different football team in each playoff game. Their ability to adapt and adjust, depending on changing circumstances, was really at the heart of why they won. In the Super Bowl they employed a very different defense plan than in their previous games. And they made certain adjustments at critical times that were pre-planned, based on the tendencies of the Rams. Their willingness not to stay to their "style", but rather to morph into what was needed is one of their greatest strengths.

The same can be said if one is to grow in the spiritual life. How often I have done spiritual direction with people who get down on themselves because they look at others and think, 'I am not where they are spiritually.' The Patriots plan their games based on who they are, and not on who someone else is. And we need to do the same. We grow in our faith when we recognize that God made you to be you, and not to be someone else. It really does not matter how someone else prays or how much they pray. It does not matter how much someone else fasts or does not fast. It does not matter how much someone else does this or that spiritual exercise or devotion. You need to look to your gifts and talents. You need to discern the vocation that God has called you to, and to understand the kind of person He created you to be. It is there, and there alone, that you will discover your spiritual life.

Our life's game plan cannot be a copy of someone else's. I often say that there are 1.2 billion Catholics, and therefore, 1.2 billion ways to pray. The most important truth and reality is to understand that—yes, there are staples that

must be in every Catholic's life: going to Mass each and every Sunday, praying daily, reading scripture daily, regular use of confession, fasting, and almsgiving. But how we make use of these spiritual aids, and what we might add, is really determined by who you are and the circumstances of your life.

The great Saint Francis de Sales wrote in the *Introduction to the Devout Life*, "A different exercise of devotion is required of each—the noble, the artisan, the servant, the prince, the maiden and the wife; and furthermore such practice must be modified according to the strength, the calling, and the duties of each individual. I ask you, my child, would it be fitting that a Bishop should seek to lead the solitary life of a Carthusian? And, if the father of a family was making provision for the future as a Capuchin; if the artisan spent the day in church like a Religious; if the Religious involved himself in all manner of business on his neighbor's behalf as a Bishop is called upon to do, would not such a devotion be ridiculous, ill-regulated, and intolerable?"

It is not a question of whether or not we should have a spiritual life. As a Catholic and a Christian, it is part of the foundation of the life we live. But, to have one we must develop a game plan; it will not *just* happen. We have to make the determination that our relationship with God is the foundation of our entire life. We must accept the truth that unless our relationship with God is right, then the rest of our life is messed up. And so, we recognize that as with any relationship we must work on it; it does not just happen. It is also necessary to have a plan in order to determine how God is calling us to live our lives, and to recognize that our plan must morph based on the situation and circumstances of our lives.

How I prayed before I entered the seminary was very different than what I did in the seminary. How I prayed as a young priest was different than what I did as a seminarian. How I pray now as a pastor is still different than when I was a parochial vicar. My prayer life has evolved as I have taken over running multiple parishes. My situations and circumstances have impacted my prayer life. And that must be true for all of us.

The Patriots can teach us something about the ability to change and morph as needed. But our goal is different. We are not looking to win at something or to be a great prayer success. Rather, our spiritual life is about faithfulness and living the life of salvation that Christ has won for us. The great thing is that Christ already has a game plan for you to do just that. Are you willing to discover it?

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.

In Christ,

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ST. MARY FAITH FORMATION HEATHER HANNAWAY

Trusting God During Times of Pain and Suffering

Often I encounter people who are deeply suffering in some form or other, and I long to be able to give them an answer that will help them transcend their pain and suffering. I spend a great amount of time praying for insight into the difficult questions they ask. I am not sure that my answers are always as helpful as I desire them to be, but I am confident that the answers lie in our faith and understanding of truths revealed. Here is what I know to be true, and hope I can convey in some meaningful way.

Suffering and pain are part and parcel of being human. A question that can lead us into a very dark, confusing and fearful place is, "Why did God let it happen?" Our faith can offer us answers to this "why?" and other important questions. If we ask, "Is God aloof and distant?" the answer is the incarnation—God stepping into our broken world in the person of Jesus. If we ask, "Does God care?" the answer is Jesus' life of sacrificial love and his torture and execution on a cross. If we ask, "Can God do anything and is there hope?" then the answer is Jesus' resurrection from the dead. As simply ideas, these seem abstract and irrelevant, but as living realities, they can change everything.

In Jesus, God has stepped into human history. God is no stranger to suffering. Jesus was born into poverty. His family had to flee into exile to avoid an assassination attempt. He grew up in obscurity in an occupied country. During his brief ministry of teaching and healing, he repeatedly faced opposition and accusation. He was betrayed, arrested, falsely accused, condemned for political expediency, abandoned by his closest friends and horrifically and humiliatingly tortured to death. God understands suffering in the most personal way.

Through this suffering—which Jesus willingly embraced—God has overcome the hold that evil had over humanity. In his resurrection, Jesus showed that death—the ultimate end of evil and suffering—will not get the last word. In his resurrection, he has given us a foretaste of what he will one day do for the whole of creation; raising it, and us, from suffering, decay and death. Clearly this doesn't answer the "why?" questions that we still want to ask about our experiences of suffering. But what it does offer us are some very significant reasons that we might choose to trust God despite our unanswered questions. That doesn't mean that we'll be exempt from suffering, but it does mean that our suffering, decay and death will not get the last word. In this life we will all taste suffering and death, but through Jesus, they can be overcome.

FROM THE DESK OF

Deacon Francis Burke, Our Permanent Deacon

As I write this, I am watching the Super Bowl. We have been Patriots season ticket holders for the last 25 years, although we rarely go anymore due to Sunday church responsibilities and the amount of time and effort required to get there. More on the Patriots later...

A year and a half or so ago, Chris Anderson, a parishioner of St. Mary parish, asked me to help at Lawrence Catholic Academy, where he is chairman of the Board of Trustees. It has turned into a labor of love. LCA is a gift to the South Lawrence neighborhood it resides in. Here, Pre-K through 8th grade students receive a solid, affordable, and truly Catholic education. These children reflect their surroundings, about 80% Hispanic and generally poor. This is the same neighborhood where, just a few days after schools started in September, numerous fires and explosions occurred due to over-pressurized gas lines. Life is not easy in South Lawrence.

Recently, Fr. Stephen Curry (an Augustinian priest from Merrimack College) and I offered the 8th graders a retreat. These students were well aware that they have not been the easiest class to come through the school. Why would they be, given the difficulties they have experienced? So, we asked ourselves whether their challenges could be a gift. In this day and age where many children are coddled (see "The Coddling of the American Mind" Haidt and Lukianoff), these children generally are not. We believe that this can be turned into an opportunity. Human beings learn from our challenges and failures much more than we do from our successes. At the same time, we know intuitively that challenges can be disheartening if not experienced in a stable and loving environment. This is exactly the environment LCA provides. Our plan is to use the resilience that LCA students are developing from their challenging environment as a differentiator and source of hope. If you would like to help this mission please let Chris or I know; funds and other help are always needed.

Bringing this home to our collaborative... are we doing all that we can to provide a stable and loving environment for all? Are we accepting our challenges and difficulties as blessings and opportunities for growth? Are we looking out for those who have lost hope? How do we turn the difficulties of being a faithful Catholic in post-modern America into a strength? What can each of us do to build resilience in each other as we are trying to do at LCA?

Okay, back to the Patriots... Early in the season I sort of wrote this team off. They seemed under-talented and confused compared to previous teams. But as the season progressed, they hung in there, improved, and got healthy. They are resilient, they are Super Bowl champions, again!!!

The Financial Page Fiscal Year 2019 runs from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 20

St. Mary

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of February 2nd/3rd

Weekly Offertory Budget	\$16,500*
Actual Received	\$14,707
Variance	-\$1,793

of the actual, \$3,577 is from electronic giving

FY 2019 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP

as of February 3rd, 2019

Offertory Budget	Actual	Variance
\$528,000	\$470,797	-\$57,203

YEAR-END OFFERTORY COMPARISON

as of Feb 4, 2018	as of Feb 3, 2019	Variance
\$504,867	\$470,797	-\$34,070

Online Giving Programs



St. Mary

Visit www.saint-mary.org and click on the OnLineGiving Link on the Online Giving right-hand side of the home page to set up your account.

St. John

Visit www.stjohnchelmsford.org and click on the WeShare Link on the right-hand WeShare side of the home page. You will be



brought to a page that will allow you to link to an account set-up page.

St. John

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of February 2nd/3rd

Weekly Offertory Budget	\$11,013*
Actual Received	\$10,009
Variance	-\$1,004

of the actual, \$2,029 is from electronic giving

FY 2019 YEAR-TO-DATE STEWARDSHIP

as of February 3rd, 2019

Offertory Budget	Actual	Variance
\$352,425	\$302,908	-\$49,517

YEAR-END OFFERTORY COMPARISON

as of Feb 4, 2018	as of Feb 3, 2019	Variance
\$337,987	\$302,908	-\$35,079

5th St. John Grand Annual Campaign

We are very grateful for your support of the Grand Annual Campaign. The Grand Annual campaign began in November and is still accepting contributions... no gift is ever too small or unnoticed. Please plan your parish financial contributions to the weekly and the Grand Annual offertory Campaign accordingly, since both are crucial line items in our parish income budget. May God bless your generosity!

... as of February 3rd, 2019 Collected To Date % of Goal Goal \$67,000 \$46,930 70%

IN ORDER TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR SECOND COLLECTION AND FUNDRAISING GIVING...

This weekend, and on the third weekend of every month hereafter, we will announce all Holy Day and Archdiocesan Second Collections, as well as planned fundraising activities for the following month. For the month of March:

- Saturday, March 2: St. Mary Table Ministry Food Drop-Off to Kitchen before or after 4 pm Mass
- Weekend of March 2nd/3rd & 9th/10th: St. Patrick Day Dinner Ticket Sales after all Masses at both churches
- Weekend of March 16th/17th: 2nd Collection at both parishes, to benefit Catholic Charities
- Weekend of March 16th/17th: St. John St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection
- Weekend of March 23rd/24th: Knights of Columbus Membership Drive at both parishes

All Second/ Holy Day collection donations can be made via an envelope placed in the offertory basket, or online:

St. John's: www.saintjohnchelmsford.weshareonline.org

St. Mary's: www.saint-mary.org, click on Online Giving on home page

Alleluia, Alleluia! Come after me and I will make you fishers of men. Alleluia, Alleluia!



Father Brian Mahoney and Eugene Bartos, District Deputy of the Knights of Columbus, congratulate Maire Fucci, for winning the Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest at the 12th grade level with the theme of "How does your family keep its Catholic Faith in Action?".

Something to ponder.

In today's second reading (ICORINTHIANS 15: 1-11)

Paul reports to the Corinthians of the



many people to whom Jesus revealed himself after

He rose from the dead. Paul includes himself on that list, speaking frequently of God's grace.

Where do you see God's grace in your life?

ATTENTION! MINISTRY HEADS

Please Notice This When requesting the use of facilities at either parish, please use the Facility Request

Forms, which can be found on both parish websites. If you have any questions, please contact Marlene at marlene@chelmsfordcatholic.org or ext 249.

FROM THE DESK OF

Fr. Arnold Colletti. Our Senior Priest in Residence

Last weekend, on the 57th anniversary of Fr. Colletti's Ordination, I mistakenly published LAST YEAR's article (so sorry, Father!) Below is the article that WAS SUPPOSED to have been published, and it is a wonderful read. Enjoy, and Happy 57th Anniversary, Fr. Colletti!

February $2^{\rm nd}$ was the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord and the $57^{\rm th}$ anniversary of my ordination. In the mid-40's, priests were ordained on February $2^{\rm nd}$ so that they could go into the military as chaplains in the Second World War. This practice lasted through the mid-60's, at which point, the Archdiocese went back to May ordinations. To make up the classes of February - May we had summer camp for four years. During the summer, we went to study in Meredith, New Hampshire on Lake Winnipesaukee.

In those days, the first two years of the college division—or the Minor Seminary—were in Jamaica Plain, now Angel Memorial Hospital. The next two years were at Philosophy House on Foster Street in Brighton. Then we would spend the next four years in Theology House, the main part of St. John Seminary.

All those years were monastic. We had little time with our families—a couple of days at Thanksgiving, a week at Christmas and summer vacation—except for the last four years when we were at summer camp. The rule of the house was silence. Sometimes we could talk with fellow students at meals, fifteen minutes after meals, and one hour for recreation. Needless to say, we never really got to know our families or fellow classmates very well.

It was forbidden to leave the grounds of the seminary. One time, three of my classmates left their cassocks at the border of the campus and went to March Madness. On their return, they were immediately dismissed and sent home. We had to mail our laundry home for our mothers to clean and mail back—aluminum laundry boxes were constantly coming and going.

When we entered the seminary in 1954, the class numbered 180. By the time we finished all eight years, only 65 of those 180 were ordained. We were on the cusp of the Vatican Council and rapid changes were taking place in the church and in parish life. Some 16 classmates left active ministry in the first ten years. To this date, 24 priests have died, and two are still assigned to ministry.

Today seminarians have a car and have much more freedom. They work in parishes to learn what parish and rectory life is like. Deacons are assigned to parishes and have the experience of preaching, baptizing, and celebrating weddings. This is better than we experienced, for at ordination we did not know what to expect. We were elated to be called to the priesthood, and yet we were scared of not knowing what was ahead—not knowing if we had the "right stuff" to be a good priest.

One of our seminarians left before ordination and became Under Secretary of the Navy. He sponsors our annual reunion at the Stockyard in Brighton. Fifty or sixty classmates come together. Some are the ones who dropped out of the seminary, and they bring their wives (they have always brought their wives, but now we are no longer jealous).

I have had the great pleasure of serving parishes, and people in Billerica, Sudbury, Malden, Lexington, and now in Chelmsford. People have been good to me over the years. I have loved them and received their love. I thank God for calling me to the priesthood. I think I could not have been anything else.

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 that you schedule your intention.

St. John

SAT, FEB 9 4:00 pm: Paul W. Myers: 26th Anniversary

SUN, FEB 10 8:30 am: John DaSilva: 1st Anniversary

10:30 am: For the People of the Parish 5:00 pm: Edward Comeau: Memorial

MON, FEB 11 9:00 am: LIVING INTENTION Special Intention

TUE, FEB 12 9:00 am: Tom Griffin, Jr.

and all those who miss him: Memorial

WED, FEB 13
9:00 am: Robert Cole: 13th Anniversary
SAT, FEB 16
4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish
SUN, FEB 17
8:30 am: Mary Jane Roy: Memorial

10:30 am: Roland Paradis: Memorial



St. Mary

SAT, FEB 9 4:00 pm: Arthur St. Amand: 26th Anniversary

SUN, FEB 10 9:00 am: Frances and John Shaughnessy: Memorial

11:00 am: For the People of the Parish

THU, FEB 14 7:00 am: Fr. Kenneth Loftus, S.J.: Memorial

FRI, FEB 15 7:00 am: George Goguen: 8th Anniversary

SAT, FEB 16 4:00 pm: For the People of the Parish

SUN, FEB 17 7:00 am: Marguerite Foley: Memorial

11:00 am: Ann T. Baraldi: 7th Anniversary

6:00 pm: Ed MacKinnon: Memorial

FUNERALS recently celebrated

"There is an appointed time for everything" - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Colleen Ann Cody: February 2nd at St. Mary

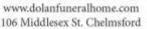
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.





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St. Mary Memorial Altar Flowers

Parishioners are invited to donate a floral arrangement, to be displayed on the altar in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. If you would like to donate altar flowers, please call Tina at ext 219. The requested donation for an arrangement is \$40,

and includes an acknowledgement in the bulletin.

ST. JOHN ROSE FOR LIFE

Someone special you'd like to honor?

You can do that by having a rose placed before Our Lady of Fatima's statue for one week. We will publish your intention in the bulletin. To book a Rose for Life, contact the parish office. The suggested offering for a rose is \$5.00.

In Memory Of

Rev. John W. Gentlemen 3rd Anniversary

To book a Rose For Life, contact the Parish Offices Rose Donated by Mahoney's Garden Center

"YOUR WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH" -PSALM 119:105

Monday, Feb 11

Genesis 1: 1-19 Psalm 104 Mark 6: 53-56

Tuesday, Feb 12

Genesis 1:20-2:4 Psalm 8 Mark 7: 1-13

WEDNESDAY, FEB 13

Genesis 2: 4-9, 15-17 Psalm 104 Mark 7: 14-23

THURSDAY, FEB 14

Genesis 2: 18-25 Psalm 128 Mark 7: 24-30

FRIDAY, FEB 15

Genesis 3: 1-8 Psalm 32 Mark 7: 31-37

SATURDAY, FEB 16

Genesis 3: 9-24 Psalm 90 Mark 8: 1-10

SUNDAY, FEB 17 Jeremiah 17: 5-8 Psalm 1

1Corinth 15: 12, 16-20 Luke 6: 17, 20-26



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Gerald F. Greska of Chelmsford

Gerald Francis Greska, 81, of Chelmsford, MA died Friday, January 11, 2019 peacefully at his home.

Born in Lowell, he was the son of the late Bruno and Hazel (Fratus) Greska. He graduated from Chelmsford High School with the class of 1955.

He proudly served with the U.S. Air Force.

He retired in 1992 from Litton Inc. of Lexington, MA.

He was a communicant of St. Mary Church of Chelmsford.

He was a former member of the Chelmsford Elks. He enjoyed traveling with his beloved, Carol Miller. He was an avid golfer. Gerald was a great cook and famous for his chicken wings. He loved puttering in his yard and making his neighbors smile.

He is survived by his sons, Steven Greska of Nashua, NH, Jeffrey and his wife Kellie Greska of Milford, NH, his five grandchildren, Luke, Shane, Kaela, Jake and Kylie Greska all of Milford, NH, his brother James and his wife Ann Greska of Chelmsford, and several nieces and nephews.

At Gerald's request, his funeral services are private. Memorials may be made in his memory to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675-8517 ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040.



Helen Virginia Morris of Chelmsford, MA

Helen Virginia Morris, 91, of Chelmsford, MA returned to her heavenly home on December 29, 2018 after a courageous battle with cancer. Her devotion to her family and her firm belief in God supported her throughout her lifetime and ultimately gave her peace.

Born in Boston, MA on July 17, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Paul G. and Edith Shaw Tintle. Helen was a graduate of Howe High School, Billerica, MA, with the Class of 1945.

Before raising her family, Helen was employed by Raytheon of Waltham, MA. She later was employed by the Chelmsford Public Schools from which she retired in 1988.

Helen was a communicant of St. Mary Church of Chelmsford, MA and was a member of St. Mary's Sodality. Throughout her entire life, she held an unwavering faith in God, which she shared with those who surrounded her.

Helen was blessed with a large and loving family. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Darrell J. "Curley" Morris in 1999.

She is survived by six sons, Darrell J. and his wife, Kimberly Morris of Ft. Myers, FL, Dennis J. and his wife Sandra of Franklin, MA, Jeffrey D. of Chelmsford, MA, Wayne A. and his wife Anita, of Ft. Myers, Fla, Mark of Lincoln, NH and Jon and Melissa of Saratoga Springs, NY; her grandchildren Corey Morris, Kristen Morris, Troy Morris, Brenna Morris, Victoria Young, Kyle Morris and Alyson Morris; her great-grandchildren Trey Morris, Brody Morris, Kennedy Young, Bella Young, Emelia Morris and James Morris. She also leaves behind her dearest friend, Mrs. Betty Fahey.

Helen was the sister of the late Richard Tintle, Paul Tintle, Edith Powderly, Alice Hallenborg and Barbara

Exodus 23:20 "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared."

At her request there were no visiting hours. A Funeral Mass was Sat., Jan 5th at 11am at St. Mary Church in Chelmsford. A private burial will take place at the convenience of the family in Pine Ridge Cemetery, Chelmsford. Memorials may be made in her name to Merrimack Valley Hospice, 360 Merrimack St., Building 9, Lawrence, MA 01843. ARRANGEMENTS BY DOLAN FUNERAL HOME 978-256-4040. Guestbook at www.dolanfuneralhome.com

